EIAI Event Industry Association Of Ireland

Carlow Link Streets Public Realm Enhancement Project

Submission from the Event Industry Association of Ireland (EIAI)

Public consultation on the proposed
Carlow Link Streets Public Realm Enhancement Project

October 2026

Supporting safe, inclusive and sustainable
event use of Carlow's public spaces



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Executive Summary

The Event Industry Association of Ireland (EIAI) welcomes the proposed Carlow Link Streets Public Realm Enhancement Project and supports its ambition to create an accessible, attractive and welcoming town centre. EIAI represents more than 850 businesses, organisations and individual professionals, collectively representing over 56,000 people working in Ireland's event industry. Our submission brings practical industry experience to the design and management of public spaces intended to accommodate events.

Events contribute to Carlow's community life, cultural identity and local business activity. The Part 8 Planning Report recognises this role through policies supporting curated events, placemaking and the use of public spaces for arts and cultural festivals. [1, pp. 26, 28; 8] Delivering these objectives requires event functionality to be considered alongside everyday accessibility, movement, greening and heritage protection.

The planned public realm works provide an opportunity to incorporate permanent event power and water connections wherever event use is intended. Dedicated event supplies are not clearly identified in the M&E Planning Report's written proposals. [5, pp. 3–6] Confirming and integrating these requirements now would avoid the cost and disruption of reopening completed streets, reduce repeated temporary installations and support more sustainable event delivery. EIAI proposes six targeted recommendations:

1. **Event-use testing and published maps**

   Test representative event and parade layouts during design, publish verified and accessible site information, and undertake practical commissioning trials before handover.

2. **Flexible furniture and usable space**

   Coordinate seating, planting and bollards with intended activities, preserving usable areas and accessible circulation. Define responsibilities for removing, storing, maintaining and reinstating adaptable elements.

3. **Permanent utilities and suitable surfaces**

   Incorporate appropriately sized event power, water and servicing arrangements within the current works. Confirm surface loading limits and delivery routes, and provide for future connections where full installation cannot be achieved immediately.

4. **One event pathway and planned street use**

   Publish a coordinated, proportionate process covering permissions, site information and temporary traffic arrangements, with clear contacts, requirements and timelines.

5. **Environmental and inclusive use**

   Integrate accessibility, residential amenity, heritage protection and environmental sustainability into event planning, including safe access and departure after dark.

6. **Funded delivery and continuity**

   Assign asset owners, multi-year maintenance provision and transparent access arrangements. Protect established events during construction and review performance with organisers, residents, businesses and accessibility representatives.

These recommendations would help translate public investment into spaces that can accommodate their intended activities safely, inclusively and sustainably. EIAI welcomes continued engagement with Carlow County Council and is available to contribute practical national event industry expertise as the project progresses through detailed design and delivery.



About the Event Industry Association of Ireland

The Event Industry Association of Ireland (EIAI) is the national representative body for Ireland's professional event industry. Its membership comprises more than 850 businesses, organisations and individual professionals, collectively representing over 56,000 people working across the sector.

Ireland's event industry connects organisers, producers, venues, performers, technical specialists and suppliers across festivals, exhibitions, conferences, business events, entertainment and community activity. It encompasses the infrastructure and services that make these events possible, including staging, temporary structures, safety, security, transport, catering and communications. Many businesses and professionals work across several disciplines and event types, making the industry's contribution difficult to capture within conventional sectoral classifications.

EIAI works to ensure that this breadth of expertise informs public policy and investment. We advocate for clear responsibilities, proportionate requirements and consistent processes that reflect how events are planned and delivered. In public realm planning, this means connecting ambitions for culture, community participation and economic activity with the design, infrastructure and operational arrangements needed to support safe, accessible and sustainable events.



1. Introduction

The Event Industry Association of Ireland (EIAI) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the proposed Carlow Link Streets Public Realm Enhancement Project and supports its ambition to create a more accessible, attractive and welcoming town centre. Events are a core public realm function: they bring communities together, support local businesses and provide opportunities to experience and celebrate local culture. Their practical requirements should inform the design of streets and public spaces intended to accommodate them.

The Part 8 Planning Report recognises this role through policies RT.P3 and AC.P2 of the Carlow-Graiguecullen Joint Urban Local Area Plan 2024–2030, supporting curated events, placemaking and the use of public spaces for arts and cultural festivals. [1, pp. 26, 28; 8] This submission focuses on translating those objectives into tested designs, usable infrastructure and clear operational arrangements, while protecting residential amenity, heritage and everyday public access.

