



Local schoolchildren are visiting the Old Town in early springtime sunshine, directing their 'crocodile' around 'Big Onofrio's Fountain' built in 1438. Dubrovnik, **Croatia**

# ENTopia

OUR PLACES IN EUROPE

# OUR PLACES MANUAL

2018 is European Year of Cultural Heritage, focusing on AWARENESS

# Our Places Manual

Designed and Produced by Philip Geoghegan, iCON Architecture | Urban Design | Conservation  
for

**Europa Nostra,**



An Roinn  
*Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta*  
Department of  
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

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Photographs: Philip Geoghegan, except where indicated

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## Europa Nostra, 50 years on

*The Voice of Cultural Heritage in Europe*  
*La Voix du Patrimoine Culturel en Europe*

Europa Nostra: Who we are | What we do

### OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE

Cultural heritage is vital to a better understanding and a deeper respect between Europe's citizens. It brings us closer together, regardless of our cultural, religious or ethnic backgrounds, and across national and linguistic boundaries. Cultural heritage builds bridges between past, present and future generations, and brings beauty, enchantment, significance to our everyday life.

### YOUR EUROPEAN VOICE

Whenever you care for your cultural heritage at local, regional or national level, you will have discovered that many questions transcend borders and affect all Europeans. These questions require a European response: Europa Nostra is the voice of European civil society caring for cultural heritage. Europa Nostra is **your** voice in Europe.

### YOUR NETWORK

Over 50 years, Europa Nostra has built a network of more than 400 member and associate organisations from all over Europe. They represent millions of citizens supporting or working for protection and enhancement of our heritage as volunteers and professionals. As a member of this growing network, you can share your ideas and exchange best practices with European colleagues. You can contribute to and benefit from our website, magazines, heritage tours and meetings. You will be inspired and gain encouragement for your further endeavours.

### Celebrating the Best in European Heritage

Each year, through our European Union Prize for Cultural Heritage/Europa Nostra Awards, we celebrate excellence and dedication by architects, craftsmen, volunteers, schools, local communities, heritage owners and media. Through the power of their example we stimulate creativity and innovation. Submit your project and share your success. Now, too you can submit 'your Place' to [Entopiaproject.eu](http://Entopiaproject.eu)

### Campaigning for Heritage at Risk

Europa Nostra campaigns against the many threats to Europe's cultural heritage.

When monuments or sites are in danger by uncontrolled development, environmental change, neglect or conflict, we raise our voice. Cooperation and solidarity between heritage organisations and activists are vital to ensure that witnesses of our past are here to enjoy today and in the future.

### Lobbying

Join us in making cultural heritage a European priority.

We will promote sustainable development and quality standards in urban and rural planning.

We will safeguard our Places, countryside and historical, architectural and archaeological sites.

We will demonstrate that our cultural heritage is a key asset to Europe's society and economy, and is essential to our identity and quality of life. Europa Nostra is your connection to the European Union, the Council of Europe and UNESCO.

**2018** is European Year of Cultural Heritage, focusing on AWARENESS

You will no doubt notice that many of the images shown are from Ireland... The author lives in Ireland, but will be pleased if the next edition contains a wider selection. We will draw more and more on the resources of Entopia to improve the balance of images, with, hopefully, some of your own Place





EUROPA  
NOSTRA

# ENTopia

OUR PLACES IN EUROPE

We live in diverse habitats all over Europe. Our traditions, culture and visions of a good place to be, are rooted in those PLACES that we live in, Our Places.

Project ENTopia is an initiative of Europa Nostra. It targets the smaller towns and villages; sometimes to include their landscapes, conurbations or regions; sometimes as an island or upland community, to offer a qualitative norm for good places to live in and enjoy.

It celebrates their traditions and heritage, looking positively at those places today. It promotes **sustainable** ideals, to carry forward those places into a future in which they may keep their identity, their sense of place, and flourish through carefully considered development and conservation. Aware that larger towns may be more able to promote their qualities, Europa Nostra considers that small towns and villages are poised again to make a greater cultural, social and heritage contribution in Europe.

Europa Nostra invites Smaller Towns and Villages, localities, landscapes and islands all over Europe to join in the celebration of their diversity and delight with an eye to the future, to ensure that their heritage is not eroded through the opportunities and challenges of change.

Project ENTopia is seen not so much as an award, more as an endorsement through **process**: our Places, whilst proclaiming and celebrating their qualities will, each and together, work towards their sustainable futures.



Outside Kyteler's Inn, St Kieran's Street, Kilkenny,





# ENTopia

OUR PLACES IN EUROPE

"What human beings need is not **utopia** ('no place'), but **entopia** ('in place')...a place which satisfies the dreamer and is acceptable to the scientist, a place where the projections of the artist and the builder merge."

C. Doxiadis defined the (Greek) word ENTOPIA in his book 'Ekistics', 1968



*The village of Fore, in Westmeath, **Ireland**.*

*Celtic church sites, **A**, and beside the Catholic parish church, **B**, founded by St Feighin , Celtic Christian of Roman descent, from the seventh century.*

*The mediaeval abbey, **C**, was founded by Benedictine monks from Evreux, France.*

*In the fifteenth century, a walled town was built by colonising English during the reign of Henry VI. The village is more recent, built by local people within the boundary of the ancient walls. A truly European Heritage Village...*

# Introduction to OUR PLACES MANUAL

This manual for small towns and villages was produced by Europa Nostra during its fiftieth year in development as 'The Voice of Cultural Heritage in Europe'. It has been updated (2016) following a pilot programme from 2013.

Project ENTopia - Our Places in Europe is an initiative designed to celebrate with local communities and local authorities the qualities and heritage, physical and intangible, of those Places we live in. It concentrates on small towns and villages, as they seem less able than larger ones to promote their cause, although smaller communities in a larger Place are welcome to join. Heritage does not necessarily mean old either, and applications from newer communities are welcome.

There are 47 countries in the Council of Europe's Europe: all are welcome to participate provided there is a local structure available to progress applications.

The Manual is intended to provide a *rapid evaluation* structure for you to construct a profile of your town or village. It is a simple process which will guide you towards the formulation of qualitative objectives for the next three years and more.

The purpose is to enable you to define the locally distinctive character of your Place. Using a common, loose structure will lend coherence and comparability for different Places, and help to create a diverse information base to be shared and enjoyed.

The numbered headings in the Manual refer to the ENTopia Chart, reproduced in the cover/ folder to facilitate the making of a profile of your town or village. Not all headings will be useful, as the form of towns and villages varies greatly in different regions and climates.

The Manual offers a template. It should help to complete the form without recourse to specialists. Even so, it can be valuable to take advice or to organise some workshop sessions. Europa Nostra Local Support will be available to offer guidance. Finance may be available from your local LEADER, local Chamber of Commerce or local authority sources.

If you wish to make an expression of interest, in the first place, contact **Menia Katsamagka** <[mk@europanostra.org](mailto:mk@europanostra.org)> at Europa Nostra in the Hague: T:+31 703 024 058. She will forward your details to a local representative of Europa Nostra

The Europa Nostra website is: [www.europanostra.org](http://www.europanostra.org)

**Philip Geoghegan** is initiator and European Coordinator, at email:<[pdfeng1643@icloud.com](mailto:pdfeng1643@icloud.com)>

**“Cultural heritage** is the legacy of physical artifacts (cultural property) and intangible attributes of a group or society that are inherited from past generations, maintained in the present and bestowed for the benefit of future generations. Cultural heritage includes tangible culture (such as buildings, monuments, landscapes, books, works of art, and artifacts), intangible culture (such as folklore, traditions, language, and knowledge), and natural heritage (including culturally-significant landscapes, and biodiversity).”

Quotation from Wikipedia

Some of the early decisions may concern your definition of the territory. There are no rules about this, but a concern that the territory should include the hinterland, district or region which is supported by your Place. Their mutuality or synergy may suggest an area for study. It may be simply the immediate surrounding landscape. The pilot programme has already displayed creative diversity in the interpretation of territory. For example, in Greece, an **island** has been chosen as a unit; in Santander in Spain, a **valley** is defined, 40 kms in length; in Ireland an **upland** area together with its villages and grouping of market towns are identified as a unit.

You may also choose, a town or village which forms part of a larger conurbation, or you may identify the historic core of a larger town. Thus, alternative definitions that respond to local conditions will be considered.

*If you have different circumstances in your Place, please let us know for our review of the programme*

The Manual emphasises landscape and built environment, yet there are many 'soft' attributes of Place; a great local community, tradition in food or music, the special welcome, festivals, local language and dialect; these, too, should be identified and prioritised as integral to the sense of place of the settlement.

Join ENTopia and take up the challenge!





Three images of Santo Stefano di Sessanio, Abruzzi, Italy, Europa Nostra Conservation Award winner, showing, **top**: the skies above the enclosed village, **Centre**: the wild mountain landscape of the Abruzzo around it, and, **lower**: the tillage crops at the edge of the village and the base of the mountain.

