

Town Centre First & Public Realm Improvement Plan

➔ What is it?

Town Centre First represents a new approach to the development of our towns where local communities and local businesses can be central to reimagining their own towns and planning their own futures.

Public Realm is defined as all outdoor areas in the town which are accessible to the public and will include the layout of the roads, pedestrian spaces, crossing points, parking, lighting, signage, street furniture, vegetation, art and more.

➔ The engagement process

The project proposals will be based on a balance between community engagement, surveys and technical knowhow. We need to know from you how you think Gort could be improved - both in terms of the town and its amenities as a whole, and in specifics about the public realm design.

This is the first stage of the engagement process which is based on gathering thoughts, the communities ideas, along with facts and function that we need to consider. We will then take all of this information and prepare draft strategic proposals for the Town Centre First Plan and concept ideas for the public realm.

There will be continued engagement throughout the process and further community engagement events for everyone to contribute to the emerging ideas.

This is a unique opportunity for the community in Gort to come together and decide on its future, with the Council and BDP collaborating with the community and helping to guide this process from start to finish.

➔ What we are doing

Galway County Council has appointed BDP to prepare the Town Centre First and Public Realm Improvement Plan for Gort Town Centre.

The decision making process will be informed by the Town Centre First Plan. This plan will be issued as part of the collaborative, information/data gathering process for the drafting of the Gort Local Area Plan, the Gort Traffic Management Plan, the Local Transport Plan, and the Walking and Cycling Strategy.

The Gort Public Realm Improvement Project shall, by design, encourage visitors to explore the town by highlighting what it has to offer. The spaces developed should encourage social interaction, visitor dwell time, and be pleasant and enjoyable areas to spend time in.

GORT

Town Centre First Masterplan Public Realm Regeneration Scheme

Consultation Event

Time: 4:00 to 7:00pm on Thursday 12th January 2023
Venue: Sullivan's Royal Hotel Ballroom, Gort, Co. Galway.

An opportunity to meet the design team from BDP to discuss the opportunities for improving the streets and spaces in the town centre.

Give us your opinion!
streets@bdp.com

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Galway County Council

➔ Programme & Process



Following this initial process the Council will be making funding applications to hopefully secure the necessary funds to build the public realm project. This remains a competitive process and projects selected must show ambition and align with the Town Centre First regeneration objectives.

Town Centre First & Public Realm Improvement Plan

➔ Project Extents

Two project areas The blue outline is the area we are looking at for the Town Centre First, which covers the whole town, the public realm improvement plan shown in red covers only the core streets.



