

DRAFT

NEW ROSS

APPENDIX D

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

2023

NEW ROSS
TOWN
CENTRE
FIRST
PLAN



New Ross Town Centre First Plan

APPENDIX D – Public Consultation Report

Prepared by
A Playful City

For
Wexford County Council

September 2023



Survey and Workshop Insights

New Ross Town Centre First Plan



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Introduction

As part of the New Ross Town Centre First Initiative, A Playful City (as part of a wider design team) conducted

- a Community Survey and Youth Survey, and
- ran a 'Walk and Talk' workshop with key community stakeholders

in order to gain insights and feedback from the community on how the town thinks and feels towards the changing identity and revitalisation of New Ross Town Centre.

This report will help steer the next steps in terms of a Town Centre proposal and inform further community consultation in the TCF New Ross programme.

Themes of Engagement

The Design Team visited New Ross on May 18th in order to meet

- Liz Hore, WCC Head of Enterprise and lead Director of TCF with senior Planning and Heritage Team and TRO
- WCC representatives from Derelict Sites, Property, Special Projects, Libraries, Arts sections, etc
- New Ross Municipal District Team: Eamonn Hore (WCC Director and Deputy Chief Executive Director over Transportation and Water). Roads team, Port, Marina & Environment and more of the New Ross Municipal District Team
- New Ross Town Team

Post this day, themes of engagement were developed to help reflect key topics talked about in the meetings and put structure to community consultation in New Ross. These themes are:



1. Young People

There is a recognition that the TCF programme will make a strategic vision for the town for the next 15/20y years. Young People are very much part of this conversation as the next generation of town inhabitants



2. Uniqueness and Character

Recognising the existing cultural and historical voices in New Ross as well as defining what character the Town can have in the future.



3. Business, Entrepreneurship and Tourism

Assessing how the town can support existing businesses, entrepreneurial start ups and what it means for a visitor to New Ross



4. Inclusivity and Accessibility

How New Ross currently supports the diversity of people in the town and what it can do to help the needs of people in the future? How can New Ross support new communities?



5. Diaspora - Old/New

The Dunbrody heritage, Kennedy history, recent immigration - polish/eastern European population and young people leaving the town and coming back to live in New Ross later in their lives



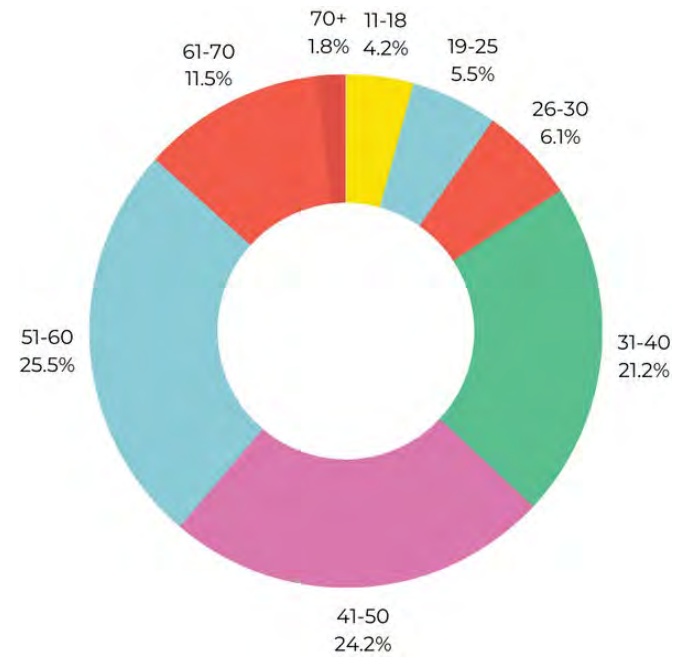
6. Future Use and Living

What would it be like to live in New Ross in 15/20 years time? Can the Town centre support newer ideas of living and working?

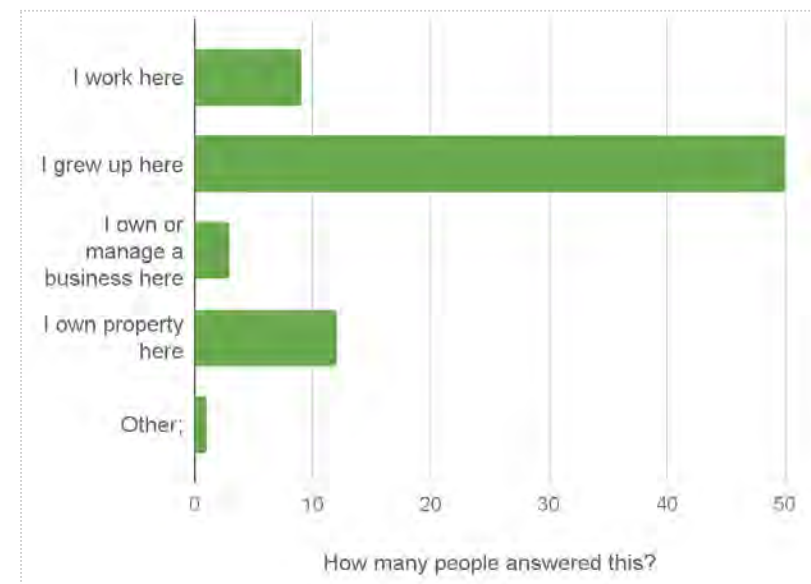
Basic information of Community Survey

180 people took part in the Community Survey

Age Range

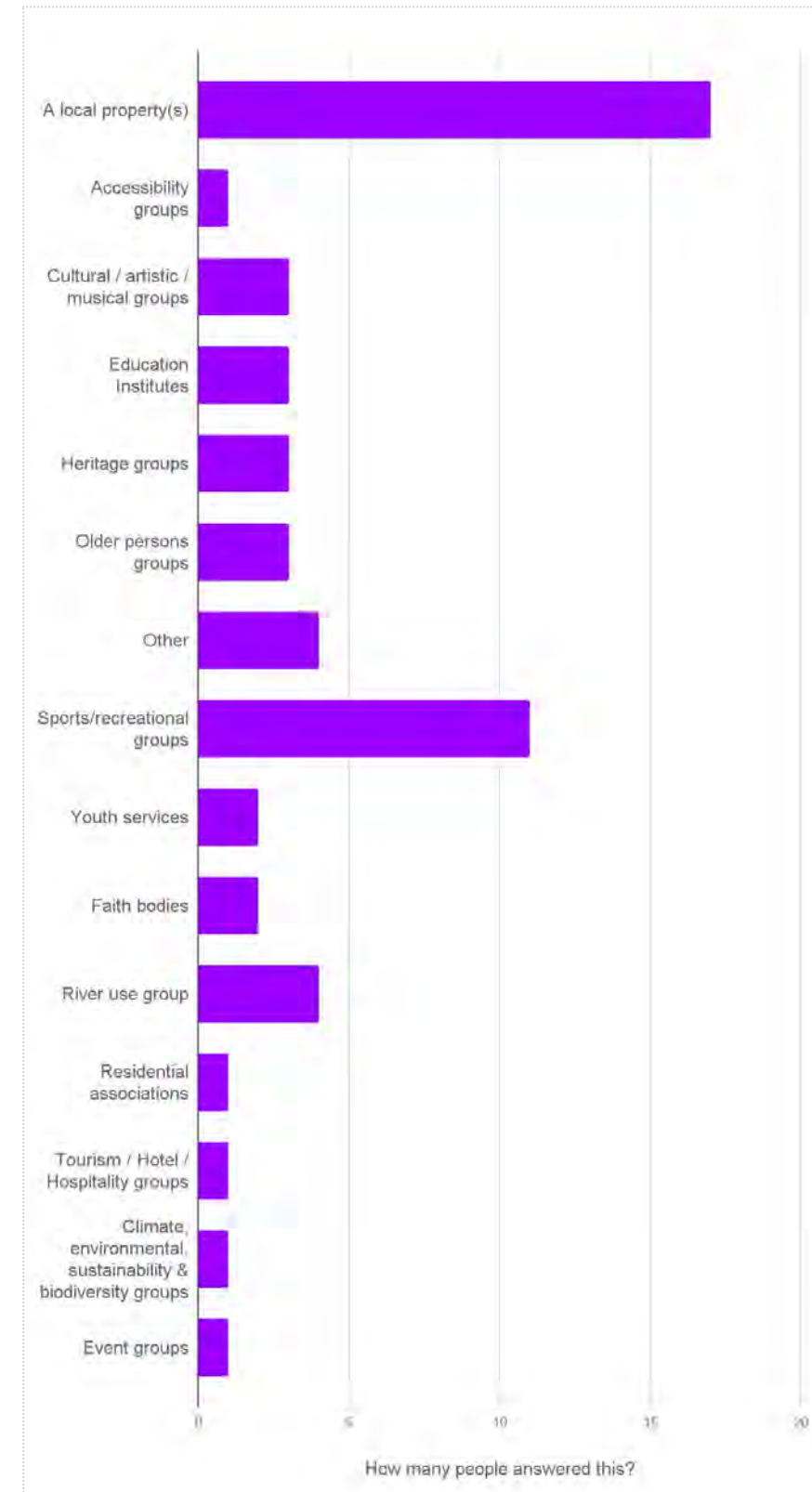


What relationship do participants have with New Ross?



The majority of survey participants grew up in New Ross. Other answers included: I live nearby, I have family here or I visit shops in New Ross

Are participants affiliated with any groups in the area of New Ross?

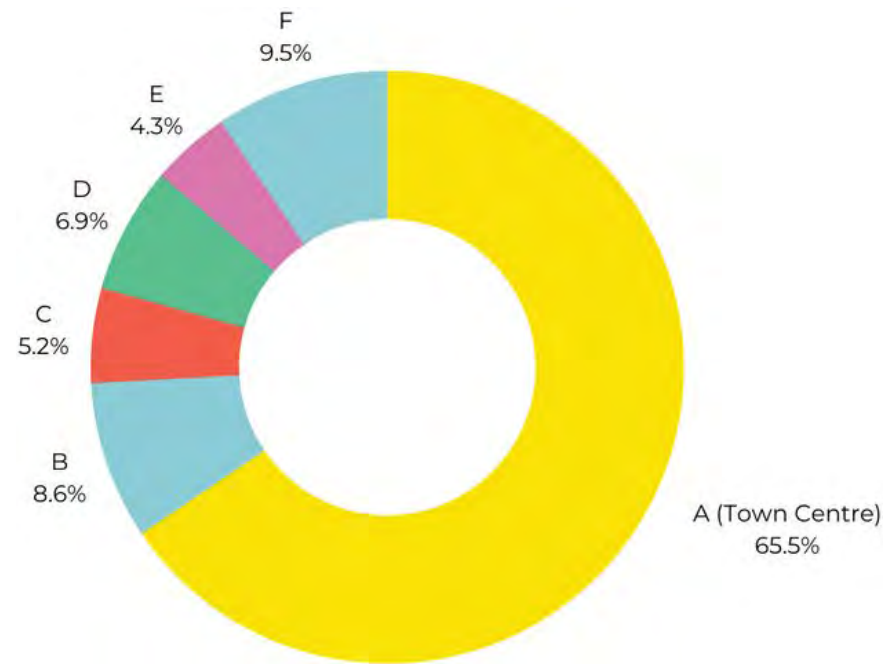
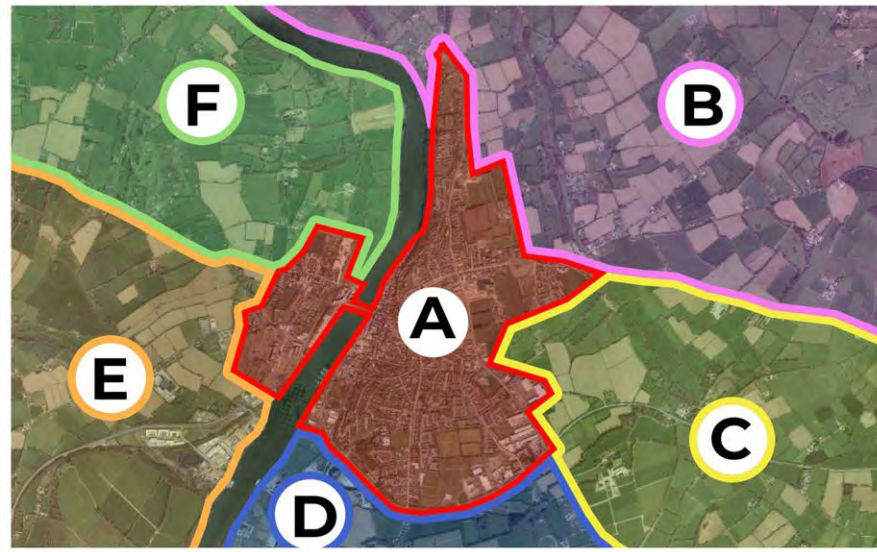


The majority of participants have local properties in New Ross or are part of sports/ recreational groups in New Ross.

Local groups that took part in the survey are:

Active Retirees; AIMS choral festival; **Ard Alainn Residents Association;** At. Mary's Church; **Caterpillars parent and toddler support group;** Civil Defence; **Cumas New Ross;** Cushinstown AFC; **DIL New Ross;** Dreambig foundation; **Dunbrody Archers;** FDYS; **Hanley's Local Pharmacy;** Irish Wood Producers; **Lawlors Menswear;** Macmurrough Farm hostel; **Meals on Wheels;** Mernagh Irish Dancing; **Mountross Residents;** New Ross boat Club; **New Ross Business Assoc;** New Ross Celtic AFC; **New Ross Golf Club;** New Ross Historical Soc; **New Ross Muslim Community;** New Ross Musical Society; New Ross Parish Community; **New Ross Piano Festival;** New Ross Sea Scouts; **New Ross Singers;** New Ross Skate Park Initiative; **New Ross Street Focus;** New Ross Town FC; **Parish Hall Committee;** Primary Principals Network; **Rainbow Youth Club;** Rath Cush GAA; **Riverview residents;** **Shelbourne Women's Group;** St Joseph's Athletic Rosbercon; **St Mary's Church;** St. Canice's Primary School; **St. Joseph's Primary School;** The Grace Church New Ross; **The New Ross Traders Association;** Tidy Towns; **Tullagher Rosbercon Hurling Club;** United Striders AC; **Vibe hair;** Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme (Adult Education); **Wexford County Chamber;** Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board; **Wexford Food Family;** Women's Shed New Ross; **Youth New Ross;** Wexford Climate Action.

