

BORRIS - OUR VISION

A Shared Vision for Borris

April 2019





Fuair an tionscnamh seo fóir-dheontas ó Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Aitúil Cheatharlach, Clár Forbartha Tuaithe atá maoinithe ag Rialtas na hÉireann faoi Chlár Forbartha Tuaithe Éireann 2014-2020 agus ag Ciste Talamhaíochta na hEorpa d’Fhorbairt Tuaithe: infheistiú na hEorpa i Limistéir Tuaithe.

This project received grant aid from Carlow Local Community Development Committee under the Rural Development Programme Ireland 2014-2020 which is financed by the Irish Government and by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in Rural Areas.



It was also supported by local fundraising initiatives organised by the Borris - Our Vision committee and supported by the community.

Photo credits: Harry Reid (cover), Aoibheann Murphy, Magda King, Cornelia McCarthy, Deirdre Black

CONTENTS

Thank You 1

The Vision at a Glance 2

Introduction 3

Why this has been done

How this is different

Who this is for?

How we got here 4

Our Vision for Borris 5

An easy place to get around

A good place to grow up and grow old

Keeping it special

A place to make a good living

A welcoming place

Realising the Vision 28

Principles

Projects

Partners

References 42



THANK YOU

Thank you very much to everyone who gave of their time, expertise and insights at the Borris – Our Vision workshops. Thank you to those who joined the walkabouts and community-led Working Groups, facilitated the schools’ workshops and completed the local economy audit survey.

This is the output of all your hard work.

A big thank you also goes out to the Town Hall committee for enabling the workshops in the Town Hall and providing a steady stream of tea, coffee and biscuits.

The Borris - Our Vision steering committee

Magda King

Charlie Horan

Cornelia McCarthy

George Stafford

Aoibheann Murphy

Rebecca Smith

Áine O’Shea

Willie Quinn



Thank you also to people from the local and national organisations who contributed to this Vision through focused conversations:

Borris Tidy Towns

Local Authorities Waters Programme

Rural Recreation Officer (Kilkenny)

National Trails Office, Sport Ireland

Canice Architects

Trinity College Dublin

Blackstairs Farming Futures

Fáilte Ireland

Ringalink

Carlow County Council - Local Enterprise Office,
Arts Office, Roads, Forward Planning and
Community Departments

South Eastern Regional Assembly
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

Bank of Ireland

Carlow Tourism

The Heritage Council of Ireland

THE VISION AT A GLANCE

OUR AMBITION

AN EASY PLACE TO GET AROUND



A GOOD PLACE TO GROW UP AND GROW OLD



KEEPING IT SPECIAL



A PLACE TO MAKE A GOOD LIVING



A WELCOMING PLACE



PRINCIPLES

SEAMLESS CONNECTIONS:

Great journeys from door to door, easy walking in the town and into the countryside, great accessibility, clever approaches to parking

SUPPORTING THE HEART OF THE TOWN:

Using and re-using historic buildings on the main street, co-location and multi-use for mutual benefits, starting with the assets we have

FUTURE PROOFING:

Our livelihoods, our nature, our town

PROJECTS

WALKING BORRIS

- Everyday journeys
- Borriss as a walking hub with loops into the surrounding countryside and longer distance treks

AN INTEGRATED TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC REALM PLAN

BETTER PUBLIC TRANSPORT

A PROSPECTUS FOR HISTORIC BUILDING USE AND DEVELOPMENT

TOWN HALL REFURBISHMENT

THE TOWN GREEN

THE RIVERS OF BORRIS

ENERGY PROOFING BORRIS

DOING BUSINESS IN BORRIS

INTRODUCTION

WHY THIS HAS BEEN DONE

This shared vision is the outcome of an 18 month community discussion about the future of Borris. It describes what is special about Borris, sets out the shared ambition for the town and identifies key projects that will make a difference.

This practical document will provide a robust foundation for future community-led projects and funding applications. It will enable collaboration and provides a framework for joined-up thinking.

The Vision will feed into the review of the Carlow Co. Co. statutory Borris Town Plan as it comes up for review in 2019.

HOW THIS IS DIFFERENT

We value everyone's contribution to this process. The Borris - Our Vision project engaged with a large number of people over the course of the project who live in Borris and use it as their hub.

Well attended and professionally facilitated community workshops were held in the Town Hall in November 2017, May and October 2018, and workshops were held with the 6th class in Borris National School and 1st, 2nd, TY and 5th years in Borris Vocational School. In total, over 180 people from Borris and the surrounding areas participated in the workshops.

Building on the outcomes of these workshops - and the priorities identified by the participants - locally-led working groups were formed to research and generate ideas in relation to *Walks and Walkability and Opportunity Spaces*. A *Local Economy Audit* was also carried out to assess the current business landscape and any opportunities arising from clusters or gaps in the local economy.

We had conversations with Carlow Co. Co. and other agencies and organisations with a remit for rural transport, sustainable development, tourism and recreation in Borris and its surrounding areas. Many representatives from these agencies also attended our workshops. This ensures that the vision set out here aligns with strategic local and national policies and funding priorities.



The five Workshop Outcomes Reports

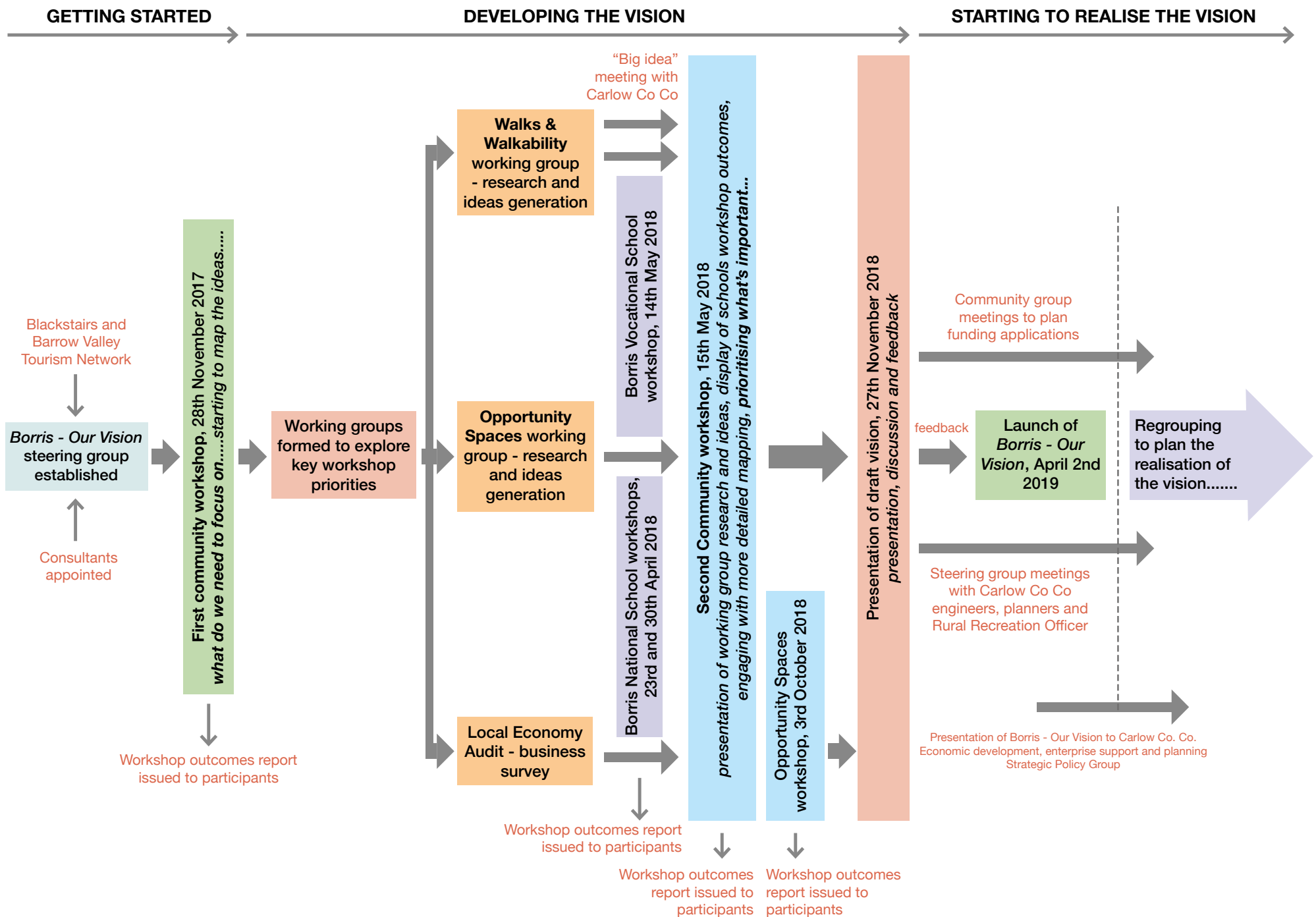
WHO IS THIS FOR?