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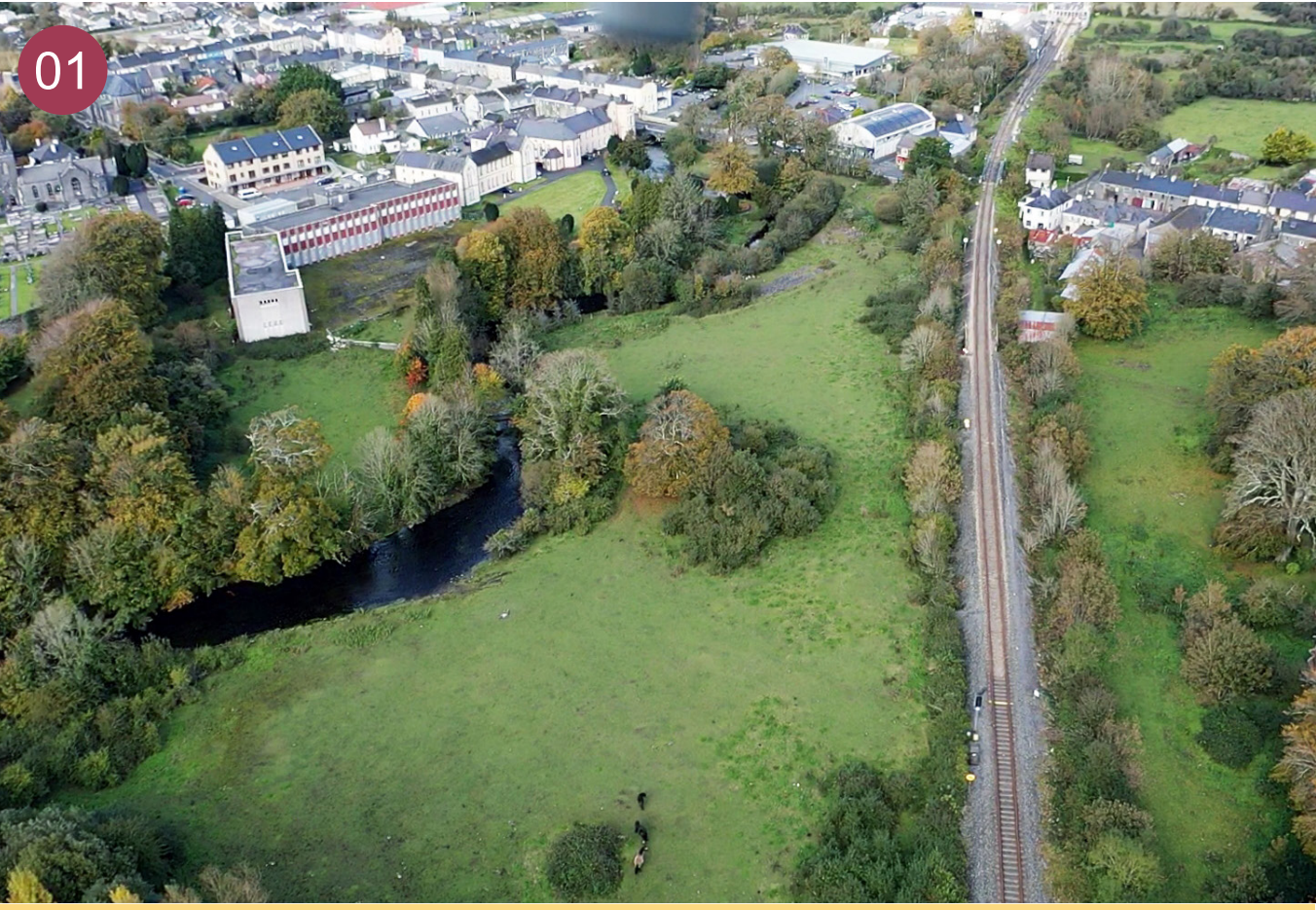


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Potential for enhancement There are lots of underused spaces within the town - we are keen to find out from the community which can be considered as a future opportunity to enhance further the town.



