



CARLOW
COUNTY COUNCIL

Town & Village Scheme

Introduction:

The Town and Village Renewal Scheme is an initiative under the Government's Action Plan for Rural Development, Realizing our Rural Potential, and is part of a package of national and local support measures to rejuvenate rural towns and villages throughout Ireland. A National Fund of €20m has been made available on a competitive basis for projects developed at local level.

The following is a guide to the Town & Village process for County Carlow. Expressions of Interests are invited from communities for the scheme and in order to facilitate and support communities, Carlow County Council will host a public meeting on 16th May 2017 @ 7.30pm in the Lord Bagenal Hotel, Leighlinbridge, County Carlow. Following the public meeting the closing date for expression of interest will be 22nd May 2017.

Which area's are eligible for consideration ?

There are two types of applications in the scheme:

- Category 1: Towns and villages with a population of less than 5000
- Category 2: Towns with a population of 5,001 to 10,000

Carlow Town is excluded from the scheme.

Types of activities which can be supported ?

A general objective of the 2017 Town and Village Renewal Scheme is that projects should, where possible, utilise or leverage other national or local government initiatives to create projects of scale and maximise the impact on towns or villages. Measures which are taken under the Scheme should also have a sustainable and visible impact on the town/village.

The following are indicative lists of the types of activities that can be supported (these lists are not exhaustive).

Projects which display the following will be considered High Priority by the Department for assessment purposes:

- Projects that support entrepreneurship (e.g. development of Enterprise Hubs, Hot Desk Facilities, Digital Hubs, Creative Hubs, training facilities)
- Integrated approaches to developing individual sectors within the town and/or its environs (e.g. artisan food hubs, craft hubs)
- Projects which demonstrate collaboration between town centre businesses and the surrounding area to produce economic benefit
- Tourism initiatives
- Enhancement of heritage and/or other community assets
- Town safety and accessibility enhancements
- Provision/enhancement of leisure facilities (e.g. Town Parks, walking trails)
- Conducting/commissioning of Town/Village health check
- Development of quality marks, such as Purple Flag, Heritage Town, etc.

The following types of activity are eligible for support, but will be considered a lower priority for towns with a population of over 1,000 people unless they can be shown to be an integral part of a higher priority project:

- Enhancement of streetscape and town environment
- Shop front enhancement
- Branding and promotion of the town/village to attract new customers and/or business investment
- Car parking improvements
- Targeted actions to tackle minor infrastructural deficiencies in access, services, site development works and other infrastructure

Grant level:

Up to 80% of the total cost of a project under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme will be provided for any individual project. The minimum grant which is available is €20,000 and the maximum is €100,000.

Up to 10% of the total cost may be provided in the form of “in-kind” contributions; a minimum cash contribution of 10% will also be required.

A higher maximum of €200,000 will be considered for a limited number of projects where a robust case can be made demonstrating exceptionally strong economic benefit to a town.

Application Process:

- Stage 1: Communities are invited to complete an expression of interest form and attend a Business & Community Workshop.
- Stage 2: Expressions of Interest submitted to Carlow County Council
- Stage 3: Expressions of Interest evaluated and up to projected selected for application development
- Stage 4: Application Development by communities and council executive.
- Stage 5: Submission of Applications to Department for competitive consideration



An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta,
Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta

Department of Arts, Heritage,
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