

SALTHILL

VILLAGE AND SEAFRONT

BÓTHAR na TRÁ

An tSRÁIDBHAILE agus CLADACH



STAGE 1 ENGAGEMENT REPORT

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

Allies and Morrison has been appointed by Galway City Council (GCC) to prepare a consultation plan and report to document the first stage of engagement undertaken for the Salthill Village and Seafront Framework Project.

The purpose of this document is to set out the comments that were received at the first stage engagement events, which were conducted as drop-in market stall events on the Promenade, and as focus group events at the Salthill Hotel.

The first stage of engagement for the Salthill Village and Seafront project has achieved a high level of community involvement:

- Over 1,500 comments collected from approximately 400 participants.
- A total of 861 completed surveys.
- Extensive outreach and awareness efforts across both the Salthill and wider Galway communities.

The project team will now work with the consultation feedback to shape the next stage of the Salthill Seafront and Village Framework. Key themes are summarised as follows.

MOVEMENT

ACCESSIBILITY: Accessibility is a key priority, with several opportunities identified to improve footpaths, crossings, pavements, ramped access points, and overall awareness of accessibility issues.

ROADS: Roads attracted a significant proportion of comments, including calls for new pedestrian crossings, traffic reduction, maintaining provisions for cars, and enhancing safety.

PARKING: Parking generated diverse opinions. Some respondents supported reducing car use and repurposing parking spaces, while others strongly advocated for retaining parking and keeping spaces free of charge.

CYCLING: Safe cycling emerged as a major concern, with various suggestions to enhance cycling infrastructure, including improved bike stands and dedicated lanes or routes. Some comments emphasised that parking should not be sacrificed to accommodate cycle lanes.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Most feedback on public transport focused on the capacity, reliability, and attractiveness of buses as an alternative to private cars.

SPACE AND ENVIRONMENT

Promenade: The Promenade is a well-loved asset, with comments addressing issues such as dog fouling, maintenance, bin provision, extending the Promenade, improving facilities, enhancing safety, and upgrading shelters.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS: Environmental concerns include water quality, especially regarding swimming, protection and enhancement of local marine ecosystems, and improvements to the public realm. The sea plays a central role in shaping the local place identity.

GREEN SPACES: Most comments focus on Salthill Park, with mixed views on whether to introduce more specific activities and features or to preserve it as an open space for play and events. Other suggestions called for greener streets throughout Salthill.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR: Feedback highlighted the need to reduce anti-social behaviour, including keeping dogs on leads, prohibiting drinking near the diving tower, increasing Garda presence, and limiting amplified music in public spaces.

CLIMATE CHANGE: The survey revealed strong support for active travel, enhanced public transport, flood defences, and increased greening and planting as key strategies to address climate change.

USES AND ACTIVITIES

AMENITIES AND FACILITIES: This category encompasses village uses, sports, arts, play, and tourism. Respondents emphasised the importance of ensuring facilities and spaces are appropriate and appealing to diverse groups, including teenagers, older adults, and families.

SERVING COMMUNITY NEEDS: Survey results indicated a perception that Salthill could better serve the community, particularly regarding indoor and outdoor public spaces, youth facilities, markets and retail offerings.

BLACKROCK: Blackrock emerged as a prominent topic, with comments ranging from preserving the tower as it is, to improving safety and access, carrying out maintenance, or upgrading facilities.

BEACH AND SWIMMING: Beaches and swimming were frequently mentioned, with suggestions focused on beach cleanliness, enhancing surrounding spaces, and improving access.

THE VILLAGE: Participants proposed improvements to amenities and facilities within the village, alongside enhancing the public realm, architecture, design, and movement, with the goal of supporting the local business environment.

ARCHITECTURE AND CHARACTER: Comments reflected support for community-led planning, establishing clear objectives and visions, considering both short- and long-term perspectives, and raising the overall quality of the built environment.



ACHOIMRE RANNPHÁIRTÍOCHTA

Tá Allies agus Morrison ceaptha ag Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe (CCG) chun plan comhairliúcháin agus tuarascáil a ullmhú chun doiciméadú a dhéanamh ar an gcéad chéim den rannpháirtíocht i ndáil le Creatphlean Shráidbhaile agus Chladach Bhóthar na Trá.

Is é cuspóir an doiciméid na barúlacha a fuarthas ag imeachtaí rannpháirtíochta na chéad chéime a leagan amach, a reáchtáladh mar imeachtaí staille margaidh arbh fhéidir bualadh isteach chucu ar an bPromanáid, agus freisin mar imeachtaí grúpaí fócais ag Óstán Bhóthar na Trá.

Bhain leibhéal ard rannpháirtíochta ón bpobal leis an gcéad chéim rannpháirtíochta ar mhaithe le tionscadal Shráidbhaile agus Chladach Bhóthar na Trá:

- Bailíodh os cionn 1,500 barúil ó thart ar 400 rannpháirtí.
- Lónadh amach 861 suirbhé san iomlán.
- Iarrachtaí forleathana for-rochtana agus feasachta i measc phobal Bhóthar na Trá agus phobal na Gaillimhe i gcoitinne.

Bainfidh foireann an tionscadail leas as an aiseolas ón gcomhairliúchán anois chun an chéad chéim eile de Chreat Shráidbhaile agus Chladach Bhóthar na Trá a mhúnlú. Seo a leanas achoimre ar na príomhthéamaí.

GLUAISEACHT

ROCHTAIN: Is príomhthosaíocht í an inrochtaineacht, agus aithníodh neart deiseanna chun cosáin, trasrianta, leaca na sráide, pointí rochtana rampa, agus feasacht foriomlán ar cheisteanna inrochtaineachta a fheabhsú.

BÓITHRE: Bhain sciar mór de na barúlacha le bóithre, le héileamh ar thrasrianta coisithe nua, brú tráchta a laghdú - áiteanna do charranna a choinneáil, agus sábháilteacht a fheabhsú ina measc.

PÁIRCEÁIL: Spreag an pháirceáil tuairimí éagsúla. Thacaigh roinnt freagróirí le húsáid carranna a laghdú agus úsáid eile a bhaint as spásanna páirceála, agus thacaigh daoine eile go láidir leis an bpáirceáil a choinneáil agus spásanna a choinneáil mar spásanna saor in aisce.

ROTHAÍOCHT: Tháinig rothaíocht shábháilte chun cinn mar ábhar mór imní, agus rinneadh moltaí éagsúla chun an bonnagar rothaíochta a fheabhsú - seastáin rothar feabhsaithe agus lánáí nó bealaí tiomnaithe ina measc. Chuir roinnt barúlacha i dtábhacht nár cheart áiteanna páirceála a thabhairt ar lámh ar mhaithe le freastal ar lánáí rothair.

IOMPAR POIBLÍ: Bhí an chuid is mó den aiseolas maidir le hiompar poiblí dírithe ar acmhainneacht, iontaofacht, agus tarraingteacht busanna mar rogha malartach ar charranna príobháideacha.

SPÁS AGUS AN TIMPEALLACHT

AN PHROMANÁID: Sócmhainn a bhfuil meas mór uirthi is ea an Phromanáid, agus tugadh aghaidh sna barúlacha ar cheisteanna amhail salú madraí, cothabháil, soláthar boscaí brúscair, síneadh a chur leis an bPromanáid, áiseanna a fheabhsú, agus scáthláin a uasghrádú.

CEISTEANNA MAIDIR LEIS AN TIMPEALLACHT: I measc na n-ábhar imní timpeallachta tá cáilíocht an uisce, go háirithe maidir le snámh, éiceachórais mhuirí áitiúla a chosaint agus a fheabhsú, agus feabhsuithe ar an bhfearann poiblí. Tá ról lárnach ag an bhfarraige san fhéiniúlacht áitiúil.

SPÁSANNA GLASA: Bhí an chuid is mó de na barúlacha dírithe ar Pháirc Bhóthar na Trá, agus bhí tuairimí measctha ann maidir le cibé ar cheart gníomhaíochtaí agus gnéithe níos sainiúla a thabhairt isteach nó é a chaomhnú mar spás oscailte le haghaidh súgradh agus imeachtaí. Éilíodh i moltaí eile sráideanna níos glaise a bheith ar fud Bhóthar na Trá.

IOMPAR FRITHSHÓISIALTA: Leagadh béim san aiseolas ar iompar frithshóisialta a laghdú, amhail madraí a choinneáil ar iall, cosc ar ól in aice leis an gclár tumtha, níos mó Gardaí a bheith ann, agus srian a chur ar cheol ard i spásanna poiblí.

ATHRÚ AERÁIDE: Léirigh an suirbhé neart tacaíochta do thaisteal gníomhach, iompar poiblí a fheabhsú, cosaintí tuilte, agus níos mó limistéar a ghlasú agus a phlandú mar phríomhstraitéisí chun dul i ngleic le hathrú aeráide.

ÚSÁIDÍ AGUS GNÍOMHAÍOCHTAÍ

ÁISEANNA AGUS SAORÁIDÍ: Cuimsíonn an catagóir seo úsáidí a bhaintear as an sráidbhaile - spórt, ealaíon, súgradh agus turasóireacht. Leag na freagróirí béim ar an tábhacht a bhain le háiseanna agus saoráidí cuí a chinntiú agus grúpaí éagsúla a mhealladh, déagóirí, daoine fásta níos sine agus teaghlaigh ina measc.

FREASTAL AR RIACHTANAIS AN PHOBAIL: Thug torthaí an tsuirbhé le fios go bhféadfadh Bóthar na Trá freastal níos fearr ar an bpobal, go háirithe maidir le spásanna poiblí laistigh agus lasmuigh, áiseanna óige, margáí agus tairiscintí miondíola.

AN CHARRAIG DHUBH: Tháinig an Charraig Dhubh chun cinn go mór mar ábhar, agus bhí réimse barúlacha san aiseolas ó chaomhnú an túir mar atá sé, go sábháilteacht agus rochtain a fheabhsú, cothabháil a dhéanamh, nó áiseanna a uasghrádú.

AN TRÁ AGUS SNÁMH: Luadh tránna agus snámh go minic, agus bhí moltaí dírithe ar ghlaíneacht na trá, na spásanna mórtimpeall a fheabhsú, agus rochtain a fheabhsú.

AN SRÁIDBHAILE: Mhol na rannpháirtithe feabhsuithe ar shaoráidí agus ar áiseanna laistigh den sráidbhaile, chomh maith leis an bhfearann poiblí, an dearadh, agus an ghluaiseacht a fheabhsú, chun tacú le geilleagar na ngnónna áitiúla.

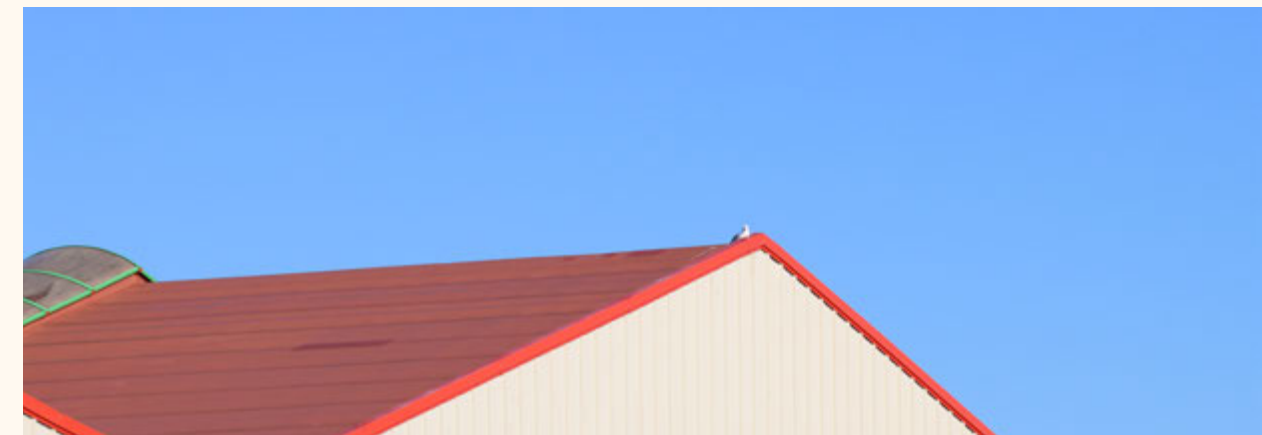
AILTIREACHT AGUS CARACHTAR: Léiríodh sna barúlacha tacaíocht do phleanáil faoi stiúir an phobail, cuspóirí, agus físeanna soiléire a bhunú, peirspictíochtaí gearrthéarmacha agus fadtéarmacha araon a chur san áireamh, agus cáilíocht fhoriomlán na timpeallachta tógtha a ardú.



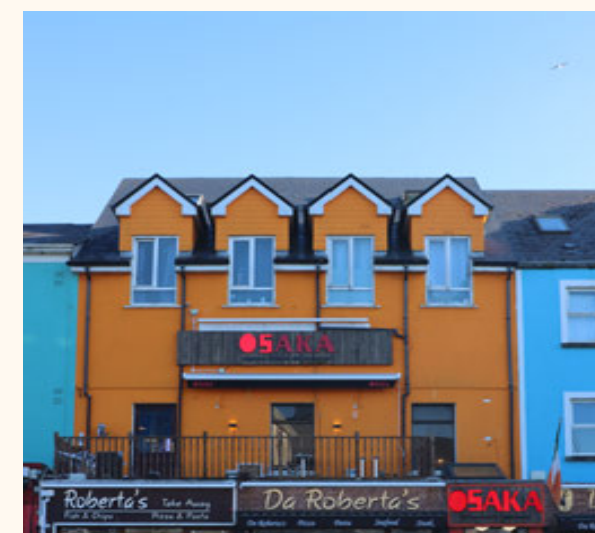
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1 INTRODUCTION



1.1 BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Allies and Morrison has been appointed by Galway City Council (GCC) to prepare a consultation plan and report to document the first stage of engagement undertaken for the Salthill Village and Seafront Framework Project. The Salthill Village and Seafront Project sets out to develop a vision, objectives and to bring together project ideas for future development and investment in Salthill. It focuses primarily on design public realm and the maintenance, enhancement or refurbishment of existing buildings, including vacant buildings.

The purpose of this document is to set out the comments that were received at the first stage engagement events, which were conducted as drop-in market stall events on the Promenade, and as focus group events at the Salthill Hotel.

These events were conducted on the 6th-7th and 21st-22nd February 2025.

The Framework will be co-produced through a collaborative approach, with community feedback playing a central role in shaping its vision and objectives. The document seeks to provide transparency and trust throughout the project's process to develop the Framework.



1.2 ENGAGEMENT AIMS

The engagement for the Salthill Seafront and Promenade seeks to meaningfully involve the community throughout the process, helping to shape a collaborative strategy that reflects local insight, history, and lived experience. The stories, knowledge, and everyday needs shared by residents and stakeholders reveal what people value most about Salthill, while also highlighting the areas where change and improvement are needed. This depth of understanding is central to creating a Framework that is rooted in the community and guided by the people who know it best.

The core aims of the engagement are to:

- Reach a broad and diverse range of people by combining in-person and digital engagement, offered in varied formats, locations, days, and times.
- Build on existing local knowledge and feedback, establishing a bottom-up, community-led approach.
- Listen with empathy and openness to understand the full range of perspectives.
- Start the conversation early, creating space for open dialogue and keeping stakeholders well-informed throughout.
- Be inclusive by offering multiple ways for people to take part, regardless of age, background, or ability.
- Support accessibility for Irish speakers by translating engagement materials into Irish and having Irish speakers at our events.

This participatory approach at an early stage has helped lay a positive, inclusive, and collaborative foundation for the project.

1.3 TRANSPARENCY

Allies and Morrison, in partnership with GCC, are committed to maintaining a transparent and inclusive engagement process by providing clear, accessible, and timely information about the Salthill Village and Seafront Framework Project at every stage. This includes sharing detailed plans, project timelines, and regular progress updates, such as this engagement feedback report, to keep the community informed.

Updates will be communicated through a variety of channels, including the dedicated project page on the GCC website, social media platforms, and direct email to individuals who have registered for updates.

By making all relevant materials easily accessible and maintaining regular, open communication, the project team aims to foster trust, encourage ongoing participation, and ensure that the community remains well-informed and confident in the process. This commitment to transparency helps build a shared sense of ownership in the future of Salthill.

1.4 FEEDBACK UTILISATION

Community and stakeholder feedback is a vital part of shaping the Salthill Village and Seafront Framework Plan. Allies and Morrison will review all responses carefully, using both thematic and quantitative analysis to identify recurring issues, key priorities, and areas of consensus or concern. This analysis will directly inform the next stages of the project. Insights gathered during Stage 1 will support the development of a draft vision and set of objectives, as well as the early identification of potential projects for the village and seafront.