Land next to the river



Backland Areas



Improving access and parking



New Opportunities



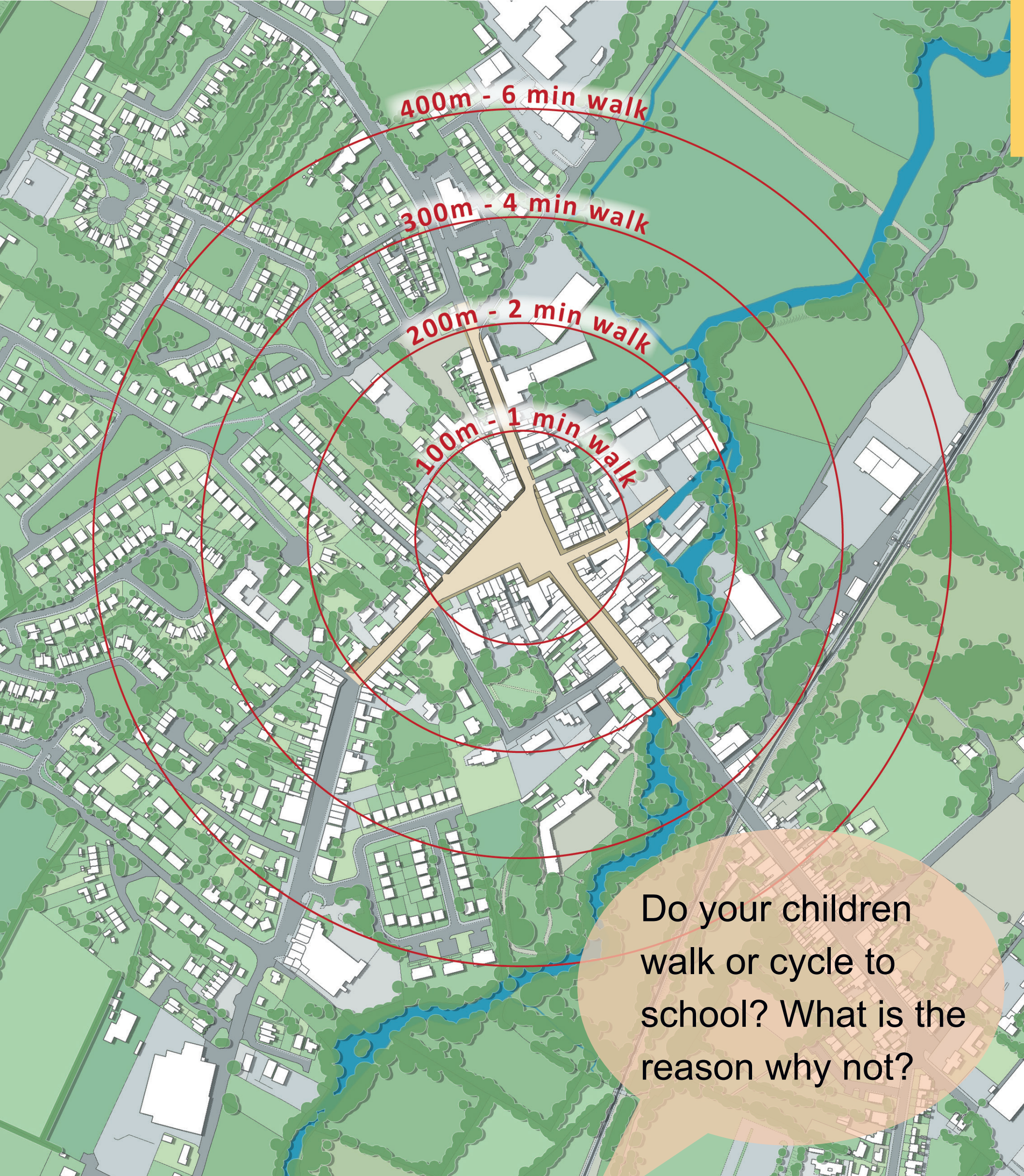
School Site



Access to development sites

Public Realm Improvement Plan

➡ Understanding the existing



What can we make better? We are keen to find out from the community what people think would improve the public realm, how it currently works and where any changes could take place



Do the junctions work?



What about wayfinding, signage and lighting?



Potential for public art?



Are there enough crossings?



Are there opportunities for outdoor dining and an enhanced evening economy?