## Character Assessment of Our Places

### 1 Landscape:

From Place to Place, our landscape is different. We all enjoy the idea of landscape: a place where work and recreation are integrated, where nature and people have worked together to create their own 'cultural' landscape.

Smaller towns and villages are privileged in their proximity to the landscape. In many situations, they share an indivisible bond of mutual dependence.

The European Landscape Convention charges us with looking after the landscape; "Promoting communal well-being as well as safeguarding the environment and protecting economic activity," and comments, "This individual, social and cultural fulfilment may help to promote the sustainable development of the area concerned, as the quality of landscape has an important bearing on the success of economic and social initiatives, whether public or private."

We can participate by recognising that the landscape is, in many if not most situations, an integral part of our territory.

We should aim to include it in plans for environmental improvement around the settlement. In this Manual, we make a distinction between landscape surrounding the Place, and landscape which may impinge on, traverse, or be as one with the Place.

"Landscape" means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors - European Landscape Convention 2000



# “My island: a ship that travels through time”

Sustainable Aegean Programme, Elliniki Etairia, Europa Nostra award winner

## The island of Patmos, Aegean, Greece

From Hellenistic origins to the exile of St John the theologian to Patmos, and the establishment of the monastery ten centuries later, there is an unbroken religious tradition, still dominating the island today. The settlement of Chora was a centre for commerce as well as religion, defensive in its location, with inward looking courtyard houses. For a religious/commerce based island, the harsh landscape offered little agricultural potential, **top left**, yet provided a vital security buffer. In the nineteenth century, the control of piracy led to the development of Skala, as a harbour town. The monastery is a unique blend of local and Byzantine architecture, **centre left** and **below**.

It is an astonishing legacy of religious architecture, merchant houses, a mysterious street network, **bottom left**, and traditional Aegean architecture, set in an uncompromising landscape of austere beauty.



1 Landscape

OUR PLACES MANUAL:





Three images of Rowlestown village in Fingal County, **Ireland**, showing the enclosure of the village by landscape: **Top**, Landscape and village coexist in harmony. **Centre** the nature sanctuary of the river which runs through, and the demesne fields of Rowlestown House on the edge of the village, **lower**.

## 1 Landscape:

1.1 Surrounding landscape is the context of your Place: its landscape character

### 1.1 A: Surrounding Landscape: History> from early times until now

Describe the surrounding landscape

Generic checklists such as this can help make a character profile of the surrounding landscape, but they also require local interpretation

1.1 A1 Typical climatic characteristics: latitude, elevation, rainfall, temperature, etc

1.1 A2 Geological character: the surrounding area, the bedrock of landscape character

1.1 A3 'Lie of the land': flat, undulating, steeply sloping, exposed, sheltered, open, enclosed etc

1.1 A4 Patterns of farming and settlement around the town/village: enclosed or open fields, tillage, livestock, upland grazing, market gardening etc

1.1 A5 Natural Features: rivers, lakes, hills, flora and fauna, tree- and hedgerow-types and any place-specific ecological and biodiversity information

1.1 A6 Roads, railways and waterways, cycleways and footpaths: describe the network in your area with a map

1.1 A7 Approach roads and exit points for your Place: identify transitional character between landscape and your Place and the way that entry may be marked with a sign or information panel, although all too often it is advertising which announces the Place...



*"Our consciousness must have a new unitary whole, above and beyond the elements, not linked to their isolated meaning and not mechanically composed of them: this is landscape."*

Georg Simmel - German sociologist 1858 - 1918

Quotation included in: *Landscape Heritage, the Nansa Valley and Peñarrubia (Cantabria)*, publisher, Fundación Botin

## 1.1 B: Surrounding Landscape: Looking at the potential

Make a rapid, concise (SWOT) analysis of surrounding landscape

Analysis of Your Place may have been made already for many different reasons. It may be an opportunity to review a previous report or to focus more clearly on landscape issues, and to move towards a series of practical projects as a result.

A rapid SWOT study could be valuable, listing Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats, as a useful basis for deciding on future action. An example of a typical SWOT analysis is available in Appendix 1.

**1.1 B1:** Access roads to and from bigger towns and other settlements are the point at which the Place announces itself. Consider limiting the impact of any extraneous development with visual screening; prepare for a considered visual welcome to the town or village including unique signposting and traffic calming. Eliminate or rationalise commercial signs at access approach roads

**1.1 B2:** Should through traffic be a problem, consider measures to limit or ameliorate its effect on the surrounding landscape, by, for example, creating a landscaped zone on either side of the road, and creating safe routes for pedestrians and cyclists



*Neuf Brisach; Fortified town in Alsace, France. surrounding landscape meets the fortress walls of this Vauban designed defence. The landscape has maintained and conserved a distinct boundary edge from: "Castles on line/ The forts, fortresses and medieval towns.."*

**1.1 B3:** Any future development needs to be compatible with protection of the surrounding landscape

**1.1 B4:** Determine the capacity for development to be absorbed in the landscape without loss of amenity

**1.1 B5:** Maintain ecological corridors as greenways, fingers of green, in any plan for growth

**1.1 B6:** Protect any green zones closest to the settlement to act as amenity buffers and greenways during further development.

**1.1 B7:** Further the enhancement of urban areas with a green infrastructure. (It is appreciated that some towns / villages may not have capacity for new green infrastructure in existing urban areas due to high density of development)



*Bergamo, the Old Town: Citta Alta: Northern Italy: defences have remained intact, generating a landscape zone around the Old Town*

## 1.1 C: Surrounding Landscape: Future vision for sustainable development

- ✓ Present a future vision for the surrounding landscape, to guide your community through the next five years

Note: An alternative list may better suit your Place, as landscape character differs as to region, geology, climate, cultural landscape.

- 1.1 C1: Ensure that there is a strategy in place for adequate protection, conservation and management of the surrounding landscape. Inventorise biodiversity, natural/ cultural landscape for long term protection.
- 1.1 C2: Develop, as appropriate, a landscape envelope around your town/ village with a network of greenway corridors towards the centre. In drier climates use the river beds as natural corridors and adapt their amenity, as appropriate, to recreational use
- 1.1 C3: Consider more tree, shelter belt, screen and hedgerow planting to consolidate existing landscape.
- 1.1 C4: Use landscape design to signal entry and exit.
- 1.1 C5: Create 'nature reserves' close to town / village for local and visitors' enjoyment.
- 1.1 C6: Traditional patterns of agricultural development may be changing, but growing vegetables, vines and fruit may be reinvigorated by self-sustainability land 'allotments' for community use.
- 1.1 C7: Consider the potential of the wider landscape for recreational purposes,; cycling , running, walking etc

*"Today, Europa Nostra is needed more than ever. Culture and cultural heritage are essential to the future of Europe. We will continue to promote excellence through our European Heritage awards...and to be effective advocates of cultural heritage within European policies and funding mechanisms. Why? Because heritage is Europe's key resource: it is Europe's bread and butter, as much as Europe's heart and soul."*

**Plácido Domingo**, President Europa Nostra, from fiftieth anniversary letter to members



Tyrellspass in County Westmeath, Ireland, is a purpose designed late 18th century landlord village. Despite the vicissitudes of a small village in rural surroundings, local effort has succeeded in maximising the potential of this Place, with a dynamic idea behind a future for the village. The initiative for some years has been with the local community, supported by the local authority and the Heritage Council. The idyllic village green is a focal point for residents and tourism. The sculpture was commissioned after winning the annual national 'Tidy Towns' competition.



Kilkenny town, **Ireland**: Information panel for cyclists showing preferred routes for cyclists in the county and cycling trails, as part of a long term recreation plan.





**Left:** The village of Fore, County Westmeath, **Ireland** (also illustrated on p2) is an example of how the outlying areas of the village are integral, defined within this valley and between two upland ridges. The potential attraction of this area's landscape surroundings has generated an ambitious programme of footpath trails around the hills and churches, led by the local authority with community involvement and LEADER funding support. The image shows a proposal to use granite signposts as a locally sensitive approach which avoid standardised signposting. Note the village church steeple in the image. From this elevated point the village is hidden by the woodland and contours. The village sits into a historic landscape which is still actively used for agriculture; mainly grazing and forestry, with a future tourism magnet with a combination of 1,600 years of religious heritage and an unspoiled landscape of hills and lakes.



Alalcomenae ancient city, Ithaca  
**Greece:** footpath demarcation made very simply with rocks is sufficient to give clear direction without imposing on the landscape or the archaeology



## 1.1 EN: Europa Nostra: Integrated vision for interaction between place and landscape

An integrated, symbiotic relationship between town / village and landscape is reflected in many Places. Europa Nostra is aware that the threat to this relationship through uncontrolled, inappropriate, unalleviated development, may damage long term sustainability.

