

Naul Community Council

Naul 'An Aill', September 2023



Health Check 2023



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe
Our Rural
Future



ARUP

FURTHER INFORMATION

Eimear Cheetham
Senior Planner - Planning
Eimear.Cheetham@arup.com | t: +44 (0) 28 9089 0914

Matt Tanswell
Planner - Urban Designer
Matt.Tanswell@arup.com | t: +44 (0) 28 9080 0091

ARUP

© Arup 2023 All rights reserved.
Job number: 295459-00
Issue: Final
Date: 12/09/23
Prep'd / Cheked / Appr'd: MT / EC / MG

Prepared by Arup on behalf of Naul Community Council

This report takes into account the particular instructions and requirements of our client. It is not intended for and should not be relied upon by any third party and no responsibility is undertaken to any third party.

In preparing this report we are relying on information contained in reports supplied by the client and third parties, as stated throughout the document. We have relied in particular on the accuracy and completeness of such reports and accept no liability for any error or omission in this statement to the extent the same results from error or omission in the other consultants' reports.

Please note, this report is intended to be viewed and printed as an A4 double-sided document with cover page.

All visualisations are ©Arup and for illustration purposes only.

Aerial Imagery and Map data: ©2021 Google
Ordnance Survey mapping information: © Crown copyright and database rights.

Contents

01	Introduction	7
	Overview	8
	Client	8
	What is a health check?	9
	Our approach	10
02	Naul	13
	Baseline review	14
03	Planning Policy	31
	Overview	32
	Policy summary	33
04	Methodology	37
	Overview	38
	Data collection	39
05	Findings	45
	Vehicle surveys	47
	Survey results	48
06	Key Opportunities	65
	Overview	66
	Emerging opportunities	68
	Next steps	78
A	Appendices	79
	Survey responses	80

SECTION 0

Executive Summary

Setting the Scene

Arup has been appointed by Naul Community Council to undertake a Health Check for Naul. Consultation with the local community, businesses and visitors have been conducted as part of the process. The analysis of the data obtained from both research and stakeholder consultation has provided the bases for the formulation of a series of potential opportunities for the area.

This report provides information on the thoughts, impressions, and perceptions of Naul from those that live there, business owners and visitors, as well as incorporating opportunities for Naul to evolve based on feedback from stakeholder consultation. The data will inform and support future community led initiatives and socio-economic planning and development of the village by Fingal County Council, key stakeholders and the local community, with a view to enhancing the prosperity and vitality of the town and improving the quality of life for the local community and those working in and visiting Naul.

Achieving a healthy balance in the economic, societal and cultural functions performed by Naul is crucial to the success of the village and the quality of life available to the local community. The appearance of the village, public transport and safer routes to school, the quality and range of services and amenities, and the general atmosphere on its streets have a direct impact on the overall performance of the village and the health and wellbeing of residents.

The objectives of this report are to:

- Provide a baseline of the existing socioeconomic and environmental conditions in Naul which can then be used for future comparisons;
- Highlight the results of the consultation that was undertaken during the course of the project, with key findings from the consultation;
- Outline a number of opportunities that can, if delivered upon, positively improve Naul and its surrounds;
- Support the preparation of a masterplan for Naul that will be commenced as part of the Fingal Development Plan.







01

LOOKING AT THE STUDY

Introduction

Introduction, summary of the process and approach undertaken



SECTION 1

Introduction

Understanding the health check

OVERVIEW

Following an expression of interest made in 2020 made by Naul Community Council and subsequent full application, which was successful in 2022, Fingal County Council have allocated funding for the undertaking of Health Checks by communities at Naul and Oldtown. The process includes data gathering and consultation with the local community to obtain thoughts, opinions, concerns and ideas from residents and visitors within Naul.

The anticipated outcome from the Health Check process will provide a baseline for the development of a masterplan by Fingal County Council, as set out in the Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029, to be used to help shape the future of Naul.

CLIENT

Fingal County Council was awarded funding by the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2021 (TVRS). The Town and Village Renewal Scheme is provided through the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) to promote rural and community development and to support vibrant, inclusive and sustainable communities throughout Ireland. As a result, Fingal County Council awarded funding for a Health Check to be carried out in Naul, to help the local community identify potential development needs for the area.

Arup were appointed by Naul Community Council to undertake the Health Check for Naul.

Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development



Themes considered for the development of the area



Accessibility & Transportation



Land Use



Public Realm & Open Space



Tourism & Heritage



Events & Festivals



Economic and Commercial
Opportunities



Facilities & Amenities

WHAT IS A HEALTH CHECK?

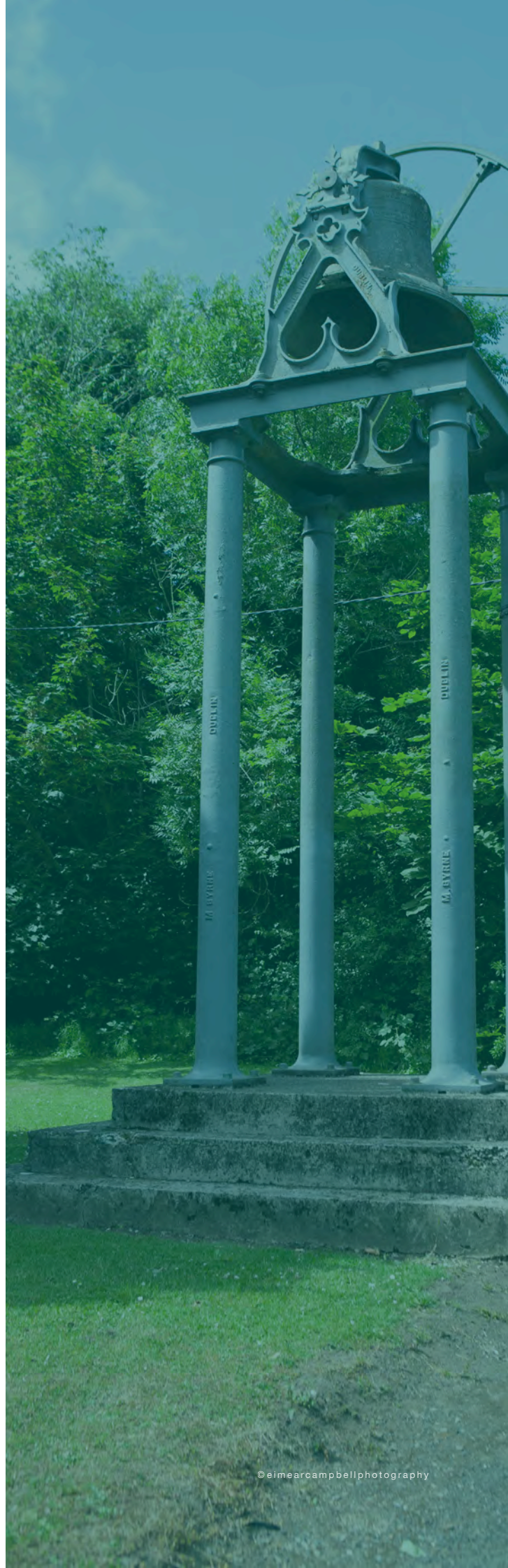
The objective of a Health Check is to raise awareness, understanding and appreciation of the critical role that historic town and village centres play and the wide-ranging impacts that their vitality and viability have on overall socio-economic, environmental, and cultural growth and development, and on quality of life for the local community and visitors alike.

A Health Check assists in providing a baseline, to help monitor and steer the future development of towns and villages and can include:

- Demographics and socioeconomics of an area.
- Land use surveys to establish the overall vacancy rates in an area.
- Vehicle and pedestrian counts to establish actual visitor numbers to an area.
- Local businesses and self-employed people's experiences within an area.

To establish the baseline, available data such as Census results can be scrutinised to understand the demographics and socioeconomics etc; physical surveys through site walkovers, vehicle counts or pedestrian movements; and consultation with businesses in an area through public events, surveys or questionnaires.

A Health Check is an opportunity to understand the 'here and now' of a location, and identify how the local community, businesses and visitors would like to see that particular area strengthened in the future, to make it a more attractive place to work, live and visit.



OUR APPROACH

An overview of the key stages taken for developing the Health Check is set out below.

Baseline Review: A baseline review was carried out initially to review the existing material and data already published in relation to Naul. Key members of our team visited the village at different times of day and on different days of the week. This provided a feel for the village and how it is used and understood by residents and visitors.

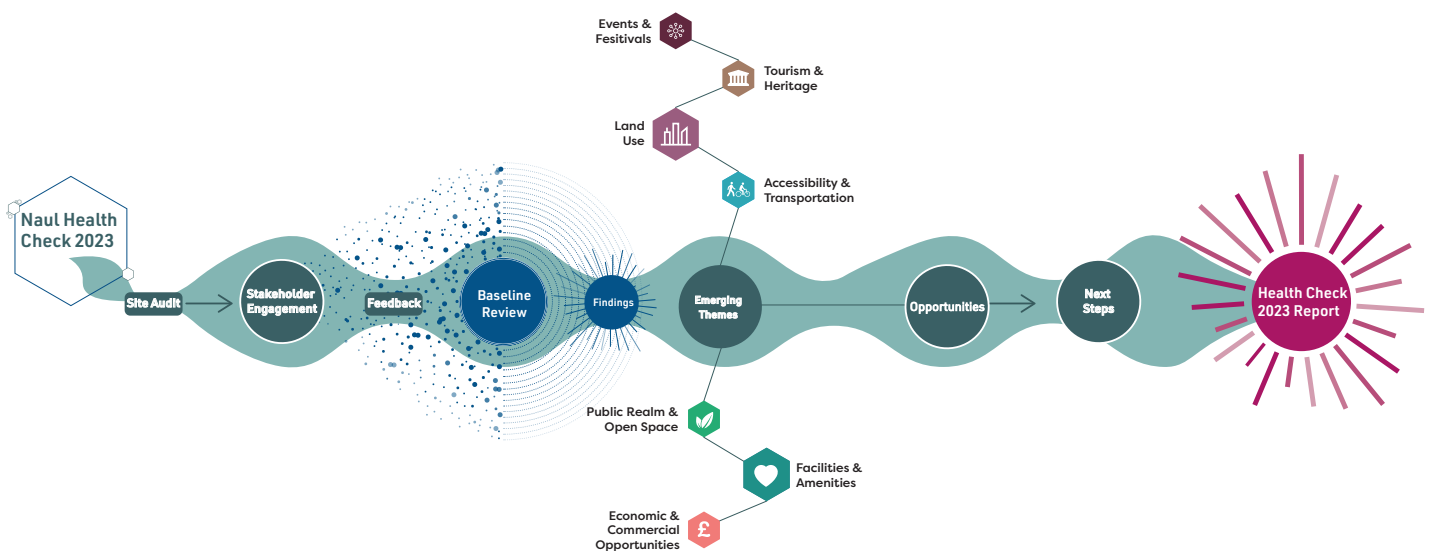
Engagement: Engagement with the community was essential for building the baseline and progressing the development of this Health Check. The information gathering stage of the stakeholder engagement consisted of gaining local knowledge, perceptions and experiences via an online survey and local discussions.

Findings: A Village Position Summary was formulated based on the findings from our on-site traffic counts and online survey involving residents, visitors, businesses and those self-employed.

Drivers for Change: Based on our understanding of the key challenges and obstacles faced by the community, we identified potential areas of change and explored the key drivers for change within Naul, leading to a series of emerging themes.

Opportunities: Reflecting on feedback gained from the engagement process and the emerging themes, we set out key considerations going forward, supported by spatial mapping of proposed opportunities.

Final Health Check: In the final stage, we prepared a final set of opportunities and the Health Check 2023 Plan.








LOOKING AT THE PRESENT

Naul 'An Aill'

Understanding the DNA of Naul, its spatial and non-spatial challenges



Séamus Ennis was given "pen, paper and pushbike" by the Irish Folklore Commission in 1942 and set off around Ireland, collecting nearly 2,000 songs and tunes.

SECTION 2

Naul ‘An Aill’

Naul in context

NAUL

Naul derives its name from An Aill, meaning the cliff as there is a substantial cliff on either side of the River Delvin located to the north of the village which marks the county boundary with County Meath. It is located 30km north of Dublin at the crossroads of the R108, the historic road between Dublin and Drogheda, and the R122 which links Finglas to Balbriggan and intersects the M1 motorway, now the main arterial route to Dublin.

The village follows a linear settlement formed along Main St which acts as the ‘spine’ and largely consists of two-storey properties, which are a mix of amenities, some with apartments above, and residential dwellings. At the northern end of Main St is an informal square where the centre of the village is concentrated, at the crossroads between the R122 and R108 with the area of ‘core activity’ concentrated around the Seamus Ennis Arts Centre and Killian’s Pub. The square is accessible by Chapel Lane which runs parallel to Main St and is a key local laneway that maintains essential access to the surrounding area. The Church of the Nativity of Our Lady is located on Chapel Lane. There are several pockets of housing along Main St, at Westown Ave, Castle Manor and Bun-A-Knock south of the village centre. Main St leads southwest towards Ballyboughal, connecting the surrounding countryside and hinterland with the village centre. The graveyard and the Delvin Banks housing development are located off the R122 at the northern end of the village. Naul National School is located at the southern end of the village. The wider locality extends across the Naul bridge crossing into County Meath.

‘An Aill’

The Cliff

30 km

North of Dublin

Strategically

Located at the crossroads of the R109 and the R122

Linear

Settlement formed along Main St which acts as the ‘village spine’

1 National School

located at the southern end of the village

A Cultural Hub

The Seamus Ennis Arts Centre



Site Photos: ©eimearcampbellphotography

SECTION 2

Naul ‘An Aill’

Demographics & Socio-economics

DEMOGRAPHICS & SOCIO-ECONOMICS

Census 2022 results show that Naul has a population of 684, an increase of 116 compared to Census 2016 results. The average age of the population is 36 with the largest percentage (68.4%) of the population aged between 15 – 64 years.

Unfortunately, there was no further data available from the Census 2022 results that relates specifically to Naul when the Health Check was carried out. However, Census 2016 results indicate that families without children (57%) were the largest group within Naul, followed by families with 2 children (26%) and families with 1 child (25%). 94% of residents were Irish nationals.

Most of the population (94%) live in houses/bungalows, with the highest number of private households (56%) constructed between 2001-2010. Of residential properties within Naul, 91% were occupied, with the remaining 9% vacant.

Educational attainment levels for Naul’s population over the age of 15 shows the highest level of education completed is upper secondary (17.7%), which is equivalent of the Leaving Certificate. 12% completed an honours degree and/or professional qualification while 9.5% completed a postgraduate level course.

In terms of employment, Census 2016 results indicate that 67% of the resident population were in work, with 36% employed in managerial and technical roles, followed by 22% employed in non-manual roles. 23% of the population were employed in commerce and trade, closely followed by 22% in professional services. Only 4% of the population were unemployed.

The Pobal HP Deprivation Index indicates that Naul is deemed to be affluent.

684

Population

36 yrs old

Is the average age of the population in Naul

94%

Of residents are Irish nationals

9% vacant

Residential properties

67%

of the resident population are in work

4%

are unemployed



SECTION 2

Naul ‘An Aill’

Commerce & Amenities

COMMERCE & AMENITIES

Employment in the village is very limited, mainly comprising small scale businesses with the majority of residents travelling outside of the village for employment. To the north of Naul Village, on the Meath side of the River Delvin, is a quarry and concrete manufacturer.

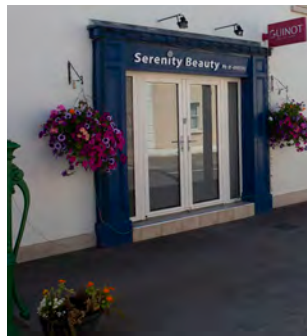
Services within the village are limited with a montessori, hairdresser, barbers, beauticians, butchers, hot food takeaway, convenience store, farm equipment supplier, mechanics, and Killian’s Pub.

The village is home to the Séamus Ennis Arts Centre a performance arts venue, offering opportunities to immerse in a diverse range of cultural experiences including, live music performances, cinema, comedy, and cultural events whilst also offering a range of workshops and thriving music school.

The local Gaelic Athletic Associate club is Clann Mhuíre which fields teams from Under-8 to Under-18 for boys and girls, as well as adult teams (men and women). The facility includes two large football pitches, fully flood lit, a large parking area, pitch walking track, a 1,000 sqm clubhouse, with large multi-use indoor sports hall, creche, toilets, changing facilities, gym, offices, canteen and ‘Cafe 57’. The facilities are also used by local groups, such as badminton and dance classes. The grounds are linked to the village via a walkway and traffic lit pedestrian crossing. The GAA club, established in 1957, has over 400 members. In 2002, the GAA Club relocated from its former grounds on Chapel Lane to its present location, enabling the growth of the club including development of the present state-of-the-art facilities. The club is renowned for supporting many successful sports people, including members of the Dublin Men’s team and members of the All Ireland winning Dublin Women’s team.