This document provides an overview of the “big picture” to ensure that projects progressed by the local community and others knit together and are mutually beneficial.

It shows funding bodies that there is a strategic context for any particular project being progressed.

It pulls together the many views of people in Borris and surroundings into a shared vision.

HOW WE GOT HERE



OUR VISION FOR BORRIS

Common themes emerged from the many conversations we had over the course of developing this vision for the future of Borris. We have prioritised what is most important. These are the core ambitions for the future of Borris;

- 1** **AN EASY PLACE TO GET AROUND**

- 2** **A GOOD PLACE TO GROW UP AND GROW OLD**

- 3** **KEEPING IT SPECIAL**

- 4** **A PLACE TO MAKE A GOOD LIVING**

- 5** **A WELCOMING PLACE**


**WE NEED WALKWAYS THAT
CONNECT TO PLACES AND
AMENITIES**

people are interested in staying
healthy; walking, cycling, running,
more interest in outdoor stuff

we want somewhere we can ride
our bikes

more public transport

safe paths to housing clusters
outside the town

we need a car park

1

AN EASY PLACE TO GET AROUND



connect Borris and
the Barrow

we don't like having to rely on
parents to get around

a lot of people go in a car to the
hurling pitch, we need better
footpaths, e.g. outside park, corner
at the VEC

safe pathways are needed

there is the potential to create a link via the
old railway line to Bagenalstown road
and school

connect surrounding villages
– walk/cycle

the Viaduct/railway – could it be used as
a cycleway? It's a very handy shortcut

KEEP PEOPLE WHO ARE IN THE VILLAGE NOW, IN THE VILLAGE – SUPPORT THEM

we want creative activities and venues

we like going outside – the park, the pitches, being out in the fields, space to run around

redevelop the community hall into a multi-purpose community centre

young people need to be included more in community decisions

we need to make sure we have places to live

2

A GOOD PLACE TO GROW UP AND GROW OLD



raise awareness of the clubs that are here

the footpaths need to be upgraded to ensure that they are meeting accessibility standards and to better link the main street to the nursing home

childcare - "little legs" need to be close to library, shops, park

we would like a day centre, with things going on, dinner – in the centre of town

we need more elderly accommodation - create an independent living hub around the nursing home

SUPPORT THE HEART OF THE PLACE

make the village work, the walks, the places to sit

Borris is so old and well preserved – a fine architectural legacy - uniqueness – the town itself, mountains, river...

involve younger people in learning about what we have here. If they don't appreciate it and value it, it will not be cared for in the future.

Borris House is the jewel in the crown

keep the size and the shape of Borris

3

KEEPING IT SPECIAL



How will we plan for growth?

partnership with the Local Authority – a shared voice

we have the skills, would like to teach others about Borris lace

long term vacant property owners need to be encouraged to develop or attract tenants

we're seeing creeping dereliction

THERE ARE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES – POTENTIAL TO STAY HERE AND WORK HERE

promote and support local food, producers and growers

we would advocate the development of local meeting / showcase / hot desk facilities for smaller start-up businesses in the area

Borris Vocational School is a source of workforce over the years from plant workers, nutritionists, engineers to the highest management levels. We need this school to prosper to ensure that we continue to have a sustainable local workforce

4

A PLACE TO MAKE A GOOD LIVING



co-working space for remote workers

I have thought for years to have a shop in Borris and avail of busy footfall thanks to weddings etc.

keep the resources in Borris – vast quantities of money leaving the community spent on oil

Strong employment in agri-engineering and the social care sector with potential for growth. Borris can support these business sectors and the town can extract greater benefit from these businesses by considering accessibility for all users on Main street, providing an attractive and safe walking route from the industrial area into Main street

CELEBRATE OUR UNIQUE HERITAGE

build confidence in the area to value the place, its people and history

we have become a destination

work closely in partnership with Borris House

make the entrances to the village impressive

thousands of people are coming here for the festivals, spending

Ireland's Ancient East has arrived

5

A WELCOMING PLACE



tourism - river and walks - make them accessible

hostel type accommodation needed for walkers

Blackstairs and Barrow is free, need to capitalise on this place and keep celebrating it

have visible creativity on the main street

make the historic shop fronts impressive

we need a central area for tourist information

collect the stories of the hidden heritage

develop tourism in a responsible way

AN EASY PLACE TO GET AROUND

WHAT'S CURRENTLY HAPPENING

Everyday walking in Borris

Borris has a road network, but also has a walking network, parts of which are hidden, unsafe or unconnected.

The Borris - Our Vision workshops identified areas where we need to focus attention to make sure that it is easy to for everyone to walk and wheel regularly and safely around Borris.

- The students at the Borris Vocational School find the absence of a path from the school to the main street dangerous, and want to be able to walk and cycle safely in and around Borris.
- A Wheelchair Accessibility Audit was carried out to identify areas that need attention from the Nursing home and along main street.
- Safe paths are needed to connect the housing clusters, businesses and amenities on the peripheries of the town to the main street.

The *Walks and Walkability* working group carried out a comprehensive appraisal of walking infrastructure in the town, including the opportunities posed by the network of existing lanes, the railway, and the roads leading from the town to surrounding amenities and houses.

Plans are currently being drawn up by conservation architects for Carlow Co. Co. to open up access to the Viaduct from the town side – this opens up new walking links.

Borris as an emerging hub for longer distance loops and walks

Borris sits at the centre of an emerging network of walks along the River Barrow and across the Blackstairs Mountains.

- The Carlow Co. Co. Big Idea project positions Borris as a hub in a network of walks and outdoor recreation between the Blackstairs and the Barrow.
- A number of possible walking connections between Borris and the Barrow river have been identified by consultants working for Carlow Co. Co. The walk needs to be a looped connection to best benefit the people of Borris town.
- The South Leinster Way runs through Borris, but there are parts of the route that are not safe for walkers particularly from Ballytiglea to Borris.
- A long distance walking route – the Turas Columbanus – is being progressed from St. Mullins to Co. Down, passing through Borris on the South Leinster Way, and on through to places in Europe associated with St. Columbanus.
- Visitors arriving by boat or canoe could avail of these walks and would benefit from welcome/orientation signage where they arrive.
- There are two looped Slí na Sláinte walks in Ballymurphy; Walshestown loop and Knockmullgurry loop.
- There is a looped river/forest walk in Clashganny.

- Our ambition is for Borris to be a place that is easy to walk or wheel around for everyone – young and old
- We cherish its historic network of lanes, and want to bring them back into use to link places and amenities
- We plan to adapt and upgrade our roads and paths in partnership with the local authority to create safe walking connections between where people live, work, learn and play

WHAT ELSE WE COULD DO

Car circulation and parking

Borris is a hub for the surrounding areas and popular for weddings so traffic management can sometimes be an issue. Events can result in too much on-street parking. Some cars speed coming down the main street.

A draft Traffic Management Plan for Borris has been prepared by Carlow Co. Co. – this can be updated to incorporate the outcomes of the Borris - Our Vision process.

Public transport

Ringalink currently operates an on-call door to door bus service which links Borris to New Ross, Bagenalstown and Carlow. Its remit is to provide rural transport where needed.

The organisation has recommended to the National Transport Authority that this service could be expanded to incorporate two return trips per day from New Ross to Carlow via Borris, six days per week including an evening service. This could also tie in with train arrivals/departures from Bagenalstown train station.

The Ringalink service is open to all as a part of a rural transport service and while the service is mostly used at the moment by older people, the organisation's objective is to serve whoever might need the service including young people and visitors.

Everyday walking in Borris

Short, safe, walking and cycling connections can be made to nearby amenities and places just outside the town which would reduce the need for car journeys. For example, the part of the road from Borris to the Mount Leinster Rangers' grounds is too dangerous for pedestrians, but short enough for people to walk easily to the pitches. Options could include an "inside the ditch" path, using Bottle lane or the former railway.

Other possible "inside the ditch paths" would include **safe off-road rural paths** to Ballytiglea, Kilcoltrim, Scorteen, Ballymurphy and Rathanna. The design of the path from Kilkenny to Bennetsbridge is a good example of such an approach.

Short term fixes can be made by Carlow Co. Co. to the locations identified in the **Wheelchair Accessibility in Borris** report in line with national guidance on accessible public realm.

An integrated design for ensuring **footpath widths** are suitable - particularly linking Borris Vocational School and the main street - can form part of an updated version of the Traffic Management Plan currently guiding Carlow Co. Co. public realm work in Borris.