Project *ENTopia - Our Places in Europe* is an opportunity for towns and villages to identify their particular landscape setting and to work towards effective local community appreciation of the interaction between built heritage and nature in the surrounding landscape.

Europa Nostra recognises that a substantial threat may exist for landscapes which are within and surrounding major conurbations such as London, Paris, Rome, Athens etc and will campaign for the highest environmental quality to be maintained for the health and wellbeing of those who live in such conurbations whilst appreciating the need to be close to nature at the same time.

*Water is a major element in the landscape: rivers, canals, lakes, shoreline, bog-lands and marshes.*



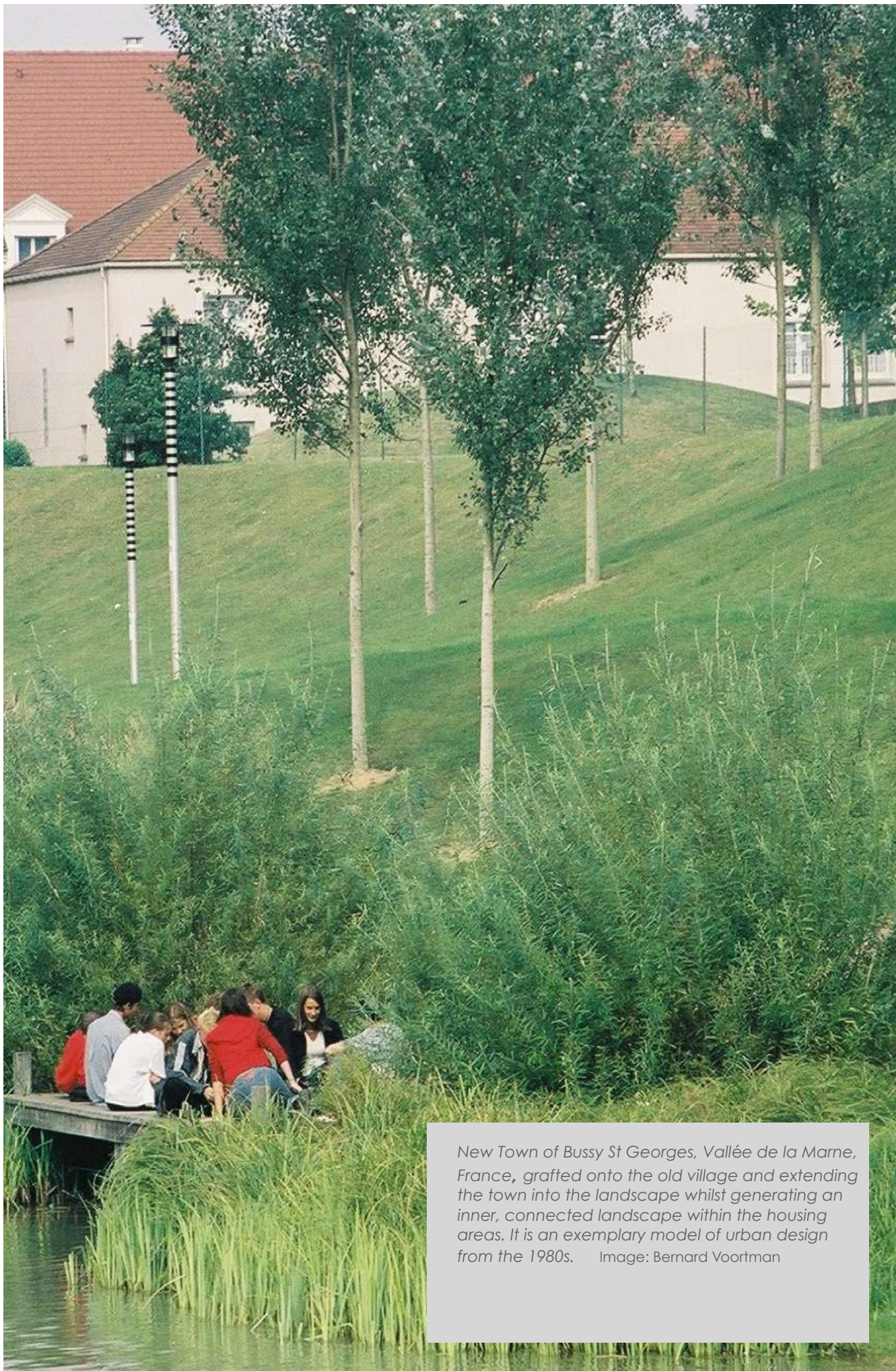
*In Giethoorn, **Netherlands**, below, described as 'the village in the Netherlands with no roads', canals are still part of the traffic system. Protection of this landscape is ensured through national designation of a nature reserve which surrounds the village.*

*Photo, top, right from [sometimesinteresting.com](http://sometimesinteresting.com) website*

*Photo, lower right by CE photo, Uwe Aranas*







*New Town of Bussy St Georges, Vallée de la Marne, France, grafted onto the old village and extending the town into the landscape whilst generating an inner, connected landscape within the housing areas. It is an exemplary model of urban design from the 1980s. Image: Bernard Voortman*





Poundbury, Dorchester, Dorset, **UK**  
 Dorchester is the real home of the fictitious town of **Casterbridge** in the novel of Thomas Hardy, 1840 -1928. Poundbury is outside Dorchester in full countryside, designed as a new town by Leon Krier for Prince Charles on land owned by the Duchy of Cornwall. The quotation **top, right** is from Thomas Hardy on the Monument of Remembrance,



*Image. **left** the corner of the Monument of Remembrance; the landscape shows the setting of the new village; a bleak, wild landscape with flows into the residential areas and is sheltered and 'tamed' with planted trees and woodland as is shown, **centre, left** and **bottom left**. The town centre, like most of the place, is designed in neo-classical and post modern architectural style, including the supermarket, disguised by a colonnade, **centre left** in the picture...Nevertheless as a piece of modern urban design it is an achievement in its provision of public open space, a street structure, and a sensitive recognition of landscape context.*



**Left**, As an edge to the village, this is architecturally successful ,even if 'pastiche' design is seen to be ambiguous. The deliberate change to landscape setting and simple, rural quality of the access road are sensitive in making the transition from urban to landscape area.



# Character Assessment of Our Places

## ② Quality of the Place

**Genius Loci** - the special atmosphere of a particular place

Our towns and villages express our identity, not so much as individuals, but as *communities* past and present, whose lives have been bound up in the Place. The community space in settlements is the main street, the square, the park, the space at a junction, the intimacy of small spaces in quiet areas.

Traditional villages were more likely to be dense and built up, if only for defensive reasons, although agricultural patterns sometimes produced land and outbuildings within each plot integral with the village. In mediaeval times the defensive walls crowded in the inhabitants and public space was at a premium. In the seventeenth and eighteenth century, In England and Ireland for example, landlords created towns and villages to make their estates self sufficient and to lend prestige to their image. The industrial revolution generated new villages as accommodation became indispensable to a profitable workplace. All over Europe there are countless examples of traditional towns and villages which respond directly to location, climate and circumstance, and *designed* villages which are tailored to the suitability of their purpose as seen by the landlord, the industrialist, the developer, the municipality. It is a heritage of boundless diversity, a powerful icon of the collective memory of each community, and a place of intense interest for the visitor. This section is about the built areas of the settlement.



**Above:** Groningen, Oude Wijk, **Netherlands**, has a character which could only be described as Dutch: gabled houses, brickwork, canal-side and flat bottomed boats with external keels. The age of buildings spans four centuries

**Below:** Cycling together towards one of the Oude Wijk bridges, this pair carry an unusual load of beer. Although this is not a recommended method of transporting beer, the limitation in the town on motor vehicle circulation makes for a safe cycling environment.





*“Consult the genius of the place in all”* Alexander Pope, 1688-1744

## 2.1 Built form and uses

### 2.1A Built form and uses: History > from early times until now

#### Describe the Built form and Uses of the town or village

2.1 A1 If possible, describe the original form of the town / village and how that came about in its historical development.

2.1 A2 What is the thematic quality of your Place? Does it have, for example, repeated patterns of building types with each frontage addressing the street? There might be a less dense pattern in villages than in a town, where typically buildings may front directly onto the street.

2.1 A3 If appropriate, identify key stages in the town or village development, such as mediaeval core, renaissance, 19th century, 20th century.

2.1 A4 An idea of the original scale is important too. How many storeys high and what would be a typical width of building? If its development was more complex, you may be able to identify and study different building typologies within the historical area.



**Above:** New Earswick Village, built by Quaker industrialists as a model village near York, **England**. A garden city development from 1909, modernised to increase amenity for pedestrians by rationalising the road pattern.

**Below:** Enniscorthy Ireland.on the River Slaney - a commercial waterway to the sea in mediaeval times; an early market; then industrial town and today a regional centre. Each period has helped shape its form. The Norman castle is dominant, with St Mary's church close by.



