

Vision

Ashbourne Town Centre

Ashbourne is the second largest town in County Meath, with a population of over 12,000, but its origins can be traced back to medieval times. Traditionally, it was known as Killeglad, and Killeglad Castle once stood along the banks of the Broadmeadow River to the south of the town.

By the early 19th century, Frederick Bourne had purchased the lands of Killeglad. He built a road from Killeglad to Dublin, and Killeglad developed as a popular service stop for travellers. Killeglad was renamed Ashbourne, and the Main Street became Frederick Street.

By the late 20th century, Killeglad Castle had long since fallen to ruin and been demolished, and Ashbourne had grown as a satellite town. Intense economic and physical growth during the early 2000's saw the expansion of the town centre to the west of Frederick Street towards the Broadmeadow River and a new expanded street network. The main street of the extended town centre was named Killeglad Street taking the historical town name.

Rapid physical expansion, as well as changing names of the town and its streets and the establishment of completely new streets, is such that Ashbourne today can be unfamiliar and difficult to read. There is a sense of disorientation and lack of connection between the older and newer parts of the town centre.

Vision for Ashbourne Public Realm

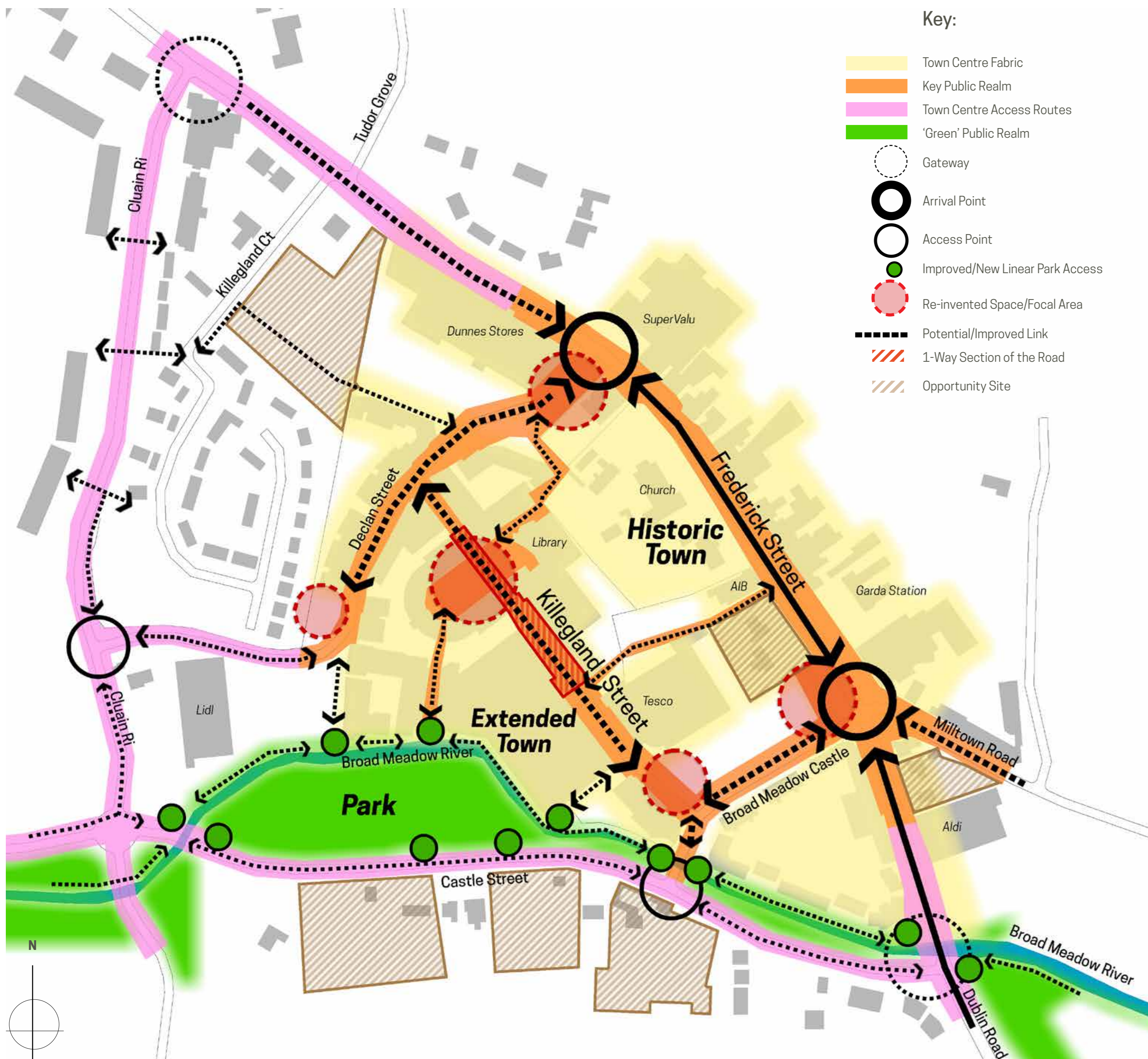
The Vision for the Public Realm is to develop a high quality, attractive and coherent town centre, reflecting the heritage of the town and its people; where streets and spaces of the town centre are distinctive and contribute to sense of place; and where the town centre presents a clear and legible streetscape in which pedestrian and vehicular access is convenient and self-evident.

A strong people focussed public realm that connects the streets, spaces and facilities of the town centre, will underpin the long term social and economic vitality of Ashbourne.

Key Objectives:

- Establishment of clearly defined Gateway and Arrival points to the town centre;
- Coordinated directional signage to key town centre destinations and facilities, including car parking, public transport, retail, commercial, civic and amenity destinations;
- A legible town centre, encompassing the historical Frederick Street and the newer Killeglad Street, and connecting to the surrounding streets, residential areas and amenities;
- Establishment of pedestrian connections to facilitate movement and interaction of people, and to increase footfall within the town centre;
- Enhancing the public realm of streets and public spaces, with high quality paving, seating, street furniture and lighting, creating a distinctive and appealing town centre for residents and visitors;
- Interpretive information to tell the story of Ashbourne, and contribute to a strong sense of place;
- Creating a more people focussed environment within the town centre that is conducive to a more vibrant and authentic town centre destination;
- High quality and accessible pedestrian facilities and linkages, with safer, multi-functional and traffic calmed streets, encouraging walking and community engagement;
- Town mapping at key locations to facilitate way-finding and exploring to the town.