The planned excavation, resurfacing and service diversions provide a timely opportunity to install permanent event power and water connections wherever event use is intended. [1, section 3; 5, pp. 3–6] The M&E Planning Report describes street-lighting infrastructure and existing utilities, but dedicated event supplies are not clearly identified in its written proposals. [5, pp. 3–6] Integrating these services now would avoid the expense of reopening completed streets and further disruption to residents, businesses and trading activity. Reliable supplies, available on reasonable terms, could also reduce recurring organiser costs associated with generator hire, fuel, water deliveries and temporary installations, making community and cultural programming more affordable.

Design decisions must also account for the narrow footpaths, loading difficulties and dependence of future pedestrianisation on changes beyond the scheme boundary identified in the Project Infrastructure Audit. [4, sections 2.2, 2.4–2.6] Testing realistic event uses against the proposed layouts would establish what each location can accommodate and which supporting arrangements are required.

The following sections develop six targeted recommendations for incorporating these requirements into the project's design, delivery and ongoing management, supported by references to the relevant consultation documents.



2. Event-use testing and published maps

Before designs are finalised, representative community, market, performance and civic event layouts should be tested against the intended uses of suitable spaces within the Carlow Link Streets scheme. Testing should inform planning-stage consideration and detailed design, addressing installation and removal, usable audience area, queues, servicing, temporary facilities and emergency access. Gross surface area alone does not establish event capacity.

Where parade or procession use is intended, testing should include assembly and dispersal areas, turning movements, overhead clearance beneath trees and lighting, spectator positions and access across the route. The assessment should reflect anticipated floats, performance groups and support vehicles, including the effect of planting as it matures.

Tested layouts should be published as accessible PDFs and editable, scaled drawings, verified against the completed works. They should show dimensions, fixed features, utility connections, loading constraints, accessible circulation and viewing areas, servicing and escape routes. Indicative capacities should identify the layout and operational assumptions on which they depend. Revision dates and a responsible Council owner should be included, with screen-reader-compatible text descriptions accompanying visual maps.

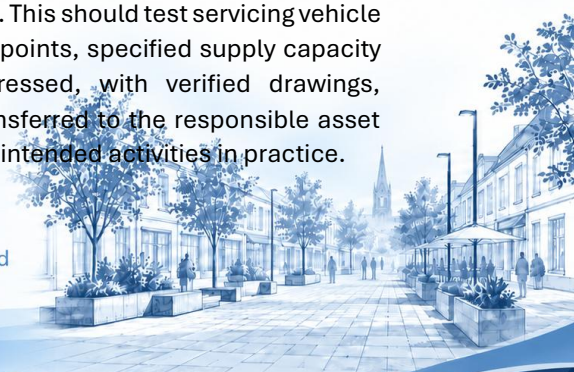
These templates should help organisers understand workable uses while allowing alternative safe layouts. They should not constitute blanket approvals or guaranteed capacities. The Council should distinguish verified site information that organisers can rely on from matters requiring event-specific confirmation, reducing repeated surveys and duplicated reports. Clear responsibilities for maintaining, updating and checking this information would help both the Council and organisers manage risk and avoid uncertainty about responsibility for inaccurate or outdated information.

At the Court Place/Dublin Street/Athy Road junction, testing should examine how gathering or performance activity could operate alongside proposed planting, seating, crossings and retained traffic movements. At the Dublin Street/Tullow Street/Castle Street/Burrin Street junction, layouts should address pedestrian movement, access to premises, loading and the space occupied by audiences or temporary installations. [3, drawings 0109 and 0111] Assessments should distinguish activities compatible with ordinary traffic arrangements from those requiring temporary closures or restrictions.

Along Dublin Street, testing should address the footpath constraints identified in the Project Infrastructure Audit, including narrow sections at the Friary steps and near proposed loading bays. [4, section 2.6] Queues, stalls, equipment and spectators should not obstruct essential pedestrian routes or building access. Where an activity cannot coexist with safe circulation, testing should identify an alternative location or the additional traffic arrangements required.

