

KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

Inistioge Health Check Report

Extract from the combined Inistioge and Callan Health Check report. This extract contains the Inistioge Health Check.



Future Analytics Consulting Ltd

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1 Introduction

Kilkenny County Council is committed to improving the social and economic conditions of communities throughout the county and recognises that each of the county's towns and villages must provide high quality living, working, education, recreation and culture opportunities in an attractive environment.

Future Analytics Consulting has been appointed by Kilkenny County Council to undertake a *Town and Village Centre Health Checks* for eight towns and villages in County Kilkenny. Consultation with organisations and community members was also conducted as part of the process. The analysis of the data obtained from the research and stakeholder consultation process provided the foundations for the formulation of a series of recommendations for each settlement.

This report provides up-to-date information on the performance of each settlement, incorporating an assessment of strengths, constraints, opportunities and threats which Kilkenny County Council will use in preparing for future development and enhancement of each settlement. Moreover, the data will support future community and socio-economic planning and development of each of the towns and villages assessed with a view to enhancing the prosperity and vitality of each settlement and improving the quality of life for the local community and those working and visiting.

1.1 Town and Village Health Check Approach

Town and Village Health Checks collate information on settlements based on a range of indicators and the overall performance of the centres is assessed against pre-determined indicators in order to create reliable baseline information. As outlined in the Retail Planning Guidelines, viability and vitality are core elements to the enhancement of town and village centres: *"Vitality is a measure of how active and buoyant a centre is, whilst viability refers to the commercial well-being of a town"*, thereby, a measure of its capacity to continually attract investment. The indicators of vitality and vibrancy assessed include;

- Key Attractors;
- Diversity of uses;
- Accessibility;
- Traffic & Parking;
- Pedestrian flow and footfall;
- Vacancy and dereliction;
- Environment (shop fronts, signage, general appearance, green spaces, biodiversity and natural quality); and
- Community Amenity (recreation, arts, culture and sports);

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Indicators are assessed through a combination of existing data analysis, physical surveying of the town, and community engagement.

The study comprised baseline research, site visits and public consultation and was undertaken by independent qualified Town Planners from Future Analytics Consulting, with considerable experience in the area of urban and rural planning. A statistical profile of each settlement was developed by collating and mapping the latest data from a range of quantitative datasets, including data from the CSO Census, Pobal, GeoDirectory, EPA, National Parks and Wildlife Services, National Monuments, which together allowed the exploration of themes such as economic activity and performance, employment and settlement connectivity and community projects.

Research and Site Visits

The project team undertook extensive background research into each town and village, comprising a socio-economic assessment of the study area's demographics, a review of Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI) maps and aerial photographs, tourism and heritage plans and strategies, and retail and environmental attributes. Site visits of each settlement was conducted, the purpose of which was to gain an understanding of each of the town and village characteristics, in terms of;

- visual appearance and presentation;
- functions;
- retail offering;
- vacancy rates;
- parking;
- tourism offerings;
- cultural;
- built and natural heritage;
- facilities and amenities;

Consultation and Workshop

Consultation with key stakeholders was held by means of individual meetings with key stakeholders representing community, social, cultural and environmental views, and participatory public workshops. The purpose of the workshops was to give those attending an opportunity to actively contribute to the process and discuss and share ideas on the challenges and future opportunities for their respective towns and villages. The project team used methods, aids such as photographic aerial images of each settlement and a SCOT (Strengths, Constraints, Opportunities and Threats) analysis approach to facilitate the workshop.

SCOT (Strengths, Constraints, Opportunities and Threats) Analysis

A SCOT (Strengths, Constraints, Opportunities and Threats) analysis was undertaken for each settlement which set out the strengths, weaknesses/constraints, opportunities and threats associated with each of the seven settlements. The desk top reviews, combined with site visits, and stakeholder consultation assisted in the preparation of each SCOT analysis and builds a picture of what is valued and appreciated in each settlement, what is unsatisfactory and needs changing, where there are threats and opportunities. The SCOT provides a basis for a vision for the future that stakeholders believe to be both desirable and achievable.

