LOUTH COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2027

LOUTH VILLAGE

Volume 2
Small Towns and Villages

11. LOUTH VILLAGE

11.1 Context/ Character

Louth Village is located along the R171, approximately 11 km southwest of Dundalk**.** Originally a monastic site, Louth Village is thought to have been founded in the 6th century with the establishment of St Mochta's House. In the 12th century Saint Mary's Abbey was built approximately 50m east, which today lies in ruins after the dissolution of the monasteries under King Henry VIII. The remnants of a motte and bailey castle stand in a field overlooking much of the village. The 8 metre tall motte is the highest point in the Village. Today the village centre, comprising of dwellings and commercial outlets, is formed around the junction of five roads.

Table 11.1: Settlement Overview

Settlement Overview – Louth Village	
Position in Settlement Hierarchy	Village
2016 population	735
2011 Population	717
Percentage Change 2011-2016	2.5%
Housing Stock 2016	290
Residential Units granted since 2015	10 dwellings (5 units under construction at the time of writing)
Education Facilities	St Mochta's National School.
Community Facilities	Pre-school, community hall, GAA grounds, shop pharmacy, post office, hairdressers, playground, doctor's surgery and recycling facilities.
Architectural Conservation Area (ACA)	No
Protected Structures	5
Zone of Archaeological Potential (ZAP)	Yes
Views and Prospects	No
Adjacent to European Site	No
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	Pluvial flooding is evident on lands within the development boundary. Manage flood risk and development in line with Policy Objectives as set out in Vol. 1 Chapter 10: Infrastructure and Public Utilities.
Water Services Infrastructure/Capacity	Louth Village is located within the Cavan Hill and North Louth Water Resource Zone, which had capacity available at the time of writing. There was available capacity in the Louth Village Waste Water Treatment Plant at the time of writing.

11.2 Opportunities

- Increase pedestrian safety and connectivity in the village centre.
- Enrich the streetscape through public realm improvements.
- Promote and facilitate local employment generating development through Louth Village Community Hub.

11.3 Settlement and Housing

Louth Village experienced significant population growth between 2006 and 2011 with a more stable pattern of growth during the past decade. This is reflected in the limited demand for new residential development in the village in recent years. This Plan will continue to promote a policy of consolidation in the village, focused on localised growth, brownfield and infill development.

11.4 Economy and Employment

Louth Village is identified as a Level 4 retail centre in the County Retail Hierarchy.

It has a Jobs:Workforce ratio of 0.21, which is an indication of a weak employment base, with residents dependent on employment in higher order settlements.

Employment opportunities are provided primarily in the service and education sectors. This includes the school, preschool and retail services. This Plan shall continue to support tourism development by capitalising upon existing heritage assets through the promotion of the heritage trails.

Whilst the opportunities for employment in the village may be limited, it is recognised that there are employment sectors where people are able to work remotely.

In recognition of the potential for remote working, this Plan will support the on-going provision of co-working facilities within Louth Village Community Hub thereby meeting the needs of businesses and enabling employees to have a local base, reducing the need to commute.

11.5 Water Services Infrastructure

Louth Village is served by the following water services infrastructure:

Water: Louth Village is located within the Cavan Hill and North Louth Water Resource Zone, which had capacity available at the time of writing.

Waste Water: There was available capacity in the Louth Village Waste Water Treatment Plant at the time of writing.

11.6 Movement

Louth Village is located along the R171, which connects it with Ardee to the south, and Dundalk to the north.

The village is located along the route of the Dundalk-Ardee bus service, which provides seven services in each direction Monday to Saturday. The village would benefit from improved bus infrastructure including a shelter and seating.

There is a high level of traffic travelling through the village along the R171, which can often result in a conflict between vehicles and pedestrians. This conflict is intensified due to the location of the village core on a five-road junction.

In order to reduce speed and improve road safety, traffic-calming measures on the main approaches from Knockbridge, Tallanstown, Channonnrock Cross and along the Tullycahan Road ought to be provided.

