Ardclough
VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

MARCH 2009

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Section 1: Introduction and Process

1 (i)   Introduction

What is a Village Design Statement?

The Village Design Statement is a document which is prepared based on the views of the local community, demonstrating how they want their village to develop in the future. It allows local communities to be actively involved in the formulation of design guidance for preserving and enhancing their village and its wider landscape setting.

Figure 1: Approach to Ardclough.

What is the purpose of the VDS?

This Village Design Statement has been commissioned by Kildare County Council for Ardclough.

The production of a VDS offers an opportunity for local people to work together and make a positive contribution to the future planning and enhancement of their village and provides an important focus for community development. It is also recognition of local people's knowledge and understanding of the place where they live.

The role of the VDS is to advise how development should be carried out in harmony with the character and quality of the local area. In this way, the special character of the village can be recognised, protected and enhanced for the enjoyment of both the local community and visitors to the area.

The six key aims of a VDS are:

- To enable communities to analyse and define the value of their local environment
- To act as a tool for accessing the local character of an area
- To assist the County Council in steering future development to respond to and respect that character
- To guide smaller changes (permitted develop-

ment)
- To promote the scope for local environmental improvements and support community initiatives
- To become adopted and used by the Council as a material consideration in planning matters.

How has the VDS been produced?

The VDS has been produced through consultation with the local community in partnership with Kildare County Council.

Figure 2: Discussion at community consultation workshop.

The VDS for Ardclough involved the following key stages:

Stage 1: Information Gathering

This stage was undertaken through a site visit and desktop analyses. It involved gathering information and photographing the village in order to identify the village character, settlement pattern, buildings and spaces and roads and traffic.

Stage 2: Community Consultation

An initial community workshop was held in Ardclough on Monday the 21st April 2008. There was a good attendance at this workshop and feedback obtained on the day and through subsequent submissions and comments has been fundamental to developing this VDS.

This workshop allowed us to understand the likely desired community outcomes from the VDS process.

In addition, we ran a Schools Project, which involved children in the local primary school drawing pictures and maps of what they currently like and dislike about Ardclough.

Stage 3: Preparation of Draft Village Design Statement

This Draft Village Design Statement has been prepared for comment both by the local authority and the local community. A second community workshop in September 2008 was held to gather feedback on the Draft VDS.

Stage 4: Publication of Final Village Design Statement

The final Village Design Statement will incorporate the following elements:

i. Achieve consensus with the local community as to the aims and objectives of the VDS;

ii. Develop design principles for Ardclough, based on the distinctive local character;

iii. Develop guidelines for incorporating new development within Ardclough that would take account of key issues such as:

- Landmark buildings
- Streetscapes
- Open spaces and recreation areas
- Landmark views and vistas
- Street furniture
- Proposed mechanisms and initiatives to ensure the successful delivery of this VDS.

How will the VDS work?

This VDS is not a masterplan of ready made design solutions, and its recommendations should not be viewed as a barrier to modern design. Rather, the document highlights the unique qualities of architectural, historical and natural importance that contribute to the village's character, and provides broad design guidelines to both safeguard its distinctive character and enhance quality of life within the village.

Figure 3: View along the Grand Canal Ardclough.

These recommendations should be viewed as a stimulus for encouraging any new development or other proposals to respect and enhance, rather than compete with, the valued character features that define the village. This will require careful consideration of how key elements of the village inter relate with each other, and how they contribute to the character of the village as a whole.

Structure of the VDS

A VDS describes the character of the village and provides broad design guidelines which address the qualities which locals consider worthy of protection or improvement. A VDS will draw particular attention to features such as:

- Village Context
- Village Character and Character Areas
- Village Settlement Patterns
- Buildings and Spaces
- Roads and Traffic
- Critical Issues
- Design Guidelines
- Mechanisms/Initiatives for Implementation

Figure 4: Community consultation.

Section 2: Village Profile & Character

2 (i)   Village Profile

Location

Ardclough Village is located in the north of County Kildare on the border with County Dublin, within the Parish of Kill. There are no main road arteries running through the village, and it is accessed via a network of secondary roads. The town of Celbridge is located to the northeast of the village with Nass town located to the southwest. The present village lies immediately to the northwest of the Grand Canal, with the humpback 'Henry Bridge' forming a key feature at this point. The extensive Lyons Demesne is situated to the southeast of the village.

Ardclough is a small rural village with the surrounding topology of the landscape low lying. The village is centred on a triangle road junction at the convergence of two secondary routes. The core of the village pivots on this junction with the primary school, church and shop being located at his point. Modern housing estates form the outer fringes of the village, which fade out into one off housing on all approaches to the village.

Population Change

Ardclough is located within the parish of Kill. The population of the parish in the 2006 census was 2510, an increase of 11.8% on the 2002 census when the population was recorded at 2246. The population within Ardclough itself has increased moderately over the last ten years. There has being a large increase in the rural population within this time period with a large number of one off dwellings having been constructed.

Role of the Village/Local Community

Ardclough's main role is to act as a local service centre for the surrounding rural hinterland. There is a shop, church, primary school, GAA club and playing pitches which form the heart of the village core. Ardclough has a vibrant community with organisations such as the Tidy Towns Committee. Ardclough GAA was established in 1936 and has since established a club house and playing pitches in the centre of the village.

The village of Lyons acts as an employment generating area for the village but the fact that there is no main employment base within the village, results in much of the workforce being employed in nearby Nass and Celbridge and further afield in Dublin. This results in a large commuter based population within the village and the immediate hinterland.

Land Uses

Ardclough lies within the parish of Kill, which is predominately made up of farmland. The main activity within the surrounding hinterland comprises of tillage and livestock farming, due to the superior quality of the land.

The core of the village although small in size pivots on a mix of land uses providing for the needs of the local community. These include a Church, Shop, Primary School and GAA club and pitch facilities. Further out from the village centre the main land uses comprise of housing fading to agricultural land uses.

SETTLEMENT MAP

ARDCLOUGH

POLICY THEME - STRENGHTENING

Policy Theme Boundary

Strengthening:
Existing Village Facilities

*School
*Church
*Post Office
*Shop
*Sports Facilities
*Community Facilities

Note: All information correct at the time of survey (June 2004)

MAYNOOTH

ARDCLOUGH

KILDARE

Date: December 2008
Scale: NTS

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0   50   100   200   300
Meters

N

KEARNEYSTOWN
UPPER

BALLYCOMMON

WHEATFIELD LOWER

WHEATFIELD UPPER

TIPPERSTOWN

Tipperstown
House

Pond

Roads and Traffic
Ardclough is located at the convergence of three rural roads which link to the R403 and the R405. Traffic is generally not a problem in the village. Traffic calming is in place throughout the village. Parking problems occur outside the primary school at drop off and collection times and this leads to traffic obstructions at these times.

Figure 5: Road junction at Ardclough.

Village Context: Shape of the Village
The village of Ardclough has no main street and the village core is composed of a grouping of public buildings which are arranged around a main road junction within the village. From this point the village spreads eastwards, with the majority of the residential units located on the Celbridge road. Much of this development is relatively modern and has taken place in the last 10-15 years. The canal marks the boundary of the village to the south. The main public buildings located within the village are the Church of Saint Anne, Saint Anne's National School, a local shop and The Daniel Graham Memorial Park (Ardclough GAA) all of which are located at the village centre and therefore act as physical and social focal points within the village.

Six areas of note have been identified within the village and are illustrated on the adjoining map overleaf. These have been identified as:

- The Church of St Anne
- Scoil Aine Naofa
- Wheatfield Upper
- Ardclough GAA Complex
- Lishandra
- Village of Lyons

Recent Development
Present day Ardclough has largely developed from the early 20th century onwards. Buildings are therefore modern in design and detailing.

Built in 1985 the church is of modern architectural design using modern fittings and finishes. The shop is unusually a purposely built redbrick building with a parking area to the front. Both the school and GAA club house are located just off

the main village green area, between the canal and main through road. The school bears a limestone date plaque of 1949. It is a simple modestly designed building built to the Board of Education design and standards for this period. The Daniel Graham Memorial Park, houses Ardclough GAA, which was founded in 1936. The current building is state of the art and modern in design with extensive parking around the building and the playing pitches tucked away behind the club house.

Most of the residential development within the village has occurred in recent years. The estates of 'Wheatfield Upper' and 'Lishandra' are the two main concentrations of housing within the village. The gated Lishandra estate, located on the northeast outskirts of the village, comprises of private single-storey dwellings arranged in a series of cul-de-sac's and situated in landscaped gardens with a landscaped open space area planted with deciduous trees. The remaining residential development of the village takes a ribbon like formation spreading on all approach roads into the village, with a high concentration of one off housing on the Celbridge road.

Figure 6: The church of St Anne.

Figure 7: Local shop within the village boundary.