At the Charlotte Street/Brown Street pocket park, testing should establish which small-scale cultural or community activities can complement the proposed planting, play elements and seating without compromising everyday use. [2, p. 34; 3, drawing 0113] Along Tullow Street and College Street, it should examine the interaction between temporary activity, pedestrian routes, vehicle access and adjoining premises. [3, drawings 0112 and 0113; 4, sections 2.4–2.6] Assessments must reflect the proposed scheme, recognising that future pedestrianisation of parts of Tullow Street and Charlotte Street depends on interventions outside the project boundary. [4, section 2.6]

Before handover, the Council should verify the completed works against the agreed operational brief through a practical trial with operations staff and experienced organisers. This should test servicing vehicle access and turning, removable bollards and furniture, access to utility points, specified supply capacity and continuous accessible routes. Shortcomings should be addressed, with verified drawings, commissioning and inspection records, and operating instructions transferred to the responsible asset owner. This would confirm that the completed spaces can support their intended activities in practice.



3. Flexible furniture and usable space

Movable planting and seating should be considered where periodic reconfiguration is anticipated, alongside permanent greening and accessible seating. Their positioning and specification should support markets, performances and community events appropriate to each location.



1Movable planting and seating modules can support everyday amenity while allowing public spaces to be reconfigured for markets, performances and community events.

The architectural report describes fixed seating, tables and planters, with further planting, seating and play features proposed at the Charlotte Street/Brown Street pocket park. Steel bollards and furniture are also identified in the materials strategy. [2, pp. 29, 34, 40] EIAI recommends reviewing these elements against intended event uses before detailed designs are finalised, ensuring that permanent features preserve workable layouts and accessible circulation.

The Council should identify clear usable areas and consider removable or retractable elements where periodic reconfiguration is needed, particularly at servicing access points and gathering locations. The Infrastructure Audit recommends using landscaping and street furniture to discourage parking on footpaths. [4, section 3] Flexibility for authorised event use should support this objective without weakening everyday pedestrian protection.

Where elements are removable, responsibilities for lifting, storage, reinstatement and associated costs should be defined. Specifications should account for repeated handling, with planned inspection and maintenance cycles covering lifting points, sockets, locks and retractable mechanisms, alongside provision for repairs and replacement parts. Removal should leave a safe, flush surface, with fittings appropriately covered and reinstatement checked before reopening.

Greening, shade and accessible seating should remain integral to the design, with adequate resting places retained during events. Tree roots, planting and drainage features must be protected, and planted features serving a drainage function should not be treated as movable furniture.

Suitable positions for stages, marquees, market stalls and temporary lighting should be tested alongside audience areas, pedestrian routes, access to premises and emergency arrangements. Engineered fixing points or sleeves should be assessed where repeated installation justifies them, with defined uses, load limits, inspection requirements and ownership.

The location and design of these fixings should account for heritage, archaeology, underground services and drainage. The Archaeological Assessment identifies considerations concerning ground disturbance and archaeological monitoring that should inform this work. [7] Providing suitable arrangements during construction could reduce repeated drilling, improvised fixing methods and damage to completed surfaces.

4. Permanent utilities and suitable surfaces

EIAI recommends incorporating dedicated event power and water connections into the current public realm works wherever event use is intended. The M&E Planning Report describes street lighting, service diversions and the undergrounding of overhead cables, but dedicated event supplies are not clearly identified in its written proposals. **[5, pp. 3–6]** Their inclusion should be confirmed before detailed designs and construction arrangements are finalised.



Figure 2 Retractable service units provide access to permanent utilities for temporary events while preserving usable public space when lowered.

Installing these services during planned excavation and resurfacing would make better use of public investment. Retrofitting them after completion would involve avoidable excavation and reinstatement costs, disruption to residents and businesses, and potential damage to newly completed paving and landscaping. Event utilities should therefore form part of the infrastructure brief for intended event locations.

Integrating utilities now would also support long-term environmental sustainability by reducing repeated excavation, material consumption, construction waste and vehicle movements. Appropriately sized permanent electricity supplies can reduce reliance on diesel generators, while potable water connections can support refill facilities and reduce bottled water and transported supplies. These benefits depend on reliable services, practical access and reasonable charges. Metering would support responsible consumption, transparent charging and assessment of environmental performance.