**Left:** Belo Blato in four languages suggests the ethnic complexity of this Croatian village

**Below:** Belo Blato village in **Croatia**, (as illustrated in ENTopia website), symbolising 'national and religious diversity and coexistence'. Ethno-Courtyard and visitors' centre (**below**) emphasise traditional and unique qualities of Place, Describing the village fabric: 'orthogonal street grid and surrounded by big rivers,...swamps and defensive dykes'

**EDUCATION AND AWARENESS OF HERITAGE**  
The visitor's centre exists within the elementary schoolyard. Pupils get knowledge about life in the past and also are tourist guides for guests of the village.

**ethno-courtyard and visitor's centre**

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## Enniscorthy, Ireland: Heritage Town with strong Thematic Quality



2.1A Built form and uses

OUR PLACES MANUAL:

*Festival of Music and Dance in Enniscorthy, Ireland; an annual summer event where public areas, including car park in this image, are transformed into dance areas, musical entertainment and the inevitable Punch and Judy show in the Town Square. The Farmers' Market, a weekly event, is in the background. Although the people were already in the image, it has been digitally modified in the town Conservation Plan, to propose new paving in this area and provide for a semi-permanent cover for market and festival activities.*



## Enniscorthy, Ireland: Heritage Town with strong Thematic Quality

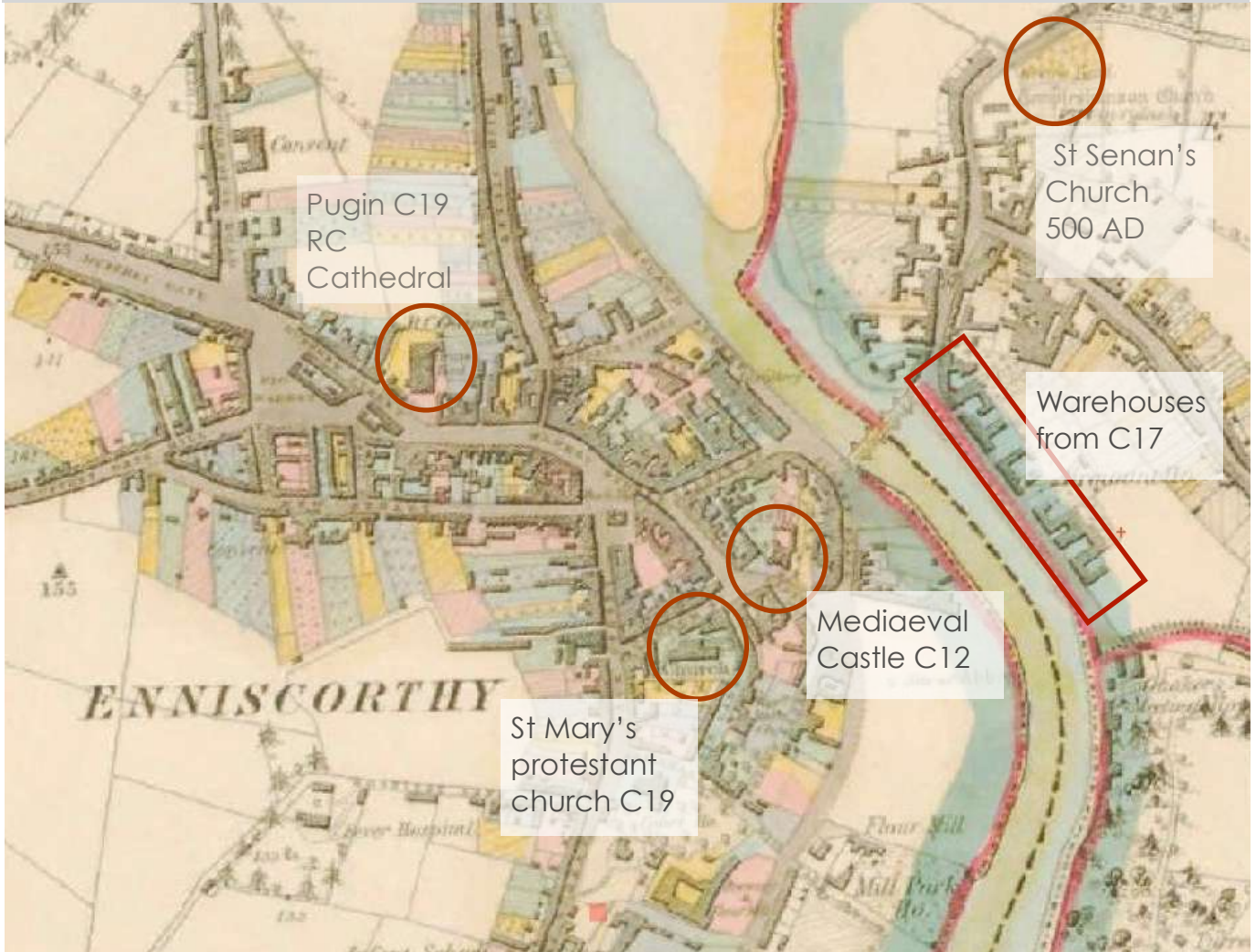
The previous page, this one, and the facing page show the built form of a small market town in Ireland, typical of Irish towns and villages, although among those where the town quality has been well conserved. The town mixes history with tradition, religion and literature, and has a story to tell about involvement in the 1798

Rebellion. The river location, although attractive in the summer is prone to flooding in extreme weather and tidal conditions. The flood-meadows are a natural amenity for the town, visual as well as recreational, however proposed flood attenuation engineering works with tidal barriers will pose a problem for conservation of the river area.

Enniscorthy, Ireland, a typical Market Town in County Wexford, with a rural hinterland, and a history extending back 1,500 years, when St Senan established his church, across the river, circled, **top right**. This map is from the first National Ordnance Survey of Ireland, 1829, and shows the two parts linked by a bridge over the River Slaney.

The quayside warehouses, enclosed in rectangle, **right of image**, were developed in the seventeenth century to link the town with New Ross and the sea. The main part of town developed strongly in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, **giving the town its thematic quality of streets and key spaces, overlooking the river.**

The mediaeval castle is one of three focal points, along with the fine Pugin architected neo-gothic cathedral on the site of the Roman Catholic chapel, and Protestant St Mary's church, all circled. The historic qualities of street façades and shopfronts have been carefully conserved in the main. The town is currently enhancing the public realm, renewing paving, lighting and planting with exemplary results. The images, facing page, show the consistent form of the streets with local detail, and effective work to enhance the public areas.





*“Zora has the quality of remaining in your memory point by point, in its succession of streets, of houses along the streets, and of doors and windows in the houses, though nothing in them possesses a special beauty or rarity.”* Invisible Cities by Italo Calvino, Cities and Memories - 4, 1972



**Above:** Rafter Street, the latest town centre street to be pedestrianised. The streets of the centre are mainly three storeys high with shopfronts at ground level. Behind this street is a large car parking area with an archway connection to the street.

**Above left:** The feet of local hero Thomas Sinnott, Irish rebel pikeman from 1798, are anchored on the pedestal above relaxed activity on a summer's day in the Market Square. Note 'Enniscorthy shopfronts', a local 'type' in background

**Left:** the steep hill down to the Slaney River gives a sense of the topography around the town from its Main Square. This is a favoured route from the far side of the river, pedestrianised during the day.



## 2.1B Built form and uses: Looking at the Potential

Present an analysis of potential for the built form

2.1 B1. Evaluate the built form, describe the *themes of the pattern language* in use to identify local distinctiveness. It may be shopfronts, window proportions, narrow streets, old granite paving, colour on buildings, sign-writing, regular height of buildings, stonework, steep contours... It reveals the elements that give the distinct feeling which is part of the identity of your town or village, and is worth conserving. Each Place has its patterns of built form; collectively, they explain and define distinctive character.

2.1 B2 Its character may derive also from *materials* locally used, for doors, windows, shopfronts, balconies, roof and eaves construction, chimneys, ironwork. Identify conflicting, discordant elements, such as gap sites, dereliction, poor maintenance, inappropriate window replacement.

2.1 B3 New buildings in established areas need to respond sensitively to their surroundings. They may not need to look old, but should adopt a familiar local *thematic* approach - taking account of form and scale, materials, window to wall ratios, colour and particular characteristics of place, whilst using contemporary architectural interpretations as appropriate.

2.1 B4 Highlight and revitalise special buildings. Find new central sites for special buildings to help regenerate the centre, if required. New buildings which are not *thematic* are not necessarily inappropriate, as they may have a role to perform as focal buildings with a special place in the hierarchy of buildings. Many significant buildings are placed on axis with main streets or in key locations, such as corners, existing and new squares. They help to articulate the Place.