KEY:

Village Boundary

ARDCLOUGH

Village of Lyons

View along the Grand Canal

Ishandra

Wheatfield Upper

Ardclough GAA Complex & Sports ground

Village Green

Scoil Áine Naofa Ardclough

The Church of St. Anne

Henry Bridge

Date: December 2008

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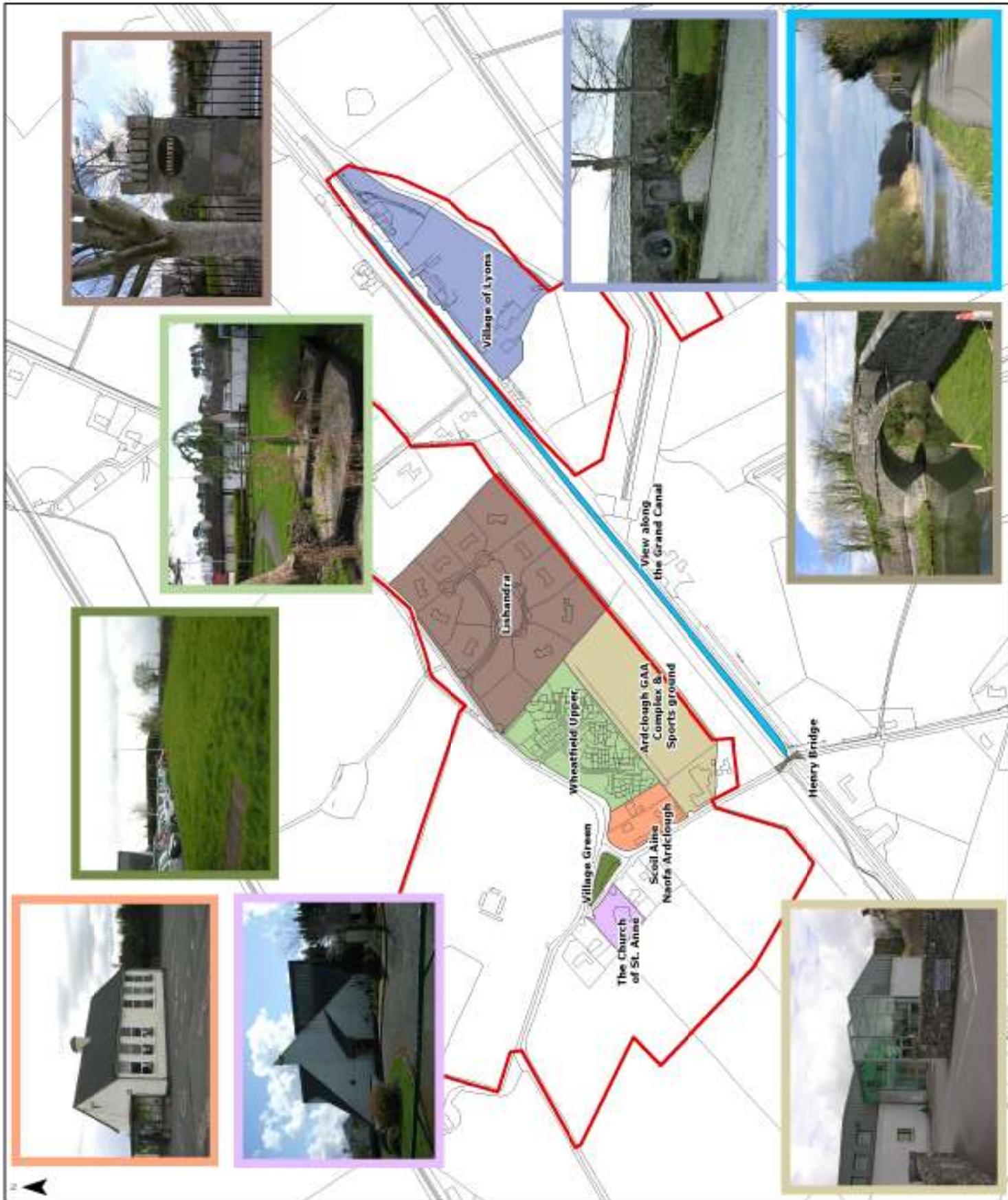
2 (ii)   Village Character - Structure, Buildings & Streetscape (refer to Historic Development Map)

Historical Development

In 1756 work began on the Grand Canal, with the passage from Sallins to the southwest of the current village being opened in 1779. The construction of the canal was vital to the economy of the area. Skinners map of 1783 depicts the line of the canal passing through the hinterland of the current village with the name 'Aclagh' marked.

The first edition Ordinance Survey (OS) map of 1838, shows the original village of Ardclough as being located to the southwest of the present village and comprising of a R.C chapel and 'Lyons National School House'. The present location of the modern village is shown as open agricultural land with the depiction of 'Henry Bridge' spanning the canal as being the only structure at this point in the area. The extensive landscaped Lyons Demesne, with Lyons house and associated buildings is located to the southeast of the canal. A police station, mill and single buildings are depicted on the south bank of the canal, to the northeast of the village. RMP KD015-003- Church Site and Graveyard is shown is also shown at this location.

The second edition OS map 1872 shows the greatest change in the area with the Great Southern and Western railway line, constructed in 1846, running to the north of the village. The area of present day Ardclough is still depicted as open countryside. Tipperstown and Wheatfield Houses are depicted as being located to the north of the village with little change to the extensively landscaped Lyons Demesne.

The third edition OS map 1911 shows little change from the previous OS map. At this point there is still no development on the location of the current village.

From the mid-1930's onwards the village of Ardclough has largely moved away from the canal and shifted northwest to its current location on the Tipperstown side of the canal. Saint Anne's National School was constructed in 1949 and the adjoining GAA pitch beside it was established in the mid 1930's.

Historical Structures

The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) identify archaeological sites throughout the country. The RMP for Co. Kildare identifies three sites within the vicinity of Ardclough. These include KD015-001, an enclosure site, KD015-002, a Tower House in ruins located to the north of the village and site KD15-003, a Church site and Graveyard which is located to the northeast of the village, immediately south of the canal. This indicates that the earliest known settlement in the immediate vicinity of the village dates to the Medieval Period.

Historically Ardclough village was located to the southwest of the current village. Due to the fact that the village is predominately 20th century in date, there are no protected structures within the village core. The main historic feature of the village is the fine limestone canal bridge 'Henry Bridge' which spans the canal and is located to the immediate south of the village. The bridge is an imposing feature and forms part of a group of bridges along this section of the canal which passes through Co. Kildare. This bridge bears a date plaque which is recorded as 1796. It is included in the architectural survey carried out by the NIAH in 2003.

This bridge has been finely executed and contains the unusual architectural feature of a squinch which distinguishes it from the other bridges along the canal. The bridge is a fine example of the technical and engineering advances that took place during the construction of the canal network in Ireland in the latter eighteenth century.

Figure 8: Henry Bridge.

To the southeast of Ardclough village is Lyons Estate. Originally the seat of the Aylmer's, Lyons House was constructed in the 1780's and sold in the 1790's to the Lawless family. Bence-Jones records a new house being built here in 1797 to a design of an architect called Grace. This magnificent structure is comprised of a three-storey central block with a full-height curved bow on either side of the entrance front, joined to two-storey wings by curved sweeps. The house was further altered c.1801 including modifications such as the addition of a pedimented single-storey portico with three antique columns of red Egyptian granite from the Golden House of Nero. Vast formal gardens were laid out to the rear of the house with a broad central walk leading from the house to what was the largest artificial lake in Ireland, with the hill of Lyons rising in the background.

The construction of the canal at this time resulted in associated buildings being clustered around the demesne and along the canal. These include a mill and old canal station, police station and numerous houses and ancillary demesne buildings.

Around 1962 the grounds at Lyons were sold to University College Dublin. The house is currently in private ownership and has been sensitively restored. As part of an extensive conservation project the mill has been converted into an award winning restaurant, retaining much of the historic fabric and form of the building.

Any new development proposed for the village needs to reflect the character of these historic structures. Guidelines for new development are outlined in Section 4 of this document.

Figure 9: Lyons demesne.

Boundary Features

The boundary details in a village form an important aspect of how a village integrates with its surrounding landscape. There are a variety of boundary treatments appropriate to the variety of different building types in the village. Stone walls, hedges, railings, painted walls and rendered blockwork all add variety to the village streetscape. Natural hedgerows are prominent on the outskirts of and approaching the village and these should be retained and supplemented as much as possible.

Figure 10: Restored stone wall.

Street Furniture & Signage

Street furniture refers to all ancillary 'furniture' such as benches, bollards, street lighting, post boxes, phone boxes, signposting and cabling which can be found in the public realm. Ardclough has a small number of benches and litter bins throughout the village. Signage is evident on all approaches to the village.

Figure 11: Bench in open space area.

Lighting

Street Lighting is evident in Ardclough with modern style public lighting located sporadically through the main street and in the recent residential developments.

New development needs to respect the character and design of the established built heritage within the village. Design guidelines in relation to new development and how it should integrate with the existing fabric of the village is detailed in Section 4.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

ARDCLOUGH

KEY TO HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

- 1752
- 1838
- 1911
- 2005

RMP

Grand Canal
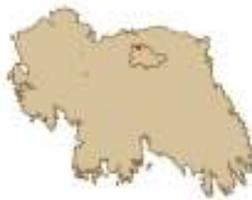
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KD015-001-····