Recommendations

The findings of the study, in the form of the Town and Village Centre Health Check, SCOT analysis, and the consultative community workshop, have been invaluable in identifying measures for further action. These further actions are set out through a series of recommendations. The recommendations, which are evidence based, will contribute to the enhanced vitality and viability of each of the settlements. The recommendations are presented in the form of short-term (typically 0-6 months), Medium-term (typically 7-24 months) and long-term (typically 2-5 years). The recommendations are accompanied by a series of SMART (*Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound*) actions.

1.2 Settlements Studied

This study comprises health checks for eight (8) towns and villages throughout County Kilkenny. The settlements assessed are:

- Callan
- Inistioge
- Gowran
- Ballyragget
- Freshford
- Ballyhale/Knocktopher
- Mooncoin
- The Rower

The settlement boundary of each centre are in accordance with the CSO settlement boundaries. While each of the health checks was cognisant of the full settlement boundaries, they focussed on the vibrancy and vitality of each town or village centre.

This extracted report refers to Inistioge Health Check report only.

5 Inistioge

5.1 Introduction

Inistioge is located on the western banks of the River Nore within a steep and picturesque valley. The R700 winds its way through the village centre and crosses via the historic ten arch bridge to the eastern banks of the River Nore where it extends south-east to New Ross. The urban core of the town is centred on a town square, which contains two historic obelisks, many fine mature trees, as well as three park benches. The Square is framed on three sides by Georgian buildings with a mix of residential and commercial activities within.

To the west and north of the square is where the majority of the commercial and civic activity takes place with a small supermarket, café and two churches being located here. Inistioge Village has a rich architectural heritage, identified as an architectural conservation area, and the village also contains 41 buildings on the Record of Protected Structures of the *Kilkenny County Development Plan 2014-2020*. Woodstock Estate and Gardens is located to



Figure 28. Aerial view of Inistioge and CSO settlement boundary.

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the south of the village and contains a further nine protected structures that are on the Record of Protected Structures. Adding to the heritage of Inistioge, the village also contains a number of National and Recorded Monuments including the former medieval walls.

5.2 Study Area

The study area of this report comprises the main urban area of Inistioge as depicted on the Central Statistics Office (CSO) settlement boundary (see Figure 28).

5.3 Location and Connectivity

Inistioge is relatively remote from large urban centres. It is located on the R700 road, which connects Kilkenny City (26km from Inistioge) with New Ross (17km from Inistioge). Thomastown is also along the R700, 8.5km to the northwest of Inistioge. The L4209 connects the village with Graiguenamanagh 11km to the east. Bus Éireann operates a weekly return bus service every Thursday which serves Inistioge en-route to and from New Ross and Kilkenny. A private bus company, Kilbride Coaches, operates bus services twice daily stopping in Inistioge en-route to and from New Ross and Kilkenny.



Figure 29: View of Ten Arch Bridge looking southeast from Inistioge Riverside Park/The Green.

5.4 Demographic and Socio-economic Characteristics

According to the Census 2016 data, Inistioge has a resident population of 282 within its settlement boundaries, having **grown by 8.5% in resident population since 2011**. Approximately 5% of the town's population comprises non-Irish nationals, with the largest representative population from Britain (2.5%). **Inistioge has a higher than average age profile with 74% of the population being in the above 25 years** compared to the State average of 67%. This proportion of the population aged 25 and above has reduced since 2011 when it comprised 89% of the population of Inistioge. There were 129 households recorded in the 2016 Census. The average household in Inistioge is comprised 2.3 persons, which is lower than the state average of 2.7 persons per household.

In terms of educational attainment, **Census 2016 records that 27.5% of the population of Inistioge had completed the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) Level 6 (Higher Certificate) or above**, which is an increase since 2011 when 20% of residents had completed education to this level. The State average for this level of educational attainment is 40%.