The *Walks and Walkability* Group mapped the **historic lanes** in Borris; Bog Lane, O'Brien's Lane, Maloney's Lane, Scort Lane and Bottle Lane. These could be brought back to life as everyday walking routes in the town and form pedestrian links within any new infill development.

The **former railway line** (or stretches of it) has the potential to not only provide great access to an iconic piece of Borris' heritage with a wealth of stories to be shared, but also to provide an off road walking and cycling link to schools and areas of employment. Parts of the railway corridor in public ownership are being developed as a public amenity on and around the Viaduct, other parts of the route are in private ownership. The whole route stretches from Bagenalstown to Pallas East near New Ross and could potentially be developed as a **greenway**.

A lit **walking track** around Mount Leinster Rangers would be a useful amenity particularly in winter months.

Borris as an emerging hub for longer distance loops and walks

We have already met with the Rural Recreation Officer to discuss ways of **better linking Borris and the Barrow**, building on the feasibility work carried out by Carlow Co. Co. in 2018. Devising a link from the Barrow to Borris will also improve the parts of the South Leinster Way/Turas Columbanus that are currently on a busy road.

As well as progressing Borris as a hub for long distance mountain and riverside walking, the villages of **Ballymurphy and Rathanna** also have facilities that would make them appealing hubs for walkers.

All the ideas set out in this Vision for recreation and walking will feed into the **County Carlow Outdoor Recreation Strategy & Implementation Plan for Walking & Cycling Trails** being developed by Carlow Co. Co.

Car circulation and parking

Some backland areas off the main street already provide parking space, for example, the parking at the rear of the Step House Hotel. There are opportunities to identify other **backland parking locations** that would be suitable to accommodate visitor parking and overflow parking for events, for example the yard of the Bank of Ireland building. Other areas could be identified as part of an overall plan for traffic circulation in the town.

An **integrated design for traffic circulation and parking** can form part of an updated version of the Traffic Management Plan currently guiding Carlow Co. Co. traffic management in Borris.

Public transport

A **user forum** could be established to inform Ringalink of changing needs in the area and across generations. The service could be taken up more widely by **streamlining the communication of route and timing information** and **wider publicity** of the nature of the service, any new **regular scheduled routes** and the fact that the service is open to everyone. This could take the form of an app, linking in with and availing of support from the Smart Village European network.

Timetables and seating are needed at the bus stops at Dalton's Square and Woodland Park.



Maloney's Lane



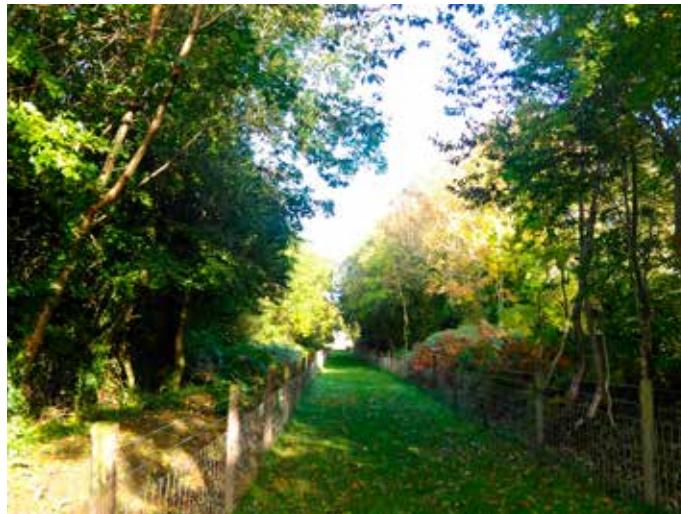
O'Brien's Lane



Scort Lane



The Barrow Way



The Borris Viaduct walk



The former Borris Railway

A GOOD PLACE TO GROW UP AND GROW OLD



WHAT'S CURRENTLY HAPPENING

We're growing...

Borris town – 652 people

↑ 9% increase from 2011 to 2016, ↑ 11% increase from 2006 to 2011





Age profile: ¼ < 25 ½ 25-65 ¼ > 65








How we get around.....

Half of the people living in Borris travel less than 15 minutes to school or work.

Getting to school or college

-  44% of students living in the town walk to school
-  52% of students drive or are driven
-  3% get the bus or train
-  1% cycle

Getting to work

-  20% walk to work
-  7% work from home
-  70% drive to work
-  1% cycle
-  2% get the bus

Our homes

- 1 in 5 live people live in a house built before 1920
- 15% of dwellings were empty in 2016
- 62% of households have broadband
- 4 out of 5 people use oil or coal to heat their homes
- 12% live in communal residences

- **Our ambition is for Borris to be a place that supports great childhoods and enables a full and active life into old age**
- **We need to ensure that is easy to move around Borris whatever your ability or age**
- **We plan to provide facilities for our broad range of clubs, activities and events to enable creative, fun and healthy lives for all who live here**

WHAT MORE WE COULD DO

Caring for our young and old

Many of the town's footpaths are not up to scratch and need attention to meet accessibility standards.

There may be opportunities to further expand the range of homes, care and activities available to older people within the town and surrounding areas.

The playschool currently provides a childcare service at the edge of the town – it would be better located in the centre. There is increasing demand for childcare and afterschool services.

Our main community space

The Town Hall is at the heart of the town. Over the years, the hall has been used for handball, raquetball, dance classes, badminton, kid's discos, tea/coffee on St. Patrick's Day, camogie, circuit training, table tennis, boules, movies, the Food and Craft Market, Community Employment Programme offices, playschool, Tidy Towns office, parent and toddler group, meetings, the Fleadh, parties, Foróige, active retirement, storage and all the workshops for Borris - Our Vision.

Refurbishment of the Town Hall would secure this important building for the community into the future.



A brief could be prepared for the architectural redesign of the **Town Hall** to tie in with the historic character of the main street and incorporate:

- **A better building layout** - glass front to better engage with the street, a range of room sizes
- **Places for people to meet** - community café, day centre, arts hub
- **Visitor welcome** - interpretation of the historic importance of the town
- **Multi-use space** – for club use, music, cinema, theatre, funeral reception etc.
- **Handball / raquetball** - existing club is very successful
- **Offices** - Community Employment Programme offices/yard space, youth organisation hub, micro-business incubation centre
- **A refurbished outdoor space** - outside hurling wall/handball alley

Borris Community Playschool needs a new home. It needs to expand, wants to be closer to the centre of town – to have our children at the heart of the community, interacting with neighbours and shopkeepers, within “little feet” walking distance of the library and close to the national school for a seamless after-school service. We could continue to progress activities and places for children to **play outside and in nature** and ensure they can **walk or cycle safely to school**.

We could also develop a **supported living area** in the town for older people requiring assisted living and include younger and older people in **community decisions** as we start to implement the Vision.

Longer opening hours for the **library** would make the most of this key community asset.

We can ensure that people are supported in the transition to **low-carbon heating systems**.

KEEPING IT SPECIAL

WHAT'S CURRENTLY HAPPENING

Our historic main street

We are proud of our history and our distinctive buildings and streets. Historic buildings, structures and streets form an integral part of the town's day to day life. The best way to conserve buildings is to keep them in use and these buildings need to be kept alive to keep them special. Town centre shops are closing slowly but progressively – Daltons, Kavanagh's, Green Drake, Coffee Shop, Kiernan's and May's petrol pumps. Many of the residential buildings on the main street are vacant.

Borris and Carlow town are the only places in the county recognised for their significance with *Architectural Conservation Area* status. We need to ensure that main street is able to adapt and evolve to remain the beating heart of the town.

Supports are opening up now to assist communities in historic towns to adapt to changing circumstances and progress ideas developed by the communities themselves.

Nature on our doorstep

Borris sits within a rolling agricultural landscape between the Blackstairs mountains and the Barrow River. The links between town and countryside are strong - many people live in the hinterland and come into the town for work, shops and school, and some of the key employers in the town serve a wide farming community. Views out from the town to the surrounding countryside are an iconic part of the Borris streetscape.

The Mountain and Dinin/O'Shea's rivers flow through Borris. Many people have memories of swimming in O'Shea's river. The Mountain river in

particular is important for spawning trout and the freshwater pearl mussel. It is a priority river for the Local Authorities Waters Programme.



- We cherish the buildings and features, big and small, that together combine to create the distinctive character of our town
- We plan to work with supportive partners and building owners to keep the main street vibrant
- We plan to focus new development within the town limits and co-locate activities to support the heart of the town

WHAT ELSE WE COULD DO

Match need with space

The best way to keep historic buildings in good care is to **keep them in use**.

Many buildings along main street are well kept but empty or underused. Each building has its own story as to why this is the case. The Borris - Our Vision project has identified community needs and business opportunities. A next step could be to draw up **a prospectus for development** so that we can match uses with spaces.