KD015-002003-

KD015-002002-

KD015-002001-

Reeves Castle

KD015-003-····

KD015-003002-

BALLYCORMICK

KEARNEYSTOWN UPPER

WHEATFIELD UPPER

WHEATFIELD LOWER

TIPPERSTOWN

Grand Canal

Tipperstown House

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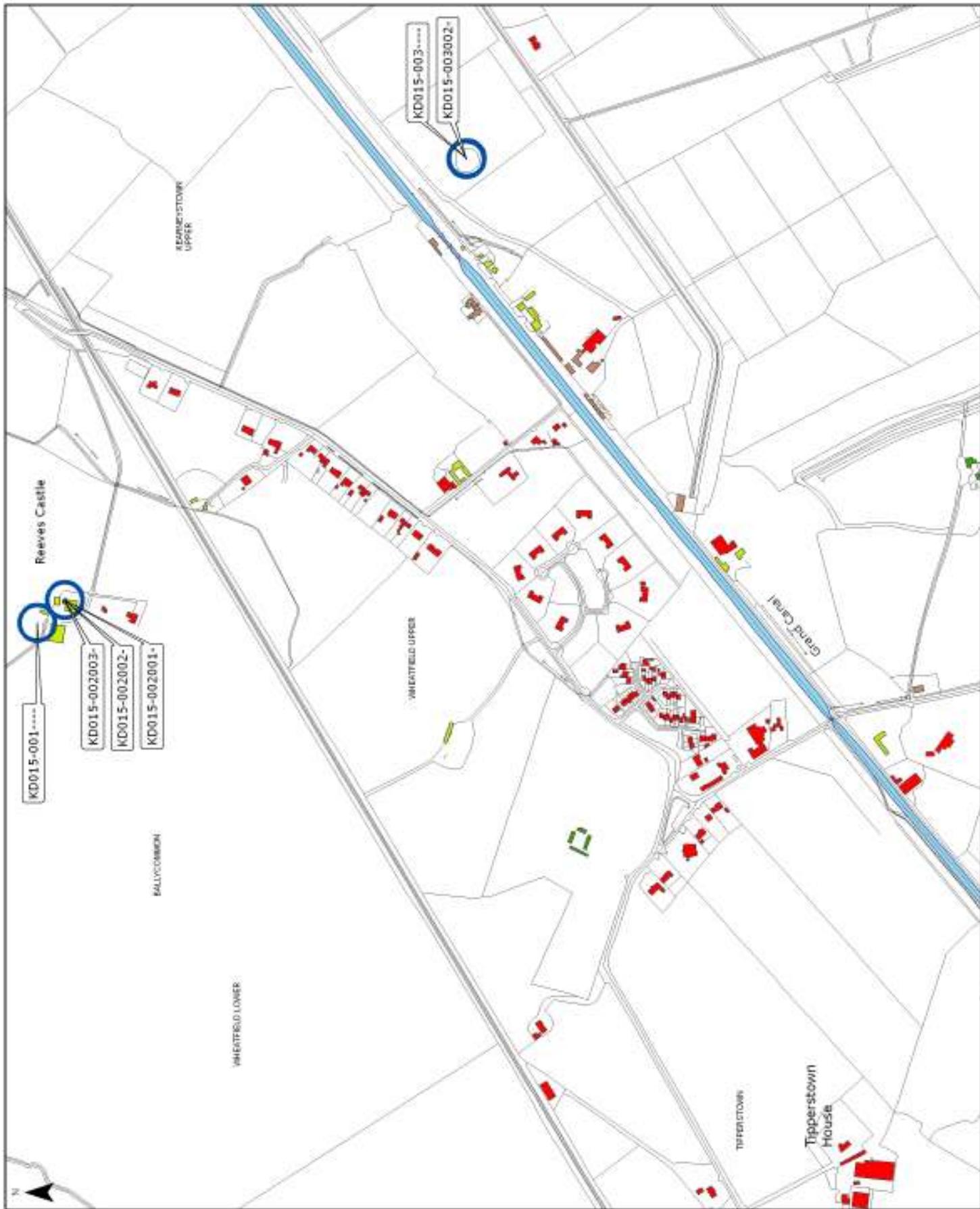
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HERITAGE DATA MAP

ARDCLOUGH

KEY TO HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

- Village Boundary
- Grand Canal
- RMP
- NIAH
- RPS

Structure	NIAH No.	RMP No.
Henry Bridge	11901501	
Ringfort - Unclassified		KD015-001----
Castle - Tower House		KD015-002001-
Bawn		KD015-002002-
Armorial Plaque		KD015-002003-
Church		KD015-003----
Graveyard		KD015-003002-

KD015-001----

KD015-002001-
KD015-002002-
KD015-002003-

KD015-003002-
KD015-003----

Henry Bridge

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Date: December 2008

Ardclough
Urban Analysis

Key:

— Primary Route

— Secondary Route

✳✳✳ Vegetative Boundary Treatment

◯ Focal Points

— Village Development Boundary

— Canal

▮ Compact Urban Grain

▮ Loose Urban Grain
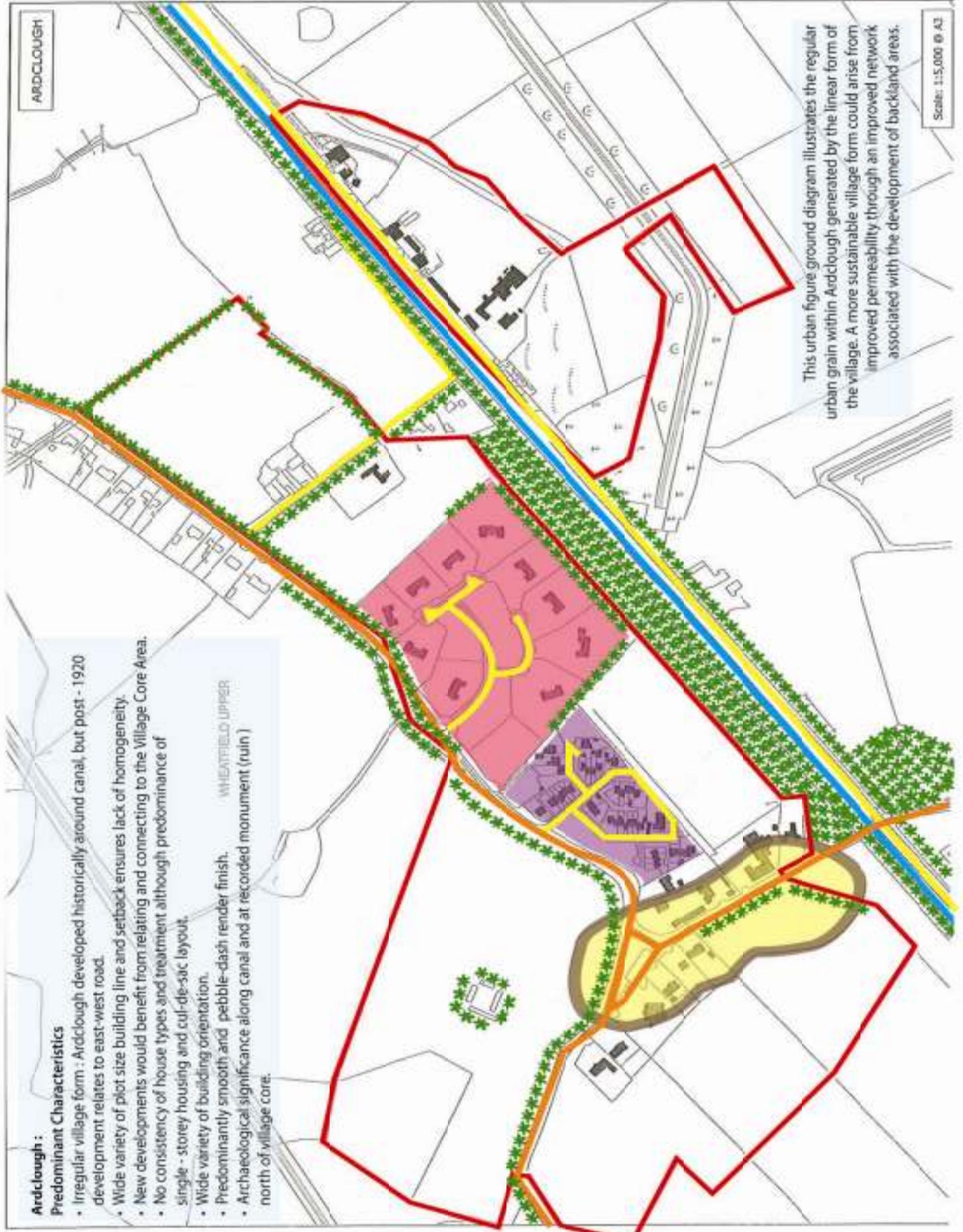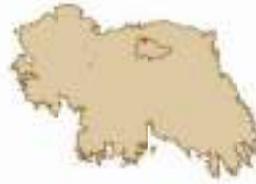
ARDCLOUGH

Ardclough :
Predominant Characteristics

- Irregular village form : Ardclough developed historically around canal, but post - 1920 development relates to east-west road.
- Wide variety of plot size building line and setback ensures lack of homogeneity.
- New developments would benefit from relating and connecting to the Village Core Area.
- No consistency of house types and treatment although predominance of single - storey housing and cul-de-sac layout.
- Wide variety of building orientation.
- Predominantly smooth and pebble-dash render finish.
- Archaeological significance along canal and at recorded monument (ruin) north of village core.

WHEATFIELD UPPER

This urban figure ground diagram illustrates the regular urban grain within Ardclough generated by the linear form of the village. A more sustainable village form could arise from improved permeability through an improved network associated with the development of backland areas.

Scale: 1:5,000 @ A3

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2 (iii)   Village Character: Landscape and Setting (refer to Landscape Character Map)

The Surrounding Landscape

Ardclough is located within the Northern Lowlands landscape character area. This area is characterised by generally flat terrain and open lands with regular (medium sized) field patterns. Ardclough is located in a predominately rural landscape located adjacent to the Grand Canal with the hill of Lyons forming a backdrop to the village. The surrounding landscape is that typical of rural County Kildare with productive agricultural fields dedicated to livestock grazing or tillage. The field systems are demarcated by a series of mature natural hedgerows typical of the Irish countryside.

The Grand Canal

The Grand Canal is an extensive water corridor that flows in an east to south-west direction through Kildare county and runs through the northern village boundary. The water corridor is visually enclosed from the village. Long distant views of the canal corridors can be obtained from local bridges such as Henry Bridge, Ponsonby Bridge and Barnrath Bridge. The canal is an important amenity asset to the village.

Figure 13: View towards the hill of Lyons.

Landscape Features

Ardclough lies adjacent to the Grand Canal and this is an important landscape and amenity feature for the village. The mature planting running either side of the canal and the habitats associated with it are an important asset to the village and the opportunity exists to develop this further (see specific design guidelines No 17 p29). Within the village and as part of residential developments there are attractive landscape features such as the areas of open space and associated landscape seating, planting beds etc in the Wheatfield housing estate.

Figure 12: View along the Grand Canal towards Henry Bridge.

Approaches to Ardclough

Ardclough is located at the convergence of three rural roads which link to the R403 and the R405. The village is located between the Grand Canal and the Dublin to Cork rail line. The approaches to the village are signposted with some associated landscaping.

Views and Vistas

The location of the village adjacent to the canal with the hill of Lyons in the background creates several attractive scenic views. From all areas of the village attractive views are offered of the surrounding natural landscape. Attractive tunnelled views are afforded along the canal with the mature planting on either side of the canal directing tunnelled views. These views and vistas are important aspects to the character of the village and it is important that they are retained and respected by any new developments.

