





Web Resources

Before you start work on the Town Centre Health Check (TCHC) your group might find it useful to spend some time getting up to speed on current planning and heritage issues. As you are aware, a wealth of information is available on the internet – the links below (listed in alphabetical order) offer some excellent starting points for TCHCs:

	<p>The UNECE Aarhus Convention, the <i>United Nations Economic Convention for Europe</i> Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, was signed on June 25, 1998 in the Danish city of Aarhus. It entered into force on 30th October 2001. The Aarhus Convention grants the public rights regarding access to information, public participation and access to justice, in governmental decision-making processes on matters concerning the local, national and trans-boundary environment. The convention focuses on interactions between the public and public authorities and came into force in Ireland on 18th September 2012.</p> <p>Website: ec.europa.eu/environment/aarhus/</p>
	<p>The Academy of Urbanism is a politically independent, not-for-profit organisation that brings together both the current and next generation of urban leaders, thinkers and practitioners. The Academy works with places to identify and reinforce their strengths, and help them recognise and overcome obstacles to greater success. The Freiburg Charter was developed in partnership with the City of Freiburg in recognition of winning the Academy's European City of the Year Award 2010. The city is an outstanding example of sustainable urbanism of which this publication aims to distill through 12 principles.</p> <p>Website: https://www.academyofurbanism.org.uk/freiburg-charter</p>
	<p>The Arts Council was founded in 1951 by the Government of Ireland to encourage interest in Irish art and to channel funding from the state to Irish artists and arts organisations. This includes encouragement of traditional Irish arts, support for contemporary Irish arts, and finance for international arts events in Ireland. Funding is available to various organisations and individuals including not for profit community groups for a range of artistic endeavours including festivals, community events, and 'artist in the community' programmes. For further information on current funding streams, please see the Arts Council website</p> <p>Website: www.artscouncil.ie</p>
	<p>ATCM is a unique organisation, with a membership that spans the private, public and third sectors. As the largest organisation of its kind in Europe, ATCM has over the past two decades evolved into an influential voice for the town and city management community, and as a widely respected authority on policy, innovator of research, and best practice example of partnership working and cross sector engagement.</p> <p>Website: https://www.atcm.org</p>



BRE Greenprint is a design and consultation process created by BRE to prioritise sustainable development and the creation of sustainable communities. The process brings together a range of stakeholders during the masterplanning stage in order to assess the opportunities and constraints of a particular site and how these may impact on the development of a sustainable community. The development is assessed under eight categories – climate change, resources, transport, ecology, business, community, place-making and buildings. Each category is given a weighted score, which is combined to give the development an overall rating. For further information and case study examples, see the Greenprint website.

Website: www.bre.co.uk/greenprint



CABE is now part of the Design Council

The Design Council UK, formerly the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) works cross-sector network of built environment experts to offer support in delivering sustainable places where people want to live and work. The Design Council's expertise range from housing and office developments to nationally significant infrastructure projects and neighbourhood planning support, landscape design, healthcare, procurement, public space strategy and sustainable urban design.

Website: www.designcouncil.org.uk/our-work/CABE/



The Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas was formed in 2013 and its stated objectives were

- To encourage job creation and sustainable enterprise development
- To be recognised as a modern, fair, socially inclusive and equal society supported by a productive and prosperous economy
- To facilitate where possible export led growth

Teagasc is the national body providing integrated research, advisory and training services to the agriculture and food industry and rural communities. **Teagasc's Research Officer, David Meredith** co-ordinated the preparation of a CEDRA report in 2014 entitled '*Energising Ireland's Rural Economy*', which made 34 recommendations to implement CEDRA objectives (see link below).

Website: <http://www.ruralireland.ie/index.php/cedra-reports>



Citizens Information provides information on public services and entitlements in Ireland. For the Town Centre Health Check process, it is a useful source of information on government structures and environmental policy and regulations in Ireland.

Website: www.citizensinformation.ie



Community Planning.net is a web-based resource that is 'helping people shape their cities, towns and villages in any part of the world'. The content is useful to all those involved in the collaborative planning process.