Census 2016 records that 46% of the population (aged 15 years) were at work. This is a decline of 2% since 2011 when 48% of the population were at work. **Unemployment (having lost or given up previous job) levels have declined in this same period from 12.5% in 2011 to 9% in 2016**. 21% of the resident population were recorded as being retired in Census 2016, representing **an increase of 6% in the proportion of residents recorded as retired since 2011**, and well above the 2016 State average of 14.5%. The **most prevalent type of worker in Inistioge in 2016 was 'Managerial and Technical' workers at 34.5%** (26% in 2011) followed by '*Skilled Manual*' workers at 21% (23.5% in 2011). The State averages in 2016 for these categories were 28% and 14% respectively.

Of the 151 residents in 2016 aged 5 years and over who travel to work, school or college, 32.5% have a journey time of under 15 minutes while **43% of those who travel for work, school or college have a journey time of between 15 minutes and 45 minutes**.

5.5 Village Character and Environmental Quality

Inistioge is located in a very scenic and attractive rural location of east county Kilkenny. It is set in a steep valley which allows for memorable views of its surrounds including the vast 850 acres Woodstock Estate to the south. Being located on the banks of the River Nore, the village's character is influenced heavily by the river. The historic ten arch bridge interacts with the river while the town park and GAA pitch not only provides riverside recreational amenity but acts as an important floodplain during annual flooding events.

The urban core of Inistioge is centred on the historic town square. Framed by Georgian buildings and providing further open space to the village, the town square adds to the idyllic feel and sense of historic importance of Inistioge and is overlooked by the Millennium Garden to the west (see Figure 29). While the village can be busy with two important

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parochial churches attracting district-wide patrons and the GAA club serving the local population and wider rural hinterland, the village is, more often than not, a quiet and sleepy place with low levels of footfall and through-traffic.

With the absence of industry and commerce, it is evident that tourism is a key component of Inistioge's economy. This is driven by the town's natural, cultural and built heritage assets. The village is very clean and well presented, and there is extensive planting throughout the town, indicating good civic organisation and a sense of pride.



Figure 30. View of Village Square looking west from Millennium Garden.



Figure 31: View of Woodstock Arms from north-west.

Vacant and derelict buildings

Analysis of Geodirectory data¹ shows that Inistioge has 5 vacant commercial addresses out of a total of 33 commercial addresses – a rate of 15% vacancy for commercial addresses. Vacant addresses are evident in the village, particularly around the town square and facing the Riverside Park / The Green. While some vacant buildings are evident, generally there are low levels of dereliction in the village. It is evident that some businesses in the village are seasonal, tourism-based enterprises, which may be operational and open on demand when visitor numbers peak, an example of which is presented in Figure 33.

¹ Geodirectory data, Q4 2017



Figure 32. Prominent Vacant building overlooking Riverside Garden



Figure 33. Intermittently opened enterprise.

5.6 Accessibility and legibility

Traffic and Parking

The village occasionally experiences vehicle traffic congestion on GAA match days and church events, however vehicle traffic is generally at low speed. To the north of the village a new carpark has been introduced, providing car parking for the GAA grounds and nearby churches, and relieving the village of on-street car parking.

With narrow footpaths provided comparative to space for vehicles, this detracts from the pedestrian and visitor experience at this location. With wide open areas of tarmac and no distinction of carriageway, car parking and footpaths, 'ad-hoc' on-street car parking occurs

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outside the EveryDay shop, the Woodstock Arms and the adjacent Millennium Garden. Where footpaths are provided they are generally narrow and not disabled accessible.

There are no designated cycle paths through the town, however the East Kilkenny Cycle Route lies east of the ten-arch bridge. The Nore Valley Walk passes directly through the town and extends along the eastern bank of the river.



Figure 34. St Colmcilles (left and St Marys (right) churches with on-street car parking (Photograph: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Churches,_Inistioge,_Co._Kilkenny_-_geograph.org.uk_-_205261.jpg)

Legibility and signage

Inistioge is small, easily understood with the Village Square providing the urban focal point and the river valley providing a natural settlement boundary. Standard local authority signage has been erected at the three town entrance points indicating entry to the village. There are groupings of signage at the west end of the Village Square, where Main Street intersects with the R700. This includes a mix of directional signage as well as visitor and interpretative signage. The signage outside O'Donnells Public House (the west end of the Village Square) is repetitive and the volume of signage has accumulated and appears cluttered.