With this we can start **practical conversations about reusing existing historic buildings in the centre of Borris** for potential new businesses, care spaces, working and meeting spaces, exhibition and welcome spaces, homes and social enterprises. A number of possible new uses for old buildings were discussed over the course of the Borris - Our Vision process including:

- Café
- Meeting rooms/stores
- Two room office and yard for Community Employment Programme
- Hang-out space for teenagers including creative opportunities, tech lab, social outlets etc.
- Community book shop
- A “box-office” – a welcome for visitors and place to book activities
- Open access commercial kitchens (e.g. Thomastown School of Food)
- Exhibition space – for example a place to tell the villagers’ story of making Borris lace
- Shared workspace/facilities



- An enlarged play school to incorporate after school care
- A day centre for older people, in the centre, providing dinner
- Hostel for outdoor activity groups – such as the Hub in Graigenamanagh
- Places to live in the centre of town

This approach provides **clear options to building owners** and facilitates an initial dialogue about underused buildings and potential new uses.

As part of this process, we need to take the opportunity to **co-locate mutually beneficial land and building uses**.

Collaborate to win

Join the national movement of places turning the tide on town centre vacancy and avail of new supports for building owners and communities such as the *Historic Town Initiative*, the *Collaborative Town Centre Health Check* to track, understand and address the reasons for vacancy. Offer **advice and support to owners** of properties on the main street so that they can access cost effective re-use, leasing, planning, renting and selling advice including the *Repair to Lease* and *Purchase and Leaseback* schemes. This could take the form of a drop-in clinic.

We could take a collective approach, **sharing resources** to progress bringing buildings back to life, for example by engaging conservation architects to prepare a **building condition survey, identify common issues and practical solutions** that can be applied to a range of buildings in Borris to address common challenges of fire and building regulation compliance.

New buildings

Where new buildings are needed within the town limits;

- Create **spaces, squares and places** that fit with Borris’ historic layout
- Design **new connections and use the historic network of lanes and former railway** so that it’s easy to walk or cycle for short journeys
- Provide **different sizes of houses** to meet different needs
- Draw on advice from Grainne Shaffrey’s report “Borris Town Improvements” (2001), for **architectural design and layout of new buildings**. The study of the **distinctive architectural details** of Borris carried out by Carlow IT students of heritage under the guidance of Edmond Joyce can also guide design approaches.

Cherishing our rivers

The rivers of Borris are hidden gems. We could turn our attention to the Mountain and O’Shea’s rivers, gathering local knowledge and memories. We could collaborate with the Local Authorities Waters Programme to find out more about the nature on our doorstep and involve children in this “outdoor classroom”.



A PLACE TO MAKE A GOOD LIVING

WHAT'S CURRENTLY HAPPENING

"there is a proliferation of entrepreneur/business people/self-employed"

"large enterprises are based here"

We carried out a local economy audit to take the temperature of the current local economy and understand what people would like to see happening:

WHY IS BORRIS A GOOD PLACE FOR YOUR BUSINESS?

"Natural beauty, relaxed pace, friendly people, good schools, close to motorway but still off the beaten track"

"Lifestyle; pace of life; friendliness; proximity to transport (e.g. airport in 90 mins)"

"Ease of access to ports for shipping, availability of labour, rural location always goes down well with agri-manufacturing clients"

"eFibre broadband is available in some areas. People want to live in the area and hence local workforce is available. Not too far from Dublin for meetings/ airport etc."

"Low overhead cost"

"A very strong art and craft scene - collectives of artists and designers have formed: 9 Stones, Form..."

"Educated local population (proximity to Carlow and Waterford IT), good road structure with no congestion delays. Ease of access to Rosslare port for export. Excellent restaurant and hotel facilities for visitors. Good broadband infrastructure. Reasonable rates. Proximity to population centres in Carlow/ Kilkenny. Minimal commute times for employees...staff have a better work/

life balance, more time available for themselves also"

"local engineering skills, links to Borris Vocational School"

"Borris market offers an opportunity to test the waters without large outlay"

"lifestyle - I wanted to move from Dublin and setting up my own business made this possible"

"high quality environment"

"affordable rent, parking, lovely village atmosphere, swell of potential customers at weekends, thanks to events at Borris House and Step House Hotel"

"large farming community for our business"

"pretty village - friendly people - good amenities - shop, hotel and pubs"

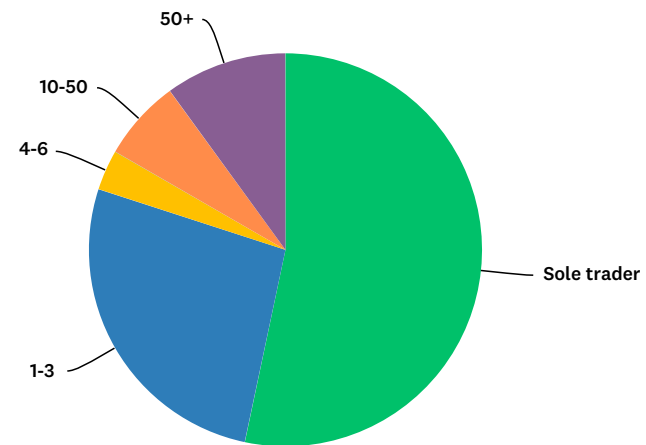
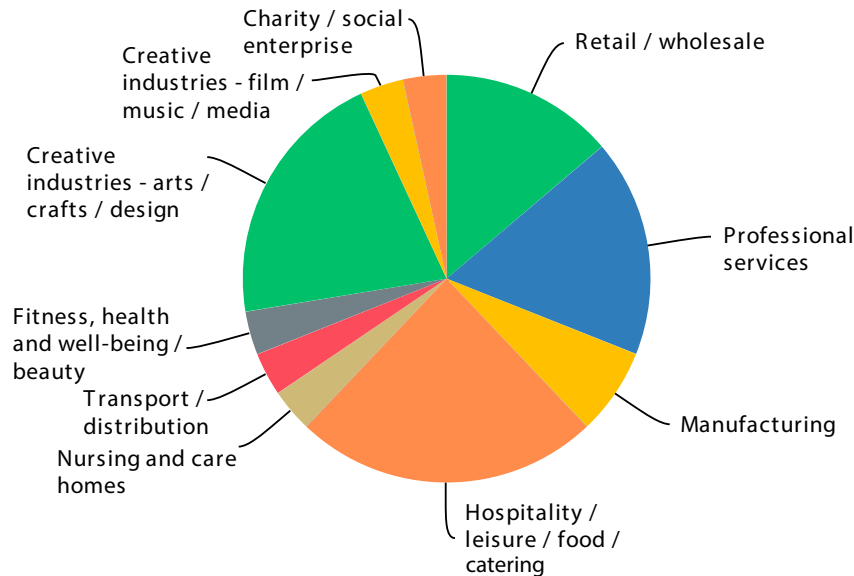
"For tourism businesses, numbers to the area are up as a result of Ireland's Ancient East branding. Borris House is an elusive draw to the area. The scenery and geography of the area is stunning. Return visitors are plentiful as a result of the people and the place"

- Our ambition is for Borris to be a place that enables people to make a good living whether they are working for one of our agri or manufacturing industries, in one of our main street businesses, on the land or from home.
- We have listened to the voices of people who choose to base themselves in Borris and will nurture the qualities of Borris that make it a great place to live and work.

- We plan to take advantage of emerging opportunities provided by new technologies, Smart Villages and nomad / remote working

We had 37 responses to our local economy audit, from a range of businesses in the town.

More than ¾ of businesses surveyed employ between 1 and 3 people, and there is also a significant number of businesses with 50+ employees.



There is also a large farming community in the broader hinterland of Borris and Borris mart is a key asset of the town.

Nearly 20% of our businesses export goods outside of Ireland with Great Britain the main market, but also significant markets in France and Germany. Half of Borris businesses are well established – here for more than 10 years. New entrepreneurship is also strong - nearly a quarter of all current businesses have started in the past three years.

90% of all business people see Borris as their base in the long term. The reasons for this confidence and the positive aspects cited for establishing a business in Borris included;

WHAT ELSE WE COULD DO

- **the skilled and educated workforce**, proximity to Carlow and Waterford IT,
- **the dynamic community**; a good mix of people, community spirit
- **the quality of life**; relaxed pace, schools, walks, village atmosphere, minimal commute, great scenery, relatively affordable housing,
- **lots of local producers and the agricultural customer base** in the surrounding areas, lots of employment in the area
- **the steady growth in the tourism economy**, excellent restaurants and hotel facilities, the volume of weddings and parties at the Step House Hotel and Borris House particularly at weekends,
- **good broadband**, fibre available in some areas,
- **ease of access** to ports for shipping, close to the M9, good access to cities, but still off the beaten track, the train line at Bagenalstown, 90 minutes from airport,
- **existing supporting businesses** – bank, post office, shops, hotel

However the decline in main street retail and resulting vacancy is a challenge and respondents would like to see new businesses and new building uses encouraged on the main street.