Website: www.communityplanning.net



Central Statistics Office Ireland (CSO) provides statistical service in relation to people and society, business sectors, economic, environment and climate and labour market and earnings. The CSO provides census information in relation to Small Area Population Statistics (SAPS) and a new service – Small Area Population Maps (SAPMAP). The CSO also runs seminars on related topics and provides a link to Eurostat facility.

Website: www.cso.ie



create national development
agency for collaborative arts

Create is the national development agency for collaborative arts in social and community contexts. The organisation seeks to foster current and future potential for collaboration between artists and communities, encouraging art projects that reflect the exciting ways in which collaborative arts represent a complex range of ideas and approaches. Further information on how to establish a collaborative art project is available online.

Website: <http://www.create-ireland.ie>



An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht,
Gnóthai Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta

Department of Arts, Heritage,
Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs oversees the conservation, preservation, protection and presentation of Ireland's heritage and cultural assets. This includes the 'Historic Towns Initiative', which is a joint undertaking by the Department of Arts, Heritage Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, the Heritage Council and Fáilte Ireland based on a renewal of the existing Heritage Towns designation. The aim is to promote the heritage-led regeneration of Ireland's historic towns. In addition, the Department has produced an informative study (available on the website) entitled 'Shaping the Future; Case Studies in Adaptation and Reuse in Historic Urban Environments'. The Department also is managing the implementation of the National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025. The Department is presently overseeing the allocation of funding applications for the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, totaling €380,000 to be allocated to each Local Authority. Full details of the scheme can be found in link below.

Website: www.ahg.gov.ie

<http://www.housing.gov.ie/community/rural-development/village-and-town-renewal-scheme/town-village-renewal-scheme>

<http://www.ahrrga.gov.ie/app/uploads/2015/07/N-Landscape-Strategy-english-Web.pdf>



An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála, Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil
Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government

The Department of Housing, Planning, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (DoHPRRGA) has a large and varied role with responsibility for many and disparate areas including implementing the 'Rebuilding Ireland; Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness' set out in 2016. It also manages 'Leader' Funding Programme 2014-2020. LEADER will provide 250 million euro in financial resources to rural communities up to 2020. It will be administered by Local Action Groups (LAGs). These are partnerships of both public and private entities from a defined geographical area.

Amongst others, the Department (or predecessors) has produced the following guidelines and manuals with direct relevance to the TCHC programme:

Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012)

Retail Design Manual (2012)

Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (2009)

Urban Design Manual; Best Practice Guide (2009)

Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets DMURS (2013)

Website: <http://www.housing.gov.ie/community/rural-development/leader/leader-2014-2020>

<http://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/migrated-files/en/Publications/DevelopmentandHousing/Planning/FileDownload,30026,en.pdf>



The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) is the regional assembly with authority in 12 counties in the eastern and midlands of Ireland. The main roles of the EMRA in relation to TCHC are to:

- Implement the appropriate Regional Planning Guidelines operational within its geographical area.
- Prepare, adopt and implement the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies.
- Ensure consistency with RPG/RESES in relation to the Local Economic and Community Plans of the 12 constituent Local Authorities.

EMRA's predecessor, the Dublin and Mid East Regional Authorities produced a 'Retail Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2008-2016', which is accessible on the link opposite.

Website: <http://emra.ie/regional-spatial-and-economic-strategies-2>
<http://emra.ie/dubh/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Greater-Dublin-Area-Retail-Strategy-2008-2016.pdf>



Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for the protection and management of Ireland's environment. The EPA is an independent public body which is responsible for regulation of activities that might otherwise cause pollution. It does this through environmental licensing; enforcement of environmental law; environmental planning, education and guidance; monitoring, analysing and reporting on the environment; regulating Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions; environmental research development; strategic environmental assessment; and waste management.

Website: www.environ.ie



European Greenways Association is a an organisation bringing together a range of local, regional and national associations involved in sustainable transport in order to share knowledge on greenways. The objectives of the EGWA is to preserve infrastructure such as disused railway corridors in the public domain and develop them as non motorised routes; coordinated the exchange of expertise and information; inform local and national bodies how develop their own greenways; and collaborate with other European bodies in order to promote sustainable development and the environment.