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There is interpretative heritage signage in the churchyard of St Mary's Church, which also contains the remains of an important 13th century Augustinian Abbey. Further interpretative signage and local mapping has been erected in the Riverside park / The Green.



Figure 35. Signage grouping



Figure 36. Interpretative signage at St Mary's Church



Figure 37. Interpretative signage in Riverside Park / The Green

5.7 Commercial vibrancy

Inistioge is relatively sleepy in terms of its commercial vibrancy comparative to other urban centres in County Kilkenny. It is primarily a tourism-driven centre, which means it is subject to seasonal shifts and many enterprises are closed out of peak times. It is evident that many of the buildings at the village square and fronting the Riverside Park / The Green contain seasonally active enterprises such as arts and crafts stores that cater for visitors. The most prominent enterprises in the village are the ‘EveryDay’ shop (Figure 39), ‘Circle of Friends’ Café (Figure 38) and the ‘Woodstock Arms’ Public House (Figure 31), which all cater for local and visitor trade. There is a known food related business located within the village that employ staff and operate outside the village.

Analysis of Geodirectory data² shows that there are 25 enterprises in Inistioge. The most frequent enterprises in Inistioge are:

- ‘Food and beverage service activities’ (5 enterprises),
- ‘Professional, scientific and technical activities (3 enterprises).
- ‘Retail outlets’ (2 enterprises),
- ‘Arts and recreation centres’ (2 enterprises),
- ‘Hotel’ (1 enterprise)³
- ‘Hairdressers’ (1 enterprise)
- ‘Child care activity’ (1 enterprise)

The high level of residential occupancy within Inistioge town centre serves as an important element to sustaining the town’s economic vibrancy.

² <https://www.geodirectory.ie/What-is-Geodirectory.aspx>

³ The Geodirectory defines the enterprise as a Hotel, however referring to a B&B located in the Village.



Figure 38. Circle of Friends Café, Inistioge (Source: Humphrey Bolton <http://www.geograph.ie/photo/4453533>)



Figure 39. EveryDay shop in Inistioge



Figure 40. Seasonal Shop in Inistioge

5.8 Services and Facilities

While Inistioge does not provide a full range of community, commercial and employment functions for the town and wider rural hinterland population, it does provide primary school educational facility with St Col Primary School located in the north of the village. Inistioge has one health clinic run by the HSE located across the bridge, however there is no local General Practitioner or chemist services. There is a parent, baby and toddler group that provides child support to local parents, including a fully-fledged crèche called the Clever Cats Childcare, which also offers an after-school club, breakfast club and homework club for children up to 12 years, Monday to Friday

Other community services and facilities include the Cois Abhainn Centre, which provides excellent community meeting rooms and sports facilities, The Rower Inistioge GAA Club, the Foroige, and the Inistioge Vintage Club. Inistioge Tidy Towns Group are active entrants into

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the annual competition and have set up a community polytunnel project in the west of the village.



Figure 41. The Cois Abhainn Community Centre



Figure 42. Inistioge Community Garden and Polytunnel.

5.9 Natural Environment and Built Heritage

Inistioge has significant natural assets, being set in a steep and scenic valley of the River Nore. The River Nore services a rich natural asset, providing valuable biodiversity and recreation for the village and wider districts. The river provides angling facilities, a boat slip and local swimming facilities.



Figure 43. View of Inistioge from the entrance to Woodstock Estate.