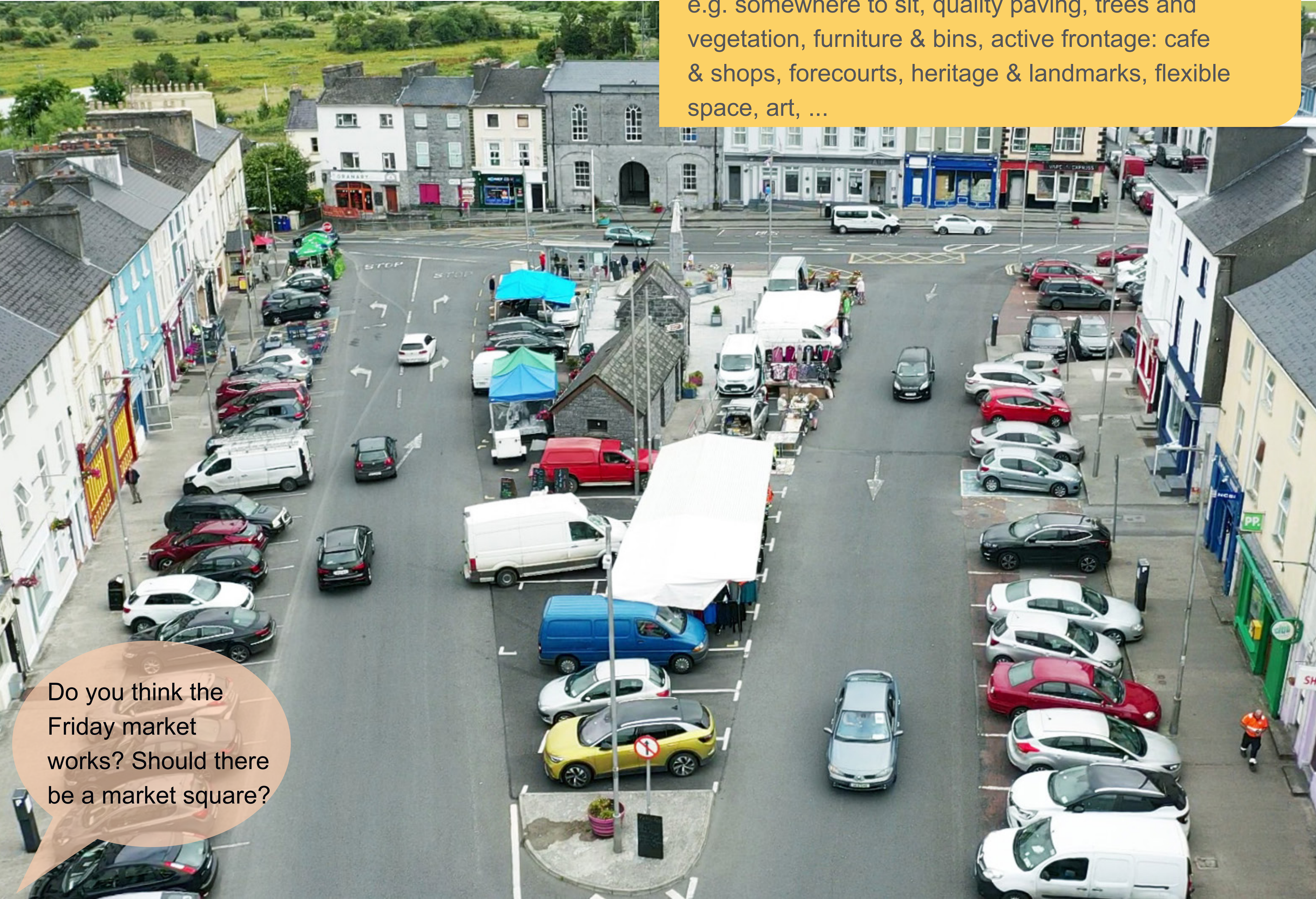


Are footpaths too narrow?