Provision should reflect anticipated demand, tested layouts and simultaneous use by traders, production equipment and other facilities. The following should inform the design brief, with final specifications determined by the relevant designers against assessed demand and site conditions:

Service	Provision to assess
16A electrical connections	Distributed connections for individual users and equipment where demand is compatible with the available supply.
32A electrical connections	Connections for higher-demand users or temporary distribution, with the required phase configuration identified.
63A or larger electrical connections	Single-phase or three-phase provision where justified by production, catering or combined event demand.
Potable water	Accessible connections for drinking-water refill, handwashing, food preparation and cleaning, with appropriate supply protection and hygiene arrangements.
Wastewater	Defined collection arrangements or suitable authorised discharge connections, coordinated with intended activities and servicing access.

These are options for assessment, rather than a requirement to install every connection type at every location. Street-lighting supplies should not be assumed to provide suitable or available event power, and outlet ratings alone do not establish total available capacity.

Services should be positioned to minimise cables and hoses crossing public routes while remaining accessible for authorised connection and maintenance. The Council should publish outlet locations, available capacity, any restrictions on simultaneous use, access procedures and charges.

Retractable or flush-mounted units should be assessed where they would preserve usable space and complement the streetscape. Their suitability should account for drainage, water ingress, accessibility, loading, maintenance, archaeology and underground services. Secure above-ground units may be more appropriate at some locations.

Where full installation cannot be delivered within the current project, appropriately designed ducts, sleeves, chambers and reserved connection locations should enable subsequent installation with minimal disturbance. This should be supported by an identified delivery plan. Operating arrangements should encourage permanent supply use while retaining assessed backup generation where necessary, with clear responsibility for authorised access, inspection, maintenance and fault reporting.

Suitable surfaces and servicing arrangements are equally important. Drawing 26104-C-DR-1100 identifies Category 4 and Category 7/9 traffic loading areas, with the latter category to be finalised using traffic data. [6] Detailed design should also assess event-related loads from delivery vehicles, temporary structures, ballast and lifting equipment. Traffic loading classifications alone do not confirm suitability for every concentrated or static load.

The Council should identify delivery routes, turning and unloading areas, trader positions and installation windows, with verified limits for paving, service covers and other vulnerable features. Suitable hardstanding should accommodate temporary toilets, waste collection and equipment where required. Vehicle access should remain controlled, protecting tree roots, rain gardens, planting and underground infrastructure.

The Charlotte Street/Brown Street pocket park includes proposed lawn, planting, seating and play features. [2, p. 34; 3, drawing 0113] Temporary activity on grassed or landscaped areas should be assessed against ground conditions, drainage and recreational use. Temporary protection may suit occasional activity; reinforcement should only be considered where recurring use justifies it and remains compatible with the landscape design. Neither measure should imply unrestricted vehicle access.

The Council should assess whether shared reusable surface protection would offer value across recurring events. Procurement should favour durable, repairable and reusable materials, consider lower-carbon options and minimise waste throughout the infrastructure's operational life.



5. One event pathway and planned street use

The Council should publish one coordinated pathway explaining event notification, permission to use Council-controlled land, safety review, statutory licensing and road-closure requirements, with defined triggers, contacts, information needs and timelines. These remain distinct processes, but organisers should be able to reuse information through a single coordinating contact. Requirements should reflect scale, complexity and risk, with concise templates for smaller events and clear reasons for additional requests.

The pathway should connect the Council's event guidance and application arrangements with practical information about the completed Link Streets spaces. It should explain which activities require an outdoor event licence under Part 16 of the Planning and Development Act 2024, as amended, and the Planning and Development (Licensing of Outdoor Events) Regulations 2026, S.I. No. 468 of 2026, including applicable timelines and transitional provisions. [9–12] Events outside that regime should have a clear route to any other necessary permissions. Guidance should distinguish statutory obligations, permission conditions and advisory material.

A single online entry point should link application forms, verified site maps, utility information and relevant contacts. Where practicable, location-based maps should connect each space to its operating conditions, available infrastructure and access arrangements. Organisers should be able to reuse submitted information and track outstanding requirements, with assistance available to those who need support accessing digital services.

The Project Infrastructure Audit explains that pedestrianisation of parts of Tullow Street and Charlotte Street depends on changes outside the project boundary. [4, section 2.6] Event layouts must therefore reflect the traffic conditions delivered by this scheme, with temporary closures or restrictions planned where required.

At recurring event locations, the Council should assess whether removable or retractable bollards and other access controls would facilitate temporary changes in street operation. Their specification should support pedestrian protection, accessible circulation, servicing and emergency access. Responsibility for operation, access outside normal working hours and fault response should be established.

