

Landscape Design Strategy - Presentation House Proposed Community and Enterprise Centre Muine Bheag (Bagnelstown),Co. Carlow

Relevant Policies

MUINE BHEAG / ROYAL OAK LOCAL AREA PLAN 2017-2023

Green Infrastructure - Policies

It is the policy of the Council to:

GI. P8: Incorporate elements of green infrastructure into existing areas of hard infrastructure, where possible, thereby integrating these areas of the existing urban environment into the overall green infrastructure network.

It is the policy of the Council to:

GI. P12: Encourage and support the incorporation of elements of green infrastructure and biodiversity into all new developments in urban areas, including the design of buildings and their surroundings (e.g. tree planting, green spaces and verges, planters, green roofs, living walls, bird boxes, bat roost sites etc.), and that contributes to and links with the wider green infrastructure network, in particular where similar features exist on adjoining sites.

It is an objective of Carlow County Council:

PRO 2: To enrich the local streetscape character through the provision of appropriate street paving, furniture and planting of street trees at appropriate locations.

Description of Landscaping works

The development proposes a change of use of an existing building (former Presentation Convent) to a Community and Enterprise Centre. The site is located on the eastern side of Long Range and north of Queen of the Universe School. (Fig. 1)

The site is bounded by a stone clad wall on the street edge. It is proposed to maintain this wall with minimal alterations to facilitate a wider entrance. The existing pedestrian entrance is to be retained and enhanced with a defined route to the building entrance. (Fig. 2)

It is proposed to provide a green buffer at this boundary wall. Native tree planting will be set within grass verges with groundcover planting. Tree planting will consist of native species suitable to the scale of the streetscape such as Horse chestnut, Maple, Birch and Hawthorn.

A green buffer zone is also proposed at the building perimeter to the east and west to soften the hard parking landscaping and allow for strategically located native trees creating focal points and enhancing the views of the building.

It is noted that that Map 9 in the Muine Bheag/Royal Oak Local Area Plan 2017-2023 identifies Long Range as a key street and further proposes new tree lines at the subject site.

The existing green open space to the east of the building is to be retained together with paths and stone boundary wall. (Fig. 3)

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Fig. 1 Site Plan showing green buffer at Long Range and green pockets at building edge



Fig. 2 – Existing entrance from Long Range showing stone clad boundary wall



Fig. 3 – Existing green open space to be retained.