

Naas Local Area Plan 2018-2024

**NAAS PLENARY SESSION RE-IMAGINING NAAS &
DEFINING OUR FUTURE VISION**

THEMED WORKSHOP NOTES

**MONDAY 22nd JANUARY 2018
LAWLORS HOTEL, POPLAR SQUARE, NAAS**

**Table 1 – The role of Naas as the County Town
Workshop Facilitator – Alison Scanlon Note-taker Alaine Clarke**

Group Participants:

Aine Mangan – Tourism Manager, Kildare	Clodagh Hughes – BOI Manager, Naas	Dick O’Sullivan, Manager of Punchestown
Gerry Murphy – Sport Facilitator	Liam O’Rourke – Rugby Club	Majella O’Keefe – Access Group & Retail Team
Mary Kane – URBACT	Sarah – resident	Suzanne Dempsey – Irish Water
Timmy Conway – Former Cllr, on Access Group and McAuley Place		

Q1. Are there key achievements and positive platforms that we can work on?

- McAuley Place – how can we replicate that?
- Diversity – how we bring in ethnic groups and capitalise on their ideas?
- Wild Food Festival
- Kerry Group – jewel in the crown, brings in so many people every day
- Need to keep the people in Naas – develop the individuality of Naas
- Establish social hubs
- Enhancing the canal as an amenity
- St. David’s castle presents a particular opportunity – should be explored
- Needs to be more attractions for business, particularly social sector
- Brand Naas as unique town
- A sporting platform – we have considerable success in sports, including equine.
- Jigginstown lands – can we open that up and make it an amenity?
- Proximity to airport and Dublin and positive welcome from people
- The rugby club – considerable membership
- A centre of excellence for sports at Millennium Park
- Need one main attraction
- Up skilling our own residents of Naas
- Naas has a big link with the disability sector, could link that into the sporting centre of excellence
- Moat theatre
- Maynooth University – could a branch be located in Naas?

Q2. What should we be focusing on and what are the big issues and challenges?

- Cranes should be removed

- Re-using derelict sites
- Bring life into the town – make town fully occupied
- Encourage living over shops
- 6 businesses have opened since Christmas in Naas
- There are unique shops in Naas, although some very pricey – need to cater for a range
- Newbridge competes for shoppers, though heavily congested and this acts as a deterrent
- Improved connectivity is desirable
- Need a Town Manager – Monaghan have one
- Could close town centre to traffic or just have one-way traffic
- Develop and enhance public realm
- Use / develop the laneways off the Main Street – facilitate eateries and shops
- Need to complete the Ring Road
- Replicate McAuley Place
- Get people walking – Naas to Naas transport
- Interconnectivity across public transport modes needs to be visible / publicised (esp. to/from train station)

Q3. The shape of success, how will Naas get there?

- Increased footfall in town centre
- Leinster Mills could be converted into a food hub and /or incubation centre, linked to Kerry Group
- Look at all the food connections we have, could capitalise on that
- Have Naas Bike Hire – similar to Dublin Bike Scheme
- Survey schools and children, what do they want to see in Naas. An App has been developed for this.
- More youth facilities - which could be innovative , futuristic and technology focused
- Capitalise on tourist opportunities such as the Cyclist Rest (i.e. Haydens)
- Need more over night beds in Naas
- Project is being developed (with Access Group, Tidy Towns & Men’s Shed) for Access for All, around the lakes in Naas, linking Fairgreen, lakes, canal, mention of an outdoor gym
- Naas is a town of 3 harbours and these are not connected
- Encourage use of the town hall
- Naas as a “boutique town”
- Calendar of events and festivals would be useful

Key points we can deliver:

- Harbour development / connection

- Address the traffic and circulation
- Naas to Naas interconnectivity
- Bus and Train Terminal (hub) at Millennium
- Bikes scheme
- St. David's castle
- Access to de Burgh's Gardens should be investigated
- Greenways and cycle lanes
- Increased footfall into town
- Get car parking off main street
- Parking at key locations and linkages back into town
- Replicate McAuley Place
- Dedicated centre of excellence for sports associations at Millennium
- Micro-brewery
- Purple flag