Reusable closure and diversion options should be developed with relevant authorities and transport operators, retaining statutory procedures and event-specific checks. These should cover installation and removal as well as public opening hours, addressing bus operations, walking and cycling continuity, emergency access, resident and business access, deliveries, accessible set-down and reopening. The Audit's findings on loading difficulties and restricted street widths should inform these arrangements. [4, sections 2.4, 2.6]

Coordination should account for the Carlow-Graiguecullen Local Transport Plan, whose implications are discussed in the Audit, alongside adjoining regeneration projects, active-travel improvements and construction schedules. [4, section 2.6.1] Evening transport arrangements should consider departure demand for audiences, participants and workers, including those remaining for breakdown.

The pathway should explain the roles of Council departments, An Garda Síochána, the Fire Service, relevant HSE and National Ambulance Service contacts, transport bodies and other agencies where required. Any potential Civil Defence support should be separately agreed. Consultation or notification should not be presented as confirmation that an agency will attend or provide operational resources.

Capacity, emergency response, medical provision, safeguarding and protective security should be assessed proportionately. Appendix A identifies the operational matters to address, helping organisers and agencies understand their responsibilities without creating unnecessary additional approval layers.



6. Environmental and inclusive use

Event guidance should address the effects of sound, lighting, generators, deliveries and breakdown activity on nearby residents and businesses, particularly during evening and night-time periods. Arrangements should include proportionate mitigation, monitoring, advance communication and a clear contact point for concerns during events. Planning for neighbouring development should consider established event uses early, including acoustics, servicing and access, to reduce future conflict.

Environmental arrangements should protect rain gardens, drainage infrastructure and planting, preventing wastewater, oils and cleaning products from entering surface-water drainage. Layouts should preserve access for cleaning and waste collection without obstructing pedestrian routes.

The project documentation identifies Appropriate Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment screening processes. [1, section 6] EIAI requests confirmation that their underlying assumptions reflect any intended recurring event uses. Where subsequent proposals change activities, scale or frequency, the Council should explain how further assessment requirements will be identified, including consideration of lighting, sound, wastewater and disturbance. This request seeks clarity and consistency without making a finding on the adequacy of the screening undertaken.

Weather arrangements should address rainfall, surface-water accumulation, wind exposure and the continued availability of accessible routes and exits. Responsibilities for monitoring conditions, suspending activity, removing equipment and reopening spaces should be clear. Events extending beyond the scheme into riverside locations would require additional consideration of flood risk and water safety.

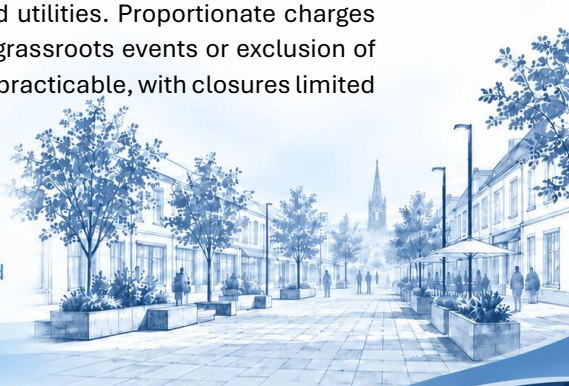
The scheme includes works within the Dublin Street, College Street and Brown Street Architectural Conservation Areas and near protected structures. The Archaeological Assessment also identifies considerations concerning ground disturbance and monitoring. [1, section 3; 7] Heritage guidance should explain the implications for temporary installations, including fixings, loading, vibration, surface protection and circumstances requiring specialist advice or consent. Event equipment should not be attached to historic fabric or installed through new paving without the necessary assessment and authorisation.

Accessibility should be tested with temporary equipment and audiences in position, involving disabled people and representative organisations. The pedestrian constraints and designated user facility issues identified in the Project Infrastructure Audit reinforce the need to assess complete journeys from transport and accessible set-down points to activity areas, viewing positions, toilets and exits. [4, sections 2.2, 2.5–2.6] Queues, stalls, outdoor seating and temporary installations should not obstruct these routes.

Planning should consider accessible viewing with companions, suitable toilets, including Changing Places facilities or appropriate temporary provision, sensory needs and quieter areas. Advance information should explain surfaces, gradients, distances, facilities and temporary changes so people can make informed decisions about attending. Shade and shelter should also be considered.