Séamus Ennis Arts Centre



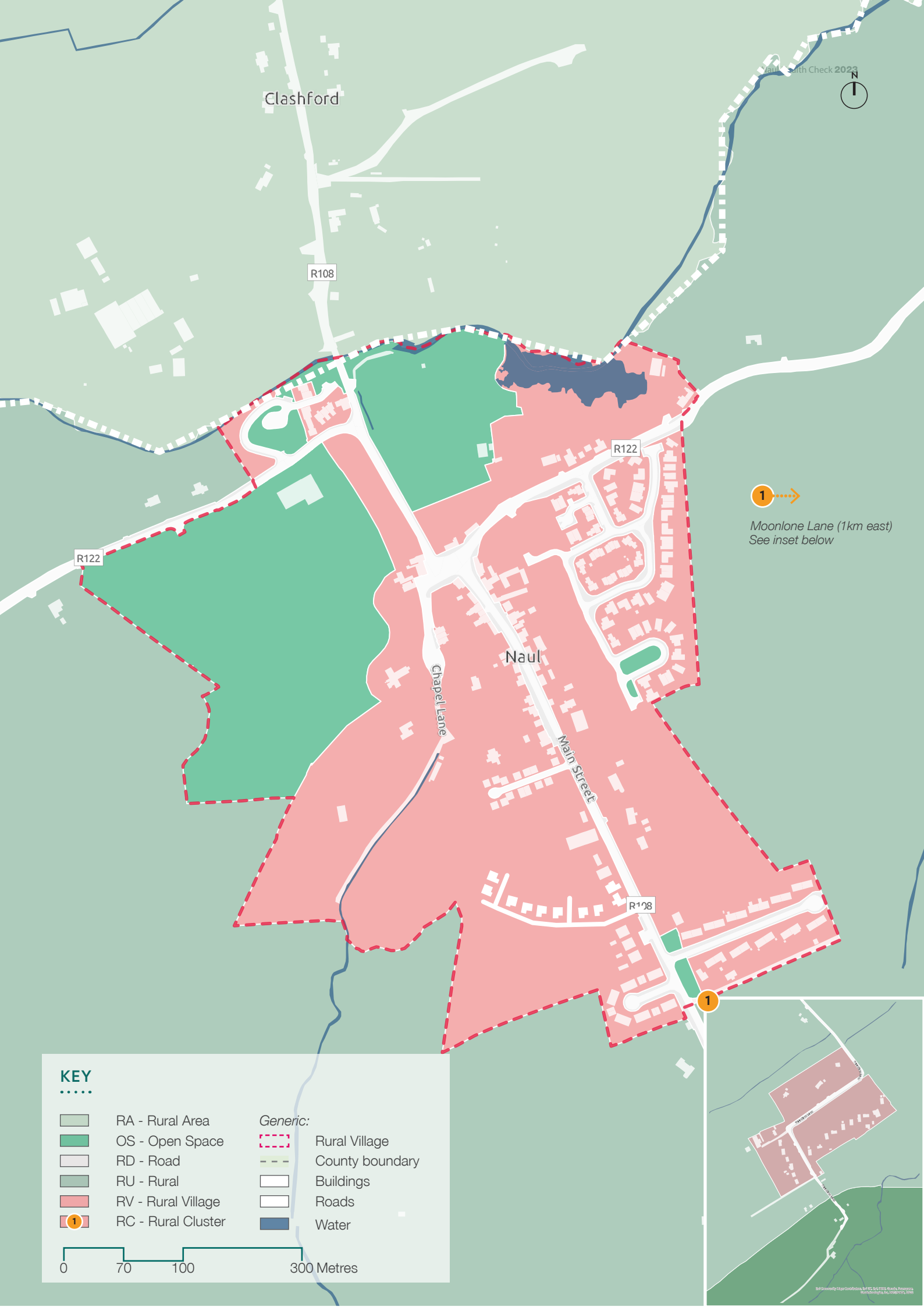
Beauty Salon



Barbers



Clann Mhuíre GAA



SECTION 2

Naul ‘An Aill’

Connectivity, Transport & Parking

CONNECTIVITY, TRANSPORT & PARKING

The journey from Naul to Dublin City is approximately a 34-minute drive or a 1.5–2-hour cycle. There is one bus route, Local Link 195, that passes through the village connecting Ashbourne to Balbriggan. There are no direct public transport connections from Naul to Dublin City. Commuters can travel to Balbriggan from Naul via the Local Link 195 service, where connecting bus and rail services can be accessed. Travel times can vary from 50 minutes to 1.5 hours

There are no dedicated public parking facilities within the village, and it largely consists of on-street parking throughout the length of Main St (R108). Private parking serves the Old Mill, Delvin Banks, Cruises Hill and Castle Manor developments along with a carpark which serves the GAA Club grounds. In some parts where the footpath is wider and the buildings set back from the road, cars park up on the kerbside. There is parking alongside Killian’s Pub and opposite the Séamus Ennis Arts Centre, but there are no formal demarcations. Naul National School has two designated car parks, one within the school grounds behind gates and a second accessed directly from Main St.

34 min drive
from Dublin City

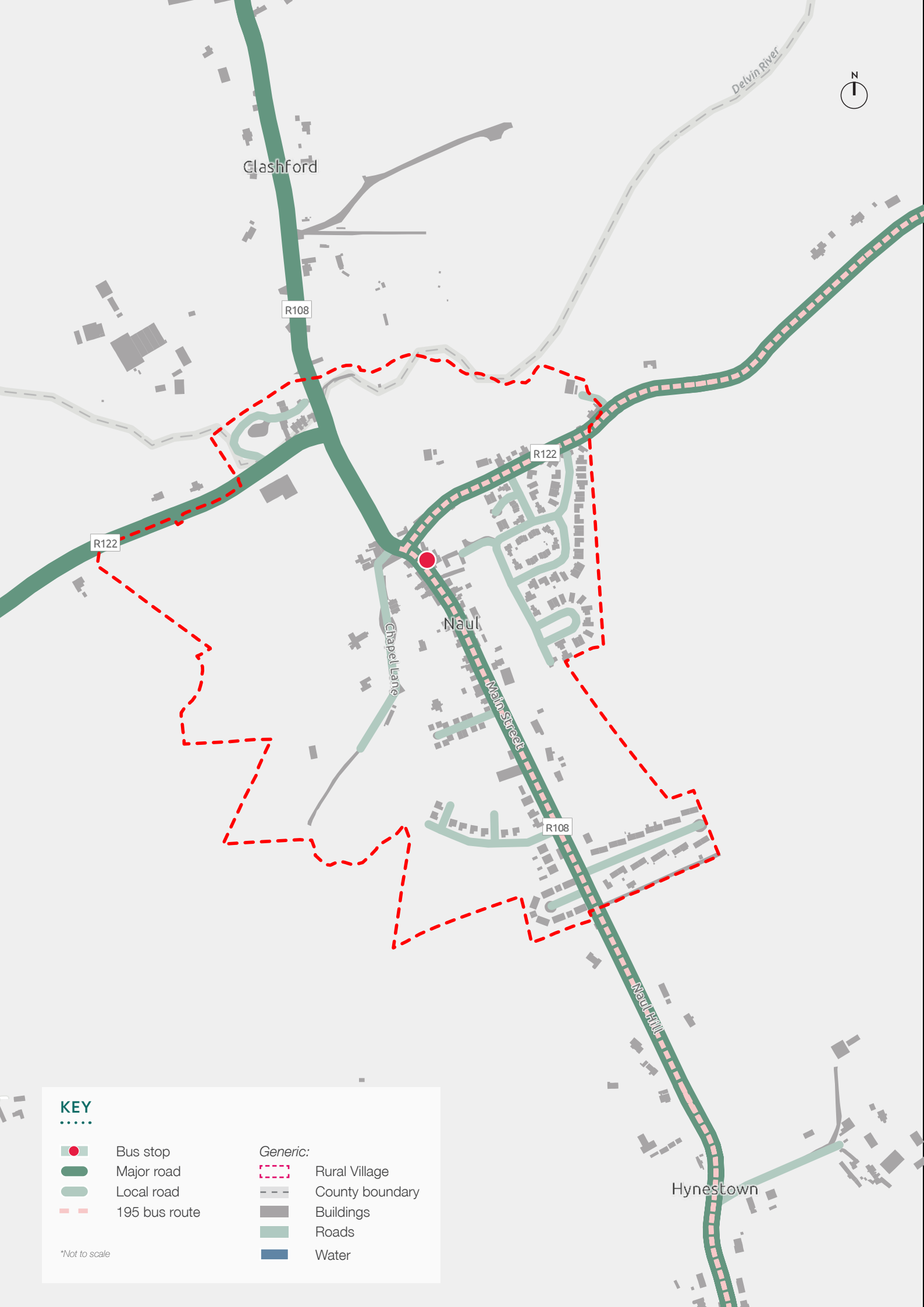
1.5-2 hour cycle
from Dublin City

One
Bus route through the village

Zero
Dedicated public parking facilities





Zero
Direct public transport connections to Dublin City

1 hour journey
Via public transport to Dublin




KEY

.....

-  Bus stop
-  Major road
-  Local road
-  195 bus route

Generic:

-  Rural Village
-  County boundary
-  Buildings
-  Roads
-  Water

**Not to scale*

SECTION 2

Naul ‘An Aill’

Heritage & History

HERITAGE & HISTORY

Naul is situated within a prehistoric landscape with the Neolithic ridge of Fourknocks passage tombs approx. 1.5km to the north-west and the Bronze/Iron Age Knockbrack hillfort and tumuli approx. 2km to the south-east. The area was apparently the location of a number of battles between the Irish and the Norse in the eleventh century. In the late 12th century, the Anglo-Norman manor was established at Naul with castles, church and mill at its core. Throughout the years the village was self-sustaining with its own forges, saddlers, bakery and barracks and remains a thriving rural community today.

The village has been designated as an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA). The area around the square contains a range of nineteenth and twentieth century buildings, including the re-thatched Seamus Ennis Arts Centre.

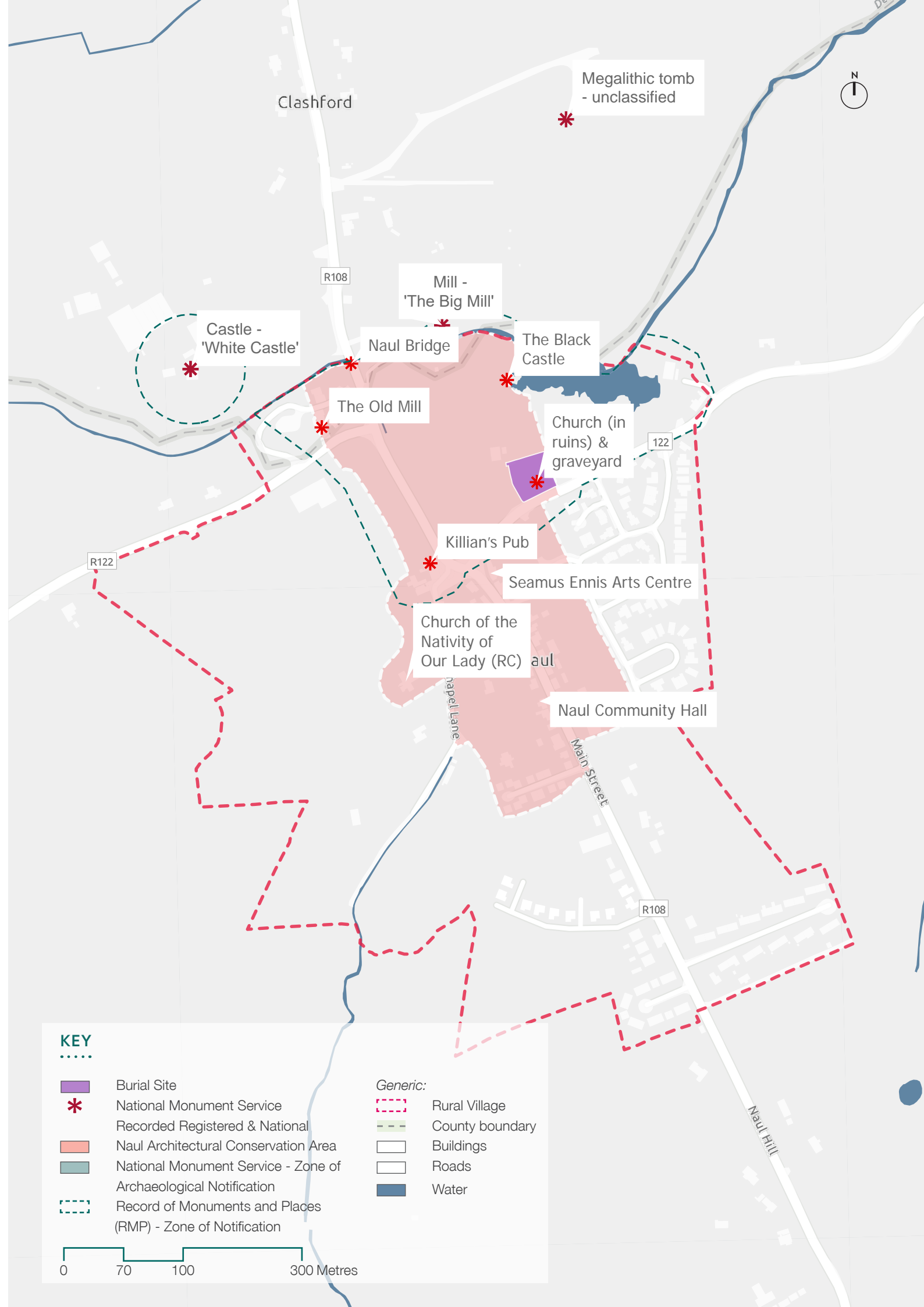
The cottage at the Seamus Ennis Arts Centre has been at the centre of life in Naul for the best part of a century. Around 1900 the cottage, the then home of the Colgan family, became the new village post office. The Naul Fife & Drum Band used the house as a band practice room in the early part of the twentieth century and in 2001 the Seamus Ennis Arts Centre and Café opened, it was named in honour of Seamus Ennis, the renowned uilleann piper, folklore and music collector who lived nearby.

Within the Church of the Nativity of Our Lady there are two stain-glass windows designed by Harry Clarke, deemed to be one of Ireland’s greatest stained-glass artists and is known internationally for his windows and illustrations. Both windows were commissioned in February 1926 at a cost of £115 each and depict the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Conception of Mary.






Naul was an important village on the main road from Dublin to Drogheda and the mail coach stopped at the now Killian’s Pub to change horses before going on to Drogheda. An iron loop remains fixed to the end gable of the pub from when horses were hitched here in more recent times. It is recorded that Daniel O’Connell, the Great Liberator, dined here during his Repeal Campaign. Many characters have frequented this establishment for a quiet pint, over the years, from Brendan Behan to actor Brendan Gleeson.






The original Naul Church, formerly located in the graveyard, was purportedly built on the site of an even older church and formed part of the grant of lands by Archbishop John Comyn to the Priory of Llanthony in Wales. The parish church was burnt down in the mid-sixteenth century and was recorded as being ruinous with only the walls standing in the Civil Survey. The extant building was constructed as a chantry chapel in 1710 to house the remains of the Hussey family and features a wall plaque dedicated to them. Elements of the earlier church including an ogee-headed window have been reused and a nineteenth century cross is contained within the building.

To the north of Naul Graveyard stands the ruins of the Black Castle which has been engulfed by ivy. The ‘Black Castle’ is also known as ‘Castle of the Roches’, ‘Cruise’s Castle’ or ‘Naul Castle’ and is said to have been a strong castle, built by the Norman De Geneville family towards the close of the 12th century. It was protected on its north and east sides by a sheer cliff and on the west by walls, with a spacious bawn to shelter its cattle herd. Around the year 1200 the castle passed, through marriage, to Stephen De Cruces of the Cruise family, who were amongst the first Norman settlers in Ireland. By 1630 the Black Castle was recorded as ruinous and in 1818 it was replaced by a Protestant church which stood in the graveyard until it became redundant and was demolished in 1949. In 1966 a large portion of the castle containing the southern spiral stairwell collapsed.



KEY

-  Burial Site
-  National Monument Service
-  Recorded Registered & National
-  Naul Architectural Conservation Area
-  National Monument Service - Zone of Archaeological Notification
-  Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) - Zone of Notification

- Generic:*
-  Rural Village
 -  County boundary
 -  Buildings
 -  Roads
 -  Water



SECTION 2

Naul ‘An Aill’

Natural Environment

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The surrounding landscape is defined by the valley of the Delvin River, separating two sets of hills – the Four Knocks Hills to the northwest, and the Naul Hills to the southeast. The village of Naul sits at the foothills of the low-lying Naul Hills nestled on the southern banks of the River.

The Delvin River flows northeast and enters the Irish Sea at Knocknagin – forming much of the Dublin-Meath County boundary. North of the Naul Graveyard, the Delvin River enters a gorge known as ‘the Roche’ where the cliffs rise to roughly 20m. Regarded as a ‘local gem’ the Roche is enthralled with various Folklore tales and cultural significance. The Delvin River water quality status ranges from ‘moderate’ to ‘poor’, as it flows through north Fingal, and is ‘at risk of not achieving good status’.

The wider area is characterised by rolling hills and pastoral land parcels divided by hedgerows. The hedgerows are a dominate feature that create a patchwork across the landscape providing valuable ecological connections and areas of refuge for local fauna species. Scattered tree groupings of mature woodland occur throughout the open landscape with clusters of mature broadleaf woodland fringing the river.