Inistioge is also known for its impressive range of built heritage, and as a whole is designated as an Architectural Conservation Area in the *Kilkenny County Development Plan 2014-2020*. The village contains 41 individual buildings on the Record of Protected Structures of the *Kilkenny County Development Plan 2014-2020*, notably the ten arch bridge and village square which forms the centrepiece of the village. Woodstock Estate and Gardens, located to the south of the village was highly influential in the history of the village and remains so to this day. Woodstock Estate contains a further nine protected structures that are on the Record of Protected Structures. Within the village, Inistioge also contains St Mary's Church with its medieval Augustinian Priory, as well as St Colmcilles church, built in 1836. Also, prominent in the village are the remains of the Motte of Thomas FitzAnthony overlooking the village square to the west and the Hundred Court, a ruined former manorial court adjacent the Riverside Park / The Green.

The "Castle" is the ruin of a Medieval three storey Fortified Townhouse situated in the historic walled town. Significant sections of the wall remain on the south side of the Square and the "Castle" is part of the medieval town structure and forms part of a raised Millennium Garden – the site of a previous Royal Irish Constabulary Building. Current project to enhance the town and its heritage, is the stabilising works to the ruins of the Fortified Townhouse, which received funding of €26,000 under the *Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2017*. The safeguarding of the structure known as the "Castle" will contribute to the preservation of the village's historic structures and provide an opportunity for its future developments.



Figure 44. The Village Square (eastern side).

5.10 Tourism and Recreation

The River Nore provides boating and other water based activities, and functions as a platform for potential expansion of outdoor tourism development. In the wider area, Mount Brandon, Mount Leinster and the Blackstairs attract walkers to the district. In addition, the Thomaston to Inistioge Walking Trail is an 11km trail that passes through Inistioge on the eastern banks of the Nore River Valley, connecting Inistioge with its closest urban centre. The village is also on the East Kilkenny Cycle Route which connects the village with Thomastown, Bennetsbridge, Gowran and Graiguenamanagh.



Figure 45. Riverside Park / The Green and Ten Arch Bridge.

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Woodstock House and Gardens attracts large numbers of visitors annually. In 2014 there were an estimated 42,000 visitors to the gardens. In the wider area Jerpoint Abbey and Mount Juliet Estate & Golf Club both attract large numbers of visitors.



Figure 46. View of Inistioge from the South. Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Inistioge_from_Sandford_Castle_-_geograph.org.uk_-_488492.jpg

The village heritage is an asset and is both a community and economic resource. The village's assets also comprise of its idyllic setting in the Nore River Valley and on the banks of the Nore. As part of long-term tourism project, the Council purchased land within Woodstock Demesne and Woodstock House which was restored and opened up walking trails and provided tea rooms within the gardens. The restoration of the "Castle" is a continuation of the opportunity to tap into the existing tourism offerings in the village.

Inistioge was also chosen as the setting for three major films, *Widow's peak* (1994), *Circle of Friends* (1995) and *The Secret Scripture* directed by Jim Sheridan in 2015, as well as the German film, *Romantic Road* (2013) was shot in Inistioge.

Kilkenny Council, in co-operation with the local GAA club obtained funding under the 2016 REDZ programme with the purpose of creating a visitor arrival area in the village, a riverside walking route, interpretative and signposting. The aim of the developments is to unify Inistioge and the Woodstock Gardens along existing walking trails and to be consistent with Ireland's Ancient East concept. Furthermore, the Council, in co-operation with Coillte, is in

the process to develop a plan to create a recreation hub in the overall Woodstock Estate to benefit Inistioge and surrounding villages.

6 SCOT Analysis

A SCOT (Strengths, Constraints, Opportunities and Threats) analysis was undertaken on 15th March 2018. This sets out the community’s expression of the strengths, constraints, opportunities and threats associated with Inistioge Stakeholder consultation also assisted in the preparation of the SCOT analysis, building a picture of what is valued and appreciated in Inistioge, what is unsatisfactory and needs changing, where there are threats and opportunities. The SCOT provides a basis for a vision for the future that stakeholders believe to be both desirable and achievable.