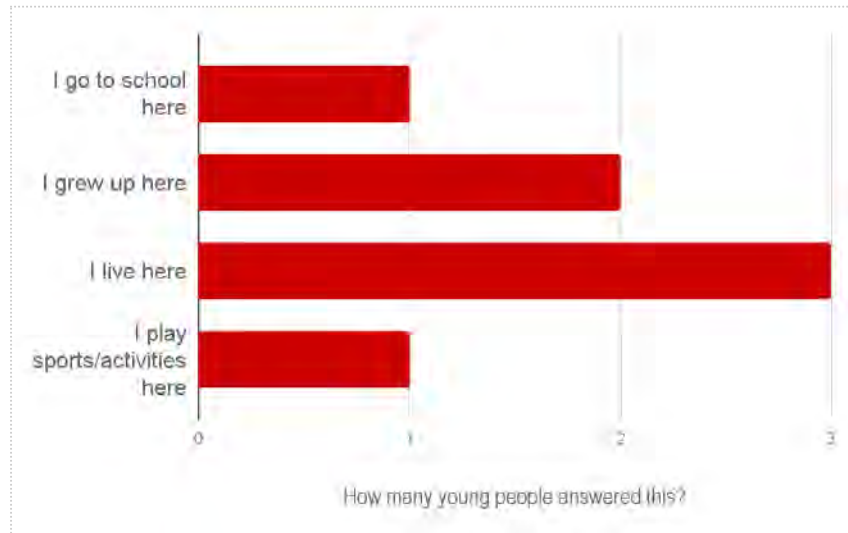
Which area on the map best describes where; you live?



The majority of survey participants live in the town centre of New Ross.

Young People (inc Youth Survey)

What relationship do young people have with New Ross?



What do you think New Ross needs more of?

*“More places for young people to **hang out safe**”*

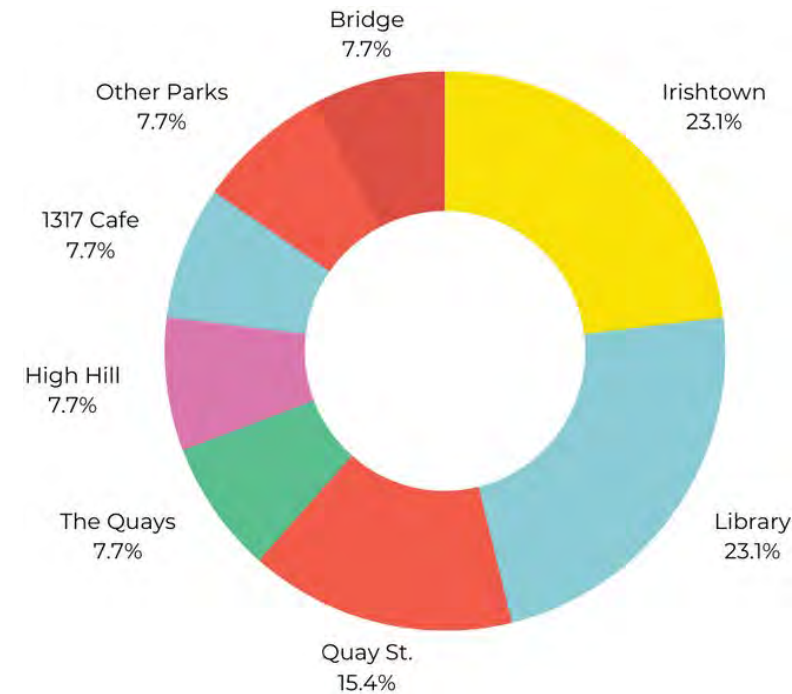
*“**Hangout spots**”*

*“I think New Ross needs **more places to go after school** or something to walk down to when you need a break”*

*“Places for young people to **do activities/ clothes shops**”*

*“New Ross needs **more commercial businesses in the town centre**, a better selection of restaurants and a hotel to allow it to grow and encourage people to come visit the area”.*

Where do you hang out in New Ross with friends?

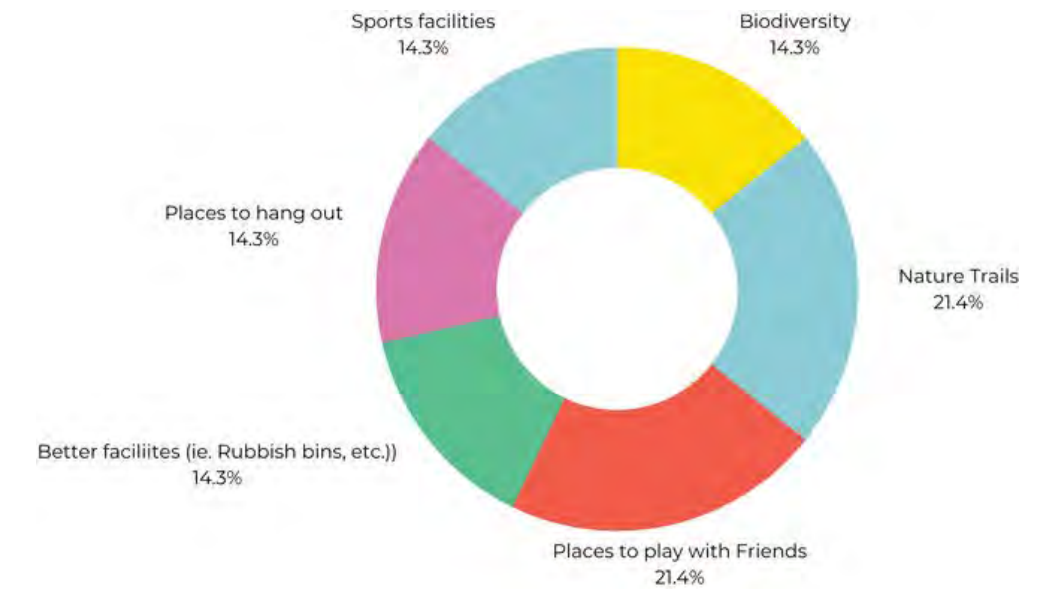


What are your hopes for the future of New Ross?

*“A **better environment for the newer teenagers to grow up** that doesn't involve being surrounded by drugs influencing them on to younger kids. And just fun stuff for them to do so they don't have to hang around alleys or parks.”*

*“They **do something with the town bar** paint a few walls and plant a few flowers”*

What are key aspects of New Ross that we should consider as part of the Town Centre First Plan?



Young People (inc Youth Survey)

Summary of Insights from Youth Worksheet Packs

A youth worksheet pack was issued to multiple schools in New Ross. We received 66 responses from 4th, 5th and 6th class pupils, a summary of which can be found below.

When asked **what young people currently love about New Ross;**

- sports and leisure spaces such as the Apex and various sports clubs,
- parks and green spaces to hang out with friends and
- cafés and restaurants, especially O'Briens,

were the most frequently mentioned answers. When asked about what was important to them, similar answers were selected with places to hang out with friends, sports facilities and better general facilities making up the top three selections.

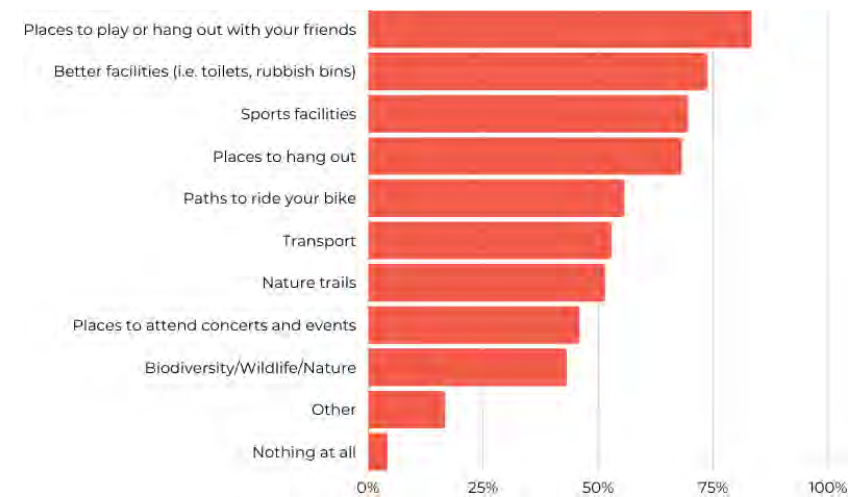
When asked about **hang out spaces** that are currently used, it was similarly found that young people currently avail of cafés, such as O'Briens, and green spaces such as the park and High Hill. Although this was an open ended question, there was a lot of repetition in the answers, indicating limited spaces for young people to play or hang out. Interestingly, almost **20% of young people don't hang out in New Ross town centre** at all, preferring to stay at home, hang out in their estates or the estates of their friends due to the lack of spaces for young people in the town. This indicates that the **provision of more youth spaces, particularly outdoor spaces, and cafes and casual dining** may lead to increased use of the town centre by young people, increasing the vibrancy of the place.

When asked **what kind of shops** they would like to see in the area, **cafés and casual dining** was the top answer, again indicating both a lack of and a desire for these spaces, with sports shops and clothes shops following up as the next most desired shops. When asked if they could do anything to improve their town, increased **hang out spaces, sports facilities, shops and shopping centres**

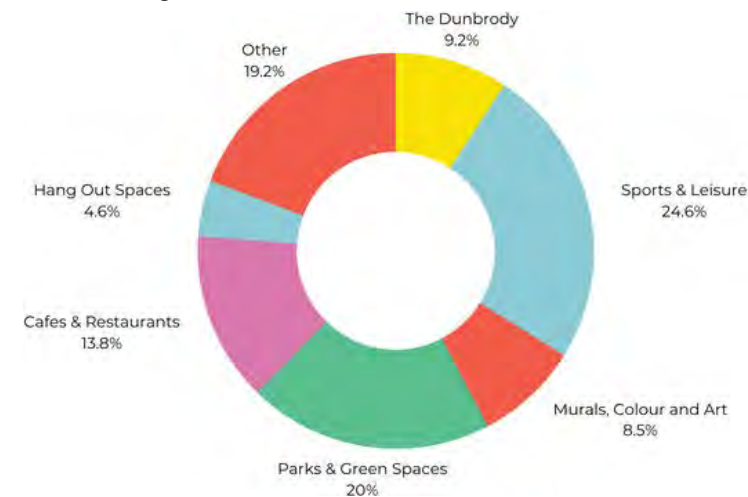
and cafés and restaurants all came up again as the top 4 answers, despite the question being open ended.

Based on this research, it is clear that **there is a lack of space for young people to gather, play and hang out in New Ross town centre** which is leading to reduced use of the town centre. Despite this, there is a culture of going to cafes with friends and taking part in sport among the young people of New Ross which the plan should aim to elevate and augment via the provision of more of these spaces and opportunities. It is clear, due to the repetition in this survey that these spaces are limited and that diversifying options for young people in the area, may lead to increased use of the town centre by young people, increasing the vibrancy of the place.

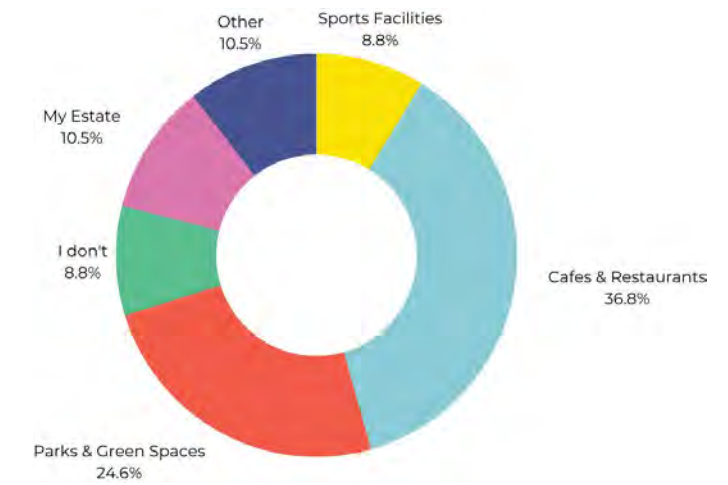
Which of these are important to you?



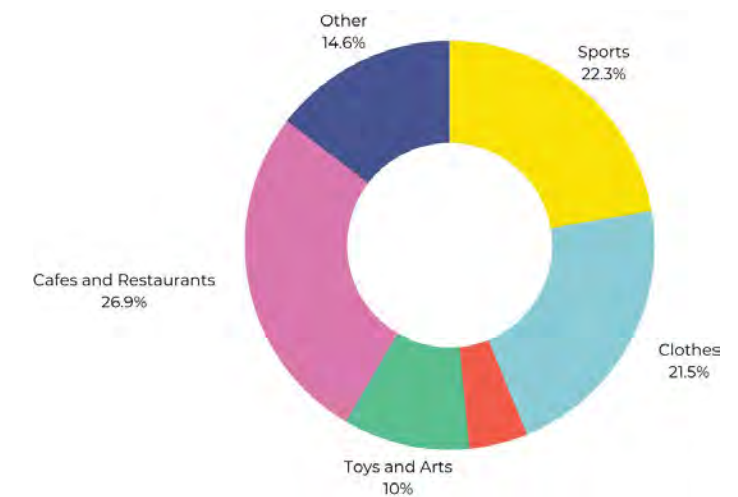
What do you love about New Ross?



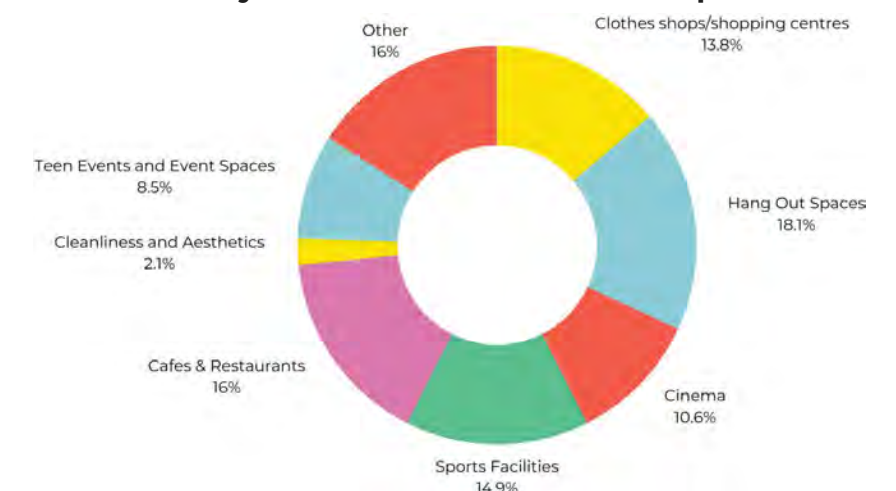
If you play or hang out with friends where do you currently go?



What kinds of shops does New Ross need more of?