2 sets of hills

Four Knocks Hills & Naul Hills

1 primary river

The Delvin River which rises west of Garristown and flows 32km in length to the Irish Sea at Knocknagin

Poor-moderate

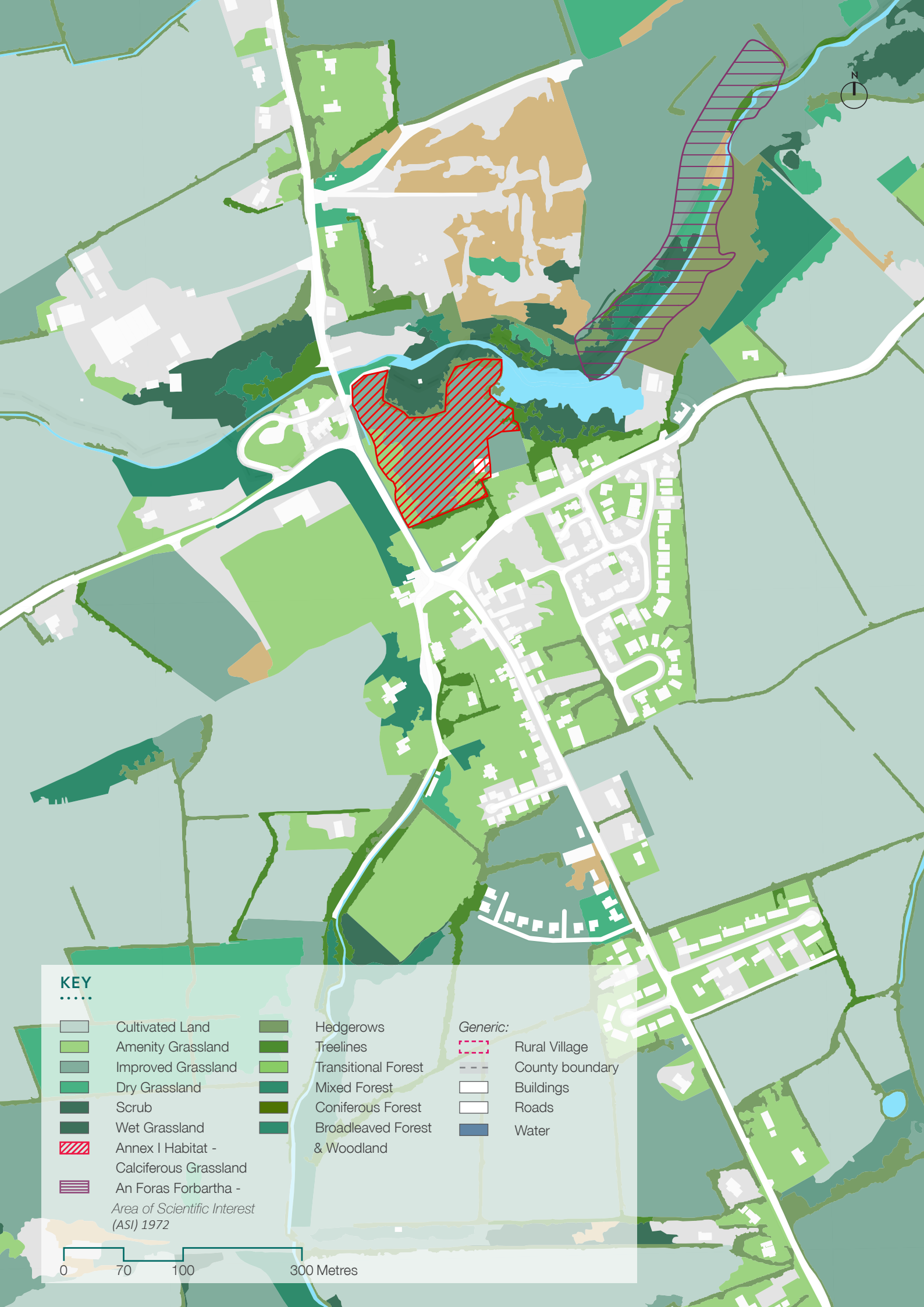
Quality water status in the Delvin River

River at risk

Regarding its condition and amenity value

20 m

Cliffs at the gorge know as ‘the Roche’







KEY

.....

-  Cultivated Land
-  Amenity Grassland
-  Improved Grassland
-  Dry Grassland
-  Scrub
-  Wet Grassland
-  Annex I Habitat -
Calciferous Grassland
-  An Foras Forbartha -
Area of Scientific Interest
(ASI) 1972

-  Hedgerows
-  Treelines
-  Transitional Forest
-  Mixed Forest
-  Coniferous Forest
-  Broadleaved Forest
& Woodland

Generic:

-  Rural Village
-  County boundary
-  Buildings
-  Roads
-  Water

0 70 100 300 Metres

SECTION 2

Naul ‘An Aill’

Recreation & Open Space

RECREATION & OPEN SPACE

Existing, designated public open space is limited within Naul Village and comprises Naul Graveyard, the Clann Mhuire GFC pitches and greens within the Delvin Banks and Bun-na-Cnoic residential estates.

Two areas within the village are proposed to be zoned for ‘Open Space’ with the aim to “preserve and provide for open space and recreational amenities”. The first is located on the southern banks of the Delvin River, north of the Graveyard and the second is a larger space that includes the GAA pitches and extends southwest of the Church. Fingal County Council have previously proposed developing a Recreational Hub on lands adjoining the existing Clann Mhuire GAA grounds, providing active recreational facilities for the wider area.

In 2021, Part 8 permission was granted for the Naul Village Park, including the provision of a village green along with a high-quality playground and fitness area featuring state-of-the-art equipment. Other elements of the project are a reflection garden and parking area with electric car charging. The proposal seeks to become an integral feature of the village contributing to the unique character and providing a space for community events and general amenity.

Naul is also seen as a popular recreational cycling destination/route used by many cycling groups in the Dublin/leinster region. Annual events include the Naul Charity Cycle, which is an 80km loop.

Limited

Green space

2 open spaces

Zoned to provide open space & recreational amenities

Recreational Hub

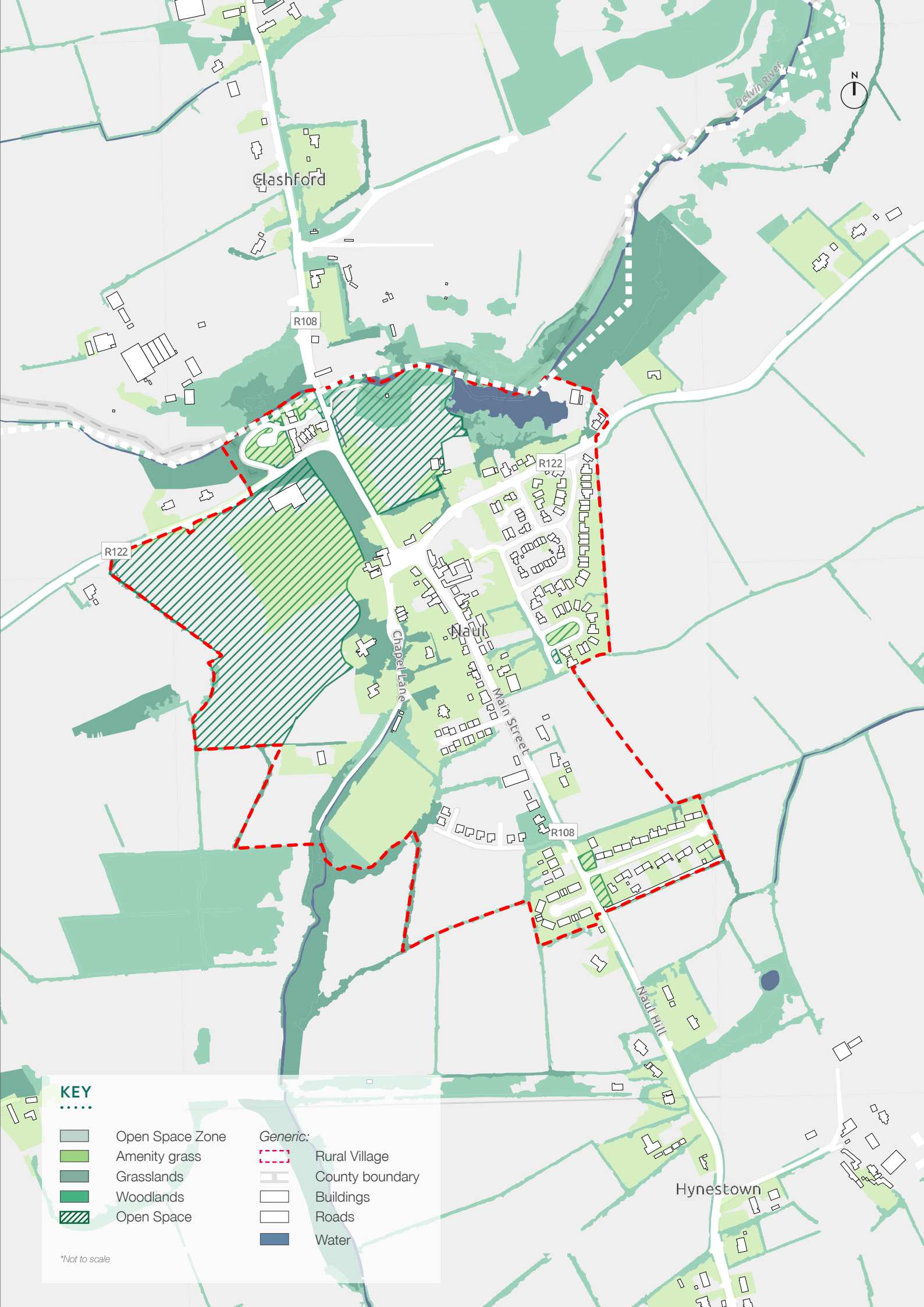
Formerly envisaged on lands adjoining the GAA grounds

Naul Village Park

Proposed high quality playground and community amenity

80 km

Naul Charity Cycle loop



KEY

.....

- Open Space Zone
- Amenity grass
- Grasslands
- Woodlands
- Open Space

Generic:

- Rural Village
- County boundary
- Buildings
- Roads
- Water

**Not to scale*

SECTION 2

Naul ‘An Aill’

Landscape Character

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Landscape character aims to describe, map, and classify landscape objectively, focussing on the inherent importance of individual landscape elements to determine both the value and sensitivity of the various Landscape Character Types (LCT). It includes all aspects of a tract of land – built, planted and natural topographical and ecological features.

The area is characterised into three Landscape Character Types across the two County Council areas. The Meath County extents include the ‘Hills and Upland’ Area (Bellewstown Hills) and, ‘Coastal Landscape’ (Coastal Plains) Landscape Character Types.

‘Bellewstown Hills’ consists of a “large remote area of intensively managed, steeply rolling hills with well wooded hedgerows”. Built development consists of scattered detached dwellings in the countryside and ribbon development along rural roads.

‘Coastal Landscape’ is described as a “large area of east coast lowland divided by the River Nanny estuary referred to as ‘the Gold Coast’”. Vegetation consists of scrubby rolling lowland near the coast interspersed with stands of pine.

The Fingal Development Plan characterises the immediate area and the surrounding environs as ‘Rolling Hills’ with defining characteristics such as undulating countryside, the presence of larger properties, tree belts and river corridors that create a rich landscape set within predominately agricultural land. The study area also includes designated ‘Nature Development Areas’ defined as locations “where nature conservation can be combined with existing activities”. These areas will act as as stepping-stones along ecological corridors connecting the Naul Hills with the Delvin River.

3

Landscape Character Types

Bellewstown Hills

Steeply rolling hills with well wooded hedgerows

Coastal Landscape

Vegetation of scrubby rolling coastal lowland with stands of pine

Rolling Hills

Undulating countryside with tree belts and river corridors set within agricultural land

Nature Development Areas

Locations where nature conservation can be combined with existing activities



Clashford

R108

Clashford

R122

R122

Naul

Chapel Lane

Main Street

R108

Naul Hill

KEY

.....

FCC

- Naul woodland - connection to (NH)
- Naul Hills (NH)
- Landscape Character
- Area - High Lying Agri

Meath CC

- Coastal Plains / Coastal Landscape
- Hills and Upland Area / Bellewstown Area

Generic:

- Rural Village
- County boundary
- Buildings
- Roads
- Water

0 70 100 300 Metres



400
REDHEDA 15
DULERA 17

TRANG

GUIDE TO THE FUTURE

Planning Policy

A review of relevant and emerging policies and plans to guide the future direction of travel

SECTION 3

Planning Policy

Framework for the Future



OVERVIEW

This section provides an overview of the relevant policies and plans that influence, either directly or indirectly, the actions and recommendations that are found later in the report. It briefly introduces the core statutory policies that will guide the future development of Naul.

At a national level the National Planning Framework (NPF) is Ireland’s main strategic planning document that aims to steer the direction of the country’s future growth and development. The NPF informs all other planning and economic development documents that are prepared at regional and county levels.

At a regional level, Ireland has three Assemblies that form the layer of government which sits between national and

local. These Assemblies have produced Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSES) for their respective regions, which translate the guidance and aims of the NPF to a regional level. The Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA) cover the wider Dublin region, including Naul.

At a local level, the Fingal Development Plan is the main public statement of planning policies for your local community. It sets out the land use, amenity and development objectives and policies of the planning authority, for a six year period. The plan consists of a written statement of objectives and includes maps that give a graphic representation of how your area will develop and improve in a sustainable way in the six-year period.



NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The National Planning Framework (NPF) is the Government led strategy to help shape better growth and develop of Ireland up to 2040. The NPF is a high-level strategic planning and development framework for the country and will ensure that local county and authority development plans are aligned with the national agenda. The NPF addresses compact growth, regional accessibility, strengthening rural economies and communities, sustainable mobility, a strong economy, management of environment resources, climate action and access to education and health services. The NPF does not detail specifics in terms of Naul, however the NPF will influence the Fingal County Council development plan.



NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The National Development Plan (NDP) 2021-2030 is part of Project Ireland 2040 and sets out the Government's investment strategy and budget for the ten-year period to implement the NPF. There is major demand for public investment, with a focus on delivering infrastructure projects, as well as support for stimulating the economy and supporting a green recovery in a post-pandemic Ireland. The NDP is similar to the NPF, it is high-level and serves to provide guidance to County and City Councils to ensure national alignment with funding streams and programmes are aligned with local plans.



OUR RURAL FUTURE: RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Our Rural Future provides a framework for the development of rural Ireland over the next five years. The Government's vision is for a rural Ireland that is thriving, which is an integral part of national economic, social, cultural, and environmental wellbeing and development. Vibrant and lived-in rural places are critical to the national fabric where there is potential to further lift up communities across the country, create quality jobs in rural areas, and sustain the environment. Almost half the population live in rural areas. The policy sets out a new place-based approach to rural development in Ireland where rural communities will be supported and encouraged to develop to long-term plans for their own area. Two thematic objectives with relevance for Naul are that the policy supports the regeneration and development of rural towns and villages and investment into them, as hubs of economic and social activity.



MEATH COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Meath possesses a diverse range of landscapes, including coastline, drumlin hills, rich pastures, tracts of peatland and raised bog in the southwest and the central upland area that includes Tara - the ancient capital of Ireland. Within the Meath County Development Plan (2021-2027), Naul is designated as a Rural Area which aims to 'protect and promote in a balanced way, the development of agriculture, forestry and rural-related enterprise, biodiversity, the rural landscape, and the built and cultural heritage'. The primary objective is to protect and promote the value and future sustainability of rural areas. Agriculture, forestry, tourism and rural related resource enterprises will be employed for the benefit



REGIONAL SPATIAL & ECONOMIC STRATEGY

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) serves to support the implementation of Project Ireland 2040 by linking planning and investment through the NPF and the NDP and providing a long-term economic and planning framework for the Eastern and Midland Region. Three key principles support the vision, namely healthy placemaking, climate action and economic opportunity.

The RSES informs that within the Region, Fingal County was the second highest in terms of population growth over a ten-year period up to 2016. The RSES notes that demographic changes will be a challenge faced in the next decade, whereby planning for both young families and older people's needs can ensure the viability and health of communities. Consideration for balanced growth is important, where urban centres can generate pressures on rural areas. By planning for communities that are able to support different demographics can generate positive outcomes on the overall health of settlements.



FINGAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Fingal County has a wide range of settlement types within the boundary, ranging from small towns and larger rural villages, in terms of scale, character, context and infrastructure. Within the Fingal Development Plan (2023-2029), Naul is designated as a Rural Village which aims to 'protect and promote the character of the Rural Village and promote the vibrant community in accordance with an approved land use plan and the availability of physical and community infrastructure'.

Within Naul, is Moonlone Lane which is defined as a Rural Cluster. There is potential for small scale infill development in this cluster, to serve local needs while maintaining the rural nature of the cluster.

In terms of employment and economy Naul is Level 5 Rural Village (Dublin City Centre being Level 1). The designation in the Fingal Retail Hierarchy refers to a range of lower-performing local centres and small groupings of local shops in urban areas and rural villages. These centres should meet the basic daily needs of the community, as a focus point which is close to other community facilities such as primary school, post office, or GAA club. A minimum would be one or two newsagents or small supermarkets and adjacent services to provide the community with necessities.

The Development Plan sets out the need to provide sufficient quantities of high quality, accessible public, open space that also supports the existing ecological network promoting both environmental and social vitality.

The Development Plan has listed Naul as an area that will have a masterplan prepared during the lifetime of, and in accordance with, the Development Plan. The masterplan for Naul (MPA2) will be prepared by the Council in collaboration with stakeholders to secure the implementation of the masterplan and achieve specific objectives and priorities, subject to resources, for the area.

Additionally, several components in the Development Plan that are relevant to Naul and have potential impacts for the community are:

- A new Community Hall is planned for Naul, in a central location to meet the needs of the village.
- As part of the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme, upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant in Naul are planned, which is necessary to manage capacity issues relative to projected population growth in the future.

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Adopted by all 193 United Nations Member States in September 2015, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets provide an interconnected blueprint for global development to 2030. The SDGs are high-level and compel long-term consideration to drive positive change. All countries and all stakeholders are required to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development within the key critical areas of importance: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership.

Please see overleaf for a description of the relevant SDGs.