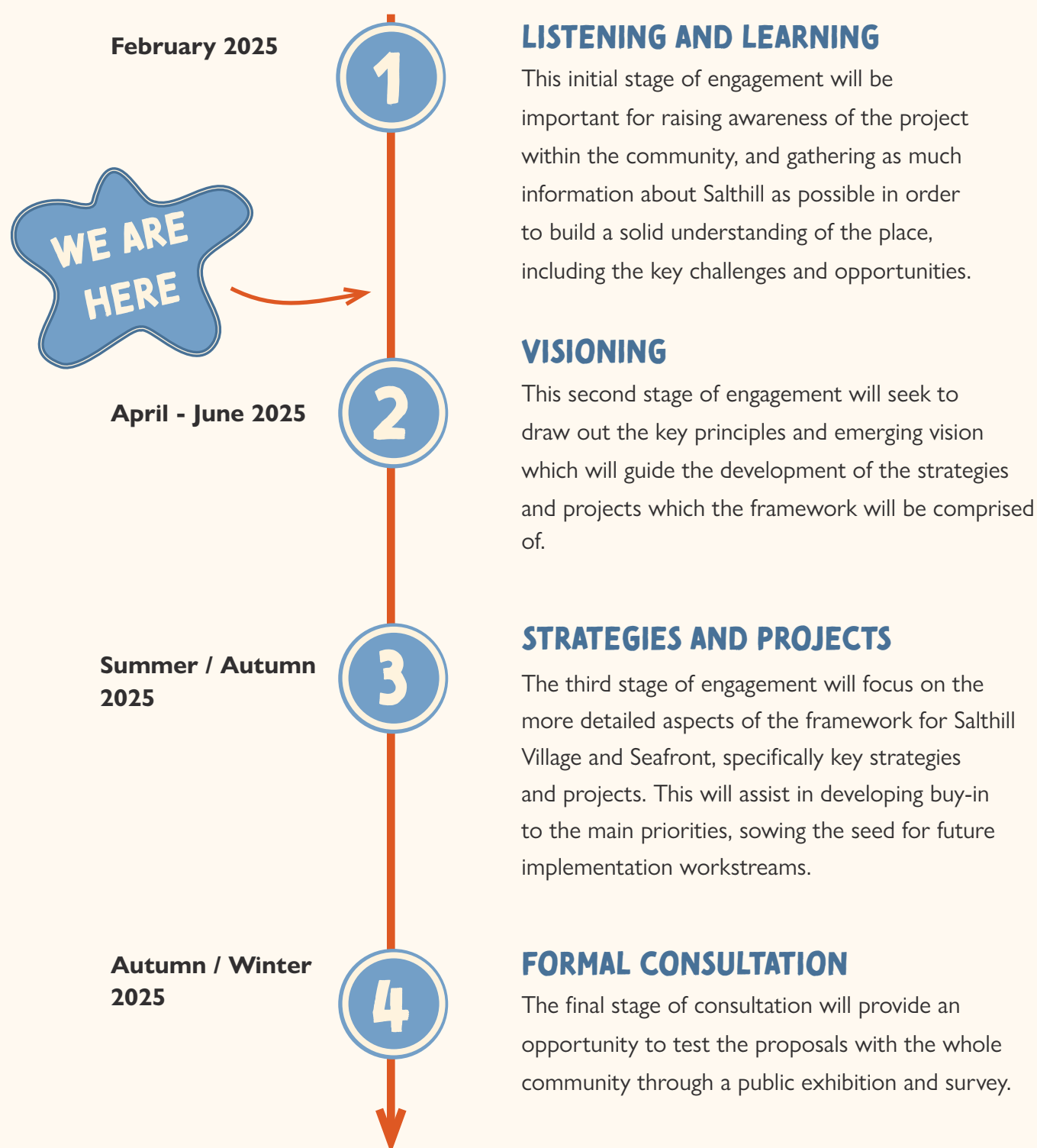
These proposals will be shared for further public input during future stages of engagement.

Throughout the process, we will document how feedback has been taken into account to demonstrate its influence on decision-making. This approach not only builds transparency and trust, but also helps to ensure that the Framework reflects the aspirations of those who live, work, and visit Salthill.

1.5 STAGE 1 ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE



1.6 PROJECT ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE



1.7 STAGE 1 ENGAGEMENT METHODS

SURVEY

The survey was conducted both online and in-person. It ran from Friday 21st February until Friday 28 March 2025. The in-person survey collection happened at the Residents Association drop-in event at the Salthill Hotel on 21st February 2025 and on Salthill Promenade on Thursday 27th February 2025. There were both Gaelige and English versions of the survey available.

DROP IN SESSIONS

A drop-in event was held at the Salthill Hotel from 4-6pm on Wednesday the 6th February 2025 for business owners, and from 4-8pm on Friday the 21st February 2025 with residents. There were large A1 maps set out on tables throughout the room together with pens and post it notes on which to annotate. The Allies and Morrison and GCC team approached people as they walked in, starting a conversation with them about the project scope.

FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS

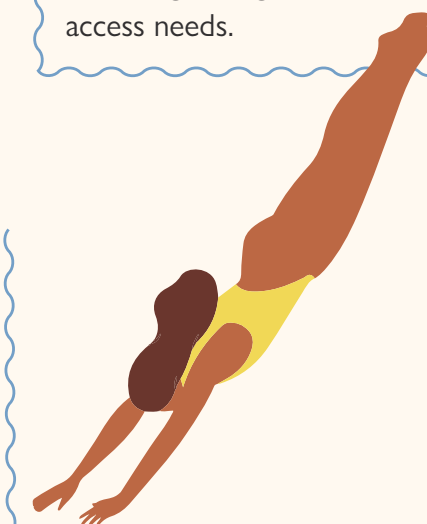
Focus group sessions were held with the Galway Cycling Campaign from 6.30-8pm on Wednesday the 6th February 2025, and with the Access for All group from 3-4.30pm on Thursday the 7th February 2025. Due to the smaller size of the Galway Cycling Campaign group, the session was conducted as an open forum, with all participants speaking and listening to one another. The Access for All forum was held in small groups of three to four participants per table, each supported by a facilitator and a map to guide the discussion. This format created space for participants to share their unique experiences and ideas, reflecting a range of individual access needs.

SCHOOLS WORKSHOPS

Local artist Siobhan McNutt conducted a watercolour workshop with Scoil Íde on 10th March 2025 and a silk painting workshop with Solerno on 8th April 2025. The aim of the workshop was to explore Salthill through found objects and to interpret them into a creative piece. During the workshops, the students spoke about what was important to them in Salthill.

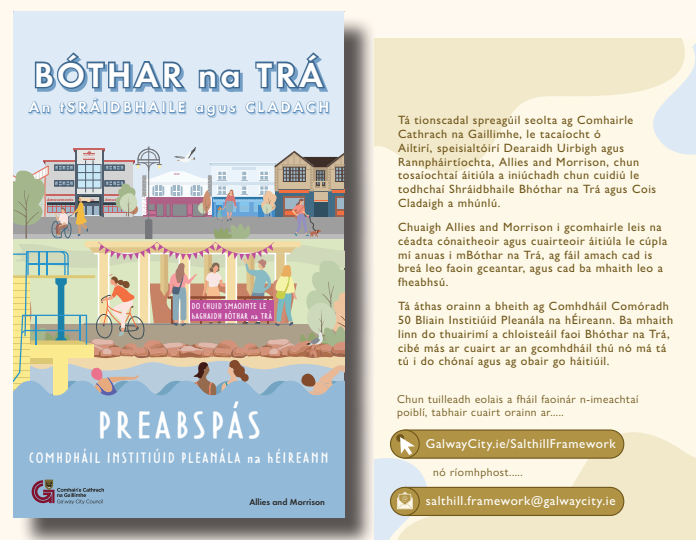
POP-UP OUTDOOR STALL

Two pop up events were held on 7th February 2025 and 22nd February 2025. Both offered an informal opportunity for passers-by to get involved and write down their ideas, wants and wishes for Salthill, as well as what issues they experienced in the village and on the seafront. The first event was held at Blackrock Tower, and the second was held on the Promenade to the west of the car park.

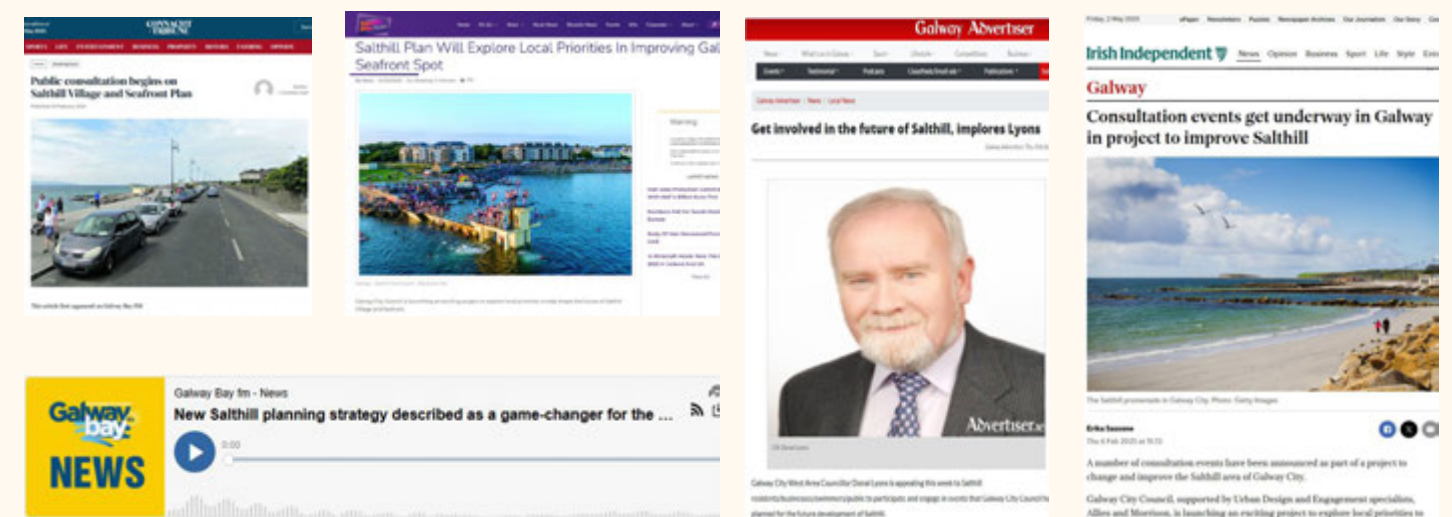


1.8 STAGE 1 COMMUNICATION TOOLS

- Galway City Council (GCC) established a comprehensive communication programme to promote the first stage of engagement. Key tools used are summarised below:
- Radio promotion:** Interviews with GCC representatives helped raise awareness of the project and advertise the public drop-in sessions.
- Facebook and Instagram:** Bespoke graphics were created for eye-catching social media posts to promote the events and online survey.
- Newspaper advertisements:** GCC placed adverts in local newspapers to publicise the engagement events and encourage survey participation.
- Posters:** Custom-designed posters were displayed at key locations along the Promenade, playing an important role in informing passers-by about the engagement events.
- Direct mail:** The project team carried out targeted outreach to key local stakeholders and community groups, inviting them to public events and stakeholder sessions where appropriate.
- Mail drop:** An extensive mail drop was organised to share background information about the project, key dates, and details of the public survey with local residents and businesses.
- Telephone:** Local residents were able to contact GCC by phone to speak directly with a member of the project team or request a call-back.
- Outreach:** GCC officers engaged directly with local groups through informal sessions to build awareness ahead of the formal project launch.



Flyer from IPI conference



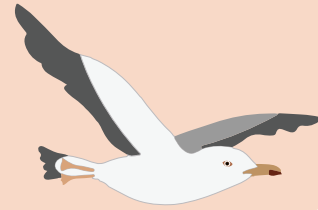
Adverts, flyers and posters to advertise the Salthill Framework project, with news articles and radio appearances from the press release



2 IN-PERSON EVENTS



2.1 STRATEGY



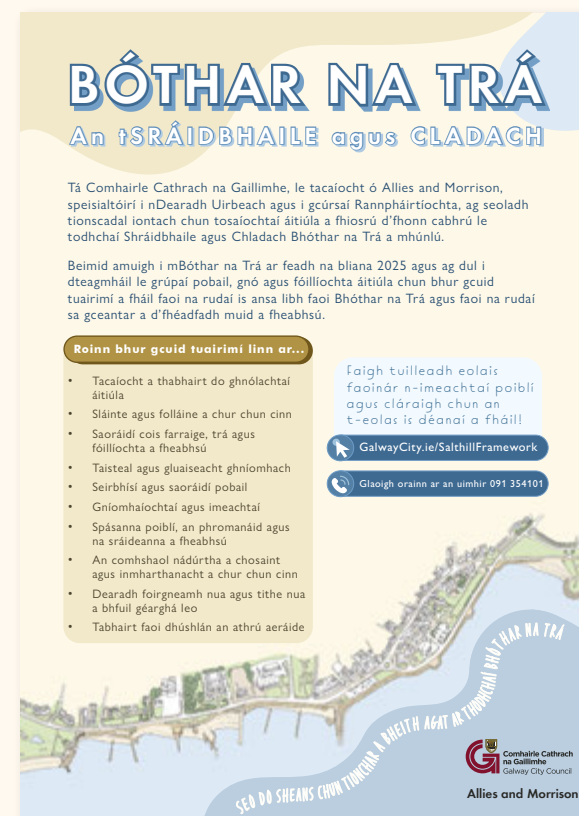
The in-person events provided a valuable opportunity for face-to-face conversations between the community and the project team. Participants spoke passionately about what they love most about Salthill, its character, places, and memories, while also sharing ideas for improvement and hopes for the future. The open and informal format encouraged honest, personal reflections, from stories of growing up in the area to favourite places to visit and aspirations for change. This approach fostered a genuinely participatory process, allowing the team to gather a broad and meaningful range of insights shaped directly by the lived experiences of the community.

In advertising the events, the Allies and Morrison team adopted a friendly, fun and engaging set of graphics with recognisable buildings and scenes from Salthill. Some communications materials included a list of topics that people could come and talk to the project team about. The intention for these was not to set a focus for themes, but to make the events easier to engage with and non-intimidating. This included:

- Supporting local businesses
- Promoting health and wellbeing
- Improving the seafront, beach and leisure facilities
- Active travel and movement
- Community services and facilities
- Activities and events
- Improving public spaces, the Promenade and streets

- Protecting the natural environment and promoting sustainability
- The design of new buildings and much needed new homes
- Climate change response

Instead of focusing on pre-determined themes at the in-person events, the method of open engagement allowed the team to respond directly to issues and evolving community concerns, removing any pre-conceived biases or ideas. It also helped the team to really understand priorities within the local community and highlight issues which are encountered in their daily lives, as well as scoping out possible opportunities and ideas for ways that the community feel that their area could be improved.



2.2 DATA ANALYSIS AND EMERGING TOPICS FROM IN-PERSON EVENTS

The following chapter presents the key themes that emerged from the in-person engagement events held in Salthill in February 2025. These insights were drawn from conversations, post-it notes, and mapped annotations gathered during drop-in sessions, pop-up events, and focus group discussions.

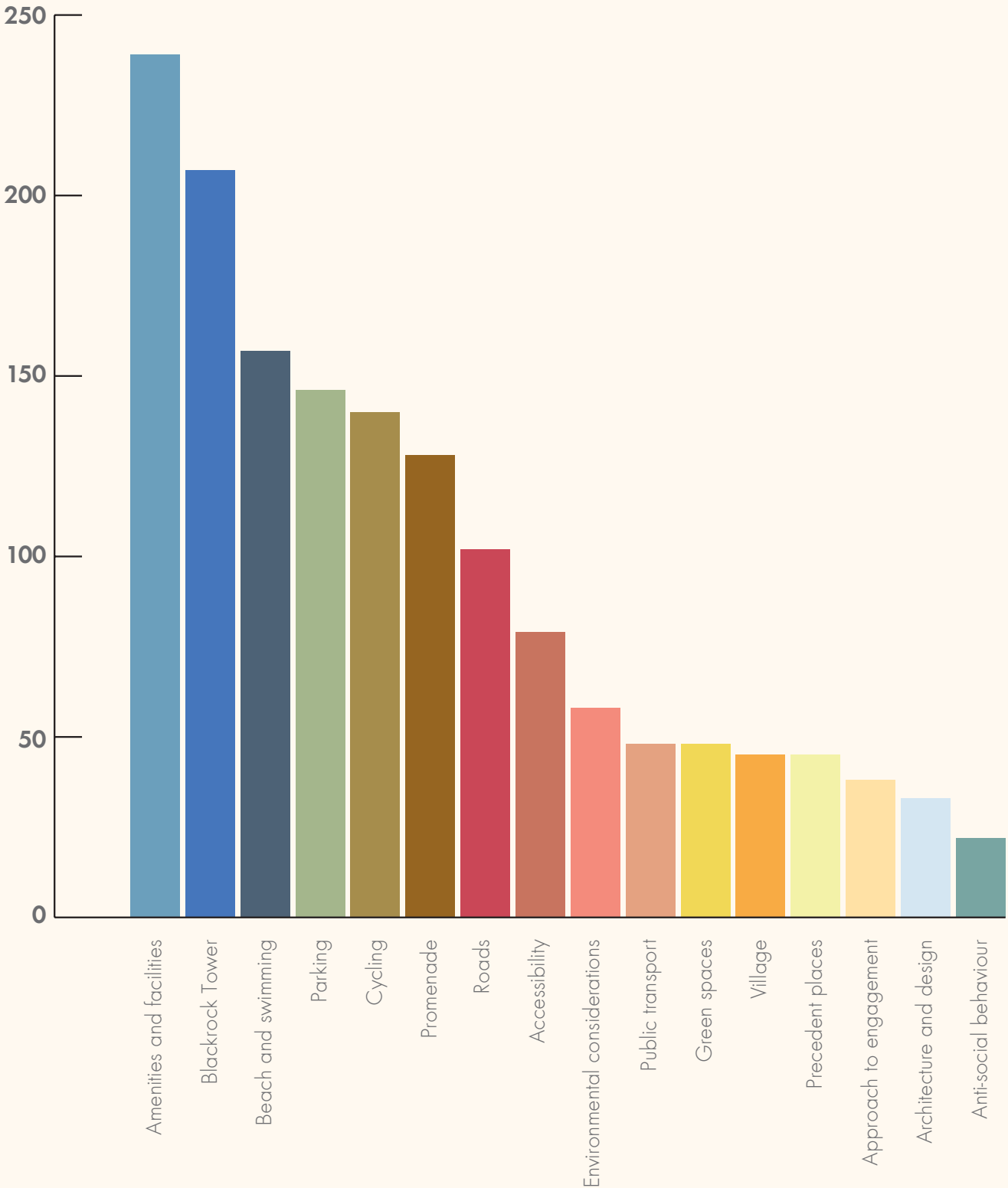
Across six in-person events, attended by over 400 people, more than 1,500 individual comments were collected. All written feedback, whether on post-it notes or directly on maps, was transcribed and digitised. The Allies and Morrison team then carried out a thematic analysis to group each comment into overarching themes and sub-themes. These themes emerged organically during the analysis and allowed for a structured understanding of the feedback.

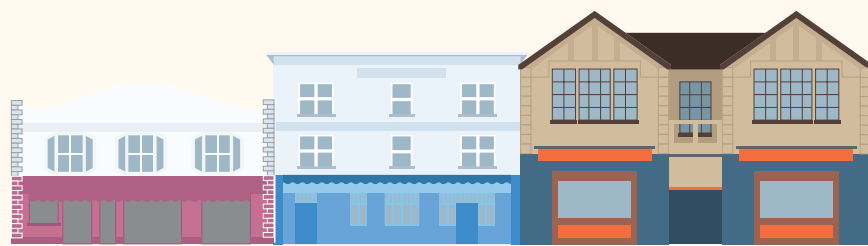
In addition to capturing qualitative insights, the categorisation enabled a quantitative assessment, showing which topics were raised most frequently by participants. This approach allowed the team to identify not only what was said, but how commonly particular issues and ideas were mentioned.