Strengths	Constraints
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural qualities Scenery • Historic qualities • The River • The Village Green • Connection with Woodstock • Compactness • Pubs • Untapped potential (recreation) • Cois Abhainn • The Primary School • Natural environment tourism (river) • Community spirit (services) • Proximity to South East • Accessibility by road • Sport and recreation • South Leinster Way (Square + Green) • ‘Built heritage’ – Square • Proximity of Mount Brandon, Blackstairs and Mount Leinster. • Progressive community & voluntary groups • Inclusion in ‘Ireland Ancient East’ • Strong Community Services • Sense of Safety • Local Pride & Community spirit • Post Office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of info / Signage to sites • Tourist Facilities (lack of at night time / lack of Info centre) • Run down • Poor Public Transport • Flooding risk • Too much ad-hoc car parking • No long-term development strategy • Lack of eateries; • The same people are running everything • Vacancy on the square • Poor Local industry opportunities • Lack of Activities for tourists • No ATM • No kids playground • Reliance on tourism • Low Broadband Quality and mobile phone coverage • Poor Connectivity / Transport • Poor River maintenance • Absence of a fish hatchery • Poor marketing • Woodstock not capitalised • Seasonal Tourism • Low levels of accommodation and restaurants • Lack of Tourist Literature/ signage

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of sufficient Public Toilets & lighting • High commercial rates • Lack of Co-ordination
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online visibility (Ireland's Ancient East) • Woodstock + House 45,000 visitors • Small county for tourism promotion • Outdoor recreation • Kilkenny Greenway • Ireland's Ancient East • Salmon hatchery + river development • Tourism accommodation + tourist hub • Marketing online • Supporting ideas • More colour (colour scheme) • Shopfront signage + street signage • Farmers market / club monthly open-air • Wider tourism footfall • Reduced bus / coach fee for Woodstock • Better River Management • Government funding • Better broadband • Walking tourism • New jobs • Walkways improvement • District Co-operation Tourism • Possible Tourist Office • Digital Guide • 11 km of riverside walkway • Churches (choirs/ showbands marquee) • Events Co-ordination • Accommodation • Potential Movie set opportunities • Walled Town Status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of Job opportunities • Youth leaving • Lack of financial resources • Loss of identity (tradition) • High cost of business and rates • New Ross by-pass • Brexit • Affordable housing for locals • Ageing and required support • Climate change and flooding • Lack of funding • Closure of facilities • Local spend directed away from village • Global warming • Multiples and online shopping (Thomastown) • Facilities closing (post office) • Loss of medieval aspects

7 Recommendations

The findings of the study, in the form of the Town Centre Health Check, SCOT analysis, and the consultative community workshop, have been invaluable in identifying measures for

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further action. This section provides recommendations that can be implemented and achieved within the short (typically 0-6 months), medium (typically 7-24 months) and long term (typically 2-5 years). The recommendations integrate physical, economic, social and environmental renewal measures in order to attain maximum benefit for the communities within each settlement. The recommendations are developed from the comprehensive health check, site visits and consultation process which were conducted as part of this study. These are therefore evidence based recommendations which will contribute significantly to enhanced vitality and viability of Inistioge. The recommendations are considered to be SMART in that they are *Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time Related*.

The recommendations have been frame around seven core themes:

1. **Public Realm Improvements**
2. **Traffic Management Enhancements**
3. **Promotion of Local Skills, Produce and Enterprise**
4. **Recreation and Amenities Enhancement**
5. **Community Development and Engagement**
6. **Tourism, Culture and Heritage Development**
7. **Branding and Marketing**

Inistioge: Village Health Check Recommendations

A *Public Realm Action Plan for the Square & Riverside Park / The Green February 2018* was prepared as part of a funding application under the historic towns initiative and although it was not successful the plan outlined desirable improvements to the square and Riverside Park / The Green. Many of the recommendation outlined below are included in that plan.

It is recommended that a Coordinator be appointed to each of the Recommendation Actions below. The text book definition of a Coordinator *is someone whose job is to make different groups work together in an organized way to achieve something*. In addition to this general definition of a Coordinator, in context of this report, the duties of the Coordinator also include organising the resources needed to implement the Recommendations below.