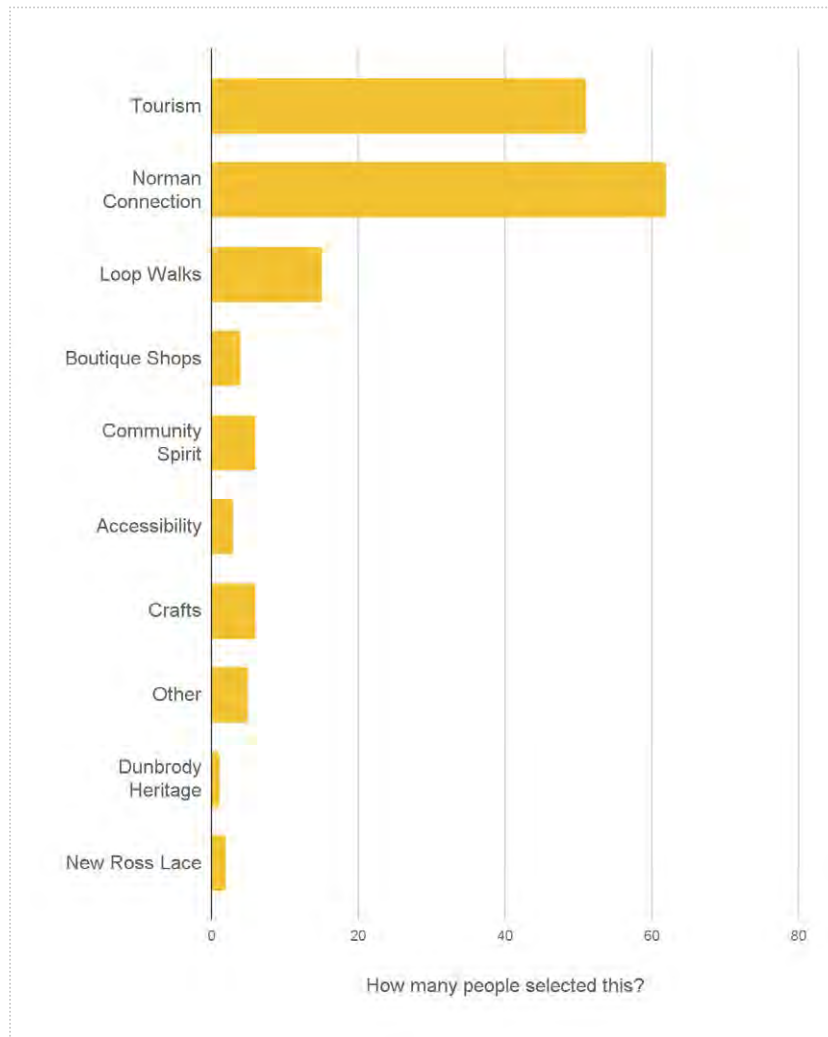
If anything was possible, tell us one thing that you would love to see in your town to make it a better place to live..



Uniqueness and Character

Participants were asked to select the 3 most important elements of New Ross's character identity that you think should be highlighted in the plan.

Tourism, the Norman Collection and Loop walks were highlighted as the three most important elements in New Ross character identity.



St. Marys Church as part of the Norman Way in New Ross



Dunbrody Ship, New Ross



Maiden Gate and the Norman Town Wall



Red Bridge and Greenway loop



One of many laneways connecting the town centre

Business, Entrepreneurship and Tourism

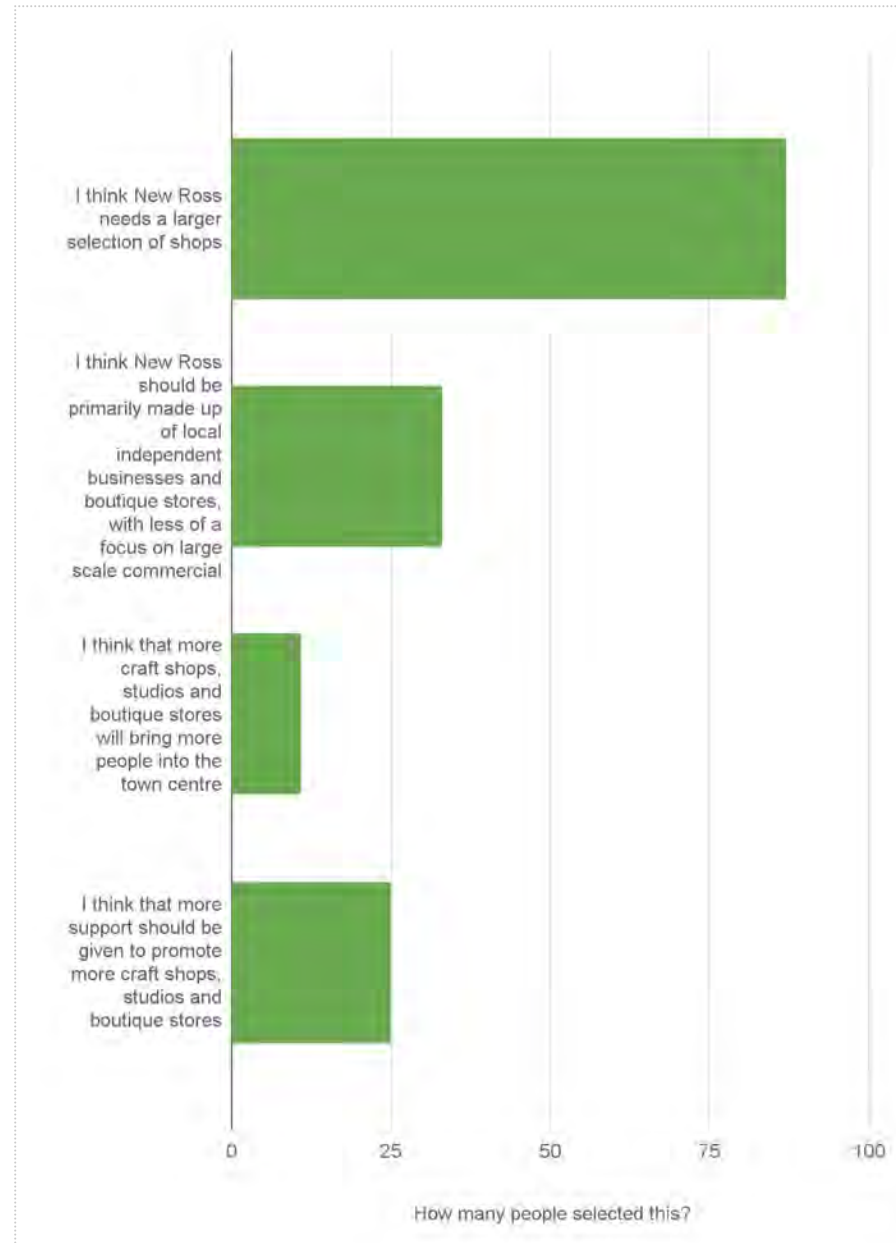
Please select the opinion below that resonates most with you.

The majority of participants suggested that New Ross needs a larger selection of shops in the Town Centre, however there is a desire for smaller boutiques and independent businesses.

“Like every other town **we need both big and small retailers** but both should occupy spaces **in the town centre** areas not industrial outskirts outside of those already built but empty like units beside Tesco”

“It's a market type town... **people like the smaller shops** , more one to one service provided to its customers”

“**Smaller businesses are most likely to offer personal & friendly services.** Crafts, especially those creating uniqueness for locals & visitors, have to create interest.”



Business, Entrepreneurship and Tourism

Do you have any examples of towns or cities you have visited with entrepreneurial style and spirit that you would like New Ross to have?

There were a lot of suggestions both domestically and internationally for examples of towns and cities with an entrepreneurial style.

Some Irish examples included:

- Adare, Co. Kildare
- Westport, Co. Mayo
- Clonmel, Co. Tipperary
- Middleton, Cork
- Cobh, Cork
- Cork City
- Killarney, Co. Kerry
- Skibbereen, Co. Cork
- Dungarvan, Co. Waterford
- Clonakilty, Co. Cork
- Kinsale, Co. Cork
- Limerick City
- Dingle, Co. Kerry
- Kilkenny City

Some international examples included:

- Le Miroir d'Eau, Bordeaux, France
- Bruges, Belgium
- Valparaiso in Chile
- La Rochelle, France
- Bristol, UK
- Exmouth, UK
- Exeter, UK
- Kiama, Australia
- Santiago de Compostella

“The **outdoor dining scene in Cork** is great”

“**Killarney** is a classic example of a town with high standards across the board and a willingness and ambition to **open late and cater for the demands of visitors**. Kenmare also, with its great food scene, independent and chain shops and art scene. A place you could happily spend days in, and yet a small town.”

“The **milk market in Limerick** is a great example of a market that can scale up and down depending on the seasons. New Ross needs a farmers market (Key St on a Saturday morning)”

“**Kilkenny City** has a lovely entrepreneurial style with a mixture of boutiques, craft shops and more common stores.”

“**Dingle**, plenty of local craft and design shop, very pretty town yoo, great restaurants”

“**Majority of small European towns** have their shopping areas pedestrianised which reduces pollution and creates a cleaner environment. **Berlin, La Rochelle in France, all towns in Slovenia, Croatia** and many more there is a long list. It’s people, the town needs, not cars.”

“**Bordeaux** has successfully scaffolded a refreshing diversity of boutique stores by bringing in tourism through other means. Even their larger flagships are hidden behind protected building fronts so they

provide the most popular modern goods without spoiling the city's aesthetic.”

“**Graiguenamanagh - the Activity Hub** is a successful social economy, commercial, community project which has optimised its location on the river barrow and not only operates successfully as a commercial campsite but has also become the centre of the town's community events with performances every weekend.”

“**Bruges, Belgium** - riverside commercial and community premises are very focused on providing access to and optimising the benefits of the river. Community premises are encouraged to develop facilities for commercial events and tourism activities”

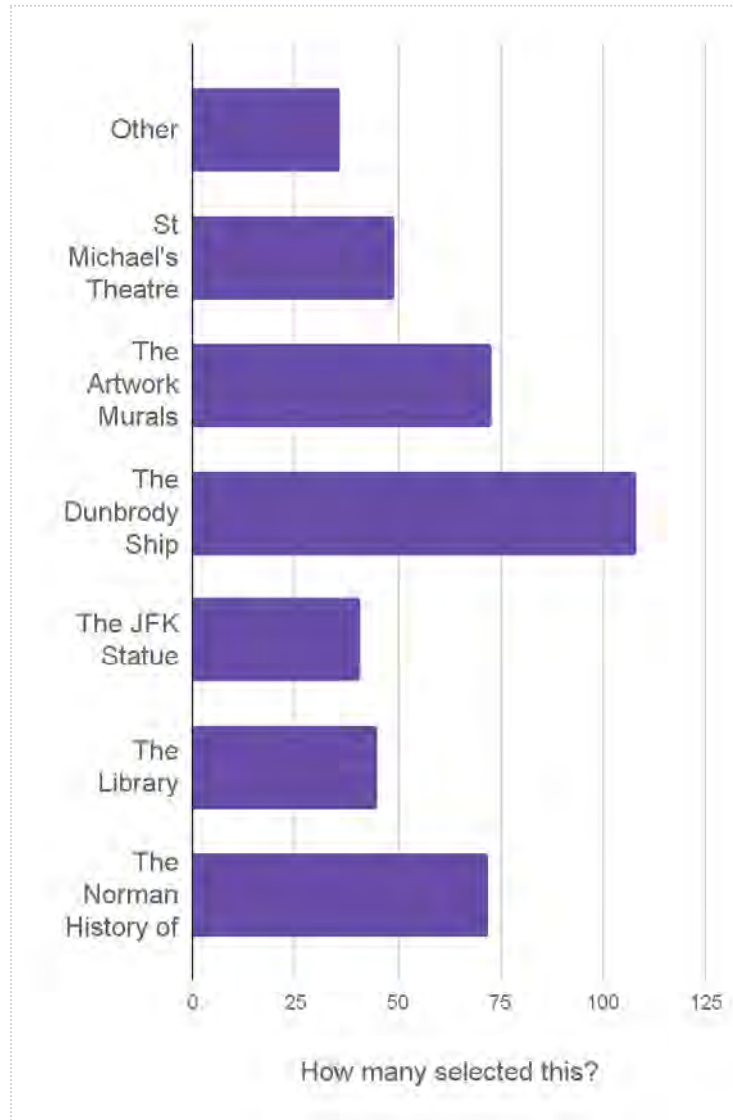
“**Skibbereen** has really embraced small enterprise, quirky streets and a bustling tourism industry that does seem to support the local community.”

“**Valparaiso in Chile** - bohemian artistic vibes resonates across the whole city through quirky art displays everywhere you look, painted steps etc - the city feels like a playground”

Business, Entrepreneurship and Tourism

Other recommendations included: The River Barrow, Town parks and shops, golf courses, local walkways

What would the participant recommend to a friend to see in New Ross?



"Golf course, the Greenway"

"I did a **history walk** recently. It was great and I really enjoyed it."

"I'd recommend the town park and shops"

"I do a **1798 walk of the area** when I have family visiting and show them where this is"

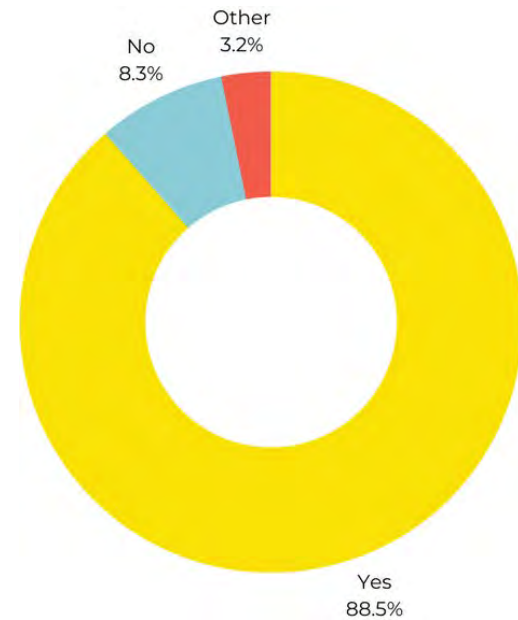
"I would always **recommend more walkways** and the river to explore. Including: Kelly's woods, The Red Bridge, Kayak on the river/ boat trip up the barrow or the Nore"

"I would love to see the river Barrow being utilised effectively by the local community and hopefully a blue waterway being created which would open our town up to major tourism opportunities"



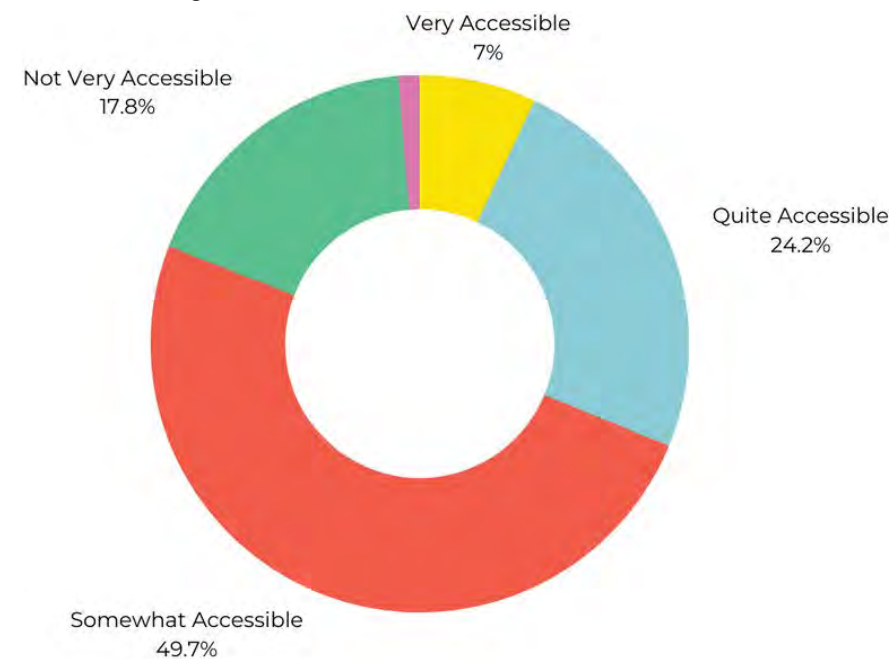
Inclusivity and Accessibility

Does the participant, or any of your family have physical or information needs?