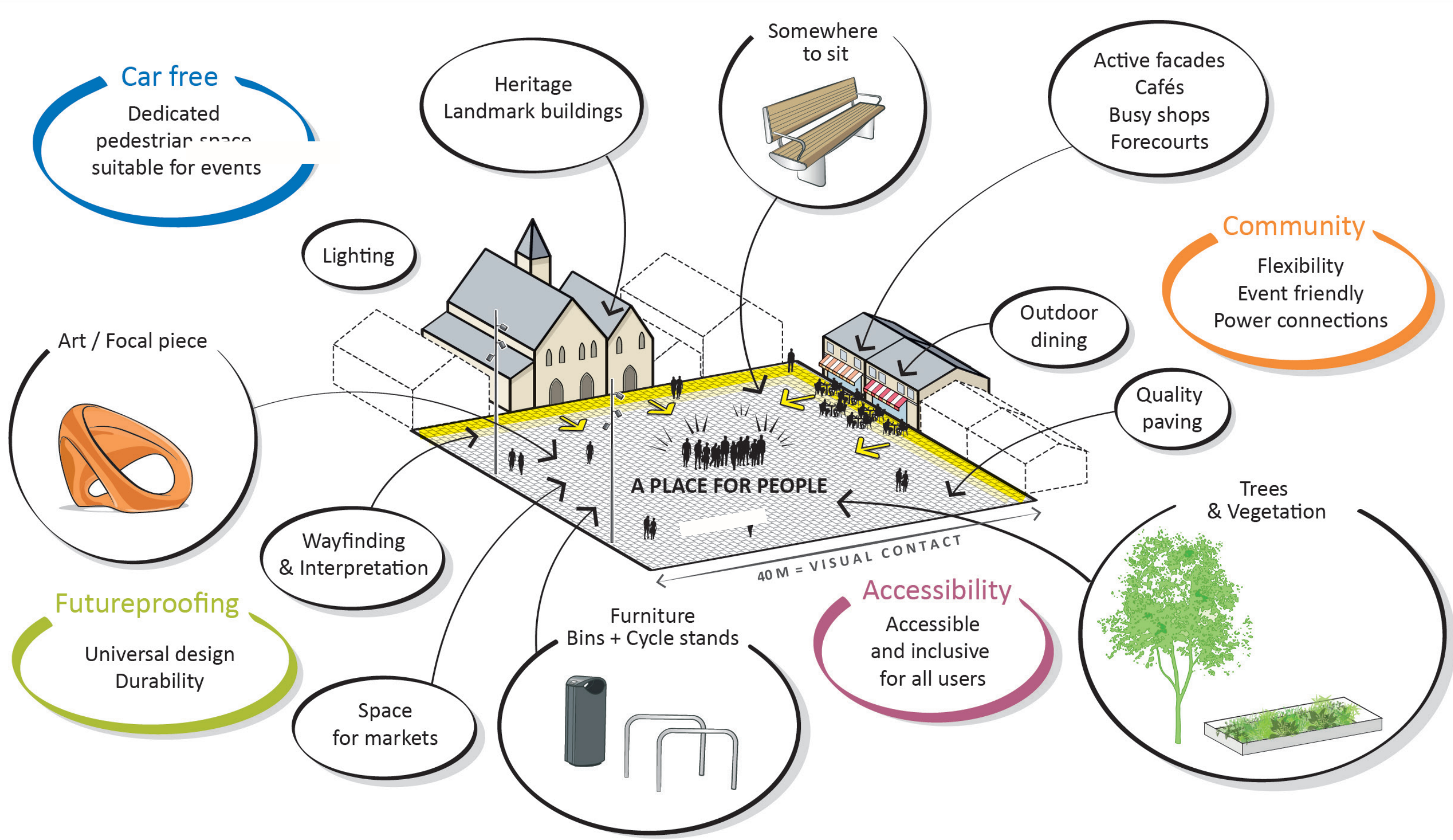
Public Realm Improvement Plan

Market Square

What makes a good Town Square?
e.g. somewhere to sit, quality paving, trees and vegetation, furniture & bins, active frontage: cafe & shops, forecourts, heritage & landmarks, flexible space, art, ...