Website: www.aevv-egwa.org/site/hp_en.asp



Fáilte Ireland (FI) is the national tourism development authority charged with responsibility for marketing Ireland as a tourist destination both here and abroad. In addition, Fáilte Ireland also provides a range of business support and resources to aid the development of tourism products including research on the tourist industry and visitor experience, advice on how to start and grow a tourism business, best practice and case studies; training and workshops; and access to funding. It runs funding/ investment programmes such as those associated with the Wild Atlantic Way, and Ireland's Ancient East. FI also publishes targeted guidance for specific sectors e.g. a Tourism Toolkit for Built Heritage is available online.

Website: www.failteireland.ie



Footfall is a retail intelligence company that undertakes people counting, retail analytics and strategies. It provides 'market-leading retail intelligence solutions enable retailers and shopping centres to understand their customers inside and out, in order to increase

revenue and improve profitability through actionable insight’.

Website: <http://www.footfall.com>

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



The Heritage Council is a public body working in the public interest to promote, manage and project our national heritage for the enjoyment of all. In practical terms this means supporting jobs, education and heritage tourism in local communities and through putting in place the infrastructure and networks to enable communities to take responsibility for the development and conservation of their heritage assets. The Heritage Council’s work covers all aspects of the built and natural heritage including archeology, architecture, inland waterways, walled towns, landscape, marine, museums and archives, planning and wildlife. In terms of community and town centre planning, the Heritage Council has initiated the Community-led Village Design Statement Programme, the Irish Walled Towns Network, Public Realm Plans, and a number of existing pilot Town Centre Health Checks. Further information and guidance is available online.

Website: <http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/pleanail/publications/?L=3>



The **International Downtown Association** is a world leader and champion for vital and livable urban centers. Through its network of diverse practitioners, its rich body of knowledge, and its unique capacity to nurture community-building partnerships, IDA provides tools, intelligence and strategies for creating healthy and dynamic centers that anchor the well-being of towns, cities and regions of the world.

Website: <https://www.ida-downtown.org/eweb/>



Formed in 2006, the **Institute of Place Management** is the international professional body that supports people committed to developing, managing and making places better. The concept for the Institute was developed by the Manchester Metropolitan University and the Association of Town Centre Management in the UK. They recognised a need to create a professional body capable of developing and supporting the creation of sustainable formal structures of place management, ensuring professional standards amongst all those involved in the management, development and planning of places.

Website: <http://www.placemanagement.org>



IRISH ARCHITECTURAL ARCHIVE

Cartlann Ailtireachta na hÉireann

Irish Architectural Archive (IAA) - The Irish Architectural Archive is an independent limited company with charitable status, which collects and preserves the records of Irish architecture – from the earliest structures to contemporary buildings – and makes these freely available to all who wish to consult them. The Archive is a non-contentious body, which does not involve itself in the planning process or matters of conservation controversy.

Website: www.iarc.ie

Irish Architecture Foundation

Irish Architecture Foundation aims to promote engagement and generate dialogue between the public and the discipline of architecture in Ireland. Through a programme of exhibitions, talks, film screening, symposia, competitions, publications, school and community workshops the IAF works to develop audiences for architecture in Ireland while raising the profile of Irish architecture abroad. The IAF is also responsible for coordinating the annual OPEN HOUSE event where public and privately owned buildings of architectural note are opened up to the public. Further information on the IAF is available online.

Website: www.architecturefoundation.ie



The **Irish Archives Resource** is a portal web site that will enable researchers/users to search for publicly accessible archival collections that are located in Ireland.

Website: www.iar.ie



IRISH LANDSCAPE INSTITUTE
Institiúid Tírdhreacha na hÉireann

The **Irish Landscape Institute (ILI)** is the professional body representing landscape architects in Ireland. As such it sets standards of excellence in the fields of landscape planning, landscape architecture and landscape management. In addition to supporting its professional members the ILI also promotes knowledge of landscape architecture in Ireland through a lecture series which is open to non members. Further information on the ILI is available online.

