

It is noted that Rahan has been designated as a Sráid in the proposed Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027. It is requested that Rahan's Village designation, as per the Offaly County Development 2014-2020, is retained in the upcoming 2021-2027 Development Plan.



## **RAHAN VILLAGE DESIGNATION**

It is noted that Rahan has been designated as a Sráid in the proposed Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027. It is requested that Rahan's Village designation, as per the Offaly County Development 2014-2020, is retained in the upcoming 2021-2027 Development Plan.

The area contains a Primary School, Housing Estate, Community Centre and GAA facility on its western boundary. There is a significant Monastic Site located to the South West of the village settlement. In addition, the Grand Canal Greenway is in close proximity to the south of the village settlement.

When the existing residential density of the area is reviewed in the primary settlement areas, Rahan has a density exceeding 15 dwellings per hectare which is in line with the *Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential in Urban Areas* for Villages.

Scoil Charthaigh Naofa was established in 1832 and amalgamated with the Killina Girls National School in 2007. This school caters for 190 pupils from Rahan and the wider Rahan Parish. There is a 497 Pupil Secondary School located in Killina, 2km from Rahan. The primary means of transport to these schools are via car and bus transport where vehicles arrive to the village centre, at the bridge crossing the Clodiagh River, and turn right to the primary school and left to the secondary school meaning that at peak times local roads L2007 & L2011 have high traffic volumes. Rahan also acts as a cross country accessway from Moate and Athlone to Kilcormac and Birr and the Mountain Bike Trails at Kinnity / Slieve Bloom Mountains. From east to west people pass through Rahan when travelling from Tullamore to Cloghan and Banagher on the Shannon. This is indicative of the high level of day to day activity in the area.

Rahan Monastic Site has been highlighted as a Monastic Site of note in the current and previous County Development Plans and is already highlighted as a point of interest (Item No. 9) on the Grand Canal Greenway Tourist Map. The site is also referenced for the proposed 'Shannon Monastic Greenway' cycling routes contained in Midlands Cycling Destination (Offaly) Feasibility Study as illustrated in Figure 6.14 of Volume 1 of this County Development Plan. Having a significant archaeological and heritage site in close proximity to the village settlement is another positive towards the retention of Village status.

The Community Centre and Gymnasium are at the core of this social and active community. This Centre caters for all sections of the community, it is the primary location for clubs and committees to meet and where St. Carthage's Boxing Club host their training. The community gym also hosts a myriad of classes while allowing members to train to their own schedule.

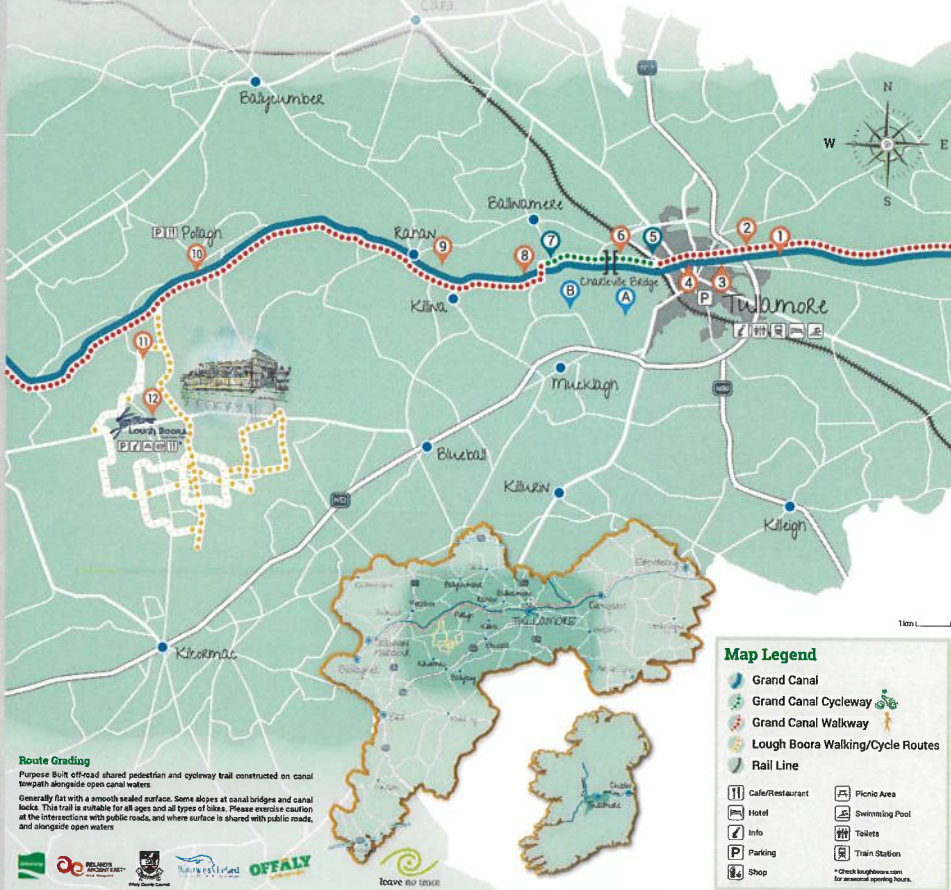
The Grand Canal Greenway is used extensively by local residents for recreational purposes and visitors who travel to Lough Boora Discovery Park from Tullamore and further afield by bicycle. Having Rahan designated as a village would likely strengthen any future proposals to enhance pedestrian and cyclist connectivity between the village and greenway and this should be considered in the context of the appraisal of Rahan alongside other designated villages.