**Table 2 – Economic Development & Enterprise
Workshop Facilitator - Susan Bookle Note-taker Amy Granville**

Group Participants:

Allan Shine, Chamber	Denis Mahon, Naas Golf Club	Derek McKenna, KWETB Internships
Gerry Prendergast, Millennium Park	Jacqui McNabb, LEO	John Walsh, Naas Rugby Club
Pat Barrett Bank of Ireland	Paul O'Connor, Estate Agent	Sorcha O'Neill, Naas MD Cllr

Q1. What are the key achievements for Naas?

- Location (easy access) nationally and internationally by road, rail and air
- Excellence
- Good quality of life for residents
- Good quality housing and choice
- Links to university and schools
- Internationally renowned bloodstock/equine/racing industry
- Active residential construction
- High quality infrastructure
- Supportive Local Authority for enterprise; eg planning & finance
- Recent achievement in securing MERIT centre in Devoy Park
- Success in securing Kerry Group
- IDA & E.I recognise Kildare (Naas) for innovation

Q2. Critical issues & challenges?

- More localised jobs to reduce commuting
- Importance of presence and status of the Hospital
- Connection of town centre to Sallins/Naas Train Station
- Stimulating and Revitalising the town centre
- Viewed as a 'drive through' or 'drive past' town
- Parking... Impact of the economy
- Collaboration on various pillars/sectors and strengthen same
- Potential to unlock the harbour for tourism & transport (Dutch Model)
- Visual Impact of the Courthouse (Garda presence)
- Encourage 'Living over the Shop' & 'City Living Initiative'
- Capacity of sports clubs with pressures from additional housing
- Derelict Sites... Optics... First Impressions!

Q3. Future? What sectors should we encourage?

- Brand Naas

Capitalise on the history of the town & protect its character

- Encourage retail anchors
- Differentiate from adjoining towns?
Food tourism?
- Bespoke shopping? Boutique town? Suggest to capitalise on bloodstock/racing industry/mother of the bride/groom market?
- Leverage from Kerry Group for food sectors
- MERIT (Naas) ca. 140000sqft with space for ca. 144 entrepreneurs and additional '*thinkspace*' for existing and expanding businesses
- Naas Racecourse & Punchestown - capitalise on these events with festivals in the town.

Q4. How can we ensure that the greater economy of Naas underpins the urban core?

- Linkages to the town centre through transport
- Strategic locations for car parks
- Shuttle bus service *around* the town - Servicing parks, schools and train stations
- Potential uses for the Town Hall. Library with information centre
Use of yard to the rear and links to the harbour area
- Tourism must be capitalised.
Heritage resources such as canal, golf courses, castles and equine infrastructure must be used. For example the Milk Market in Limerick.

**Table 3 – Social and Community Infrastructure
Facilitator Sinead Fitzpatrick and Note-taker Veronica Cooke**

Group Participants

Fergus Grainey, Craddockstown Golf Club	John Walsh, Naas GAA	Kieran Keegan, Principal Naas Community School
Lynn Kinlon, Naas Arts Group	Noel Murphy K- Leisure	Patricia Clear, Naas Tidy Towns
Richie Hogan, Secretary Naas GAA	Susan Cullaine, KWETB access to schools	Tom Dunne, CEO, Kildare Youth Services

Q1. Reflecting on the social and community theme, can you identify the strengths and positive achievements in Naas?