17
Total SDGs

10
Relevant SDGs



THE NAUL LOCAL AREA PLAN

The Local Area Plan (LAP) was adopted May 2011 and valid for a period of six years. In year five of the LAP, the Council extended the life of the LAP by a further five years up to April 2021. The LAP is still referenced by the Council until which time a masterplan is adopted for Naul. The LAP sets out a framework for the development of the village with the emphasis on proper planning and sustainable development. It includes measures for the protection of the environment and the economic, social and cultural development of the village. The preparation of the Plan included consultation with the local community to obtain ideas on how they would like to see their village develop.



THE NAUL VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN AND DESIGN GUIDANCE

The Naul Village Development Framework Plan is an advisory plan with a long term vision for the future. It offers support to the Naul Local Area Plan, within the structure of the Fingal County Development Plan. The aim of the Development Framework Plan is to maintain and strengthen the physical character of Naul, to guide careful urban improvement and to plan for appropriate future growth. In setting out these guidelines, the following issues are dealt with:

- Distinctive character of the village.
- Current issues, particularly concerning incomplete housing schemes.
- The need for conservation, sustainable growth, consolidation, and the protection of the quality, character and distinctiveness of important assets.



RELEVANT HEALTH CHECK SDGS

The Naul Village Health Check incorporates elements that address the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:



Cultural diversity and the contribution of culture to the rich fabric of the Naul community has been a key theme during the Health Check.



The Health Check consultation took a balanced representation from members across the local community, businesses and visitors.



Water quality, supply and wastewater have been recurrent themes raised that have impacted the progression of Naul.



The Health Check highlights the needs for local economic growth and improved tourism opportunities.



The Health Check identifies the infrastructure deficits and the need for improvements within the area.



The Health Check has had input from across the community with all ages, abilities, gender, ethnicity, and faith included in the consultation process.



Naul has a distinct local heritage protecting, promoting and transmitting the unique heritage of Naul to all members of the local community. The Health Check highlights the community need for better connectivity.



The local culture and heritage that Naul benefits from was identified as an area to be nurtured and developed for the benefit of the local community, businesses and visitors alike.



The Health Check identified the need to implement safer walking and cycle routes to provide other modes of transport in and around the area, reducing the use of car travel.



Participatory practice and inclusion was the focus of the Health Check targeting all members of the community, local businesses, as well as visitors to the village, to empower users of the village to assess it and help develop a sustainable future community led plan for Naul. Informed by the community, for the community.

LOOKING AT OUR PROCESS

Methodology

An overview of the Health Check Methodology

SECTION 4

Methodology

A 15-Step Collaborative Process

OVERVIEW

The Naul Health Check was undertaken between June and August 2023.

Following the recommended 15-Step Collaborative Town Centre Health Check Process, which sets out the types of themes to be considered as part of the health check, the various steps were separated into three sections – Data, Place and People. Data considers the demographics and rental/ownership, as well as development plans, and framework documents relative to Naul. Place looks at land use and vacancy, environmental quality, and vehicle, car parking and pedestrian surveys. People focuses on the experiences and opinions of residents and visitors in terms of business/commerce, consumerism and accessibility.

Ireland's Collaborative Town Centre Health Check (CTCHC) Programme
How We Work?



© A. Harvey, Heritage Council, 2020

Ireland's Collaborative Town Centre Health Check (CTCHC) Programme

The 15-Step CTCHC Process

The Collaborative Town Centre Health Check (CTCHC) Programme engages and facilitates the private, public and civic sectors in Irish Towns in order to create 'data-driven baselines' and innovative 'Town Renewal Action Plans' that support our unique, historic town centres.



© A. Harvey, Heritage Council, 2020

DATA COLLECTION

This section details the data that was collected, and the methods used for gathering the data.

To help better understand Naul - local auditing, background research and analysis of Census 2016 figures were key in establishing a baseline for the area. Establishing baseline figures, alongside land use analysis, helped to assist in measuring the diversity and value of Naul which will hopefully encourage strategic decision making within the proposed masterplan for the area and help to focus on, and aid, future funding bids.

A statistical profile of Naul village was developed by collating and mapping the latest data from:

- CSO Census
- Pobal Deprivation Index
- National Land Cover
- National Planning Policy, County Development Plans

ON SITE SURVEYS

On-site surveys were carried out on Saturday 24th June and Tuesday 27th June between the hours of:

- 08.30 – 09.30
- 12.30 – 13.30
- 16.30 – 17.30

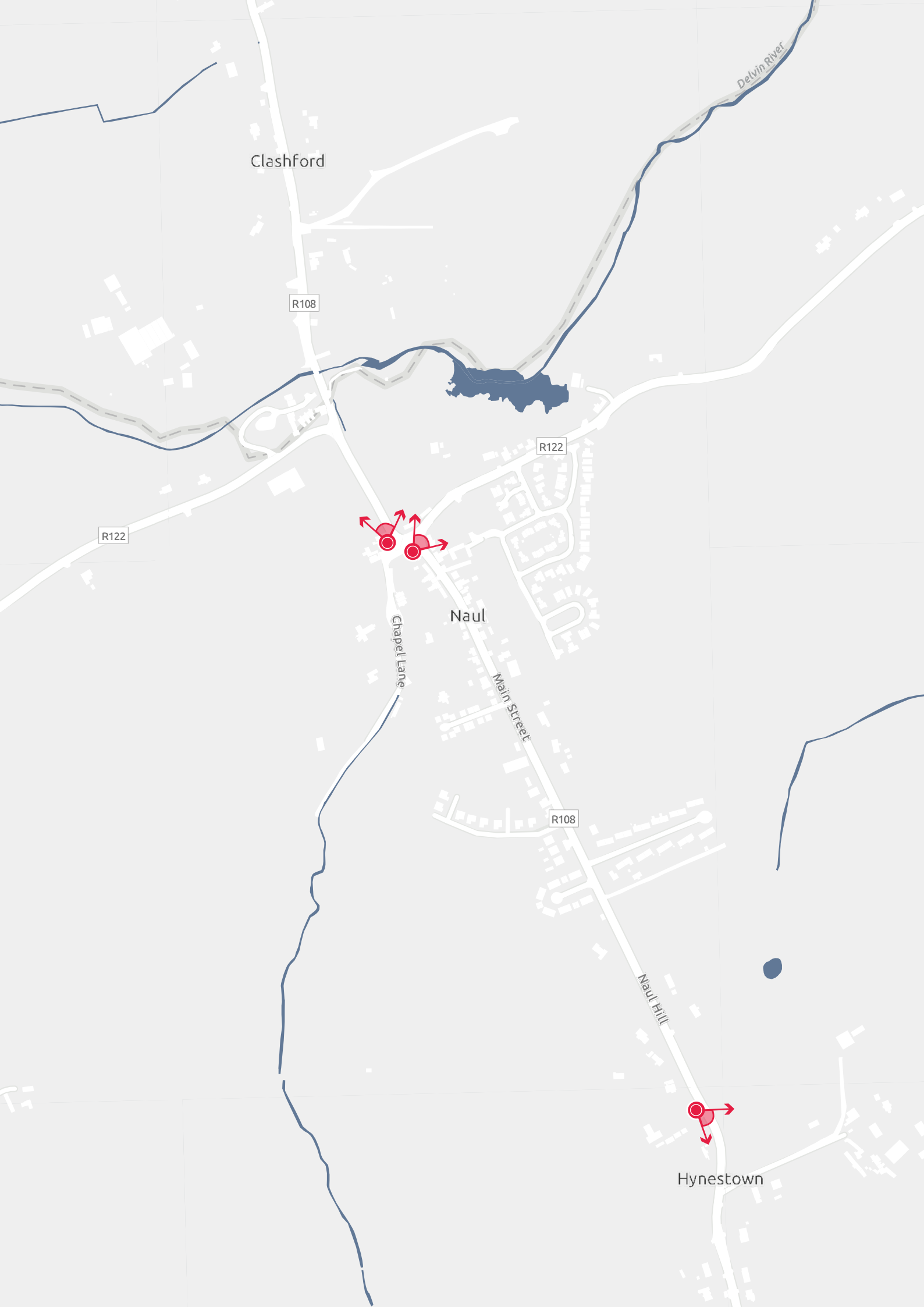
At three locations within Naul village:

- Killians Pub
- Séamus Ennis Arts Centre
- Naul National School

The three locations were chosen as they are situated at the main access points into the village.

The survey recorded the following modes of transport entering Naul:

- Bicycle
- Bus
- Car
- Lorry
- Pedestrian
- Van
- Other such as motorbike, tractor, scooter



Clashford

R108

Delvin River

R122

R122

Naul

Chapel Lane

Main Street

R108

Naul Hill

Hynestown

ON SITE SURVEY LOCATIONS

One person was stationed at each location for the duration of each of the surveys, using a tally chart to record the numbers of each mode of transport entering Naul.

KILLIANS PUB

One person (red dot) was positioned near Killians Pub to record the modes of transport coming across the bridge from Clashford, along the R108 into the village.



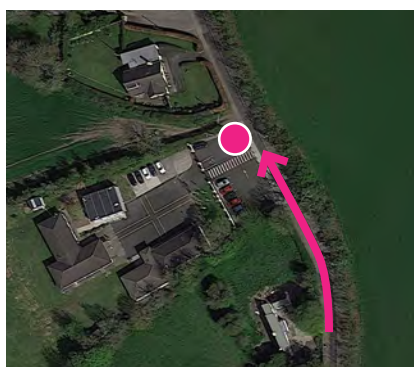
SEAMUS ENNIS ARTS CENTRE

Another person (purple dot) was positioned at the 'Big Tree' near the Seamus Ennis Arts Centre to record the modes of transport coming from the east, along the R122 into the village.



NAUL NATIONAL SCHOOL

A third person (pink dot) was positioned at the Naul National School to record the modes of transport coming from the south, along the R108 into the village.



QUESTIONNAIRE

A comprehensive questionnaire was carried out to give the local community, businesses, and visitors the opportunity to engage and share their thoughts and aspirations on the future vision for Naul, allowing ideas and key priorities to be identified for action. The questionnaire was conducted in August 2023 and ran for 10 days targeting local residents, young people, community groups and businesses. Posters detailing the link and QR code for the questionnaire were displayed around the village to inform residents and encourage them to take part.

A leaflet drop to all houses in the area was also carried out to ensure any difficult to reach residents were able to provide feedback. Details of the questionnaire was posted on social media outlets including Naul Community Noticeboard, Naul & District Community and Naul Residents.

The questionnaire sought feedback on subjects such as:

- Reasons for visiting Naul including durations of visits, time of day and how often they visit over the course of a week;
- Thoughts, experiences, and impressions of Naul; and
- Business owners and self-employed people based in Naul, and their views on current and future trading.

LAND USE SURVEYS

Land use surveys were undertaken to help collate locally available data to complement Census data and other local datasets to help the community better understand the function of the area in which they live, work and socialise. This data will aid the community to improve Naul and will allow the progress of actions to be measured. The land use survey captured information on:

- Locality
- Accessibility, Traffic and Transport
- Local Services
- Activities and Events
- Heritage and Environment
- Place and Quality

STUDY EXTENTS

The study area of the health check comprises the area as defined in the Fingal County Council Development plan 2023-2029.



Study Boundary Extents



LOOKING AT YOUR VISION AND ASPIRATIONS

Findings

Our 'Health Check' findings



SECTION 5

Findings

What we found!

OVERVIEW

The survey results regarding Naul Village paint a comprehensive picture of the community's perceptions and needs. Residents exhibit a strong sense of attachment to Naul, with many highlighting its attractive, quaint, and peaceful character, as well as a vibrant community spirit. This is reflected in Question 13, where respondents were asked to give the Top 5 things they liked about Naul. An overwhelming number (203) of respondents said the sense of community, followed by culture, heritage and events (153), peaceful/relaxing (133), historic character (108), and safety and security (84).

Concerns are voiced about the lack of essential amenities, especially for families and young people. Residents express a desire for more recreational activities and a broader range of shops to enhance community engagement and convenience. This is reflected in Question 10, where respondents were asked to give the Top 5 things they did not like about Naul. Most respondents (142) said there was not enough for young people, followed by lack of amenities (115), limited facilities (111), limited shops (98), while 78 said there was too much traffic.

Improved public transport and safer school routes are sought to address transportation concerns. Traffic and speeding vehicles pose safety risks, prompting calls for traffic calming measures. The need for improved infrastructure, including footpaths, cycling lanes, and safe routes to school, is a common theme, aligning with the desire for a more pedestrian-friendly village. Several respondents commented on the lack of public transport and isolation, which somewhat emerges from the remoteness of the village linked with the limited public transport service.

The survey also highlights the community's aspiration for more public events and festivals, with a strong interest in cultural events, markets, and activities for children and teenagers. The closure of the cafe is lamented, and there's a clear desire for more social spaces. The Seamus Ennis Arts Centre is celebrated as an asset to the village, reflecting the community's pride in its cultural heritage.

In keeping with the strong theme of character and heritage there were (12) mentions of the village being neglected, rundown, and vacant buildings detracting from the look of the village. On the other hand, there were (9) mentions of recent overdevelopment is not in-keeping with the village's character and heritage, and there are concerns the 'rural feel' could be at risk of loss.

The lack of open space and/or play park was a recurring theme with residents who are exasperated that they have been promised a play park for many years, but it has not yet been developed.

Overall, these survey results underscore Naul's yearning for sustainable growth while preserving its unique character and heritage. Residents seek a village that caters to the needs of all age groups, offers a safe and vibrant environment, and connects them more closely to nature and their community's rich cultural traditions. Addressing these concerns and aspirations will be crucial for Naul's continued development and the well-being of its residents.

VEHICLE SURVEY COUNTS (2023)

Location & Day	Bicycle	Bus	Car	Lorry	Pedestrian	Van	Other	Total	Analysis
Seamus Ennis Centre									
Sat 24th June (08:30-09:30)	27	1	47	1	0	14	3	93	The car was the most popular mode of transport with the largest number entering the village Tuesday morning 08.30 – 09.30. Second most popular was vans with the highest number entering the village Tuesday afternoon 16.30 – 17.30. Pedestrians were the third most popular with the highest number entering the village Saturday afternoon 16.30 – 17.30.
Sat 24th June (12:30-13:30)	3	0	122	1	10	11	3	150	
Sat 24th June (16:30-17:30)	1	0	115	2	23	4	1	146	
Tues 27th June (08:30-09:30)	0	1	140	9	10	23	4	187	
Tues 27th June (12:30-13:30)	2	0	86	10	1	9	2	110	
Tues 27th June (16:30-17:30)	0	0	106	9	9	26	9	159	
Killians Pub									
Sat 24th June (08:30-09:30)	4	0	129	1	20	7	2	163	The car was the most popular mode of transport with the largest number entering the village Tuesday afternoon 16.30 – 17.30. Second most popular was vans with the highest number entering the village Tuesday morning 08.30 – 09.30. Pedestrians were the third most popular with the highest number entering the village Saturday morning 08.30 – 09.30.
Sat 24th June (12:30-13:30)	13	0	56	1	1	5	5	81	
Sat 24th June (16:30-17:30)	0	0	105	2	4	7	1	119	
Tues 27th June (08:30-09:30)	0	2	142	5	1	17	11	178	
Tues 27th June (12:30-13:30)	0	0	93	17	0	9	0	119	
Tues 27th June (16:30-17:30)	3	1	194	6	9	10	3	226	
Naul National School									
Sat 24th June (08:30-09:30)	4	0	29	0	0	2	0	35	The car was the most popular mode of transport with the largest number entering the village Tuesday morning 08.30 – 09.30. Second most popular was vans with the highest number entering the village Tuesday afternoon 16.30 – 17.30. Other modes of transport such as motorbikes and tractors were the third most popular with the highest number entering the village Tuesday 12.30 – 13.30.
Sat 24th June (12:30-13:30)	2	0	78	0	1	3	5	89	
Sat 24th June (16:30-17:30)	1	1	66	0	2	6	2	78	
Tues 27th June (08:30-09:30)	0	1	88	2	7	2	0	100	
Tues 27th June (12:30-13:30)	1	0	58	0	5	10	7	81	
Tues 27th June (16:30-17:30)	1	1	88	2	0	27	4	123	
Total for each day									
Sat 24th June	55	2	747	7	61	59	22	953	Of the two days surveyed Tuesday recorded the highest number of trips into the village. In total, 330 extra trips were made during the weekday as opposed to the weekend. Interestingly, all modes increased during the weekday with the exception of those by bicycle or on foot. Notably, there were an additional 53 lorries, 74 vans and 248 cars recorded on the Tuesday.
Tues 27th June	7	6	995	60	42	133	40	1,283	
Total for each time									
08:30-09:30	35	5	575	18	38	65	20	756	Across the two days surveyed, the evening time (16.30-17.30) recorded the largest number of trips entering the village. Second most popular was the morning time (08.30-09.30), followed by the afternoon period (16.30-17.30). A possible explanation for this pattern could be trips generated by the school drop-off and pick-up times, as well as commuters travelling to and from their place of employment.
12:30-13:30	21	0	493	29	18	47	22	630	
16:30-17:30	6	3	674	21	47	80	20	851	

Social Demographics

Respondents were asked basic questions on their gender, age, where they lived and the accommodation that they lived in.

The largest number of respondents were female (62.4%), while the largest number of respondents (25.6%) came from both the 45-54 and 35-44 age groups, with 84% of respondents residents of Naul village.

The majority (83.8%) of respondents either own property or have a mortgage in Naul Village.

Respondents highlighted the wide range of activities available within the area such as GAA, Tidy Towns Group, cycling club, and church activities.