Other answers included: I work with young people who have many needs, My husband, My brother

How would you describe New Ross in terms of Accessibility?



Quotes from Participants:

"[I have] 2 children with autism, and I have a physical disability. There's very little for them in the town, thankfully the Rainbow youth club started and that's great, but it needs help to survive."

"High kerbs which make it hard to step up/down of as sometimes it's not easy to cross the road"

"Local link should operate at nighttime"

"Shop doors can be very narrow"

"New Ross is a hilly town and the downtown area has limited parking"

"Due to the fact that some buildings are older they aren't wheelchair accessible."

"The areas where wheelchairs can cross the street are often blocked by cars as they are on street corners."

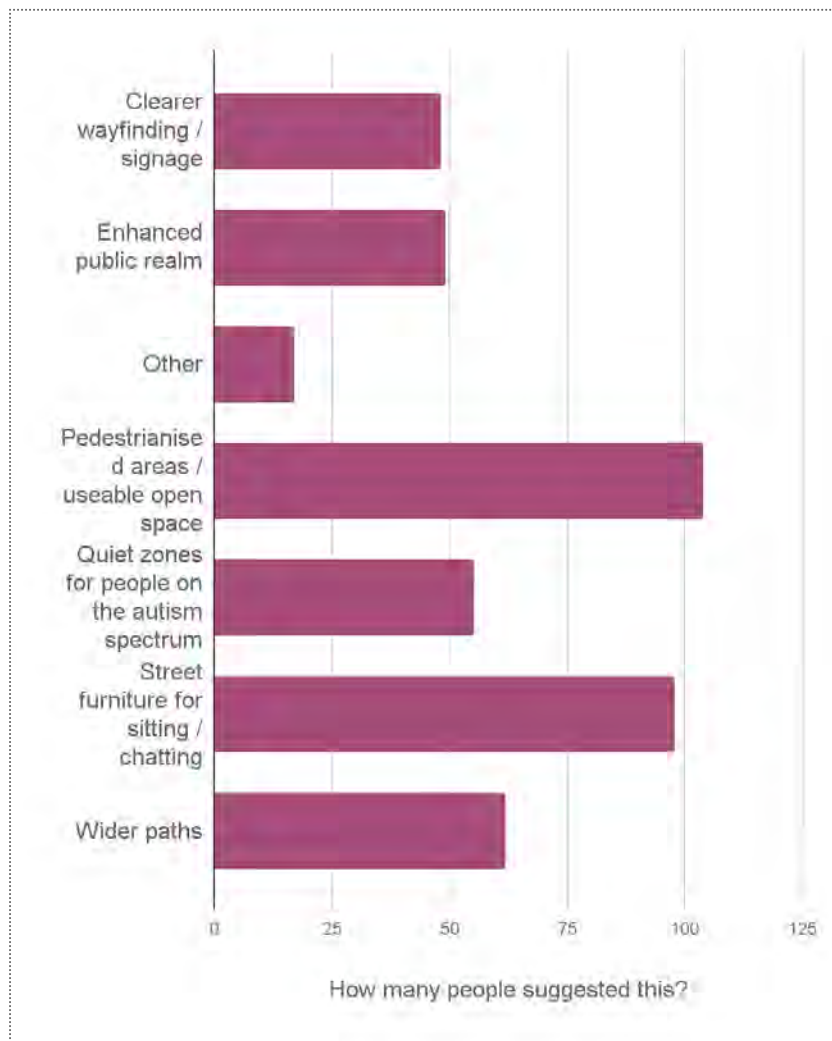
"There's a lack of public toilets."

"Parking disability spots improved but most tourist walkways have raised stone paths or are hills, no signage for wheelchair toilets, plenty of benches to sit but could be more wheelchair friendly, needs community buses out of hours as no active taxi services, lack of transport after 8pm."

Inclusivity and Accessibility

How could New Ross improve accessibility in the town centre?

Participants answered strongly with relation to pedestrianisation, street furniture for sitting/chatting, wider paths and quiet zones for people on the autism spectrum / neurodiverse needs.



Quotes from Participants who answered 'Other':

“A **taxi co-operative** which has a single phone contact. Each driver takes a specified night. All drivers work weekends. Each driver has a weekend off on a rotational basis. Allotted taxi rank on the quay. Standard fares anywhere in town and surrounding district. **Shared mini buses on weekends.**”

“**Bike paths around town.** Light then ring road for easier use.”

“**Bin collection** and deliveries finished by 9.30 am.”

“**Free parking of some sort** and more parking spaces”

“**The roundabout connecting the bridge to the town has always been a problem spot-** it didn't work as traffic lights, it barely works as a roundabout, and I've witnessed the one way streets change ways multiple times with only limited improvements to traffic routes each time. I don't think anyone would miss out by having to turn right off the bridge and then use quay Street and south street to access Mary Street or north street instead of the more direct route available now and I do think it would force visitors and tourists to view more of what we have on offer instead”

“**Local link buses around the town,** into town from rural areas regularly”

“**Public river access**”

“**Public Toilet in the town centre**”

“**Irishtown has the space and ability to thrive during the fine summer months in the evenings or at weekends.** It has the ability to facilitate those mobile food vans and with a bit of music, it could be a great place to be. Close off the road from the lights down to greta's old shop and the place would be lovely for a few hours on a weekend evening. Considering the amount of elderly people in the area it would be a great source of company and entertainment for them and everyone else to enjoy the space to move around.”

Inclusivity and Accessibility

Examples of inclusive and accessible design in any towns or cities that participants have visited and would love to see in New Ross?

Examples of inclusive and accessible designs in town and cities are:

- Public covered areas for weather
- Pedestrianisation with street games
- Disabled public toilets
- A public space for a sensory pod or room
- Open outdoor public areas
- Market areas
- Safe playing areas
- Skate parks
- Rainbow crossings
- Princess St in Cork City
- The Apple Market in Waterford City
- Red Square in Waterford City

Quotes from participants:

“A **covered area for the inclement weather** would be fantastic for residents, tourists and community events - covered area on the south quay in Waterford. Something similar to what is planned for the shambles except bigger and more open”

“A **sensory pod or room** in the Tholsel building would be great for the town as I know bringing my 5 year old with **autism** downtown is a huge sensory overload for him”

“Bray Cabs is an example of how successful a **taxi company** can be. Their mini buses are all wheelchair friendly.”

“Bunclody Gorey and Enniscorthy have become more **customer oriented.**”

“Centre of Krakow in Poland. **Large open spaces** with **markets and tourist hubs.**”

“Clonmel has a good infrastructure regarding a **mixture of pedestrian areas**”

“In Dungarvan especially, the **facilities for the greenaway**, a bike rental space in town centre with **shower and toilets facilities** for local people and visitors”

“**Pedestrianisation** creates a slower laid back feel and could create **street games**”

“I think **rainbow pedestrian crossings** will improve the sense of community and belonging of young people”

“**Space for young people to gather**, there are limited places for teenagers to gather.”

“The **hub in Gaignamanagh** is fab. Dungarvan has hotels that are available and not too expensive.”

“Any example like the Dutch model where footpaths are removed and the **street is shared equally** would help.”

Diaspora - Old/New

Describe New Ross in terms of Immigration / Emigration?

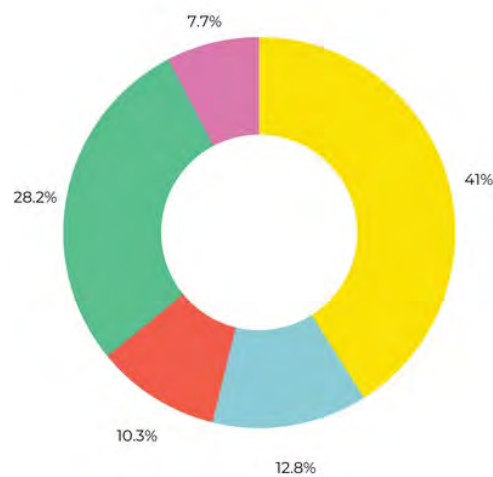
41% I think this is an important element of New Ross's identity and that it should be highlighted in the plan to encourage more people to come and settle in New Ross, both new communities and returning locals

12.8% I think this is an important element of New Ross's identity but I don't think it's important enough to be incorporated into the plan

10.3% I don't think this is an important element of New Ross's identity

28.2% I think this is an important element of New Ross's identity and that the resulting diversity should be celebrated

7.7% Other



Other answers included:

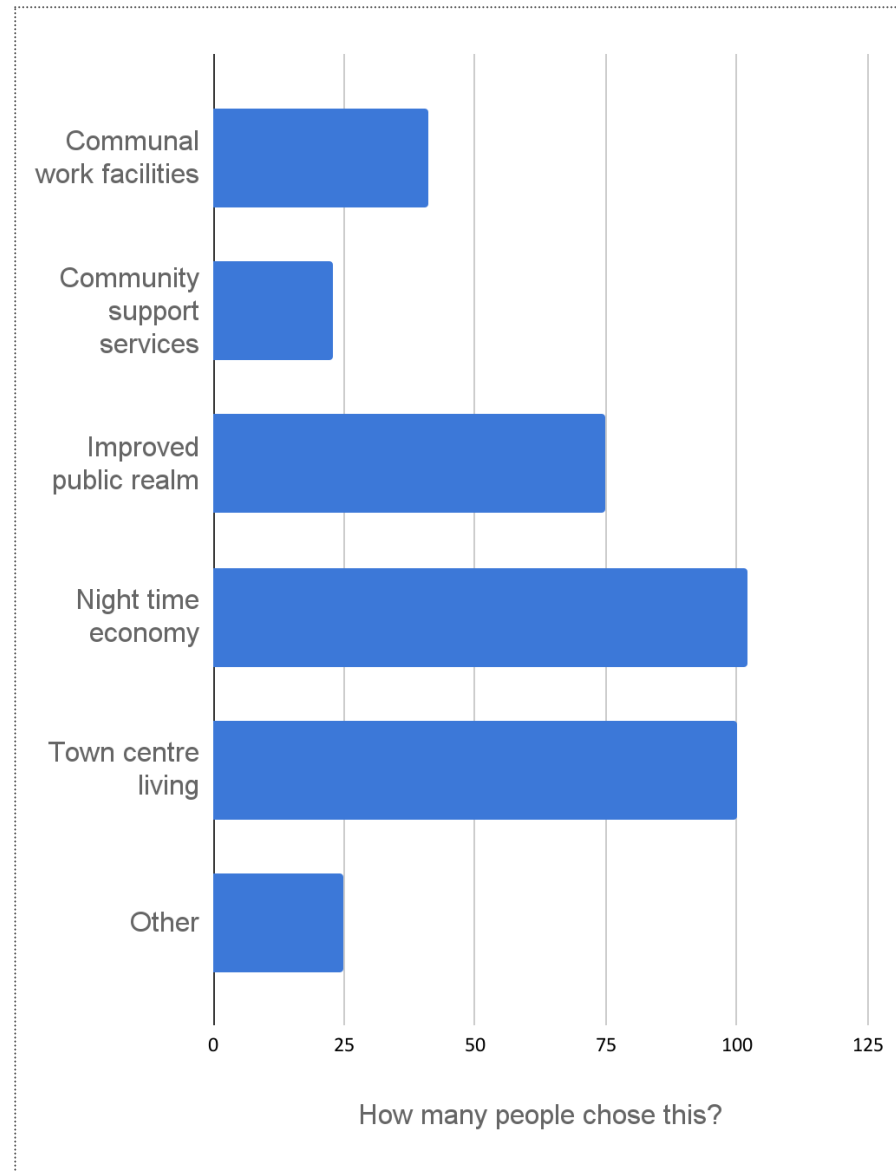
“Our **young people are severely let down** here in New Ross both locally and by the government.”

“The largest percentage of Polish people in Ireland reside in New Ross. A **festival to celebrate the polish** that live here... would be great”

“The **level of diversity is not matched by an acceptable level of inclusion**”

How can we make it more appealing for people to come and settle in New Ross, both new communities and returning locals?

Improved public realm, night time economy and town centre living are the majority of participants choices.



‘Other’ answers include:

“A **proper taxi service** and **improved public transport** and **bicycle lanes.**”

“A **skatepark** makes it appealing to the young and young at heart”

“Attractive **areas to sit and get coffee / lunch / picnic** with a view to the river..”

“**Active tourism** - so we have a few things to see but minimal tours (only history). An informative trail that connect the activity with local amenities/shops/food might get tourists exploring a little more and spending along the way”

“The whole **river could be mapped out for kayakers**”

“**Connected walking trails** with interesting markers for people to stop and enjoy”

“Better **employment opportunities.**”

“There's no **direct transport opportunity to Dublin** since October 22.”

“**Community services**”

“**Dereliction** is really off putting”

“**Help businesses** thrive.”

“**Islamic cultural centre** - There is a growing demand for Muslim professionals to move into the town due to faith gatherings taking place regularly.”

“**More surveillance** to reduce anti-social behaviour.”

“**Things for teenagers to do**, who aren't interested in sport”

Diaspora - Old/New

What do you think New Ross needs in order to retain young people once they leave school?

Participants noted that New Ross need:

- Alternative nightlife
- Festivals / Cinemas
- Job opportunities / supporting entrepreneurs
- Better transport to nearby education facilities
- Shops openings beyond 6pm
- Recreation apart from sports clubs

Quotes from participants:

“A nightlife besides the pub”

“Life to be brought to town... **bring back the festival, the 4th July festival**, fireworks, market amusements on the quay, the stage on the quay.”

“Jobs- More shops/restaurants create more jobs and people will be more likely to stay. There is basically no choice in restaurants open for sitting down in the evening time.”

“I think young people may want a more **vibrant, livelier night-time town.**”

“In the 1980's until recently we had lots of pubs, nightclubs, we even had a **Cinema** beside the Theatre.”

“More **clubs, associations to give people a reason to live and stay in town** when they're finished their work for the day.”

“Relevant employment opportunities”

“Better **transport to and from college campuses** in Wexford, Waterford and Carlow”

“Some actual restaurants and shops that **open after 6pm** or on Sundays”

“Encouragement and support for young entrepreneurs to open or move their business into New Ross where there are plenty of vacant commercial properties.”

Future Use and Living

What do you think New Ross needs to improve the quality of life for older adults?

Answers from participants include:

- Arts and culture focus
- On street surveillance and lighting for safety
- Local, accessible transport
- Health / education / community centre
- Easier parking options
- Housing for downsizing
- Accessible walking routes in the Town
- Night time activities
- Public seating / chatting areas

Quotes from participants:

“A focus on **culture and arts.**”

“A **greater Garda presence** during the day as I am noticing a lot of undesirable activity especially in the laneways.”

“A **local bus** that goes to all areas of the town on an hourly basis. As Ross is full of hills, it's hard for the old or disabled to get around”

“An **education centre** in the town in the evening would be great, it's a big loss that Kennedy College stopped doing this”

“**Community centred space** - maybe a local history orientated museum to celebrate local people and history. A space with regular events every week, where people can drop in.”