Naas's strengths:

- McAuley Place is a great model of community participation and engagement. Residents are active in the community and the community are engaged with McAuley place as an active community hub.
- Naas has a great variety of modern schools, new school planned
- Youth service is active and a positive youth reach facility
- Family friendly environment, the town is a good place to raise children in a safe environment
- There is a growing youth population which needs to be supported. Are state agencies supporting the youth services within the town?
- The town has a number of great food producers.
- The canal is a fantastic resource on the town's doorstep, but it needs to be developed and used. The nearby Market House building is a further resource needing attention and use.
- Location and transport connections – close to Dublin and motorways linking to the rest of the country
- Collaborative and inter-agency culture within the town and county
- Historical and archaeological sites including St. David's Castle and Church, Moat, Jigginstown, Leinster Mills, the Old Town Demesne and Gardens and Canal Harbour within / near the town centre represent significant opportunities for the town.
- The Moat Theatre is a strong and positive asset in the town

Positive Achievements:

- Sporting ethos within the town is strong and the numbers of people actively participating in sports and recreation activities is very strong. The infrastructure to support this needs to be developed.
- There is a good choice of facilities for leisure and recreation within the town and this presents a significant starting point on which to build and develop further.

- The Farmers Market is very well established within the town – but what about alternative locations for this within the centre, perhaps at the Harbour?
- Opportunity to think strategically and provide additional facilities within the town. There is a strong arts focus in Naas, theatre, ballet, dance, which provides opportunities for young people who are not engaged in traditional sports.
- The time is ripe to get it right and to be ambitious.
- Naas has the countryside on its doorstep.
- There are social services for those people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage and hardship.

<p>Q2. Outline some issues and challenges facing the social and community sector?</p>

- There is an apparent disconnect between social, cultural and sports groups. Needs more co-ordination of resources
- There is a need to raise ambition to the higher level.
- Many of the sports groups, GAA, soccer and rugby require and need more playing fields, pitches and the associated facilities such as changing rooms and car parking. These lands and areas should be zoned and an action plan put in place to deliver facilities for the groups.
- The canal area is an underdeveloped amenity facility and needs attention. This represents an opportunity for walking, cycling and water sports as well as a range of cultural related activities.
- In zoning lands for residential development, the recreational needs of future and existing residents must be taken on board and considered – more than just small areas of open spaces. Lands should be provided adjacent to residential sites for use as active recreational and amenity spaces
- Developers need to consider the wider requirements within the town when building out residential sites – uses beyond open space.
- Community Infrastructure is lacking within the local area and there is a need for community hub type facility providing local services and facilities across a wide platform of uses.
- There is no Visual Arts Centre in the town this could be developed and provide a link to the local Moat Theatre.
- There is a lack of parks within Naas and the Oldtown Gardens and De Burgh lands could help to provide such a strategic asset within the town. This could then link up with the Leinster Mills buildings to provide a combined use for the area being able to connect the Millennium Park to the Town.
- Limited services and supports for community and youth organisations groups.
- There is competition for limited resources which may need joined up collaborative approach.

Q3. The shape of success, how will Naas get there?

- There is a need to think strategically – this is a great opportunity for the planners to connect the town in a comprehensive way. The opportunity needs to be grasped.
- Great use to be made of the Town Hall – the Town Hall should be developed as a Tourist Information Point.
- That the voices of the group and ideas are listened to and acted upon.
- There is a need for effective planning and cooperation within the groups, working together and not competing against each other.
- The town centre needs to be resolved, especially the shopping centre and other vacant and derelict sites.
- There is a need not to lock the Town in.
- There is a need for thought and to strike a balance between being aspirational and practical
- Sustainable businesses and people.
- Plus there is a need to address the disconnect between services operating in the local area – joined up approach is needed.

Table 4 – Living in Naas
Facilitator Caroline O'Donnell and Note-taker Carol Forde

Group Participants

Anne Breen Naas MD Cllr	Brendan Gallagher Hillside Residents Assoc	Diarmuid Parker Hillside Residents Assoc
Larry Breen – Heritage and Local Residents	Paddy Behan Former Cllr and Local History Group	Rioghnaigh Bracken, R Bracken & Co. Solicitors
Tom Grey Naas Planning Advisory Group	Yvonne Maher – Naas Sports Centre	

Q1. Advantages Naas has to offer?