Website: www.irishlandscapeinstitute.com



IRISH PLANNING INSTITUTE
Institiúid Pleanála Na hÉireann

The **Irish Planning Institute (IPI)** is the professional body representing environmental planners in Ireland. The IPI works with both its members and other stakeholders in the planning profession to promote and improve the quality of spatial planning, to represent the views of the planning profession and to contribute to education and environmental awareness in the wider community. This is achieved through the hosting of conferences and CPD events for members and non-members; awarding, recognising and publishing best practice; making submissions on behalf of the planning profession on national policies, governance and other relevant publications and papers; and by representing the values of planning and planning professionals in the general media. Further information on the IPI is available online.

Website: www.irishplanninginstitute.ie

Kildare County Council
Comhairle Contae Chill Dara

Kildare County Council's Planning Unit with Declan Brassil & Associates prepared a Draft Retail Strategy in 2010 that established the baseline (existing) retail floorspace and assessed the potential for additional floorspace on a county-wide and area basis.

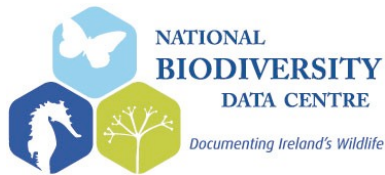
Website:

<http://kildare.ie/countycouncil/planning/DraftKildareCountyRetailStrategy>



The National Archives of Ireland

National Archives of Ireland holds the records of the modern Irish State which document its historical evolution and the creation of our national identity. The archives include estate papers, historical maps, genealogy records, court records and papers from government departments (>30 years old).



National Biodiversity Data Centre coordinates the collection of comprehensive biological data in order to insure reliable data on biodiversity is available to inform public policy and for use by researchers and conservationists. Based at Waterford Institute of Technology, Waterford, the Centre is an initiative of the Heritage Council and is funded by the Heritage Council and the National Parks & Wildlife Service of the Department of the Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht. Further information on the National Biodiversity Data Centre is available online.

Website: www.biodiversityireland.ie



National Monuments Service is part of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and plays a key role in the protection of our archaeological heritage. The NMS has responsibility for archaeological issues arising at National Monuments in State care such as carrying out surveys of known sites and where sites are thought to be located and to compile inventories of sites and monuments; and providing advice to planning authorities on development proposals (development plans, heritage plans and individual planning applications) that may have implications for the archaeological heritage; Providing advice to individuals and local groups on archaeological issues.

Website: www.archaeology.ie



National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) - the role of NPWS is to secure the conservation of a representative range of ecosystems and maintain and enhance populations of flora and fauna in Ireland; to implement the EU Habitats and Bird Directives; to designate and advise on the protection of Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) having particular regard to the need to consult with interested parties; to make the necessary arrangements for the implementation of National and EU legislation and policies and for the ratification and implementation of the range of international Conventions and Agreements relating to the natural heritage; and to manage, maintain and develop State-owned National Parks and Nature Reserves.

Website: www.npws.ie



The **National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)** is a state initiative under the administration of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The purpose of the NIAH is to identify, record, and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. NIAH surveys provide the basis for the recommendations of the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to the planning authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in their Record of Protected Structures (RPS). Further information on the work of the NIAH is available online.

Website: www.buildingsofireland.ie



The **National Economic and Social Council (NESC)** was established in 1973 and advises the Taoiseach (Prime Minister) on strategic policy issues relating to sustainable economic, social and environmental development in Ireland. The NESC website contains useful information on the various elements of sustainable development such as climate change and energy; biodiversity and natural resources; green infrastructure; sustainability awareness and education; governance for sustainable development; sustainable development indicators; transport; green economy and local sustainability.

Website: <http://www.nesc.ie>



The **Northern & Western Regional Assembly** comprises of 25 elected members nominated by the 9 local authorities within the region, covering the former Border, Midlands and West Regional Authority.