The team also attended the Irish Planning Institute conference on 10/11 April 2025. We shared some of our pop-up materials with attendees at the conference which received a positive response, welcoming the overall strategy of outreach and grassroots conversations, and canvassing opinions from a broad professional audience.



The following summary is organised in order of frequency, starting with the most commonly raised themes.





2.3 AMENITIES AND FACILITIES



This broad theme covers a range of sub-topics, including village uses, sports, arts, play, and tourism. With 239 comments received, it was the most frequently discussed theme. Many contributions focused on the availability and quality of facilities, particularly those catering to specific groups such as teenagers, older people, and families, highlighting the importance of inclusive and well-used spaces for all.

BUSINESSES IN THE VILLAGE (79)

Many participants expressed a desire to see stronger support for independent businesses, such as craft shops, boutiques, bookshops, cafés, and restaurants, to help make Salthill more of a year-round destination for both locals and tourists. There was also interest in activating the Promenade with kiosks, cafés, and regular markets. Tourist-friendly services like bike hire, kayaking, and paddleboard rentals were also suggested.

PLACES TO SIT (24)

A desire for more seating throughout Salthill was a recurring theme, particularly along the Promenade. Comments included calls for improved maintenance of the Blackrock amphitheatre, and a few suggestions for summer deckchair availability to encourage rest and enjoyment of the seafront.

SPORT (21)

Comments in this sub-theme focused on facilities that promote health, wellbeing, and active lifestyles. Suggestions included outdoor gym equipment, distance markers for jogging or walking, yoga spaces, and courts for recreational sports and games.

ARTS (18)

Respondents shared a variety of ideas to strengthen the arts and cultural offer in Salthill. Suggestions included the creation of a dedicated arts and performance space, more live music and outdoor events, sculpture trails, and opportunities for local artists and schools to contribute public art, particularly to the existing shelters along the Promenade.

YOUNG PEOPLE (16)

A key sub-theme was the need for more amenities for teenagers. Ten of the comments specifically mentioned the lack of suitable places for young people to spend time or socialise.

PUBLIC TOILETS (15)

There were multiple calls for more accessible and better-maintained public toilets across Salthill. Locations included the stretch between Ladies Beach and the village, Salthill Park and Grattan Road, and various points along the Promenade.

LEISURELAND (14)

Leisureland was directly mentioned by 14 participants. Four suggested that it should be redeveloped along with the surrounding land, while five expressed satisfaction with how it currently operates. Other comments related to the marketing of events, the cost of parking, and the facilities available.

PLAY (12)

These comments overlap with those related to sports but offer some specific suggestions. Four participants referenced playgrounds, proposing locations such as Blackrock, elsewhere along the Promenade, and improvements to the existing facilities at Toft Park. Two respondents called for a larger playground.

TOURISM (9)

Most of the comments in this sub-theme focused on the vacant tourist office, with participants expressing interest in seeing it reimaged for a new use.

CULTURE (7)

Respondents expressed appreciation for the Christmas lights and a desire for more festivals and cultural events. Several comments also mentioned promoting the everyday use of the Irish language in Salthill.

OTHER (24)

A number of participants suggested the creation of a dedicated community space. Some also noted that any new plans for Salthill should prioritise the needs of local residents, rather than focusing solely on tourists or visitors.

SUMMARY

STRENGTHS

- Beautiful location which is inspiring
- Lots of events and things to do

CHALLENGES

- Balancing residential needs with tourism
- Meeting the needs of a wide range of people

OPPORTUNITIES

- Solidify Salthill as a place for health and wellbeing through encouraging physical activity
- Diversify village centre uses

THREATS

- Too many tourists in the summer

“I would like if there was a smooth area for wheels. Let’s have fun!”

2.4 BLACKROCK TOWER



This was the second most frequently commented-on topic, with a large number of responses coming from the swim-focused pop-up event, as well as from other engagement sessions. Comments covered a range of sub-themes, including the importance of preserving the natural character of the seafront, improving safety and access, addressing maintenance issues, and suggesting minor upgrades to existing facilities.

DO NOTHING (22)

These comments reflect the deep affection people have for the Blackrock Diving Tower. It was described as “iconic” and “just perfect the way it is,” with many participants urging that no major changes be made. It is clearly a much-loved and valued part of Salthill, contributing significantly to its unique character.

BRING RAFT BACK (21)

All comments in this sub-theme supported reinstating the raft that once sat to the east of the diving tower, allowing swimmers to reach it from the shore. It was fondly remembered as a place to bathe, rest, and enjoy the water.

STEPS/LADDER ON WEST SIDE OF TOWER (21)

These comments advocate for reinstating the steps on the west side of the diving tower, allowing swimmers to access the water from both sides.

IMPROVED CHANGING FACILITIES (20)

Suggestions included improved lighting, more towel hooks, additional changing rooms and shelters, and upgraded public toilets, indicating a strong desire for better comfort and usability.

MAINTENANCE (20)

Most of these comments referred to minor but important maintenance needs, such as regular cleaning of steps and repainting to keep the area safe and welcoming.

SHOWERS (19)

Closely linked to changing facilities, these comments requested more showers at Blackrock. Suggestions included hot showers, solar-powered options, or simply improving the existing ones.

LIGHTING (17)

With year-round swimming at Blackrock growing in popularity, particularly in the early mornings during darker months, participants called for improved lighting to enhance safety. Discreet and solar-powered lighting options were suggested.

SIGNAGE (13)

Participants wanted to see fewer and more visually appealing signs at the diving tower entrance. Many felt that current signage was overly cluttered and detracted from the character of the area.

SAUNA (12)

All 12 comments expressed enthusiasm for introducing a sauna at Blackrock.

“We love it the way it is”

“The most important thing is not to spoil what is already there.”

DIVING BOARD (12)

These comments supported the return of the springboards to the tower, noting they were previously a much-enjoyed feature.

IMPROVE SAFETY (8)

Suggestions included cleaning slippery steps more frequently, repairing worn infrastructure, and clearing rocks after storms. Two comments called for the addition of railings near steep drops to improve safety.

RAILING (8)

Expanding on earlier safety concerns, these comments requested repairs or subtle new railings to assist elderly swimmers in accessing the sea safely.

LIFE GUARDS (5)

Two participants asked for the lifeguard station’s summer location to be reconsidered, noting it can obstruct access to the tower or sea.

STEPS DOWN TO SEA (4)

These comments generally referred to improved access at low tide, suggesting that additional or more strategically placed steps could help.

ACCESS (4)

Closely related to safety and railings, these comments focused on improving access for those with limited mobility or confidence on uneven terrain.

SUMMARY

STRENGTHS

- Iconic facility in Salthill with an abundance of history and stories attached to it
- Well-loved and well-used
- Has become even more popular place to swim in the last few years

CHALLENGES

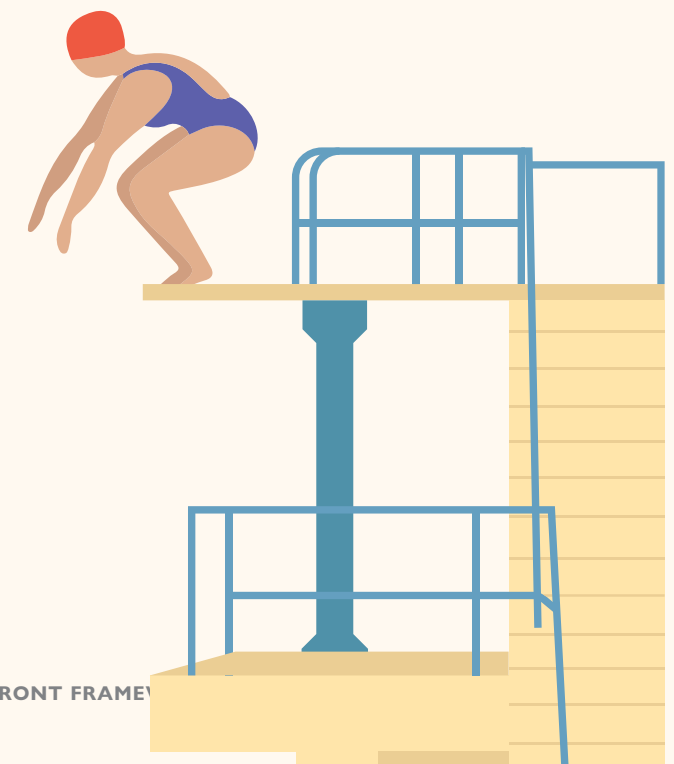
- Maintaining a sea-based structure
- Increased popularity
- Maintaining access for older and less mobile swimmers

OPPORTUNITIES

- Celebrating and enhancing a loved asset and iconic structure, being sensitive to the existing character
- Provide better and safer access
- Bring back historic elements which have washed away

THREATS

- Future maintenance and technical engineering / environmental challenges



2.5 BEACH AND SWIMMING

157
COMMENTS

This sub-theme captures comments related to swimming and the use of Salthill's beaches, excluding those specifically about Blackrock. Many participants highlighted the need for cleaner, better-maintained beaches, while others focused on ways to enhance the overall bathing experience. Suggestions ranged from improving access to the water to upgrading facilities.

TIDAL POOLS (44)

This was one of the most frequently mentioned topics. All 44 comments expressed strong support for reintroducing the tidal pools, which were seen as ideal for children and less confident swimmers.

IMPROVE FACILITIES (36)

Many comments focused on enhancing facilities at Ladies Beach and Palmer's Beach. Suggestions included improved changing rooms, better shelter, year-round buoys, additional showers, and beach games to encourage more recreational use.

IMPROVE MOBILITY/ACCESS (22)

Improving access for people with reduced mobility was a recurring theme. Nine participants specifically mentioned the need to level and maintain the ramp at Ladies Beach. Others suggested the use of beach mats, citing examples from accessible beaches in Donegal.

DOGS ON BEACH (11)

Feedback on this topic was mixed. The majority of comments supported allowing dogs on the beach year-round, while others suggested compromises such as designated dog-friendly days or specific areas where dogs could be permitted at all times.

CLEANING UP (28)

Numerous comments highlighted the need for more consistent beach cleaning and maintenance. Specific suggestions included:

- Seaweed removal (9)
- Clean-up after storms (7)
- General improvements to safety (7)
- Regular litter and debris removal (5)

These comments reflect a strong local desire to enhance the cleanliness, safety, and usability of Salthill's beaches for all.

SUMMARY

STRENGTHS

- Proximity to the sea in an accessible location

CHALLENGES

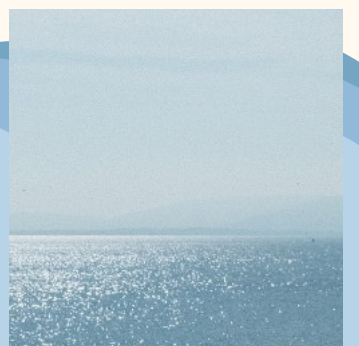
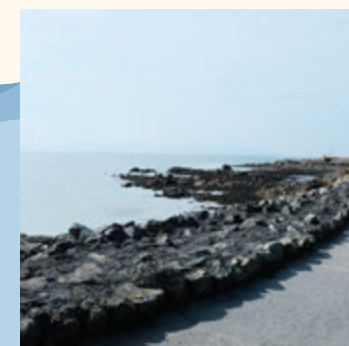
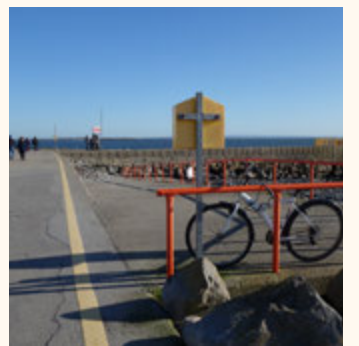
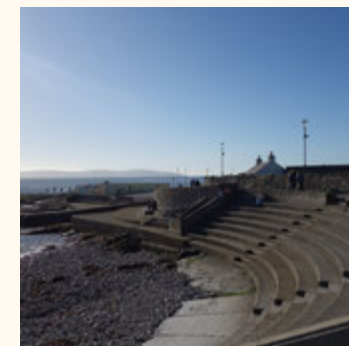
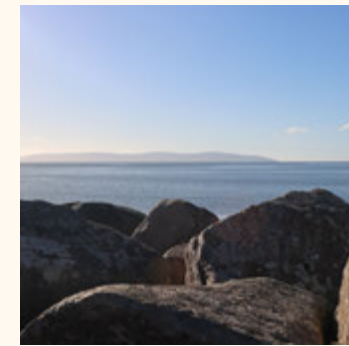
- Access for those with limited mobility
- Storm clear up
- Costs of restoring the tidal pools and maintenance of these

OPPORTUNITIES

- Using existing infrastructure for tidal pools
- Explore ways to allow wheelchair users or those with limited mobility to access the sea safely

THREATS

- Climate change and flooding



2.6

PARKING

Parking was a widely discussed topic, with 146 comments referencing it in some way. Feedback was varied and often conflicting, some participants called for better car park facilities, while others advocated for reducing or even removing cars from certain areas. Suggestions included alternative uses for car parks, the introduction of free parking, and the importance of retaining existing spaces.

IMPROVE CAR PARKS (39)

Many participants expressed a need for increased parking capacity in Salthill, noting that existing provision is insufficient, especially during peak times such as match days. Several comments offered suggestions such as constructing multi-storey or undercroft car parks. Others highlighted the need for better regulation, particularly along the Promenade, where informal parking can contribute to congestion and delays.

FREE PARKING (28)

The majority of comments supported retaining free car parking, emphasising its role in ensuring equitable access to Salthill's natural assets like the sea and Promenade. However, nine comments favoured the introduction of pay-and-display systems or time-limited free parking to discourage long-stay use by commuters.

REMOVE CARS/PEDESTRIANISE (23)

A significant number of comments called for the de-prioritisation of cars, particularly in the village core and along the Promenade. Many referenced the large number of parking spaces and traffic lanes, especially around Seapoint and Threadneedle Road, an area described as difficult during school drop-off and pick-up times. Some participants recalled the improved pedestrian experience during the COVID-19 restrictions and suggested removing parking from the Promenade to replicate that.

RETAIN PARKING (12)

Several comments stressed the importance of maintaining parking along the Promenade, particularly for those with limited mobility or for people who cannot walk long distances.

ALTERNATIVE USES FOR CAR PARKS (10)

Some participants suggested moving parking to the north side of the road to improve views of the sea and enhance pedestrian access, provided safe and frequent crossing points are in place. Other ideas included temporarily closing car parks for markets or children's activities. A few comments proposed using the funfair site for parking in winter and relocating the circus from Toft Park to preserve that area for parking.

146
COMMENTS

DISABLED PARKING (8)

All comments ask for more blue badge parking to be made available.

PARK AND RIDE (6)

There was general support for a park-and-ride scheme to ease congestion, although no specific locations were suggested.

RESIDENT PARKING (3)

All comments in this group focused on the need to protect residential parking and ensure it is not overtaken by visitor demand.

“Parking on the prom is important for families and local people, and older people to access beach.”

"Can we please repurpose (relocate?) the seafront car park. It would be an amazing location for a skate park or basketball court?"

SUMMARY

STRENGTHS

- **Free parking makes the Promenade and Village accessible to all**

CHALLENGES

- People are used to free parking
- Number of cars can overwhelm public realm
- Residents can have trouble parking on busy days
- Striking a balance between vehicular use and active travel

OPPORTUNITIES

THREATS

- Removing free parking could displace parking to residential streets which are narrower

“Restraint
on car use.
End car
dependence!”

2.7 CYCLING

140
COMMENTS

Cycling was one of the most frequently discussed topics, where many people highlighted the need for safer, more accessible cycling infrastructure. A strong interest in improving cycling conditions emerged, with suggestions ranging from dedicated cycle lanes to increased bike parking and rental schemes. While most comments supported enhancing cycling provision, often advocating for separation from pedestrian routes, some participants prioritised the retention of car parking, raising concerns about balancing different needs. The Galway Cycling Campaign was also represented in the feedback, contributing to the call for a safer, more connected cycling network throughout the area.

CYCLE LANES (98)

The majority of comments expressed strong support for a dedicated cycle lane along the Promenade and/or seafront. Many participants emphasised the importance of separating cyclists from pedestrians for safety and comfort. While most were in favour, five comments specifically cautioned against removing parking along the Promenade to accommodate a cycle lane. Only eight comments opposed the idea of a new cycle lane, citing concerns about losing parking or altering the current width of the Promenade and road. Several people supported the idea of a continuous cycle route linking Galway City to Salthill and Barna.

IMPROVE SAFETY (15)

All comments in this sub-theme highlighted safety concerns for cyclists, particularly due to vehicle traffic and the risk of car doors opening into cycle paths along the Promenade.

CYCLE PARKING (9)

There was a clear call for more cycle parking facilities both in the village and along the Promenade.

RENTALS (8)

Participants showed interest in the introduction of bike rental schemes in Salthill, with some specifically requesting bikes equipped to carry children. One comment noted that safety improvements should precede the implementation of any rental scheme.

OTHER (10)

These comments related to broader cycling infrastructure and behavioural change, without detailing specific locations or interventions.



"Cycle lanes so my kids can use/ enjoy Salthill safely"

SUMMARY

STRENGTHS

- Beautiful landscapes to enjoy at a slower pace
- Proximity to Galway City

CHALLENGES

- Too many cars pose safety risks to cyclists
- Balancing access to those who need to use cars and those who wish to cycle

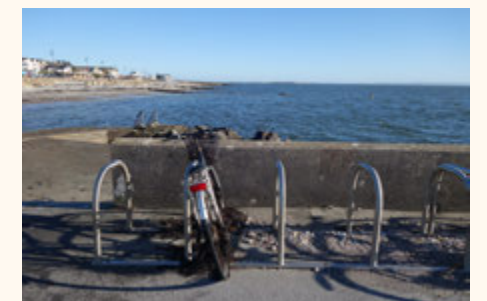
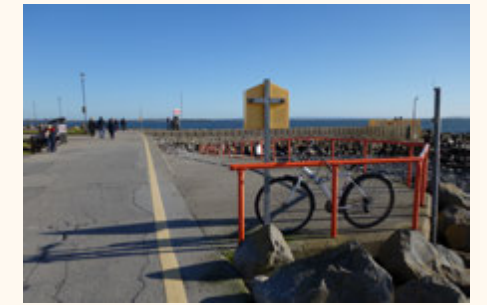
OPPORTUNITIES

- Flood defence scheme offers an opportunity to include a cycle lane and pedestrian footpath
- There are opportunities to improve cycling along the Promenade
- Make cycling safer to encourage people to make short journeys by bicycle

THREATS

- Climate change

"Don't object to a cycle lane but how are you going to fit it in!"