- Public transport, however the destination for trips especially to Dublin City needs to be improved

There is significant potential for improvement in a number of areas including the following;

- Creating a spur to Sallins (corridor along the Canal)
- More bus parking bays
- Public transport to have additional drop off points in Dublin City
- Aim to reduce the use of private transportation
- The old Naas train station was located at the Crossings/Superquinn area. This should be converted into a bus station.
- Consider an additional corridor between Naas and Sallins – there is a tunnel somewhere that would allow for this
- One-way systems to ‘free up’ the town centre, going south, more spaces for parking if one-way
- Pedestrianisation of streets with bollards to ensure ease of access for e.g. emergency vehicles/ private modes of transport as appropriate...plans in 2012 to pedestrianise the town centre...check with Roads (David Reel) for further details
- Re-use of vacant sites to improve the ‘attractiveness’ of Naas as a ‘nice place to shop’
- Opportunities to tap into such assets as St. David’s Castle and the undeveloped canal for heritage purposes
- Would propose the taking out of the culverted section of the canal at Jigginstown to make it navigable? The aim would be to have a lock free canal. They had previously been told that the Corbally Canal is similar to Pollardstown Fen and any development would be detrimental to wildlife.
- Open shops/ restaurants for longer to improve night-life and security
- Relocation of Sallins train station closer to Naas

Q2. Issues & challenges facing Naas?

- School place provision with students needing to travel to Kill for secondary school
- Not enough doctors
- Lack of sufficient sports facilities with some sports clubs having no permanent home e.g. Naas United
- Lack of meeting places, youth centres
- The Town Hall should develop as the heart of the town. There are plans to relocate the library to the Town Hall and to develop a 'community hub' to the rear
- Parking—more multi storey car parks required
- Need to invest in particular projects e.g. the regeneration of St. David's Castle, Harbour House
- Need to regenerate the town centre including promoting 'living over the shop', reuse of vacant sites, regenerate old houses along the canal, to lessen the need for private modes of transport in the town centre and to provide for a more attractive town for pedestrians and cycles by way of pedestrianised streets and cycle lanes
- Would suggest the location of a Heritage Centre/Tourist office in the centre of the town
- Need to promote appropriate signage especially relating to the heritage of Naas
- Need for more accessible town centre e.g. footpaths
- Need for more street furniture e.g. seating for all ages

Q3. Ideas for the future of Naas?

- Social and community facilities need to be provided alongside any future residential development
- Development of substantial green areas
- Need for second GAA pitch in Naas
- No more roads to be built over the Canal
- More, meaningful connections needed to the town centre
- Newhaven was given as a good/best practice example for Naas
- Permanent fire station needed
- Canal could be used to boost tourism, boat trips etc. Also, investigate if canal can be used as a possible source of public transport between Naas and Sallins.
- The ring road should be completed
- An outer relief road instead of an inner relief road should be constructed. The site at Donnelly Mirrors to be investigated and secured for this outer relief road.

- Need for better integration of social housing in all developments
- Small neighbourhood centres built in housing estates to incorporate small green areas, playgrounds, local shop.
- Some town centre uses could be better located to help the rejuvenation of the town centre

Table 5 – Shaping a successful town centre

Workshop Facilitator Bridget Loughlin and Note-taker Ian Lacey

Group Participants

Alice Fennelly – Naas Working Together	Bill Clear – Naas Tidy Towns	Brian Kearney – Naas Hospital
Carmel Kelly – Naas MD Cllr	Catherine Whelan – Whelan’s Menswear	Fintan Brett – Naas MD Cllr
Hugh Crawford – County Kildare Archaeological Society	John O’Reilly - Sherry FitzGerald O’Reilly	Margarita Solon – McAuley Place
Padraig McManus – Curragh Racecourse	Peter Grainger – Naas Hospital	Tom Kelleher – Naas Sports Forum

Question 1 – Identify the positive qualities and assets which Naas town centre has to offer?