10

Day survey

250

Respondents

156

Female respondents, representing the largest group

35-54 yrs old

Was the most engaged with 128 respondents

210

respondents were residents, representing 84%

166

Own or have a mortgage representing 83.8%

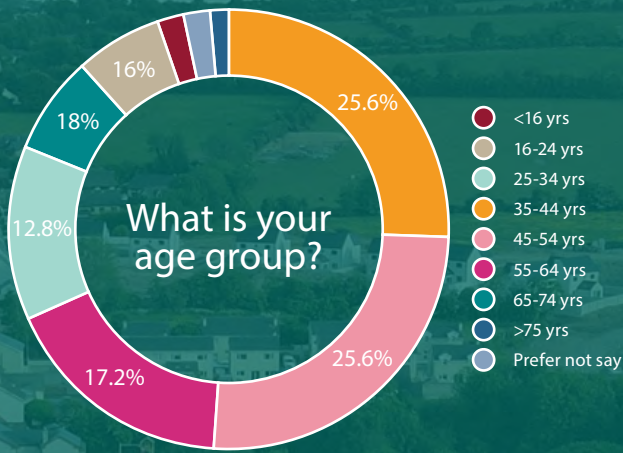
5.1%

Rent or lease their property

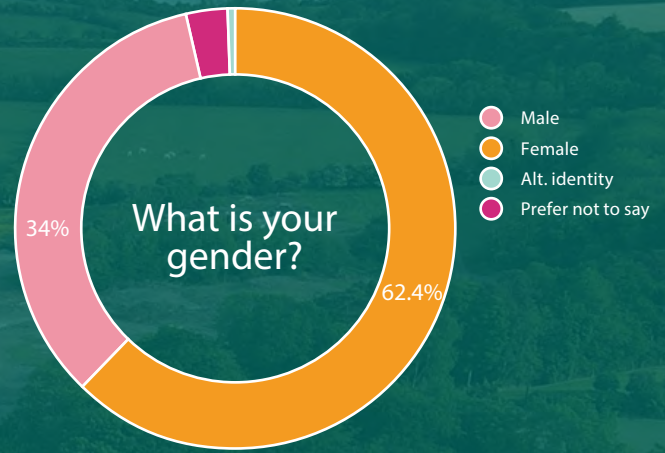
Strong community engagement

Respondents involved in GAA, Tidy Towns Group, Cycling club, and church activities

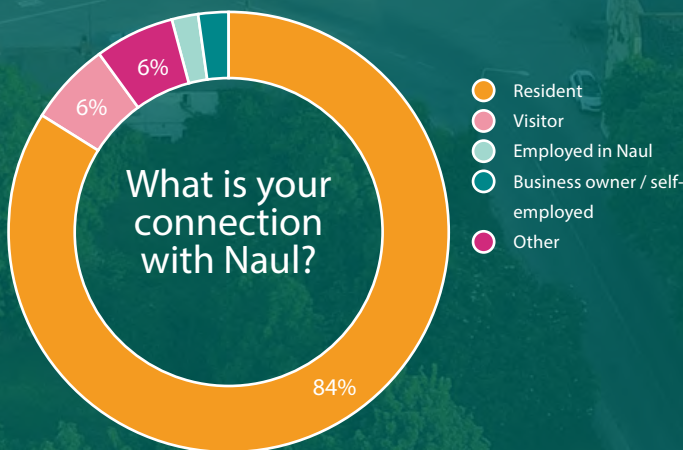
COMPOSITION OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS



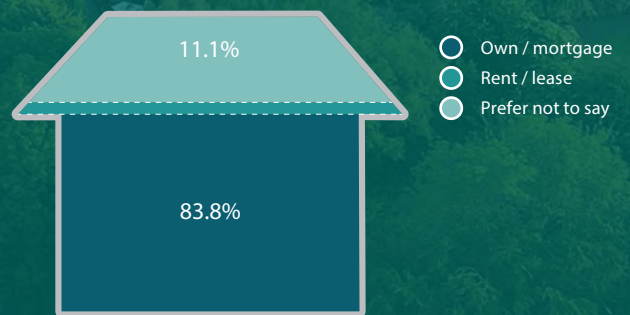
The survey reveals a diverse age distribution among respondents. Notably, 25.6% of respondents fall within the 45-54 and 35-44 age groups. Additionally, 17.2% are aged 55-64, while other age groups are represented as well.



The largest number of respondents were female (62.4%), with male respondents comprising 34% of the total. A small percentage (3.2%) preferred not to disclose their gender, while 0.4% identified differently.



A significant percentage (84%) of respondents are residents of Naul village, while 6% are visitors (shoppers, tourists, etc.). Additionally, 2% are business owners or employed within the village, and there are unique cases, such as living close by or having family ties.

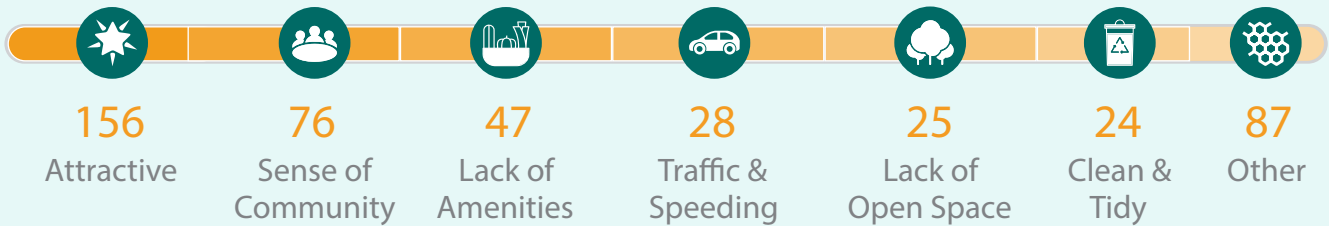


Do you rent or own property in Naul Village?

A substantial majority (83.8%) of respondents either own property or have a mortgage in Naul Village. A smaller percentage (11.1%) preferred not to disclose their property status, and 5.1% indicated that they rent or lease their property.

What you told us!

Your first thoughts or impressions of Naul



“Remote for being in County Dublin. No activities for 12 to 18 not involved in GAA”

Amenities



“Wonderful heritage. Quaint little heritage village, remote and inaccessible.”

Setting and accessibility

“A once thriving village that is now neglected. It can be a very isolating place to live in”

Investment



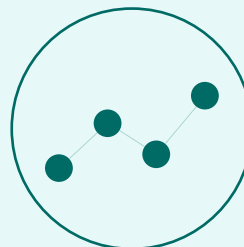
“I love living there. Strong community focus with good community spirit, cultural/arts centre”

Community and Culture



“Nice quiet remote village. Beautiful rural village, but isolated”

Setting and accessibility

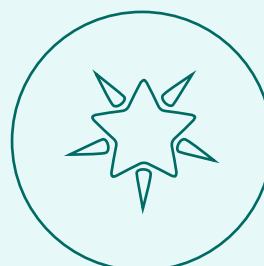


“A disconnected old town, poor transport links, disgraceful driving. Could benefit hugely with improved transport.”

Connectivity

“FCC need to listen to the community about the sewage problem and the traffic calming which are both major problems. Transport links need to be improved and possibly relocation of school as it is located in the most dangerous place possible .”

Infrastructure and transport

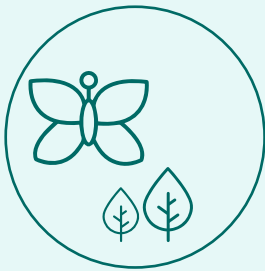
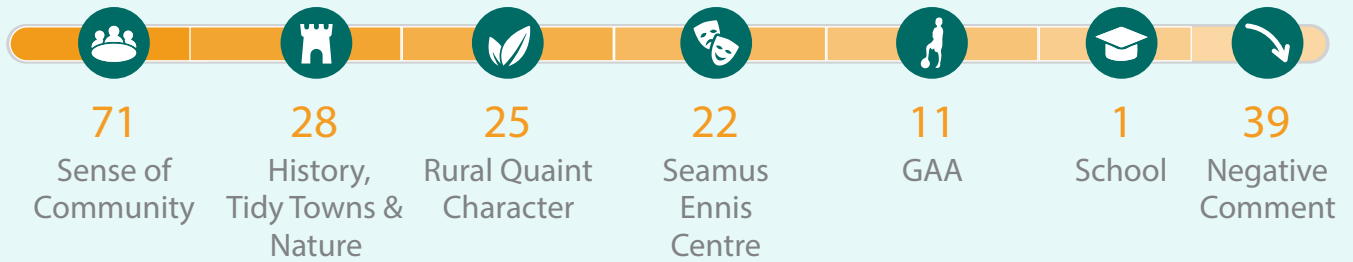


“Pretty village. Locals very cliquey and not very friendly to “outsiders. Despite beautiful nature all around can’t access it”

Setting and accessibility

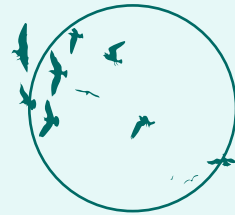
What you told us!

Your one special thing about Naul!



“The nature in Naul is extremely special and should not be knocked down with new buildings.”

Nature and development

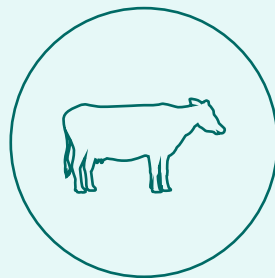


“The sound of silence and waking up to the sound of the birds. The view”

Setting

“It’s a beautiful country agricultural village please don’t change that”

Setting and character



“Love the nature I see on a daily basis and how we can all contribute to the community. And it’s great to have APACHE pizza that opened in recent months.”

Nature, community and services



“The village and surrounding area is steeped in history and every effort should be made by planners to keep this character .”

Heritage and character

“A major part of Naul’s appeal & charm is that it is still closely linked to the land with its seasonal activities. The surrounding fertile fields need to be protected from development as Food Security becomes an ever greater danger due Climate Change.”

Agriculture and climate change



“Good pints of stout and cool gigs in Seamus Ennis, nice forest walks ”

Seamus Ennis and Nature

Your Visit

Respondents were asked where they lived in proximity to Naul village, mode of transport used, reasons for visiting the village, time of day for visiting and how long they tended to stay.

The majority of respondents (44.8%) live in Naul Village itself, while 26.4% live within 1-2km. The most popular mode of transport is car (62%), followed by walking (35.6%).

Most respondents (75.2%) visit Naul Village daily with shopping (55.2%) as the primary purpose followed by social or recreational activities (38.4%). Weekdays are the most common days for visiting Naul Village (26%), with a significant number of respondents (65.6%) visiting every day of the week, while afternoons (53.6%) and evenings (54%) are the most popular time frames for visiting. Most respondents (34.8%) spend 15 minutes or less during each visit and about one-third of respondents (32.4%) shop online locally once a week, while a significant percentage (49.2%) do not shop online.

44.8%
of respondents live in Naul Village itself

62%
travel by private car

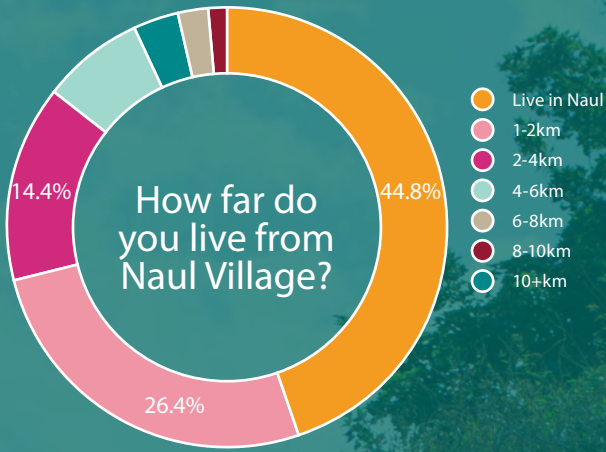
55.2%
primary purpose for visiting Naul Village is to go to the shop

75.2%
Visit Naul Village daily

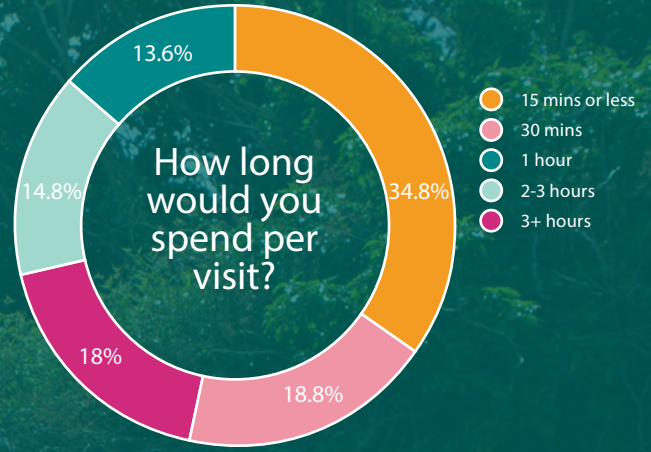
After midday
is the most popular timeframe for visiting Naul Village

15 mins or less
is spent in Naul Village by 34.8% of respondents

49.2%
do not shop online locally



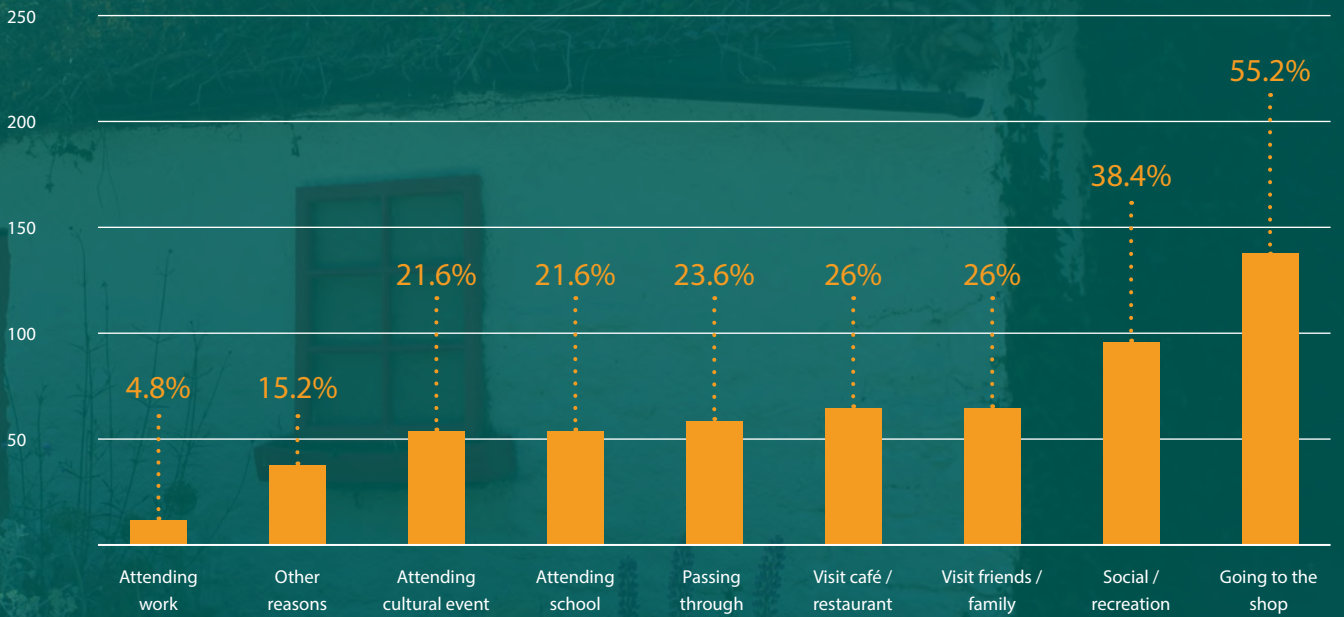
The majority of respondents (44.8%) live in Naul Village itself, while 26.4% live within 1-2km. The remaining respondents (28.8%) live 2km or more from Naul Village.



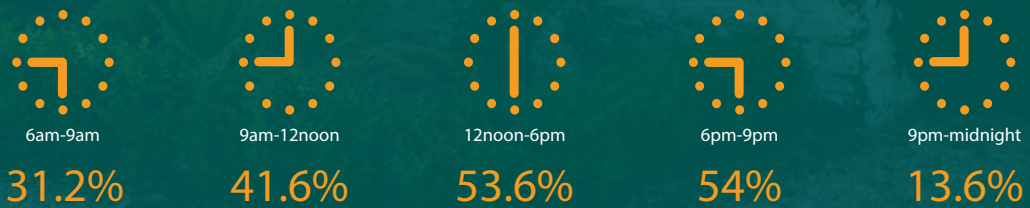
A considerable portion of respondents (34.8%) spend 15 minutes or less during each visit, while others allocate more time, with 18% spending over 3 hours.

WHAT IS THE MAIN PUPOSE(S) OF YOUR VISIT TO NAUL VILLAGE?

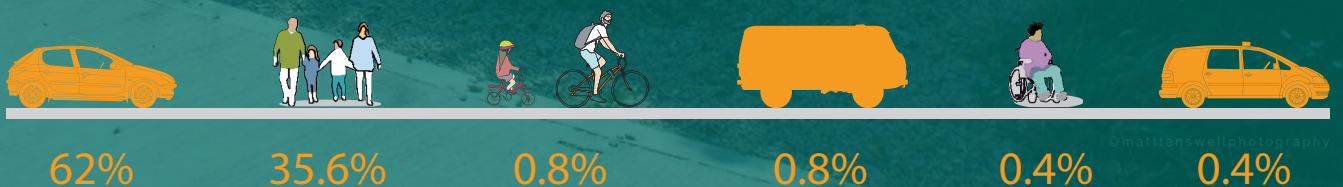
Multi-answer: Percentage of respondents who selected each answer option (e.g. 100% would represent that all this question's respondents chose that option)



WHAT TIME DO YOU MOST OFTEN VISIT? (MULTIPLE CHOICE)



MAIN MODE OF TRANSPORT?