While Borris provides a range of employment and entrepreneurship options, the decline in the range of **retail and services on the main street** needs to be addressed.

We could draw inspiration from **shopfront social enterprises** such as Books@One community bookshop in Louisburg, Co. Mayo – a community bookshop with coffee dock that also runs a book club, a kid's reading room, classes and events, co-working spaces and includes access to a high quality printer for self-published books.

We could help the vibrancy of main street by inviting people who are availing of the **growing trend for remote working**. This could include connecting in with the Smart Villages European Network and the emerging population of nomad workers who with modern technology can work anywhere and choose places with great quality of life.

Continuing to strengthen current links between the local industry cluster and Borris Vocational School, working with LEO and the Community Employment Programme, we could identify new opportunities to **diversify and expand the engineering and agri-tech cluster**. Are there **new manufacturing opportunities** linked to Borris' emerging role as an outdoor recreation hub? Could some of the larger industries in Borris have **an office on the main street?**

We could draw down funding from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland for the preparation of a **community energy masterplan** in order to ensure we are ready for future changes and keep money generated in the local economy in the local economy.

The Local Economy Audit identified some specific needs of the local business community:

“ Infrastructure

“integrated rail/bus local links to the area for students, visitors and workers who need bus connections.”

“weekly street cleaning”

“improved roads”

“an upgraded path network from the village to the adjoining businesses. There is currently no footpath available for numerous employees to walk safely from Borris village to Keenan’s, Dan Whelans, Boramic or Agristores.”

“a link via the old railway line to Bagenalstown road and school”

“Improved broadband connections are critical. It needs to be available to the door (not just the exchange) and it needs to be available in the hinterland around the town too”

Education, business support and up-skilling

“We need the school to prosper to ensure that we continue to have a sustainable local workforce.”

“Tourism enterprise support for 2/3 years to establish, keep promoting as a destination”

“Digital marketing assistance”

“Fáilte Ireland marketing support”

“more financial help to get an apprentice”

“would like access to a mentoring scheme, a food hub”

“more encouragement for organic horticulture and agriculture”

Activating main street

“an office base in the town could be useful for start-ups.”

“Need an urban base to grow profile and to make it easier to employ junior staff”

“local meeting / showcase / hot desk facilities for smaller start-up businesses in the area”

Spreading the message

“food is always popular at Borris Market, footfall can be a problem though, some extra marketing of the Borris area may be needed”

“An animator that would be able to collaborate ideas for marketing the area to the domestic and global market and put a plan in place for the development of sustainable tourism to the area”

“A Borris Activities board”

Staying distinctive

“Our visitors are taken by the beauty of the locality. We take the time to introduce our partners to the region and how much we are part of it. Anything that would seek to diminish the natural attractiveness of the area would concern us.”

“Develop responsibly. Don’t just copy models from elsewhere as this could lose the unique quality of the area. Keep true to the quality that is special to the area. Celebrate the area and build confidence continually in what is valuable here.”

A WELCOMING PLACE

WHAT'S CURRENTLY HAPPENING



Borris sits within Ireland's Ancient East which focuses on inviting visitors to explore the layers of history in our towns and landscape. It is a national ambition to grow tourism in the area and facilitate a 3.4% annual growth in visitor numbers and 3.5% annual increase in revenue for Ireland's Ancient East for the next 10 years.

The main street is our visitors' first and key experience of the town. Borris House and demesne and the historic relationship between the town and the House is of keen interest to visitors.

The growing network of walks and trails in Carlow is a key asset in the developing visitor experience. Walking infrastructure investments have been made as part of Carlow County Council's Big Idea initiative. Bahanna Forest and John's Hill walks have received funding in the Blackstairs and a strong walking cluster is emerging in the area. The Blackstairs Farming Futures project includes the clearing of old lanes in the mountains. Feasibility work has been undertaken to improve walks between Borris and the Barrow. Carlow County Council has commissioned a Feasibility Study for further mountain biking in the Blackstairs.

Borris is a busy hub for weddings due to the appeal of the Step House Hotel and Borris House. This brings large numbers of visitors to the town – at least 100 weddings per year - and can contribute to parking issues in the town.

Borris Lace Group was established in 2016 and meets regularly. Borris lace had been in decline as a craft and the group is focused on keeping it active. Through rigorous research, the history and stitches of this lace style distinctive to Borris have been kept alive.

There is a vibrant craft and arts scene in Borris and many practitioners live

in the broader area. Some of their work is on display or for sale in The Store at the entrance to Borris House.

The shooting at Borris House draws international interest and accommodation is being developed in outbuildings.

Borris hosts significant festivals including the ancient Borris Fair on August 15th, the Festival of Writing and Ideas in June and the Fireworks on New Year's Eve.

Borris Tidy Towns, the Blackstairs and Barrow Valley Tourism network and Carlow Tourism have developed maps and signs for the town and work to develop the destination.

Trends and influences in tourism

The Ireland's Ancient East brand proposition focuses in Carlow on the "Tales of Two Worlds" theme – which focuses on stories of great houses and gardens and the broader societal context. Fáilte Ireland will support **Destination Health Checks** – to deliver welcoming places with good place design and management that deliver more visitor spend for local businesses. The marketing promise for "Tales of Two Worlds" focuses on the visitor being able to engage with the history of places:

"The twists and turns of Ireland's tumultuous history have been played out in these invariably lovely settings. You can feel the layers of history here....."

Studies of consumer trends show that visitors also have a desire to be creative, upskill, learn something new; wanting a well-rounded view of the places they encounter while keeping physically fit and active.

- Our ambition is for Borris to be a destination that can encourage visitors to stay a while, explore the depth of history and enjoy getting active in the surrounding countryside, rivers and mountains
- We plan for a vibrant main street where visitors can easily find information on what's on and what there is to do
- We plan to showcase our distinctive craft and art and tell our unique stories in creative ways

WHAT MORE WE COULD DO

“There is a strong cultural story in the areawork closely with locals and establish the area as a confident destination with a unique core - work with neighbouring counties with similar customer/user base. Do this with responsible and long-term goals so that what we have is not ruined.”



A new tourism strategy for County Carlow is currently being developed by Carlow County Council. All the ideas generated here can **feed into the county strategy**.

Borris has the potential to grow its visitor economy with the provision of **activities for visitors year-round** with **easily accessible information** on all there is to do in the area, encouraging people to stay longer and spend more.

We could create a sense of welcome to visitors with:

- public realm improvements at the **“thresholds”** to the town e.g. Factory Cross;
- a **“box office”** for visitors to access information and book activities – this could be part of an existing business on the main street;

We could position Borris as **the hub for a network of river and mountain trails**.

We can encourage the **emerging activity economy** and connect activity providers to offer **multi-activity packages** – e.g. kayak down and cycle back. We also need to consider the broad needs of activity visitors – good food, suitable accommodation, accessories, parts, tools, maps, guides. We could support our visitors with a **shuttle service** for kayakers, walkers and cyclists to points on the Barrow. We could also provide shuttle transport to the mountains.



Canoe **lockers** are required at jetties along the Barrow and clear **signage** from the river to linking paths to Borris.

Identify locations for visitors to encounter the **Lace making heritage** and other craftspeople, artists and makers. Consider incorporating Borris Lace samples into displays in community buildings and patterns into detailing in the public realm.

We need better facilities at **Clashganny** – working showers, toilets, changing rooms, food/coffee in summer.

Consider moving the Friday market to a **Saturday** for more visitor footfall.

Build on our **festivals** – present the historic nature of the Borris Fair, consider “fringe” events in the town during the Festival of Writing and Ideas and build on the success of the New Year’s Fireworks display.

Make **walking tourism training** available as part of the Community Employment Programme.



REALISING THE VISION

PRINCIPLES

Three core principles underpin the projects which will help realise our ambition for Borris. These principles - *Seamless Connections*, *Supporting the Heart of the Place* and *Future Proofing* can also steer the decision-making of organisations and agencies with a role to play in the future of Borris.

