

VIRGINIA

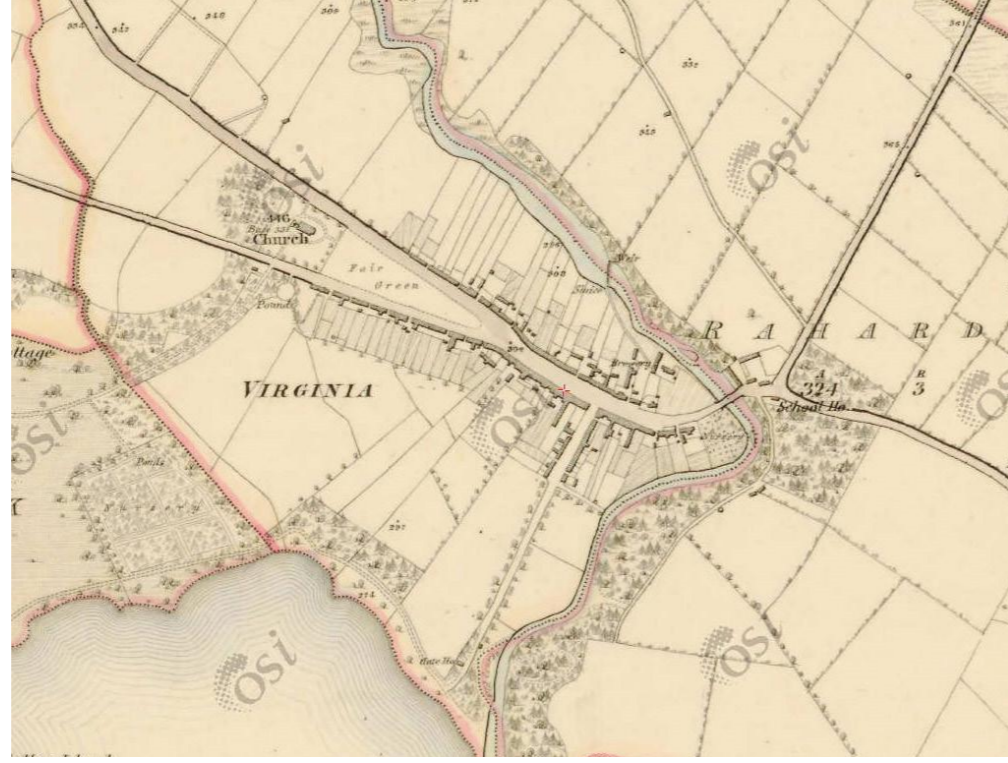
Revitalising Cavan's Towns and Villages



History

The town developed as the third town in the County during the 17th Century Plantation of Ulster. It was named Virginia after Queen Elizabeth I. The closure of the Virginia railway station in 1958 came about as the town's population fell to its lowest levels, around 300 persons.

The town developed a linear street-style along the main road. In more recent times residential development has spread away from the town centre.



Maps from 1800, 1900 and 2017



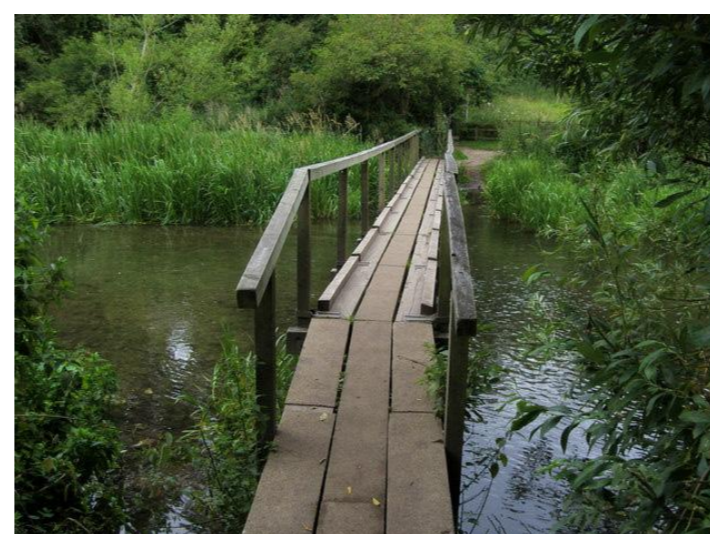
Precedents



Opportunity to create pedestrian friendly street



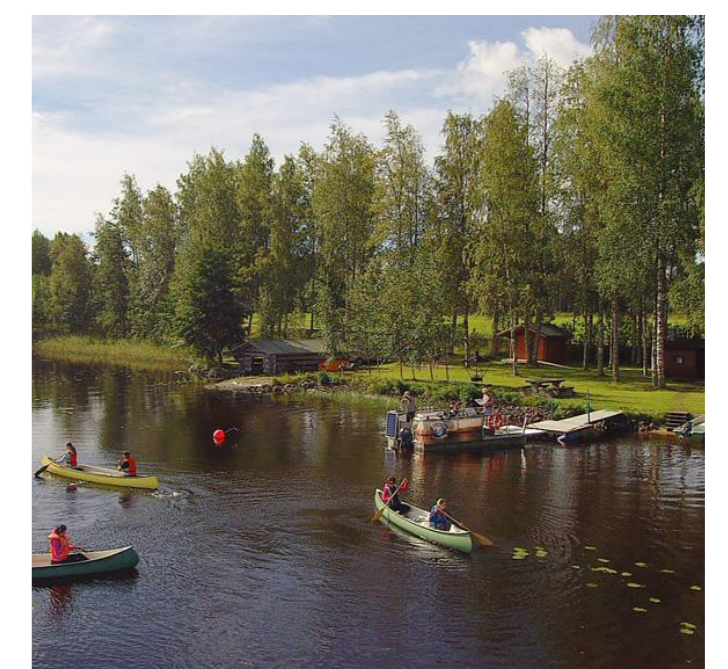
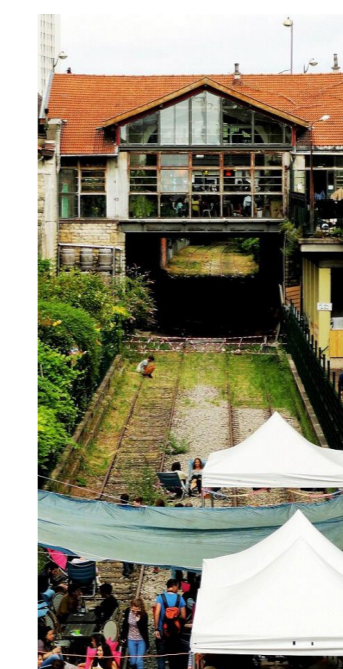
Opportunity to improve public realm with local materials and plant species