“**Easier parking options**”

“**Encourage older adults to use our river walk and park to help them to maintain their mobility.** The above will also help them to meet people. The town needs to ensure that our walking areas are safe.”

“**Local street events** might encourage neighbours to get to know each other”

“**Housing** suitable for **downsizing**”

“**Make New Ross accessible to them,** community programs that bond them to the younger generation. There's so much we could do, they could read to primary school kids, teach them knitting, sewing, kids could throw Christmas concerts in nursing homes.”

“The **library has great talks** and a lot of older people come and they often teach the speakers so much.”

“**Manageable walking routes,** some level of public transport to help get in and out of town. A community centre in an accessible area close to other town amenities.”

“More **restaurants.** People have to travel to Waterford and Kilkenny for a night out and nice choice of restaurants”

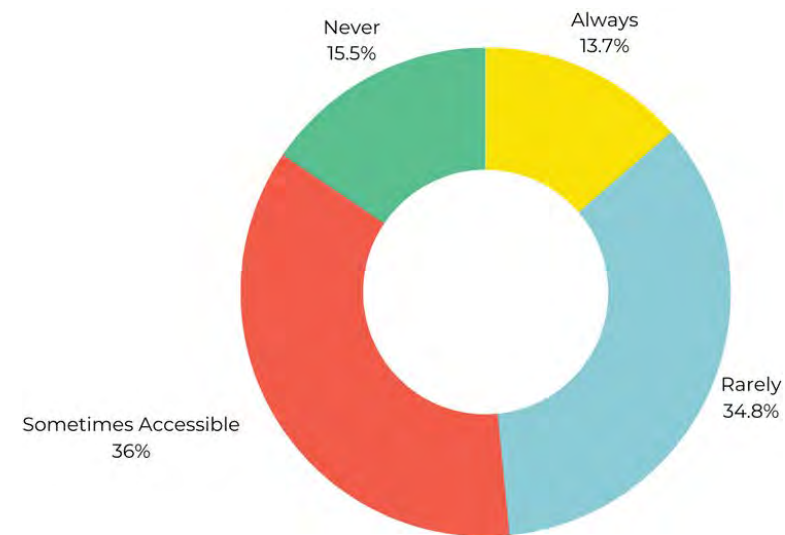
“**Nighttime activities,** buses to dublin to be brought back so families can come back to visit”

“**Public seating** in town centre to sit and have a chat”

“**Safe walking routes** close to the town centre.”

Future Use and Living

Do you currently visit town centre New Ross in the evening or at night time?



Reasons people **do not** visit the town centre in the evening or night time:

“All **businesses are closed** in the evenings.”

“Because there is **no taxi services** available for the way home”

“I **don't feel safe walking alone** when it is dark”

“I **live outside of the town** and there's generally not that much to draw me into town.”

“I **do not drink alcohol so I do not frequent the pubs** too much and then there is nothing else open that's not a pub in the evening to go to.”

“**Nowhere to go** - music and dj in pubs cater for 18-30 crowd”

“**As a woman I don't feel safe when it gets dark in the town**, due to being followed a few years ago. CCTV”

Reasons people **do** visit the town centre in the evening or night time:

“**Events in the theatre**, visiting pubs and eating.”

“**Family business located on the quay**. I also work on the quay.”

“**Late night working**”

“**Food shopping**”

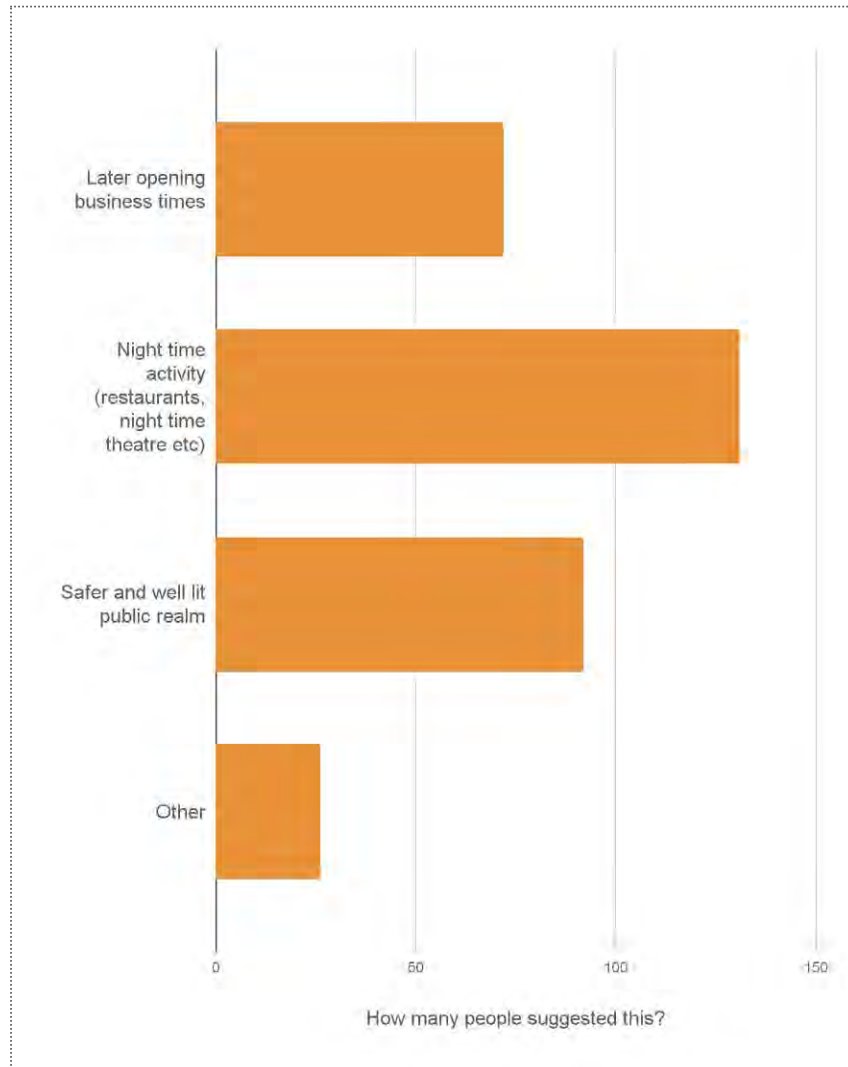
“For **rehearsals** at night”

“To **walk on fine evenings**”

“**The river** is so beautiful at night with nature.”

Future Use and Living

Do you have any ideas for how New Ross could improve its night time economy?



'Other' quotes from participants:

“Allow **big shops and chains** in to town”

“Art - try encourage people that **work in the creative industry** to live and set up in New Ross - **they will add to the culture of the place** - subsidise the creative spaces”

“Get the people of the Town to **unite against any unprovoked attacks** and to make that message very clear”

“More **Garda on foot patrol**”

“**Public transport** to get into and out of New Ross after 7 pm”

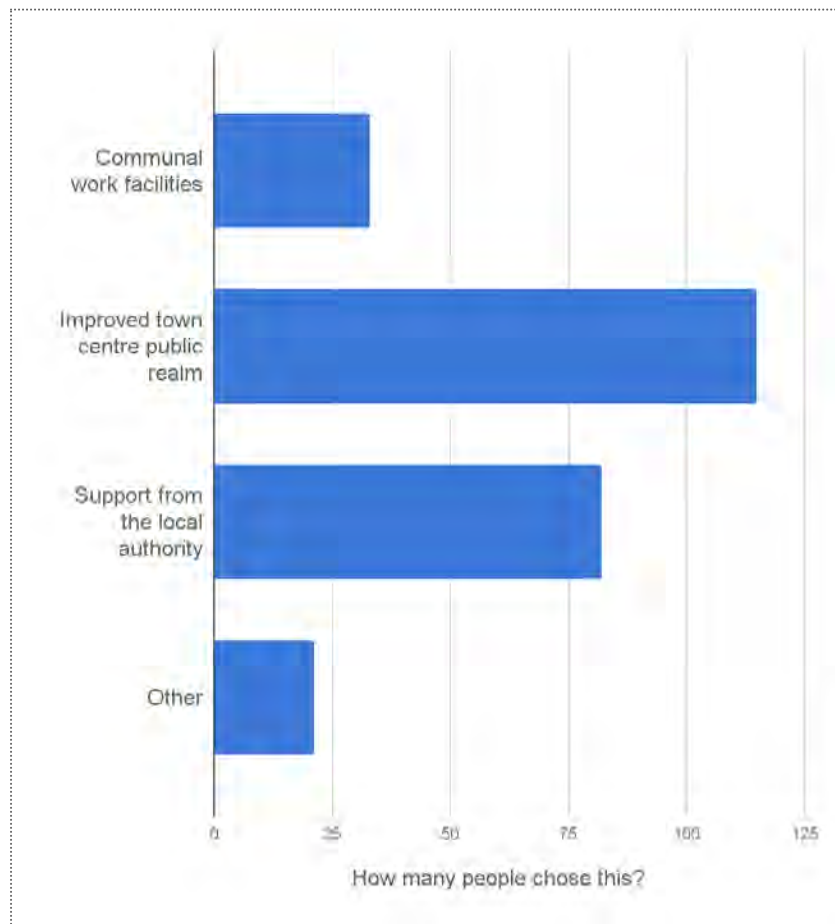
“More **taxis** would encourage more town centre visits and existing venues would stay open later and encourage new start ups”

“**Nightclubs, music bars or gigs venues**”

“We seriously need some good **food restaurant choice after 6pm**”

Future Use and Living

What would make you feel safer in terms of living and doing business?



'Other' quotes from participants:

"There are people **openly dealing drugs** on a daily basis. There are also people who are **very intimidating** hanging around some of the town's laneways."

"**More cctv** especially in **Irishtown**"

"More **people living in town**, especially **above shops.**"

"**Too many derelict areas** of town which don't feel safe to walk"

"More people **families living in town centre**"

"We improve the public realm but then **we don't protect it as a safe place for the public** to enjoy day or night and promote the type of behaviour and activity it was designed for."

"If the **river walk** is designed for people to be active and also relax and enjoy the view, then why not put in some chess/draughts boards/ giant jenga/ a free library/ a jukebox/ a sensory zone for kids something to pass some time with, and have people **more activity using the space** rather than just a space and a few benches."

"Encourage **buskers or artists to use the space**. A tai chi class or outdoor exercise or craft group. Make the river walk a no alcohol zone and enforce it if that is making people feel unsafe."

Future Use and Living

If you were to live in New Ross Town Centre for the next 20 years of your life, what would you need or like to have?

Participants answered:

- Choice of shops / restaurants
- Communal outdoor space for everyone
- Better Transport facilities
- Well designed apartment blocks
- Safe, accessible streets
- End to dereliction / cleaner town
- Pedestrianisation of the town centre
- Facilities for young people / support for the next generation
- More access to the river
- A stronger sense of community and inclusivity
- Tourism with a community focus

Quotes from participants:

“More **access to river** with the marina being moved to the Harbour Office site”

“**Communal street bins** as in other countries, lots of our older buildings have no yards”

“Would need well **designed apartment blocks** with public realm gardens and communal areas surrounding them and interlinked between buildings. Tasteful design, decent size”

“A **better sense of neighbourhood**, where you know the people who live a few doors up. Achieved by **getting to know your neighbour on street carnival days.**”

“All the **derelict and run-down houses** that about the streets throughout the town **painted up and lived in.**”

“**Safe environment and better facilities for our young people** so that they would not be a threat on our streets”

“As a retired adult better **transport facilities** within our town and surroundings”

“Life to be brought into the town - some energy and positive environment around the town centre and that means **bringing more back into the town centre rather than spread out all over the wider town area.**”

“I want there to be **something for everyone.** A skatepark for the teenagers, a cinema, a community hub used by all ages, an entrepreneurial spirit where anyone can give a go at making, creating or providing a service to the town and tourists. I want to be able to go out for dinner with my friends and all of us to be catered for.”

“For our **community to feel safe** and that the town is for everyone and that idea is prioritised and protected.”

“**People working together to help make our town into a busy tourist destination** that turns it into a thriving place of entertainment during the day and evenings, which in turn builds our community spirit, provides work, entertainment, enjoyment for everyone and

most importantly gives everyone a sense of purpose, togetherness, a true community.”

“**Good transport links.**”

“A **cleaner town without closed or boarded up shops.** Houses that have been empty for years used. Derelict homes demolished and new homes put in the place. More garda on the street. Ross not being known as a kip. **A new generation with new ideas.**”

“**Pedestrianisation** of parts of the town, improved services, a good range of shops. Ideally an older person should be able to have most of their requirements met in the town.”

“**Increased accessibility** (as I get older), social groups, longer opening hours for businesses. Greater variety and number of shops.”

“More **facilities for young people**”

Getting Inspired

Tell us one thing that you would love to see in your town based on towns or cities you have visited before

“A **covered area for entertainment no matter what the weather**. More use of the open spaces for street festivals and entertainment”

“A **food market**, even if only open once a week, brings in a variety of food types from asian to traditional burgers and chips to Polish/Ukrainian as a way to unite the community.”

“A **skatepark** or improved public sport's grounds, perhaps decent tennis courts”

“A **town characterised by independent shops, quality cafes** like In a Nutshell, and a cinema showing independent films. And of course flowers on window boxes of businesses and houses throughout the town”

“A **walk in youth centre** with activities for kids that don't charge membership”

“**I would love to see a Blueway established** in the town. It would not only provide better facilities for existing members, but it would also allow our club to establish a transition year course for secondary school children. This could lead to some full time jobs for coaches and safety drivers. It would also allow the club to promote leisure rowing.”

“**Festivals that are well advertised**. Most of the things that go on in town aren't highly publicised so not many people know that they are going on.”

“I really want to see a **big community hub beside our river**, that can cater for several water activities clubs, businesses, community groups, information centres, shops, with outside storage units, green areas for camping, with access for the public to access and egress the river, pontoons for boats..”

“**Coleraine - the town has a wide pedestrianised street** with a mixture of local shops and large stores. The history of the town was in evidence in a big way and it was a pleasant day out.”

“I would like to see **pedestrianisation in the town centre** which in my opinion would attract more nice restaurants and coffee shops and allow people to sit out in the evening chatting and getting involved in the local community. **More street entertainment specially during the Summer Months**”

“The **Maudlins stream and ponds valley would be an ideal greenway loop** to link with the end of the tunnel and entice people into the top and centre of town.”

“The Augustinian church/college and old priest house would be an ideal location for a museum- what a view!!”

“We need **more accommodation for visitors** if we want them to come, plus night time activities, taxis, etc”

“When I was younger I visited a **town in Belgium called Rhodes-Saint-Genese** where certain Sundays would be traffic free times. This meant that on those days, the roads in the **town centre were closed for several hours and people would explore the town using bicycles, skateboards, rollerblades or simply on foot**. The community spirit and true joy on display was palpable and inspirational. **Local businesses used this as an opportunity to sell outdoors**, offering alfresco dining or walk-through (as opposed to drive through) coffee and ice cream or even tables carried to the footpath to display souvenirs and other small items.”