2.8 PROMENADE

128
COMMENTS

The Promenade was a central focus in the feedback, with 128 comments referencing it across a range of topics. Dog fouling emerged as the most frequently raised issue, with 39 comments specifically addressing the need for better management and solutions. Promenade maintenance followed closely, with 33 comments highlighting concerns such as surface quality and accessibility. Additional themes included the need for more bins, the potential extension or widening of the Promenade, improved safety features, and suggestions for better use of shelters and public facilities.

DOG FOULING (39)

The most frequently mentioned sub-theme was dog fouling, with 39 comments calling for measures to reduce this issue along the Promenade. Suggestions included promoting more responsible behaviour among dog owners, as well as providing additional bins and bag dispensers.

MAINTENANCE (33)

This sub-theme received 33 comments, with 22 specifically referring to the Promenade's surface. Respondents emphasised the need for smoother surfaces to ensure accessibility, eliminate trip hazards, and support activities such as rollerskating, scooting, and cycling. Enhancing the surface was also seen as a way to improve the overall appearance of the Promenade.

EXTENDING THE PROMENADE (14)

Fourteen comments addressed the potential extension of the Promenade. Five suggested extending it to Silverstrand, while others called for widening the existing path to allow cyclists and pedestrians to share the space more comfortably.

SAFETY (9)

Safety was highlighted in nine comments, often in relation to the extension or widening of the Promenade. Concerns included overcrowding and conflicts between pedestrians and users of bikes, scooters, and other wheeled transport. Additional safety measures such as improved lighting and an SOS phone box were also proposed.



"Have more water stations along prom."

"The dog poo on prom is appalling - counted 5 'incidents' today."

BINS AND LITTER (14)

Waste management was another sub-theme, with 14 comments calling for more bins along the Promenade, more frequent bin emptying during the summer, and the introduction of recycling and smaller bins. Three comments specifically asked for the increased presence of litter wardens, especially on warm or busy days.

SHELTERS AND OTHER FACILITIES (13)

This sub-theme received 13 comments. Five mentioned better use of existing shelters, suggesting they be used for events or as comfortable seating areas. Six comments requested more water refill stations along the Promenade. One comment recommended promoting the Promenade as a space for fitness and health, and another proposed adding more destinations like Blackrock Cottage along its length.

SUMMARY

STRENGTHS

- Lovely place to walk
- Direct visual amenity to the sea

CHALLENGES

- High volume of people using the Promenade
- The surface is uneven
- Dog fouling

OPPORTUNITIES

- Making better use of the shelters
- Upgrading the surface material
- Better lighting
- Better bin strategy

THREATS

- Cycling, scooting and rollerblading with walkers can be unsafe



2.9 ROADS



There were 102 comments related to Roads. These were related to the topics of movement and public realm. Just under half (43) of these comments directly referenced pedestrian crossings, whilst the others cover traffic, cars and safety.

CROSSINGS (43)

A total of 43 comments addressed pedestrian crossings. Of these, 15 specifically favoured courtesy, pelican, zebra, and non-light-controlled crossings over those with traffic lights. Several respondents noted that traffic lights often cause congestion and result in long wait times for pedestrians. There was also a strong desire for more crossings along the Promenade with better provision with those with accessibility needs (e.g. wheelchair users), with comments highlighting specific locations, including:

- To Ladies Beach (3)
- Black Rock (3)
- By Seapoint
- Threadneedle Road crossing (3), with a suggestion to move it as the current desire line is incorrect
- Salthill Park bus stop
- Devon Park
- From residential areas
- Salthill Hotel (2)
- Leisureland (2)
- Omniplex
- Ocean Towers
- Salthill Road Upper
- By the roundabout

Additionally, there was support for raised crossings to prioritise pedestrians over side roads leading onto the Promenade.

TRAFFIC (26)

Twenty-six comments focused on traffic-related issues. Several respondents pointed to specific days, such as GAA match days and school traffic, which require better management. Among the suggestions for traffic flow, some respondents called for one-way systems on busy streets, including those through the village, Lenaboy Avenue, and Threadneedle Avenue.

CARS (18)

Eighteen comments were related to cars, with 13 specifically addressing the high volume of cars in the village and along the Promenade. Two comments emphasised the importance of keeping the Promenade two-way for traffic flow. Two comments suggested removing the roundabout on Upper Salthill Road near the village.

SAFETY (14)

Fourteen comments raised concerns about safety, particularly regarding the speed of traffic. Specific locations mentioned for speed reduction included Salthill Road Upper (3), the Promenade by Seapoint (2), Lenaboy Avenue, and Threadneedle Road (2).

"Slow traffic down. There are car races down on the coast every night and not much better during the day."

"It's impossible to cross."

"Village is choked by through traffic. Not nice to sit out."

"Don't cut the prom off to cars - they will go to side roads which are already congested."

SUMMARY

STRENGTHS

- An abundance of parking
- Lovely place to walk

CHALLENGES

- High volume of cars
- Current road layout acts as a barrier to access the Promenade and beaches
- Cars parked on narrower residential streets
- Controlled crossings can cause traffic

OPPORTUNITIES

- Providing viable opportunities for more active travel through safety improvements
- Increasing courtesy/pedestrian priority crossing points along Promenade
- Removal of roundabout in the village to better connect the village to the seafront.

THREATS

- Moving parking from the Promenade could relocate it to residential side streets



2.10 ACCESSIBILITY

79
COMMENTS

Accessibility is a core principle of inclusive and sustainable placemaking. It ensures that everyone, regardless of age, mobility, or ability, can move safely and comfortably through the public realm. Feedback from consultation identified 79 comments related to accessibility, often connected to broader concerns about movement and the quality of streets and spaces. Respondents highlighted the need for better crossings, footpath access, safer junctions, improved pavements, and ramped connections.

OTHER (41)

Most of these comments express general support for improved accessibility for all and increased awareness of disability issues.

MOBILITY (17)

This sub-theme focuses on calls for improved level access and crossings at a range of locations. Suggestions include better access at Blackrock, Salthill Park, within the village (particularly near Jungle Café), routes to the beaches, and the Omniplex Cinema.

PAVEMENTS (7)

Comments in this sub-theme highlight obstacles that block footpaths, making it difficult for wheelchair users and those with mobility impairments to navigate public spaces.

RAMPS (6)

There is support for the installation or improvement of ramps at various locations, including local shops, Palmer's Beach (to provide access to the Promenade), and Blackrock Beach (mentioned in three comments).

OTHER FACILITIES (4)

Comments here suggest enhancements such as improved changing facilities at Leisureland, easier access to the beach wheelchair at Leisureland, and more accessible hire options for mobility aids in general.

VISUAL (2)

Two comments specifically consider the needs of visually impaired people. At both Salthill Park and Grattan Park, the steps are reported to be difficult to navigate due to a lack of contrasting banding.

TOILETS (2)

There is support for ensuring accessible toilets are available in all restaurants and cafés.



"Make swimming and the prom accessible to all abilities"

"Disability awareness programme with the businesses to be more accessible and aware of people's needs"

SUMMARY

STRENGTHS

- The Promenade provides a wide and flat environment for people to visit, which is generally safe for wheelchair users or people of limited mobility

CHALLENGES

- Some natural areas can be difficult to change and access for those with limited mobility

OPPORTUNITIES

- Opportunity to improve access to the seafront and throughout the village through public realm upgrades



2.11 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

58
COMMENTS

Environmental considerations are especially important in the context of Salthill's sensitive coastal environment, where the relationship between natural systems and public space is both evident and valued. Feedback reflected strong community awareness of ecological and water-related issues, particularly around water quality, an area of concern given the popularity of sea swimming. Comments also emphasised the importance of protecting and enhancing local biodiversity, with calls for nature-positive public realm upgrades that support the area's environmental resilience.

WATER QUALITY AND SEWAGE (18)

Several comments focused on water quality. Respondents called for more frequent and accurate testing, general improvements to water quality, and expressed concern about sewage discharge into the sea.

BIODIVERSITY (13)

Many contributors highlighted the importance of keeping the area natural, with suggestions to increase planting, enhance biodiversity, and plant more trees.

FLOODING (12)

Flooding in Salthill was a key concern. Some respondents proposed landscape-led solutions, such as integrating flood defences with walking and cycling routes, and raising ground levels around Toft Park and nearby car parks.

RENEWABLE ENERGY (4)

Four comments directly supported the generation of renewable energy. Suggestions included solar PV, tidal, and wind energy solutions.

COASTAL EROSION (3)

Three comments addressed sea defences, recommending the creation of sand dunes and other measures to retain and protect the sand.

OTHER

Additional suggestions included installing electric vehicle chargers and introducing seasonal flood defences.

"Consider solar panels on public buildings"

SUMMARY

STRENGTHS

- Natural renewable resources
- Wild nature and access
- Blue Flag beach

CHALLENGES

- Flooding
- Coastal erosion

OPPORTUNITIES

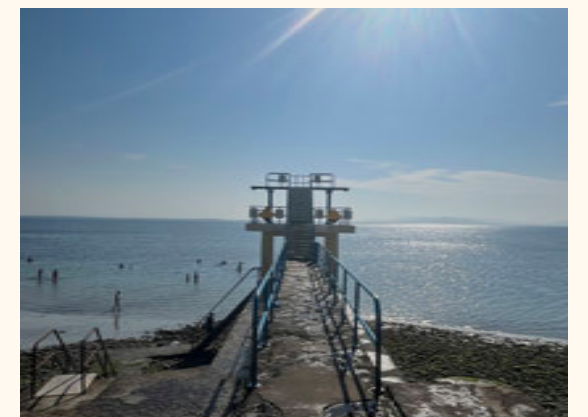
- Harnessing renewable energy through solar, wind and tidal
- Planting and landscape-led approach to increase climate and flood resilience as well as enhancing biodiversity

THREATS

- Climate change
- Flooding

"Incorporate walking and cycling with flood defence."

"Biodiversity in all green areas, keep Salthill park as a park with more planting. Lots of fun ways to use meadows/paths."



2.12 PUBLIC TRANSPORT

47
COMMENTS

Public transport was a key theme in the consultation, with many respondents calling for more frequent and reliable bus services. Concerns were raised about overcrowding, with buses often full before reaching Salthill, limiting their usefulness as a genuine alternative to the private car. Alongside improvements to the bus network, there was also interest in expanding sustainable and diverse transport options, including suggestions to reintroduce a tramway or establish a boat link between Salthill and Galway.

MORE BUS SERVICES (29)

Many respondents called for an increase in both the frequency and reliability of bus services. Several noted that buses are often full before reaching Salthill, making it difficult for residents and visitors to board. One suggestion proposed greater use of buses for events to encourage public transport use over private cars.

ALTERNATIVES TO BUSES (4)

A small number of comments suggested alternative transport options, including reinstating the tram and introducing a boat service between Salthill and Galway. One comment called for a ban on electric scooters.

OTHER (15)

This group includes a range of suggestions, such as creating bus laybys to prevent obstruction at stops, reorienting bus shelters to provide better protection from prevailing winds, and addressing concerns about buses using Threadneedle Road, which was mentioned in two comments.

SUMMARY

STRENGTHS

- Direct route into Galway

CHALLENGES

- Buses are full when they reach Salthill
- Unreliable schedule
- Cancelled on match days
- Can be slow due to traffic

OPPORTUNITIES

- Increasing number of buses
- Up to date live tracking to track bus arrival
- Greening and upgrading of bus shelters

THREATS

- Cycle lane could make access to buses tricky - design needs to be well thought out.

"Maybe a tramway like in the old days"

"We need a 'variable message sign' for the bus service outside the Galway Bay Hotel for the RESIDENTS who live here all year round."

2.13 GREEN SPACES

47
COMMENTS

Green spaces were a recurring theme in the consultation, with Salthill Park identified as a valued local asset. Views were mixed, some respondents appreciated its openness and simplicity, while others saw potential for greater use through added features and activities. Beyond the park, there was also strong interest in enhancing green infrastructure throughout Salthill, with calls for more planting and street trees to soften the urban environment and improve the overall quality of the public realm.

PARKS (33)

Ten comments expressed a wish to preserve Salthill Park in its current form, valuing its open green space and simplicity. In contrast, 13 comments suggested the park is underutilised and could benefit from more active use. Suggestions included programming events, encouraging informal gatherings, activating the bandstand, and adding more play equipment for children. Several comments also highlighted the Circle of Life Garden as a much-loved and meaningful feature of the park.

PUBLIC SPACES (14)

Comments on public spaces focused on greening the streets of Salthill, with calls for more trees and planting, and the reduction of hard surfacing such as asphalt and concrete to create a more inviting and environmentally sensitive public realm.

"Circle of life park a good model for Salthill Park. Salthill Park an under-utilised space."

SUMMARY

DO SOMETHING
WITH THE PARK.

STRENGTHS

- Open green spaces
- Circle of Life Garden
- Salthill Park

CHALLENGES

- Lots of hard landscaping
- Flooding
- Seasons and weather

OPPORTUNITIES

- More planting that will help to mitigate effects of flooding and climate change
- More events, festivals or activities made available in Salthill Park, without removing too much/any open grass space

THREATS

- Climate change and flooding could make planting difficult to maintain and keep alive



2.14 THE VILLAGE

A number of comments focused specifically on Salthill Village, highlighting issues with the public realm, building maintenance, and pedestrian connectivity. Respondents felt the village had lost its former character, citing vacancies, derelict buildings, and poor-quality footpaths. There was also support for more affordable and appropriately scaled housing, particularly smaller homes for older people.

CONNECTIONS (9)

Two comments focused specifically on improving the integration of Toft Park with both the village and the Promenade. Three additional comments highlighted the need for better pedestrian connections between the Prom and the village, for example by removing the roundabout. Specific locations mentioned for pedestrian improvements included Seapoint and the Aquarium.

MAINTENANCE (15)

Five comments addressed the poor and uneven condition of footpaths. The remaining comments referred to the appearance and upkeep of buildings, particularly derelict or poorly maintained properties, with a strong emphasis on improving the overall visual quality of the village.

DEVELOPMENT (10)

All comments in this sub-theme expressed concern that the village has been overlooked in terms of investment and care. Respondents noted that it once appeared more attractive and characterful but now suffers from vacancies and a general loss of charm.

HOUSING (10)

Four comments called for more affordable housing. Two comments highlighted the need for smaller housing units, including apartments and downsized homes suitable for older residents.

SUMMARY

STRENGTHS

- Proximity to the Promenade
- Variety of shops and services

CHALLENGES

- Number of cars make it not very nice to sit out in the village
- Doesn't connect well to the Promenade
- Vehicular speeds are too high through the village
- Defining the role of the Village in the context of Galway City Centre and the West End Area

OPPORTUNITIES

- Independent traders including bookshops, and boutiques
- Outdoor dining and places to socialise outside in the village, including in markets and spill out areas
- Maintenance of existing buildings - support for landowners and guidance on sea-fronted building maintenance
- Identification of vacant buildings to be retrofitted or refurbished
- Shop front design guide and funding
- Public realm upgrades on Upper Salthill Road including outside Seapoint

THREATS

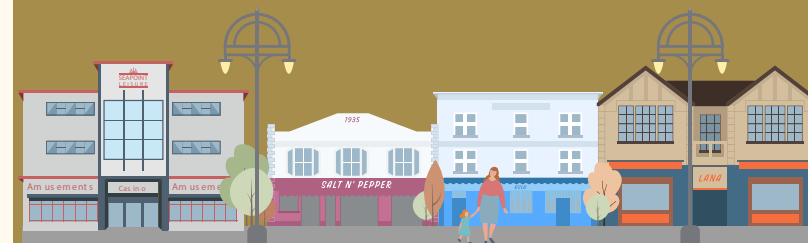
- Coastal environment can make it more expensive to maintain
- Building vacancy
- Village trade depleting without investment



2.15 PRECEDENT PLACES

There were 36 places that were mentioned as doing things well, or where participants had positive experiences. These places can give us case studies and things to learn from.

- Zadar sea organ
- Sauna in Malmo
- Wexford mats down to the sea
- Malaga prom
- Tide clock at Belmullet and Sligo
- Sandpits on prom like in Barcelona for dog fouling
- Mayo CoCo works at Cahir Pier Ballinrobe
- Stan Pola near Alicante
- Estepona near Malaga
- Sauna Fad Saoil
- Dun Laoghaire cycle infrastructure
- Brighton (2)
- Muscat Oman
- Tel Aviv Prom
- Indoor food market St George's in Belfast
- Waterbridge - flowers
- Beach school - like in Northern Ireland
- Kenmare
- Marbella
- Chicago Lake Path
- Manley Beach Sydney
- Waterford
- Cannes
- San Sebastian
- Dalkey village
- St Tropez
- Wales christmas tree in beach
- Dublin transit plan
- Blanes, Spain
- Queens necklace Mumbai
- Marine Drive, Mumbai (flooding)
- Westport
- Vicar Street
- Cardiff Bay prom extension
- St Jean de Monts
- Barcelona pedestrian crossings



2.16 ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

33
COMMENTS

These comments mention the support for community based planning, involving the community, setting clear goals and visions, thinking both long and short term.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT (21)

Six respondents expressed concerns about high-rise buildings or large apartment blocks, advocating instead for development that respects the existing scale and character of Salthill. Other comments focused on the need to enhance the village's overall appearance, suggesting aesthetic improvements such as building refurbishments and repainting.

EXISTING (11)

Feedback on the existing architecture emphasised the need to raise the overall standard of design and create a more cohesive visual identity between buildings.