**Right:** Wexford Town, 50 km from Enniscorthy, has a very different pattern to its streets. Main streets run longitudinally along the slope; cross streets are small lanes and pedestrian routes. The image, **right**, is of a passage running from one street, through and under the building, emerging at the frontage to the quayside of the town

*"In order to define this quality in buildings and in towns, we must begin by understanding that every place is given its character by certain patterns of events that keep on happening there."*

Christopher Alexander,  
The Timeless Way of Building, Oxford University Press 1979



**Above:** Shopfront in Templeshannon, Enniscorthy, Ireland with exuberant colour and understated sign-writing; locally distinctive. Interior of the shop is a bar as well as selling groceries, books, magazines, cigarettes,





**Right:** Enniscorthy, Ireland Visitors' and Parish Centre extending the convent school buildings, maintaining compatible forms, Simplicity and refinement, a quiet addition to the townscape. Wexford County Council Architect, Shay Howell, 2011



**Below Street** in Kilkenny, Ireland, offers similar diversity of architecture yet within a range of patterns, also observed by the new brick building infill to the left



**Above:** Great visual diversity in Main Street, Enniscorthy, where brick and plastered buildings coexist. Coherence is maintained with similar proportions of window openings and shopfronts. The variation from three to four storey height and colour range confer informality and distinctiveness of Place.



**MEDIEVAL MUSEUM**  
The Choristers' Hall

EUROPA HOSTRA AWARDS 2013

**Lower, left:** Modern 'Medieval' Museum in Waterford's Viking Triangle needed to respect its 19th century neighbours with compatible scale. It has stand-alone significance as a major public building, expressed with simplicity and beauty, using the same stone that was used for the cathedral, and exploiting the digital range of computer design to achieve a sculptural form of great power in the constricted local environment. The curving shape leads the visitor around the corner into a second space, an urban connection generated by the building form. Waterford City Architect, Rupert Maddock 2013.



## 2.1C Built form and uses: Future Vision > Sustainable Settlement

Present your future vision for built form and uses in a sustainable settlement, to help guide the community through the next five years or so.

2.1 C1 You may be able to develop a key 'language' for development in sensitive areas of the settlement as part of a new vision. It may be presented as a design code or guidelines which allow for freedom of design within a carefully devised overall framework for a sustainable settlement.

2.1 C2 Strategic approaches to sustainability may involve:

- Facilities for litter and waste management, reviewing overall provision of bins, and the appearance of local recycling areas.
- Encouragement of infill development to consolidate and maintain the existing structure, and to revitalise targeted areas such as the centre.
- Development of cycling and walking routes and trails to improve health, to reduce car use and improve public areas and footpaths.

2.1 C3 Even in a small settlement it may be appropriate to plan for a BIG project, a new focal point which could be a local museum, the restoration of a building, presentation of local skills - something which would help awareness of local culture and attract visitors to spend time there.

2.1 C4 More modest projects might involve annual cleaning of your Place carried out on a street by street basis as voluntary community effort; local authorities providing support with information packs, removal of bagged rubbish, provision of paint for visual improvement etc.

**Right:** BIG project in Syracuse, Sicily, combines the arts in a superb annual Festival at what was the largest theatre in the world of ancient Greece. Whilst the Manual has concentrated on the built and natural heritage, the cultural heritage has much broader boundaries. This example operates at the highest level of engagement in the Arts. Using the ancient theatre which accommodated 15,000 people it produces three plays each year, providing remarkable sets which work within the rules of the ancient theatre. The concept of sustainability reaches beyond visible heritage to celebrate the arts as living culture handed down over generations. (Stage set **below:** from 2016)





## 2.1 EN Europa Nostra

### Built form and uses: Future

#### Vision > Sustainable Settlement:

Built form and structure are seen as an integral part of the heritage and vital to the identity of towns and villages. They form the backdrop against which the activities of the settlement are performed, both on a daily basis and on special occasions.

In this document the buildings are read as an essential part of **a bigger whole, where people, through buildings, spaces, activities and communities define themselves within their Place.**

Europa Nostra campaigns for recognition of the morphology of settlements, just as it seeks protection for buildings and street-scapes, **to encompass the whole environment, both visible and intangible.**



**Above:** Traditional dancing in the Main Square of Randazzo, **Italy**, 2009 by school students to celebrate the visit of previous Europa Nostra President, The Infanta of Spain, Doña Pilar de Borbón, and members of the 2009 Europa Nostra Congress. It was a historic moment in the town as Sicily's history from the thirteenth to eighteenth centuries was dominated by Spanish rule and this was the first recorded visit of Spanish royalty to Randazzo.

**Below:** Part of a sequence of public spaces along the estuary waterfront at Santander, **Spain**. The entire population appears to converge on these places in the evening after dinner - the paseo.







Rosia Montana, **Romania:** “The landscape of Roşia Montană and its surrounding villages has been gradually transformed by gold and silver mining practised here as early as the Bronze Age and by the corresponding inhabitation of the area, with major developments in Roman, Medieval and late Modern times. Its Prehistoric surface mining works, the extensive system of deep underground mines started by the Romans in the 2nd Century AD and extended further until recently in the 1970’s, the corresponding surface features, such as barren mountain faces, small waste heaps, paths and roads, header ponds, water channels, stamping areas, later ancillary industry and the mining town in-between, the surrounding natural areas of high ecological value – all together these substantial features testify for the development of mining in this area over more than three millennia, reflecting a long-lasting positive interaction between man and environment which generated one of the most representative mining landscapes of Europe. The area belongs to a much wider mountain historic landscape characteristic for family farming – cattle raising, small scale mountain agriculture – and forestry, along with certain specialised trades, notably woodworking – particularly wood tub and wood ware making – and indeed gold mining, in several centres within the so-called Auriferous Quadrilateral of the Apuseni Mountains. The present economy of the region is based on small-scale family farming and forestry, a few recent sustainable industrial forestry and woodworking (furniture) businesses, and tourism concentrated in few centres and areas.”

This is the introductory text from the ENTopia website project from Rosia Montana in Romania. The story of Rosia Montana is a remarkable instance of sustained pressure, helped by Europa Nostra, to save the landscape, its community and its villages from further mining in the area.

**Right:** a photomontage on flagpoles borrowed in Enniscorthy’s Rafter Street shows a notional Europa Nostra **Heritage Banner of Our Places in Europe.**



**Below:** digital image for a BIG project in Gorey, County Wexford, Ireland, renovating the Market House, from 1707. The project has a dual approach, to renovate the building as a community building, and to recognise formally its C17 central position by creating a ‘Place’ outside the building, and reducing the Main Street width to give more space to pedestrians and cyclists.







**Above:** The landscape of Shipcka village, **Albania**. The village is represented on the ENtopia website and the text and photographs are the description made the applicants.

“

Shipcka is a poor village in a mountainous area in South-East Albania, about 25 km west of the town of Korça. The village is inhabited by vllahs, a special autochthonous Latin population very much spread on the area between Albania, Greece and FYROM. The settlement dates back to the early Byzantine period of the Emperor Justinian. The origin of the name itself is an old Slavic plant named Schipak = red rose. This is a wild rose bush, which is a prevalent local plant, and its flower was dried and used to produce a local drink.

Being a close neighbour of Voskopoja, or Moschopoli (a centre which was very famous in the Balkans for its development during 17th-18th c.), Shipcka was an important centre of cattle breeders as well as merchants. During the 17th c. the population grew up to 8000 inhabitants. The very rapid growth of Voskopoja influenced later the migration of the population from Shipcka to the nearby town, as the records tell for a reduction of the population in Shipcka and abandonment of the old part of the village. With the passing years, the village became nearly empty, especially in recent decades when most of them migrated to Greece for a better condition of life. Very few families continued to live there trying to survive and taking great care for the most valuable memory they had inherited from the past – the church of St. George.

The church of St. George is a basilica covered with vaults and cupolas built by the end of 17th century, or the beginning of 18th century. This church belongs to the Moschopolitan basilica group, which are considered as outstanding buildings in the Post-byzantine architecture of the Balkans as well as important monuments in the history of the population living in this area. Even though the church of St. George was listed as a first category monument, it stayed for decades neglected by the state. During the winter of 2002, the main vault of the narthex fell down, seriously risking the demolition of the whole church and the disappearance of this monument. At this moment Mr. Ioannis Averoff, a Greek from Metsovo, came for the first time in Shipcka and he decided to save this monument.

The church of St. George was restored in a few years and this work was prized with the European Union/Europa Nostra “Award” 2011, in the category “Conservation”, with the “Member Choice Award” of EU/EN 2011 and also as a Member of Excellence Club at “The Best in Heritage” 2012.