Public Realm Improvement Potential



Killeglad Castle



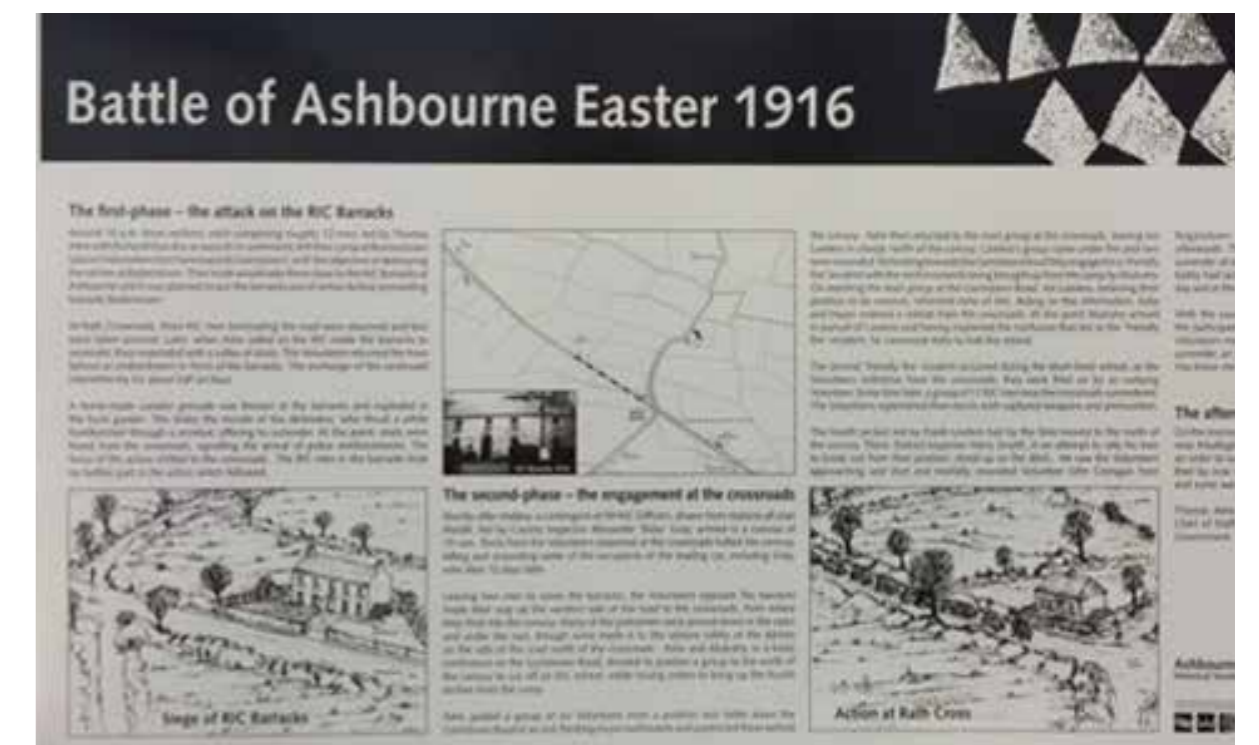
Arkle



The Rath Cross



Fairyhouse Racecourse



Battle of Ashbourne 1916



Battle of Ashbourne commemoration



Challenges & Opportunities

Existing Streetscapes



Killlegland Street



Frederick Street/Declan Street



Frederick Street/Broad Meadow Castle



Declan Street

*Bringing
Streets
to Life*

Opportunities



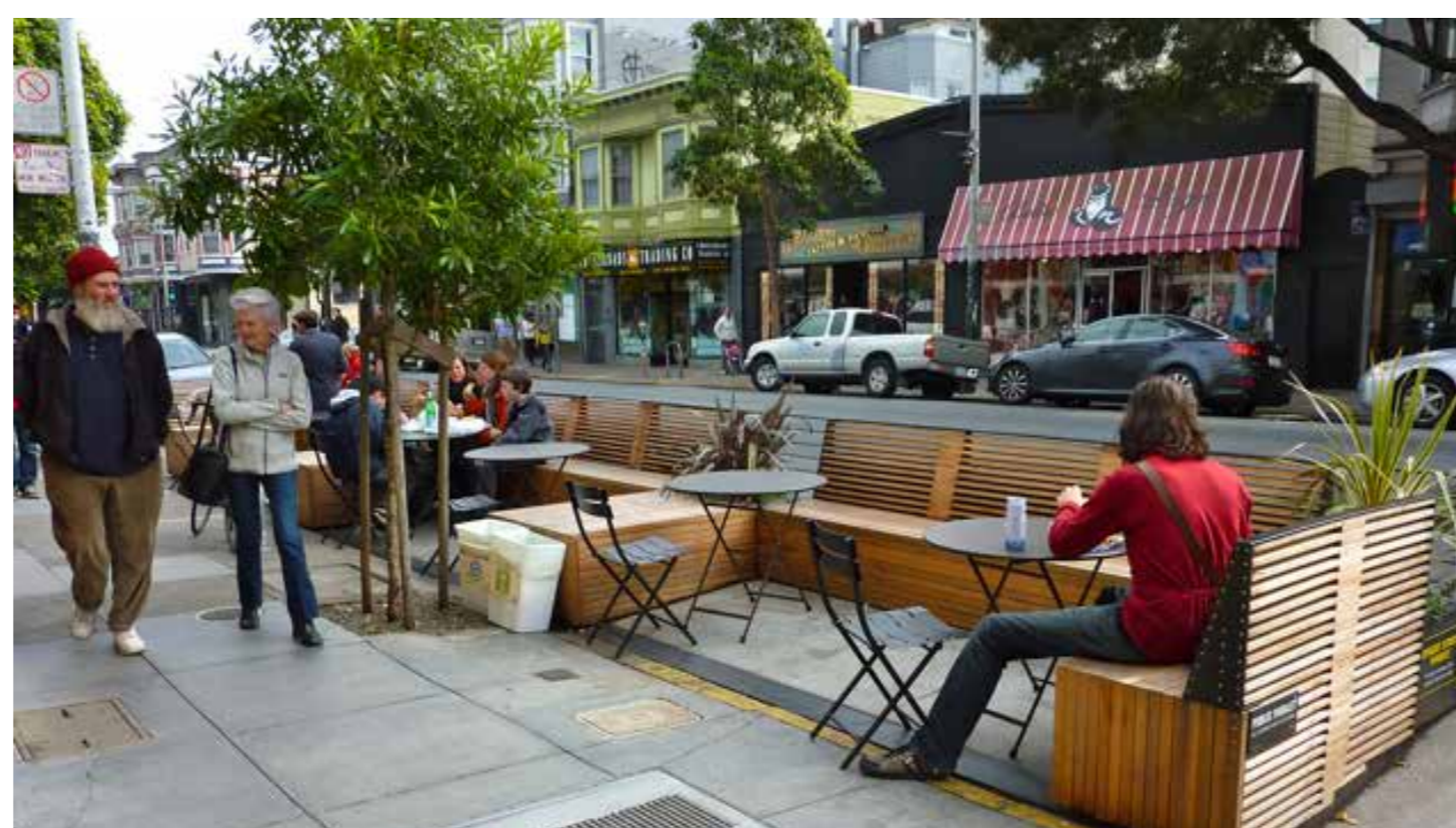
Sint-Niklaas, Belgium



Fade Street Dublin



Park Lane, Poynton



Haight Street, San Francisco



Street planters, Kensington



King Street, Kitchener, Canada

Identity

- Establish legible gateways and entrances
- Names of streets and spaces
- Character and information reflecting heritage and culture
- Look and Feel – coherent materials and street furniture

Connectivity

- Connections between Frederick Street and Killlegland Street
- Connections from town centre to surrounding areas
- Establish active frontage/spaces along desire lines

Streets and Spaces

- People-focussed streets and civic spaces
- De-clutter street bollards, signage, and street furniture
- Soften over-engineered streetscapes
- Seating, lighting, trees and planting
- Animate redundant and underutilised spaces

Street Life

- Active frontages and quality shopfronts
- Seating and gathering spaces
- Colour, lighting and landscape
- Retail, amenity and creative uses – permanent and temporary

Pedestrian Facilities

- Rationalise vehicular space
- Balance pedestrian and vehicular priority
- Safer pedestrian environments
- Widen and/or provide footpaths

Way-Finding and Information

- Effective, quality signage – directional, way-finding and street names
- Street mapping
- Lighting
- Advertising



Public Realm Projects

Frederick Street/Broad Meadow Castle

Existing Characteristics



Qualities:

- Main town centre arrival point
- Entry point to traditional Frederick Street
- Some streetscape upgrades have been implemented
- Visibility along Frederick Street and towards Killagland Street

Issues:

- Absence of civic quality to distinguish entry point to town centre
- Busy road junction, with strong vehicular priority
- Over-dominance of commercial signage
- Cluttered appearance of street furniture and street signage
- Prominence of car parking, traffic and utilities
- Minimal sense of orientation to town centre

Opportunities:

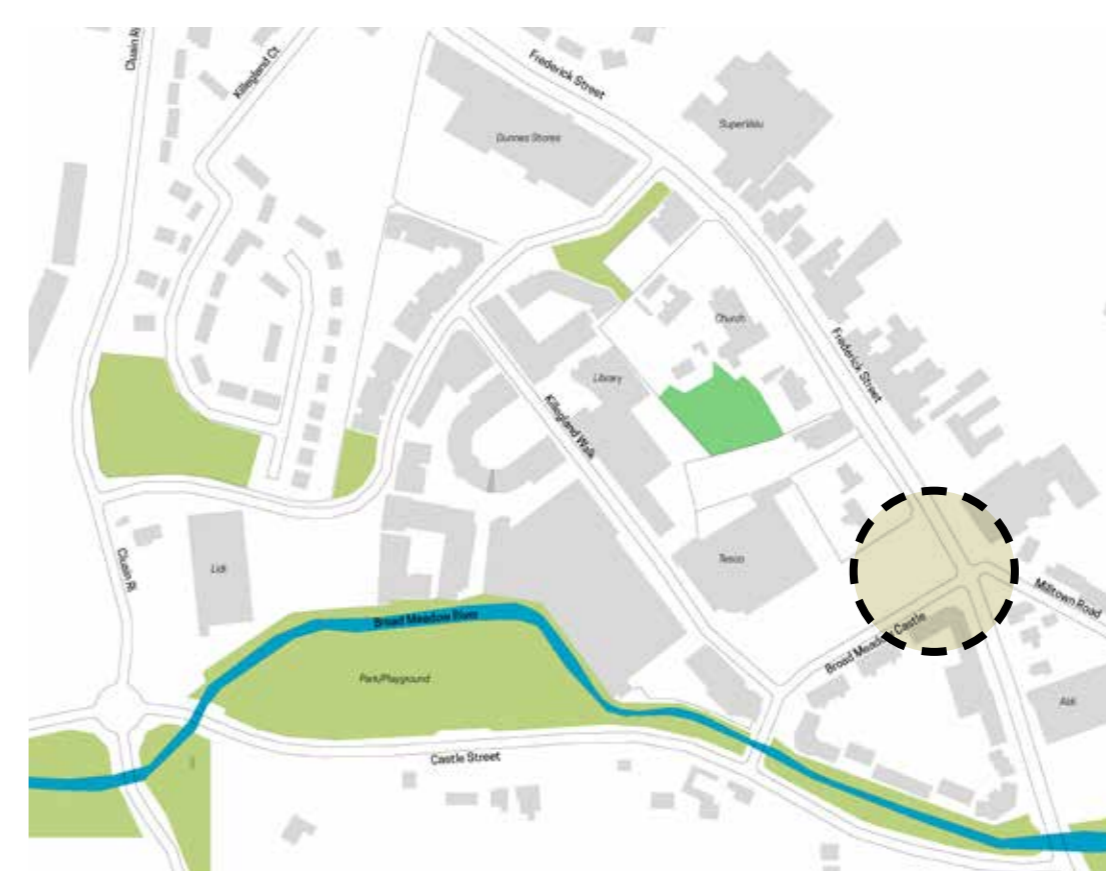
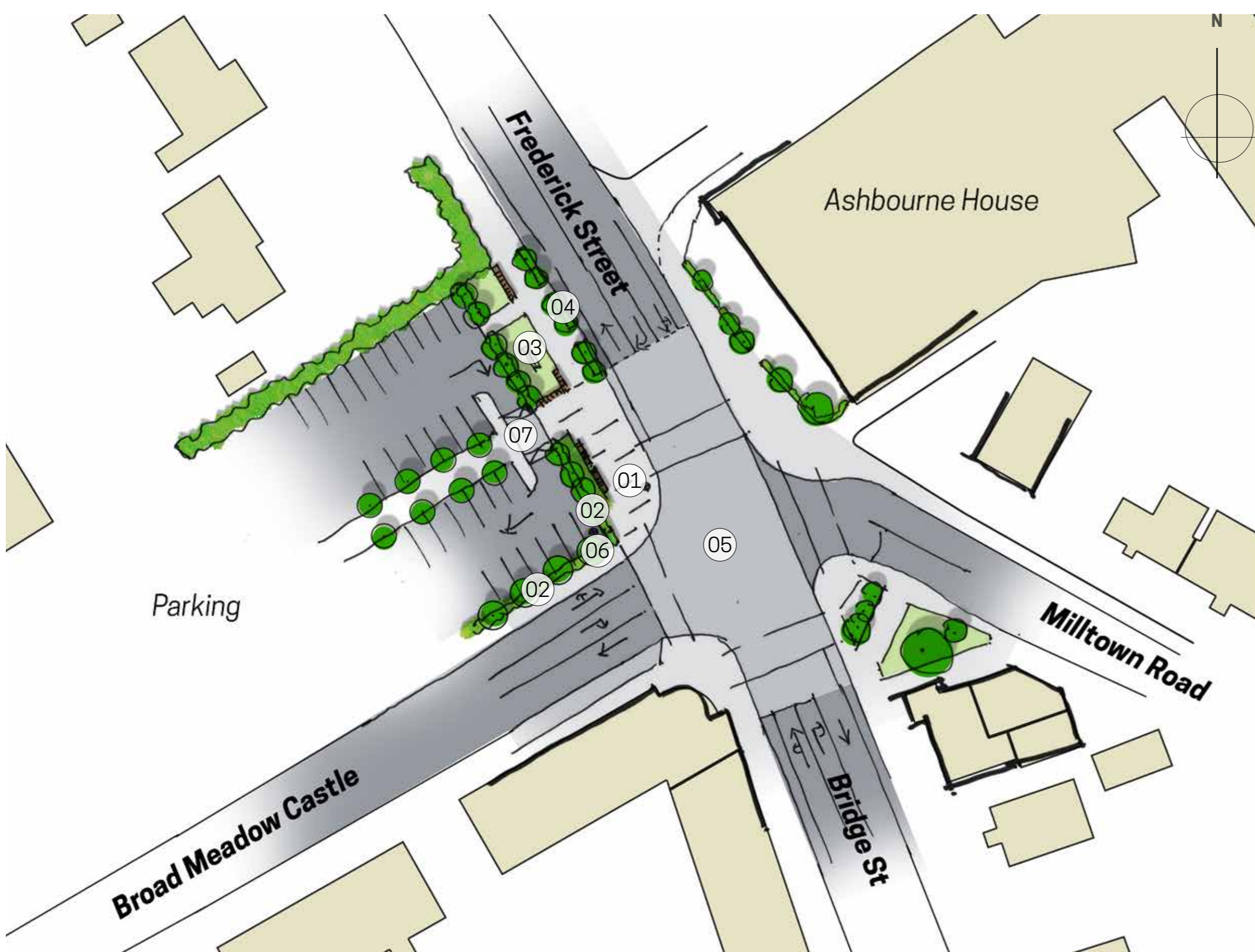
- Create sense of arrival and a strong civic focal point at the town centre
- Optimise pedestrian space by de-cluttering
- Enhance presentation using high quality paving, lighting, street furniture and trees
- Incorporate civic art, integrated directional signage, and interpretive information
- Visually reduce the prominence of road surfaces and traffic.

Public Realm Improvement Potential



Recommendations:

- Establish an arrival point and civic space at this junction as a welcoming and focal point
- Provide strong definition of the streetscape space and pedestrian environment
- Visual boundary to adjacent car parking, and possible expansion of pavement space
- Raised table junction treatment and surface material to differentiate space from carriageways
- Rationalise traffic management infrastructure, including bollards
- Sculpture appropriate to town arrival - potential to relocate Arkle statue
- Integrated welcoming, directional and way-finding signage
- Soft landscape, quality paving, seating and lighting
- Soften the hard landscape, de-clutter bollards



Location Map

Key:

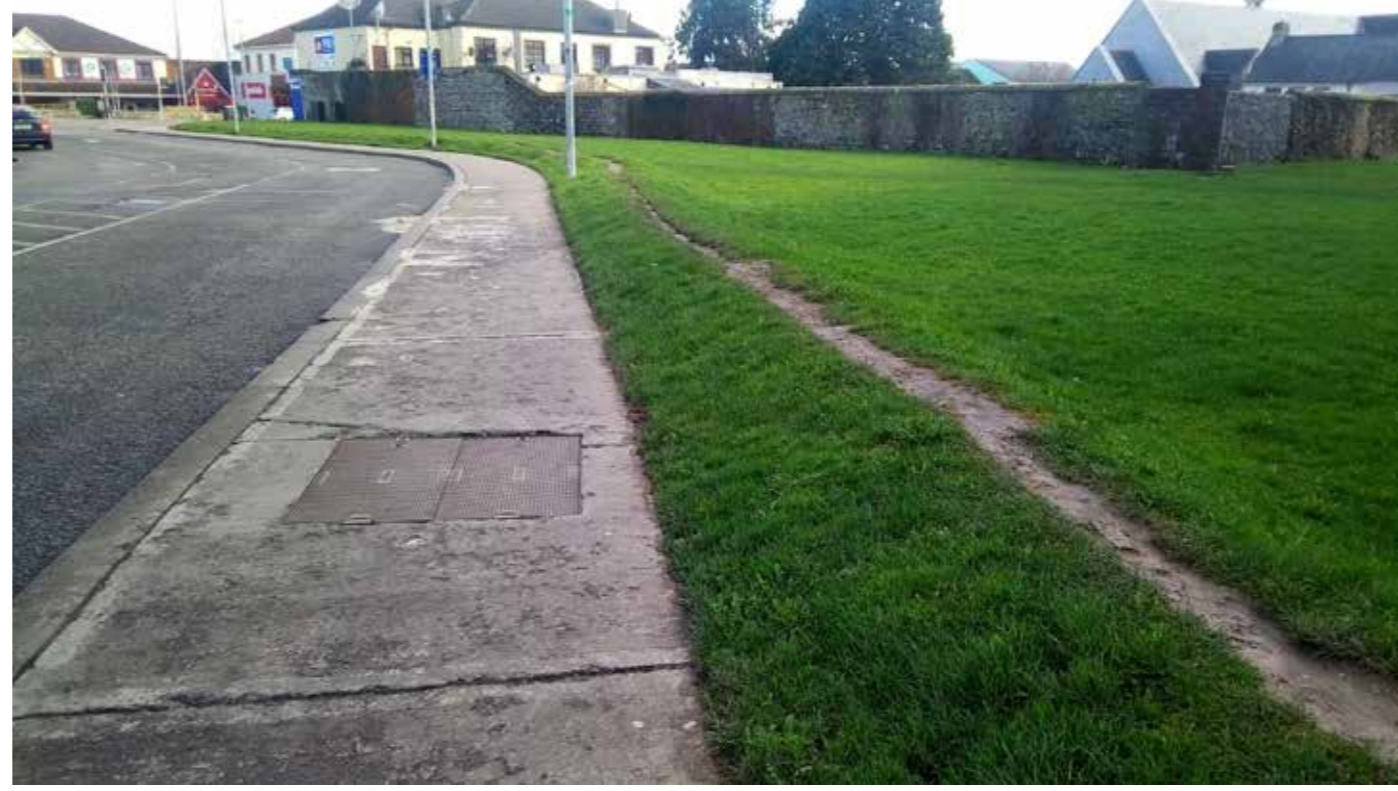
1. Civic space at town entrance with seating, lighting and information/wayfinding signage
2. Hedges and trees to reduce prominence of parked cars
3. Potential prominent location for Arkle sculpture at entrance to town
4. Street planter with high canopy trees
5. Raised table junction with high quality pedestrian crossings
6. Advertisement signage location
7. Raised table carpark crossing