Your Perceptions

Respondents were asked to rate a number of key aspects associated with Naul village on a scale of 1 - 5 with 1 being very poor and 5 being very good.

Key aspects rated as good or very good was the general attractiveness and cleanliness (82.4%) of the village, the standard of service in shops (75.2%), the range of public events and festivals (52.8%) on offer and the feeling of safety and security (72.8%) within Naul.

Key aspects rated average were the level of vacancy and dereliction (46.8%), the general feeling of vibrancy (44.8%) and wayfinding/signage (44.8%) around the village. Car parking availability (35.2%), pedestrian accessibility (32.4%) and pavement quality (31.2%) were also rated as average, while connections to nature/natural areas (40%) and heritage assets (37.2%), seating and/or areas to congregate (32%) and attractions other than shopping (34.8%) also featured.

Concerns were shown about traffic management and flow in and around the village, with 29.6% giving an average rating, followed by 53.6% of respondents giving a rating of poor or very poor. In terms of safe routes to school, 34.4% rated it as average while 48% gave a rating of poor or very poor, indicating high levels of concern amongst respondents.

Respondents were asked to provide their perceptions and experiences of Naul, and key themes that emerged included:

- Concerns about traffic and speeding vehicles particularly related to school zones and the need for better pedestrian and cyclist safety.
- The need for improved infrastructure, including footpaths, cycling lanes, and safer routes to school.
- More public facilities such as a playground for children and areas for teenagers to gather.
- More community initiatives and activities, including more activities and amenities for young people, such as sports facilities and recreational areas.
- An emphasis on preserving the historical character.
- The lack of sufficient public transport options and the need for better connections to nearby towns.
- Provide more access to nature, better walking routes, and efforts to enhance the village's natural surroundings.

92 (36.8%)

respondents rated Naul as 'average' compared to the 43 (17.2%) and 7 (2.8%) who rated the village as 'very good' and 'very poor' respectively

112 (44.8%)

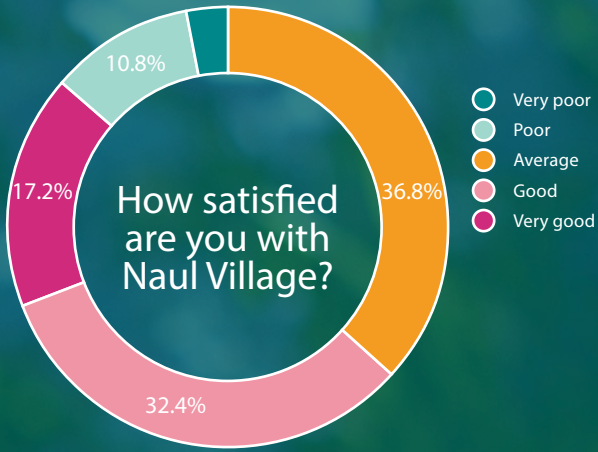
respondents feel Naul was improving as opposed to 95 (38%) and 37 (14.8%) who felt it was 'staying the same' or 'declining' respectively

Sense of community

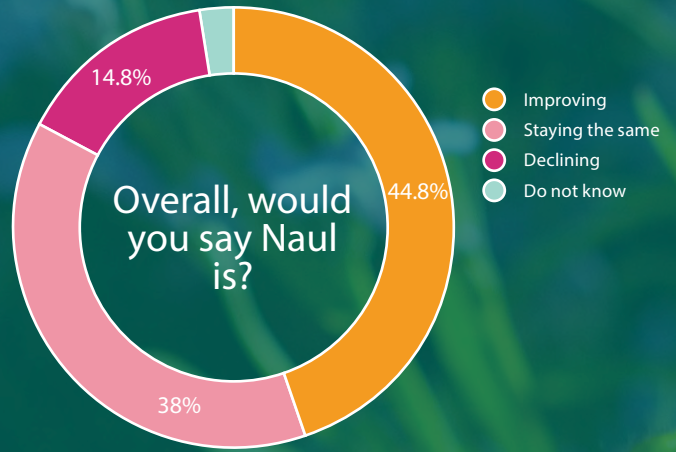
is the most liked aspect followed by 'culture, heritage and events' and its 'peaceful and relaxing atmosphere'

Not enough for young people

was the most disliked aspect followed by 'lack of amenities, facilities and shops'

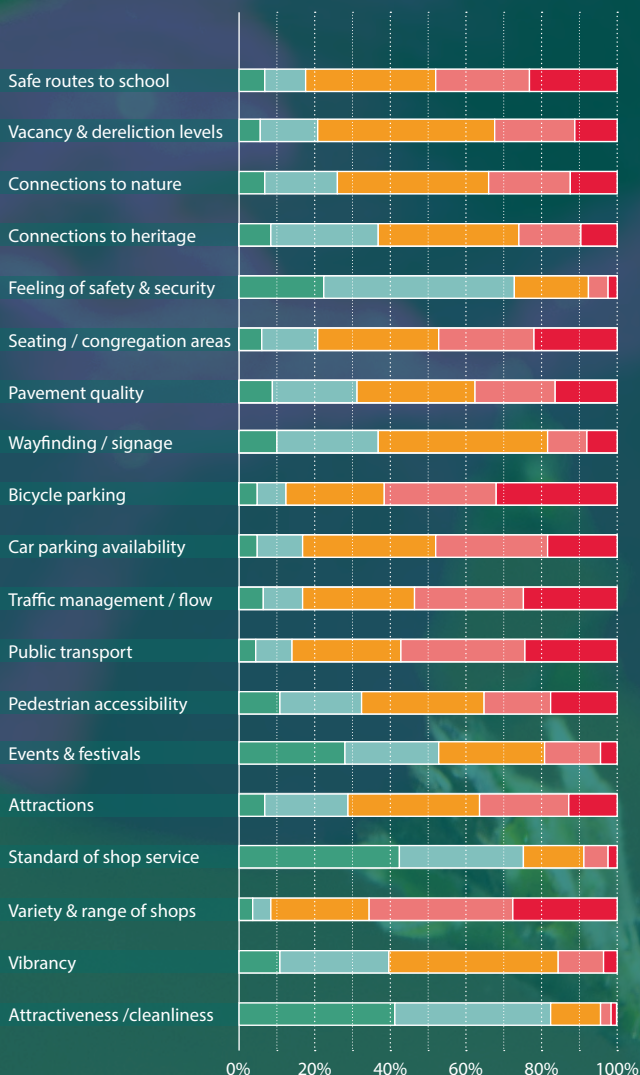


In terms of satisfaction, 92 respondents (36.8%) felt the village was average, 81 respondents (32.4%) felt the village was good with 43 respondents (17.2%) rating the village as very good.



Overall, 112 respondents (44.8%) believed that Naul is improving, 95 respondents (38%) believed it was staying the same and 37 respondents (14.8%) answering that it was declining.

PLEASE RATE THE FOLLOWING KEY ASPECTS OF NAUL VILLAGE



WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT NAUL VILLAGE? (TOP FOUR)



203 respondents liked the sense of community, followed by 153 who enjoyed the culture, heritage and events as well as 133 and 108 respondents who liked the peace and historic character respectively.

WHAT DO YOU NOT LIKE ABOUT NAUL VILLAGE? (TOP FOUR)



A significant portion (142 respondents) highlighted there is not enough for your people, followed by a lack of amenities (115), limited facilities (111) and limited shops (98).

Your Perceptions

A large number of respondents (76.8%) indicated that there were insufficient amenities for families, customers, and visitors in Naul.

Respondents suggested several improvements for Naul including more recreational activities (47.6%) and a broader range of shops (45.6%). Improved public transport (44%) and safer school routes (39.2%) are needed. Access to nature with requests for improved access to the Delvin River (39.2%). Better traffic management (34%) and upgraded footpaths (32.4%) was also suggested. There are aspirations for more public events (24.4%), access to parks and nature (26%) and cultural heritage (16%), as well as tackling vacancy (15.6%).

In terms of events that could entice people to spend time in the village, respondents proposed a village Fleadh or street festival (65.6%), cultural events (58.8%), markets (58.4%), children's activities (37.2%), and events targeted at teenagers or young adults (33.2%). While 2% of respondents suggested restaurant, cafes and coffee shops and exercise activities.

Other comments received for improvements to Naul include safer traffic measures, playgrounds, cafes, and better retail options emerge. As well as more recreational activities, the preservation of historical sites and improved public transport links.

192 (76.8%)

respondents felt there was a lack of amenities for families, customers and visitors

164 (24.2%)

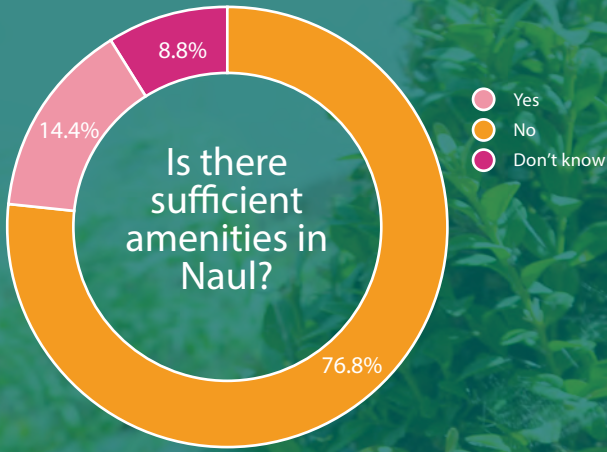
respondents believe a 'Village Fleadh' or 'Naul Street Festival' would entice people to visit and spend time in the village

119 (47.6%)

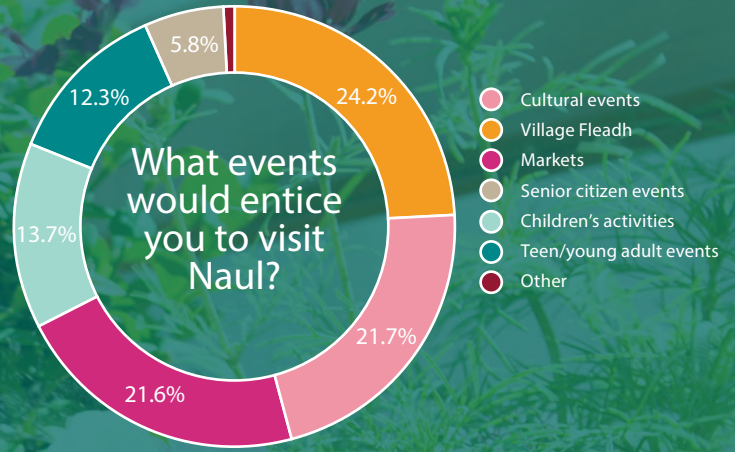
respondents feel more recreational / leisure activities is the main improvement needed in the Naul

144 (45.6%)

respondents felt a better variety and selection of shops is needed, followed by improved public transport (110-44%), improved access to Delvin River (98-39.2%) and safe routes to school (98-39.2%)



The majority of respondents (76.8%) indicated that there were not sufficient amenities in Naul, highlighting a perceived gap in meeting the needs of families, customers, and visitors.



The top preferences included a village Fleadh or street festival (65.6%), cultural events (58.8%), markets (58.4%), children's activities (37.2%), and events targeted at teenagers or young adults (33.2%).

WHAT IMPROVEMENT(S) DO YOU FEEL IS NEED TO NAUL VILLAGE?

● **Multi-answer:** Number of respondents out of 250 who selected each answer option.



“ Total revamp without destroying heritage
Regeneration ”

“ Playground and café / coffee shop
Recreation ”

“ Safe place to walk the dog and socialise
Community ”

“ More places to eat out
Amenities ”

Business Feedback

A number of questions were posed to determine the views of business owners and self-employed people in and around Naul village.

About a third of the respondents (33.3%) have been in business for over 10 years, while 33.3% started operating within the past year. 44.4% of respondents preferred not to disclose whether they rent or own their business property, while 33.3% reported owning the property, and 22.2% indicated they were business owners operating from home. 44.4% of respondents are quite satisfied with their current business premises, with 33.3% of respondents indicating that they would be interested in co-working spaces or hubs in the village.

In terms of trading over the next 12 months a significant portion (44.4%) of respondents anticipated improvements compared to both 2022 and the pre-Covid-19 period, while 33.3% expected less favourable conditions compared to the same period. Reasons for these expectations included the relaxing of restrictions (11.1%) while 33.3% believed the ongoing cost of living crisis would have an impact.

22.2% of respondents indicated that traffic, poor public transport provision, footfall, rising energy costs, and rent were current challenges to their business, as well as the scarcity of suitable village premises for small businesses and artisans.

Suggestions for potential interventions, initiatives or improvements to Naul that could benefit businesses included providing more retail spaces, enhancing public facilities, and boosting local business with the creation of a co-operative environment.

10

Day survey

9

Respondents

10+ years

3 (33.3%) businesses have been in operation for longer than a decade whilst 3 (33.3%) have been operating for less than 1 year

2 (22.2%)

are business owners working from home as opposed to 3 (33.3%) who own their business property

4 (44.4%)

are 'quite satisfied' with their current premises, compared with 2 (22.2%) who are not

Don't sell online

was selected by 4 (44.4%) of respondents whereas 3 (33.3%) sell via a website

Lack of funding, investment and support

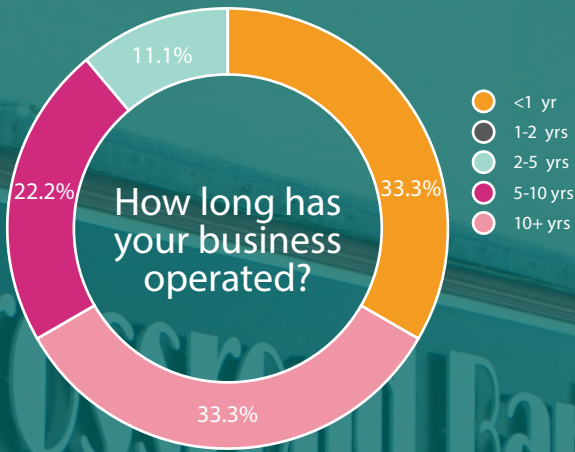
was identified by 3 (14.3%) as being harmful to their business, followed by traffic, poor public transport, rising energy, rising rent, low footfall and lack of available SME premises

3 (33.3%)

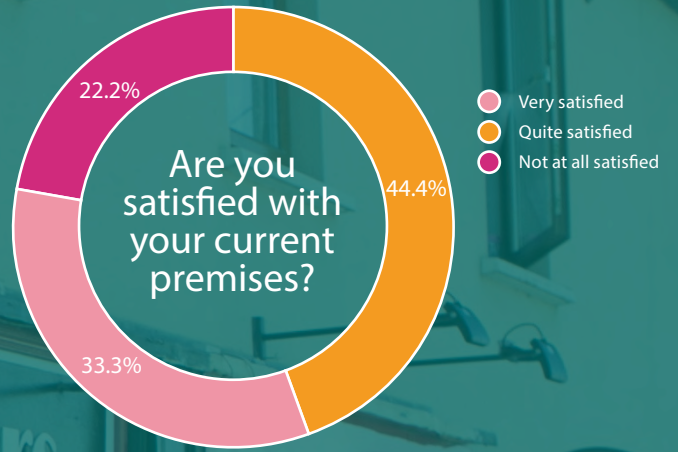
would like the option of working from a hub or a co-operative environment in Naul

7 (77.8%)

respondents would be willing to participate in organising events in the future



About a third of the respondents (33.3%) have been in business for over 10 years, while an equivalent percentage (33.3%) started operating within the past year.



Results demonstrate that 44.4% of respondents are quite satisfied, with 33.3% expressing a high level of satisfaction, and 22.2% indicating dissatisfaction.

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING IS CURRENTLY HARMFUL TO YOUR BUSINESS?

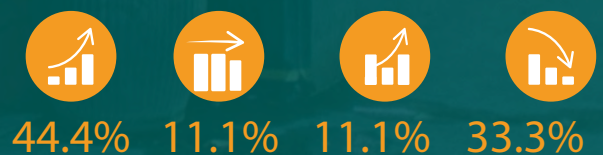


DO YOU SELL ONLINE? IF SO, WHAT IS THE MAIN METHOD YOU USE?



44.4% of respondents did not engage in online selling. Of the remainder, 33.3% utilized websites, 11.1% used Instagram, and another 11.1% indicated an unspecified alternative.

WHAT IS YOUR SENSE OF THE TRADING ENVIRONMENT OVER THE NEXT 12 MONTHS?



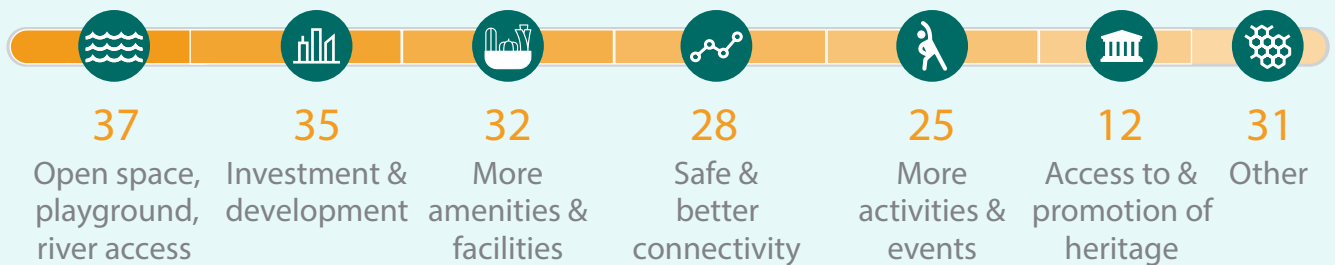
A significant portion (44.4%) anticipated improvement compared to both 2022 and the pre-Covid-19 period. Conversely, 33.3% expected less favourable conditions compared to the same timeframes.