The project should support Carlow's night-time economy through lighting, wayfinding and coordinated transport arrangements that enable safe arrival, participation and departure while respecting residential amenity. Routes to public transport, parking and staff collection points should remain usable through breakdown and final staff departure. Design review should include the experiences of women, disabled people and others who may feel less secure after dark.

Programming and allocation should support a balanced mix of community, cultural and commercial activity, with transparent booking criteria and fair access to spaces and utilities. Proportionate charges and administrative requirements should help prevent displacement of grassroots events or exclusion of smaller organisers. Everyday public access should be retained wherever practicable, with closures limited to the areas and periods needed and communicated in advance.



7. Funded delivery and continuity

Carlow County Council should establish a coordinated delivery group involving the project team, relevant Council services, local event organisers, production and service providers, accessibility representatives and local businesses. This group should inform detailed design and operational planning so that utilities, furniture, planting, access and maintenance reflect the practical requirements of intended activities.

Before finalising detailed design, the Council should document established events' locations, routes, servicing arrangements and infrastructure needs with their organisers. This baseline should inform testing of the proposed works, identifying any loss of functionality and agreeing suitable alternatives before construction.

Management arrangements should identify asset owners, inspection regimes, operating instructions and reinstatement standards. A multi-year maintenance and replacement plan should inform annual budgets, covering operation, testing, repairs and eventual renewal alongside initial installation costs. A coordinating contact should help organisers access information and services, with arrangements for fault reporting and operational support outside normal office hours.

The Council should publish the full costs of using each space, including utilities, required Council staff attendance, furniture removal, closures, cleaning and deposits. Booking priorities, cancellation terms, deposit returns and routes for reviewing disputed decisions should be clear. Charges should be transparent and proportionate, with consideration given to community and non-commercial activity.

Insurance requirements should explain the cover expected for different activities and how Council-provided infrastructure interfaces with organiser responsibilities. Responsibility for defects, authorised connection, operation, damage and reinstatement should be documented. Reliable information about Council assets' condition and limitations should help prevent risks being informally transferred to smaller community groups.

The Link Streets project should function as a connected set of spaces and routes, supporting activities appropriate to each location's scale and constraints. Coordination with other town-centre venues and public spaces should respect adjoining projects' boundaries and delivery arrangements, without assuming simultaneous event use or access to privately managed spaces. Where activities overlap, shared utility capacity, access, servicing and operational resources should be assessed.

At project interfaces, the Council should verify continuity of accessible routes, servicing and event movement, coordinating utilities to avoid gaps or unnecessary duplication. This should cover completed schemes and periods when adjoining works remain under construction.

Effects on established events should be assessed before construction programmes are fixed. Organisers should receive early notice of restrictions, with phasing coordinated against the local cultural and event calendar wherever practicable. Where displacement is unavoidable, temporary alternatives should be agreed with those affected, including the utilities, access and facilities needed to make them workable.

Accessible routes to premises and key destinations should be maintained during construction, with changes communicated in advance. Each phase should account for audiences, participants, workers and deliveries, explaining how affected event functions will be retained or accommodated elsewhere.

Following completion, the Council should review performance using organiser, resident, business and accessibility feedback, supported by proportionate indicators for participation, infrastructure reliability, operating costs, environmental performance and local economic benefit. Collection methods and organiser expectations should be clear, with findings informing maintenance budgets, programming and future improvements. Existing booking, utility and operational records should be reused wherever possible to avoid duplicate reporting.



8. Conclusion

EIAI supports Carlow County Council's ambition to create a more accessible, attractive and welcoming town centre through the Carlow Link Streets Public Realm Enhancement Project. The recommendations in this submission would help the investment support everyday public use alongside appropriate community, cultural and commercial events, while protecting heritage, residential amenity and accessibility.