Public Realm Projects

Declan Street/Frederick Street Park

Existing Characteristics



Qualities:

- Main town centre entry point from north
- Visibility along Declan Street and towards Killelland Street
- Wide road space with potential for enhancement
- Large green space defined by traditional stone wall (on left of view)

Issues:

- Under-utilised and presents poorly or unfinished
- Lack of civic quality as entry point to town centre
- Busy road junction, with strong vehicular priority
- Blank and hard aspect of retail store to roadway
- Basic materials are of roadway specifications rather than public space
- Unattractive pedestrian environment
- Minimal sense of orientation to town centre

Opportunities:

- Create a civic space as an arrival point to the town centre that is pedestrian focussed
- Utilise the green space for visual and pedestrian amenity
- Establish a sense of 'street' rather than 'road'
- Enhance presentation using high quality paving, lighting, seating, trees and landscape
- Integrated directional signage, and interpretive information
- Improve pedestrian crossing facilities, existing and new

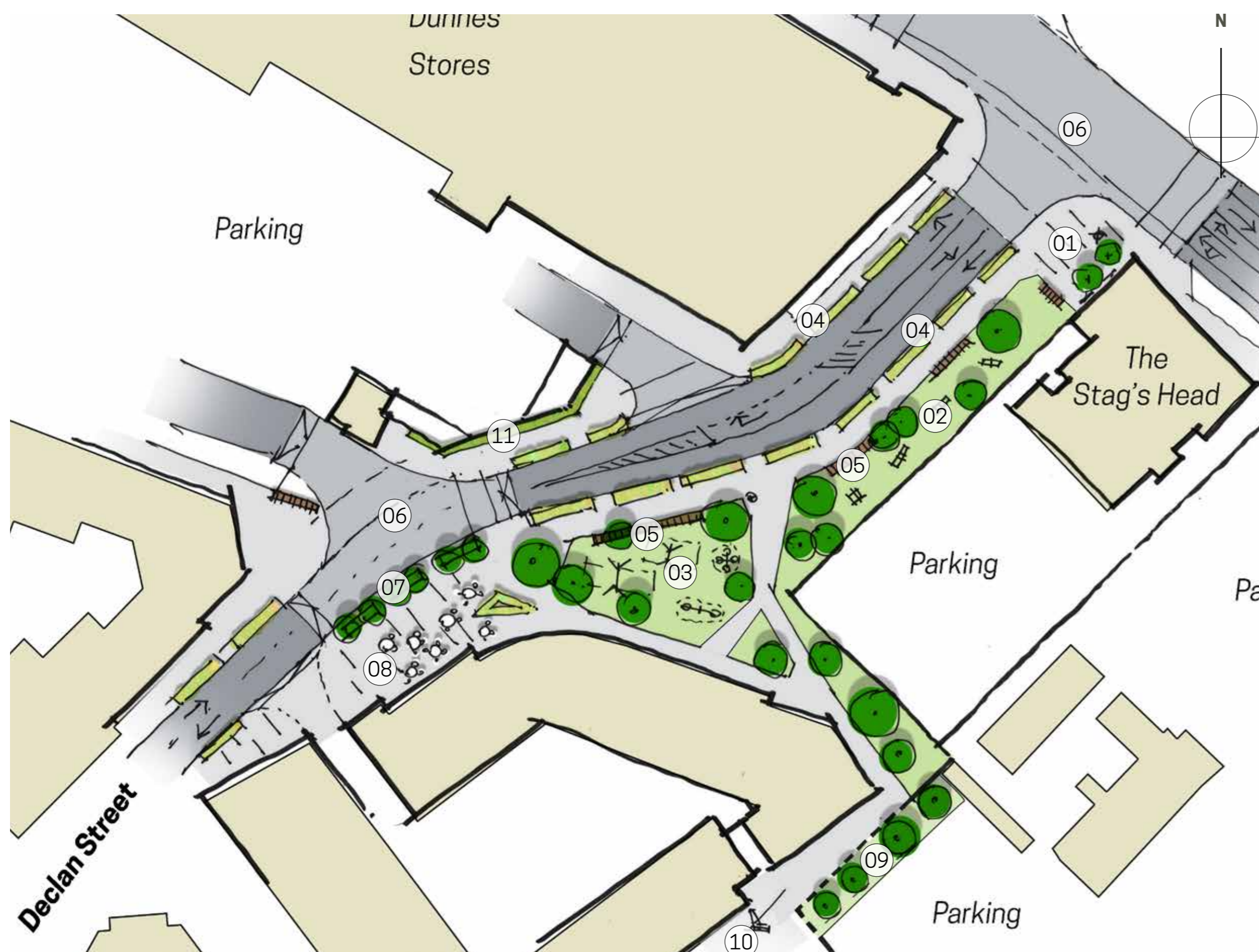
Public Realm Improvement Potential



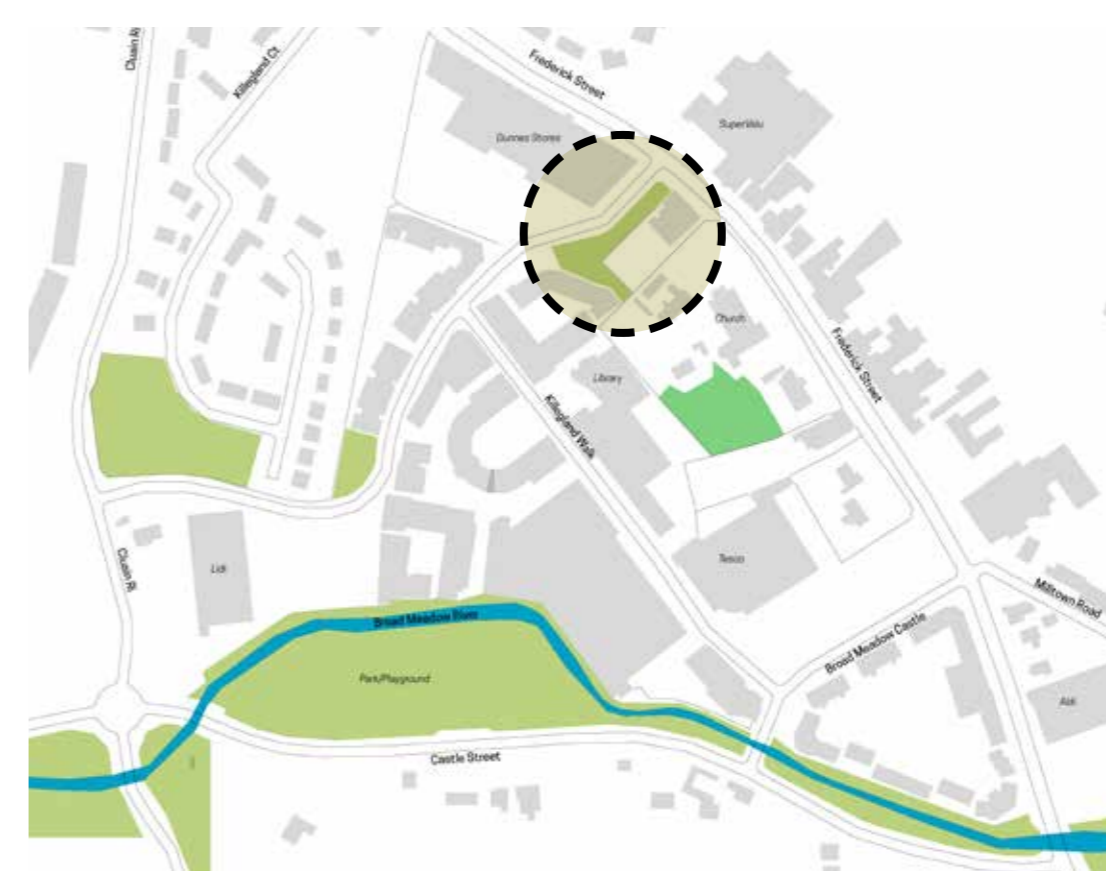
Indicative Proposal

Recommendations:

- Establish a civic space at the gable of The Stag's Head as an arrival and focal point, and connecting to a high quality landscaped green space
- Potential sculpture appropriate to town at civic space
- Integrated welcoming, directional and way-finding signage
- Raised table junction with crossings, differentiated from carriageway, at Frederick Street and Dominick Street
- Pocket park with seating, outdoor gym equipment and small playground
- Potential pedestrian link through to Library Square, subject to agreement with stakeholders
- Enhance streetscape using high quality paving, lighting, and street furniture coherent with Frederick Street
- Replace bollards with combined planters, lighting and seating



Proposed Plan



Location Map

Pa Key:

1. Civic space with seating, trees and information/wayfinding signage
2. Pocket park with outdoor gym equipment
3. Playground
4. Street planter
5. Seating
6. Raised table junction/crossing
7. Street planter with high canopy trees
8. Outdoor seating area (cafe/restaurant)
9. Potential green buffer zone to Church carpark
10. Pedestrian link to Library Square
11. Pergola/hedge screening