Introduce footbridges, improving connectivity



Opportunity to refurbish industrial heritage



Opportunity to create a leisure space along Lough Ramor

Constraints

W Weaknesses

- // High levels of through-traffic, especially on the main street during commuting hours
- 1 // Invasive on-street car parking
- // Number of unfinished buildings and unoccupied business units
- // Growth of the town constrained on the south by the lake and on the north by the proposed by-pass
- // High number of commuters to larger towns detrimental to the vitality of the town
- 3 // Littering on the main streets
- // Clutter in advertising hoardings on the approach roads

T Threats / Challenges

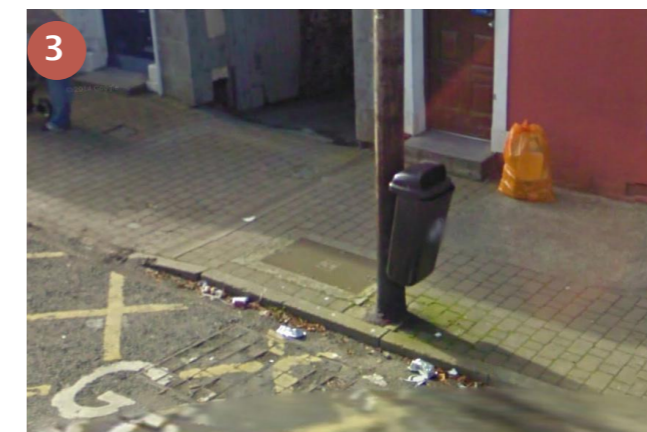
- // Proposed by-pass corridor could threaten the future vitality of the town
- // Uncontrolled residential spread could threaten the compact form of the town, be detrimental to walkability and threaten the surrounding natural environment
- // Waste Water Treatment Plant is currently over capacity and prevents further residential development



High level of traffic on Dublin Road and invasive on-street parking



Narrow pavements



Littering on the main streets



Heavy through-traffic

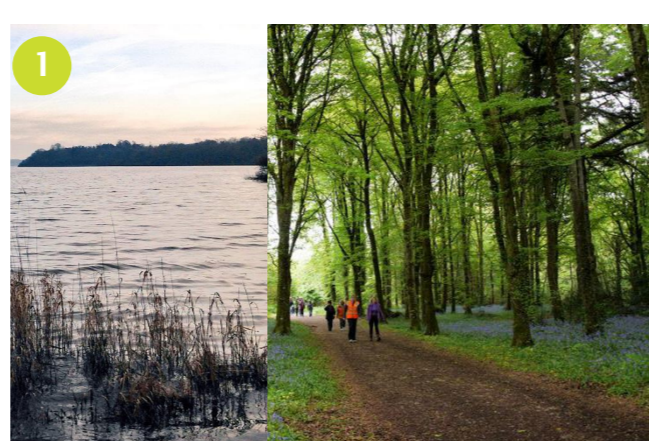
Opportunities

S Strengths

- 1 // Abundance of natural assets which attract visitors and provide key recreation amenities: Lough Ramor, Deerpark Forest, Blackwater River
- 2 // Several cultural assets attracting visitors to Virginia: festivals, fairs, Ramor Theatre, events
- // The linear layout and compact form of the town means that many parts of its core are in walking distance from each other
- // The traditional town centre support numerous retail and service units with a number of attractive traditional shop fronts and well maintained buildings
- // Virginia features a number of historic monuments and buildings - Church of Ireland, a ritual site in Deerpark, Rahardum and Ballaghanea ringforts. The Main Street is a designated Architectural Conservation Area.
- // Ongoing public realm improvements: junction on the Ballieborough Road, under-grounding of cables, car park
- // Well maintained landscape areas with native trees and shrubs and perennial bulb planting

O Opportunities

- // Redevelop section of the main street to create a pedestrian and cycle friendly environment
- // Improve town amenity and commercial atmosphere in the town centre: tree planting, paving, lighting, street furniture
- 4 // Refresh the existing archways to give new identity to the town and increase permeability, for example through the creation of walking and cycling routes
- // Strengthen local economy in relation with tourism and leisure and encourage people to work in the city
- 2 // Refresh Ramor Theatre
- // Create a bridge over River Blackwater linking the Main Street to Rahardum
- // Increase leisure development and biodiversity value in existing amenity areas



Lough Ramor and Deerpark Forest



Ramor Theatre



Opportunity to connect park with square as pedestrian environment



Opportunity to use the existing archways to increase permeability