”

(continued next page)



“ This conservation project, fully taken up and supported by the local population and the local government, was the catalyst for the revitalization of the settlement of Shipcka and the development of new tourism-related activities. The church of St. George and thus the village of Shipcka were included into the cultural programs of a number of travel agencies even before the completion of the work. The church and the village are currently visited by foreigners and Albanians, including scholars and students. The cultural and architectural value of this exceptional monument is strengthened by the beautiful mountainous surroundings and the picturesque village of Shipcka, which is becoming the most attractive place of the whole area. A restored barn in front of the church, which was turned into a cafeteria and craft shop, has become a central meeting point. A number of reconstruction works are conducted on the traditional houses of the village by the population, while some families decided to come back to the village and develop tourism-related activities. These tourism related activities have started generating new income for the inhabitants and further tourism-related projects (guest houses, restaurants, etc) are in progress.

”



Shipcka village, **Albania**, **Top**: Church of St George was restored by Ioannis Avyeroff and won a Europa Nostra Cultural Heritage award in 2011, which inspired local people to undertake reconstruction on traditional buildings, and to develop tourism.

**Lower**: Village deep in the landscape, and ancient bridge with potential for successful, minimal repair



## 2.2 Open spaces and activities

### 2.2 A Open spaces and activities: History >from early times until now

Describe your open spaces and their activities

The public realm, where residents and visitors may move freely, is diverse. It is a place for shopping, for meeting, for having lunch in the open air, for performance, for markets, for celebrating the town/village as a community. For visitors it is the public realm that carries the impression of the character of the place

2.2 A1 Describe the main street and other streets, not forgetting any secondary system of paths, passages or lanes, and the diverse different open spaces in the settlement; cuts de sac, squares, parks gardens and market areas, parking areas, empty and derelict sites, riverside areas and flood zones.

2.2 A2 How have these spaces been used over time? Some will have had continuous use as routes, market places, performance areas, Main Square, the 'living room' of the settlement; others may no longer have their original use, such as defensive green zones, parade grounds, church grounds; these may invite new future uses.



**Two villages in France** from 'Les Plus beaux villages de France' website:

**Above: Vezelay** view of compact, urban and village scale main street

**Below: Sauveterre de Rouerque** has a remarkable street structure around a central market Place, illustrated below the aerial plan





*ASSET (Action to Strengthen Small European Towns) “More than 77 million people across Europe live in small towns – between 10,000 and 30,000. This is more than live in any single country except Germany and this evidence should be a lever to persuade Europe to develop policies for smaller towns...”*

Valerie Carter, President of ECOVAST, The European Council for the Village and Small Town, reporting on research at Potsdam Seminar, November 2010

## 2.2 B Open spaces and activities: present day > Looking at Potential

### Present an analysis of potential for open spaces and activities

Traditional activities in defined open spaces always hold attraction as gathering, socialising, spaces especially at festive times.

2.2 B1 Activity and permeability: shops, bars, cafes, exhibitions, markets, all contribute to making spaces work, along with easy access from other areas. Good permeability, a network of routes, especially on foot, is essential to create opportunities for social interaction.

2.2 B2 Newer, contemporary activities: such as regarding shopping as recreation, walking, outdoor sport and healthy exercise may flourish in the public domain and contribute to active spaces.

2.2 B3 Signage: Legible, signed routes for visitors may help to attract them to lesser known and quieter spaces. Many spaces have names which recall their past, and this might be explained with a fixed information panel, to help bring to life the history of the space.

2.2 B4 Townscape visual enhancement:

- By cabling underground for electricity, telecommunications
- By limiting advertising and signposting
- By removing unnecessary, uninteresting old signs

2.2 B5 Movement: Analyse movement to make for safer and more relaxed enjoyment of place. Every motorist wishes to be close to the active areas, every pedestrian (who is usually a motorist too) enjoys the peace and safety of a vehicle free environment. Towns and villages do not have the capacity to maintain traffic in all areas, with parking in front of the shop...

- If traffic is a problem, review strategic decisions to limit entry into the town centre to reduce quantity of vehicles. Almost all schemes for traffic reduction are, in the end, favoured by traders and consumers.
- If through traffic must be maintained, limit capacity by slowing down traffic; paved areas, bumps and humps, narrowing of roads, chicanes, weight limits etc
- Expensive solutions for parking include underground parking under public spaces. If it helps to maintain the primacy of the town centre it may be worth it. Good parking for vehicles and bicycles at reasonable proximity to the centre is a real asset...
- Pedestrian and cycle priority networks, improving access in safety, are attractive to all users of the centre and should be reviewed and extended where viable to do so. Pedestrian / cyclist friendly towns and villages are appreciated by everyone.

2.2 B6 Urban Furniture: Check the condition of any urban furniture and needs for renewed lighting, paving, planting, street cleaning, and waste bins.

2.2 B7 Lively Public Realm: Planned activity in existing open spaces may be reviewed to introduce possible new activities; markets, outdoor kiosks for refreshment, audience attracting events with temporary or semi-permanent cover. Help create a livelier public realm.





Syracusa, **Sicily**: Cathedral was built within the shell of Greek temple, and was also a mosque during its eventful history.





**Top:** Gorey, Co Wexford , Ireland **Ireland** in 1890. The first telegraph poles are being erected. No cars are yet evident..

2.2 C Open spaces and activities: Future Vision > Sustainable Settlement

Present a Future Vision for Your Place, Working with sustainable targets

2.2 C1 A phased plan for street/open space improvement, undertaken with all stakeholders involvement, may be the most productive approach to sensitive renewal.

2.2 C2 Relatively short term measures may include: annual BIG clean up, signs and urban furniture renewal, 'greening' small areas, painting, sprucing up façades, screening dereliction, using empty shop windows for local displays, and 'pop-up', temporary shops. Specific projects are likely to emerge from this review of the town/ village.

2.2 C3 Medium term projects might concentrate on paving improvements, extending the pedestrian realm, traffic calming, better lighting, improvement strategies and support for heritage structures and local traditional assets. Street by street projects for improvement may include 'greening' measures to soften the appearance, with shrub and tree planting schemes or improving hard surfaces on the ground.



**Above:** Randazzo, Sicily: Primary school children wait for distinguished visitors along the entire route to the Main Square, when Europa Nostra came to town...

**Below:** Abbeyleix, Co Laois, Ireland. Courthouse building was an island surrounded by traffic, now relieved by separation from the road, conversion into a public library, using attractive new paving, creating a precinct, a new urban space.





“Rural areas deserve an integrated, holistic approach, an approach based on geographies rather than targeted bits of the population. This piecemeal approach to rural development gradually undermines the sustainability of rural geographies and chips away at our understanding of geographical identity and belonging. As a result of this, power and money and skills and resources have haemorrhaged away from rural communities over the decades, to be only partly replaced by the energies and aesthetic of a legion of culturally creative incomers.”

Jane Grey, Transition Towns Network, <http://www.transitionnetwork.org>

## 2.2 EN Europa Nostra - Open spaces and activities: Integrated Vision for a Sustainable Settlement

Active, lively towns and villages depend on the diversity of building uses, but no less in the uses of open spaces, and those marginal zones where commercial uses spill out, to 'occupy' the pavement, with displays, café tables, open shopfronts...The capacity to attract people through functional and recreational uses as well as physical characteristics indicates that an **integrated** model combining physical, social, cultural and commercial is the best way towards a sustainable public realm.



**Above;** Bold sculpture, one of four giant 'themes' in town of Central Hungary. Public art has a role to play in making places attractive.

**Left:** Children love street theatre and especially Punch and Judy, here in Enniscorthy Co Wexford Ireland

**Below:** beautiful local space in Groningen's Oude Wijk quarter, Netherlands, a haven of peace, as cars are kept away by zoning the centre to inhibit cross movement.







Sustainability? The crossroads in Slane Historic Village has been the landlord designed centre from the early 1800s, yet the heavy goods traffic is still not forbidden from using the route even though there is a motorway close by. Politics of transportation enter into this issue. Hauliers do not want to pay motorway tolls, so this community must continue to suffer. Twenty two deaths have been caused by traffic accidents in the village in the last fifteen years, as the road is steep and dangerous for heavy trucks. The location of a World Heritage Site, Newgrange Stone Age passage tomb complex 1.8km from the village,, has resulted in a motorway bypass being deferred. This is local heritage at risk from world heritage...

### 3 Sustainability

#### 3.1 EN: Environmental/Cultural

A good physical environment is vital to our well-being. In that environment we work, shop, enjoy recreation, meet, learn, enjoy art, perform and share our cultural values. Towns and villages are Our Places in Europe: to celebrate, to cherish, to transform, to improve, to interpret, to invite and welcome visitors - a good place to live, work, take recreation and visit.

#### 3.2 EN: Economic/Social

A good place to live needs a sound economic base to improve and continuously modernise, to reflect changes in society. It needs locally-based governance to be sensitive to social needs, to manage the environment with long term goals, medium term objectives, and immediate short term responses to the daily upkeep of Our Places.