OUR AMBITION

AN EASY PLACE TO GET AROUND



A GOOD PLACE TO GROW UP AND GROW OLD



KEEPING IT SPECIAL



A PLACE TO MAKE A GOOD LIVING



A WELCOMING PLACE



PRINCIPLES

SEAMLESS CONNECTIONS:

Great journeys from door to door, easy walking in the town and into the countryside, great accessibility, clever approaches to parking

SUPPORTING THE HEART OF THE TOWN:

Using and re-using historic buildings on the main street, co-location and multi-use for mutual benefits, starting with the assets we have

FUTURE PROOFING:

Our livelihoods, our nature, our town

PROJECTS

WALKING BORRIS

- Everyday journeys
- Borris as a walking hub with loops into the surrounding countryside and longer distance treks

AN INTEGRATED TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC REALM PLAN BETTER PUBLIC TRANSPORT

A PROSPECTUS FOR HISTORIC BUILDING USE AND DEVELOPMENT TOWN HALL REFURBISHMENT THE TOWN GREEN

THE RIVERS OF BORRIS ENERGY PROOFING BORRIS DOING BUSINESS IN BORRIS

PROJECTS

SEAMLESS CONNECTIONS

Walking Borris

Everyday journeys

AMBITION	HOW WE'LL GET THERE	PARTNERS	PRIORITY
<i>Healthy, safe everyday walking opportunities that enhance the historic character of the town and connect to work, school, nature and amenities.</i>	<i>Fix the barriers to everyday walking or wheeling;</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>the link between Borris Vocational School and the main street</i> • <i>the link from the town to the Mount Leinster Rangers' grounds</i> • <i>accessibility fixes as set out in the Wheelchair Accessibility in Borris (McAteer, 2018)</i> • <i>footpath connection between industry cluster and the main street</i> • <i>footpath connections between the town and residential clusters within walking distance of the town</i> 	<i>Carlow County Council/Community/Department of Rural and Community Development</i>	<i>Short term</i>
	<i>Restore and name the historic lanes of Borris; Maloney's Lane, O'Brien's Lane, Bog Lane, Bottle Lane and Scort Lane, using these lanes to make new connections to the former railway, the Barrow and O'Shea's River</i>	<i>Community/Local Authorities Waters Programme/Carlow County Council/Department of Rural and Community Development</i>	<i>Short term</i>
	<i>Build on current project to open up western access to Viaduct, continue to integrate the former Borris Railway route into the walking and cycling infrastructure network of the town</i>	<i>Community/Carlow County Council/Land owners of railway route/Department of Rural and Community Development</i>	<i>Medium term</i>
	<i>Request Carlow County Council to confirm Public Right of Way status of historic lanes</i>	<i>Carlow County Council</i>	<i>Short term</i>
	<i>Develop a Heritage walking trail around Borris interpreting the places, buildings and stories along the route, with a particular focus on the "Tales of Two Worlds" theme</i>	<i>Community/Carlow Tourism</i>	<i>Short term</i>
	<i>Develop a lit walking route around the Mount Leinster Rangers pitches</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Short term</i>

Borris as a walking hub with loops into the surrounding countryside and longer distance treks

AMBITION	HOW WE'LL GET THERE	PARTNERS	PRIORITY
<i>Positioning Borris as a hub at the centre of a network of looped walks and longer distance way-marked ways along rivers and into the mountains</i>	<i>Working closely with the Rural Recreation Officer (Co. Kilkenny who also covers Carlow) strategically and practically position Borris at the core of a network of looped and long-distance walks. Identify an alternative and safer section to replace the current Ballytiglea-Borris section of the South Leinster Way</i>	<i>Rural Recreation Officer/Carlow County Council/landowners/ Department of Rural and Community Development</i>	<i>Short term</i>
	<i>In close collaboration with relevant land owners, select the most suitable Barrow loop walk options as set out in the 2018 Canice report. Progressing off-road looped walks to the Barrow will also improve the parts of the South Leinster Way/Columbanus Way which pass near or through Borris.</i>	<i>Carlow County Council/ Rural Recreation Officer/landowners</i>	<i>Short term</i>
	<i>Market Borris as a hub within a network of looped and long-distance walks. Prepare trails information and interpretive content to feed into the Ireland's Ancient East website.</i>	<i>Community/Carlow Tourism/Fáilte Ireland</i>	<i>Medium term</i>
	<i>Develop off road/quiet lane walking/cycling links from Borris to Ballymurphy and to the Blackstairs mountains</i>	<i>Community/Carlow County Council/LEADER</i>	<i>Medium term</i>
	<i>Develop Ballymurphy and Rathanna as part of the network of Blackstairs and Barrow walker's rest/refreshments/accommodation points</i>	<i>Community/LEADER/LEO</i>	<i>Medium term</i>
	<i>Investigate feasibility of linking Borris and Ballymurphy via the old railway with potential to extend to Bagenalstown and Pallas East, linking with the Waterford Greenway</i>	<i>Carlow County Council/Community</i>	<i>Medium term/long term</i>
	<i>Integrate walks tourism training in Community Enterprise Programme</i>	<i>Community Employment Programme/LEO</i>	<i>Short term</i>

An integrated traffic management and public realm plan

AMBITION	HOW WE'LL GET THERE	PARTNERS	PRIORITY
<p><i>A joined-up approach to any services works, footpath improvements, carriageway surfacing and traffic movement and parking</i></p> <p><i>Smart co-location of uses to cut down on traffic movements – clusters of mutually beneficial uses</i></p>	<p><i>An updated and more comprehensive Borris Traffic Management and Public Realm Plan based on the current Council draft Traffic Management Plan and the outputs of the Borris - Our Vision process.</i></p> <p><i>This would set out a well-designed and “joined-up” plan for backland parking, on-street parking, off-road safe walking and cycling routes within Borris connecting schools, houses and shops (including lanes and parts of the former railway), traffic circulation, lighting, undergrounding of overhead lines, street furniture, footpaths, kerbs and dished kerbs, street furniture, materials and tree planting.</i></p>	<p><i>Carlow County Council/Community</i></p>	<p><i>Short term</i></p>
	<p><i>A mini-masterplan for a three school campus – pre-school/afterschool, National School, Vocational School – with integrated walking and cycling links, carpark, drop off, and open space/outdoor classrooms – possibly including the parish lands and considering the integration of open space, rivers and links with railway walkway and Mount Leinster Rangers</i></p>	<p><i>Community/Carlow County Council</i></p>	<p><i>Medium term</i></p>
	<p><i>Improvements to Factory Cross and other gateways/road entrances to the town</i></p>	<p><i>Community/Carlow County Council</i></p>	<p><i>Medium term</i></p>

Better public transport

AMBITION	HOW WE'LL GET THERE	PARTNERS	PRIORITY
Better bus connections	<i>Supporting Ringalink's ambition to provide a regular connection to Bagenalstown train station and Carlow including an evening service</i>	<i>Ringalink/Community/National Transport Authority</i>	<i>Short term</i>
	<i>Timetables and seating are needed at the bus stops at Dalton's Square and Woodland Park</i>	<i>Ringalink/Community</i>	<i>Medium term</i>
	<i>A Ringalink user forum to feedback on any changing trends within the community which could require changes to the service</i>	<i>Ringalink/Community</i>	<i>Short term</i>
	<i>Streamlining of the communication of route and timing information and wider publicity of the nature of the service, any new regular routes and the fact that the service is open to everyone</i>	<i>Ringalink/Community/Smart Villages European Network</i>	<i>Short term</i>
	<i>A shuttle bus service for activity visitors – bringing them to places along the Barrow and into the Blackstairs</i>	<i>Community/LEO</i>	<i>Medium term</i>

A prospectus for historic building use and development

AMBITION	HOW WE'LL GET THERE	PARTNERS	PRIORITY
<p><i>Facilitating practical conversations about reusing existing historic buildings in the centre of Borris for clearly specified town needs</i></p> <p><i>A clear and rigorous approach to efficient uses of space – co-location and “doubling up” – for example, a café also functioning as a co-working hub, childcare close to the library</i></p> <p><i>More intensive use of the library building</i></p>	<p><i>Avail of new supports for communities living in historic towns such as the Historic Town Initiative, the Collaborative Town Centre Health Check</i></p>	<p><i>Community/Heritage Council/Housing Agency</i></p>	<p><i>Short term</i></p>
	<p><i>Prepare a detailed vacancy inventory so we fully understand the potential for re-use of historic buildings, and are able to track progress</i></p>	<p><i>Community/Heritage Council</i></p>	<p><i>Short term</i></p>
	<p><i>A drop-in clinic to provide free advice to main street building owners on options, process, costs and financial supports to bring buildings back into use including Repair to Lease, Purchase and Leaseback schemes and others emerging</i></p>	<p><i>Community/Carlow County Council/Conservation Architect</i></p>	<p><i>Short term</i></p>
	<p><i>Engage conservation architects to prepare a building condition survey, identify common issues and practical solutions that can be applied to a range of buildings in Borris to address common challenges of fire and building regulation compliance</i></p>	<p><i>Community/Conservation Architect</i></p>	<p><i>Short term</i></p>
	<p><i>“Match-making” buildings with suitable uses based on the outputs of the Borris - Our Vision process and the principles of using and re-using heritage properties and existing buildings and co-location and multi-use for mutual benefits</i></p> <p><i>Identify locations for specific community needs identified – some could be combined in a single building:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Café</i> • <i>Meeting rooms/stores</i> • <i>Two room office and yard for Community Employment Programme</i> • <i>Hang-out space for teenagers including creative opportunities, tech lab, social outlets etc.</i> • <i>Community book shop</i> • <i>Places to encounter the lace heritage up close</i> 	<p><i>Community</i></p>	<p><i>Short term</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>A “box-office” – a welcome for visitors and place to book activities</i>• <i>Open access commercial kitchens (e.g. Thomastown School of Food)</i>• <i>Exhibition space – craft/art/meeting rooms</i>• <i>Shared workspace/facilities</i>• <i>An enlarged play school to incorporate after school care</i>• <i>A day centre for older people, in the centre, providing dinner</i>• <i>Hostel for outdoor activity groups</i>• <i>Places to live in the centre of town</i>		
--	--	--	--