It is vital that Rahan retains its village status to ensure that the rich cultural, recreational, educational and community facilities in the village are retained and enhanced for all residents of the village and wider community alike.



# GRAND CANAL GREENWAY

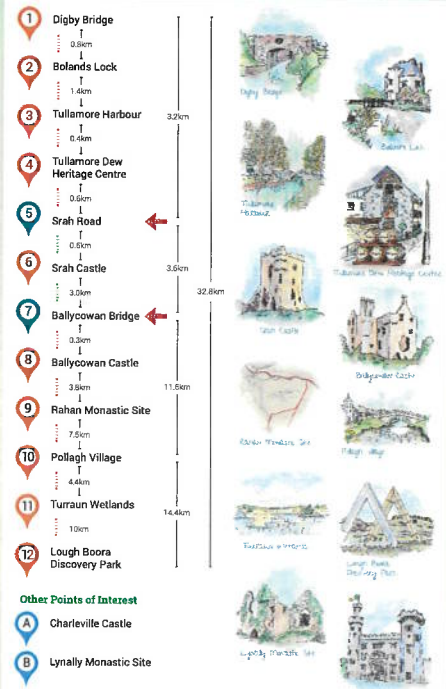
## DIGBY BRIDGE - LOUGH BOORA DISCOVERY PARK TULLAMORE - BALLYCOWAN CYCLEWAY



**Map Legend**

- Grand Canal
- Grand Canal Cycleway
- Grand Canal Walkway
- Lough Boora Walking/Cycle Routes
- Rail Line
- Cafe/Restaurant
- Hotel
- Info
- Parking
- Shop
- Picnic Area
- Swimming Pool
- Toilets
- Train Station

\*Check [loughboora.com](http://loughboora.com) for seasonal opening hours.



**Please:**

- Keep to your left, pass on the right, ring your bell!
- Cyclists yield to pedestrians.
- Cycle at an appropriate speed.
- Take all your litter home.
- Note deep water and take care, especially with children.
- Note and respect local access.
- Enjoy YOUR Grand Canal Greenway.

**The Grand Canal Greenway**  
The Grand Canal Greenway is an historic trail which traverses Leinster from Ringsend in Dublin City to the River Shannon at Shannon Harbour in County Offaly. The route is punctuated by canal locks, lock houses and industrial architecture from bygone days. The Greenway follows the pleasant canal towpaths, which was formally used by powerful draft horses pulling barges laden with goods and passengers.

**The Offaly Grand Canal Greenway** stretches from Edenderry in the east to Shannon Harbour in the west of the county. The Tullamore to Lough Boora Section of the Greenway links two landmark sites along Ireland's Ancient East - Tullamore DEW and Lough Boora Discovery Park. The 22km journey westwards offers historic sites and rural tranquility in abundance. The current stage from Srah Road in Tullamore to Ballycowan Bridge is 3.6km.

**Be prepared.** Although the route is primarily off-road, you still need to take special care at all road junctions and canal bridges. There are working farms along the route so take care of farm traffic. Beware of open deep waters of the canal. Ensure you have the fitness and time for the walk or cycle; check the weather forecast and be prepared for changing weather conditions.

**Be considerate of other people.** This is a mixed use route - while walking, beware of cyclists approaching. Cyclists should use a bell to alert walkers. Park appropriately and do not block entrances or other cars. Leave gates as you find them and do not damage property.

**Respect Farm Animals and Wildlife.** Keep a safe distance from farm animals. Leave habitats, plants and animals as you find them. Keep dogs on a short lead and remember to 'scoop-the-poop'.

**In the unlikely event of an emergency please dial 999 or 112 to contact emergency services.**