**Above, right:** This is a page taken from an advisory report prepared for a small, thriving commuting town in Ireland, Gorey in County Wexford, using the example of another town, Kilkenny. Top image promotes 'Park and Stride', encouraging walking from car parks at a distance to ease congestion by keeping cars out of the centre. The lower part of the page shows cycle parking in the centre, and 'Share the Space' a designation to encourage tolerance on narrow footpaths and roads to allow safer slow movement at pinch points in traffic in the centre.



### 3.3 EN Sustainability in a local context

The larger issues of global warming, and current energy issues can be difficult integrate into a local initiative. However, there are many organisations and authorities trying to 'think global and act local' and a great deal of information about sustainability is available. Most of it, though is concerned with policy and not so much with day to day activity.

The Green Flag awards scheme for schools initiated by FEE, Foundation for Environmental Education, has created exemplary structures to ensure that schools address key issues of commuting, waste recycling, energy conservation, food supply.

At town or village level the practical issues do not change, although they need to operate in a different way, with scaled up waste recycling collections and grants to encourage energy conservation by households. Recycling facilities should not create their own environmental problems...

Lists can be of some limited value; the following one is drawn from the design objectives (much abbreviated) prepared for a local authority in Ireland. The emphasis on landscape shown here is likely to differ widely in more southerly and mediterranean climates, where shade and shelter may take prominence. These design guidelines are seen as *generic*, and need to be accompanied by Place specific recommendations, drawn from the location, this Manual and suggestions in the application form.

### 3.31 EN Some local sustainable design objectives

Reduce pressure on the environment:

- Foster walking and cycling by provision of safe, attractive, clutter-free pedestrian and cycling routes between attractors of activity: school, church, community facilities, shops, recreation areas and parks.
- Promote biodiversity by conserving existing indigenous hedgerows and trees. Introduce 'green' pathways through the village, where appropriate. Encourage community-led planting programmes.
- Provide opportunities for local food production through allotments and/or community gardens.
- Exploit the microclimatic advantages of tree belts and hedgerows, shading and sunshine
- Use quality, preferably locally sourced materials and detailing to make streets and spaces more attractive, accessible and inclusive.
- Make the best use of land – a finite resource.
- Foster waste reduction. Provide a convenient, attractive and well-maintained recycling area in your Place.



Restored Cottage, **left**, leads into a cultural centre dedicated to uileann (Irish bagpipe) pipe player of Celtic music, Seamus Ennis, who lived in this tiny village of Naul outside Dublin, Ireland. The centre commemorates his celebrity and provides continuity for the music. His bronze statue is in foreground, facing Main Street.



## Making small towns and villages more attractive and sustainable: Local Identity

- Recognising and building on the strong, distinctive identity of the Place will assist community and economic regeneration. A quality environment with pride of place will benefit the community, attract visitors and promote long-term economic, social and environmental well-being
- A quality public realm is very important as it contains outdoor meeting places for all the population and its visitors, as the network for movement and recreation

## Heritage and Culture

- The history and heritage of the place are central to shaping and building local distinctiveness.
- Conserve older building stock and establish sustainable, sensitive reuse.
- Cherish distinctive local features – provide good signage and further develop cultural tourism events and the special quality of your Place

## Community

- Assets that help constitute local identity include a strong community spirit, a culture of friendliness and neighbourliness, and a strong and unique local brand that is born of history and shared experience. Cultural centres are an impressive and unique local asset.
- Promote community participation in the implementation of proposals for the public realm.
- Erect a public notice board for events, local news.
- Use websites, apps for mobiles, local newspapers and shops for information about your Place



Port Carlisle, Cumbria, UK, is on the ENtopia website. It is a small settlement created when a port was built at the mouth of the Solway Firth. The port failed; access was continued by railway. Now the village is a memory of activity now departed with efforts being made to conserve and promote the qualities of the Place. North of England Civic Trust has been working with a group of local residents in Port Carlisle since June 2015, who have undertaken historical research about the village and the people who used to live there – this included a visit to the local archives at Carlisle where they were able to view original documents relating to the building of the canal and railway to Port Carlisle.



## Strengths

Strong, stable community which cares about its future and good local organizational structure to deal with it

Sympathetic local authority, elected representatives

Slane is nationally and internationally known for its concerts, and nationally known for its proximity to Newgrange and the Boyne Valley and as the home of Francis Ledwidge; regionally known for its architecture and landscape context and its historic connections with the Hill of Slane.

It has a superb heritage, already described above, which is of great value to locals and is accessible to all visitors:

Remarkable ancient stone bridge

Slane Castle is a powerful attraction alone.

Unique landscape location and a landscape in good condition and well protected

Mill building with international potential for tourism visitors once it is made accessible

Village is attractive and already has good facilities for visitors

It is seen as an excellent place to live, friendly, with village character, good housing, good school, good recreation facilities and possibilities

Close to Dublin, airport, Drogheda and Navan for easy access, both to and from.

On a national trunk road with many people passing every day

Slane has good protection from the Development Plan with three Architectural Conservation areas, (ACAs)

## Weaknesses

Continuous damage to the environment by traffic.

Only resolved partly by bypass proposed

Desirable elimination of through heavy traffic may not be feasible because of alternative route problems

Safety issues for all pedestrians due to traffic

Some lack of direction for the village – as a tourism centre? residential centre? National Heritage Village?

Services for tourism as yet limited – restaurants, hotels, cafes, shops, easy parking,

Close to Newgrange yet not able to connect the village with the place

Mill is not yet accessible to visitors.

Slane Castle grounds cut off the village from its direct landscape

Poor job base in Slane – most people must work away

Local economy too small to accommodate retail improvements

Limited possibility of implementing (ACAs) other than by development control

Note: it is intended that the list should be used as part of a process, which may be varied, extended or reduced according to time and priorities

Slane village in County Meath **Ireland** is a landlord designed settlement from the early 1800s in a riverside setting, with 1,000+ inhabitants. It is protected by an Architectural Conservation Area designation, with landscape protection for the whole Boyne Valley. Yet it is continually threatened by heavy goods traffic, which makes the village a dangerous and frightening place to live in - a bypass is vital to the well-being of the community; see also image, p32



## Opportunities – locally generated themes

To work with the County to ensure that traffic is reduced, made safer in the village  
 To provide adequate new parking for the village - Orderly and More Parking

To make a riverside parking and picnic area  
 To make the Boyne Canal navigable to Newgrange  
 To leave room for the natural environment - trees, grass, with corridors for nature  
 To exploit parkland quality of Boyne Valley and locality with a Country and heritage Park with Slane at geographical centre  
 To ensure that World Heritage Site LAP proposal will include in its geographic boundaries the village and local environment of Slane.

To rescue the Square/Diamond from its traffic  
 To create new and improved spaces and pavement with seating, landscaping  
 To promote development which will help the centre of the village and not reduce its natural and heritage assets  
 To identify gap sites, vacant buildings, infill opportunities, backlands sites  
 To explore and provide new connecting pedestrian routes for residential areas  
 Exploit easy walking routes from and through and around Slane

To make a real connection with Newgrange with a transport shuttle connection:  
 To initiate a Park and ride Shuttle Bus and guide to Newgrange from the village centre  
 To improve hotel and other services for tourism

To provide a state of the art, attractive Information Centre/Heritage Centre/Community Centre to draw new visitors to Slane

To offer overall heritage interpretation information (centre/plan/guide) to supplement local heritage museum plans

To facilitate the Mill Project as the major tourism initiative

To improve hotel and other services for tourism

To prioritise special needs/ older persons' housing

To market good local produce for Slane as a promotion for people outside Slane

To promote better what is already good about Slane

The Bigger Picture and the longer term view-

- Making the by-pass happen
- Allowing for growth outside the centre
- a new neighbourhood as a secondary village centre
- Infrastructural needs: water, sewerage, school expansion
- Re-building and reviving a local economy - self-sufficiency and employment
- Home-based work - network support
- Childcare and new educational needs
- Protect the Village as uniquely integrated Built and Landscape heritage
- Increase in population could bring better local economy, facilities and jobs



## Threats

Too many commuters may buy out houses, which locals would wish to afford, generating urgent needs for local affordable housing

Developers may damage the environment by building too many houses and in the wrong places, and making environmental changes, which may not be appropriate

Lack of local jobs may enforce more commuting

Traffic may not be reduced sufficiently by bypass

Landscape may be eroded and building may dominate

Village quality may be lost

Note: it is intended that the list should be used as part of a process, which may be varied, extended or reduced according to time and priorities





*Crowd gathered for traditional dancing display by schoolchildren in the Main Square of Randazzo in **Sicily** at the visit of Europa Nostra from the Taormina Congress, June 2009*



**Character Assessment of Our Place**

Describing Our Places  
**A: History > from early times until now**

Examining Our Places  
**B: Present day > analysis of potential**

The Vision for Our Places  
**C: Future Vision > Sustainable Settlement:**

**Integrated Vision for Our Places**  
**Europa Nostra**

**1 Landscape**

**TOOLS: Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) plans, maps, Local information. Make a timeline**

**TOOLS: SWOT Analysis, (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) Aerial maps**

**TOOLS: Good ideas, integrated Vision Plan for long-term sustainability**

**TOOLS:** Europa Nostra Banner signals that Your Place has joined a pan-European movement to celebrate the vitality of Our Places

**1.1 Surrounding landscape is the context of the town / village: its landscape character**

**1.1A: Landscape description**  
Routes in the landscape interface between landscape and built environment

**1.1B: Surroundings analysis**  
Growing /static /declining Protection of nearby green zones. Capacity for change

**1.1C: Protection, conservation, management of surrounding landscape.** Development of landscape envelope

**1.1EN:** Europa Nostra supports the European Landscape Convention, wishes to see the totality of the landscape, town and village recognised

**1.2 Landscape within the town / village, if it occurs**

**1.2A: Description of Locally distinctive landscape within town/ village:** Connections, routes, green corridors, edges, open space wedges:..

