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Government of Ireland



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an Aontas Eorpach

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Eastern and Midland
Regional Assembly



EMILY SQUARE DETAILS

Part 8

Plans and particulars for the proposed development of Emily Square in Athy were published on the 17th July 2018 and were available for inspection until the 14th August 2018.

Thee following six aims, represent Kildare County Council's s overarching design objectives for the Part 8 site:

- Upgrade and enhance the quality of the centre of the town.
- Create a more accessible, de-cluttered and attractive space while also
- Improve pedestrian access and safety, ensuring pedestrians of all ages can enjoy the square.
- Celebrate Heritage, providing a more appropriate setting for buildings and monuments that are intrinsic to the heritage of Athy
- Accentuate Unique Features including the unique features of the newly redeveloped Shackleton Experience Building.
- Increase Flexibility of Use

Overall, the proposed Part 8 public realm interventions to Emily Square were to greatly improve the visual appearance and functionality of the public space and provide a flexible multi-use event space, which in turn would attract more visitors to the square and make it a more attractive environment for users to spend time and money, thereby benefiting businesses on and surrounding the square.

The Part 8 proposals were unanimously approved by the Athy Municipal District on the 19th November 2018.

The project is managed by Kildare County Councils, Strategic Project and Public Realm (SPPR) Team under the Directorate of Housing and Regeneration.

Funding

The project is funded through the EU Just Transition Fund Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme (2023-2026) under the EU Just Transition Fund (EUJTF) 2021 – 2027

A funding application was submitted to Failte Ireland under Scheme D State Agency and Local Authority Strategic Partnerships which focused on new or enhanced tourism infrastructure, facilities and visitor experiences, including those that could be leveraged by the private and community sectors. Kildare County Council were successful in their application and received €2,735,425.00, towards its delivery, with the remainder to be funded through Local Property Tax.

Design

The SPPR Team procured the services of an Urban Design Led Consultant Team to develop the scheme to Part 8 and subsequent to the Part 8 approval develop the scheme through detailed design and delivery.

The successful Consultant team are led by the Paul Hogarth Company, as Urban Designers and Landscape Architects, with O'Connor Sutton Cronin, as Civil and Structural Engineers and the Cumming Group (previously Scollard Doyle as Quantity Surveyors for the project. They had responsibility to bring the scheme through Part 8 detailed design and delivery.

Implementation of the scheme was delayed until completion of the Athy Distributer road, in an effort to limit the disruption construction works would cause.

The SPPR Team worked with market traders to relocate them to an alternative location for the Tuesday market while works were underway. Barrow View Carpark was made available to them and places allocated to each of the traders.

Construction

On completion of the Athy Distributer Road, the SPPR Team, published a tender on etenders to procure the services of a Works Contractor for the public realm Improvement Works to Emily Square. David Walshe Civil Engineering Ltd were the successful Contractor and commenced Works on site September 2024.

THE REDEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION OF EMILY SQUARE IS CO-FUNDED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND AND THE EUROPEAN UNION THROUGH THE EU JUST TRANSITION FUND REGENERATIVE TOURISM AND PLACEMAKING SCHEME



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