The key message for this question – Naas has a good quality of life for its residents, and it is an attractive place for people wanting to live and work in the area

Other comments included:

- Some excellent and well established family owned shops and businesses.
- The town has a great village feel.
- Vibrant and bustling social scene with pubs and restaurants for people to socialise.
- The town has history and many heritage assets – including the Town Hall, Court House, Moat, St. David’s Castle and Church, Old Town Domain and Jigginstown within the town and with potential for improvement.
- The cultural activities within the town theatre, library, cinema and active sports clubs.
- Open spaces and Polar Square.
- Access to the waterways Grand Canal and Canal Harbour with facilities for walking and cycling.
- Main Street North and South is a great opportunity for people to meet and socialise.
- If you want a job you can get a job! – the town has low unemployment levels.
- The town is affluent, there are big employers located in the town.
- The town is very accessible with nearby motorways, rail and connections linking the town to Dublin and other parts of the country.
- Naas Racecourse and other horse racing facilities on the doorstep presents a unique opportunity to build a USP for the town.
- The town has a fantastic Leisure Facility K-Leisure offering a wide variety of sports activities and facilities for many clubs and groups.

- McAuley Place is situated within the town and is a local, regional, national and emerging international exemplar of best practice for the care of the elderly. The Place is a gathering of residences, centres, people and initiatives with the collective purpose of situating older people to the heart of a vibrant community. Right in the heart of **Naas** and comprising residential apartments, tea rooms, a community centre and an arts and culture centre.
- Naas also has a number of excellent school facilities at Primary and Secondary level, these great facilities are in high demand with few places available
- Family owned business and shops in the town
- Wide Main street

<p>Question 2 – Outline some of the issues and challenges in moving to exploit the town centre’s potential?</p>

The key issues and challenges agreed by participants was that of the number of derelict and vacant Sites within the town centre and on the periphery at entrance points to the town. (Naas Shopping centre, former SuperQuinn Site and the former Cemex Site were highlighted).

Other comments included:

- Traffic, congestion and the pinch points on the main through roads which detract from the town.
- The number of shops and retailers within the town is falling and the vacancy levels increasing.
- The town once had a rail service running through it. The lack of a local integrated public transport service for the town is encouraging the use of the motor car.
- The location of the Naas / Sallins train station is disconnected from the town centre.
- There is a lack of strategically located car parks, whilst the town has sufficient parking the locations of these facilities may not be appropriate.
- Whilst the town has many sports clubs and groups there are insufficient facilities to allow the full and active participation of individuals and teams.
- Whilst the town has many good schools, these are all at capacity and are full. With more housing proposed for the town, and with the demand for school places growing urgent action is needed to build more schools and create more places.
- Too much new development is taking place on the periphery of the town; future development should be focused on consolidating the town centre first.
- The town centre is vibrant, but there are too few people living and residing within the town centre.

- There are a lot of vacant and under-used facilities above shops and units within the town centre; these units could be used for residential accommodation to help diversify and improve the town centre.
- The town lacks a tourist information centre with information and details about what is happening and what is available for things to do and see in the town centre – maps, apps and social media.
- The town could attract more visitors with the canal and other heritage assets, but to support this approach the town needs to invest in facilities – Town Hall could be better used to provide this facility, such as a Tourist Office?
- The town has many derelict and vacant sites which could provide opportunities for the town – Naas Shopping Centre, Former SuperQuinns, Former Cemex site etc.
- The town has many heritage assets but these are not being utilised fully if at all – Town Hall, St David’s Castle and Church, Moat, Canal Harbour, Old Town Demense, Grand Canal, Jigginstown, Canal Corbally Line etc.

Question 3 – What might the shape of success look like in the future in terms of a vibrant centre and what are the priority ideas and actions to help us get there?

The key success factor identified by the group was to tackle the vacant and derelict sites within the town. It was suggested that the Council needs to take action with a carrot and stick approach, identify the sites and take action and perhaps use CPO powers as appropriate.

In addition it was suggested that the time for talking about action and plans has already taken place, now is the time for action with implementation strategies to deliver the list of projects and initiatives.