Public Realm Projects

Killegland Street South

Existing Characteristics



Qualities:

- Killegland Street arrival point
- Visibility along Killegland Street
- Busy space particularly during the day
- Proximate to both large public car parks (multi-storey and underground)

Issues:

- Under-utilised and presents poorly or unfinished
- Busy road junction, with strong vehicular priority
- Cluttered appearance of street furniture and street signage
- Over-engineered streetscape, lack of pedestrian crossings
- Basic materials are of roadway specifications rather than public space
- Minimal sense of orientation to town centre

Opportunities:

- Create a pedestrian focussed public space
- Enhance presentation using high quality paving, lighting, seating, trees and landscape
- Optimise the layout and elements of pedestrian spaces
- Incorporate civic art, integrated directional signage, and interpretive information
- Improve pedestrian crossing facilities, existing and new

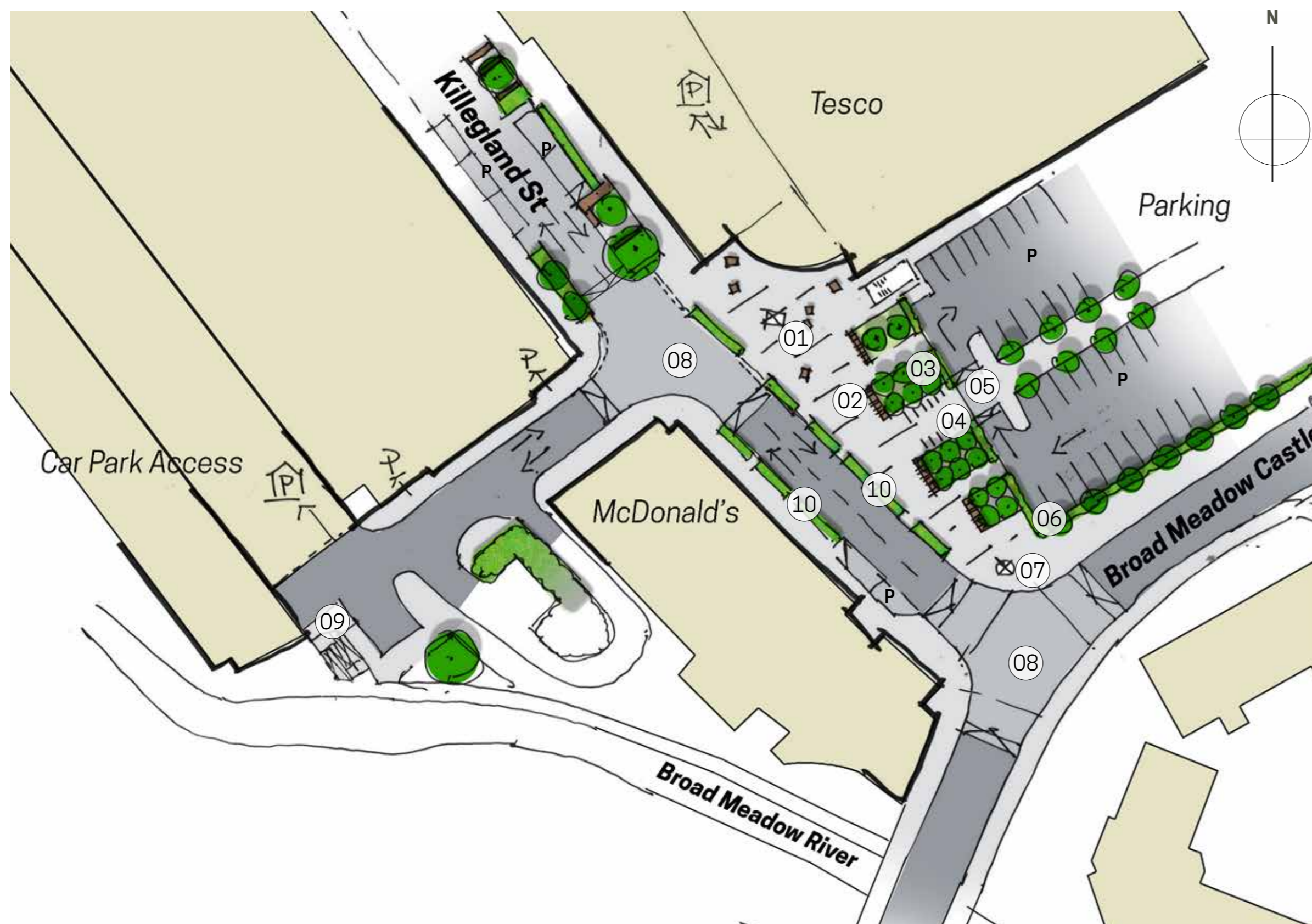
Public Realm Improvement Potential



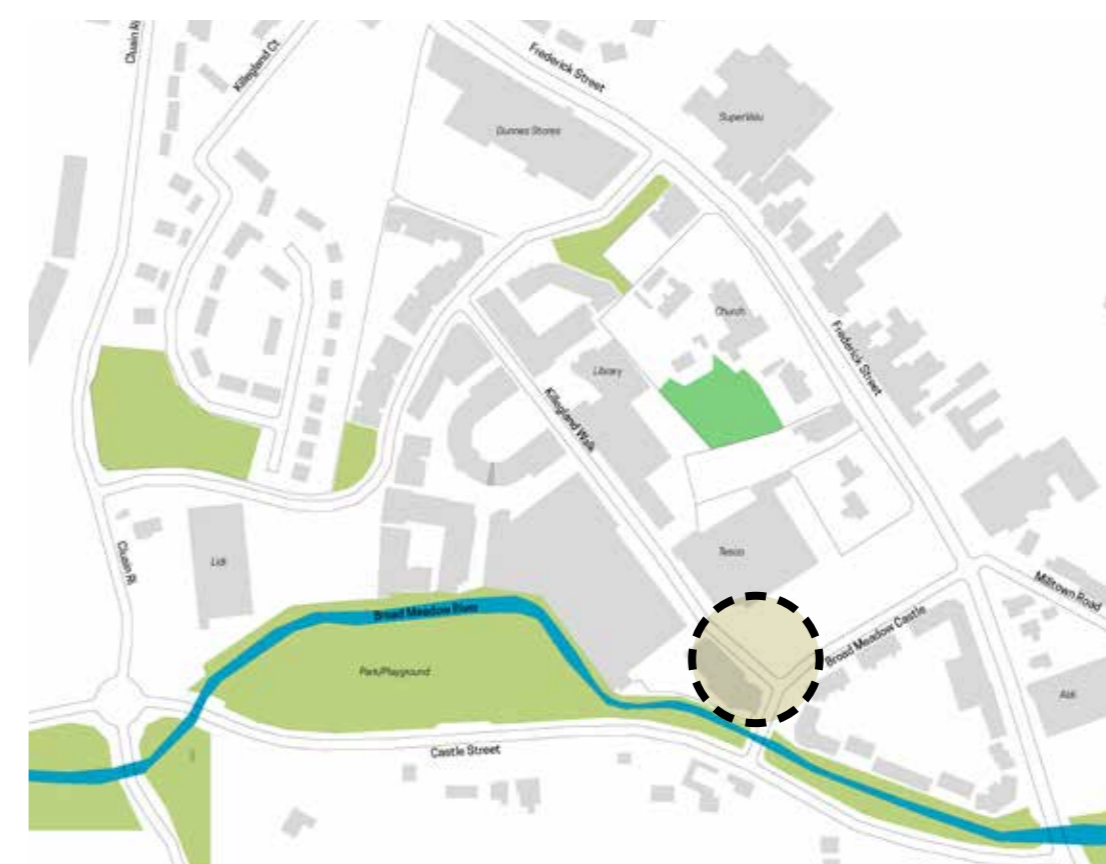
Indicative Proposal

Recommendations:

- Establish a civic space at this location as an arrival and focal point
- Provide strong definition of the streetscape space and pedestrian environment
- Visual boundary to adjacent car parking, and possible expansion of footpath dimension
- Raised table junction treatment and surface material to differentiate space from carriageways
- Integrated information, directional and way-finding signage
- Soft landscape, quality paving, seating and lighting
- Soften the hard landscape
- Replace bollards with combined planters, lighting and seating
- Reduce carriageway widths where possible to ensure comfortable footpath space
- Remove traffic island at current pedestrian crossing opposite McDonald's and introduce additional crossings at Broad Meadow Castle/Killegland Street junction
- Explore potential of River Walk pedestrian access point



Proposed Plan



Location Map

Key:

1. Civic space with seating and information signage
2. Pedestrian zone with seating
3. Landscaped area with tree planting and seating
4. Bicycle parking
5. Raised table pedestrian crossing
6. Carpark screening
7. Wayfinding
8. Raised table junction with pedestrian crossing
9. River walk potential access point
10. Street planters