Current photos of Market Square



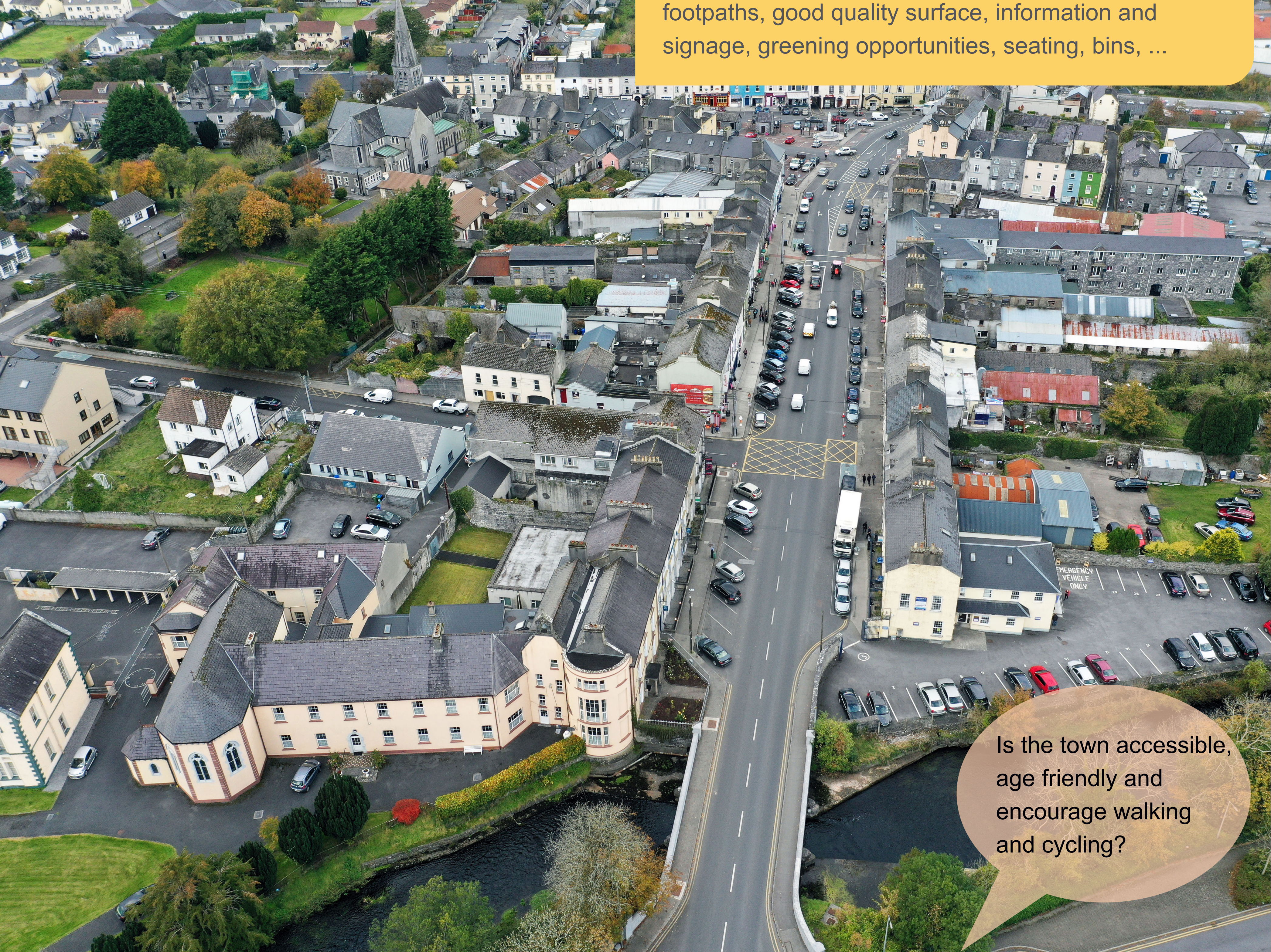
Some ideas of what could be included

Public Realm Improvement Plan

Main Street: Bridge Street and Crowe Street

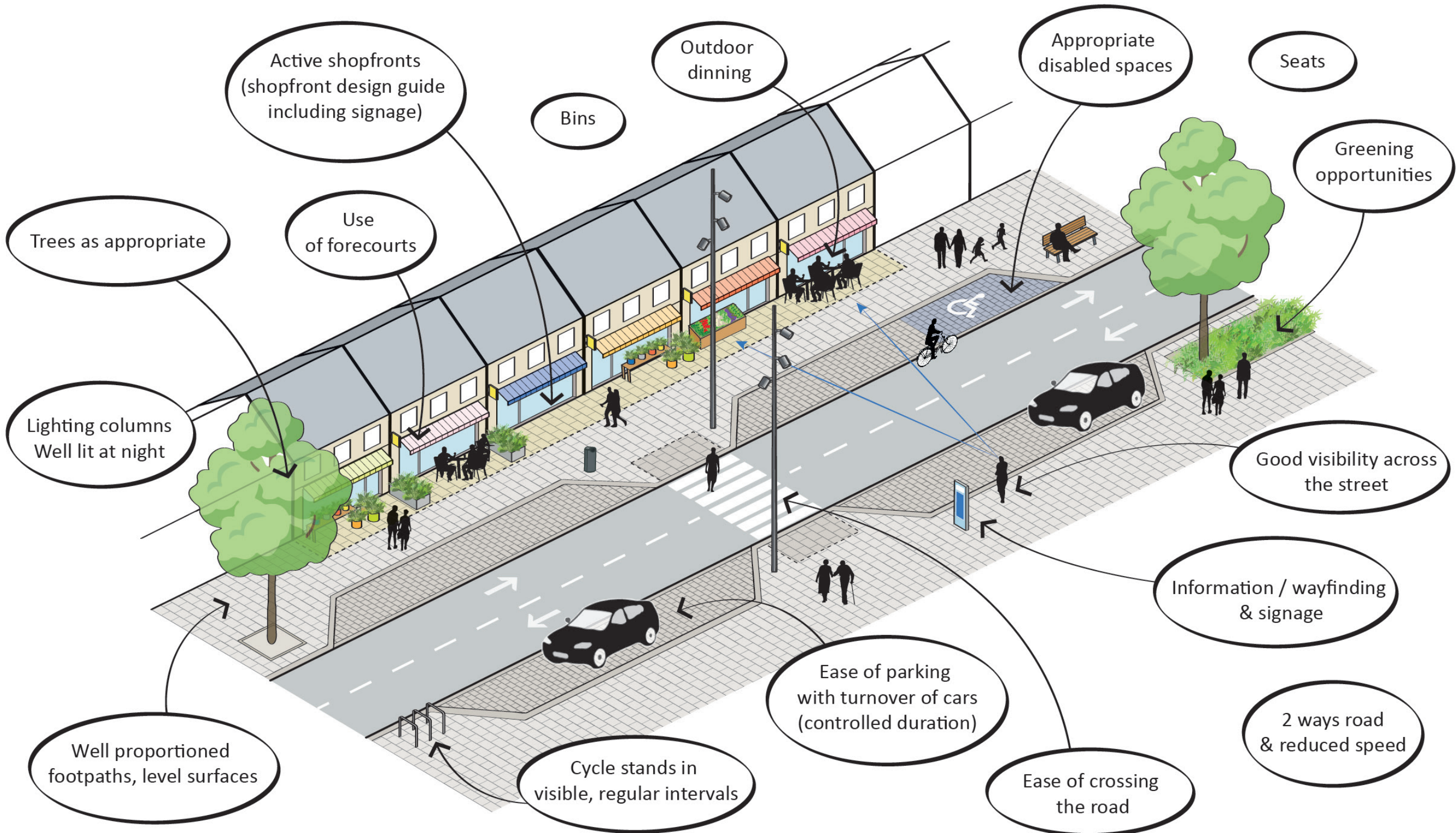
What makes a good Town Street?

e.g. good visibility across the street, well proportioned footpaths, good quality surface, information and signage, greening opportunities, seating, bins, ...



Is the town accessible, age friendly and encourage walking and cycling?