Figure 14: View along the Grand Canal towards the village at Lyons.

Open Spaces

There are a number of open space areas in the village. Ardclough GAA football pitch is located in the centre of the village and is an important area of open space for all residents and is used by the Primary School located adjacent to the GAA grounds. The walkways along the Grand Canal are important open space areas. Other areas of open space include the village green, located in front of the Church of St Anne and other incidental areas of open space forming part of the Wheatfield and Lishandra housing estates. There is an attractive area of open space located across from the Lishandra housing estate. There are a number of open space areas in Ardclough which have being created in the past few years and as the associated planting in these spaces mature these open spaces will become increasingly attractive.

Planting

Mature natural hedgerows are prominent throughout the village and demarcate boundaries between the built form and the surrounding landscape. Mature tree planting lines either side of the Grand Canal and adds to the overall setting of the village. There are a large amount of mature trees and small areas of woodland in the Lyons estate and these form an impressive backdrop to the village. More recent tree planting has occurred in the incidental areas of open space located throughout the village and as a part of the Wheatfield and Lishandra housing estates. Whilst the majority of planting within the village and within the private gardens is of plants indigenous to the area, there are a few examples of inappropriate species (such as Leylandii hedges), which do not reflect the character of the locality.

Figure 15: Open space area.

Environment

There are no recycling facilities in Ardclough. As in most rural villages the existing sewerage system has limited capacity. The current wastewater treatment plant has a capacity of 300 pe (population equivalent). The capacity of the wastewater plant has implications regarding pollution of the Grand Canal running adjacent to the village.

Figure 16: Planting at the village triangle.

Ardclough has a rich natural landscape which adds to the character of the village. Existing views and vistas, natural boundary features, Lyons estate, existing natural hedgerows, the Grand Canal, open space areas and mature tree planting along the canal and associated with Lyons Demesne need to be respected and considered in line with any future development in the village. Section 4 looks at general and specific design guidelines for future proposed developments. In this section measures are outlined as to how new developments can respect the existing landscape character and setting of the village. Section 4 (II) looks at specific design guidelines for the village and outlines recommendations for further improvements to the landscape character and setting of the village.

Village Character

N

KEY

Village Boundary

Henry Bridge

Viewpoints
to be protected in line with
policies & objectives set out
in Chapter 19 of Kildare County
Development Plan 2005-2011

Significant trees & hedgerows

Open Spaces within
Village Boundary

Grand Canal

MAYNOOTH

ARDCLOUGH

NAAS

KILDARE
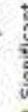
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KERDIFFSTOWN
UPPER

CLONAGHLIS

WHEATFIELD UPPER

Grand Canal

Henry
Bridge

WHEATFIELD LOWER

Tower

Ford

West

Decoy
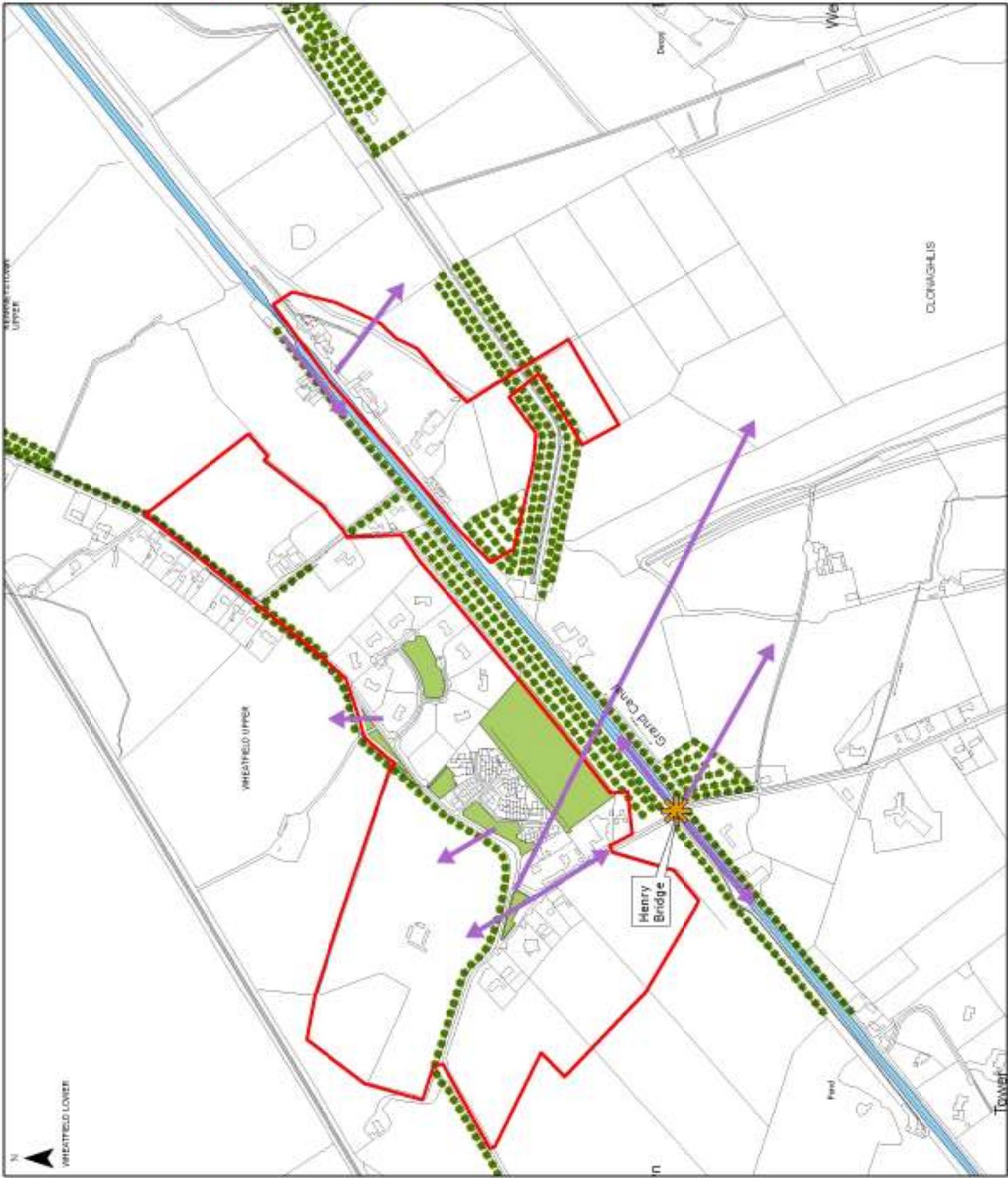
Section 3: Public Consultation

3 (i)   Key Issues

A public meeting was held on the 21st May 2008 in the local GAA centre Ardclough. At this meeting members of the local community voiced their opinions on what they felt were the critical issues concerning the future development of the village. The following points are a summary of the issues raised:

Local Services
- Redundant overground wires – remove poles and place wires underground
- Litter bins have been removed and there is litter in the village – would like to see serviced litter bins, especially near school and shop
- Road surfaces and surface water drainage
- Lack of high-speed broadband (on wire)
- Need dependable local bus service at commuting times – particularly with extra capacity at Hazel hatch station
- Surface drainage problem on Boston Road. Road needs to be resurfaced
- Need for grass cutting and road sweeping services
- Great need for new school to be commenced ASAP
- Items to be Addressed:
  - Surface water drainage in entire area
  - Road surfaces in village
  - Sewerage – no piped sewerage

Traffic & Parking
- Extra car parking around church required
- Exiting onto main Kill-Straffan road from Barnrath Bridge – dangerous turn that needs to be addressed
- Parking problems at school – new school needs to provide adequate parking and set down areas
- Cats eyes on edge of road, lighting and marking of all roads in the area needs to be improved
- Road structures and road capacity to be investigated
- Adequate and safe parking for new school, greenfield site a chance to get this right
- Some roads not accessible for HGVs and HGV's should be banned from such roads
- Speed ramps needed on Celbridge Rd after Lishandra & Straffan Road (New School Rd)
- Safety to exit of canal at Barnrath Bridge, treacherous exit on to the Main Rd
- Speed limits and road signs in general

Pedestrian Safety
- Footpaths are needed and quality to be improved – especially in context of new school – to encourage walking to school
- Foot bridge over canal – possibly at Henry bridge
- Should be barrier along length of canal from Henry to Ponsonby Bridge
- Not enough footpaths and those that do exist do not connect. Footpath needed from school/GAA complex over Henry Bridge

Figure 17: Lack of footpaths extending outwards from village core.

Landscaping & Public Realm
- Henry Bridge is a key feature of village – must be retained as it currently is
- Streetscape: more planting – more colourful plants – not high maintenance species
- Stone wall on Boston Road could be exposed along its length and remove ivy
- Walking route along Boston Road – proposal to level grass verge and provide walking area for pedestrians
- Seating and landscaping for triangle area – to be improved
- Extension of triangle area in centre
- Street lighting

Current and Future Developments
- Density of future housing – should be appropriate to a village character to protect village and should be sensitive to the needs to the local community
- Improvement of village at Lyons? – not currently accessible from Ardclough and should be more permeable
- Village boundary should be extended to allow for provision of the new school
- Appropriate naming of new housing estates to reflect history and character of place
- Emphasis to be placed on retaining the physical appearance of the village and retaining the existing character
- Community to have input to new developments where possible

The Canal
- Lighting along the canal and appropriate seating – not to near peoples houses.
- Cleaning of the canal and keeping it clean
- Henry Bridge should have weight limit to respect its age and condition. Weight limit should not apply to local people
- Water pipe on Henry Bridge should be hidden/ re-

moved
- Canal – connectivity and permeability is poor

Figure 18: Lack of connectivity to the canal.

