

# New visions for towns to be shared online

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**Eight towns have been developing exciting new visions for their respective towns over the past year.**  
It's part of the My Town, My Plan Community Training Programme which saw community representatives from Carrigaline, Cobh, Clonakilty, Kinsale, Middleton, Rosscarbery, Skibbereen and Youghal commit to several months of participation to develop new ideas.

The face-to-face training and consultative sessions began last September and as Covid-19 hit in mid-March, the April and May sessions moved online.

The towns in West Cork recently showcased their ideas at an online event and on 7 October at 7pm, Carrigaline, Cobh, Middleton and Youghal will share their experiences and will also introduce the next phase of support that SECAD is offering through the LEADER 2014-2020 Programme.



**Barry Cogan, Carrigaline; Melanie O'Driscoll, Cobh; Carol Harpur, Middleton and Mick McCarthy, Youghal who were participants in the My Town, My Plan Community Training Programme.** PHOTO: BRIAN LOUGHEED

Ciaran Dineen from Carrigaline remarked: "My Town, My Plan gave me the chance to share my thoughts and ambitions for the future of Carrigaline. By meeting people who shared an appetite and desire to make a real difference, My Town, My

Plan has encouraged me to move forward and build upon the conversations we have had with the information and knowledge around community development that has been provided. It has been a fantastic experience."  
Maaïke Mijland from

Cobh said: "It has been very useful as it helped us to focus on our community goals, provided guidance with project planning and offered a wealth of information from experts. I really enjoyed connecting with my community and the facilitator and speakers

## SOME IDEAS FROM THE EIGHT TOWNS

**Carrigaline**  
Develop an arts and culture centre by repurposing an existing building which will be a new focal point for the community. The centre will incorporate a mixed-use office, flexible meeting spaces as well as a fully equipped theatrical, exhibition and heritage space.

**Cobh**  
Single use take-away litter on the streets, particularly at weekends, is a big problem therefore a reusable take-away container scheme will be set up to reduce the amount of litter and single use items used by customers of food businesses on the island.

**Middleton**  
Create a large regional park, matching play, culture and heritage with biodiversity all over 150 acres set along the natural floodplain of the Roxborough/Dungourney River. Green spaces for leisure, sport and outdoor activities with playgrounds, cycle paths and walking trails will improve the quality of urban and rural life.

**Youghal**  
The provision of a blue way to make Youghal and its hinterland easy to access by rail, bicycle, running, walking and by ferry. Key to this is re-opening the rail link from Cork to Youghal which closed down in 1963 and recently extended to Middleton.  
A ferry service which operated between Youghal and Ferrypoint from the 13th

century to the early 1960s will also be re-instated.

**Clonakilty**  
Develop greenways to various places in the town and collaborate with the local Tidy Towns Committee to develop a biodiversity garden to promote biodiversity projects whilst developing a historical trail featuring our well-known figures of national and international importance.

**Kinsale**  
Set up a community partnership for open communication and consultation so everyone in it has a voice, act as a liaison between the many organisations in the community and be a forum for applying and drawing down funds for initiatives.

**Rosscarbery**  
Document local trails to create a number of walking loops from different locations in the region including Rosscarbery, Connonagh, Leap and Glandore. Walks will be mapped and properly sign posted with information boards erected at these locations.

**Skibbereen**  
Revisit the Skibbereen Traffic and Transportation Study to look at an alternative to the completion of the eastern relief road incorporating the new community school, implement a one-way system on North and Bridge Street, improve parking in the town and introduce cycle corridors at peak school times.

were excellent and gave me useful tools, motivation and hope for the future."  
The Hincks Centre for Entrepreneurship Excellence, part of the School of Business at CIT designed and delivered the programme which was funded through SECAD Partner-

ship CLG.  
Dr Helen McGuirk, Head of the Hincks Centre said: "We noticed one general theme across most towns and that is the idea of developing greenways/trails and parks, opening up new areas to be explored and enjoyed by locals and vis-

itors. This is particularly pertinent with many Irish holidaymakers opting for a staycation this year due to Covid-19."

**For more information or to register for online event visit [hinckscentre.ie](http://hinckscentre.ie).**