Current photos of Bridge Street



Some ideas of what could be included



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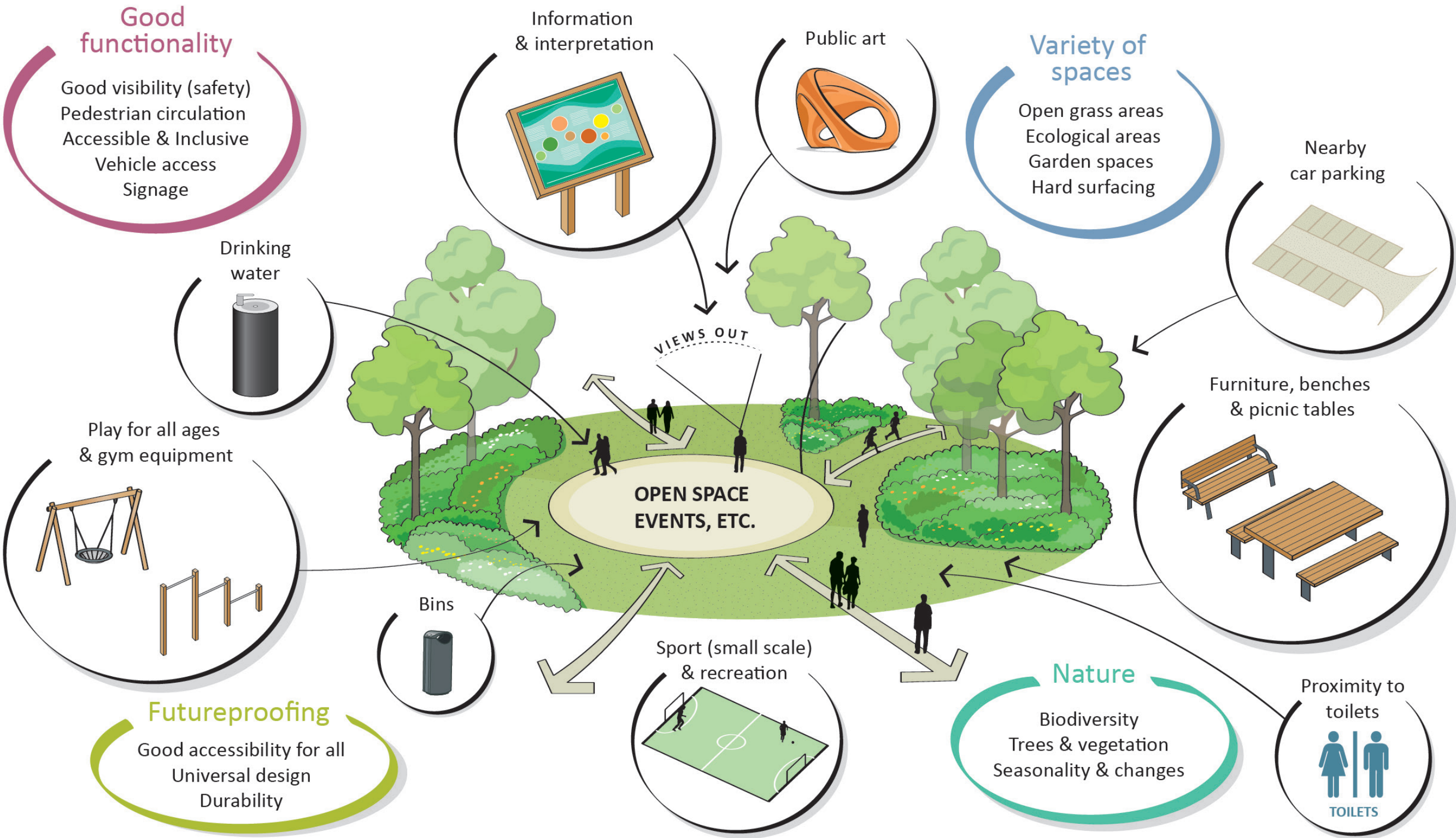
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Town Park: Cannon Quinn Park

What makes a good Town Park?
e.g. good access, variety of spaces, picnic tables, information & interpretation, ornamental planting, play for all ages, outdoor gym, public art, ecological areas, ...



Current photos of Cannon Quinn Park



Some ideas of what could be included