Community Facilities
- Need a graveyard for village to be located near the existing church
- Possibility of new GAA pitch/ extension to GAA grounds
- Existing school to be retained as community facility/ centre when new school is built
- Bottle banks, recycling facilities needed for the village in agreed location
- School grounds – new school at Naas – play-ground orientation and play areas. Need to be interesting and provide range of open spaces. New school should follow this layout

Other General Issues
- Vacant house in Wheatfield estate has been empty for a long time and should be occupied
- Ditches surrounding village – rubbish gathering – especially towards Straffan. Would it be possible to remove ditch and culvert?
- Security cameras for monitoring of dumping and traffic
- Rubbish along canal walks, need for litter bins

Local Services

Landscaping

Traffic Management & parking

The Canal

KEY ISSUES

Pedestrian Safety

Streetscape

Need More Community Facilities

New Developments

Key Local Issues
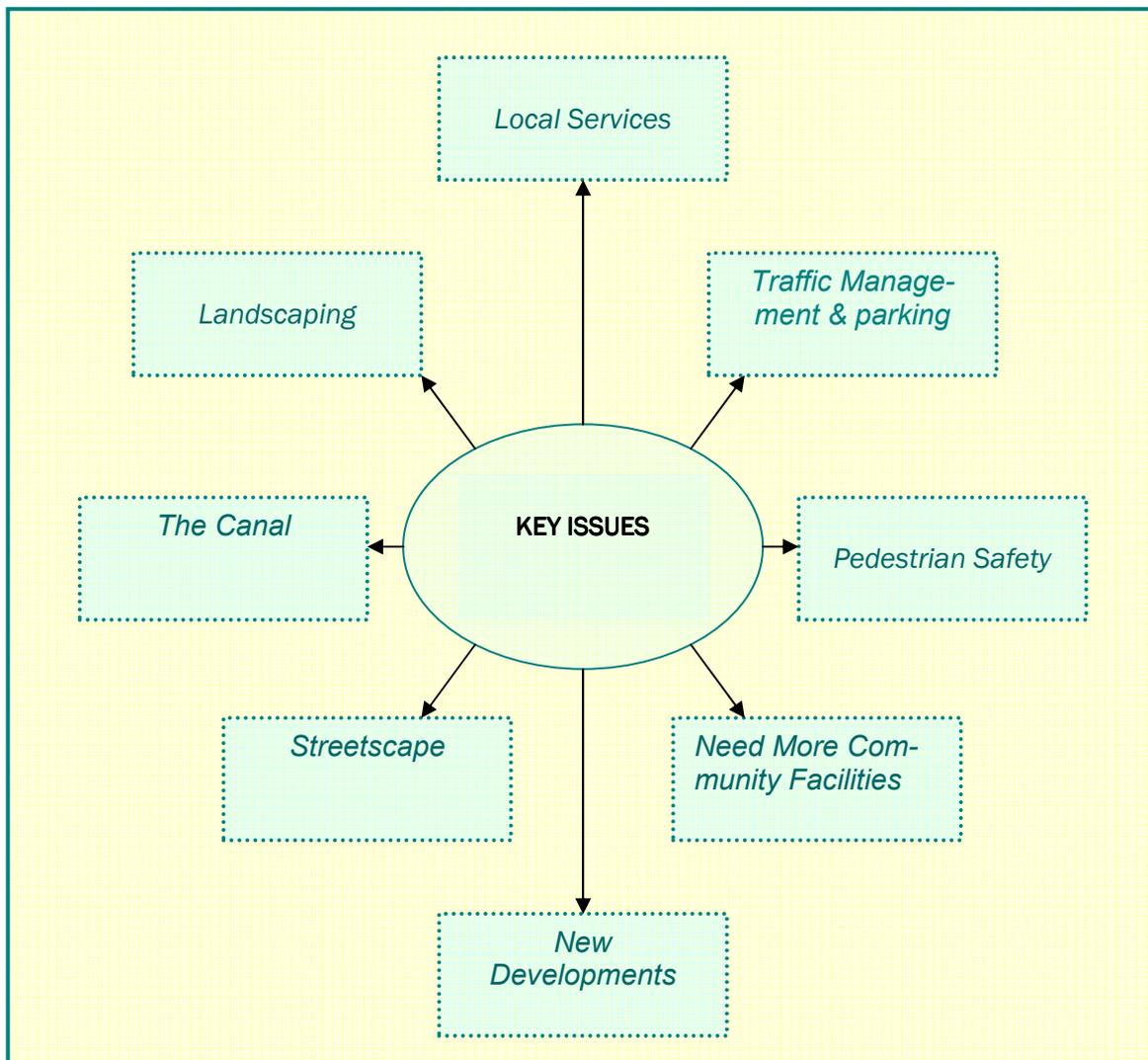
The children of Ardclough were asked to draw what they liked about their village:

CRITICAL ISSUES: ARDCLOUGH
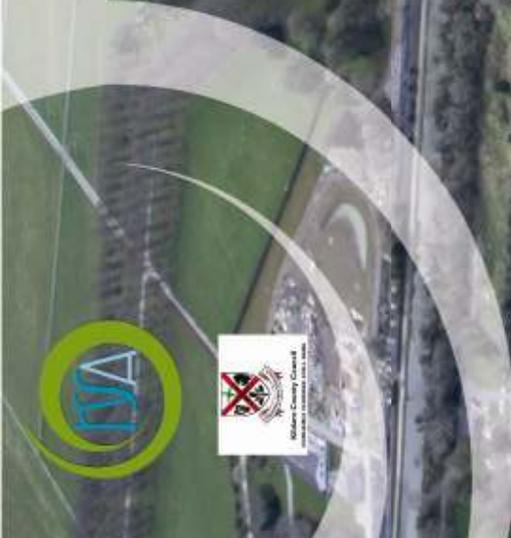
IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY TO VILLAGE AT LYONS

GREATER USE OF THE CANAL

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

SCHOOL OVERCROWDED. NEW SCHOOL NEEDED

IMPROVED LANDSCAPED AREAS

TRAFFIC CALMING AT ENTRANCE TO THE VILLAGE

NEW DEVELOPMENTS TO RESPECT EXISTING CHARACTER OF THE VILLAGE

Section 4: Design Guidelines

This section sets out design guidelines for the future development of Ardclough and deals with issues raised at public consultation meetings with the local community. Having established the village context, character (see urban analysis map p13 and landscape character map p16) and the key issues facing the future of the village these design guidelines will help the sustainable development of the village over the time period of this VDS. Section 4(i) sets out general design guidelines which look at the village structure, streetscape, landscape setting and open space, design of new development and benefits for the local community. Following from this section 4(ii) sets out specific design guidelines which are to be read in conjunction with the Key Strategies Map on p28. Finally section 4(iii) sets out a delivery - action and implementation programme.

4 (i)   General Design Guidelines

The following Design Guidelines have been developed following a comprehensive analysis of the qualities and character of Ardclough that contribute to its distinctive identity. These characteristics have been identified by the local community as being fundamental to the development of design guidelines that will shape the future of the village in terms of new works, facilities, services and amenities. These design guidelines are intended to retain what is special about the character of the place and to improve and enhance this special character.

These Design Guidelines have the following three strategic objectives:

1.   To conserve and enhance the character of Ardclough and its important features and landmarks;

2.   To set out criteria-base standards against which changes to Ardclough may be judged, to ensure that new development contributed positively to the village;

3.   To make recommendations for new works, with the aim of improving the urban realm, to be carried out in partnership with the local community.

In the preparation of these guidelines reference has been made to 'The Urban Design Manual: A best practice guide' (a companion document produced by the DoEH&LG, to accompany the Draft Planning Guidelines on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas). The manual states that 'the most successful—and sustainable—communities are the ones that contain a good variety of things to do, see and enjoy. For larger scale developments, this means providing a good mix of uses, housing, facilities and amenities that help to engender a successful community; and 'thought should be given to how commercial uses are placed in relation to each other to help create a vibrant neighbourhood centre'. In relation to layout the document states that a layout creates people friendly streets and spaces if:

- Layout aligns routes with desire lines to create a permeable interconnected series of routes that are easy and logical to navigate around.
- The layout focuses activity on the streets by creating active frontages with front doors directly serving the street.
- The streets are designed as places instead of roads for cars, helping to create a hierarchy of space with less busy routes having surfaces shared by pedestrians, cyclists and drivers.
- Traffic speeds are controlled by design and layout rather than by speed bumps.
- Block layout places some public spaces in front of building lines as squares or greens, and some semi private space to the back as communal courts.

More details on the implementation of this Village Design Statement are set out in part (ii) of Section 4 below.

Below there is a series of Design Guidelines for new residential and mixed-use developments within Ardclough (as identified on the Key Strategies Map p28). These Design Guidelines consider the village under a number of Key Strategic areas.

The "Key Strategic" areas are as follows:

Key Strategic Areas	Policy Objectives Commence with …
1. Village Structure	Vill
2. Village Streetscape	Street
3. Landscape Setting and Open Space	Land
4. Design of New Development	Desi
5. Benefiting the Local Community	Comm

Village Structure

The Kildare County Development Plan has identified settlements and grouped them into four categories:

1. Consolidation
2. Strengthening
3. Revitalisation
4. Rural Nodes

These settlements have been categorised based on the following criteria:

- Size of the settlement;
- Existing community;
- Infrastructural facilities, and;
- Development that has taken place to date.

Having taken these factors into account, Ardclough is identified as as being a village with "Strengthening" properties. This means that the Development Plan recognises that the village has experienced some growth in recent years. Policy RS2 states, in relation to Ardclough and other "strengthening" settlements that:

It is considered that they have the capacity to accommodate limited growth having regard to the availability of adequate social infrastructure. Similarly, in this context, the local need category has not benefited from the development that has occurred in these communities. As such, whilst there is an intention to accommodate both local need and local growth categories, there is equal emphasis on the provision of housing for local need and local growth.