Prior to their dissolution, the three Regional Authorities in the BMW Region produced individual Regional Planning Guidelines (RPG's), which set out a strategic planning framework for the 3 NUTS III regions and these guidelines will remain in force until at least 2016 when it is proposed that they will be replaced by new Regional Spatial & Economic Strategies.

The main roles of the Northern & Western Regional Assembly are to:

- Manage the BMW Regional Operational Programmes
- Monitor the general impact of all EU and Irish exchequer-funded programmes in the Northern and Western region;
- Promote the co-ordination of the provision of Public Services in the region; and
- Ensure that national policies take regional issues into account

Website: <http://nwra.ie/regional-planning-guidelines>



The **Night Time Industries Association (NTIA)** represents the enormous success story that is the UK's fifth biggest industry, which accounts for at least 8% of the UK's employment and revenues of 66 Billion pounds per annum (that's 6% of the UK total). The NTIA has been formed by independent bar, nightclub and restaurant owners, pubs, festival and live music event operators as well as music managers and other supporters of the benefits of the Night Time Industry from the world of business, culture, media and politics.

Website: <http://www.ntia.co.uk>



Office of Public Works (OPW) is responsible for managing State and historic buildings in Ireland. Its core services include property maintenance, property management, architectural and engineering services, heritage services, project management and procurement services. Further information about the work of the OPW, including their recent communities' initiative, can be found online.

Website: www.opw.ie



Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSi) provides tourist and leisure maps along with professional mapping. Professional mapping services include: land registry, planning pack, environmental reports, ortho photography, historical mapping, wind maps, large scales, ortho rectified photographs, boundary data, height data.

Website: www.osi.ie



Place Leaders Asia-Pacific is a not-for-profit member organisation for the promotion of leadership among place shapers, makers, activators and managers working in Australasia and the Asia-Pacific region. As an international network of dedicated organisations and individuals, Place Leaders develop successful place-making practices, policy and processes. Place Leaders strive to achieve great public realm outcomes by taking more things into account from the very start. Place Leaders facilitate knowledge sharing and promote the expertise of our members through the creation of networking and learning opportunities. Through evidence gathering and the fostering of research partnerships, and through award and recognition programs, we celebrate great place outcomes – and the people who make them happen.

Website: <http://placeleaders.com>



Planning for Real® is a hands-on community development and empowerment tool that enables communities and others to work together to make a model of their area that helps them put forward and prioritise how their area can be improved. The technique uniquely builds around a community-assembled model on which problems and improvements are identified through pictorial 'option' cards. The model and the cards have several underlying purposes: They overcome the difficulties of verbal communication by providing an 'alternative currency' to words as a means of exchanging views and information. The model provides a common reference point around which to structure inputs, and allows a broader perspective of issues as well as providing a physical base for placing suggestions. The process allows residents to register their views on a range of issues, to work together to identify priorities, and in partnership with local agencies go on to develop an action plan for change.

Website: www.planningforreal.org.uk



Project for Public Spaces (PPS) is a nonprofit planning, design and educational organization dedicated to helping people create and sustain public spaces that build stronger communities. Our pioneering Placemaking approach helps citizens transform their public spaces into vital places that highlight local assets, spur rejuvenation and serve common needs. PPS was founded in 1975 to expand on the work of William (Holly) Whyte, author of *The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces*. We have since completed project in more than 3000 communities in 43 countries and all 50 U.S. states and are the premier center for best practices, information and resources on placemaking. More than 900 people worldwide are members of our Placemaking Leadership Council.

Website: <http://www.pps.org>



Pobal is a not-for-profit organisation with charitable status that manages various funding programmes on behalf of the Irish Government and the EU. Pobal provides an umbrella service for all community funding programmes in Ireland. It is committed to supporting national recovery through the programmes managed on behalf of Government Departments, including the Local and Community Development Programme (LCDP) and the Programmes of Grants for Community and Voluntary Organisations.