SUMMARY

STRENGTHS

- Historic buildings

CHALLENGES

- Achieving good quality design
- Maintaining the façades of buildings in a sea-side environment
- Creating climate and sea water resilient buildings
- Meeting housing demand in the area

OPPORTUNITIES

- Creation of a design guide to help the design of future buildings, including suitable materials for the sea-side environment
- Creation of a maintenance guide to help owners maintain façades of buildings
- Small-scale upgrades could be made such as painting outside of buildings

THREATS

- Sea air
- Water
- Cost of development and redevelopment

2.17 APPROACH TO PLANNING AND ENGAGEMENT

38
COMMENTS

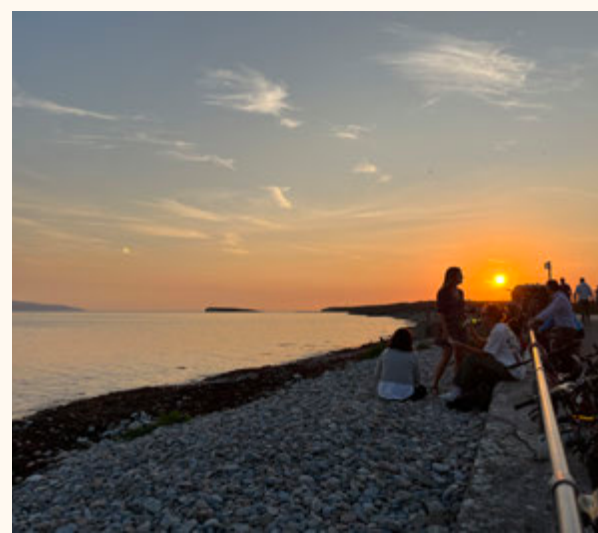
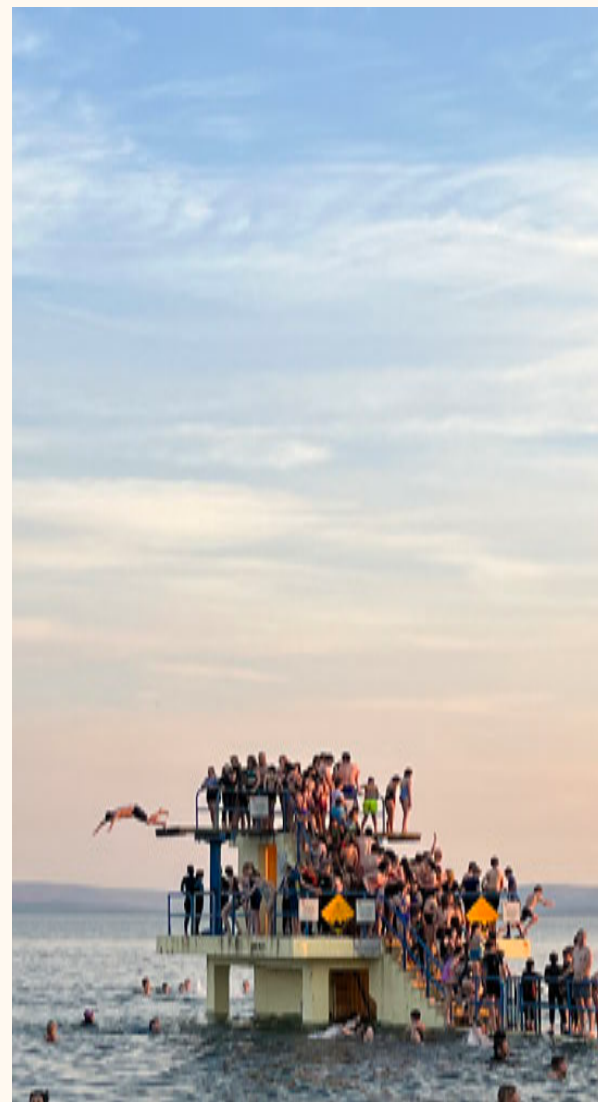
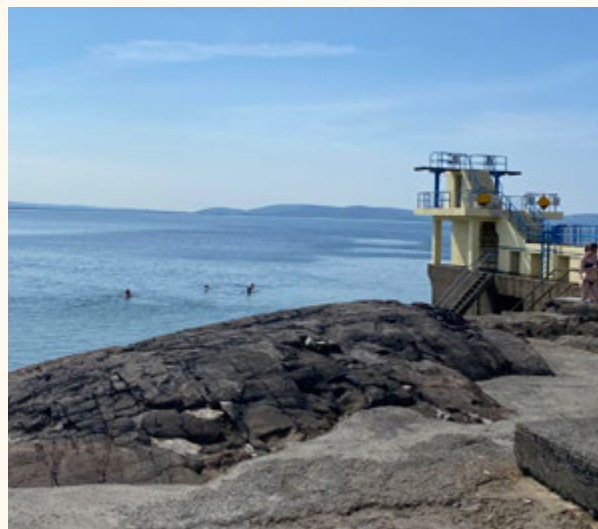
These comments mention the support for community based planning, involving the community, setting clear goals and visions, thinking both long and short term.

2.18 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

These comments are quite varied and include enforcement on keeping dogs on leads, no drinking in the diving tower area, more Gardai, and reducing amplification of music.

22
COMMENTS





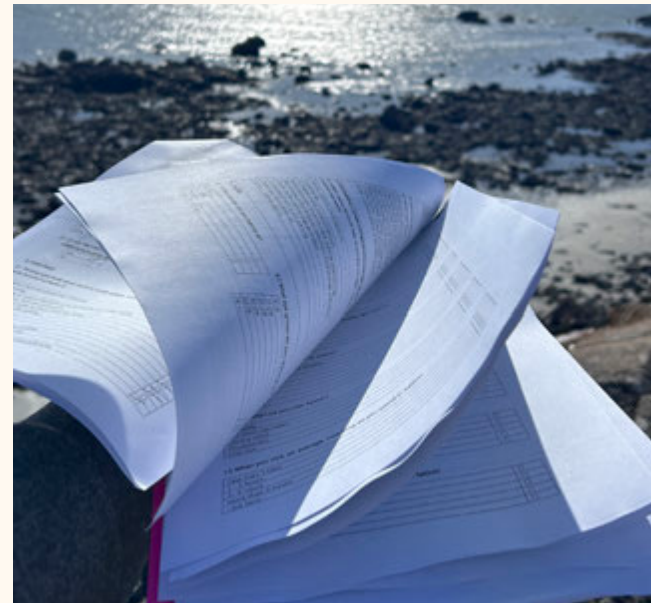
3.1 STRATEGY

In addition to the data gathered at the in-person events, a survey was carried out to further engage the community and provide an opportunity for those unable to attend the drop-in sessions to share their views. The survey was available both online and in person, with in-person responses collected at the Residents Association drop-in event at the Salthill Hotel on 21st February 2025 and along Salthill Promenade on Thursday 27th February 2025.

The survey was live from the 21st February 2025 to the 28th March 2025, giving the public a five week window to provide their opinions. This approach allowed for a more focused exploration of key questions and enabled the project team to identify priority themes through quantitative analysis. Respondents were also able to offer detailed feedback and context via free-text response fields.

The University of Galway and the MA Planning and Development 2025 student cohort played a key role in devising the questionnaire and analysing the survey outcomes, supported by their course leaders, Dr Therese Conway and Prof Marie Mahon. The students spent a day on the Promenade undertaking individual surveys with the local community (photographed on the adjacent page).

The following section presents an overview of the survey results, based on 861 completed responses. Quantitative analysis was applied to closed-ended questions, while open-ended responses were examined through thematic analysis.



[Home](#)

Salthill Village and Seafront Framework Plan

About the project

The Salthill Village and Seafront Framework Plan is a project to explore local priorities and help ideas for improving Salthill village and seafront.

[View more details...](#)

Get involved

We will be hosting a series of events throughout 2025 to provide opportunities for local people to be involved in helping to shape a vision and priorities for Salthill Village and Seafront.

[Find out more about upcoming events...](#)

Contact the team

Email the project team, Catherine, Helen or Eoghan at: salthill.framework@galwaycity.ie or contact on 091 354101

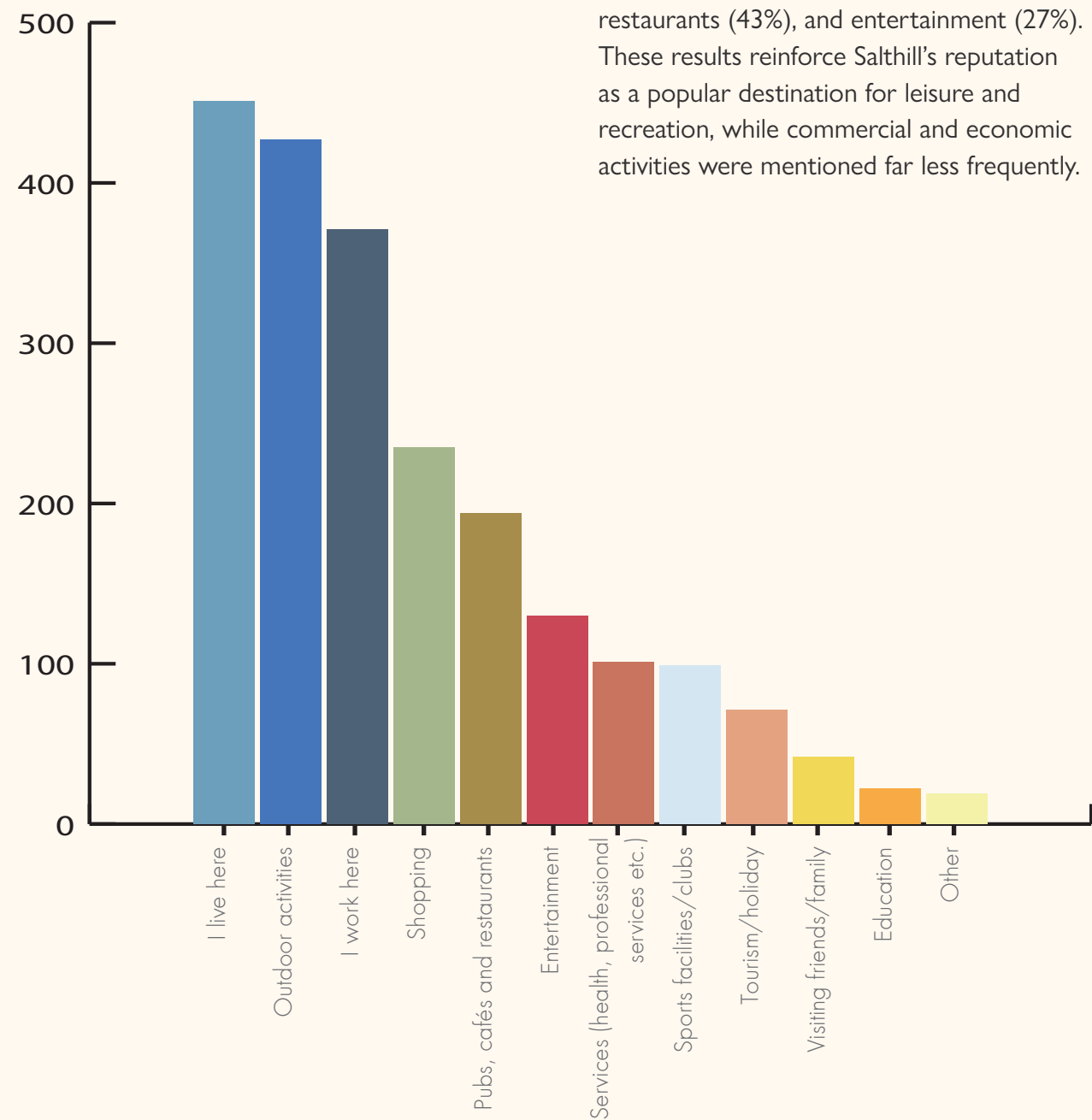
Share your views

Click here to take part in a [public survey](#)

3.2 SURVEY FEEDBACK

Reason for visiting salthill

Respondents were able to select multiple reasons for visiting Salthill. Nearly half (49%) identified themselves as residents of the area. Among the other reasons given, the most common related to outdoor activities (52%), followed by visits to pubs, cafés, and restaurants (43%), and entertainment (27%). These results reinforce Salthill’s reputation as a popular destination for leisure and recreation, while commercial and economic activities were mentioned far less frequently.

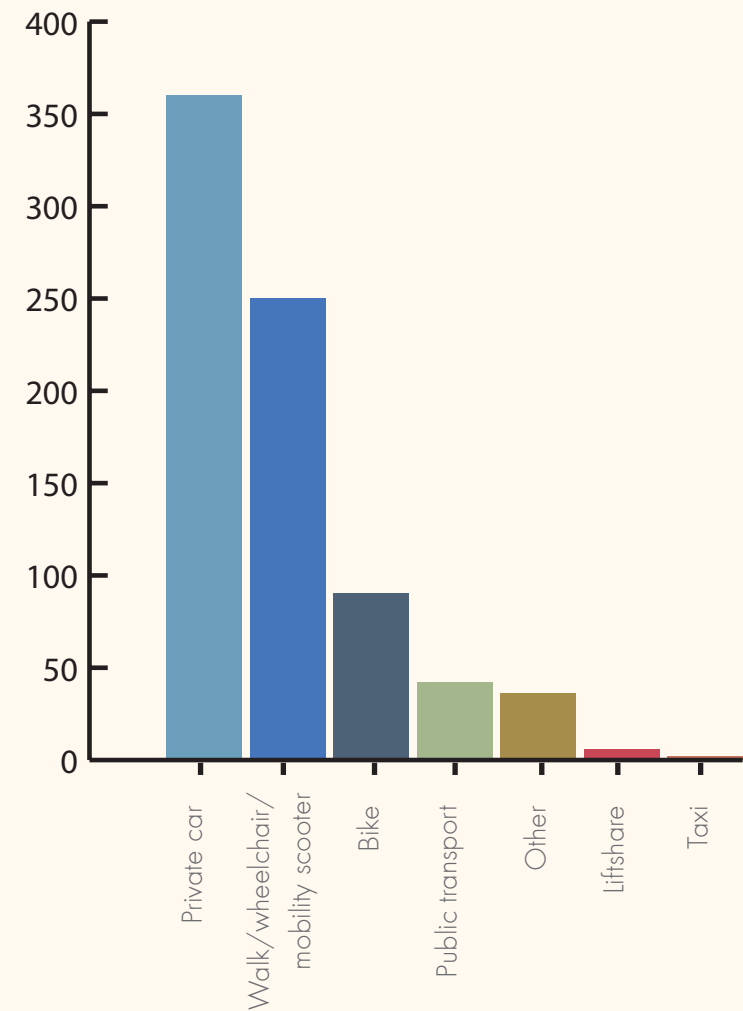


How far do you travel to get to Salthill?

The vast majority of respondents either lived in Salthill or within 1–3 km of it (note: there is an anomaly between Question 1, where 427 respondents said they live in Salthill, and Question 2, where 252 indicated the same; this discrepancy likely arises because the 1–3 km category includes some who consider themselves residents of Salthill). The next largest group, those living 4–6 km away, accounted for 118 responses. These findings suggest that most regular visitors to Salthill come from the immediate area, within walking or cycling distance. While Salthill holds significance as a tourist destination, it is perhaps most important as a local amenity.



How do you usually travel to Salthill?



Despite the relatively close proximity to Salthill, the majority of respondents, 360 in total, reported traveling there by car. Meanwhile, 250 stated they arrived on foot, by wheelchair, or using a mobility scooter, and a smaller number, 90, travelled by bicycle.

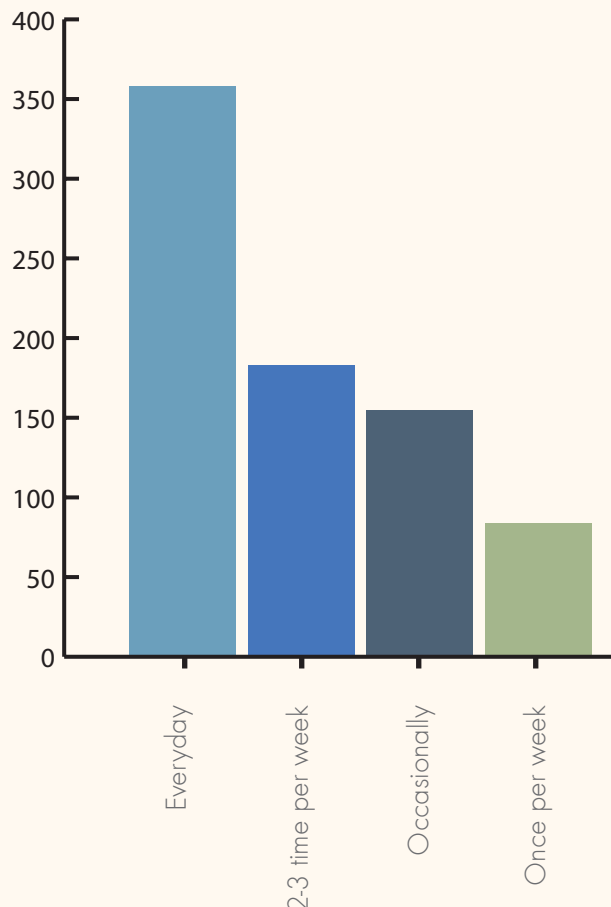
The high number of car users may indicate that Salthill is a specifically chosen destination, particularly valued for walking and its unique therapeutic environment and landscape. This suggests that the journey itself, even if not equally therapeutic, might not be a primary consideration for many visitors.

Public transport usage was notably low, with only 36 respondents arriving by this mode. This is likely influenced by the absence of a direct bus route to Salthill, a common concern raised during the public consultations.

Given that many respondents described their travel distance as under 3 km, there is clear potential to encourage more walking and cycling as alternatives for accessing Salthill for various activities.

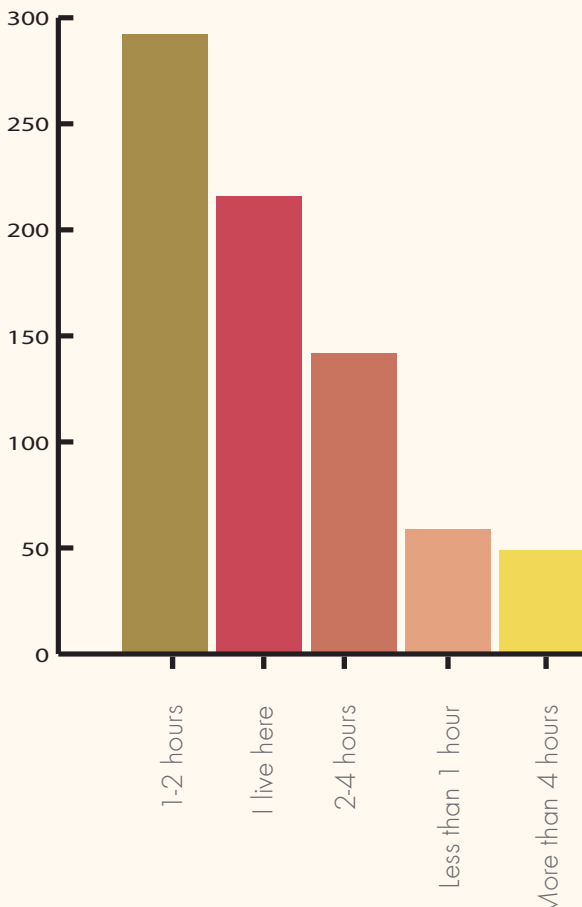
How often do you visit Salthill?

