

# BELTURBET

## Revitalising Cavan's Towns and Villages



### History

Belturbet's location is historically one of the best places for crossing the River Erne. When the Anglo-Normans tried to conquer Cavan in the early 13th century, Walter de Lacy built a motte-and-bailey on Turbet Island. The fort was probably made of wood and has not survived, although the steep mound of earth where it was built can still be seen.



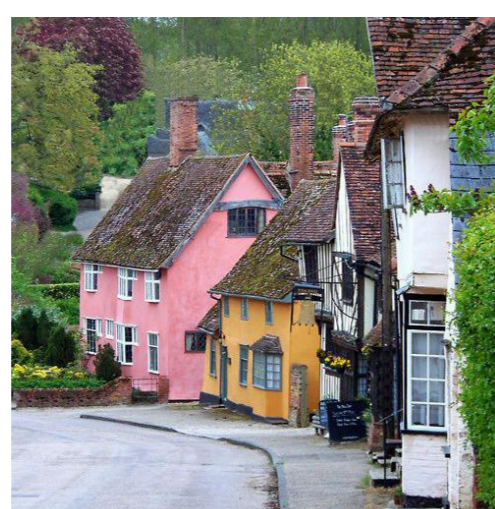
Figure 20.1.3 - Maps from 1800, 1900 and 2017



### Precedents



Opportunity to create pedestrian friendly street



Opportunity to strengthen heritage value



Opportunity to improve public realm with local materials and plant species



Opportunity to re-purpose abandoned buildings



Opportunity to provide cycle amenities



## Constraints

# W

### Weaknesses

- 1 // As the town is in close proximity to the river, the town should provide ample public space and strong access to the river front. Therefore, the local flood risk from the river should also be reviewed.
- 2 // The tourism offer needs further strengthening through investment in signage, improvements to walking trails, stopover areas, key spots for camping etc.

# T

### Threats / Challenges

- 3 // The existing town has distinctive character that needs to be protected from the sprawl of residential development. Densification needs to be facilitated in order for the town to reach its growth potential without adversely affecting its unique character.
- 4 // Empty or vacant properties can lead to "dead" zones in the centre of the town and can affect the character of the town.



River Erne



Signage and Wayfinding



Unique character should be retained



Empty properties

## Opportunities

# S

### Strengths

- 1 // The central square or 'Diamond' includes the Town Hall with the Church of Ireland sited alongside the former town fort. Holborn Street looks up to the Diamond from its approach to the east. The town is gathered about these main urban design elements. The Rectory, former Cavalry Barracks (Morrissey Park) and Lawn 'Street' look out to the Erne and provide open pleasing vistas.

- 2 // Belturbet has a number of social and community facilities including the Belturbet GAA Grounds, Belturbet Health Centre, The Riverside Park, Playground, and significant riverside amenity areas. There are three primary and one secondary school in the town and a play school which caters for afterschool. These elements of social infrastructure with good urban structure forms a strong foundation for the town to build on.

# O

### Opportunities

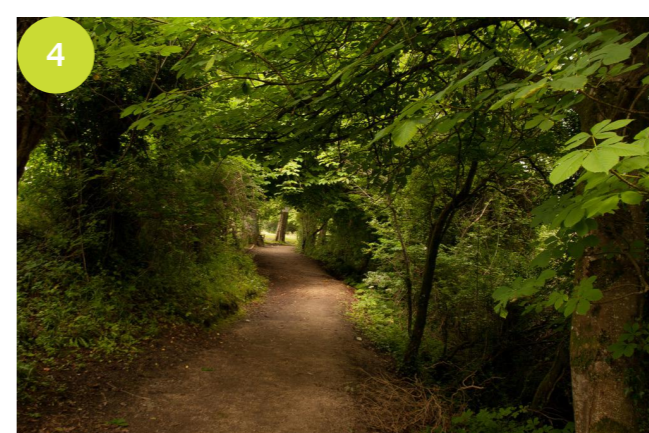
- 3 // The newly constructed Belturbet library was opened in 2013 and is located in the existing town hall a landmark building in the centre of the town.
- 4 // The town is located within the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark and has a number of attractions with tourist potential. These include the town walk, Turbet Island, the river, the Shannon-Erne Canal. This is an opportunity that should be incorporated within the design and development of this town.
- 5 // Opportunity to strengthen Belturbet Business Park as an employment hub for the town as well as the neighboring settlements.



Belturbet Diamond



Belturbet Library



Turbet Island



Business Park