

Connaught St. & Environs Community Group

Connaught St

Athlone

Connaught street is a traditional high street and is a place of significant cultural heritage for the midlands. For hundreds of years, it has been the main artery connecting east and west, Leinster and Connaught, Westmeath and Roscommon.

We would like to see the following points incorporated into the plan:

History and Heritage

Retain and enhance the architectural structure of the street with any proposed developments in line with the Architectural Conservation Area status.

All developments in the area to be supervised by a suitably qualified archaeologist.

Develop a useful set of streetscape and shopfront guidelines in consultation with the local community to ensure the sensitive and attractive exterior presentation of buildings.

Street Infrastructure

Surface treatment of the street that ties into the historic status of the street.

Footpaths to be made more accessible for all.

Lighting and street furniture to be upgraded and tie in with an attractive streetscape leading to both Athlone Canal and the River Shannon.

Conduct a comprehensive review of the existing services, upgrades required and more services needed. ie. Run cables underground. Remove defunct services, remove all sodium lights and replace with LED's and something that compliments the ACA.

Resolve traffic issues

Current issues include HGV's on the street, narrow footpaths, traffic congestion and ad-hoc parking. We would like to see a comprehensive traffic plan for the street developed in full consultation with the residents and traders.

All new landscaping on the street to tie in to recent part 8 planning applications.

Promote enterprise and local services

An incubation hub for small businesses

Retain and develop sustainable and cultural businesses

Support local services or social enterprises that would serve the circular economy. e.g. Bicycle /Computer repair shops, cobblers etc, second hand furniture stores etc.

Healthcare on the westside – GP Services, Physiotherapist...

Banking services – ATM (Access to cash legislation)

Bakery / Cafes

Boost the Tourism offering in the area:

Support the work of the Athlone Canal Heritage group and work in collaboration with them to further enhance the amenity. We would like to see the canal reopened as an attractive linear waterfront park.

We would like to see greater investment in the Dean Crowe Theatre to enable it to reach its full potential.

Wayfinding strategy and streetscape to tie the area and Connaught Street with the greenway, the canal and the riverfront.

Increase tourism accommodation on the street in keeping with urban fabric.

Capitalize on the accessibility of Connaught Street to the riverfront and improve the numerous existing routes from the street to the river.

Green Infrastructure

Create a communal garden space at gap site currently owned by the council.

Create a comprehensive hard and soft landscaping plan for the street and the adjoining council carparking spaces.

Increase permeability in the area where opportunities arise.

Committee Officials:

Arlene Mc Neill Chairperson

Timothy Dowling Vice Chairperson

Mary Dooley Secretary, [REDACTED]

Joe O'Meara Treasurer