Walk and Talk Workshop

Workshop Details

Walk and Talk Workshops were organised, with key stakeholders and members of the New Ross community.

- **Workshop 1:** Mon 26th, 5-7pm
- **Workshop 2:** Tues 27th, 2.45-4.45pm

Location

The workshops began and ended in The Tholsel (New Ross Municipal District Building).

Workshop Schedule

Time	Activity	Activity Description
30 min	Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation/Talk on why we are here (consultation process and TCF) - Overview of walking routes and topics that can be discussed) - Handing out of workshop material
30-45 min walk	Walk and Talk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Groups to walk in pairs or triplets - Worksheets to be filled by attendees. Guide notes on the worksheets - APC and design team members to contribute to conversation on the walk and encourage filling of worksheets - Open conversation on New Ross - Finish at the Tholsel
30-45 min	Group Round up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Round up of conversations from each group with a summarisation on large boards with post it notes

Workshop Stakeholders

Key stakeholders were identified with the New Ross Town Team as a result of a stakeholder mapping exercise. The aim was to ensure equitable representation from stakeholder groups. Below is a list of who was invited to the Walk and Talk consultation.

Stakeholder Group	Workshop 1 Stakeholders
Local Businesses / Properties / Tidy town	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chamber of Commerce Reps 2. New Ross Properties formally Tottenham estates 3. New Ross Tidy Towns
Older People / Climate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New Ross Active Retirement Reps 2. Meals on Wheels 3. Wexford County Council. Climate Action Coordinator
Recreational / Sports Groups (5-8 attendees)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New Ross Celtic Soccer Club 2. New Ross Rugby Club 3. New Ross Striders 4. Geraldine O Hanrahan's GAA Club 5. St Marys and Michaels Boxing Club 6. Barrow Wheelers Cycling Club 7. Apex Leisure Centre 8. St Joseph's Athletic Club

Stakeholder Group	Workshop 2 Stakeholders
Heritage / Tourism Groups	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New Ross Street Focus 2. Ros Tapestry 3. New Ross Historical Society 4. Piano Festival Committee 5. Kennedy Summer School Committee 6. Eugene O'Neill Festival Committee 7. Guitar Festival 8. Choral Festival 9. Visit New Ross 10. Brandon House Hotel
Cultural / Artistic / Musical Groups	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. St Michael's Theatre 2. New Ross Drama Society 3. New Ross Musical Society 4. New Ross Pipe Band 5. FCA Pipe Band 6. New Ross Singers 7. HFC Brass Band 8. Pantomime Society

Accessibility / River Users	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New Ross Boat Club 2. Cumas 3. Dreambig 4. New Ross Able/Disabled 5. Wheelchair users in New Ross 6. New Ross Coarse Angling Limited 7. New Ross Boat Yard 8. Local Link, New Ross

Workshop Attendees

- **Workshop 1:** 12 attendees
- **Workshop 2:** 9 attendees

Design team members from A Playful City, Cunnane Stratton Reynolds and Optimize were also in attendance at the workshop events.



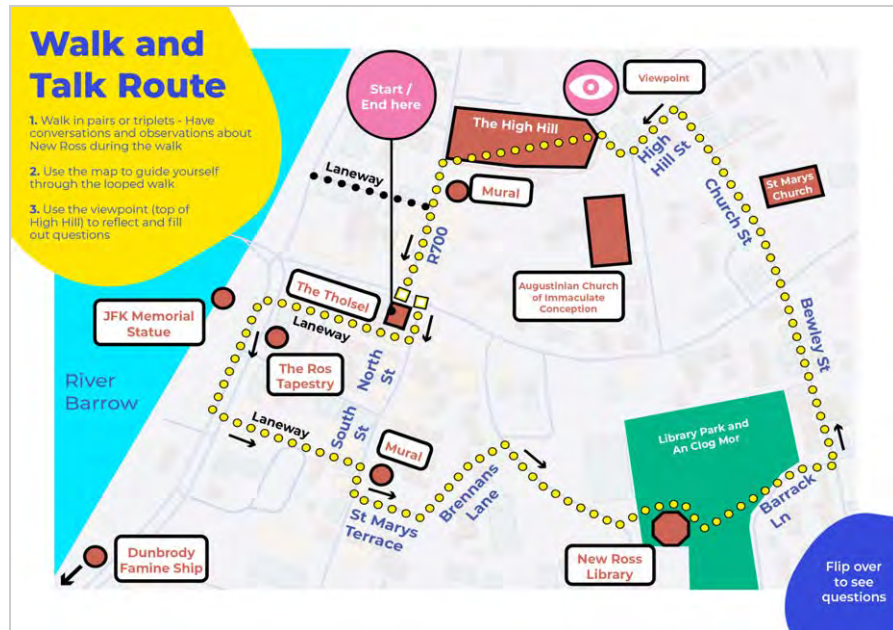
Workshop presentation by A Playful City

Walk and Talk Workshop

Workshop Material

Participants were asked to answer questions based on a reflection of a walk around New Ross. Participants were also asked to put themselves into other people's shoes by addresses the questions in the persona cards

Map and questions



Name _____	How can New Ross help your group? Are there features that the town could provide?	What card persona do you have?
Email _____		Card Persona Questions - Please see your card!
Group _____		
What do you notice the most on your walk?	How can New Ross help your group to be more playful?	Observations and Notes from your walk
What do you like / not like about the walk?		
What would you like to see changed in your town?		

Persona Cards

<p>Accessibility and Inclusivity</p> <p>I am person with a disability</p> <p>What is the perception of the town in terms of accessibility and inclusivity?</p> <p>How can a new person be integrated into New Ross if they want to live here?</p>	<p>Future Use and Living</p> <p>I am young professional</p> <p>Can New Ross support town centre living and working in the future?</p> <p>How might this look?</p>
<p>Business, Entrepreneurship and Tourism</p> <p>I am person with a start up business</p> <p>Where can business be supported currently in New Ross?</p> <p>Is there a space to sell my product / services? How can New Ross support this?</p>	<p>Diaspora - Old / New</p> <p>I am person who has moved home after spending some time abroad</p> <p>Does the town suit have amenities to suit my needs (night time culture, recreational groups, cinema, etc)?</p> <p>How can New Ross support diaspora that return as well as supporting communities that have moved here?</p>
<p>Young People</p> <p>I am Young Person in secondary school</p> <p>Where can I go to hang out in New Ross?</p> <p>What can be put in place for young people for the future?</p>	<p>Uniqueness and Character</p> <p>I am involved with a local heritage society</p> <p>What aspects of the New Ross's character should I show to visitors to the town?</p> <p>How will New Ross be defined in 20 years time?</p>



Workshop Walk and Talk

Walk and Talk Workshop

Workshop Results

These results were collated from worksheet transcriptions and workshop conversations. Subject headers highlight themes that the community recognises as potential drivers to positive town centre changes. These headers are in no particular order.

1. Communal Facilities / Hub

It was noted by participants that communal facilities would be of worth to the community of New Ross.

The uses suggested for this included access to facilities for

- young people,
- a primary medical centre,
- active retirement centre,
- rehearsal space,
- recording studios,
- space for arts activities / arts venue
- A place for entrepreneurs

“There is one Youth Cafe 13.17 North; **There needs to be an indoor [youth] facility**”

“The **Augustinian Church would make a great music centre** - auditorium, rehearsal space - recording, etc.”

“If there was a **music centre that enabled tuition, live performance and recording** that would help develop the ongoing benefit from having a music festival in New Ross”

“Small alternative venue... **to rehearse**”

“Community building put in place **for possible entrepreneurs**”

2. Neurodiversity needs

“Need more areas that are **sensory appropriate** for neurodiverse children and adults”

“Could provide **parking for invisible disability such as parents of children who are neurodiverse**”

3. Transport/support for steep hills

The natural terrain of New Ross was highlighted as being a barrier for older people or for a person with mobility issues. The suggestion of a town taxi or local bus route was suggested to help this issue as well as additional support features (outdoor escalator) for challenging hills in New Ross.

“Steps are **steep enough in uphill walks** however the flat parts are very good”

“New Ross has a natural disadvantage- lots of hills. Unfortunately **excludes some from high hill park and library park**; plenty of disabled car spaces but access to shops could be better”

“A **town taxi** has huge potential”

“Norman park not suitable for a person with a disability - **need an escalator at High Hill**”

4. Childcare facilities

“**Providing safe spaces for childminding** close to or in town for those who need to take services for hour to suit work arrangements or event shopping; New Ross is close to the countryside so good choice to bring up children but only with lots of facilities to enable this; New Ross will look like the place of places where young people working busy parents can drop children confidentiality and children feel like a play date / everyone happy”

5. Food destination

“**Places to eat in New Ross** - could become a foodie destination”



Workshop Walk and Talk

6. Uses for vacant buildings

There was a high level of observation and conversation on vacant buildings in New Ross with a general agreement that these buildings should be used to revitalise town centre living in New Ross.

There were suggestions to use vacant accommodation over shops as a way to improve town centre living. Another use of vacant buildings was to allow space for more bed night accommodation (hostel / hotels) in the Town Centre.

“Improvements of the derelict buildings infrastructure especially the quay, and a few other sites (the old courthouse)”

“Accommodation over shops and other premises with potential to develop”

“We need downtown bed nights”

“How can above shop apartments be rented out to young professionals?”

7. Utilise the physical aspects of New Ross

It was noted that the River Barrow could be utilised more in the context of town centre living. It was also noted that the hills are one of the best natural feature for New Ross but it is not accessibility friendly

“I would like direct river access”

“Lovely views, but not wheelchair friendly”

8. Start up businesses

There was a recognition that in order to have a better town centre, there is a need to support start up businesses in the town.

“Help needed for start up small businesses”

“A better air of prosperity could help make the town more prosperous, however effort needed to bring in investors and new businesses”

9. Safety

Anti social behaviour was seen as an issue on the walk in New Ross.

“I do not like young people sitting and drinking”

10. Cleanliness

Cleanliness was addressed as an issue by participants

“Some of the lanes cleaned up a bit.”

“Very few rubbish bins”

“Pretty town but has a worn / dirty look”



Workshop Walk and Talk

11. Night time economy

There is a lack of later shop opening times and choices for night time culture.

“More choice for late night dining”

“Downtown area not attractive at night, with certain types loitering in laneways and on riverwalk; town needs more for families; more for youth inc. cinemas, skateparks; things for people to do - daytime, nighttime and weekends”

“Shops open late at least one night a week”

“No night time culture. We need more restaurants, pubs and cultural activities”

12. Community/ Tourist wayfinding

It was noted that it was difficult to find out what was happening in the town in terms of community and tourism. Moving the tourist office was suggested as some participants did not realise where the current tourist office (the Dunbrody Centre) is situated.

It was also noted that more tourist attractions would help bring people into the town.

“There are a lot of recreational groups - but very little promotion - so where do you find them?”

“Move the tourist office to the harbour office.”

“More tourists and more activities for them - keeping people in the town for longer”

13. Public realm improvements

There was a recognition of the efforts of murals and colour introduced in the town centre and that aspects of this should be introduced to more of the town

There was a general support of pedestrianisation in the right places with the endorsement of an outdoor performance area and it was noted that there should be outdoor spaces for young people and areas for families to picnic in the town centre.

“The lanes to be used by small new businesses, similar to Kilkenny”

“Simple things - apply colour to walls or sections of the pavement without necessarily going into more murals, just less grey mouldy cement; bring plants on the streets; music played in open areas with speakers on all the time”

“Bandstand or a suitable outdoor venue for band recitals”

“The end of Brennans Lane is a bit disappointing because of that half finished building. The whole of this section of the walk can be improved but I am aware of the difficulties”

“Add more activities in the town centre for younger people”

“More picnic family hangout areas; landmark areas more clearly interconnected; no cars on Main Street”



Workshop Walk and Talk



Local Interviews

Conversation with Kevin Burke, New Ross Gard, Town Team member and youth sports worker

On antisocial behaviour, youth work and local crime

- Generally low crime rates to report – CSO show statistic details
- Few crimes that occur are vandalism (graffiti) / shop theft / drug dealing
- Regular drug dealing from premises on North Street (eastside, in full sight from Tholsel)
- Occasional drug dealing around bus stop on the Quays
- Occasional money collecting visible on dole pay days
- Occasional reports about teenagers 'hanging out' in larger groups, without any related offences, crimes, except sometimes graffiti (Cooper Lane, Conduit Lane, Pearse Park)
- Teenagers / younger generations entertain in Wexford and Waterford because New Ross has comparably little night life. As a result, the town is relatively quiet at night and weekends
- Asked about safety in the Mount Elliot Tunnel, it will be lit 24/7. It is assumed that the tunnel is not attractive to 'hang out' because it is too far away from the town centre and phone reception is very poor which deters teenagers
- 16 years of youth work with local sports groups in New Ross have shown many positive results and a generally active and supportive community without any significant or unusual problems.

Conversation with owner / manager of The Green Door, 20 Mary Street

On "downtown" business and outdoor space

- Businesses on Mary Street after six - McDonalds lovely Cafe do not count it's all about "downtown"
- I have applied to New Ross Town Council since 2021 for an outdoor space and have been repeatedly refused even though a lot of spaces allocated to "downtown" have been closed up for ages.
- The people who have the power to open the steps have been approached many times we have been told that they have no interest in helping the community and that the rubbish/leftover food being dumped there is not their concern
- I open evenings and earlier at weekends, customers can order food from outside eateries which help other businesses in town. I have no problem dealing with other businesses but people like to sit outside.
- It would be lovely if they could do so in comfort but I have had no help from New Ross Town Council and I have missed out on the best summer of official opening after Covid restrictions were eased as people were still unsure about being inside and as I had no front outdoor space my business suffered
- Quay premises in New Ross not only received 3 outdoor spaces and had the path widened, even though two quayside businesses were closed and the third derelict.

Summary of Consultation So Far

Below is a summary of insights gathered from community / youth surveys, interviews and the walk and talk workshops. These have been highlighted under the TCF New Ross themes of engagement.



1. Young People

Young people currently love sports and leisure spaces, parks and green spaces and cafes in New Ross.

Hangout spaces were seen as a priority for Young People. There is a desire to provide more **youth spaces**, particularly **outdoor spaces**, and **cafes** and **casual dining**. The provision of these spaces may lead to increased vibrancy of the Town Centre.



2. Uniqueness and Character

A **great location** (nearby coastline, loop walks, natural town terrain of hills and river), **sense of community** and a **proud heritage** (The Norman way, JFK,) are current factors that add to the identity of New Ross.

Tourism, the **Norman connection** and **loop walks** were 3 elements that participants would like to see highlighted in the plan going forward.



3. Business, Entrepreneurship and Tourism

Current tourism recommended by participants highlighted the Dunbrody Ship, local historical walks, Artwork Murals and local walkways.

There was also multiple suggestions to **move the tourist office** to its own location in New Ross and **provide for tourism wayfinding** in the town

There is a desire from consultation participants to have a **large and small retailer in the town centre** of New Ross. Smaller businesses were noted as likely to give more “personal and friendly services”.