Vill 01 Incorporating New Development	The design of new housing developments should pay particular attention to the characteristics of the local setting (as identified on urban analysis map p13 and landscape character map p16). All applications for new developments will be assessed by KCC having regard to government policies and development control standards as set out in the KCC County Development Plan. New developments should take full account of the characteristics of the natural and built environment of the site, the views and vistas from the site, and the surrounding areas and the village context. Please refer to the Urban Analysis map on p13 which provides a contextual description of the village which will assist in formulating proposals for new development .
Vill 02 New Development Proposal Standards	Proposals for new residential developments should respect existing contours and established plot and field boundaries. Development should be adapted to the site rather than the site being adapted to the development. New development shall be of a low to medium density (as identified in urban analysis map p13).
Vill 03 Access to Services	New residential development should be situated in locations that consolidate and strengthen the village core and that have easy access to local facilities and services. Areas for new development have been identified on the Key Strategies Map p28.
Vill 04 Pedestrian Accessibility	Walking routes in and around Ardclough shall be retained and improved and new routes established where possible to provide improved local access and amenity walking routes. Footpaths need to be established from the local primary school and GAA pitch outwards continuously to the village boundaries. In particular, access to and along the Grand Canal shall be improved. Promotion of walking routes should be achieved by means of improved signage and lighting.
Vill 05 Village Core	The core of Ardclough has been identified on the Key Strategies Map p28 as being located at the village crossroads, and includes the shop, church, primary school and GAA club. Any new proposed development should respect the established character of the village core.

Village Streetscape

Ardclough does not have a strong streetscape and has few amenities. New residential developments should provide local amenities and services, to augment, but not compete with, those in the village core. In this regard please refer to Section 4 (iii) Delivery, Action and Implementation below.

Street 01 Setbacks	New development shall reinforce the existing streetscape and, where appropriate form a part of this existing streetscape. New development areas (as indicated on the Key Strategies Map p28) located to the rear of the established street frontage should be designed in a clustered format.
Street 02 Retain Green Spaces	Where possible, street trees and ancillary green spaces are to be retained and new ones introduced to improve the visual amenity of the streetscape. These should be carefully selected indigenous or other appropriate species and planted in an appropriate way and scale that reflects the rural character of the village, which has been described in Section 2 (iii) of this document. Ancillary areas of planting should be encouraged and developed on an ongoing basis to provide visual interest along the main roads within the village. These may be located where the soft margin of the road allows for such to be provided. Areas within the development boundary of the village deemed suitable for street planting have been identified on the Key Strategies map on p28.
Street 03 Footpaths	Traffic management measures and new and improved walking and cycling routes from the local primary school and GAA grounds outwards to the village boundaries and the Grand Canal (to increase public safety) should be a priority for implementation. This includes the introduction of footpaths and the resurfacing of local roads. These are identified on the Key Strategies Map No 9, p28.
Street 04 Layout of New Developments	In general, new developments shall be laid out and the residential units designed and orientated so as to encourage active frontage and lively streetscapes. Boundary treatment should be low in scale and height, thus encouraging passive surveillance.
Street 05 Urban Real Improvements	An Urban Realm Improvement programme should be prepared for Ardclough by the established Community Council, to include new lighting, signage, litter bins, seating and areas identified for improved planting. In addition, proposals shall be prepared for the undergrounding of the wirescape within the village boundary.

Figure 19: Retain and supplement existing trees.

Figure 20: Streamline signage for the village.

Landscape Setting and Open Space

The landscape setting of the village is generally characterised as being low-lying agricultural land. A major local focal point and historical and amenity feature is the Grand Canal and Henry Bridge. Improved linkages to the canal and walking routes along the canal would greatly benefit the local community in terms of opening up the canal as an accessible amenity feature.

Land 01 GAA Pitch	The Ardclough GAA lands (pitches) should be retained for use as sporting, recreational and amenity areas (see Section 4(ii) specific design guidelines No 1 p29). Additional land is highlighted for the possible future expansion of these facilities (N0 20 p30).
Land 02 Village Green	The Village Green should be retained and improved as a green space and focal point in the centre of Ardclough (specific design guidelines p28).
Land 03 Field Boundaries	Existing field boundaries and contours should be respected and sensitively incorporated into new developments, where possible.
Land 04 Stone Walls	Existing stone walls should be maintained, retained and restored as a significant local feature of Ardclough (specific design guidelines No 14 p30).
Land 05 Open Space	Areas of open space provide an opportunity to create linkages between housing estates and a means of promoting permeability. It may be appropriate to retain hedgerows as wildlife refuges in areas of open space providing that they do not act as a barrier or cause security, safety, or passive surveillance problems.

Figure 21: Stone walls to be retained.

Figure 22: Retain & supplement open space areas.

Design Guidelines for New Development Areas

New Development Areas have been indicated on the Key Strategies Map (p28) within this Village Design Statement. A supporting statement must accompany all planning applications for new residential and mixed-use developments in these areas indicating how the development meets the guidelines and criteria set down below. In addition, all development proposals will require a social infrastructure assessment as set down in Section 4 (iii) below.

In general, this supporting statement shall demonstrate how the developer will deliver a quality residential environment on a particular site. Planning permission will only be granted for new residential development where it is demonstrated that the proposal will create a quality and sustainable residential environment.

Quality design proposals should emerge from a careful analysis of the site's location, surrounding context and the specific characteristics of the site itself. The statement should outline in writing the overall design concept and objectives for the site, based on the appraisal of the site and its context. Any proposal for residential development which fails to produce an appropriate quality of design and which fails to conform to these and other relevant criteria should not be permitted.

Sites have been identified within this VDS for Infill Development. In addition to the guidelines set down below, we would note that Section 5.10 of the Kildare County Development Plan states the following in regard to infill housing:

> *Infill housing in existing built up areas of the towns and villages of the county will be encouraged. Any proposals should be designed to integrate successfully with the existing pattern of development in terms of housing type, scale and details such as materials, finishes, building lines etc. In all cases the protection of the amenities of existing development should be a significant consideration.*

Furthermore, please refer to Chapter 6 "Rural Housing Policy" of the Kildare County Development Plan for further policy objectives that are of relevance to new residential development within Ardclough.

Desi 01 General New Development Design Standards	The design of new development shall draw upon the best local traditions of form, materials and detailing, which would include the use of stone, simple house forms and pitched roofs. In this regard, all planning applications shall be accompanied by a supporting statement that outlines how the design approach has been achieved. In terms of materials, given the variety of materials within Ardclough, a range of new materials will be acceptable, subject to agreement with the planning authority. New developments are to comply with section 15.2.10 of the CDP regarding use of materials.
Desi 02 Housing Layout & Permeability	In developing housing layouts, permeability shall be a major consideration, most particularly for pedestrians and cyclists. Layouts based on cul-de-sacs should not be permitted as these reduce accessibility to local services and amenities and do not promote walkability of places. In all residential developments, the safety of pedestrians and quality of life should be given priority over vehicular traffic. The layout and design of all developments should be configured so as to deter crime and promote personal safety.
Desi 03 Spacing Between Buildings	Particular account should be taken of the spacing between buildings, the safeguarding of privacy, the scale and massing of buildings, the use of materials, impact on existing vegetation and landscape design. Where applicable, the adjoining established residential amenity and privacy shall be respected. New dwellings that closely overlook the rear curtilage of existing dwellings should not normally be permitted.
Desi 04 House Types	A range of house types shall be provided within residential developments to cater for all needs. Apartment and duplex units would not be considered appropriate for development in Ardclough.
Desi 05 Open Space & Hedgerows	Within new development areas, adequate provision should be made for public and private open space and landscaped areas (in accordance with Kildare County Development Plan standards). However, these areas should be provided as an integral part of the development. Where appropriate, planted areas or discrete groups of trees should be required along site boundaries in order to soften the visual impact of the development and assist in its integration with the surrounding area. Open space and amenity areas should be configured so as to provide both ancillary green areas and a single larger area of open space to provide for the amenity needs of residents. Where possible and practicable, residential units should be located fronting areas of open space.
Desi 06 Parking	Adequate and appropriate provision shall be made for parking which, in principle, should be operationally and physically unobtrusive. In new residential developments, parking shall be provided within the curtilage of the development and in accordance with Kildare County Development Plan standards.

Desi 07
New Development Areas
	''New Development Areas'' have been indicated on the Key Strategies Map (as No 1 p28).
	Proposals for these sites must demonstrate the following:
	    • provision of pedestrian linkages to key services and amenities;
	    • design incorporating a strong road frontage that where possible complements the existing streetscape;
	    • clustered/ grouped housing within the site that maximises the efficient use of land and provides for a permeable layout;
	    • including a range of house types and sizes;
	    • provision of open space that is of a scale, location and configuration that maximises usage by all members of the local community with all levels of mobility, including a children's playground/ play area;
	    • provision of amenities/ local facilities or an alternative planning gain that will benefit the entire local community - see list included in Section 5 of this VDS under 'Delivery/ Implementation'.

Desi 08 Infill Development	The 'Infill Development' site identified on the Key Strategies Map p28 is intended to act as a gateway and entrance point on the road to Ardclough with a strong road frontage (echoing that provided by houses across the road leaving the village).

Desi 09 Orientation of Layouts	Good natural light makes dwellings more attractive, pleasant and energy efficient. Housing layouts should be designed, oriented and sited so as to maximise daylight and sunlight (solar gain) to dwellings as far as possible, thus being sustainable by design.
Desi 10 Waste Storage	New housing estates and layouts should allow for the inclusion of waste storage and collection facilities deemed appropriate for households and estates.
Desi 11 Naming of Estates	The naming of all new housing estates should be demonstrated to have a local connection and relevance and should reflect the character of Ardclough and its setting (as outlined in Section 15.5 of the KCC County Development Plan).

Figure 23: Examples of bus shelters. In the upper images, a local artist was appointed to place public artwork reflecting the place within the bus shelter. Below is a more traditional-type bus shelter with a palette of materials that is very appropriate to Ardclough. This bus shelter could be the location of a village information board (on the rear wall) - see specific design guideline No 5 p29.

