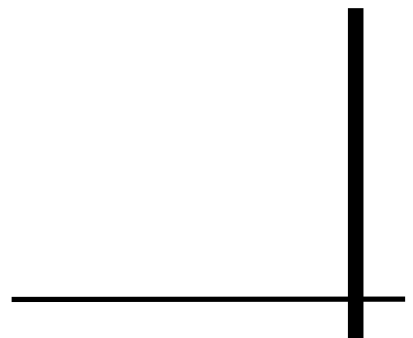


VISION STATEMENT



Vision Statement



Vision Statement

Carrick-on-Shannon has undergone dramatic change over the last ten to fifteen years. During the period 1996-2006 it has been one of the fastest growing towns in Ireland. Strong population growth reflected the strong economic performance the town enjoyed.

The town has emerged as one of the most dynamic and vibrant small towns in Ireland, with a wide range of quality restaurants, speciality shops, outstanding recreational facilities and a thriving arts scene.

The Council believes that Carrick-on-Shannon offers an exceptional quality of life to its residents and that the further development of social economic and cultural facilities, together with recreational facilities, is the key to the future development of the town.

One of the town's greatest strengths is the diverse and exciting range of recreational and cultural attractions on offer within the town. Equally the importance of the River Shannon to the town can not be overstated. The Council recognises that the provision of quality recreational and cultural facilities is important not only for the well-being of the town's citizens, but also for attracting new residents, new employers and tourists.

The town will continue to invest in new and existing cultural, sports and leisure facilities so as to establish itself as a centre of cultural and sporting excellence in the north west.

The town cherishes its strong sense of community. This community spirit will be fostered as the town grows, through the encouragement of voluntary initiatives.

The Council will partner voluntary organisations and other agencies in the provision of social, cultural, recreational and other services. Social, cultural and recreational facilities will be provided in tandem with new residential and employment generating development. As the town expands, new neighbourhoods, with their own community and recreational facilities, will be formed. Safety and security will be designed into new developments from the outset.

The town aims to ensure that employment, educational, recreational and cultural facilities are accessible to all citizens. The needs of persons with disability, the old, the young and disadvantaged will be considered when planning new facilities. Pedestrian and cycle routes will be designed to ensure the town is at least as easily, if not more easily, accessed on foot or bicycle as by car. Through traffic will be diverted around the town while new residential areas and the town centre will be designed to give primacy to the pedestrian rather than the car.

The town's economy has strengthened enormously over the last fifteen years with the development of tourism and the location in and around the town of IDA backed industries and independent inward investments.

The town will build on these successes by ensuring the town continues to be an attractive place to visit and do business in. Every effort will be made to encourage existing industries and other commercial and economic activities to expand and to attract new industries into the town. The town will aim to continue to diversify and expand its employment base. The town's role as a regional service centre, serving the people of County Leitrim and north County Roscommon, will be strengthened.

Carrick-on-Shannon's natural and man-made environment is its greatest asset.

In seeking to grow and enrich itself the town will ensure that these assets are nurtured and protected. Biodiversity, water quality, the town's architectural and archaeological heritage will be protected and where possible and appropriate, enhanced. New development will be designed

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and located so as to make efficient use of infrastructure. Development will be designed so as to be capable of adaptation and change as the town evolves.

Carrick-on-Shannon has its own unique sense of place, largely defined by its relationship to the Shannon. The Council will ensure that this sense of place is strengthened as the town grows. Linkages to the Shannon will be strengthened, the historic core of the town protected and new neighbourhoods developed with their own distinctive character.

This plan puts forward a vision for the future of Carrick-on-Shannon as it continues to evolve, so as to ensure its inherent character is protected and enhanced as the town grows.

This vision statement arises from an analysis of the town as carried out under Section 1 of this Plan.