There were suggestions of **multiple domestic and international precedents** to take inspiration from with **markets, tourism, pedestrianised shopping areas, local craft/art**, and **community/commercial based activity hubs** being highlighted.



4. Inclusivity and Accessibility

The majority of participants found New Ross to be somewhat accessible, however there was a desire to have

- neurodiverse spaces
- support/transport for the towns hilly terrain and for local link access
- Pedestrianisation of town centre streets
- River access
- Public toilets
- Public realm furniture / improvements
- Covered areas for inclement weather



5. Diaspora - Old/New

The majority of participants think **diasporal elements of New Ross's identity as important** and that it should be highlighted in the plan to encourage more people to come and settle in New Ross, both new communities and returning locals.

Town centre living, nighttime economy and **improved public realm** were highlighted as aspects to make New Ross more appealing to new communities and returning locals.

Inclusion festivals, support for young entrepreneurs, and **alternative nighttime activities** were also noted as important for new and returning communities.



6. Future Use and Living

Community centred spaces, greater accessibility, and **nighttime activities** were noted as important for older adults in New Ross.

Safety, lack of amenities and **no availability of later opening establishments** were noted as popular reasons why participants do not visit New Ross in the evening.

Thinking about the next 20 years of New Ross, participants noted **apartment living, choices of shops, reduction of building dereliction, transport facilities** and **pedestrianisation** as part of their answers.

7. Other noted comments from the public consultation

A **town centre communal facility** could be used for all ages and types of needs. Supporting young people, older people, entrepreneurs, arts and culture.

New Ross as a **market and food destination**.

Uses for vacant/derelict buildings is a major topic that was highlighted by the community of New Ross.

Community Wayfinding was highlighted as important to find out what is going on in the town. A suggestion was made of a **central community info board with community wayfinding** for the Town Centre.



Consultation Insights so far and Next Steps

New Ross Town Centre First Plan



Overview

Consultation Timeline

A Community Survey

&

3 Consultation Events

- Walk and Talk Event

- Community Trialling

- Community Display of Draft TCF

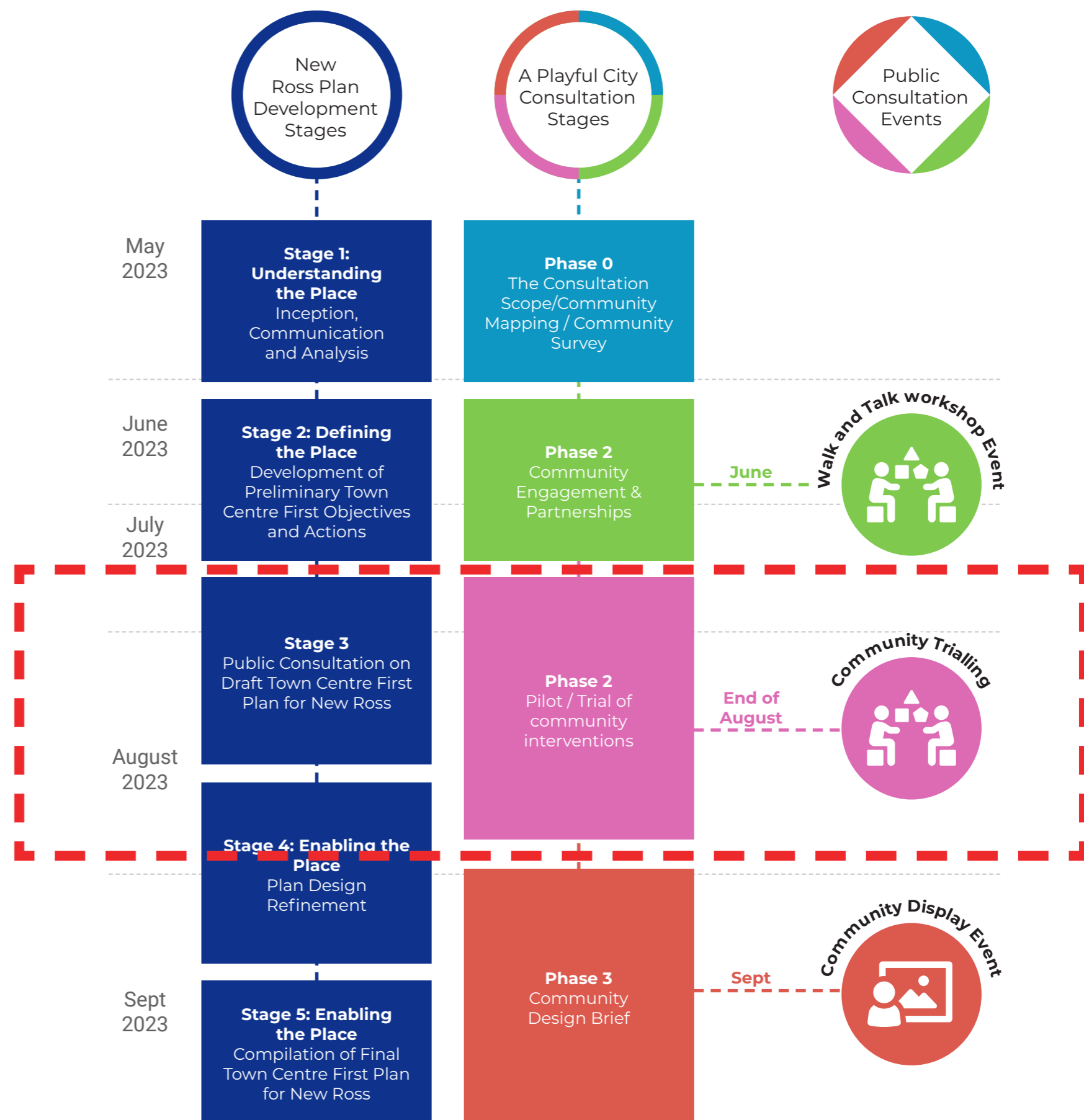


Diagram of public consultation events

Stakeholders

Mapping

How was this list generated?

- Desktop Research
- Town Team Input
- Wexford PPN

This list was used as a basis for outreach for the community survey



New Ross TCF - Stakeholder Mapping

CUNNANE STRATTON REYNOLDS
LAND PLANNING & DESIGN

No	Stakeholder type	Organisation / Group Name	Contact Name	Email	Tel	Social media	Website	Address
1	Key stakeholder (for Walk and Talk event)	Local Businesses						
1.1		Chamber of Commerce						
2		Elected Members						
2.1		New Ross Municipal District Cllrs						
2.2		6 County Wexford Oireachtas Members						
3		Key Property Owners						
3.1		New Ross Properties formally Tottenham estates						
3.2		Hayden Family. Own a lot of property in and around Town.						
3.3		Owens Kennedy Boutique Hotel and number of properties in Town						
3.4		Nolan Transport. Own Nolan transport a huge logistics company on outskirts of Town but also own a lot of property in Town						

Screenshot from Stakeholder Mapping

Themes of Engagement

Themes developed with Town Team

Themes framed conversation for consultation



Uniqueness and Character

Recognising the existing cultural and historical voices in New Ross as well as defining what character the Town can have in the future.



Business, Entrepreneurship and Tourism

Assessing how the town can support existing businesses, entrepreneurial start ups and what it means for a visitor to New Ross



Inclusivity and Accessibility

How New Ross currently supports the diversity of people in the town and what it can do to help the needs of people in the future? How can New Ross support new communities?



Diaspora - Old/New

The Dunbrody heritage, Kennedy history, recent immigration - polish/eastern European population and young people leaving the town and coming back to live in New Ross later in their lives



Future Use and Living

What would it be like to live in New Ross in 15/20 years time? Can the Town centre support newer ideas of living and working?



Young People

There is a recognition that the TCF programme will make a strategic vision for the town for the next 15/20y years. Young People are very much part of this conversation as the next generation of town inhabitants

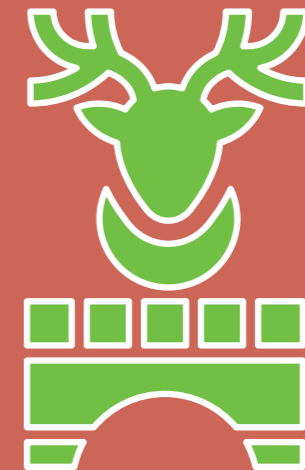
Community Survey

Live for
6 weeks

180 people

56 Groups

Your Town!
Your Say!
Your New Ross!



Includes
questions for
young people

Hi!

Wexford County Council in association with Cunnane Stratton Reynolds and A Playful City, would like to invite you to complete a Community Survey on New Ross.

As part of the Town Centre First initiative we would like to hear from you, so we can create a shared vision for New Ross with community input - **A place that can be healthy, connected and engaged with and for the local community.**

**We want to
hear from you!**

Please fill out a Community Survey by **scanning the QR Code** or visiting

bit.ly/NewRossCommunitySurvey



Scan Me!



Youth Survey

4th, 5th and
6th Class
ages

Local primary
schools and
youth groups

72
Participants

New Ross Town Centre First Youth Pack

Q1. What do you love about New Ross?

Uniqueness and Character

Q2. If you play or hang out in New Ross with friends, where do you currently go?

Inclusivity and Accessibility

Q3. What kinds of shops does New Ross need more of?

Retail and Entrepreneurship

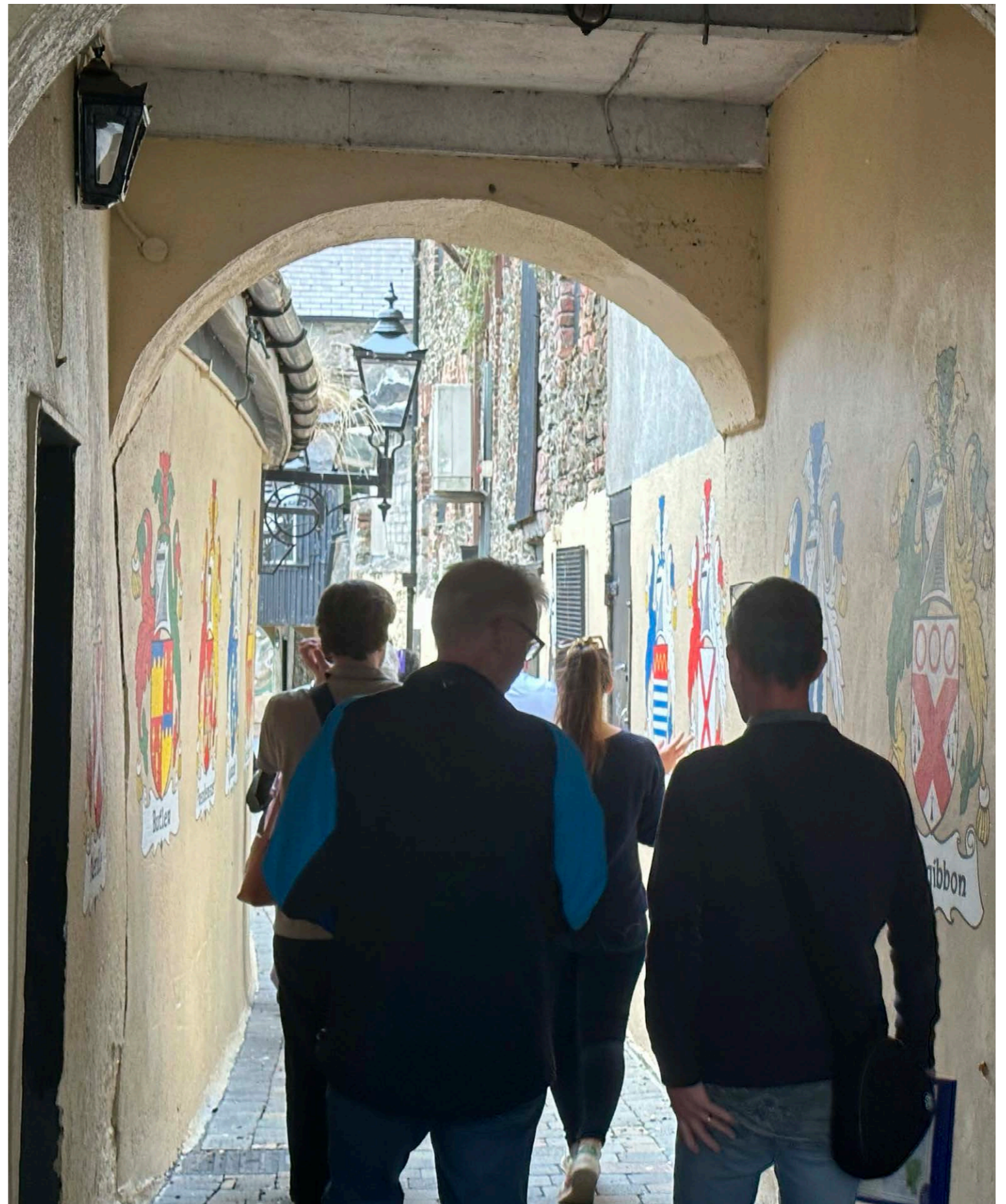


Walk and Talk

2 Workshops

22 attendees

15 groups
represented



Consultation Insights

Report

Summary of events

Breakdown of emerging themes

Quotes from participants



Survey and Workshop Insights

New Ross Town Centre First Plan



Consultation Insights

Future Use and Living



Community centred spaces, greater accessibility, and nighttime activities were noted as important for older adults in New Ross.

Safety, lack of amenities and no availability of later opening establishments were noted as popular reasons why participants do not visit New Ross in the evening.

Thinking about the next 20 years of New Ross, participants noted **apartment living, choices of shops, reduction of building dereliction, transport facilities and pedestrianisation** as part of their answers.

“Encouragement and support for young entrepreneurs”

“We seriously need some good food restaurant choice after 6pm”

Consultation Insights

Inclusivity and Accessibility



The majority of participants found New Ross to be somewhat accessible, however there was a desire to have:

Neurodiverse spaces

Support/transport for the towns hilly terrain and for local link access

Pedestrianisation of town centre streets

River access

Public toilets

Public realm furniture / improvements

Covered areas for inclement weather

Consultation Insights

Business, Entrepreneurship and Tourism



Current tourism recommended by participants highlighted the **Dunbrody Ship, local historical walks, Artwork Murals** and **local walkways**.

There was also multiple suggestions to move the tourist office to its own location in New Ross and provide for tourism **wayfinding** in the town

There is a desire from consultation participants to have a **large and small retailer in the town centre** of New Ross. Smaller businesses were noted as likely to give more “personal and friendly services”.

There were suggestions of multiple domestic and international precedents to take inspiration from with **markets, tourism, pedestrianised shopping areas, local craft/art, and community/commercial based activity hubs** being highlighted.

“Majority of small European towns have their shopping areas pedestrianised which reduces pollution and creates a cleaner environment”

“Smaller businesses are most likely to offer personal & friendly services.”

Consultation Insights

Diaspora - Old/New



The majority of participants think diasporal elements of New Ross's identity as **important and that it should be highlighted in the plan** to encourage more people to come and settle in New Ross, both new communities and returning locals.

Town centre living, nighttime economy and improved public realm were highlighted as aspects to make New Ross more appealing to new communities and returning locals.