We request that the Council incorporate the following six commitments into detailed design, delivery and operational planning:

1. **Event-use testing and published maps:** Test representative event and parade layouts, including setup, servicing, audience movement and dispersal. Publish verified, accessible site information with clear responsibilities for its accuracy and updating, and undertake practical commissioning trials before handover.
2. **Flexible furniture and usable space:** Coordinate seating, planting and bollards with intended activities, preserving usable areas and accessible routes. Provide removable elements where appropriate, with defined handling, storage, maintenance and reinstatement arrangements.
3. **Permanent utilities and suitable surfaces:** Install dedicated event power and water connections wherever event use is intended, with suitable wastewater arrangements. Integrate provision into the planned works to avoid later excavation, cost and disruption. Confirm surface loading limits and servicing routes, and enable future connections where full installation cannot be achieved immediately.
4. **One event pathway and planned street use:** Publish a coordinated, proportionate process linking permissions, verified site information and temporary traffic arrangements through a clear online entry point and coordinating contact. Base event planning on the traffic conditions delivered by this scheme.
5. **Environmental and inclusive use:** Integrate accessibility, residential amenity, heritage protection and sustainability into event planning, including safe arrival and departure after dark. Confirm that intended uses are consistent with environmental assessment assumptions and support fair access for community groups and smaller organisers.
6. **Funded delivery and continuity:** Assign asset owners, multi-year maintenance and replacement plans, and transparent access arrangements. Protect established events during construction, coordinate adjoining projects and use operational feedback to inform budgets and improvements.

Addressing these requirements now would strengthen the project's long-term value. In particular, installing permanent utilities during construction would reduce avoidable future works, material waste and business disruption, while supporting more affordable and sustainable event delivery.

EIAI welcomes continued engagement with Carlow County Council and the project team and is available to contribute practical national event industry expertise to design review, infrastructure planning and operational guidance.



Appendix A: Operational matters for the coordinated pathway

The following matters should be addressed through proportionate guidance, verified site information and event-specific planning, supporting the coordinated pathway proposed in Section 5. Requirements should reflect each event's scale, activities and risk profile, without creating separate approval layers or requiring identical documentation for every event.

1. **Site suitability and capacity**

   Establish usable space and layout-specific capacity, accounting for fixed features, temporary infrastructure, audiences, queues, circulation and exits. Distinguish verified Council site information from matters requiring organiser confirmation, with clear responsibilities for updating information and communicating changes.

2. **Crowd movement and emergency arrangements**

   Assess arrival, movement, dispersal and evacuation, including the pedestrian constraints identified in the Project Infrastructure Audit. [4, sections 2.2, 2.6] Use modelling where complexity or risk warrants it, and identify operational roles, decision-making responsibilities and agency liaison arrangements.

3. **Parades and processions**

   Confirm assembly and dispersal areas, route widths, turning movements, overhead clearance, spectator positions and crossing arrangements. Consider floats, performers, support vehicles and the effects of mature planting on clearance and visibility.

4. **Accessibility and inclusion**

   Maintain continuous accessible journeys from transport and set-down points to activity areas, viewing positions, toilets and exits. Address companion access, sensory needs, quieter areas and assistance arrangements, with accurate information available before the event.

5. **Servicing and temporary traffic arrangements**

   Coordinate deliveries, setup, breakdown and reopening with resident and business access. Identify permitted vehicle routes, loading locations, access-control procedures and emergency access, including arrangements outside normal Council working hours. Plan safe departure routes for audiences and workers remaining after public closing time.

6. **Utilities and temporary infrastructure**

   Confirm available electrical capacity, restrictions on simultaneous use, water connections and wastewater arrangements. Identify authorised connection procedures, surface loading limits, permitted fixing methods and protection requirements for paving, service covers, trees, rain gardens and underground infrastructure.

7. **Weather and operational decisions**

   Assign responsibility for monitoring conditions and deciding when activity should be modified, suspended, cancelled or resumed. Consider wind, heavy rainfall, surface-water accumulation and the continued availability of accessible routes. Include flood risk and water safety where relevant to the event location.



8. **Medical and welfare provision**

   Determine provision appropriate to the activities, audience and risk profile. Identify assistance points, medical access and arrangements for people requiring support. Agency consultation should not be treated as confirmation that personnel or operational resources will be provided.

9. **Safeguarding and protective security**

   Provide arrangements for lost or separated people, safeguarding concerns and incident reporting. Assess vehicle-related security risks where relevant, without assuming that ordinary street bollards or planters provide rated vehicle-impact protection.

10. **Information and communications**

    Use clear signs, accessible formats, multilingual information where needed and on-site assistance. Communicate closures, alternative routes, facilities and changes promptly. Link online applications to current site information, with clear arrangements for operational communications and escalation.