Town hall refurbishment

AMBITION	HOW WE'LL GET THERE	PARTNERS	PRIORITY
An upgraded Town Hall to meet the needs of the local community into the future	Establish legal basis and secure long term community lease	Community/Parish	Short term
	<p>A feasibility study to set out the potential layout of a refurbished town hall based on community needs as identified in the Borris - Our Vision project and in the broader context of the physical and social architecture of the town including the facilities at the Focus Centre and library. This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirming suitability of site, and exploring the potential of other town centre locations • A better building layout - glass front to better engage with the street, a range of room sizes • Places for people to meet - community café, day centre, arts hub • Visitor welcome - interpretation of the historic importance of the town • Multi-use space – for club use, music, cinema, theatre, funeral reception etc. • Handball/racquetball facilities • Offices - Community Employment Programme offices/yard space, youth organisation hub, micro-business incubation centre • A refurbished outdoor space - outside hurling wall 	Community/LEADER/ Carlow County Council Department of Rural and Community Development	Medium term
	Drawing up of a brief for architects including planned programming and management of the space	Community/LEADER/Carlow County Council/Department of Rural and Community Development	Medium term
	Project management of the design and reconstruction	Community/LEADER	Long term

The Town Green

AMBITION	HOW WE'LL GET THERE	PARTNERS	PRIORITY
<p>Making the most of the historic town green that runs along the Borris House Demesne wall</p> <p>Ensuring Borris town provides its children with great places to play</p>	<p>Upgrading existing facilities and providing new ones identified by the community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An art/land art/craft/projection project – visually appropriate for the historic context to interpret the linked stories of Borris House and Borris town • Regular maintenance and upgrade to playground/pitch surface • Consider inclusion of a small cycling pump track or skate park for children • Outdoor activity hub for older people • Improve accessibility • Drain wet areas, improve seating, consider design measures to improve visual relationship between the green and the street e.g. cutting back of some shrubs 	<p>Community/Borris House/Carlow County Council</p>	<p>Medium term</p>

FUTURE-PROOFING BORRIS

The rivers of Borris

AMBITION	HOW WE'LL GET THERE	PARTNERS	PRIORITY
<i>Turn our attention to the Mountain and O'Shea's rivers</i>	<i>Collaborating with the Local Authorities Waters Programme and Inland Fisheries Ireland to find out more about the nature on our doorstep and involve children in this "outdoor classroom". Run awareness raising events, plan citizen science projects in association with LAWPRO.</i>	<i>Community/LAWPRO</i>	<i>Short term</i>

Energy-proofing Borris

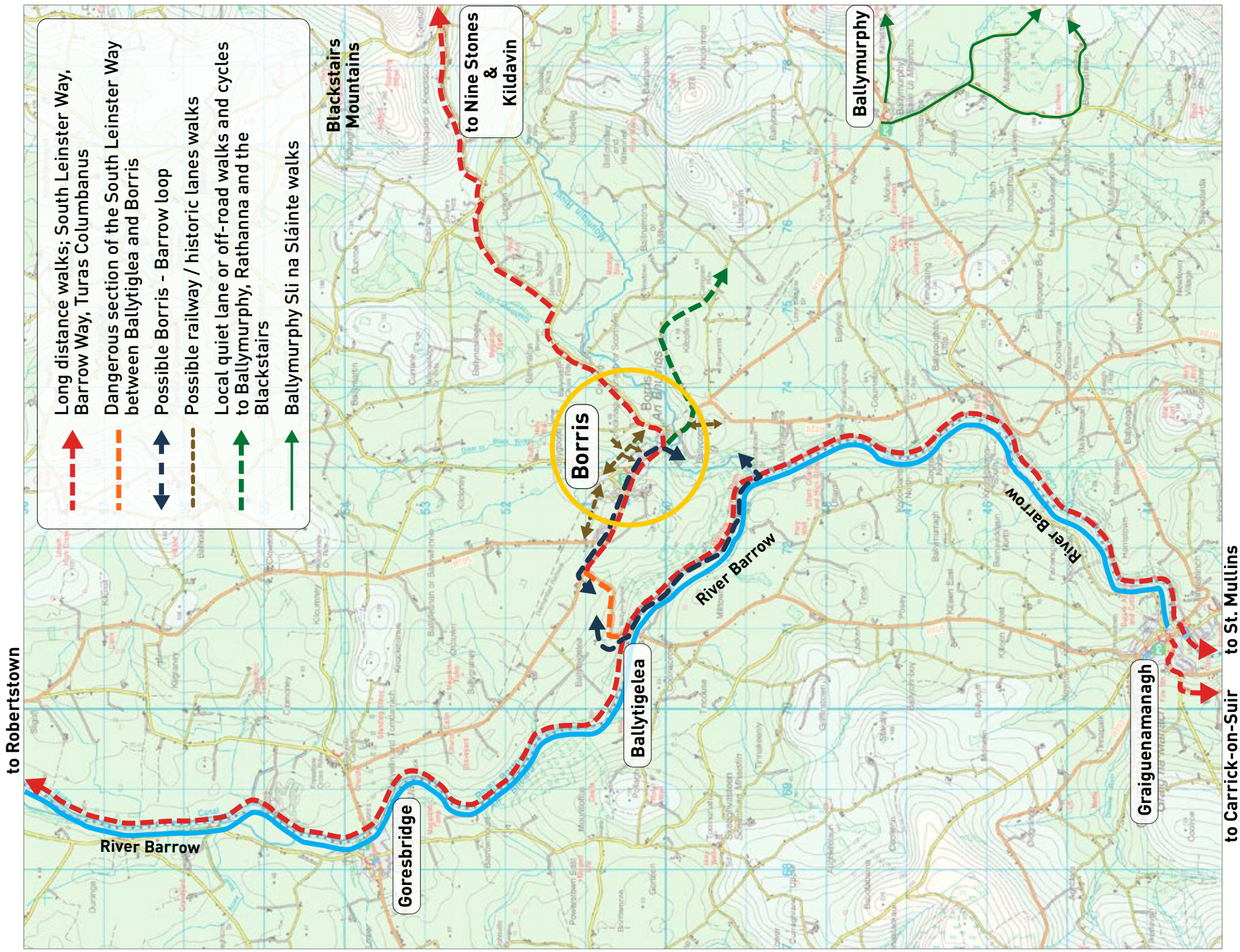
AMBITION	HOW WE'LL GET THERE	PARTNERS	PRIORITY
<i>Ensuring we are using all our existing town centre buildings</i>	<i>Apply for Community Energy Masterplan which is 100% funded by SEAI to list a "register of opportunities" – the actions arising from the masterplan can be funded by SEAI and LEADER</i>	<i>Community/Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland/LEADER</i>	<i>Short term</i>
<i>Reducing fossil fuel dependence collectively</i>			
<i>Energy efficiency improvements, transition to low carbon society, individual cost savings</i>	<i>Installation of an e-car charging point</i>	<i>Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland</i>	<i>Medium term</i>