44.4% of respondents preferred not to disclose whether they rent or own their business property. Meanwhile, 33.3% reported owning the property, and 22.2% identified as business owners operating from home.

What you told us!

Are there any further comments you would like to make regarding potential improvements in Naul?



“Better transport links badly needed and better times for local link, it starts too late in the morning and finishes too early in the evening”

Transport



“It is a hotspot for cycling so this needs to be borne in mind when making plans for the village”

Active travel



“A lot of heritage around but not marketed. Nature walkway/ cycleways. Walks near castle and river which is not used at all. It would be nice to take the children and the dog for a walk”

Heritage, nature and active travel

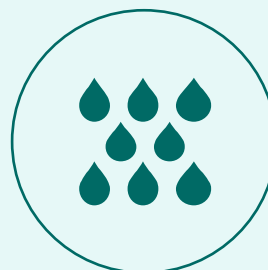
“Derelict houses to be maintained better”

Dereliction



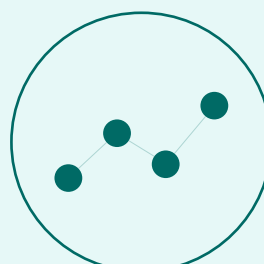
“The planned playground beside SEAC is so overdue that the kids it was meant to be for are too old for it. Older kids need somewhere to hang out, a single basketball hoop in a common area could be a focal point for them, and let them get involved in a sport which doesn’t need a huge volunteer group to run it”

Facilities and activities



“Upgrades to the Naul WWTP are urgently needed to allow the village to develop community amenities and facilities!”

Infrastructure and development



“Path continued from Castle Manor to Westtown Avenue, speed bumps needed for Main St”

Connectivity and traffic calming

“More housing!”
Housing



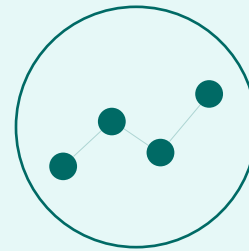
“School needs to be relocated - area close to the church was ideal (old football field). The school is growing and there is insufficient parking for parents and no footpath to the south of the school. Built on a dangerous bend it is an accident waiting to happen.”

Safe and better connectivity



“Improved access to historical sites and heritage assets from the village such as the Black castle at the north of the graveyard.”

Access to heritage



“There was a Local Area Plan devised for the village that if enacted, would have made massive improvements to the village but not one aspect of it was enacted by the Council that developed it”

Investment and development



“Naul needs a nice restaurant, nice walkways, historical tours and access to the Delvin River.”

Services, heritage and access



“Upgrade (old library) community centre for all meetings and clubs to be comfortable and have accessible clean toilets. youth clubs, scout groups and activities for seniors”

Facilities and amenities



“Youth club or youth centre. Somewhere safe for kids to hang out. Children and Teens need an outlet, there are no real amenities. Safer cycle path to the nearest town

Facilities, amenities and safe connectivity



“It badly needs a traffic management plan for the whole area of Naul.”

Traffic calming



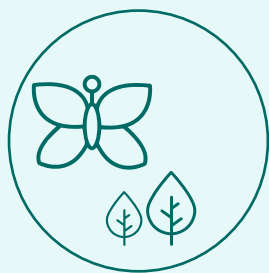
“Traffic calming must be introduced, pinch points need to be added to control the speeds at which people go through the village. The whole village should have a 30kph limit.”

Traffic calming



What you told us!

Is there anything you would like to add regarding your perceptions and experiences of Naul Village?



“I definitely feel like there should be more access to nature, the ability to walk in nature or walk from one part of the village to the other safely”

Access and safe connectivity



“We were promised a playground some years ago that still hasn’t materialised yet”

Amenities and facilities

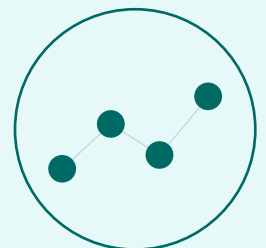
“Naul is a friendly and safe village to live in”

Community



“Love the village but transport links are very poor. We need better local bus services to bigger towns such as Swords. Practically impossible for special needs people to travel beyond village”

Transport and connectivity



“While the village core has retained its character and charm, unfortunately there is dereliction which is a blight on the ACA in Naul Village. At present there are 8 vacant historic buildings within Naul ACA, some proposals for demolition and replacement with new large unsympathetic schemes”

Character, dereliction and development



“Traffic calming should be in place due to volumes of vehicles and speeding”

Traffic calming



“There is no life in the village since the café closed and no playground for children”

Facilities and amenities

“It should not be overly developed”

Development



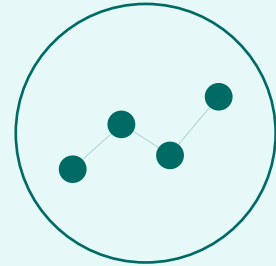
“The path should be extended from Castle Manor to Westown Avenue, particularly for school children. Speed ramps also needed to slow the cars down”

Connectivity and traffic calming



“No youth club for the teenagers also which leads them hanging around and potential for anti-social behaviour”

Activities and facilities



“It would be great to negotiate access to the Black Tower that sits on the cliff from which An Aill (the Cliff) / Naul derives its name”

Access



“Naul is a very pleasant village but there is nothing for the youth, no play ground nowhere to safely explore the area as it’s on a very busy road with people driving - speed bumps may help!”

Activities and traffic calming

“More amenities needed for older people to congregate during the day. Not enough for teenagers, badly needs more amenities for them”

Facilities and amenities



“It’s a beautiful village that needs some updating with heritage in mind, not expanded but enhanced development and keeping the rural feel alive”

Investment and heritage



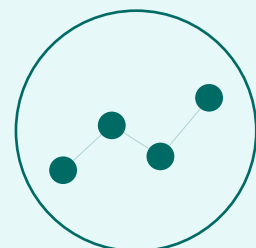
“It is a rural village and should be kept rural with improved traffic management. Some dangerous driving conditions at junctions”

Traffic calming



“Need for better paths in the area coming into the village and at the school. This will let the locals feel more connected to their area and keep our children safe and out of harms way”

Safe connectivity





LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Key Opportunities

Summary of the key opportunities going forward



SECTION 6

Opportunities

Looking forward!

OVERVIEW

The villagescape of Naul is situated within a picturesque natural setting and its rich historical context should be recognised and celebrated. Its proximity from Dublin City and distinct rural character offers the opportunity to become a prime location for day trips and act as a ‘destination village’ for visitors.

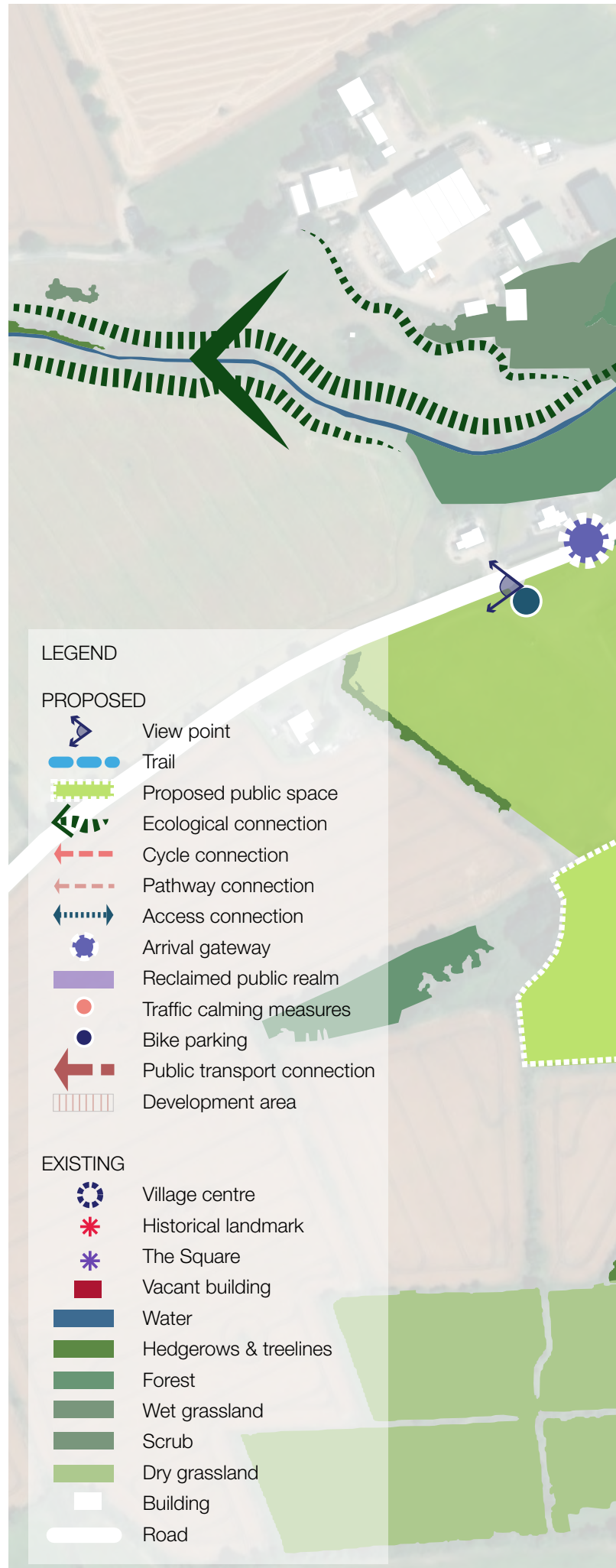
Through the desktop baseline analysis, public consultation and site visits undertaken, several key aims and considerations emerged to direct the future of Naul. Following a thematic analysis of the findings, five key opportunities were identified and are described below.

- Opportunity One: Develop an engaging, vibrant, and inclusive village
- Opportunity Two: Provide safe and accessible connections
- Opportunity Three: Harness Naul’s unique character
- Opportunity Four: Revitalise the heart of the village
- Opportunity Five: Protect green and blue connections.

These opportunities look to maximise the benefits for the community, environment and economical influence throughout the village. It demonstrates the extensive potential Naul has to offer the local community, surrounding towns and wider county. This vision looks to guide a sustainable future for both the residents who live, work and play within the village whilst looking to expand on its natural and historical assets. It focusses on prioritising the emerging needs of the local community and discusses topics such as improving transportation links and re-establishing the innate connection with the Delvin River, Naul Hills and surrounding landscape.

Key Overarching Action:

Being situated on the border between County Dublin and County Meath raises the possibility of jurisdictional conflicts concerning less than desirable uses being located near in the proximity of vulnerable villages. It is recommended that planning representatives from both jurisdictions (Fingal and Meath) come together to establish a collaborative cross-county-border policy for Naul and its surrounding areas.





SECTION 6

Opportunities

Develop an engaging, vibrant & inclusive village

Through various interventions there is potential to enhance the vibrancy of the village. Art features, planting and wayfinding can allow a visitor to grasp a sense of arrival to ‘the Naul’. A unifying suite of urban elements, street furniture, material and planting palettes can contribute to the overall cohesiveness of the village. An opportunity frequently identified by the local community included connecting Naul’s unique characteristics with an informed leisure trail. Creating public space that is welcoming and inclusive along with increasing the diversity of commercial and hospitality offerings will boost interest in this local village.



Parklet and wayfinding



Daily basics (Poynton)

POTENTIAL INTERVENTIONS

1 Heritage Trail

Design and implement a trail throughout the village that responds to the historical context and distinctive landscape features.

2 Wayfinding Strategy

Develop an integrated wayfinding strategy that can be integrated throughout the trail. Wayfinding provision should include an engaging suite of unifying urban elements such as sensitively sited and curated QR signage, appropriate village lighting, pavement markings and engaging interactive digital interpretation elements.

3 Gateway Enhancements

Create a sense of arrival to ‘the Naul’ by providing visual landmarks at key entrances to the village.

4 Public Realm

Provide areas for social seating, street furniture and planting that is complimentary of the existing built fabric and natural materiality.

5 Daily Basics

Establish a variety of amenities to foster community engagement and convenience including shops, cafes, restaurants, and open public spaces.

6 Connected Assets

Connect the proposed park development to the Séamus Ennis Arts Centre Graveyard, Castle and surrounding residential areas.

7 Inclusive Recreation

Provide a variety of recreational offerings and play opportunities inclusive of all ages and abilities. Engage with the community to identify these opportunities.



SECTION 6

Opportunities

Provide safe and accessible connections

Traffic management and speed reduction were key concerns highlighted from the consultation. Traffic calming measures can be implemented and may include strategies such as lane narrowing, roundabouts, speed humps, raised crossings and enhanced public realm can mitigate this concern. Creating safe access for active travel such as bike lanes and pedestrian friendly pathways through the village and providing designated car parking areas at the edge of the village, the community can access essential amenities and services. Undertaking pathway upgrades along the Main Street and establishing off-road connections between the key nodes in Naul can augment this opportunity.



Dedicated cycle lane and cycle parking



Dedicated public car parking, seating and feature trees

POTENTIAL INTERVENTIONS

- 8** **Parking**

Provide a designated area for safe and accessible vehicular parking.
- 9** **Public Transport Improvements**

Explore opportunities for more frequent and public transport connections to Dublin, the Coast, and surrounding towns.
- 10** **Traffic Calming**

Introduce traffic calming measures to improve safety of pedestrians and cyclists. Rerouting of HGVs weighing more than 3.5 tons away from the village will also ensure the structural integrity of Naul Bridge.
- 11** **Bicycle Parking**

Provide increased areas for bicycle parking.
- 12** **Cycling Infrastructure**

Establish and facilitate cycling infrastructure that supports the highly utilised leisure routes through the village. Ensure the route is coherent, designed to maximise interest and prioritises safety of cyclists.
- 13** **Safe Routes to School (on-road)**

Upgrade the footpath along Main Street connecting the Naul National School. Undertake a review of the existing footpath and identify areas to upgrade to ensure the entire length is accessible and safe.
- 14** **Safe Routes to School (off-road)**

Investigate the long-term feasibility of a secondary, off-road active travel connection from Chapel Lane and Castle Manor to the school to prioritise the safety of children walking to school.
- 15** **Moonlone Linkage**

Look to introduce pedestrian connections from the village to the Moonlone residential community.



SECTION 6

Opportunities

Harness Naul's unique character

The heritage and history of Naul is unique, and there is opportunity to harness this and ensure its protection. Creating access to heritage sites such as the Black Castle, or natural assets such as the Delvin River reinforces Naul's distinctive character and allows the community to sensitively engage with these sites. There is a need to balance future development ensuring its aesthetic qualities are considered and the natural and built character is responded to. It is important that newly developed areas support both the needs and desires of the community and positively contribute to the existing commercial and recreational offerings.



Thatch Cottage and Chantry Chapel



Sustainable tourism

POTENTIAL INTERVENTIONS

- 16 Viewing Platforms**

Capture and celebrate key viewpoints. Support the provision of viewing platforms to offer views out across 'the Roche'.
- 17 Maximising Local Assets**

Celebrate the 'Black Castle' ruins. Facilitate public access to the castle site and improve visibility of the monument, whilst ensuring protection of the structure.
- 18 Sensitively Designed Development**

Ensure proposed development is sensitive to the built heritage and unique character of Naul.
- 19 Sustainable Heritage-Led Tourism**

Harness Naul's historic charm to enhance tourism opportunities.
- 20 Celebrate the Delvin River**

Celebrate the Delvin River as a natural asset and recognise the river as important habitat and fishery.



SECTION 6

Opportunities

Revitalise the heart of the village

At present the centre, or heart, of the village is disconnected and simultaneously acts as a key junction or intersection for heavy vehicular movement. Enhanced public realm and streetscape combined with appropriate traffic management measures will reconnect this central node.

There is opportunity to increase activation by reducing vacancy rates and supporting local businesses with initiatives to engage with the community.

POTENTIAL INTERVENTIONS

21 Public Space

Reclaim pedestrian space at the village square junction and outside the Seamus Ennis Arts Centre to allow for outdoor resting places and dining areas.

22 Community Facilities

Encourage the restoration of the house at the North side of the square for community use.

23 Adaptive Reuse

Encourage the sympathetic adaptive re-use of vacant buildings at ground-level with a variety of commercial and retail uses.

24 Events & Animation

Promote the use of the Square for community events and social opportunities.



Community events and adaptive re-use



Heritage-led public realm



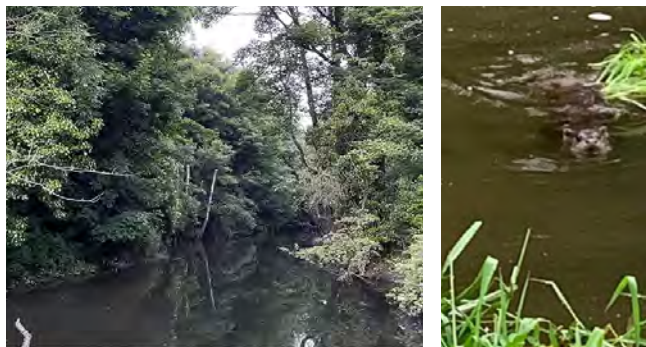
SECTION 6

Opportunities

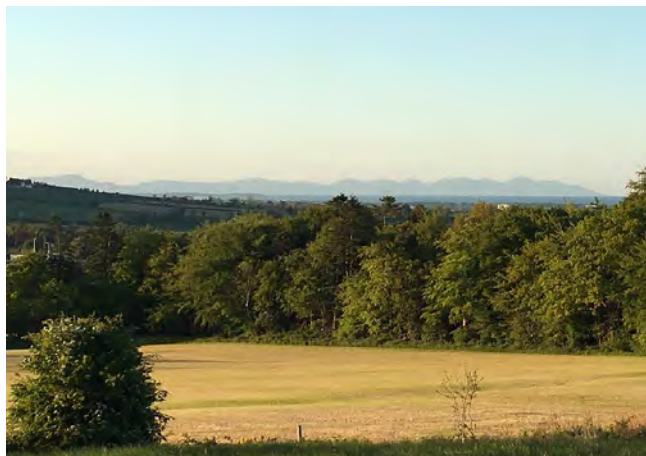
Provide green and blue connections

Ensuring the protection of the green and blue corridors throughout the village and the wider landscape is essential to the wellbeing of the community and local flora and fauna.