Theme: Public Realm Improvements		
Recommendation	Coordinator	Timeframe

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The Village Square building façade painting and renewal		Medium-term
Stabilising works to the Medieval Fortified Town House (West of Village Square) – Masonry Repairs and repair to immediate setting		Short-term
Repair to monument in Village Square		Medium-term
Repairs to perimeter bollards and kerbing at Village Square		Medium-term
Introduce new lighting scheme for Village Square		Medium-term
Building façade painting and renewal at the Riverside		Medium-term
Extend pavements abutting buildings at the Riverside		Medium-term
Tree planting – along roads, in graveyard and a very-long-term tree replacement program (as per Inistioge Tidy Towns 2128 vision)		Long-term

Theme: Traffic Management Enhancements		
Recommendation	Coordinator	Timeframe
Undertake a study on the pedestrian / traffic conflict in the town.		Medium-term
Extend pavements abutting buildings around Village Square and Riverside		Medium-term

Theme: Promotion of Local Skills, Produce and Enterprise		
Recommendation	Coordinator	Timeframe
Engage with owners of vacant and derelict buildings with a view to establishing a repair and enhancement scheme by local trades people and trainee trades people		Medium-term
Establish and Support a weekly/ monthly Farmers Market to showcase local producers and draw visitors		Medium-term

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to the village		
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Theme: Recreation and Amenities Enhancement		
Recommendation	Coordinator	Timeframe
Introduce a small playground to the Riverside Park / The Green close to the Hundred Court castellated structure		Medium-term
Introduce new lighting scheme for the Riverside Park / The Green and street		Medium-term
Renewal of planting and layout of the Riverside Park / The Green		Medium-term
Replace benches in Riverside Park / The Green with simple benches		Medium-term
Introduce new lighting scheme for Village Square		Medium-term
Replace benches in Village Square with simple benches		Medium-term
Repair to monument in Village Square		Medium-term
St. Columcille’s Well – the gate and cross are in need of repair. Interpretation of site to be undertaken as well.		Medium-term
The garden at, and adjacent to, the holy well, to be purchased by the council, in order to be a part of and enhance open space around the well.		Medium-term
Implement a long-term Treatment Plan for Japanese knotweed		Medium-term
St. Columcille’s graveyard – opportunity to provide advice, and funding, for appropriate works in the graveyard (ex. paths).		Medium-term
Assessments and awareness raising actions to protect bat population in general and during developments.		Short-term
Implement actions from the primary school ‘Biodiversity Action Plan’ with advice of a trained ecologist.		Medium-term

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Implement actions from the Tidy Towns ‘Pollinator’ programme as advised by a trained ecologist.		Medium-term
Pursue a ‘Bloom’ Wildlife-friendly award with introduction of bird/ bat boxes, bug hotels to enhance biodiversity.		Medium-term
Create a new wildlife and built heritage trail including – app / map / QR stickers		Medium-term
Implement a Grass Composting/ recycling scheme		Medium-term

Theme: Community Development and Engagement		
Recommendation	Coordinator	Timeframe
Engage directly with Coillte regarding linkages to Woodstock and implementing mutually beneficial projects		

Theme: Tourism, Culture and Heritage Development		
Recommendation	Coordinator	Timeframe
Support and proactively seek the continued use of Inistioge as a film set		Medium-term
Support and actively seek new accommodation provision (including holidays homes and ‘glamping’) in close to the village centre		Medium-term
Develop a Co-ordinated Signage Strategy – Interpretative signage updated as well as selective and strategic signage related to walking trails and information boards, heritage and tourist strategies.		Medium-term
Heritage Trail – ensure heritage and wildlife trail interpretive panels/ signs are consistent with signage strategy		Medium-term
Ensure at least one Heritage Week Event is held annually in Inistioge		Medium-term

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Theme: Branding and Marketing		
Recommendation	Coordinator	Timeframe
Commission a Tourism and Marketing Strategy to define a co-ordinated approach to providing for, and attracting visitors including a dedicated website featuring all visitor attractions and services in the town.		Medium-term
Create a high-class website to promote the village as a film set and events space as a co-ordinated and strategic approach to 'selling' the village as a venue for this purpose.		Medium-term

END.