



Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



Oifig an
Rialaitheora Pleanála
Office of the
Planning Regulator



Athlone Public Realm Improvements

Local Authority and Regional Assembly Staff Training - 28 November 2025

A Guide to the Webinar

The OPR, as part of its Strategic Research Programme, is looking at public realm improvements in Irish towns and cities to see how the work is being undertaken, what issues are arising and what lessons can be learnt. The journey begins in Athlone with the impressive town centre public realm improvements recently completed by Westmeath County Council. This training webinar focused on sharing insights from this project with presentations from Westmeath County Council. Here is an outline of the recording:

Athlone Public Realm Improvements – from 00:00 to 10:40

Councillor Vinny McCormack, Mayor of Athlone.

In his presentation, Councillor McCormack shares some of the learnings from the perspective of an elected member from the delivery of recent public realm works in Athlone's town centre. He outlines the elected members' role in the process, as well as the positive outcomes from the street upgrade. He highlights the importance of close collaboration with the project's regeneration team and local businesses, and strong emphasis on stakeholder engagement in ensuring the project's success.

Athlone Public Realm Improvements (Video) – from 10:40 to 14:53

This video produced by the OPR, in conjunction with Westmeath County Council, highlights the recent public works completed in Athlone.

Athlone Town Centre: Urban Regeneration & Enhancement – from 14:53 to 24:00

Lorraine Middleton, Executive Planner.

Lorraine's presentation details the background planning context and demonstrates how planning policy has translated into urban regeneration in Athlone town centre, using URDF funding. She outlines the role of regeneration teams in driving the delivery of such projects, through her experience in Athlone.

Athlone Town Centre Project – URDF131: Team Structure and Project Implementation- from 24:00 to 41:15

Noel Beggan & Dermot Killeen, Senior Executive Planner and Executive Planner.

Noel and Dermot, provide their insights into the delivery of the Athlone Public Realm works as project engineers. Their presentation delves into areas such as the project life cycle, budget estimation and project implementation. They also share solutions to challenges that the regeneration team faced over the course of the works.

Athlone Urban Design & Regeneration Framework: Building a Regional Growth Centre - from 41:15 to 53:42

Cathaldus Hartin, Senior Planner.

In his presentation, Cathaldus, details the Athlone Urban Design and Regeneration Framework and sets out the strategic planning context for the recent public realm works. He describes the overarching aims of the urban design framework and emphasises the positive impact of public sector led regeneration efforts in driving transformative change as Athlone strives to fulfil its role as Regional Growth Centre in the midlands.

Athlone Joint Urban Area Plan 2024-2030 (Video) - from 53:42 to 57:35

This video promotes the Coordinated Area Plan for Athlone being progressed by Westmeath and Roscommon County Councils.

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