Benefiting the Local Community

The process of preparing this Village Design Statement is one that has been fundamentally based on community participation, without which this document would not have been prepared. Community consultation workshops with the local community has led to the formulation of the objectives and strategies within this VDS. The majority of the aims and objectives have been conceived so as to benefit the local community in the shorter, medium and longer term.

Comm 01	A village notice/ information board should be erected at or in the vicinity of the Village Green, providing information for both the local community and visitors alike, identified as Key Strategy No 16 on the Key Strategies Map p28.
Comm 02	Following the construction and occupation of the new National School proposed for Ardclough, to be located just outside the western boundary of the village, the current school, located in the village core beside the local GAA complex, should be considered for community uses. Possible uses could include: a community hall, crèche, provision of parking in the school grounds and reduction of the size of the school site in order to extend the area of the Village Green to the east (See Section 4(ii) specific design guidelines No 6 p29).
Comm 03	A plan should be prepared by the local Community Council in conjunction with Waterways Ireland, reviewing possible improvements that could be made to the Grand Canal in order to improve access and to increase its value to the local community as an amenity facility. Proposals should include the provision of a new pedestrian overbridge, the removal/ relocation of the pipe attached to Henry Bridge and a new walking route along the western bank of the Canal linking Ardclough with Lyons village. This route should include a level surface, seating, lighting and signposting (See Section 4(ii) specific design guidelines No 17 p30).

ARDCLOUGH
KEY STRATEGIES MAP

KEY:

- Development Boundary
- Village core
- Existing Residential Development
- New Development Areas
- Village Services/Facilities
- Lyons Village (refer to No.18)
- Village Buffer
- Existing Amenity/ Open Space
- Extension to Sports Ground
- Proposed Amenity/ Open Space
- Street Trees
- Residential Infill Area
- Pedestrian Walkway
- Henry Bridge
- 1 — 21 Please refer to full explanation of Key Strategies overleaf

Scale: 1:7,000 @ A4
Date: December 2008
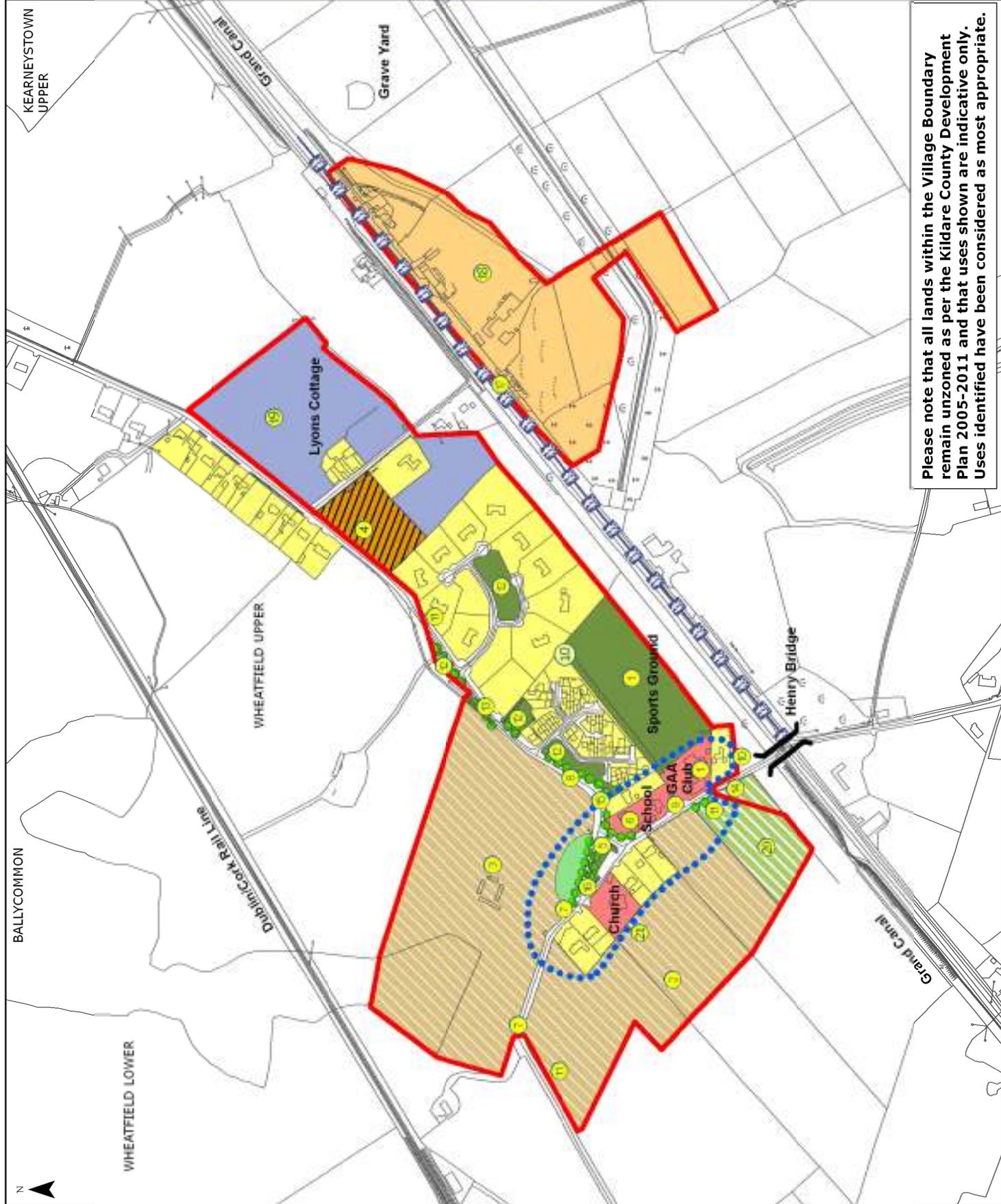
Please note that all lands within the Village Boundary remain unzoned as per the Kildare County Development Plan 2005-2011 and that uses shown are indicative only. Uses identified have been considered as most appropriate.

KEARNEYSTOWN UPPER

BALLYCOMMON

WHEATFIELD LOWER

WHEATFIELD UPPER

Grave Yard

Grand Canal

Dublin/Cork Rail Line

Lyons Cottage

Sports Ground

School

GAA Club

Church

Henry Bridge

Grand Canal

N

4 (ii)   Specific Design Guidelines

Key Strategies - Refer to Map Above
1. GAA sports ground – to be retained as open space and recreational amenity area.
2. New development areas – residential and/or mixed use development must achieve the following:
    - provide pedestrian and cycle links to the new national school
    - create a new linking route to consolidate the village form and maintain permeability
    - provide planning gain in terms of services/amenities facilities for the current and future local community.
3. New development area – residential and/or mixed   use development which should achieve the following:
    - provide an amenity/open space of sufficient scale and in an appropriate configuration to act as a village amenity, including the creation of a children's playground. This could be located opposite the village green
    - provide planning gain
    - incorporate a permeable layout with more than one access point.
4. For the purpose of providing cohesion to the village form a proposed area has been indicated for infill residential development. This shall be addressed from a single access road and shall strengthen the streetscape and create a strong village 'boundary'.

Figure 24: Enhancement of open space areas.

5. Enhancement of 'village green' including providing an appropriately designed seating area and or bus shelter.
6. Following the construction and occupation of the new national school the current school should be considered for community uses.

7. Street trees should be introduced in the village centre as indicated on the Key Strategies Map.

Figure 25: Street trees.

8. The wirescape within the village boundary of Ardclough shall be placed underground in line with any future service expansion/upgrading.
9. Footpaths should be put in place within the Ardclough village boundary area and roads should be upgraded and re surfaced.
10. Signage to be placed on Henry Bridge indicating a weight limit restriction on the bridge.
11. Traffic calming measures should be put in place at or near locations identified on the Key Strategies Map with a design that would allow for a crossing point for persons with limited mobility and pushchairs.
12. Encourage the ongoing planting and maintenance of open space areas for amenity purposes.

Figure 26: Traffic calming measures.

Figure 27: Example of heritage style lighting.

13. A new scheme for public lighting should be prepared with an appropriately designed heritage type lamp standard similar in style to that indicated in Figure 27. Where possible this theme should be continued into any new residential developments in Ardclough. Energy efficient lighting should be used where possible.

14. Natural stone walls within and on the main roads entering Ardclough are a feature of the village and shall be retained, maintained and reinstated.

15. An urban realm improvement scheme should be prepared for Ardclough by the Community Council with assistance from the Local Authority to include new litter bins, lighting proposals, seating and areas for improved planting.

16. A village notice/information board should be erected at or in the vicinity of the village green providing information for both the local community and visitors alike.
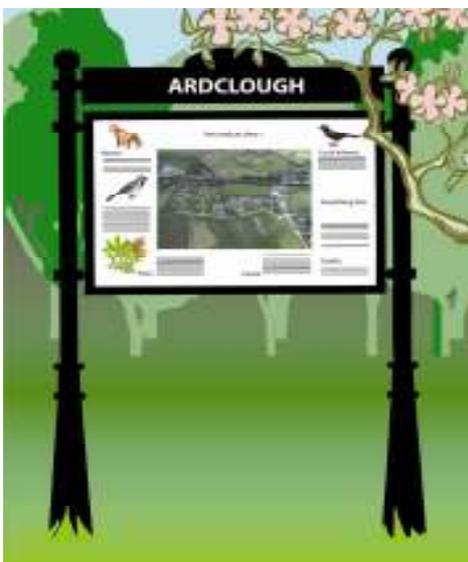
Figure 28: Example of village notice board.

17. A plan should be executed for the Grand Canal in conjunction with Waterways Ireland and the Community Council that incorporates proposals for a new pedestrian overbridge, relocation/ removal of the pipe attached to Henry Bridge and a new walking route along the western bank of the canal between Ardclough and Lyons village, with seating and lighting.

Figure 29: Plan to make greater use of Grand Canal.

18. Lyons village should be retained and any new development proposals considered in the context of conservation, heritage and other objectives for Lyons Demesne and the Grand Canal. Regard also should be had to the open rural character of the lands.

