

Roscrea Town Centre First Masterplan development continues

Roscrea is one of 26 towns across the country that has received funding to develop a Town Centre First Masterplan which aims to map out future development, focus on tackling dereliction and vacant properties, and make the town centre a more attractive place to live, work, socialise and run a business. This initiative aims to help re-imagine and revitalise rural communities as part of the National Town Centre First Policy.

For the plan to best fit the needs of the town and those who live and work in it, it is essential to hear from the people it is designed to help and therefore an intensive period of public consultation took place in March in Roscrea. The purpose of the stakeholder engagement was to allow the resident and business community of Roscrea an opportunity to propose their ideas for the successful sustainable development of the town and to raise any concerns that can potentially be addressed through the Town Centre First Masterplan.

A mix of in-person, virtual events, semi-structured interviews with local retailers, focus group sessions with key groups and online surveys were undertaken during this time. In total, approximately 465 people participated in the consultation process including 335 respondents from the online community survey. Information, insight, local knowledge, ideas, and concerns raised during the in-person and virtual consultation sessions, and surveys, have been collated and reviewed by O 'Mahony Pike (the consultants appointed to work on the Masterplan), the Town Team, and Tipperary County Council.

The level of participation to date by locals was welcomed by the Town Champion Brian King who commented that the consultation process “ will directly feed into the development of the Town Centre Masterplan and provide a deeper understanding of the concerns of locals and create a vision for the town.” He added that “the people of Roscrea will have another opportunity to engage in the process when the draft plan is presented on the 24th of May in the Black Mills. In the meantime the Town Team is working closely with the consultants and the Council to prepare the draft and identify projects they can work on to deliver for Roscrea.”

Town Regeneration Officer with Tipperary County Council, Áine Mc Carthy, who is facilitating the Masterplan process to date for Roscrea, is optimistic with the opportunities that are coming to the fore from the consultation process and commented that “ the draft Masterplan for Roscrea is coming together with a lot of research completed and collaboration with relevant stakeholders. It is great to see that the Town

Team are very engaged in the process in order to identify the best objectives for the town and we are encouraged by the numbers who have taken part in the consultation process”.

Currently the Town Team is made up of members from the Chamber, Tidy Towns, sports clubs, Heritage Society, CAP, PPN, Age Friendly Roscrea, NTDC and more. Full details on the Roscrea Masterplan process are available on www.tipperarycoco.ie/roscreatowncentrefirstplan.

The next notable date for the diary will be the presentation of the Draft Roscrea Town Centre First Masterplan at the Black Mills on the 24th of May. Building on the positive work of the Roscrea Enhancement Plan which was delivered over a ten-year period, the draft Masterplan will set out a clear path and a list of projects to improve Roscrea, with the focus on actions that can deliver results over the short, medium and long term. There will be two public sessions and these will take place from 2p.m to 3.30p.m and 6.30p.m to 8p.m at the Black Mills.

Anyone seeking further information can contact aine.mccarthy@tipperarycoco.ie

ENDS
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