Provision of clearly defined ingress and egress points to the church car park and a pedestrianised crossing along the R171 adjacent to the playground would also greatly enhance safety for residents.

A comprehensive network of footpaths throughout the village including a footpath connecting residential areas with Ardpatrick and community facilities such as Mochta's GFC grounds, the Credit Union and doctor's surgery would improve overall connectivity and reduce reliance on the private car.

11.7 Natural and Built Heritage

The village sits within an attractive landscape setting. It is important that a clear distinction is achieved between the village and the countryside to protect this setting.

A large proportion of the village lies within a Zone of Archaeological Potential, which is afforded protection under the National Monuments Act. This area includes St. Mochta's House (circa 500AD) and the ruins of St. Mary's Abbey, a 12th-century priory to the north of the village core. It is important to ensure that future development shall not be detrimental to the character of the archaeology within the village or its setting.

There are five Protected Structures within the boundary of this settlement as outlined in Table 11.2, the locations of which are illustrated on the Louth Village Composite Map.

Table 11.2: Protected Structures in Louth Village

ID Number	Name
LHS 011-001	Church of The Immaculate Conception 1890-1904
LHS 011-019	St. Mochta's House & St. Mary's Priory C12th
LHS 011-020	Cottage c.1880
LHS 011-021	House c.1930
LHS 011-030	Weighbridge/Water pump erected c.1880

11.8 Social Infrastructure

Louth Village provides a broad range of services and community facilities for its population and the surrounding rural areas which includes local shops, fast food outlets, hairdresser, pubs, in addition to a church, national school, post office, recycling facility, credit union, playing fields and community hub with remote working facilities.

Throughout the year, events are organised in conjunction with the Louth Village Community Hub.

Such events are an important part of building and strengthening the local community.

11.9 Urban Design and Public Realm

The Town and Village Renewal Scheme is a funding mechanism designed to rejuvenate rural towns and villages throughout Ireland. Projects eligible under this scheme include environmental improvements and public realm projects, such as upgrades to civic spaces, and investment in street furniture, footpaths and cycle ways.

This Plan will support any funding applications under this Scheme or similar schemes that would enhance the public realm, built environment and environmental quality of Louth Village.

There are opportunities to improve the public realm as part of any improvements to the access points to the Church car park. This could include hard and soft landscaping and the provision of public art work.

The provision of additional passive recreation spaces on the village green would provide opportunities for the enjoyment of St. Marys Abbey and St. Mochta's House.

The settlement would benefit from improved bus infrastructure including the provision of a bus shelter and seating.

11.10 Policy Objectives

The Policy Objectives set out below are in addition to those included in the Written Statement in Volume 1 of the County Development Plan. To avoid repetition Policy Objectives have only been restated where they have particular relevance to the settlement.

These should therefore be read in conjunction with the Policy Objectives and Development Standards and Guidance set out in Volume 1 of the County Development Plan.

11.10.1 Settlement and Housing

Policy Objective	
LOU 1	To support the role of Louth Village by facilitating development that will contribute to the character of the Village, and complement and enhance the quality of the Village's attractive built and natural environment.

Policy Objective	
LOU 2	To secure the implementation of the Core Strategy of the County Development Plan, in so far as is practicable, by ensuring that the housing allocation for Louth Village is not exceeded.

Policy Objective	
LOU 3	To support and encourage residential development on under-utilised and/or vacant lands including 'infill' and 'brownfield' sites, subject to a high standard of design and layout being achieved.

11.10.2 Economy and Employment

Policy Objective	
LOU 4	To ensure that the village centre is the priority location for new commercial, retail and mixe use developments thereby creating opportunities to live, work and shop within the village and reduce the need to travel by private car.

Policy Objective	
LOU 5	To support the provision of co-working facilities at Louth Village Community Hub.

Policy Objective	
LOU 6	To encourage the return of vacant buildings in the village centre to uses which complement the existing scale and character of the settlement.

Policy Objective	
LOU 7	To support and promote sustainable tourism development in Louth Village.

Policy Objective	
LOU 8	To support and promote the provision of heritage trails.

Policy Objective	
LOU 9	To support and promote various events and festivals.