19. Village Buffer Zone: this area should be retained as open in character in the short term but may be considered for development in the longer term subject to proposals satisfactorily addressing all objectives of this VDS.

20. Area indicated for the possible future expansion of the current GAA Grounds as space is limited around the Clubhouse.

21. Possible area for the development of a cemetery to the rear of the Church.

4 (iii)   Delivery - Action & Implementation Programme

This VDS sets out aims and objectives for the management of development that will act as a positive tool for change to benefit the community of Ardclough. This VDS has outlined the analyses and the proposals, as put forward by the local community, to be achieved in the short, medium and longer term.

This particular section of this VDS sets out a framework for the achievement of the plan's objectives. The delivery of the plan involves cooperation from the local community, developers and local authorities in order to promote the protection, conservation, appropriate uses and future management of the village.

The implementation of this plan will require investment in both physical and social infrastructure to support the protection and conservation of the area and the other developments within Ardclough. The Local Authority will expect and require that developers fund and provide the infrastructure necessary to support any development proposed by them and to contribute financially to the cost of other essential infrastructure and amenities necessary to support the development of the town as a whole. This will be achieved through the measures outlines below.

All planning applications for residential developments of five units or greater in Ardclough will be required to be accompanied with a 'Social Infrastructure Assessment' (SIA) (in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 6 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2005-2011). In certain cases however, residential development of less than five units may, at the discretion of the Planning Authority, require the submission of a SIA. [A SIA form is available on the Kildare County Council website].

The overarching purpose of a SIA is:
•   To give a broad overview of existing social infrastructure (services/facilities) currently provided within the vicinity of a proposed development site and
•   To determine what measures could be proposed as part of a development scheme in order to provide for social infrastructure (services/facilities) which are considered by the Planning Authority to be deficient in the area.

In the preparation of this VDS the following list of requirements for Ardclough were established in no particular order:

1.   New Primary School;
2.   Community open space and amenity areas (to serve the entire community and to include street trees and street furniture);
3.   Extension to GAA pitch;
4.   Crèche or playschool facilities;
5.   Community Graveyard;
6.   Community Services.

Establishment of Community Council

In order for the objectives of this VDS to be delivered, it is proposed that a Community Council be established as a limited company with charitable status. This Community Council will effectively be the "project champion" for this VDS. Its role will be the following:

1.   Establish a committee of members elected by the local community annually for the purpose of achieving the objectives set down in this VDS.

2.   Secure funding for projects proposed within this VDS, and others projects in the future. This VDS may be used in support of funding applications - potential sources of funding are listed in Appendix 1 below.

3.   Act as a community liaison and contact point for Kildare County Council and other statutory bodies and agencies in future proposals and managing change for the village of Ardclough.

4.   Update the objectives of the VDS and develop new objectives, as appropriate (See the "Performance Report" below).

5.   Keep the local community updated by various means, including holding meetings, a community website and notice board and using any other local forum, for example a local newsletter or newspaper (See the "Communications Strategy" below).

For a detailed explanation of "local need" and "local growth", please refer to Chapter 6 of the Kildare County Development Plan. Infrastructure works may include roads, cycleways and footways, water, sewerage and land drainage, and other services such as electricity, gas or telecommunications. The specific requirements for each site will depend on local circumstances.

Communications Strategy & Performance Report

The delivery of this planning strategy will rely on all the relevant information being provided to the delivering organisations. The adoption of a Communications Strategy will clearly set down matters such as the protocols and regularity of meetings and communications to partners and the wider local community. It may be considered useful to establish a community notice board, website, email circulars, and other means of communicating regular updates.

It is also suggested that an annual "Performance Report" on the plan's progress. This will ensure that progress is monitored and evaluated and that, where necessary, priorities are reassigned or new projects/ actions are identified.

Funding and Timeframe

There are many varied sources of funding available in order to achieve the objectives set down in this VDS. Some examples of funding sources are listed in the Appendix 1 of this document.

In order to deliver this VDS in an effective, timely and coordinated manner, a series of priorities must be set down. The Action Plan table below sets out the following:

i.   Action
ii.   Level of Intervention
iii.   Timescale
iv.   Project Lead/ Champion
v.   Possible Source of Funding

''Quick win'' projects have been identified in the table. These have one or more of the following criteria:

I.   Deliverable in the short term;
II.   Have the potential to have a positive spin-off or calalytic effect;
III.   May not require a significant level of funding;
IV.   May not be impacted by regulatory or other constraints;
V.   Are readily achievable within the current structure/ available funding.

It is vital that this Action Plan be regularly augmented and amended so that priorities are updated as necessary and that any new projects are identified on an ongoing basis.

Delivery

LIST OF DELIVERABLES AND LEVEL OF INTERVENTION REQUIRED FOR ACTION

Deliverable 1: Urban Realm Improvement Plan

No	Action - low intervention	Action - medium intervention	Action - high intervention	Project Champion	Possible Sources of Funding	PRIORITY
1	Put in place community notice board in centre of village at Village Green			Community Council	Kildare County Council to assist local community	HIGH
2	Natural Stone walls to be retained, maintained and reinstated where necessary			Community Council	Heritage Council to fund; possibility of using wall building as training programme. KCC to note walls to be retained/ reinstated in future planning applications	MEDIUM
3		Introduction of street trees within village where possible		Community Council	Assistance from Crann and funding from listed sources in Appendix	MEDIUM
4			New lighting, seating and signage	Community Council		MEDIUM
5			New paving and road surface, including parking bays to serve businesses and services in village core	Community Council	Kildare County Council & Private Charitable Lottery (funding is available form	MEDIUM
6			Ingtroduction of footpaths within village boundary with safe crossing points to cater for mobility imparied on main roads in village	Community Council	National Lottery for the setting up of these charitable lotteries - see www.lotto.ie)	MEDIUM
7			Undergrounding of wirescape within village	Community Council		LOW

Deliverable 2: Enhancement of Village Green

No	Action - low intervention	Action - medium intervention	Action - high intervention	Project Champion	Possible Sources of Funding	PRIORITY
1	Planting and maintenance of planted areas, with flowering and shrubbery plants (including those that may attract birds) and trees			Community Council	Possibly local community, through a community fund, or Tidy Towns funding from KCC	HIGH
2		Use planting, trees and other positive streetscape features to screen parking in the area adjacent to the Village Green		Community Council	See List of possible Sources of Funding in Appendix	MEDIUM
3			Providing seated area and/or bus shelter with seat	Community Council	See List of possible Sources of Funding in Appendix	MEDIUM

Deliverable 3: Grand Canal Improvements

No	Action - low intervention	Action - medium intervention	Action - high intervention	Project Champion	Possible Sources of Funding	PRIORITY
1	Speed limit signage and signage with weight limit on Henry Bridge to be placed in Ardclough and on surrounding roads, as appropriate			Kildare County Council	Signage to be put in place by Kildare County Council	HIGH
2			Plan to be developed for the improvement of amenity uses and access to the Grand Canal, including the removal/ relocation of the pipe attached to Henry Bridge and a new walking route along the western bank of the Canal between Ardclough and Lyons village, with seating, lighting and a level surface	Community Council	Waterways Ireland	LOW

* Please note that projects highlighted in red have been identified as "quick win" projects and have the potential to be the catalyst for further works and a means of developing a strong Community Council and gaining local involvement

Appendix 1

Potential Sources of Funding

There are a number of sources from which funding could be sought for the implementation of this project. A number of such sources are listed below.

DOEHLG Civic Structures Conservation Grants Scheme

Heritage Council

See: www.heritagecouncil.ie/grants

International Fund for Ireland

LEADER+

Leader+ aims to encourage the emergence and testing of new approaches to integrated and sustainable development that will influence, complete and/or reinforce rural development policy in the Community.

The New Culture Programme (2007-2013)

International Funds for Ireland

PEACE III

The Getty Foundation

The Ireland Funds

The Ireland Funds is an international charitable organisation operating in 11 countries and has raised over $300 million for worthy causes in Ireland.

Irish Georgian Society

The conservation of Ireland's rich architectural heritage is the principal aim of the Irish Georgian Society. Many important buildings continue to be threatened either by neglect or unsympathetic development.

Irish Landmark Trust

The Irish Landmark Trust Limited saves heritage buildings that are abandoned or at risk throughout the whole of Ireland. The Trust undertakes their conservation, restoration and maintenance by converting them to domestic use suitable for short-term (e.g. holiday) lettings.

OPW

The OPW has responsibility for the day-to-day running of all National Monuments and Historic Properties.

Gulbenkian Foundation

The UK Branch of the Portugal-based Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation is responsible for grant aid in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

Irish Heritage Trust

Launched in 2006, and still in the process of being commissioned, the Irish Heritage Trust will acquire, through negotiation and tax incentives, historic properties, houses and gardens that will be open for everyone's enjoyment forever. Sources of funding may be available through this agency in future years. Part of its brief is to protect the heritage of Ireland, and to actively engage with local communities.

Artists in the Community Scheme

Foras na Gaeilge

(Contact: Foras na Gaeilge,7 Merrion Square,Dublin 2)

The Arts Council

(Contact: The Arts Council,70 Merrion Square,Dublin 2)

Festivals and Cultural Events (Failte Ireland)

The Festivals and Cultural Events Initiative has the objective of expanding regional tourism through festivals and cultural events.
(Contact: Bord Fáilte,Baggott Street Bridge,Dublin 2)

The Community Development Programme

(Contact: Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs)

Carnegie UK Trust's Rural Community Development Grant Policy

(Contact: Carnegie UK Trust,Comely Park House, 80 New Row)

National Lottery
Katherine Howard Foundation
Tidy Towns (DoEHLG)
EPA Cemetery Maintenance Grants (Kildare Co Co)
Community Grants Scheme (Kildare Co Co)
Litter Bin Grants (Kildare Co Co)

*Please note that all information was correct at time of publication. Please refer to Kildare 4 Community on the internet for further local sources of funding.
www.open4community.ie/kildare/

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