

## A fun idea to help combat dead retail spaces



Idea and photo taken from Citylab article:

[https://www.citylab.com/solutions/2019/09/retail-vacancy-business-public-space-culturehouse-boston/597724/?utm\\_campaign=citylab&utm\\_term=2019-09-20T19%3A15%3A11&utm\\_content=edit-promo&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter](https://www.citylab.com/solutions/2019/09/retail-vacancy-business-public-space-culturehouse-boston/597724/?utm_campaign=citylab&utm_term=2019-09-20T19%3A15%3A11&utm_content=edit-promo&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter)

The idea is quite a simple one. Offaly County Council sets up a group to rent currently vacant retail spaces around the county. There are plenty of them in Edenderry for example, which has one of the highest rates of retail vacancy in the country. Turn them into public spaces. Have local charities, businesses or community groups host events. Something for children, or whatever, in these spaces. Stir some interest in the area. I believe it is worth at least a trial run around the county. Could really revitalise areas. If it does not work out at least the community gets something fun to do. I do not see any serious risks here and no reason not to try it out.