Other comments included:

- Cohesion of urban design and a defined public realm strategy.
- Improved landscape and streetscape.
- Canal is a rat run we must get the cars off the canal path.
- Corbally Harbour is a great longer-term opportunity
- Poplar Square and opposite the Post Office could be developed with big canopies to create attractive covered areas.
- Cater for all ages, elderly and teenagers
- Develop alternatives to Main Street, improve linkages between the canal and main street develop side streets.
- Better signage and directions for car parking facilities in the town.
- More open and green space with improved and safe connections for these spaces.
- More internal public transport serving the local area.
- Electric cars
- bike rental scheme

- ban truck form the centre of town
- Bus terminal- take buses off main street
- Marina at the canal
- More linkages across the canal
- Purple Flag achieved for Naas with an associated safe and vibrant Evening & Night Time Economy- Naas as a destination town
- Delivered Enterprise Hub for the Town providing excellent start-up and enterprise facilities for new and emerging companies.
- Footpaths and cycle ways full of people using the facilities and creating a buzzing town.
- Addressing Sallins in so far as it relates to Naas.
- The town's heritage assets used to their potential – Moat, Jigginstown, St. David's Church and Castle, Old Town Demesne, Canal and Canal Harbour.
- Tourist information produced promoting the town, booklets, maps, apps and social media all utilised.
- Improved traffic flow within the town, including less traffic going through Main Street, Outer Relief Road developed instead of the suggested Inner Relief Road.
- Have a plan to deal with dereliction, carrot and stick approach
 - Penalties
 - CPO
 - Incentives
 - Regeneration initiatives

Table 6 – Public Space & Urban Structure
Facilitator Alice Corbett and Note-taker Jane O'Reilly

Group Participants

Bill Enright – Naas Tidy Towns	David Reel – KCC Naas Town Engineer	David O'Brien – Craddockstown Golf Club
Deborah Callaghan – Naas MD Cllr	Joe Friel – Naas GAA	John MacNamarra – KCC Environment & Community Warden
Sinead Mallon – Waterways Ireland		

Reflecting on the theme of public spaces, public realm and urban structure in Naas can you:

Question 1 – Identify any existing assets, platforms and achievements?

The key message from the group - Old Town Domain, the De Burgh Lands and the Canal are some of the town's key assets.

Achievements the re-development and opening up of the Canal Harbour area has been a significant and positive development within the town.

Other comments included:

- Monread Park
- The Lakes area
- Canal waterway and the associated towpath are great amenity assets within easy reach of the town.
- The town has a number of sports clubs providing a range of sports activities and community facilities.
- Within the town there a number of hard spaces including Market Square, Poplar Square and the areas in front of the Town Hall and the Courthouse. These represent significant public realm opportunities. The Abbey Street, Canal Harbour, Basin Street. Corbans Lane to South Main Street and the area from the town centre to the Sallins Road.
- Public Assets: the town is light on art and sculpture (John Devoy Statue the exception). There is a need to improve and review the signage within the town – difficult for newcomers to the area.
- Better signage on the canal – but first you must find the Canal
- The area around St. David's Castle and the Church have the potential to create a heritage themed area and improved public open space.
- The development of the GAA facilities is a great achievement for Naas, but are there enough pitches for the size of the Club

- Lack of street furniture within the town at strategic points – it is almost as if people are not welcome to stay, rest and sit a while within the town.
- Opportunity sites within the town - De Burgh's land has fantastic potential for future development and improvement – Fair Green and the Lakes is an additional underutilised open space in the town.
- Jigginstown has the potential to be a great asset for the town if it is developed thoughtfully and appropriately
- The Naas Racecourse provides a unique facility within the town, open space that is used for amenity use around the facility and space within the racecourse track that could also be used.
- Countryside within the Town can help to provide a useful connector linking up areas.

Question 2 – Prioritize key issues & challenges?