**1.2B: Existing local landscape character and boundaries**  
Open space, now and potential. Protection; for trees, gardens Potential paving enhancement.

**1.2C: Local character**  
Green 'wedged' and corridors Protection of open spaces; add new spaces. Renewal of ground treatment and street quality

**1.2EN:** Settlements are built in and on the landscape. Many small villages and towns retain their connections, helping to connect and create a green infrastructure for inhabitants and visitors.

**2 Built Quality of Small Towns and Villages**

**TOOLS:** Histories, maps, drawings heritage surveys, Protected structures, urban character appraisal

**TOOLS:** Analytical drawings - landmarks, paths, edges, barriers, nodes, connections, development or protection areas, mixed use areas

**TOOLS:** Sustainable principles, Energy conservation; use of sunlight, shadowing, green planting, water and shelter to optimise outdoor climate

**TOOLS:** Our Places website; handbook, support team and purpose designed seminars for participants.

**2.1 Built form and uses**

**2.1A: Original settlement form,** uses and 'thematic' quality. Public space in built fabric. Growth Stages

**2.1B: Evaluation of built form,** revitalisation, central sites for special buildings; addition of new familiar buildings in context

**2.1C: Key Codes** for sensitive development. Code/design guidelines to fit local need. Preferred locations for special buildings. Backland and Infill development

**2.1EN:** Built form and structure, the morphology of place: an integral part of the heritage, and vital to identity, encompassing the whole environment, visible and intangible.

**2.2 Open spaces and activities**

**2.2A: Identification of diversity of space. Traditional activities:** markets, performance, festivals, shops. Institutions. **Modern patterns:** shopping, sport, etc

**2.2B: Townscape enhancement. Movement :** Traffic calming, better access, connectivity for pedestrians, cyclists, good parking. Enrich the range of planned activities.

**2.2C: Phased plan for street enhancement:** Regular tidy up, strategy for local heritage buildings. Local traffic calming, pedestrian priority. Recycling and waste policy

**2.2EN:** Active towns and villages depend on the diversity of building use; but not less on the uses of open spaces and their capacity to attract people by their functional activities as well as physical qualities.

**3 Sustainability**

**3.1EN: Environmental/Cultural**

A good physical environment is vital to our well-being. In that environment we live, work, shop, enjoy recreation, meet, learn, enjoy art, perform and share our cultural values. These are Our Places: to celebrate, to cherish, to transform, to improve, to interpret, to invite and welcome visitors - a good place to live and visit in Europe.

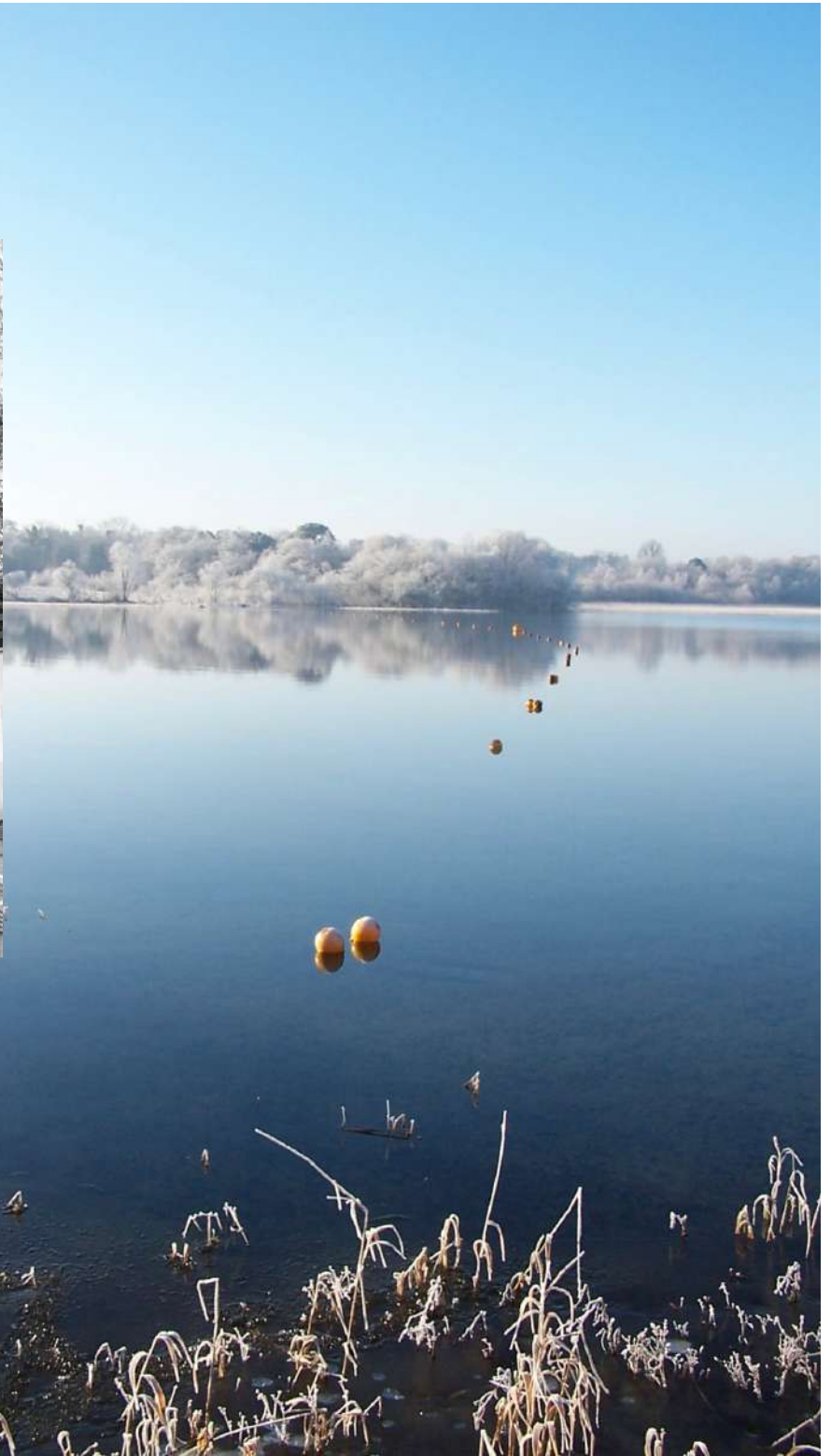
**3.2EN: Economic/Social**

A good place to live needs an economic base to improve and continuously modernise, to reflect changes in society. It needs locally-based governance to be sensitive to social needs, to manage the environment with long term goals, medium term objectives, and immediate short term responses to the daily upkeep of Our Places.



<http://www.europanostra.org/>  
**Our Places in Europe**  
Des lieux en Europe où il fait bon vivre  
Good Places to live in Europe





Winter landscape, above, in rural area between Collinstown and Fore villages in Westmeath, **Ireland**. This area, 'Children of Lir Country', recalls a myth from Central Europe where the children of Lir were transformed into swans in this Lake Derravaragh by their jealous mother Aoife. The villages, six in number, are wholly integrated into a landscape of the ice age and support a traditional rural economy. The swans are shown in a sculpture by Oisín Kelly in the National Garden of Remembrance in Dublin (**above, left**) and as a set of stained glass windows in Multyfarnham Monastery. The area has Christian churches from 6th and 7th century and a twelfth century priory at Fore established by the Benedictine Order from France. The combination of legend, early history of the Christian Celtic church, the Benedictine Priory, the Franciscan Friars from Assisi and the 17th century plantation of these areas with model villages is witness to an extraordinary diversity of influences and nationalities, a truly *European* context in a lost area of rural County Westmeath. This area has been included in the pilot projects of ENTopia at [entopiaproject.eu](http://entopiaproject.eu)