Most respondents visit Salthill frequently, with the majority reporting daily visits and the second most common frequency being two to three times per week. This regular visitation pattern highlights the importance of encouraging more sustainable travel habits, such as cycling and walking, to support everyday access. Promoting these active modes of transport could help reduce car dependency and enhance the overall health and wellbeing of the local community and visitors alike.



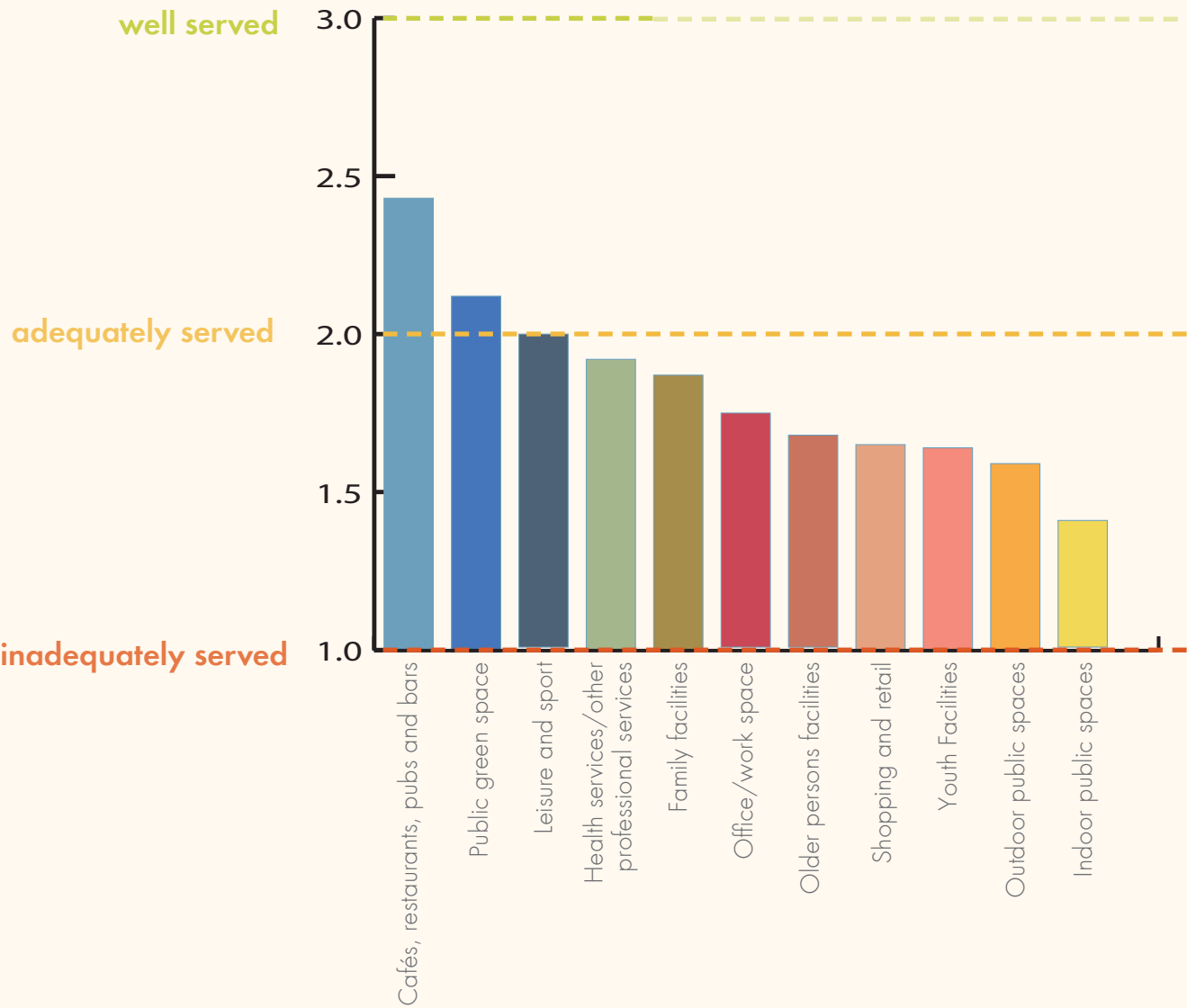
How long do you spend in Salthill?

Most respondents indicated that they spend only a few hours in Salthill. This suggests that many visitors come for short, focused trips centred around one or two specific activities or destinations. Such a pattern reflects Salthill’s role as a place for brief leisure visits rather than extended stays. This insight highlights the importance of ensuring that facilities and services are designed to meet the needs of short-term visitors, while also presenting opportunities to explore how the area might attract people to stay longer in the future.



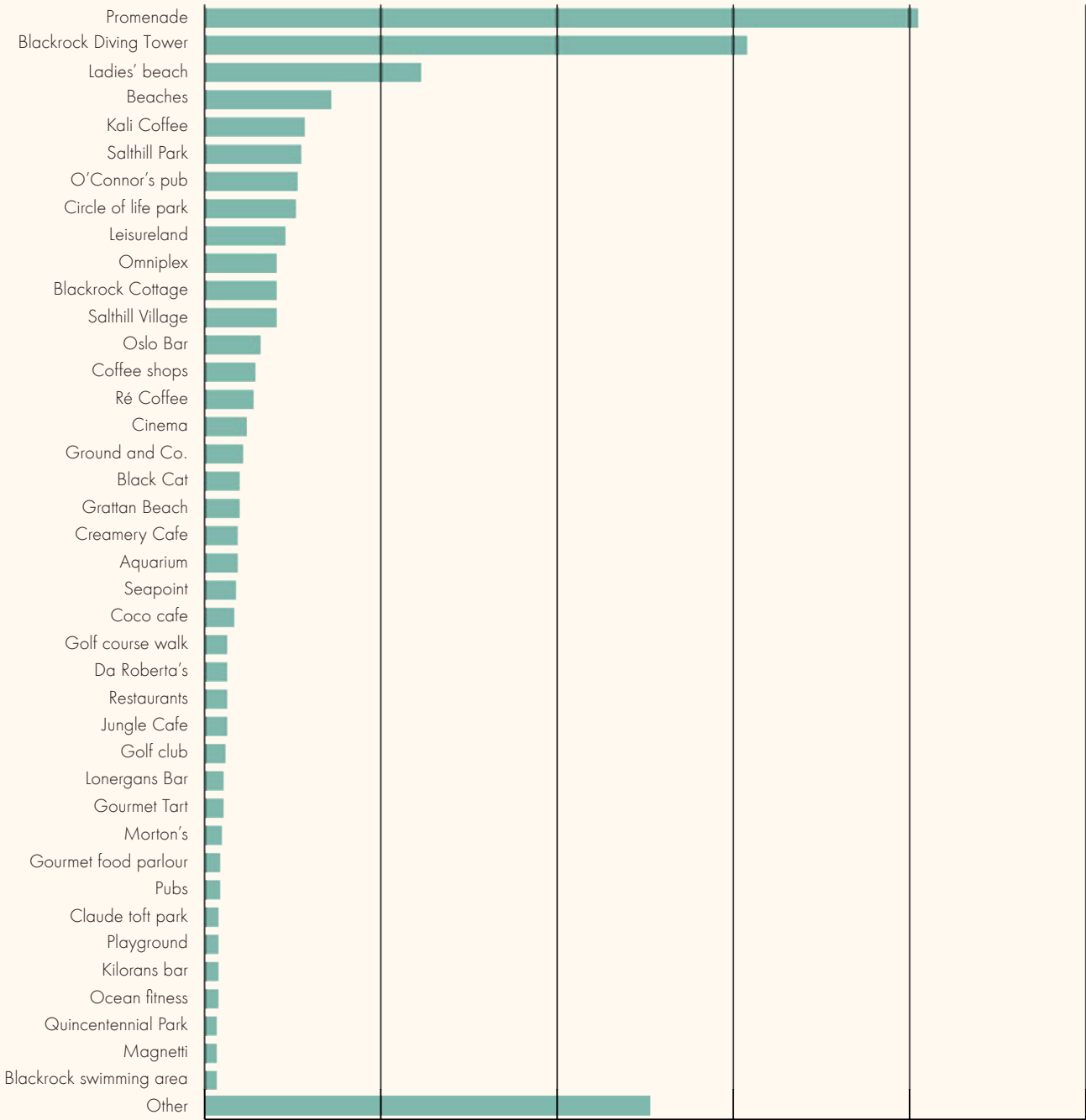
How well-served is Salthill for...

Respondents were asked to rate how well Salthill is served by various facilities, choosing from ‘well served,’ ‘adequately served,’ or ‘inadequately served.’ These responses were assigned values of 3, 2, and 1 respectively. An average score was then calculated by dividing the total points by the number of responses. The results indicate that there is room for improvement in the provision of both indoor and outdoor public spaces, as well as youth facilities and retail options.



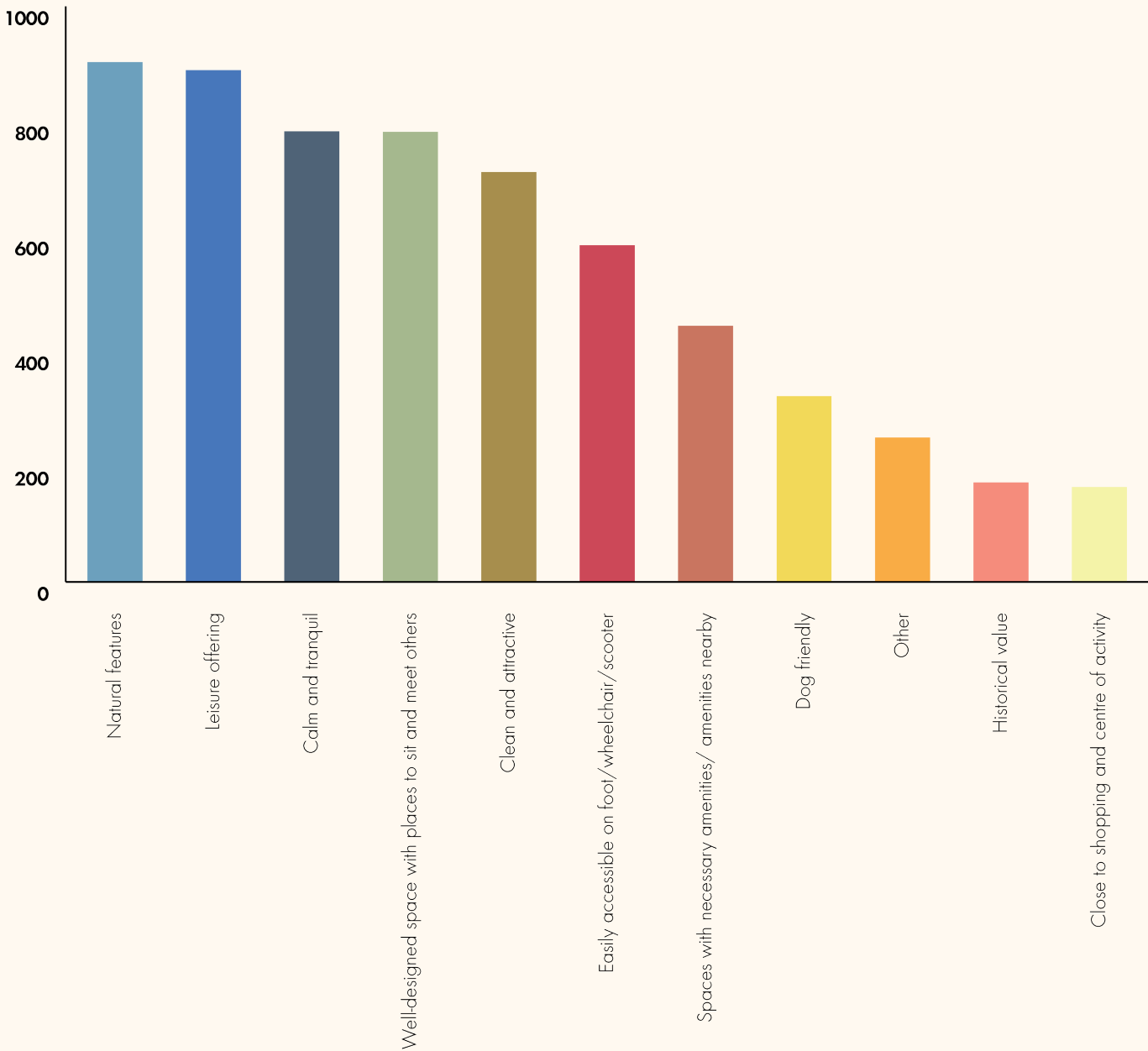
What is your favourite place in Salthill?

The graph lists all items which were mentioned 7 or more times, representing 87.1% of responses overall. It indicates that, as is, people value Salthill the most for its Promenade, beaches, and diving tower.



Why is this your favourite place?

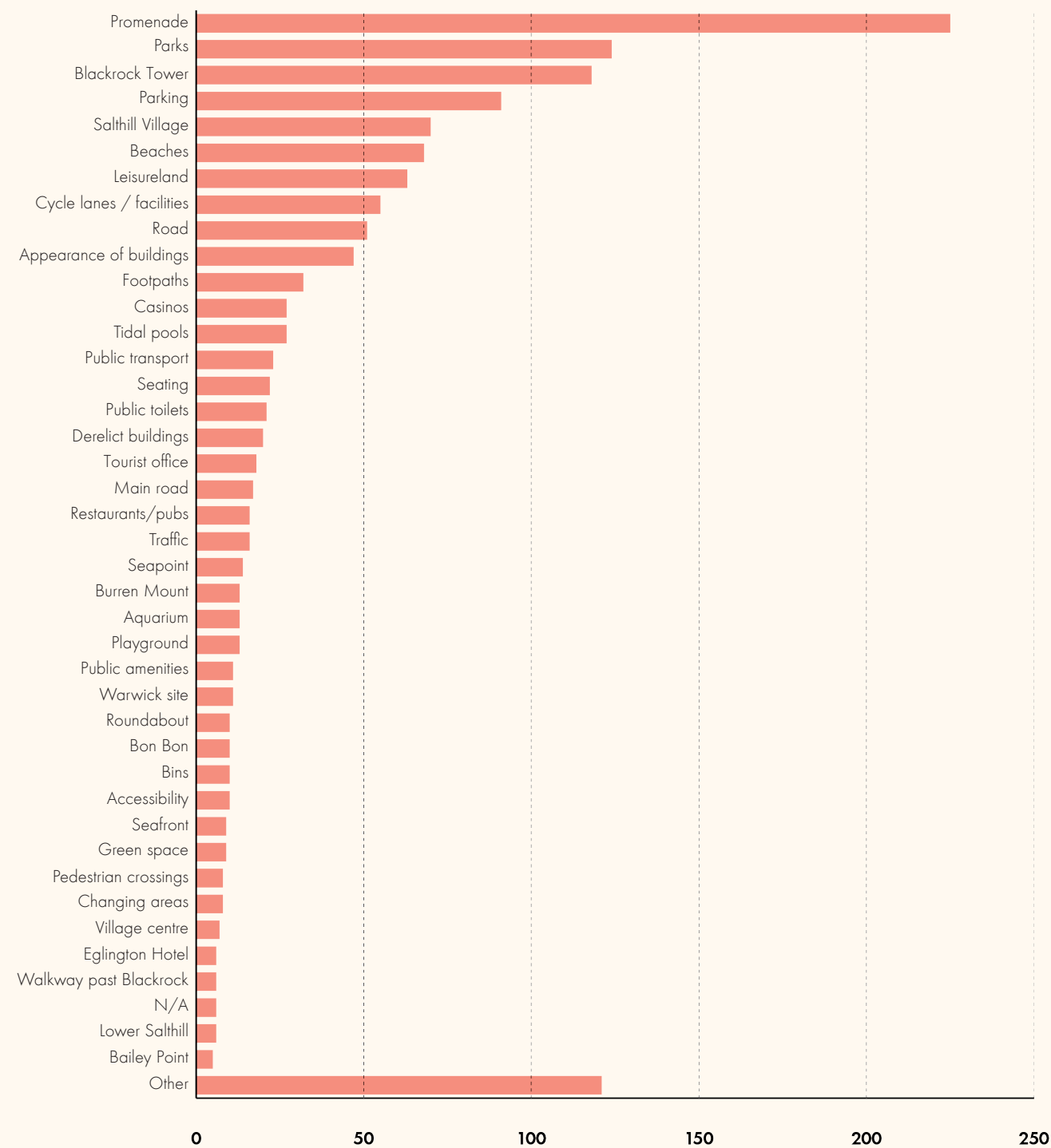
The most popular reason respondents gave for listing their favourite place was its natural features, closely followed by its leisure offerings.