Public Realm Projects

Killegland Street

Existing Characteristics



Qualities:

- High activity street both by day and some parts by night
- Number of good shopfronts and active frontages
- Primary retail spine of town centre

Issues:

- Dominance of parked cars, carpark building, and traffic
- Cluttered appearance of street furniture and street signage
- Over-engineered street edge
- Limited landscaping and street furniture, and lacking consistency
- Basic and low quality finishes that are unattractive and undermine the potential appeal of the public realm
- Number of unattractive shop fronts and multistorey carpark facade

Opportunities:

- Improve the legibility and uses of the street by an integrated design for high quality paving, lighting, street furniture and planting
- Encourage/accommodate street frontages to increase activity and diversity from day through to evening
- Improve and widen street footpaths that can facilitate stronger retail, social and creative uses of the street and enhance urban life of the town
- Potential one-way section of street to widen pedestrian space (see below, and also Killegland Street Square & Crescent page)

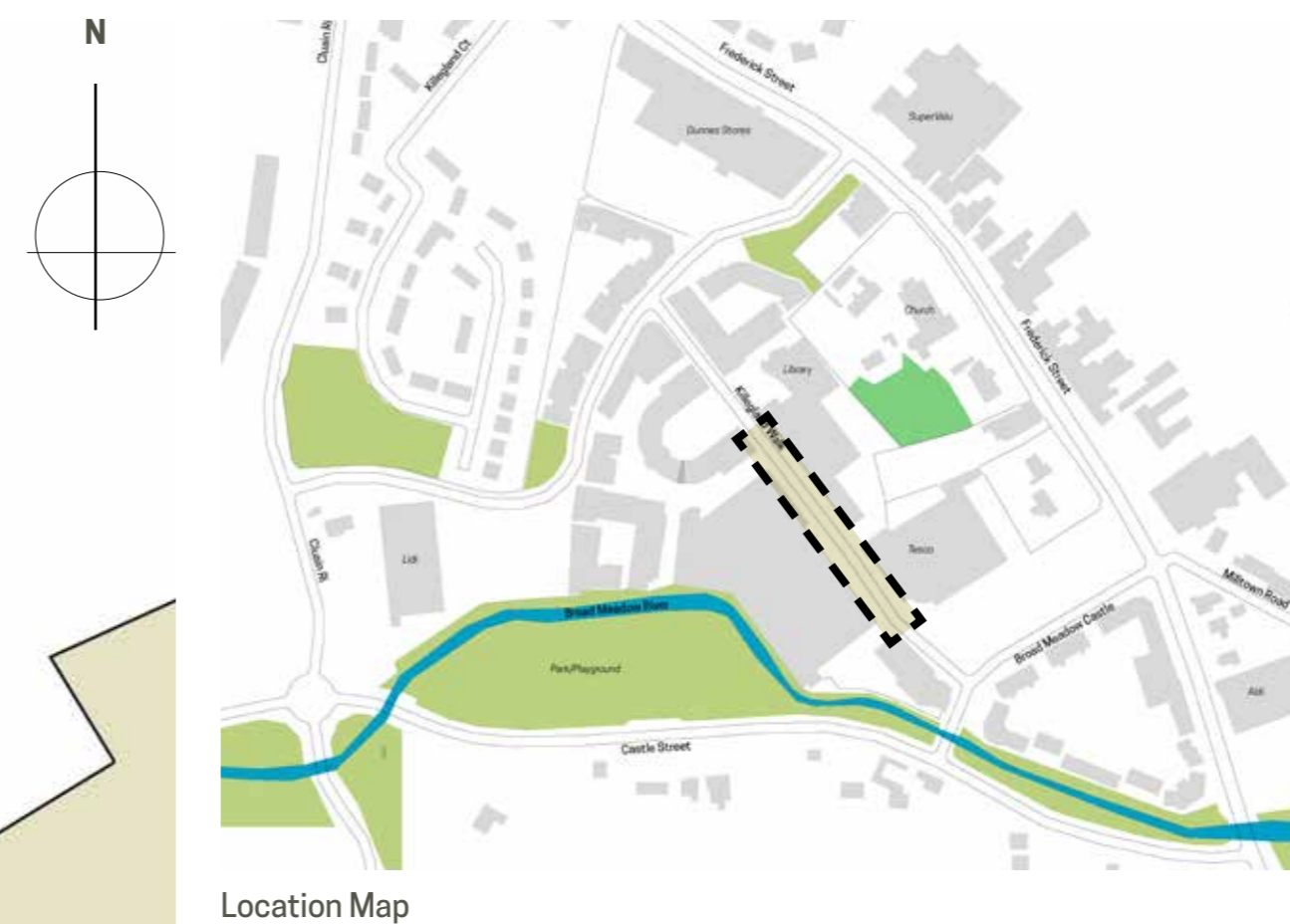
Public Realm Improvement Potential



Indicative Proposal

Recommendations:

- Opportunity to introduce a short one-way section on Killegland Street, maintaining service and access to carparks, retaining on-street parking, and increasing pedestrian / retail space
- Wider pavement widths to ensure comfortable pedestrian space and encourage passive amenity
- Introduce 'green' public realm approach by providing appropriate planting in number of locations
- Improve streetscape by using high quality paving, lighting, and street furniture coherent with Frederick Street
- Remove concrete bollards and soften the highly engineered road edges by introducing street planters and pockets of enclosed seating
- Provide raised level paved carriageway along one-way section of the street so as to reinforce the visual appeal of the street and to clearly signal the pedestrian nature of the street
- Re-configure selected on street parking spaces to optimise footpath widths and pedestrian space as key locations where appropriate
- Facilitate on street loading and disabled parking bays
- Minimise street signage and footpath clutter
- Introduce polycarbonate multicolor panels or similar to multistorey carpark facade



Key:

1. One-way section of the street; car park access from either end of street
2. Two-way section of the street
3. Pedestrian build-outs, with planting and seating, to indicate pedestrian street
4. Street planter with high canopy trees
5. Street planter

Proposed Plan

Public Realm Projects

Killegland Street Square & Crescent

Existing Characteristics



Qualities:

- Good size public space with extensive retail frontage
- Adjoining County Library and main retail street with direct access to underground carpark
- Legible urban spaces, mostly defined by four storey modern buildings on all sides

Issues:

- Space divided by road
- Not delivering a sense of quality/ civic space
- Over-dominance of parked cars and traffic.
- Lack of connectivity and poor pedestrian environment
- Under-utilised and generally poorly presented
- Cluttered appearance of street furniture and street bollards
- Basic and low quality finishes that are unattractive and undermine the potential appeal of the public realm
- No sense of connection to town centre

Opportunities:

- Reinforce as a pedestrian focussed public space and connect both spaces visually and functionally
- Enhance presentation using high quality paving, lighting, seating, trees and landscape
- Encourage/accommodate street frontages to increase activity and diversity from day through to evening.
- Potential to develop daytime street performance
- Potential one-way section of street (see below)
- Potential one-way section of street (see below, and also *Killegland Street* page)

Public Realm Improvement Potential



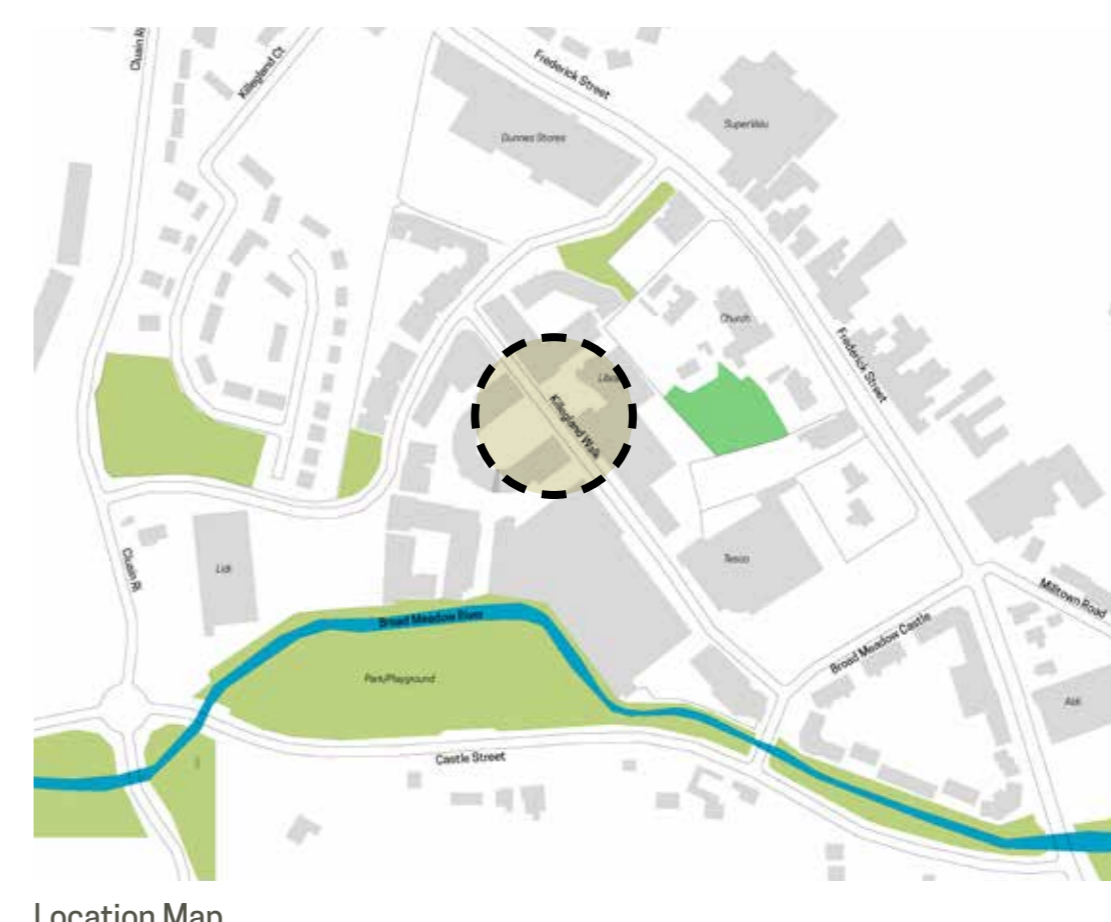
Indicative Proposal

Recommendations:

- Re-think civic space as Killegland Street focal point
- Provide strong definition of the streetscape space and pedestrian environment, and join the two public spaces
- Enhance presentation using high quality paving, lighting, seating, trees in planters and landscape
- Soften the hard landscape
- Replace bollards with combined planters, lighting and seating
- Consider introduction of one-way section of Killegland Street, maintaining service and access to carparks, retaining on-street parking, and increasing pedestrian / retail space
- Provide raised table paved carriageway along this section of the street so as to connect both sides of the square, increase pedestrian priority, and reinforce the visual appeal of the combined street and public space
- Consider catenary lighting over the space to create unique character
- Introduce covered shelter around carpark vent
- Integrated information and way-finding signage
- Facilitate on street loading and drop-off bay
- Re-arrange steps at the Crescent Square to create larger usable area for street performances etc.



Proposed Plan



Location Map

Key:

1. Library Square with rearranged steps and seating
2. Crescent Square
3. Raised table at Killegland Street, connecting the squares and facilitating drop-off
4. Seating area
5. Street planter with high canopy trees
6. Sheltered seating area
7. Planter with high canopy trees and seating
8. Planters around carpark pedestrian exit/entrance
9. Outdoor seating area (cafe/restaurant)
10. Feature paved road surface
11. Catenary feature lighting over the public space



Public Realm Projects

Declan Street

Existing Characteristics



Qualities:

- Good scale urban street
- Visibility along Declan Street and towards Frederick Street
- Number of active frontages
- Good retail potential

Issues:

- Lack of activity and number of vacant ground floor units along the street
- Over-engineered street edge with excessive number of bollards and infrastructure
- Steile and hard streetscape with limited visual interest
- Limited landscaping and street furniture
- Unattractive pedestrian environment
- Minimal sense of orientation to town centre
- Redundant and ineffective cycle space

Opportunities:

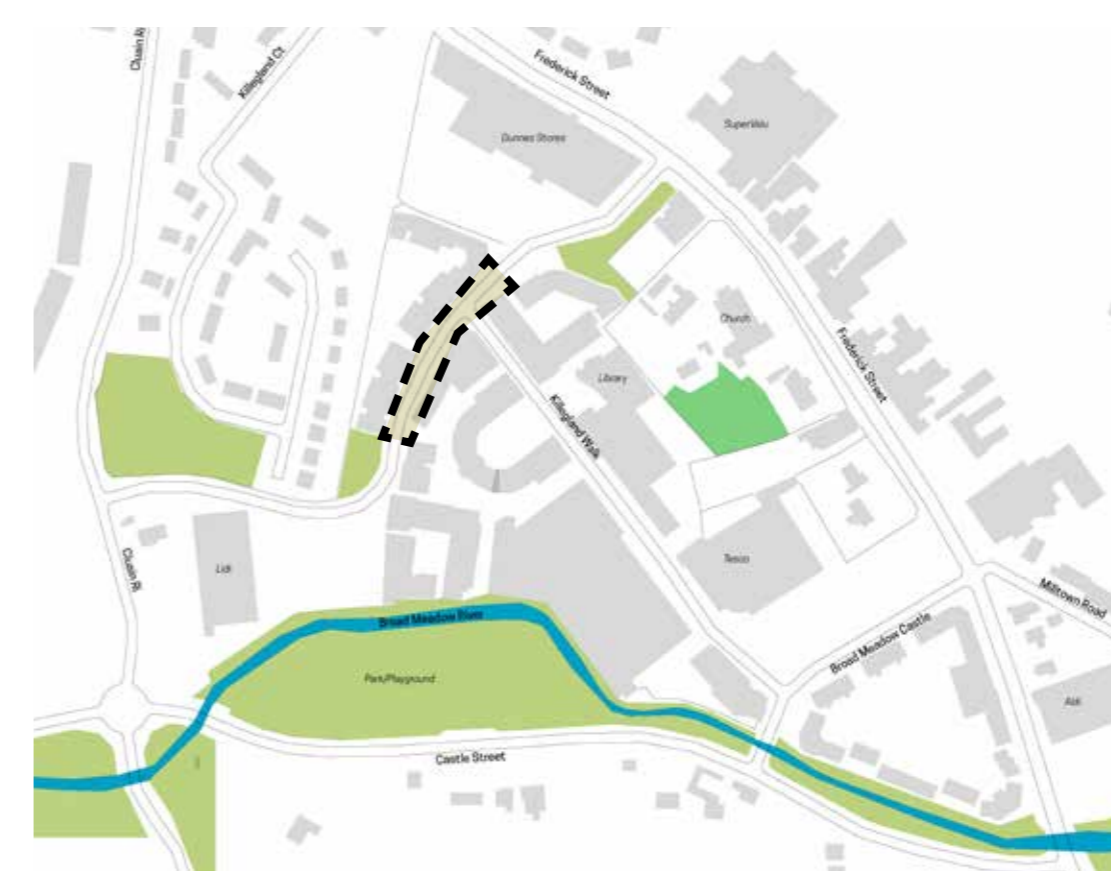
- Establish a sense of 'street' rather than 'road'
- Enhance presentation using high quality paving, lighting, seating, trees and landscape
- To encourage/accommodate street frontages to increase activity and diversity from day through to evening
- To improve and widen street footpaths mainly by removing unused cycle track that can facilitate stronger retail, social and creative uses of the street and enhance urban life of the town
- Low speed street can accommodate cyclists and other road users
- Improve pedestrian crossing facilities, existing and new

Public Realm Improvement Potential



Recommendations:

- Improve streetscape by using high quality paving, lighting, and street furniture coherent with Frederick Street
- Remove cycle track to provide comfortable pavement space, and establish shared street for all users
- Replace bollards with combined planters, lighting and seating
- Provide number of raised table car access crossings to enhance pedestrian movement, slow traffic speeds, and encourage cyclist use of the carriageway
- Introduce raised table junction at Declan Street/Killegland Street



Location Map

Key:

1. Raised table junction
2. High canopy trees
3. Raised table vehicular access
4. Street planter
5. Street planter with seating



Public Realm Projects

Declan Street Pocket Park

Existing Characteristics



Qualities:

- Good size open space
- Easily accessible from Declan Street
- Good solar orientation

Issues:

- Under-utilised and presents poorly or unfinished
- Blank and hard aspect of boundaries

Opportunities:

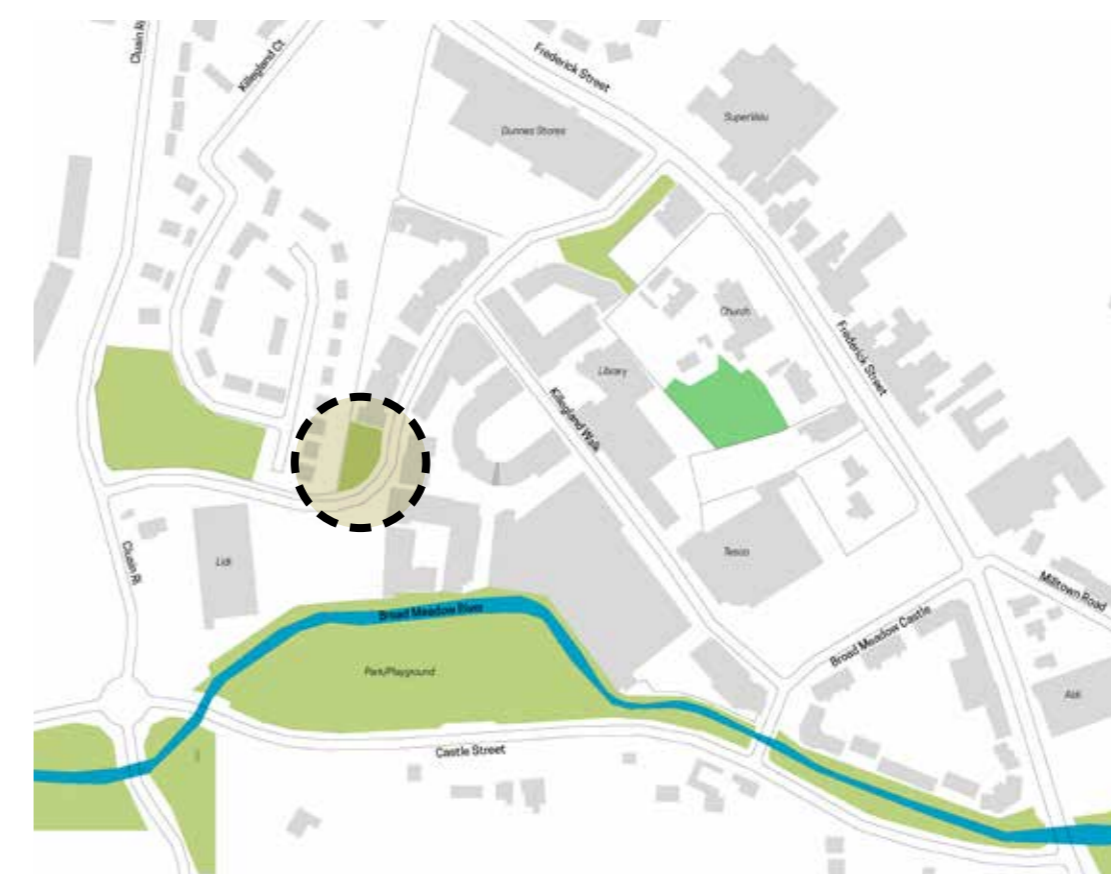
- Create a pedestrian focussed public space
- Utilise the green space for visual and pedestrian amenity
- Enhance presentation using high quality paving, lighting, seating, trees and landscape
- Improve pedestrian crossing facilities

Public Realm Improvement Potential



Recommendations:

- Redesign space as a pocket park for visual and pedestrian amenity
- Improve streetscape by using high quality paving, lighting, planters and street furniture coherent with proposals for Declan Street
- Introduce raised table pedestrian crossing
- Introduce climbers to boundary walls to create an attractive setting for the pocket park



Location Map

Key:

1. Amenity space with seating
2. Planting area
3. Raised table pedestrian crossing
4. Street planters with high canopy trees
5. Raised table vehicular access
6. Screen planting
7. Pedestrian link to park
8. Rearranged parking to provide pedestrian link

Proposed Plan



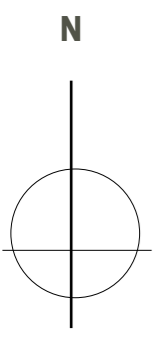
Overall Key Public Realm Projects



Declan Street



Declan Street/Frederick Street Park



Killlegland Street Square & Crescent



Killlegland Street



Frederick Street/Broad Meadow Castle



Declan Street Pocket Park



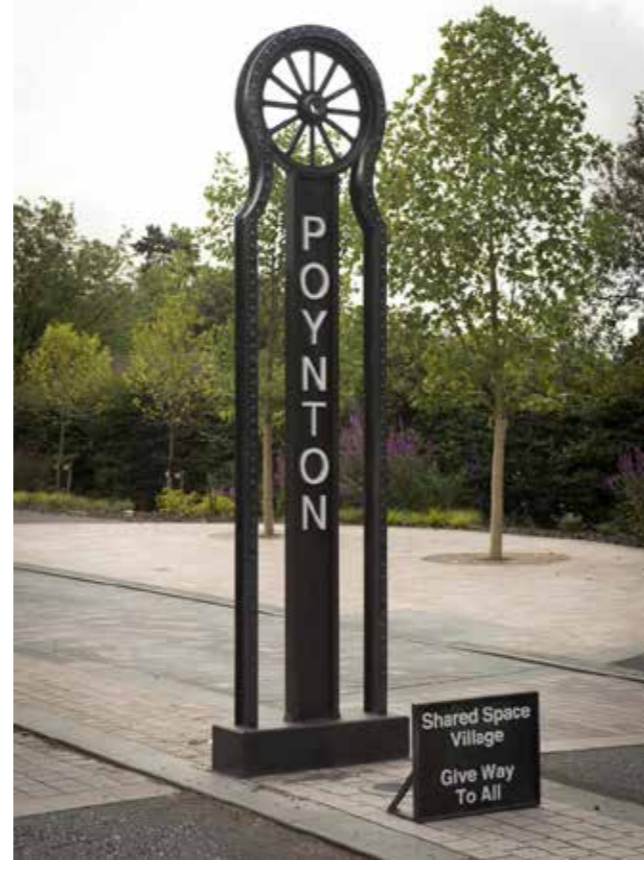
Killlegland Street South



Signage & Town Mapping



Wayfinding



Town Entry/Welcome



Information



Street Naming

Wayfinding Strategy

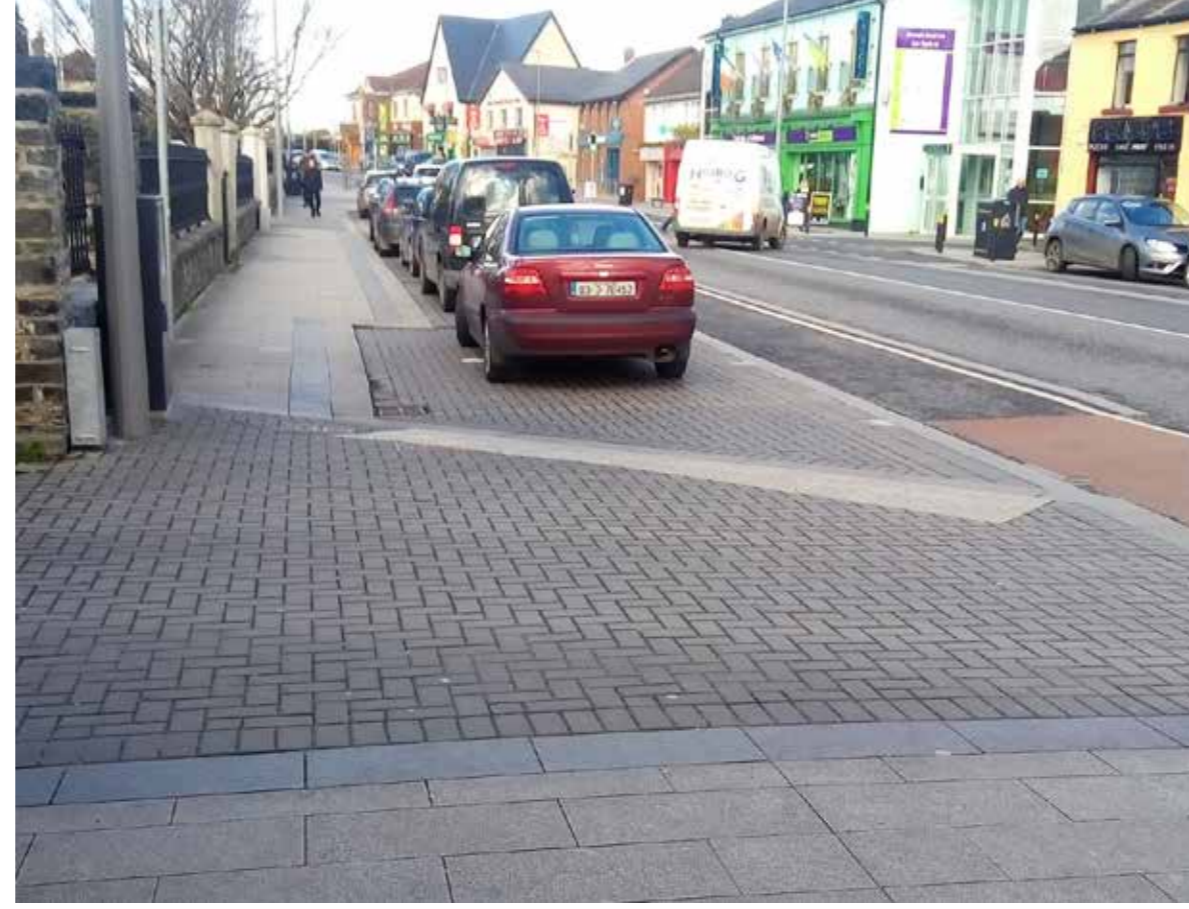


Material Palettes

Typical surface materials and finishes



Light grey flag paving similar to Frederick St



Dark grey setts to driveways and parking bays similar to Frederick St



Feature dark/light grey setts to part of carriageway on Killeglad Street



Light grey setts to raised pedestrian crossing



Kerb detail similar to Frederick St

Typical street furniture and planting



Black litter bin



Tree grille



Timber bench



Street lamp similar to Frederick Street



Quality black bicycle racks



Use heritage style black bollards, only if required



Urban Street planters/seating examples