11.10.3 Infrastructure

Policy Objective	
LOU 10	To liaise with and support Irish Water to endeavour to provide adequate water services to meet the development needs of Louth Village within the Plan period.

Policy Objective	
LOU 11	To support existing public, community and sporting facilities and the provision of any additional facilities.

Policy Objective	
LOU 12	To support the progression and delivery of social and community projects.

Policy Objective	
LOU 13	To avoid land uses or development identified as 'highly vulnerable development' in Table 3.1 of *'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines (2009)'* on lands at risk of flooding and where development in floodplains cannot be avoided, take a sequential approach to flood risk management based on avoidance, reduction and adaptation to the risk.

11.10.4 Movement

Policy Objective	
LOU 14	To promote and facilitate the development and enhancement of footpaths, pedestrian crossings and traffic calming measures which increase pedestrian priority and improve road safety.

Policy Objective	
LOU 15	To facilitate with service providers the provision of additional bus infrastructure within the village.

11.10.5 Built and Natural Heritage

Policy Objective	
LOU 16	To protect and enhance the unique characteristics and setting of Louth Village, including its Zone of Archaeological Potential, archaeological features and built and natural heritage elements.

Policy Objective	
LOU 17	To promote the preservation of significant trees and hedgerows including those identified on the Composite Map and to manage these trees in line with arboricultural best practice.

11.10.6 Urban Design and Public Realm

Policy Objective	
LOU 18	To promote and support the utilisation of available funding and the implementation of any projects or schemes for which funding has been received that would improve and revitalise Louth Village.

Policy Objective	
LOU 19	To protect and enhance the character of the Village by requiring that the height, scale, design and materials of any proposed development has regard to the archaeological importance of the Village and does not diminish its distinctiveness of place.

Policy Objective	
LOU 20	To seek to enhance the streets and spaces within Louth Village through public realm improvements.

Policy Objective	
LOU 21	To seek to provide designated ingress and egress points to the church car park in conjunction with public realm enhancement, including provision of hard and soft landscaping and delivery of public art work.

Policy Objective	
LOU 22	To provide public realm enhancement of the Village green to increase passive recreation opportunities and allow for the enjoyment of St. Mary's Abbey and St. Mochta's House.

Louth County Development Plan 2021 - 2027

Louth Village
Zoning and Flood Zones Map

Map Number: 4.6

LEGEND

Land Use Category

- A1 Existing Residential
- A2 New Residential Phase 1
- B1 Town or Village Centre
- G1 Community Facilities
- H1 Open Space
- L1 Strategic Reserve

OPW PFRAM Study
See Disclaimer

- Flood Zone A
- Flood Zone B
- Pluvial Flooding

Settlement Boundary

Osi Vector Mapping

*** PFRAM DISCLAIMER:**
The PFRAM maps provide only an indication of areas that may be prone to flooding. They are not necessarily locally accurate and should not be used as the sole basis for defining Flood Zones, or for making decisions on planning applications. See section 10.3.1 'Flood Risk Management' in Chapter 10 and the SFRA in Volume 5 for further details

Louth County
Development Plan
2021 - 2027

Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council
www.louthcoco.ie

An Roinn um Pleanáil
Planning Department
e-mail: info@louthcoco.ie

SCALE: Not to scale

DATE: September 2021

Contains Irish Public Sector Information
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Source http://floodinfo.ie

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Louth County Development Plan 2021 - 2027

Louth Village Composite Map

September 2021

LEGEND

Land Use Category

- A1 Existing Residential
- A2 New Residential Phase 1
- B1 Town or Village Centre
- G1 Community Facilities
- H1 Open Space
- L1 Strategic Reserve

- Settlement Boundary
- Benefiting Lands (OPW)
- Zone Of Archaeological Potential
- Significant Trees & Hedgerows
- Stone Walls & Louth Banks
- Sites & Monuments (NMS)
- Record of Protected Structures
- Osi Vector Mapping

Flood Zones for Louth Village are not indicated on this map. They can be viewed on the Louth Village Zoning and Flood Zone map

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