The Group agreed some of the key priorities for attention and action:

- The opportunity to open up the De Burgh Estate and the Canal in order to provide links between strategic open spaces within the town centre is a significant and real opportunity to provide an arterial and alternative route link into the town and onto Sallins
- Developing a public bicycle scheme for the town would also help to reinforce the use of the canal towpath as a sustainable route up to the Millennium Park.
- Town Core – street and spaces. Market Square could be better used and opened up festivals and other community uses.
- The redevelopment of the Canal Harbour has had a positive impact upon the town; the Canal is an attractive area for wildlife, walks and amenity uses.
- Funding is required to bring forward projects and a “Can Do Attitude”.

The Issues and Challenges:

- The issue of land ownership – there are significant areas of land in private ownership which are restricting their use by the community. Key sites need to be in public ownership.
- Getting public buy-in on projects can be difficult and complicated and may need work to encourage and facilitate this.
- There is a need to create and establish links between the open space assets within the town. There are large areas and tracts of land between the Ring Road and the Town Centre – the challenge and the opportunity is to link the two – Canal Bridge represents a significant opportunity for walking, cycling and developing Sustainable Connectivity.
- Investment in public areas is good but people are very concerned about anti-social behaviour when improving public realm. However the busier an area is the safer it is.

- The effective use of lighting can make a significant improvement to the safety of an area.
- There are only a small number of parks with playgrounds and equipment for kids – Monread, Ballycane & Caragh Road – more roadside gyms and playgrounds are needed in sites that are visible.
- URBACT in Naas has the idea to create outdoor gyms and a sensory park at the Lakes, the Green area at the Canal Harbour could provide a great site for this as well.

Public Realm:

- There is a shortage of open and green spaces within Naas and there are significant opportunities to improve and enhance the existing public realm. The green areas are the lungs of the town and can help with the overall health and well being of the residents of Naas.
- The existing open spaces could be better used through thoughtful design and improvements.
- The funding for such improvements stopped when building stopped
- In the town centre there are significant opportunities for improvement – Town Hall and the Courthouse.
- What is required is a “Can Do Attitude” to make the positive changes a reality.
- On the Grand Canal the area of lands from the 5th Lock to Mill Lane are almost dead lands waiting for attention and action.
- Traffic congestion is a critical issue within the town which needs to be addressed.
- Important to realise and appreciate that the development of Tesco at Monread has had and continues to have a significant impact upon the Town – do not make the same mistakes again.
- Cycle lanes do not have to be adjacent to the road in all instances – if they can be separated from each other it can help to improve safety.

Question 3 – What might the shape of success look like in a Naas public realm of the future and present some ideas on how we might get there?

The Group agreed with the following three priorities:

- Develop the canal, amenity sports and green infrastructure for walking and cycling within the town.
- Improve communication and develop the Sports Forum further to get positive messages out about health and well-being.
- Improve and develop the better use of the public and community buildings within the town.

Other comments included the following points:

- Naas Shopping Centre needs to be addressed; it is a blot on the landscape and in need of a resolution.
- Communicate the message about healthy lifestyles through the schools and workplaces – cycling, walking and healthy options
- Provide attractive uses and activities within the town centre to bring people in.
- There is a need to enhance the walking and cycling options within Naas, areas need to be better connected and linked together – but essential to this is the lighting and other factors to keep the areas used appropriately.
- The Blueway concept represents a great opportunity for Naas, similar to the greenway.
- The greenway and Blueway projects need to link and connect with national projects – funding and strategy.
- Signage the town is in need of improved signage relevant for the place – too much signage in place at the moment.
- Historic Trails – need to decide what they key public realm and heritage assets are and then link and connect them using walks and trails.
- Tell the story of Naas and then illustrate it – bring it to life.
- Within the town there are a number of big buildings and spaces around them – Eircom building, Abbey Street, Post Sorting Office, former HSE building
- The density of housing and the connectivity of places needs to be considered at the design phase of new developments.
- Lack of water sports on the canal – this could present a great opportunity, to develop the Blueway concept – tea shops, cycle hire, boat hire, stay and play.
- Naas activity hub and facility using the canal network.