11. **Residential amenity and environmental protection**

    Address sound, lighting, generators, deliveries and breakdown activity through mitigation, advance communication and a contact for concerns. Plan waste prevention, collection, cleaning and wastewater management, protecting drainage, planting and historic fabric. Encourage permanent utility use and reusable infrastructure where suitable.

12. **Digital systems and personal information**

    Where CCTV, sensors or other monitoring systems are proposed, define their purpose and arrangements for privacy, access, retention and public information. Published maps and guidance should exclude security-sensitive details and unnecessary personal data.

13. **Reinstatement, maintenance and review**

    Agree responsibilities, timescales and standards for cleaning, furniture reinstatement, inspections and repairs. Use pre-event and post-event records to distinguish existing defects from event damage, with a route for resolving disputed costs. Record faults and lessons to inform maintenance planning and future events without duplicating reporting.



Appendix B: References

Carlow Link Streets consultation documents

Documents [1]–[7] are available through Carlow County Council's consultation portal.

[1] RMLA Limited, on behalf of Carlow County Council. *Carlow Link Streets Public Realm Enhancement Project: Part 8 Planning Report.* October 2026. Referenced sections: 3, Proposed Scheme; 5, Policy Context, including pages 26 and 28; and 6, EIAR and AA Screening.

[2] Urban Agency Architects, on behalf of Carlow County Council. *Carlow Link Streets Public Realm Enhancement Project: Architectural Report and Landscape Design Statement.* September 2026. Document reference: 2606-UAA-ZZ-XX-DR-A-PP-0400. Referenced pages: 28–34, character areas and proposed public spaces; and 40, materiality.

[3] Urban Agency Architects. *Carlow Link Streets Public Realm Enhancement Project: Proposed Site Plans, Sheets 1–5.* 24 September 2026. Drawing references:

- 2606-UAA-ZZ-XX-DR-A-PP-0109
- 2606-UAA-ZZ-XX-DR-A-PP-0110
- 2606-UAA-ZZ-XX-DR-A-PP-0111
- 2606-UAA-ZZ-XX-DR-A-PP-0112
- 2606-UAA-ZZ-XX-DR-A-PP-0113

[4] SYSTRA Ltd, on behalf of Carlow County Council. *Carlow Town Link Streets Public Realm Enhancement: Project Infrastructure Audit – Traffic & Movement.* Version 3, 24 September 2026. Referenced sections: 2.2, Pedestrian Desire Lines; 2.4, Parking and Loading; 2.5, Designated User Facilities; 2.6, Scheme Implementation and Constraints, including section 2.6.1; and 3, Recommendations.

[5] Lawler Consulting. *M&E Planning Report: Carlow Link Streets Public Realm Enhancement Project.* September 2026. Referenced pages: 3–6, covering scope, existing utilities, proposed lighting supplies, service diversions and interruptions.

[6] Kilgallen & Partners Consulting Engineers. *Carlow Link Streets Public Realm Enhancement Project: Paved Areas – Traffic Loading Categories*. Drawing reference: 26104-C-DR-1100, revision PL1, 22 September 2026.

[7] IAC Archaeology. *Archaeological Assessment of Carlow Link Streets Public Realm Enhancement Project, Carlow Town.* Project reference: J4907, revision 1, September 2026. Referenced material: impact assessment and mitigation recommendations concerning ground disturbance and archaeological monitoring.

Planning policy referenced through the project documents

[8] Carlow County Council and Laois County Council. *Carlow-Graiguecullen Joint Urban Local Area Plan 2024–2030.* Policies RT.P3 and AC.P2 are cited as reproduced in the Part 8 Planning Report [1], pages 26 and 28. References to the associated Local Transport Plan draw on the discussion in the Project Infrastructure Audit [4], section 2.6.1.

Legislation and commencement guidance

[9] Government of Ireland. *Planning and Development Act 2024*, Part 16, as amended.

[10] Government of Ireland. *Planning and Development (Licensing of Outdoor Events) Regulations 2026*, S.I. No. 468 of 2026.

[11] Government of Ireland. *Planning and Development Act 2024 (Commencement) (No. 2) Order 2026*, S.I. No. 466 of 2026.

[12] Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. *Planning and Development Act 2024 Commencement Circular Number 2026/02: New legislation underpinning the licensing of outdoor events*. 10 September 2026. Guidance on commencement of the remaining outdoor-event licensing provisions, associated Regulations and transitional arrangements. Available online.