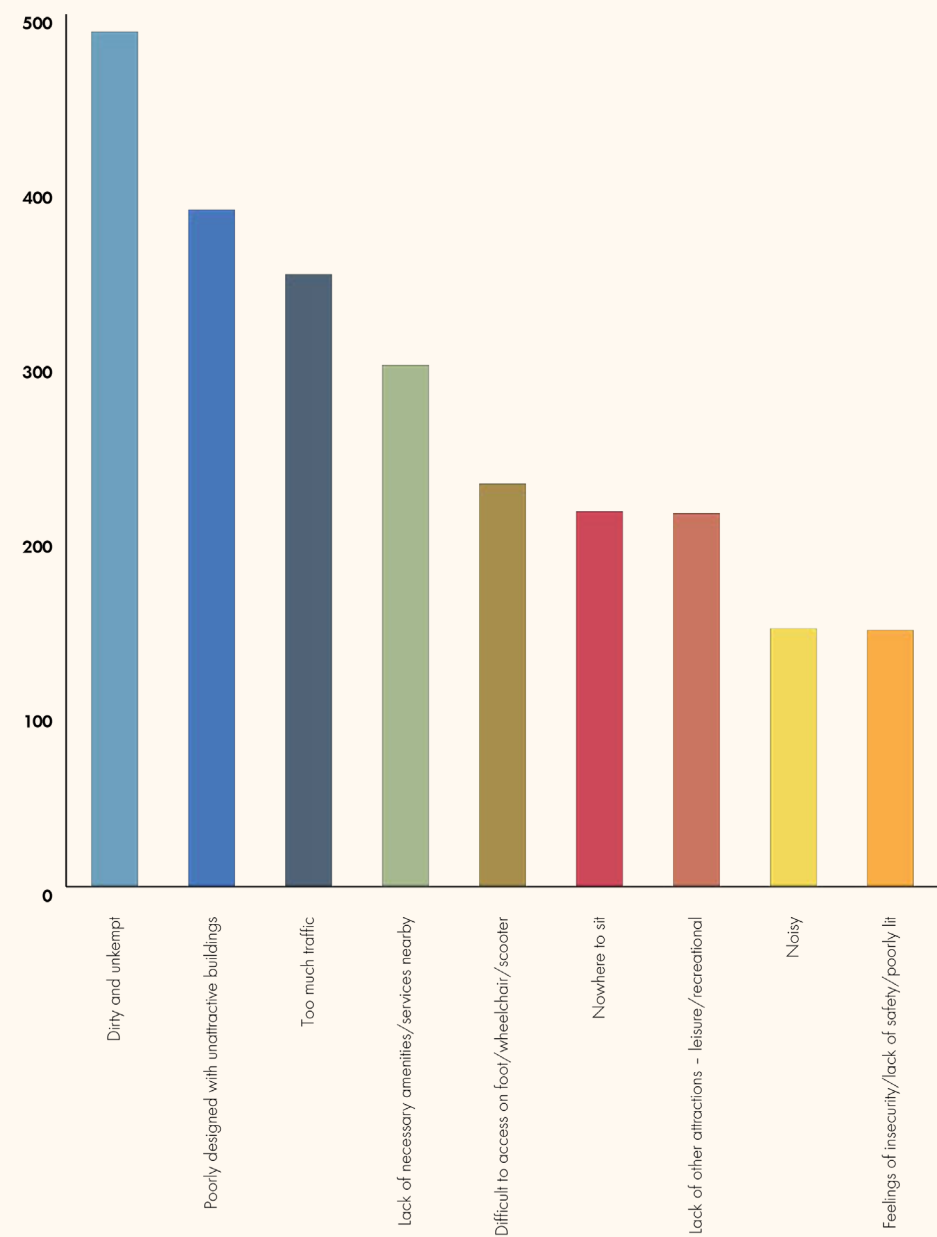
What places would you improve in Salthill?

Participants chose up to 3 places they felt were most in need of improvement.

The graph lists all items which were mentioned 5 or more times, representing 92% of responses overall. This graph shows the extent to which a particular category is a priority to residents of Salthill, indicating that the Promenade, the park, Blackrock diving tower, and parking are particularly important.

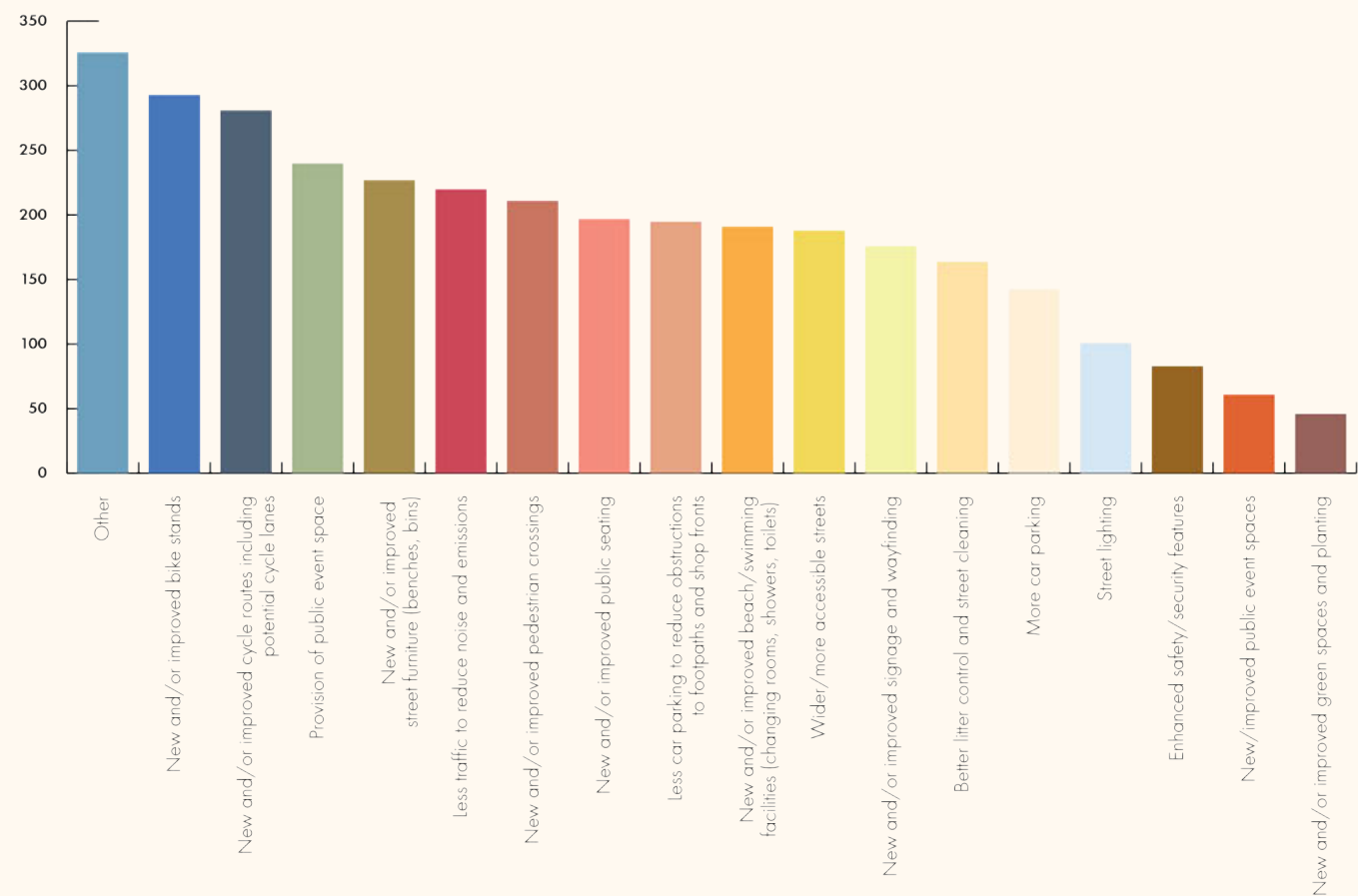


Why did you pick this place?



The above graph indicates the type of improvement which those surveyed felt was necessary, with dirtiness and lack of maintenance the primary reason for discontent.

What would improve the way Salthill’s public spaces function?



Respondents were asked to select up to five options from the list provided and offered a wide range of comments. Among the most frequently cited priorities were improvements related to active mobility and accessibility: new or upgraded pedestrian crossings (211), reduced car parking to minimise obstructions to footpaths and shop fronts (195), new or improved bike stands (293), new or enhanced cycle routes including potential cycle lanes (281), and wider, more accessible streets (188).

Regarding the quality of the urban environment and public realm, key factors included new or improved street furniture (227), additional public seating (197), and better litter control and street cleaning (164). Infrastructure relevant to swimmers and other Promenade users, such as new or upgraded beach and swimming facilities, including toilets, was also highlighted (191).

Interestingly, relatively few respondents (61) mentioned the need for new or improved public event spaces, which somewhat contrasts with responses to an earlier question (1.10). In terms of traffic, 220 respondents expressed a desire for less traffic to reduce noise and emissions, reinforcing the perception of Salthill as a valued public space and landscape that contributes significantly to quality of life.

OTHER:

1. Dog control and cleanliness

- Dog fouling on footpaths is repeatedly highlighted as a major issue
- Support for off-lead areas to reduce conflict

2. Cycling and pedestrian infrastructure

- Strong support for segregated cycle lanes from both road and footpath
- Improved pedestrian crossings, wider pavements and dropped kerbs
- Reduce or ban bikes and scooters on the Promenade

3. Traffic management

- Too many cars along the Promenade
- Suggestions include pedestrianisation, paid parking, and park and ride schemes
- Better public transport

4. Environmental improvements and green infrastructure

- More trees, wildflowers, green corridors, pocket forests and natural landscaping. Emphasis on using eco-friendly materials. A desire for cleaner streets and better litter management

5. Beach and seafront amenities

- Better access for wheelchair and pram users, as well as ideas for tidal pools, outdoor pools, jetty improvements and watersports

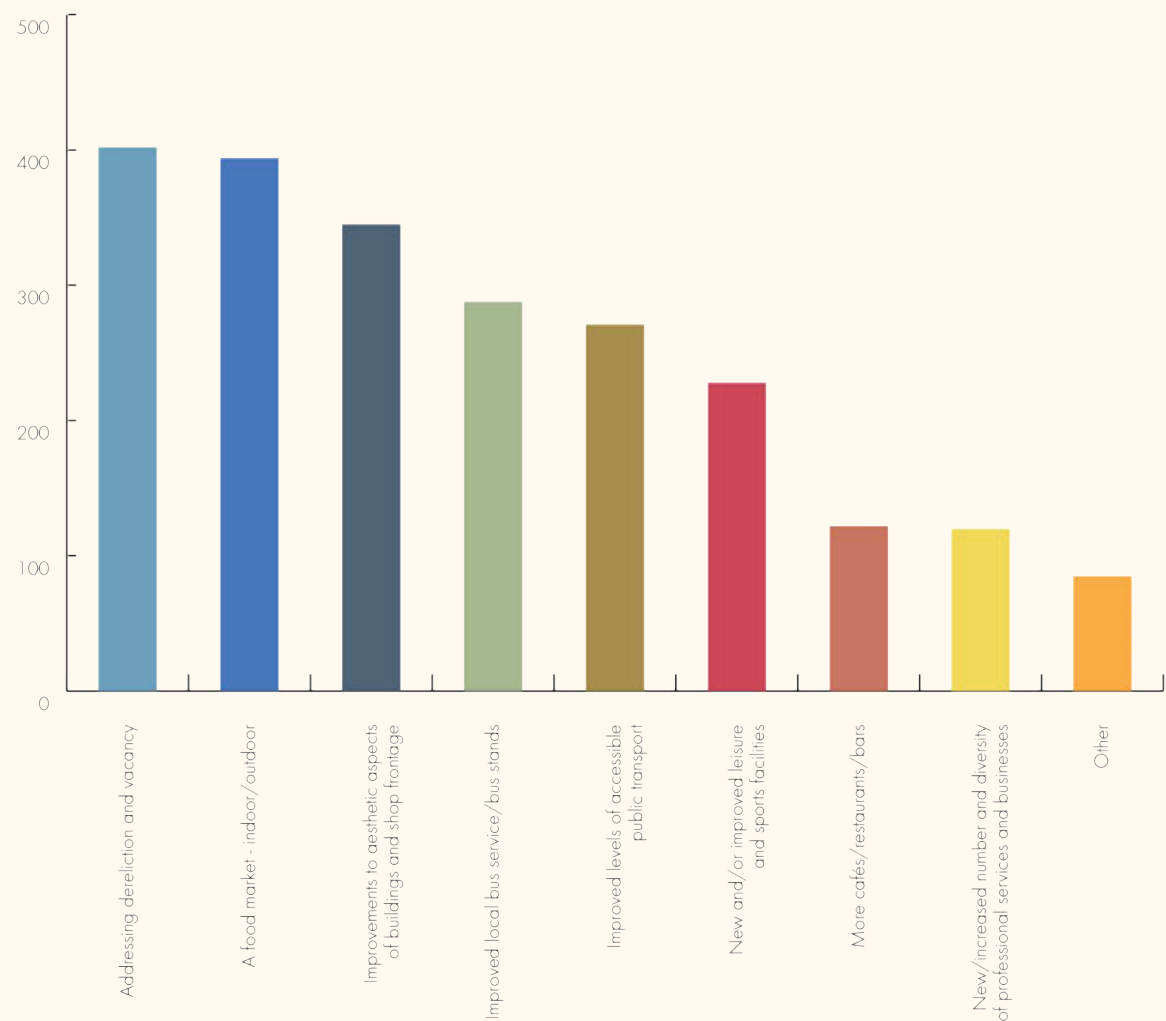
6. Leisure and community facilities

- Ideas include skate parks, pump tracks, outdoor gyms, ball and tennis courts, and playgrounds. Making use of spaces for seasonal or temporary events.

7. Public toilets

8. Maintenance and aesthetics

What would improve Salthill as a place to live and work?



Respondents were also asked to identify up to five factors that would improve Salthill Promenade and village as places to live, work, and visit. The most frequently mentioned priority was addressing dereliction and vacancy, with 379 responses. Closely related was the improvement of building and shopfront appearances, which received 325 mentions. The second most popular suggestion, with 368 responses, was the introduction of a food market, either indoor or outdoor. Additionally, the need for an improved bus service was highlighted by 261 respondents.

OTHER:

1. Sustainable transport and mobility

- Full support for dedicated, safe and well-design cycle lanes
- Reduction of car dependency
- Improved public transport

2. Enhancing public spaces and buildings

- Reclaiming space from cars for people and adding greenery
- Supporting more sustainable design and flood mitigation measures
- Revitalising neglected spots

3. Improving leisure facilities

- Enhancing swimming and beach facilities
- More cultural and event spaces
- Dog friendly spaces

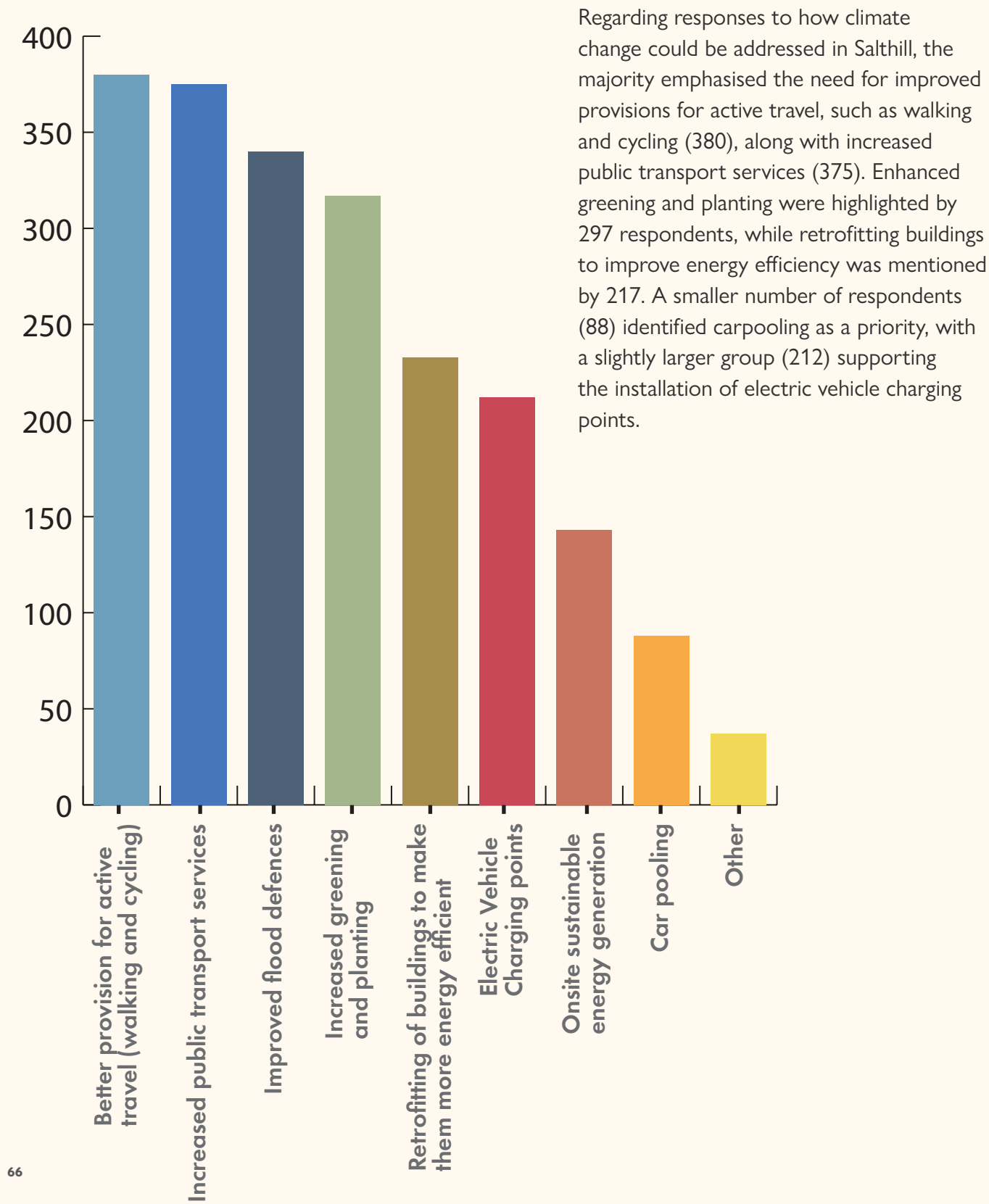
4. Local economy and retail

- More variety of shops, including independent shops
- Support for small and local enterprises
- Limiting gambling venues

5. Housing and local living

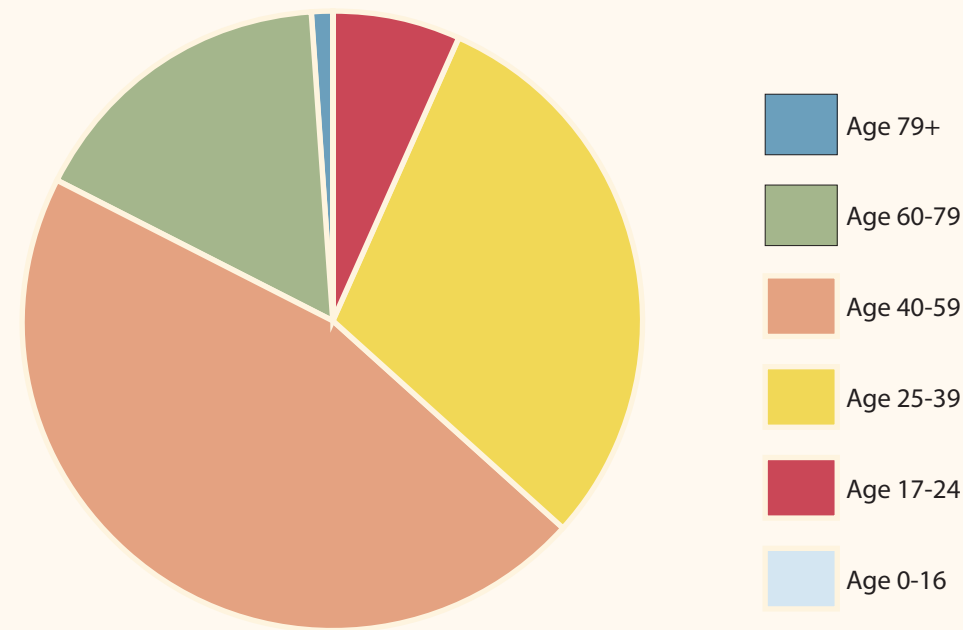
- More apartments
- Limit short-term lets

What measures could help to combat climate change and adapt to a changing climate in Salthill?

