

Plan

6. Policies

1. To retain and improve the distinctive historic, architectural and physical character of the villages in the area, in particular:

- To protect and improve the historic core of Ballitore and notably preserve its distinctive Quaker character and plan form.
- To preserve and enhance all historic buildings and structures throughout the area, including farm complexes along the rural roads.
- To identify suitable locations within the area for future development and to define areas of restricted development.
- To create new civic spaces to enhance the architectural character and social quality of the village centres.
- To form new streetscapes in appropriate locations within the village centres.
- To ensure high design standards for new developments by providing design guidelines and encouraging good quality contemporary and contextual architecture.
- To improve the public spaces in the existing villages, such as Market Square in Ballitore.
- To provide for additional amenity areas and pedestrian routes, by, for example, developing the riverbank of Griesse River as a linear park/walkway.
- To improve the visual appearance of Crookstown Industrial Park.
- To encourage the adoption of suitable urban forms and the provision of additional public spaces within new housing developments and to ensure these are well connected, via pedestrian and cycle links to the village centre, their facilities and with each other.
- To protect the existing visual link between Timolin and Moone.
- To protect the overall visual profile of Timolin and Moone when viewed from approach roads.

2. To retain and protect the environmental qualities and natural beauty of the landscape, in particular:

- To protect and improve the rural character of the district, in particular the farming lands, with their distinctive field patterns and hedgerow boundaries.
- To ensure the rural roads within the area are free from any further ribbon development.
- To protect the valley of River Griesse.
- To protect and keep the views open from strategic viewpoints along the rural roads.
- To implement a tree-planting scheme within the area, taking precedence from the to historical planting schemes implemented by the Quakers in Ballitore.
- To implement tree-planting in the other villages in order to screen the new road and improve its overall visual appearance and environmental quality.

3. To create a hierarchy of sustainable settlements and ensure a sufficient provision of infrastructural, cultural and social services and facilities for local communities, in particular:

- To provide playing pitches/amenity provision in the area.
- To develop Crookstown as a village settlement with additional but limited and carefully planned housing.
- To create a more even social balance within the Ballitore community by promoting private housing developments in specific sites.
- To establish Ballitore as a distinctive cultural and tourist centre, strengthened by the restoration to a suitable new public use of the Market House; the conversion of the tannery, possibly as an arts centre with studios, residential and gallery facilities and by the continued vigour of the current vibrant library and Quaker Museum.