Website: www.pobal.ie

Redrawing Project

Redrawing Project is the umbrella platform for the collaborative projects and research carried out by Paul Kearns and Motti Ruimy. Paul and Motti are authors of the book REDRAWING DUBLIN (Gandon Editions, 2010). Their creative interest primarily lies in the playful merging and synthesis of urban policy and public art. Their work can be described as 'action urbanism'. Paul and Motti have also recently developed 'Mapping Beauty' using the indicators of street trees, protected structures and vehicle pollution to analyse the beauty of Dublin spatially. In addition to this, they have also developed a 'street tree index' that allows a measurement of 'need' for street trees spatially.

Website: <https://redrawingproject.com>



Respublica is a 'non-partisan think tank' on the concept of common good. Respublica's ideas are founded on principles which move beyond the current political dichotomies of left and right. Respublica favours the pursuit of the common good and the development of real wealth that promotes human flourishing. Its work – which includes policy innovation, research, publications, events and commentary across a wide range of policy areas – is framed and directed by three key programmes: Society, Prosperity and Virtue. Respublica has recently produced a report in 2015 entitled 'Community Right to Beauty' (linked on their website below).

Website: <http://www.respublica.org.uk/our-work/publications/a-community-right-to-beauty-giving-communities-the-power-to-shape-enhance-and-create-beautiful-places-developments-and-spaces>



Reusing Dublin responds to the observation that we don't use space in our city efficiently - and sometimes we don't use it at all. Reusing Dublin attempts to map underused spaces in order to identify opportunities for using the city more efficiently for the benefit of everyone. Underused spaces include sites and buildings that are not used at all (vacant) or that are only partly in use. It also includes spaces that may have a use, like a roof or a grassed area, but that could accommodate additional uses. Re-using Dublin is an experimental research project that is part of a wider EU FP7 project called TURAS (Transitioning towards Urban Resilience and Sustainability).

Website: <http://www.reusingdublin.ie>



The Royal Irish Academy (RIA) champions research. The RIA identify and recognise Ireland's world class researchers and supports scholarship and promotes awareness of how science and the humanities enrich our lives and benefit society. The Academy is run by a Council of its members. Membership is by election and considered the highest Academic honour in Ireland. The RIA is currently producing a suite of 'Historic Towns Atlas', a number of which are participating in the TCHC 'Pilot'. Dundalk, Sligo and Ennis are published and Cashel, Tralee and Naas are in progress (see opposite for weblink for this programme).

Website: <https://www.ria.ie/research-projects/irish-historic-towns-atlas/about-publications>



Royal Institute of Architects Ireland (RIAI) is the professional body representing architects in Ireland. It is also responsible for regulating the industry. In addition the RIAI is responsible for the promoting excellence in Irish architecture through a number of initiatives including the Irish Architecture awards. Further information on the RIAI is available online.

Website: www.riai.ie



The Scottish Government has produced a 'Town Centre Toolkit' for use by communities in planning for their future. The Town Centre Toolkit comprises a range of tools and associated case studies which focus on the development of quality, accessible public realm and the use of town assets. These are grouped under four key headings: 'attractive', 'active', 'accessible' and 'making it happen'. The toolkit is for those who want to understand the full breadth of areas that impact on town centre vitality, and where and how we can use Scotland's town centres to transform ideas into new opportunities. It should be viewed as a complement to a range of key actions identified in the Town Centre Action Plan, helping to support enterprising communities and vibrant local economies.

Website: <https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/stpfiles/resources/Town-Centre-Action-Plan-Masterplanning-Toolkit.pdf>



The main role of the **Special EU Programmes Body (SE PUB)** is to manage cross-border European Union Structural Funds programmes in Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and parts of Western Scotland.

SE PUB'S two current programmes (2014-2020) are the European Union's Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (otherwise known as the PEACE IV Programme) and the European Union's Cross-border Programme for Territorial Co-operation, Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland (otherwise known as the INTERREG VA Programme).

Website: <http://www.seupb.eu>



Social Justice Ireland is an independent think tank and justice advocacy organisation that advances the lives of people and communities through providing independent social analysis and effective policy development to create a sustainable future for every member of society and for societies as a whole. Social Justice Ireland is an advocate of Public Participation Networks (PPNs) and their website contains a DoHPCLG- produced user guide for PPNs (see below).

