

# Clondalkin Conservation Plan

## Issues and Emerging Recommendations

As part of the preparation work for the draft Local Area Plan, the Council has employed conservation architects to ensure that the built heritage and associated heritage features are integrated into an urban design strategy. Their work has included both desktop and on-the-ground assessment of the heritage features within Clondalkin village. They will also be preparing character assessments of the existing ACAs to augment policy and objectives in the LAP.

The townscape is sensitive to change and vulnerable to inappropriate development. A framework for future development which is cognisant of the architectural heritage value of the existing townscape is required to protect the character of the existing town and to identify opportunities to encourage regeneration, introduce new connections and create new public spaces.

### Conserving Architectural Structures and Features in ACAs

**Issue:** Loss of architectural features in ACAs.

**Recommendation:** Prevent the removal of architectural features and architectural detail from character-rich structures and associated features within ACAs.

New elements should reflect the composition and materiality of their traditional counterparts.



### Revitalising our historic built environment and promoting Architectural Conservation

**Issue:** Historic buildings at risk due to vacancy including the former RIC barracks, Ninth Lock House, and St. Brigid's Cottages.

**Impact:** Vacancy jeopardises building integrity and diminishes streetscape appeal.

**Opportunity:** Adaptive Reuse and restoration of these buildings could lead to broader historic renovations within ACAs. (Architectural Conservation Areas). Provide examples of how vacant buildings could be adaptively reused.



### Vantage Points and Heritage Views in Clondalkin

**Issue:** Unprotected vantage points in Clondalkin offer crucial views of the Round Tower and church spires.

**Recommendations:** Map and protect key vantage points to ensure the Round Tower and church spires remain visible landmarks. Require future urban development to safeguard incidental views of heritage features, incorporating design strategies that enhance and formalise these views from historic routes and settings.



### Preservation of Historic Walled Boundaries

**Importance:** Historic walls are key to the streetscape's character.

**Issues:** Modern boundary treatments using inferior methods dilute historic walls' visual impact.

**Recommendations:** New walls should adopt complementary styles, like the Round Tower Visitor Centre's boundary on Old Nangor Road. Avoid damaging interventions like cementitious strap pointing.

Authentically replicate details of the locality including the 'cock and hen' cappings.

Raise awareness including incentives under the National Architectural Conservation Grant Schemes.



### Shopfronts within the ACA

**Issue:** Mix of authorised and unauthorised signage detracts from town centre's visual appeal.

**Recommendations:** Encourage removal of unnecessary elements and projecting signs to reduce clutter. Discourage oversized plastic signage and externally mounted shutters for aesthetic improvement. Promote good contemporary design and necessary retention and repair of traditional elements.



### Further Recommendations:

In addressing the urban design challenges within Clondalkin, the consultants identified two primary issues: limited pedestrian connectivity and restricted access to Clondalkin Park and the Camac River.

The dense urban layout around the historic core limits access to the area's rich heritage, suggesting a need for improved and new pedestrian pathways.

Clondalkin Park, a crucial green space, requires better access and amenities to fully capitalise on its potential and historical significance, including its connection to the river and mill industry.