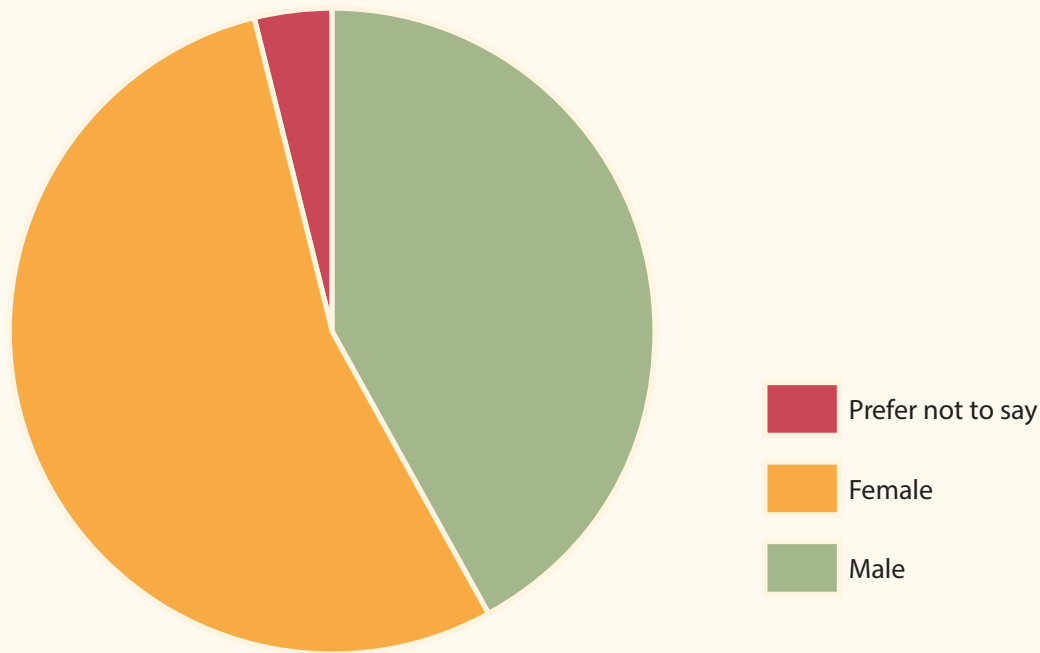


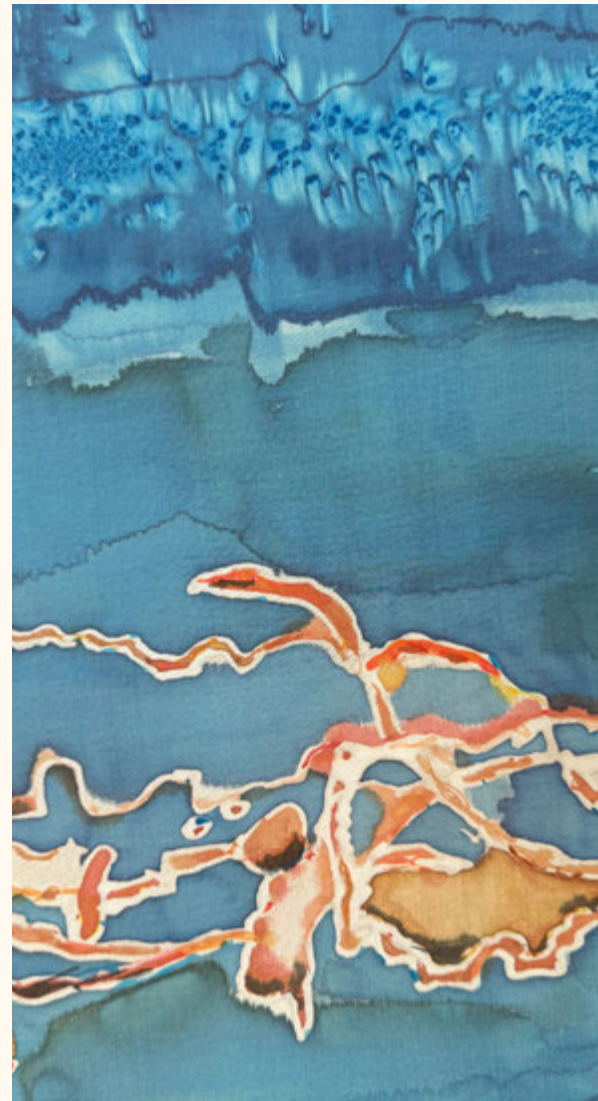
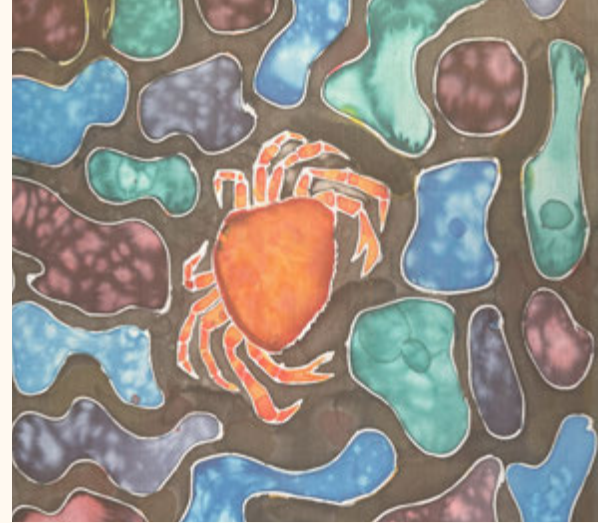
Demographics

AGE



GENDER





4 ARTIST WORKSHOPS



4.1 BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

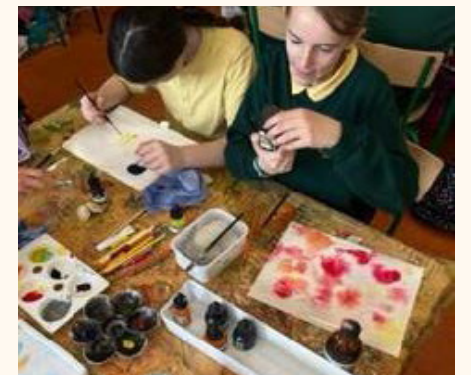
Local artist Siobhan McNutt was commissioned to work with two local schools to explore students' understanding of place identity in Salthill.

Watercolour & Ink Workshop , Scoil Íde, Árd na Mara, Salthill

Fifth class students were invited to bring a physical object, such as a stone, sand, seaweed, or a photograph from Salthill that held personal significance or sparked their interest. The artist facilitated a discussion centred on their inspiration drawn from the local area before introducing watercolour and ink techniques. Participants experimented with the unique behaviours of various inks and watercolours on wet paper.

Students explored different mark-making methods, forms, and compositions inspired by their chosen objects or photographs. Each created multiple pieces, experimenting with marks, colours, patterns, and shapes reflective of the Salthill environment.

The accompanying photos showcase the workshop in action and examples of the students' artwork, which focused on the seascape, Blackrock Tower, and the textures and colours of the coastal environment.

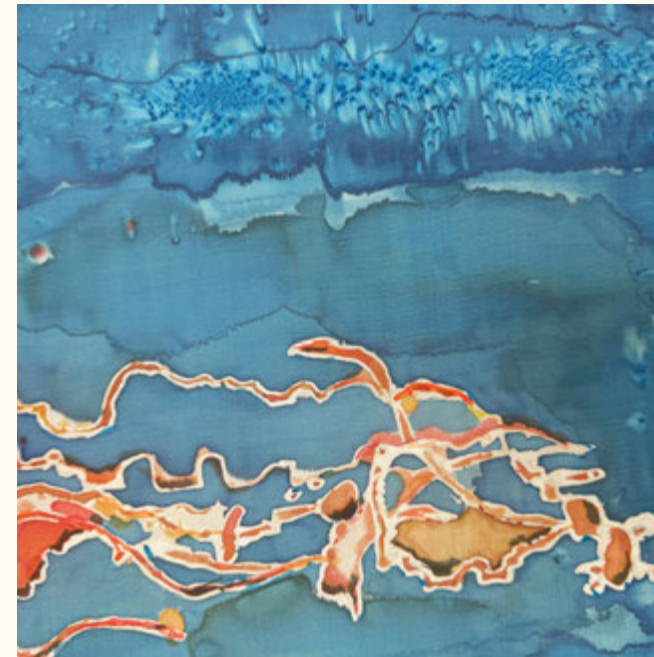
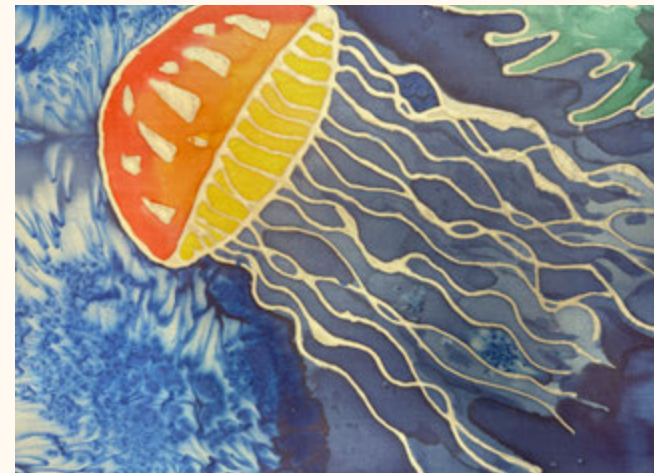
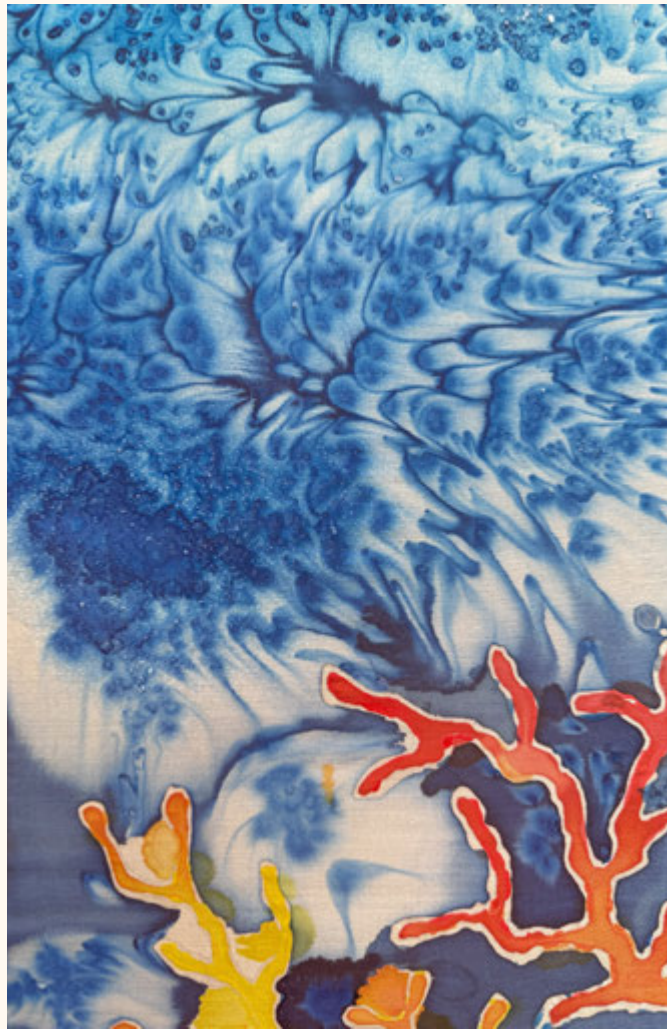


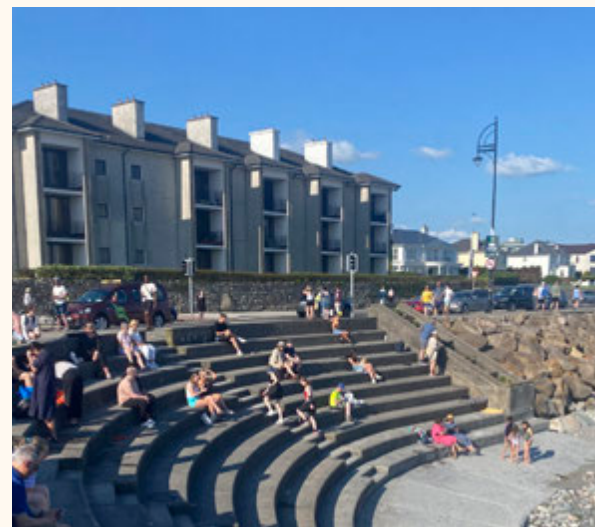
Salthill inspired silk painting workshop in Salerno

Secondary school students participated in a workshop session led by local artist Siobhan McNutt. Building on a similar approach to the primary school workshop, this session focused on silk painting instead of watercolours.

Each student experimented with the medium, exploring colours, patterns, and shapes inspired by the Salthill environment. The photographs on the following pages document the workshop and showcase the silk paintings created by the TY students. The students were particularly engaged in representing the coastal ecosystems and marine habitats they associate with Salthill.







5.1 SUMMARY OF THE ENGAGEMENT

The first stage of engagement for the Salthill Village and Seafront project has achieved a high level of community involvement:

- Over 1,500 comments collected from approximately 400 participants.
- A total of 861 completed surveys.
- Extensive outreach and awareness efforts across both the Salthill and wider Galway communities.

The feedback gathered can be broadly categorised into three interconnected themes: movement, space and environment, and uses and activities. Drawing on the insights presented in the preceding chapters, key themes have been identified within each topic. These will be further explored and addressed during the next phase of the project.

MOVEMENT

ACCESSIBILITY: Accessibility is a key priority, with several opportunities identified to improve footpaths, crossings, pavements, ramped access points, and overall awareness of accessibility issues.

ROADS: Roads attracted a significant proportion of comments, including calls for new pedestrian crossings, traffic reduction, maintaining provisions for cars, and enhancing safety.

PARKING: Parking generated diverse opinions. Some respondents supported reducing car use and repurposing parking spaces, while others strongly advocated for retaining parking and keeping spaces free of charge.

CYCLING: Safe cycling emerged as a major concern, with various suggestions to enhance cycling infrastructure, including improved bike stands and dedicated lanes or routes. Some comments emphasised that parking should not be sacrificed to accommodate cycle lanes.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: Most feedback on public transport focused on the capacity, reliability, and attractiveness of buses as an alternative to private cars.

SPACE AND ENVIRONMENT

Promenade: The Promenade is a well-loved asset, with comments addressing issues such as dog fouling, maintenance, bin provision, extending the Promenade, improving facilities, enhancing accessibility and safety, and upgrading shelters.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS: Environmental concerns include water quality, especially regarding swimming, protection and enhancement of local marine ecosystems, and improvements to the public realm. The sea plays a central role in shaping the local place identity.

GREEN SPACES: Most comments focus on Salthill Park, with mixed views on whether to introduce more specific activities and features or to preserve it as an open space for play and events. Other suggestions called for greener streets throughout Salthill.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR: Feedback highlighted the need to reduce anti-social behaviour, including keeping dogs on leads, prohibiting drinking near the diving tower, increasing Garda presence, and limiting amplified music in public spaces.

CLIMATE CHANGE: The survey revealed strong support for active travel, enhanced public transport, flood defences, and increased greening and planting as key strategies to address climate change.

USES AND ACTIVITIES

AMENITIES AND FACILITIES: This category encompasses village uses, sports, arts, play, and tourism. Respondents emphasised the importance of ensuring facilities and spaces are appropriate and appealing to diverse groups, including teenagers, older adults, and families.

SERVING COMMUNITY NEEDS: Survey results indicated a perception that Salthill could better serve the community, particularly regarding indoor and outdoor public spaces, youth facilities, markets and retail offerings.

BLACKROCK: Blackrock emerged as a prominent topic, with comments ranging from preserving the tower as it is, to improving safety and access, carrying out maintenance, or upgrading facilities.

BEACH AND SWIMMING: Beaches and swimming were frequently mentioned, with suggestions focused on beach cleanliness, enhancing surrounding spaces, and improving access.

THE VILLAGE: Participants proposed improvements to amenities and facilities within the village, alongside enhancing the public realm, architecture, design, and movement, with the goal of supporting the local business environment.

ARCHITECTURE AND CHARACTER: Comments reflected support for community-led planning, establishing clear objectives and visions, considering both short- and long-term perspectives, and raising the overall quality of the built environment.



5.2 NEXT STEPS

The project team will now work with the consultation feedback to shape the next stage of the Salthill Seafront and Village Framework.

Having cast the net wide for the initial consultation, the intention is to work with a smaller group of representative stakeholders to validate our findings, to define an emerging vision, and to progress initial thinking around the strategies and projects which will form the basis of the Salthill Seafront and Village Framework.

These outcomes will be worked up by the project team and shared with the wider community and stakeholders for test and review.

STEP 1: VALIDATE OUR FINDINGS

Do our themes reflect the **key issues and opportunities** in Salthill?

STEP 2: START TO DEFINE THE VISION

Thinking about each theme, what are the target **goals and outcomes** for Salthill (both as a place, and as a community)?

How should we define the **key principles** for each theme which will support us in achieving these outcomes?

Can we achieve a **balanced approach** across the themes which help steer us towards a position of consensus?

Can we define an **emerging vision** statement which captures this balanced approach?

How could we harness the vision, themes and principles as a **tool to evaluate** emerging ideas and proposals?

STEP 3: SHAPE IDEAS TO INFORM THE STRATEGY

Explore the **possible approaches** related to movement, public space and landscape, and uses / activities.

Consider how overlapping and competing priorities might be **balanced**.

Distil potential options as **emerging strategies**.

Consider the flagship **projects or initiatives** for key locations.