Website: <https://www.socialjustice.ie/content/civil-society-policy/public-participation-network-ppn-user-guide>



A key aspect of the **Southern Regional Assembly** is its planning and economic development role, and formulating the new Spatial and Economic Strategy. This will be undertaken at the sub-regional areas, which correspond broadly to the 8 former regional authority areas. These will be the building blocks for spatial and economic planning and statutory committees, involving the Assembly members from these areas, together with outside interests, will be established. The South-West Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022 shall continue to have effect until a Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy is prepared and adopted by the Southern Regional Assembly.

Website: http://www.southernassembly.ie/en/info/information_centre



Unrivalled Retail Intelligence

Springboard operates in the UK and monitors complex retail environments, understanding the full performance of their area. Springboard monitors complex retail environments ensuring that our clients understand the full performance of their area. Springboard monitors flows in locations of all types and sizes, working with a range of organisations, which include Town & City Centre Management companies, Business Improvement Districts, venue operators and property owners.

Website: <http://www.spring-board.info>



Tree Council
of Ireland

The Tree Council of Ireland is an umbrella body for organisations involved in tree planting, management and conservation. The main role of the Tree Council is to promote the planting, care and enjoyment of trees. It does this through networking, the organisation of events and tree related activities, the publication of literature, and the management of national tree records and through the provision of an information service to the public. Further information on the Tree Council is available online.

Website: www.treecouncil.ie



University College Dublin (UCD) Library provides a range of supports for creators and consumers of digital information. It has a historic maps collections, which is useful for gaining an understanding of historic context of a town or village's development.

Website: <http://digital.ucd.ie/view/ivrla:426>



For more than ten years, the **URBACT** programme has been the European Territorial Cooperation programme aiming to foster sustainable integrated urban development in cities across Europe. It is an instrument of the Cohesion Policy, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the 28 Member States, Norway & Switzerland. One related URBACT project entitled 'City Centre Doctors' involves Naas, Co Kildare and compares cities that are 'in the shadow' of larger cities (see link below).

Another related URBACT project is 'RetailLink'. It aims to revitalize the retail sector in medium-sized cities through the development of innovative strategies. Through shared learning and exchange of experience and practices, the cities participating in the network will develop Integrated Action Plans to address this challenge at local level. The main goal is to enhance the competitiveness of small and/or independent retail businesses, considering them a key economic driver (see link opposite).

Also linked below is a 'Local Support Group Toolkit', which is a useful guide for community planning.

Website: <http://urbact.eu/naas>

<http://urbact.eu/retailink>

http://urbact.eu/sites/default/files/import/general_library/URBACT



Waterways Ireland is one of the six North/South Implementation Bodies established under the British Irish Agreement in 1999. Waterways Ireland has responsibility for the management, maintenance, development and restoration of inland navigable waterways principally for recreational purposes. The waterways under the remit of the body are the Barrow Navigation, the Erne System, the Grand Canal, the Lower Bann, the Royal, the Shannon-erne Waterway and the Shannon Navigation. The headquarters for Waterways Ireland is in Enniskillen, and regional offices are located in Carrick-on-Shannon, Dublin and Scarriff.

Website: www.waterwaysireland.org



The Wheel is Ireland's support and representative umbrella network for community, voluntary and charitable organizations. Their mission is to increase the community and voluntary sector's capacity and capability to play its part in achieving a fair and just society in Ireland. Their website offers extensive information on governance, training and funding opportunities and good practice guidelines relevant to the community and voluntary sector. For example, a practical guide to writing funding applications available here

Website: www.wheel.ie

<http://www.wheel.ie/sites/default/files/The%20Wheel%20-%20How%20to%20Apply%20for%20Funding%20-%20June%202010.pdf>

Prepared September 2016 by Trevor Keppel MIPI of the Heritage Council. Sources: various organisation websites and adapted from *CLVDS Toolkit Fact Sheet No. 4* (prepared by Kate Moloney).