Inclusion festivals, support for young entrepreneurs, and alternative nighttime activities were also noted as important for new and returning communities

“Encouragement and support for young entrepreneurs to open or move their business into New Ross where there are plenty of vacant commercial properties”

“The level of diversity is not matched by an acceptable level of inclusion”

Consultation Insights

Young People



Young people currently love **sports and leisure spaces, parks and green spaces and cafes** in New Ross.

Hangout spaces were seen as a priority for Young People. There is a desire to provide more youth spaces, particularly outdoor spaces, and cafes and casual dining.

The provision of these spaces may lead to **increased vibrancy of the Town Centre.**

“I think New Ross needs more places to go after school or something to walk down to when you need a break”

“A better environment for the newer teenagers to grow up that doesn’t involve being surrounded by drugs influencing them on to younger kids.”

Consultation Insights

Other Insights

A **town centre communal facility** could be used for all ages and types of needs. Supporting young people, older people, entrepreneurs, arts and culture.

New Ross as a market and food destination.

Uses for vacant/derelict buildings is a major topic that was highlighted by the community of New Ross.

Community Wayfinding was highlighted as important to find out what is going on in the town. A suggestion was made of a central community info board with community wayfinding for the Town Centre.

“Community building
put in place for possible
entrepreneurs”

“There are a lot of
recreational groups - but
very little promotion -
so where do you find
them?”

Next Steps of Consultation

Community Trialling

**Community led
event with support
and advice from
A Playful City**

**Joining up with existing
New Ross town event
- Kennedy Summer
School**

**Trialling aspects of
community insights**

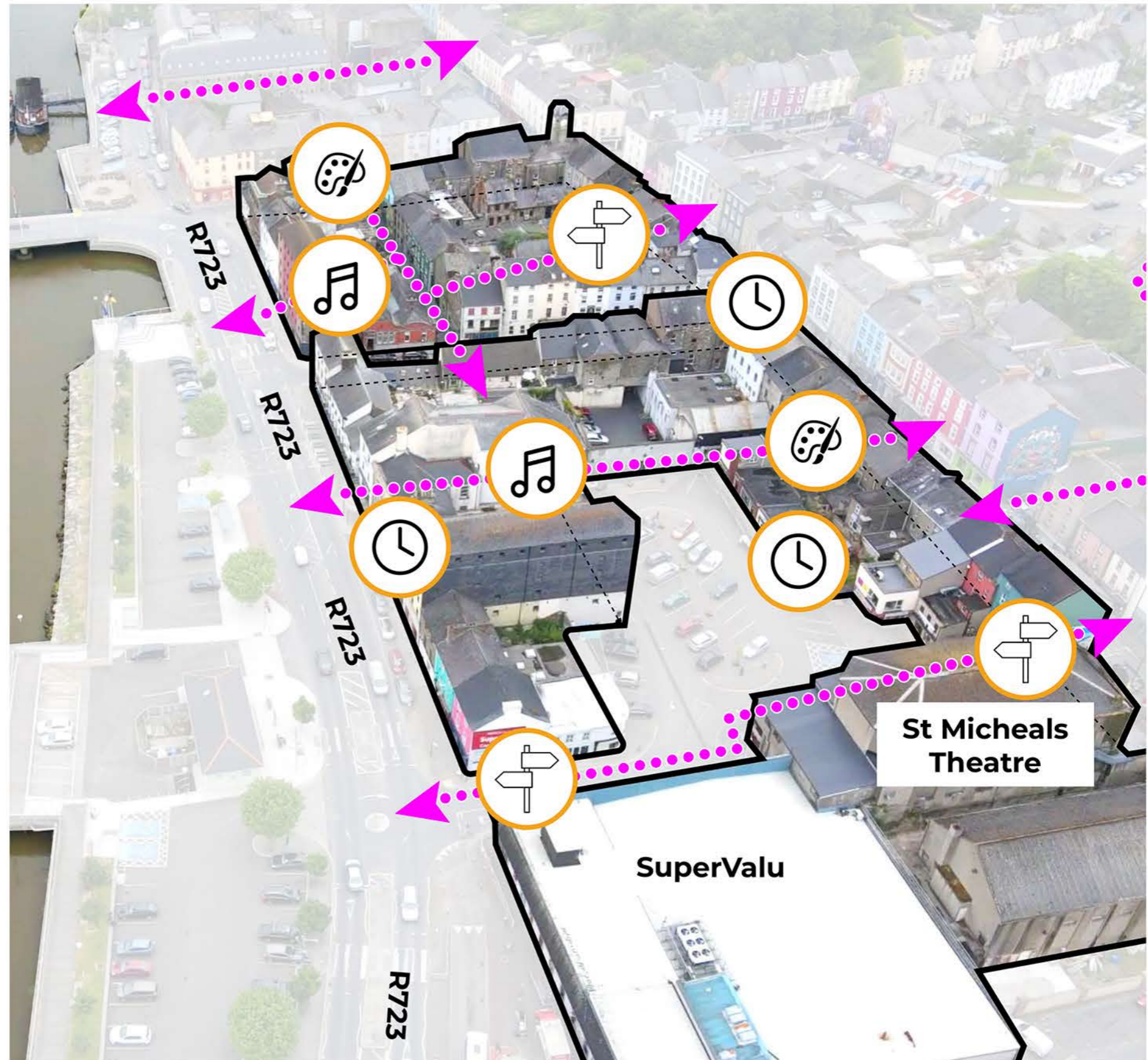
**Getting further
feedback from
the community on
trailing aspects**

Community Trialling

Preferred Option

Activating the Laneways

- 2 hour Event (6.30-8.30)
- **Community / Town Team led event - APC support**
- Use of laneways only
- Aligning with Kennedy Summer School (Fri 1st Sep)
- Trialling based on community feedback - late night opening of local business / performance in laneways / laneway art / youth group music
- Displaying community feedback and opportunity to gain further insights - signs and information left in situ for 2/3 weeks



	Option 1 Reactivating the Square	Preferred Option Activating the Laneways
 Trial - Young People	Create a message wall in the square for young people to draw and write messages to New Ross - local youth group to set up, organise and host	Create a message wall in laneway for young people to draw and write messages to New Ross - local youth group to set up, organise and host
 Trial - Uniqueness and Character	Community Market and Outdoor Performance trial in square	Outdoor performances in the laneways
 Trial - Business, Entrepreneurship and Tourism	Pedestrianisation of square trial	Encourage late opening of shops in and around laneways area
 Trial - Future Use and Living	Trial of late opening in the square with business stalls	Encourage late opening of shops in and around laneways area
 Trial - Diaspora - Old/New	Inclusivity stalls at the event from local diaspora	Filming of local stories from local community on the trial evening
 Trial - Inclusivity and Accessibility	Trial of quiet, neurodiverse area in laneway signage and wayfinding	Trial of quiet, neurodiverse area in laneway signage and wayfinding trials
Market Stalls and occupation	Does WCC have access to market stalls? Stall occupation through Chamber of Commerce and Town Team recommendation	n/a
Permissions from Council	Closing off of square for 7.5 hours on the evening of Fri 1st Aug, 3.00-11.30pm - 3.5 hour set up - 2 hours event - 2 hour take down for signage put up, market stalls, and general set up	Opening of laneways for 5 hours on the evening of Fri 1st Aug, 4.30-9.30pm - 2 hour set up - 2 hours event - 1 hour take down for signage put up, for ground art and general set up
Promotion of Event	Outdoor signs and through Visit New Ross, WCC social media local businesses, etc.	Outdoor signs and through Visit New Ross, WCC social media local businesses, etc.
Late opening	Approaching businesses that look onto square to stay open for duration of event	Approaching businesses in town centre to stay open later for duration of event
Signage	Funding for printing of outdoor signage and consultation trial information?	Funding for printing of outdoor signage and consultation trial information?
Hands on from Community and APC role	Hands on from community with APC support, advice and also to be there for the events including set up	Hands on from community with APC support, advice and also to be there for the events including set up
Kennedy Summer School	Should be approached if its happening on their day - to promote the trial also for their attendees.	Should be approached if its happening on their day - to promote the trial also for their attendees
Optional	Town Team setting up a dedicated web page where people can send in info about events they are running etc, A survey at the trailing day and left in situ about the best location for a noticeboard in the town to share local news on events etc - this could be an online survey also.	Town Team setting up a dedicated web page where people can send in info about events they are running etc, A survey at the trailing day and left in situ about the best location for a noticeboard in the town to share local news on events etc - this could be an online survey also.

18 years old

New Ross Town Centre First

Youth Pack

New Ross Sea Scouts

Q1. What do you love about New Ross?

I love the history of the town and how it is so rich and interesting. There are great facilities with the river and is great to do boating on.

Uniqueness and Character

Q2. If you play or hang out in New Ross with friends, where do you currently go?

We go to O'Connell's and down by the river.

Inclusivity and Accessibility

Q3. What kinds of shops does New Ross need more of?

shopping centre or a more selection of shops as there is not many there.

Retail and Entrepreneurship

New Ross Town Centre First Youth Pack

Q4. Which of these are important to you?

- Biodiversity/Wildlife/Nature
- Places to play or hang out with your friends
- Nature trails
- Places to attend concerts and events
- Sports facilities
- Paths to ride your bike
- Better facilities (i.e. toilets, rubbish bins)
- Places to hang out
- Transport
- Nothing at all
- Other, please describe below:

Bike ride area.

Future Use and Living

Q5. If anything was possible, tell us one thing that you would love to see in your town to make it a better place to live..

Draw or write about your idea below..

*I would like to see a green way
and a blue way.
I would love to see more business
in the town as it is always quiet
and really nothing to do.*

Getting Inspired

New Ross Town Centre First

Youth Pack

New Ross Sea Scouts

18

Q1. What do you love about New Ross?

The history and the facilities

Uniqueness and Character

Q2. If you play or hang out in New Ross with friends, where do you currently go?

O'Brions
Scout Hall
Park
river

Inclusivity and Accessibility

Q3. What kinds of shops does New Ross need more of?

Shopping centre
clothing shops

Retail and Entrepreneurship

New Ross Town Centre First Youth Pack

Q4. Which of these are important to you?

- Biodiversity/Wildlife/Nature
- Places to play or hang out with your friends
- Nature trails
- Places to attend concerts and events
- Sports facilities
- Paths to ride your bike
- Better facilities (i.e. toilets, rubbish bins)
- Places to hang out
- Transport
- Nothing at all
- Other, please describe below:

water way / blues

Future Use and Living

Q5. If anything was possible, tell us one thing that you would love to see in your town to make it a better place to live..

Draw or write about your idea below..

A good green way and blues
better shops and a shopping centre

Getting Inspired

12 years old

New Ross Town Centre First Youth Pack

New Ross Sea Scouts

Q1. What do you love about New Ross?

It's cool to see the sights and the
parks are nice and the buildings
and lights are a sight for sore eyes,
and there's shops for about
anything you possibly need.

Uniqueness and Character

Q2. If you play or hang out in New Ross with friends, where do you currently go?

To the PARK!

Inclusivity and Accessibility

Q3. What kinds of shops does New Ross need more of?

more toy stores, and more
parking spots, and library

Retail and Entrepreneurship

New Ross Town Centre First Youth Pack

Q4. Which of these are important to you?

- Biodiversity/Wildlife/Nature
- Places to play or hang out with your friends
- Nature trails
- Places to attend concerts and events
- Sports facilities
- Paths to ride your bike
- Better facilities (i.e. toilets, rubbish bins)
- Places to hang out
- Transport
- Nothing at all
- Other, please describe below:

Future Use and Living

Q5. If anything was possible, tell us one thing that you would love to see in your town to make it a better place to live..

Draw or write about your idea below..



Getting Inspired

New Ross Town Centre First Youth Pack New Ross Sea Scouts

Q1. What do you love about New Ross?

it were i go for scout and the Pubs are Grate and
Good people and it has 4star pezza

Uniqueness and Character

Q2. If you play or hang out in New Ross with friends, where do you currently go?

the pub for a Grate time so meny grate memereas
or to the Lage Slechen of restrons^{and} Chiprs

Inclusivity and Accessibility

Q3. What kinds of shops does New Ross need more of?

Retail and Entrepreneurship

New Ross Town Centre First Youth Pack

Q4. Which of these are important to you?

- Biodiversity/Wildlife/Nature
- Places to play or hang out with your friends
- Nature trails
- Places to attend concerts and events
- Sports facilities
- Paths to ride your bike
- Better facilities (i.e. toilets, rubbish bins)
- Places to hang out
- Transport
- Nothing at all
- Other, please describe below:

Medical clinics

Future Use and Living

Q5. If anything was possible, tell us one thing that you would love to see in your town to make it a better place to live..

Draw or write about your idea below..

more gardes/police Patrole at Night it's Small gangs gather at Night an old frend of mine carries a small knife for Protection especially at night time and 2 female friends are terrified going alone at night thay need my to walk them home Cause thay don't feel safe but it's not Just them 3 othere girls have similar concerns it would really help if more Resources were Given to the guards to go no patrols at night to Discouraged vandals, gangs intimidating paople, and reckless teens

Getting Inspired

New Ross Town Centre First

Youth Pack

New Ross Sea Scouts

age 16

Q1. What do you love about New Ross?

School and the history for example
JFK and the dunns today

Uniqueness and Character

Q2. If you play or hang out in New Ross with friends, where do you currently go?

The park
walking around town

Inclusivity and Accessibility

Q3. What kinds of shops does New Ross need more of?

bakeleys

Retail and Entrepreneurship

New Ross Town Centre First Youth Pack

Q4. Which of these are important to you?

- Biodiversity/Wildlife/Nature
- Places to play or hang out with your friends
- Nature trails
- Places to attend concerts and events
- Sports facilities
- Paths to ride your bike
- Better facilities (i.e. toilets, rubbish bins)
- Places to hang out
- Transport
- Nothing at all
- Other, please describe below:

Future Use and Living

Q5. If anything was possible, tell us one thing that you would love to see in your town to make it a better place to live..

Draw or write about your idea below..

Better safer places to go with our friends like an indoor area when people are not aloud ~~use~~ of smoke its a safe environment ~~with~~ listen to music and ~~stuff~~ like that

Getting Inspired

New Ross Town Centre First Youth Pack New Ross Sea Scouts

Q1. What do you love about New Ross?

The town park.

Uniqueness and Character

Q2. If you play or hang out in New Ross with friends, where do you currently go?

The park, burlands lake.

Inclusivity and Accessibility

Q3. What kinds of shops does New Ross need more of?

~~bakery~~ home

Penny's for 9th Wicklow ☺

Retail and Entrepreneurship

New Ross Town Centre First Youth Pack

Q4. Which of these are important to you?

- Biodiversity/Wildlife/Nature
- Places to play or hang out with your friends
- Nature trails
- Places to attend concerts and events
- Sports facilities
- Paths to ride your bike
- Better facilities (i.e. toilets, rubbish bins)
- Places to hang out
- Transport
- Nothing at all
- Other, please describe below:

Future Use and Living

Q5. If anything was possible, tell us one thing that you would love to see in your town to make it a better place to live..

Draw or write about your idea below..

Better facilities such as toilets and footpaths.

Getting Inspired