Table 7 – Movement and Infrastructure
Facilitator: Anne Louw Note-taker: Patricia Hyland

Group Participants:

Celina Barrett, Kildare Fire Service	Cllr. Darren Scully	Cllr. Seamie Moore
Eoghan Madden, NPAG	George Willoughby, SEE	Letita Foley, Jigginstown Residents Association
Richie Hogan Naas GAA	Rory O' Toole, KWETB	Tom Kelly Naas Racecourse
Mr Burke – Burke's Pharmacy	Tom Ryan, Manager, Naas Racecourse	

Q1. What are the positive achievement and platforms we have to build upon?

- Improved train service and facilities at Sallins Railway Station acknowledged.
- The Ring Road provides more options for movement around the town and takes away the necessity to travel through the town.
- Proposed Part 8 cycleways are welcomed in most instances, however we need to get buy in from the public and to get the message out there that it is for the common good.
- Naas has an optimum location served by M7/N7 with easy access to Dublin, Cork, Belfast, Limerick etc. We need to remember that we are connected to all these places, not just a one way street to Dublin.
- The NW Quadrant is a blank canvas that we can positively plan to incorporate multi modal transport routes and bring people into the town centre.

Q2. Key issues and Challenges facing Naas?

- The town centre is completely dominated by car based traffic with school runs in particular choking the town centre during the AM and PM.
- Need to consider carefully where we locate schools, services etc and to put in place safer routes and connected and pleasant cycling and pedestrian routes to same.
- Without building 1 additional house or developing additional industry and employment, there is a significant traffic congestion issue that needs to be addressed.
- How can we direct unnecessary vehicular traffic out of the town centre?
- Sallins Railway Station and the services are restricted with most trains in the AM and PM exceeding capacity which leads to people choosing to drive. Should Naas start planning for its own train station?

- Need to re balance and address the commuter role of the town with a heavy reliance on the motorway V's a living, breathing town which needs to accommodate local trips, connectivity and permeability.
- Parking – need to prepare a car parking strategy that will include the reclamation of our public spaces and squares. There is nowhere enjoyable to congregate/meet up in the town centre other than having to go to a coffee shop. Need to maximise the amenities and connections to spaces within Naas e.g. the Canal Harbour, Market Square, Poplar Square.
- The bus network does not adequately serve the residents of Naas or the hinterland area. Significant improvement in bus infrastructure is required with strong and reliable links to Sallins Railway Station.
- Many of the residents and business people of Naas in many cases do not see the bigger picture and 'NIMBYism' is a problem.
- We always lack forward thinking in the provision of a robust and connect public transport network.
- Significant level of vacancy and dereliction in the town centre and surroundings.
- We do not need another plan that is not implemented. Too many plans in the past have not been implemented.

Q3. Ideas and solutions to address the key challenges and constraints?

- Need to provide people with options in terms of multi modal movement through, around, into and out of the town,
- Need to provide properly designed and planned Ring Road. Millennium Road is severely congested at peak times with serious blockages at the Sallins Roundabout, Tesco, Monread, Bundle of Sticks Roundabout and the Caragh Road Junction.
- Must prepare an activity (landuse) plan that caters for commuters and non commuters alike.
- Must rebalance the needs of a commuter V's the needs of a liveable town – should consider the development of a Transport Hub within Naas.
- All overhead wires, cable, poles etc must be placed underground. Naas is the County Town however it does not look like it!
- KCC must stop piecemeal planning transport, movement and infrastructure. Naas needs a multi modal transport plan ASAP.
- We need to consider the global picture through a holistic approach to transport planning in particular. Need to plan now for the longer term.

ADDITIONAL POINTS RAISED

- The LAP and all plans must be accompanied by an Implementation Plan in order to have a targeted approach to achievement objectives, seeking funding etc.
- KCC must zone lands to provide for a public primary care centre. The VISTA clinic is private.