Doing business in Borris

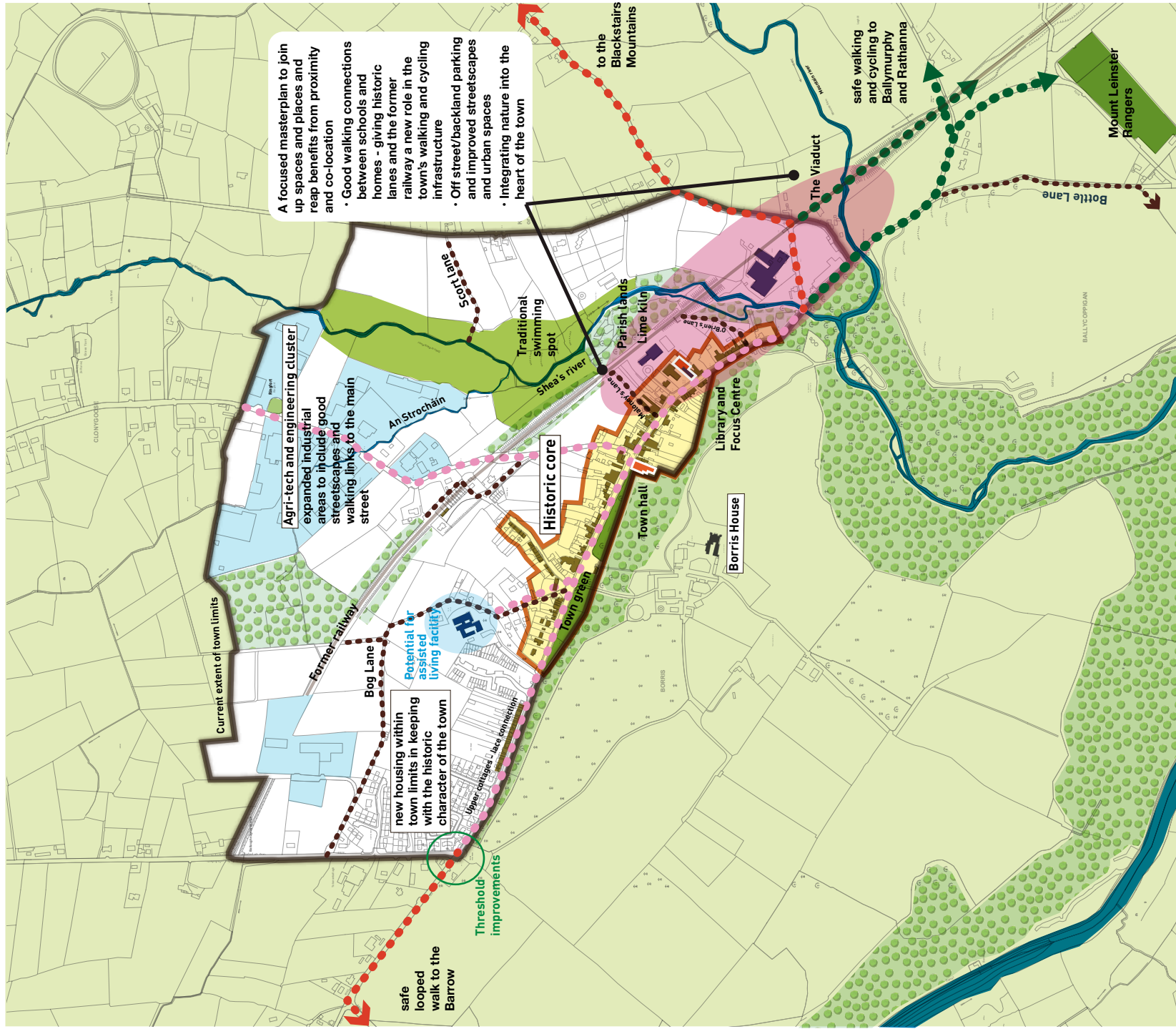
AMBITION	HOW WE'LL GET THERE	LEAD /PARTNERS	PRIORITY
<p>Continue to expand the range of employment opportunities in the town and support new enterprise</p> <p>An active main street – with many places of endeavour, encounter and exchange</p> <p>Building Borris’ visitor economy and growth as a destination</p> <p>Supporting and celebrating our craft heritage and economy</p>	Identify suitable buildings on the main street for co-working spaces/town centre shopfront offices for existing large industries in the town.	Community/local business	Medium term
	Join the Smart Villages European Network and draw insights from towns and villages seeking to attract nomad/remote workers	Community/Smart Villages European Network	Short term
	Enlarge the Borris Food and Craft Market to increase footfall, consider moving to a Saturday	Community/Borris Food and Craft Market	Medium term
	Work with LEO and Community Employment Programme to identify and support new opportunities emerging from the outdoor activities and walking economy to include walking tourism training	Community/LEO/Community Employment Programme	Medium term
	Develop opportunities for visitors to engage with the Borris Lace making heritage and the vibrant craft and arts community	Community/Borris Lace Group	Medium term
	Focus on developing “consumable experiences” for visitors – accommodation, food, activities - which are regular, year-round and reliable	Community/local business	Short term
	Work closely with Fáilte Ireland and Carlow Tourism to avail of training, funding and marketing supports to deepen the visitor experience of the “Tales of Two Worlds” Ireland’s Ancient East theme in Borris	Community/local business	Short term
	A fringe festival to run alongside the Festival of Writing and Ideas at Borris House – with pop-up events in pubs, shops, empty buildings/windows, the green	Community/local business	Medium term

BORRIS - A WALKING HUB BETWEEN THE BARROW AND THE BLACKSTAIRS

... JOINING THE DOTS ...



BORRIS - MAPPING THE VISION



SEAMLESS CONNECTIONS

- rediscovers our historic lanes
- safer everyday walking and cycling connections
- a network of accessible town footpaths
- South Leinster Way/Turas Columbanus
- a Borris traffic management and public realm plan

SUPPORTING THE HEART OF THE TOWN

- matching community needs and opportunity spaces on a vibrant main street
- Town hall refurbishment
- Town green projects

FUTURE PROOFING

- celebrating and cherishing the rivers of Borris
- community energy masterplan
- doing business on main street and growing a visitor economy

PARTNERS

The projects above will be developed in partnership with organisations who have contributed to the Borris - Our Vision process to date and can continue to support the community in realising the ambition through policy, support, guidance and funding:

Carlow County Council

Carlow County Development Partnership

LEADER

Department of Rural and Community Development

Local Authority Waters Programme

The Heritage Council of Ireland

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

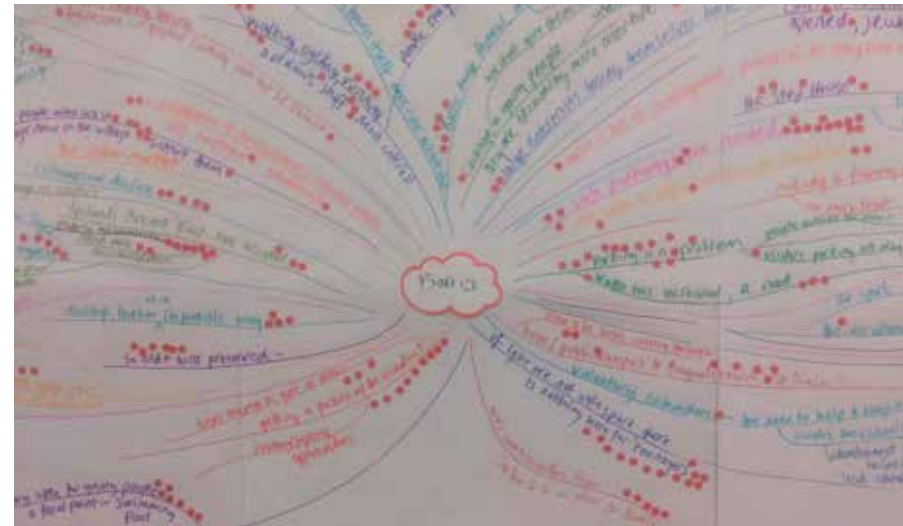
The Southern Regional Assembly

The European Rural Development Network

Sport Ireland

Fáilte Ireland

We look forward to continuing to work with you!



Report launch April 2nd 2019

REFERENCES

Barriers and opportunities for adaptive re-use of vacant space in towns, Ballina Case Study, presented at the Town Centre Health Check Workshop 2, Orla Murphy, 2017

Borris Local Area Plan 2010-2016, Carlow County Council

Borris Town Improvement Plan (2001), Shaffrey Associates Architects for Carlow County Council

Borris Walking/Cycling Feasibility Study (2018), Canice Architects for Carlow County Council

Carlow County Development Plan, 2015-2021, Carlow County Council

Carlow Institute of Technology Architectural research, Borris (2017), Farrer, Hoare, Murphy, Murphy, O'Hara, Power, Scallan under the guidance of Edmond Joyce

Carlow town and village health checks, Borris, Future Analytics Consulting

Community led Village Design Statement Toolkit, (2012) Alison Harvey, Heritage Council of Ireland

Central Statistics Office, Census data 2016

Development Guidelines for Tourism Destination Towns (2019), Fáilte Ireland

Overview and Priorities (2016), Blackstairs and Barrow Valley Tourism Network

Smart Villages The European Network for Rural Development https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/enrd-thematic-work/smart-and-competitive-rural-areas/smart-villages_en

Wheelchair Accessibility in Borris (2018), Helena McAteer