Connections between the Delvin River and the Naul Hills is a vital connection for the movement of species. Re-establishing access to the river and allowing community connection is an emerging desire identified by the community. Water quality is a key concern, and employing nature-based solutions should be considered through future plans for the village.



Delvin River waterfall and local wildlife (Otter)



Westown woodlands with Mourne Mountains in the background

POTENTIAL INTERVENTIONS

25 Ecological Connectivity

Reinforce and strengthen the ecological connectivity throughout Naul. Strengthen vegetation buffers along the edges of the Delvin River.

26 Green Infrastructure

Encourage the planting and retention of hedgerows, trees, and small woodland groups where appropriate adhering to Development Plan GIM15 Green Infrastructure mapped objectives.

27 Protected Woodland

Ensure existing woodland that stretches back towards the Naul Hills is protected and retained adhering to the development Plan Nature Development Area mapped objectives.

28 Delvin River Access

Increase the opportunity for people to safely engage with the Delvin River's edge whilst protecting the environmental integrity of surrounding habitats.

29 Nature Based Solutions

Seek to improve water quality. Investigate the feasibility of constructed wetlands for surface water and integrated constructed wetlands (ICWs) for wastewater treatment.



Next Steps

Making it happen

The opportunities outlined in the report are suggestions informed by professional experience, best-practice examples and engagement with key stakeholders. It is our hope that they can inspire more people to become actively involved in the attempts already underway to rejuvenate and improve conditions in Naul.

Naul possesses key strengths and enviable assets that many villages throughout Ireland could only wish for. Therefore, it is in an excellent position from which it can continue to grow and develop. Naul's abundant natural assets combined with active community groups and a growing population mean it has all of the requirements needed to become a vibrant and successful village. This Health Check simply seeks to offer further impetus to achieve such a position.

It is now up to the existing community groups, Fingal County Council and individual residents of Naul to advance the recommendations of the report, along with other initiatives already underway. This health check is primarily a snapshot of a moment in time, assessing the current conditions in Naul and offering some suggestions for the future. It is recommended that in approximately 5 years from now, the Health Check is returned to and a progress report is made to determine the levels of positive change that have occurred.

A

LOOKING AT THE DETAILS

Appendices

Additional Information



© mattanswellphotography

Comp. James Ennis (1999)

Naul Health Check

Showing 250 of 250 responses

Showing **all** responses

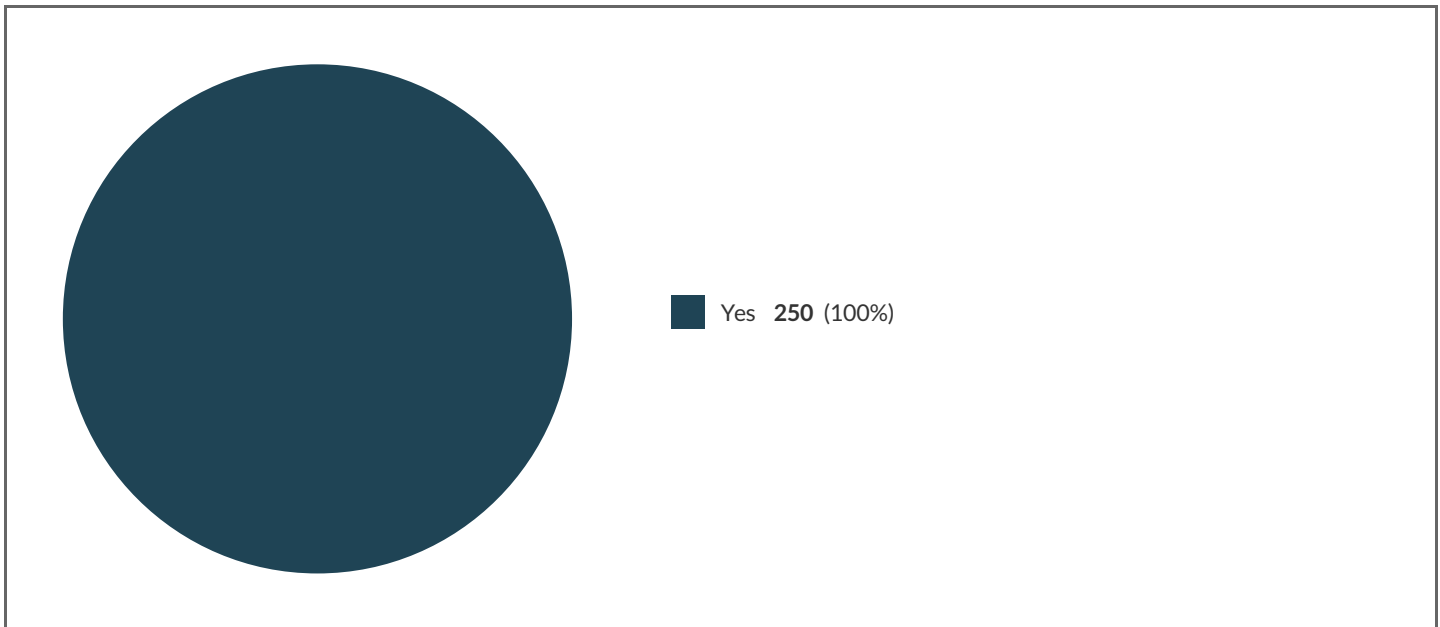
Showing **all** questions

Response rate: 250%

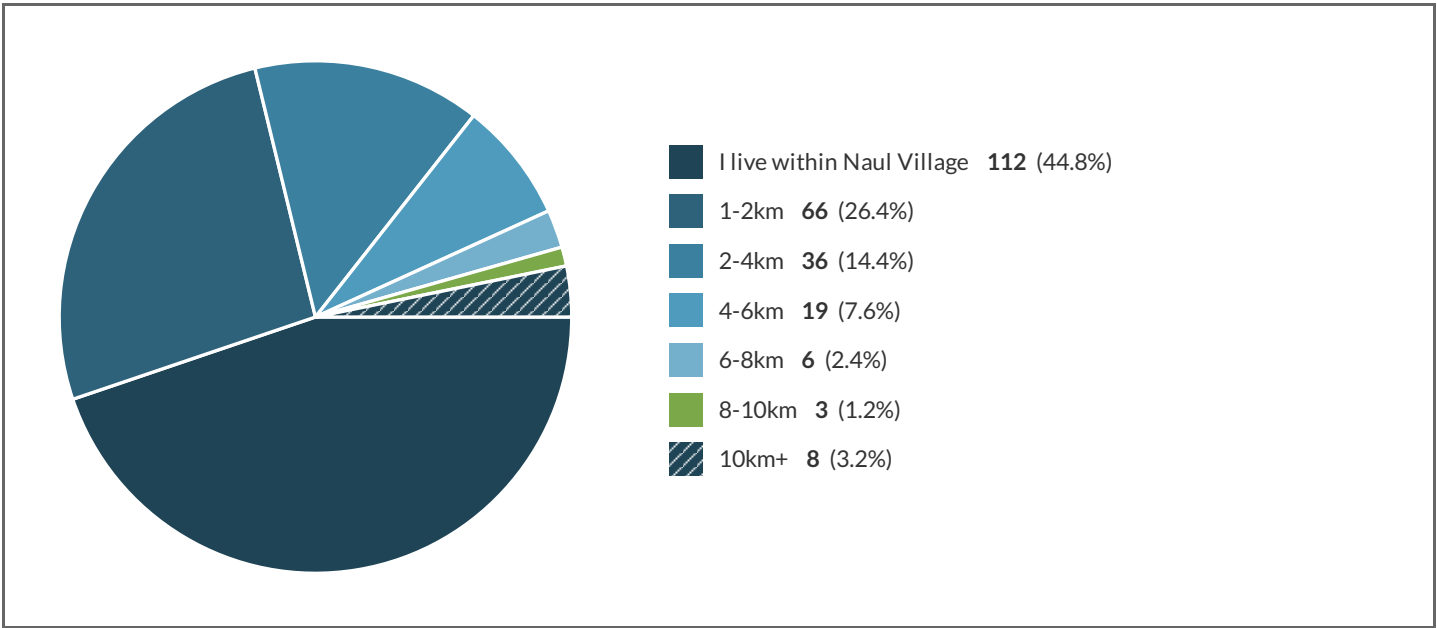
What is a Health Check?

Why your views matter?

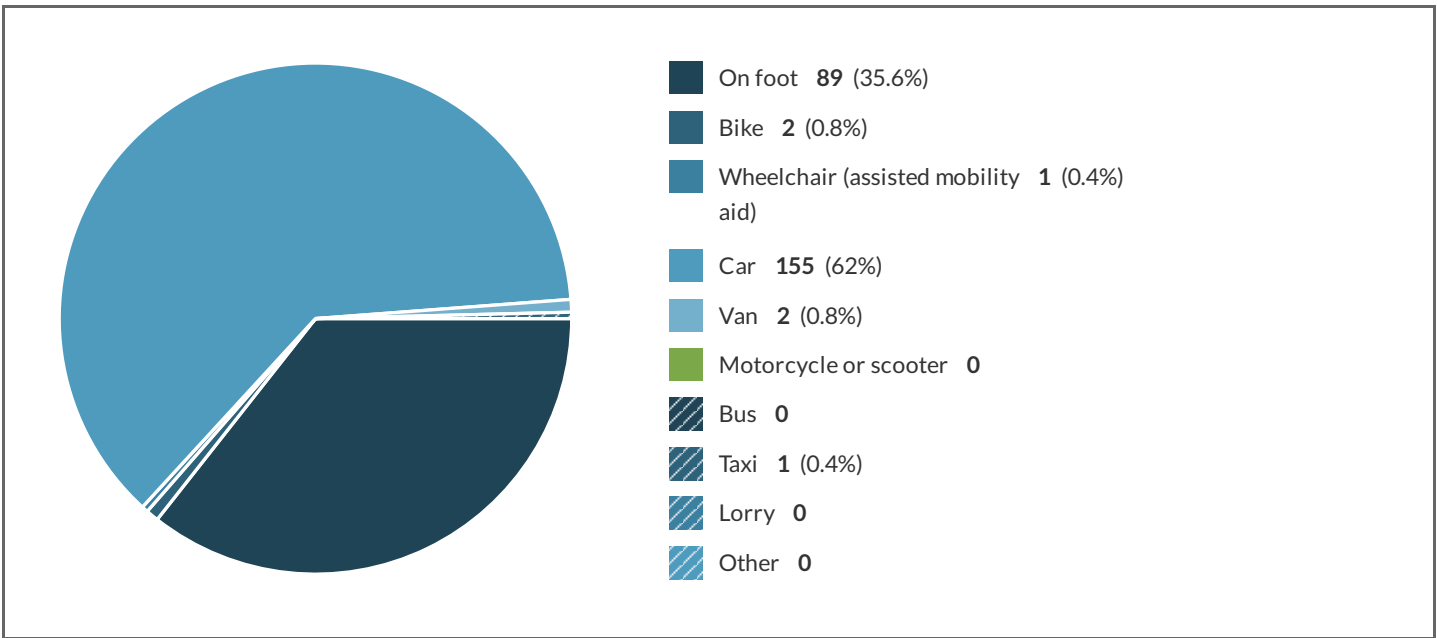
1 I consent to sharing my insights with Arup and the Project Team



2 Approximately how far do you live from Naul Village Centre?



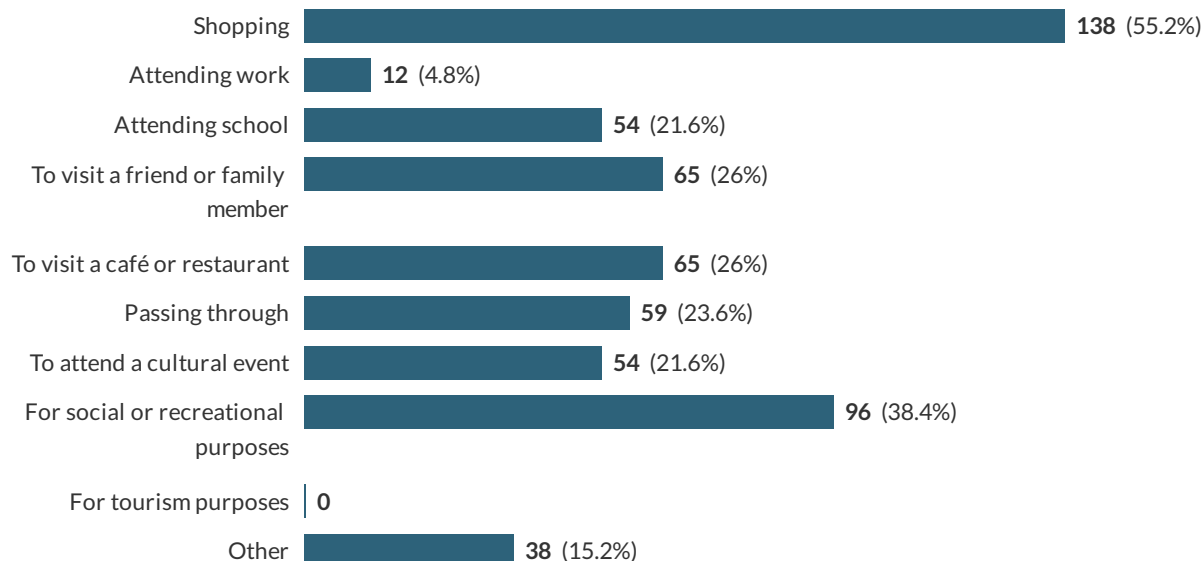
3 When you visit Naul Village, what mode of transport do you usually take?



3.a If you selected Other, please specify:

No responses

4 What is the main purpose(s) of your visit to Naul Village?



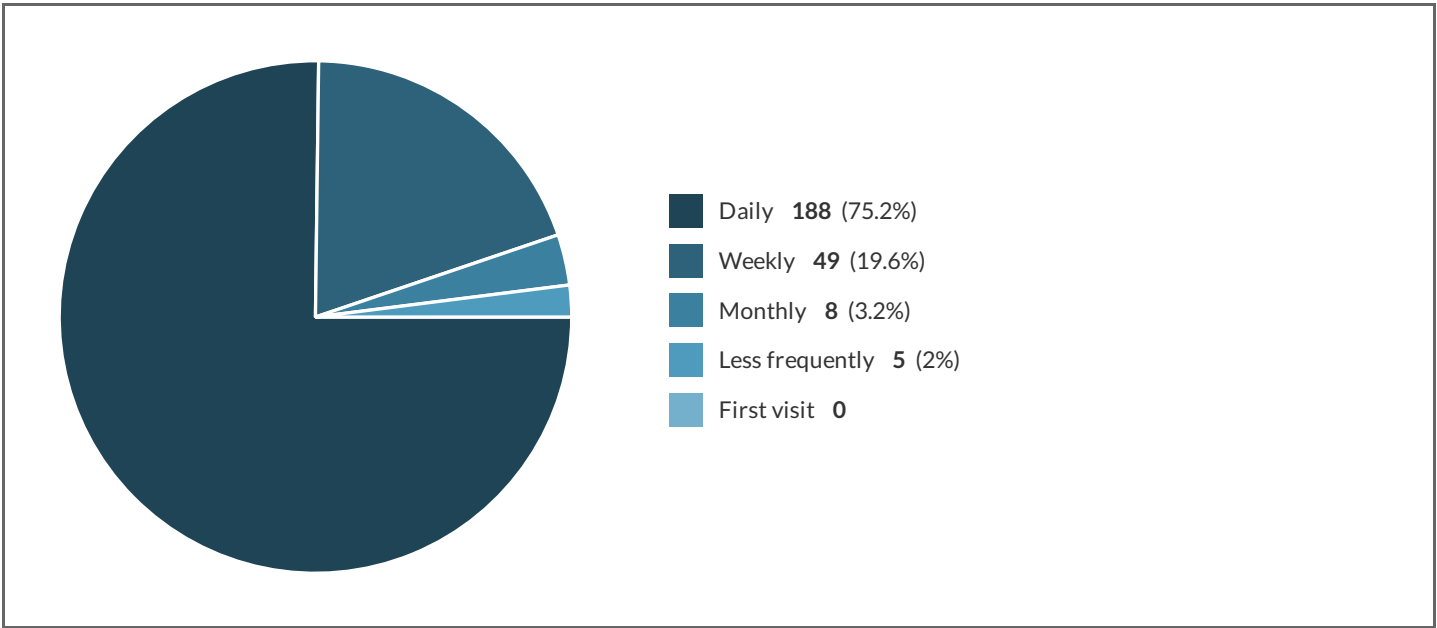
Multi answer: Percentage of respondents who selected each answer option (e.g. 100% would represent that all this question's respondents chose that option)

4.a If you selected Other, please specify:

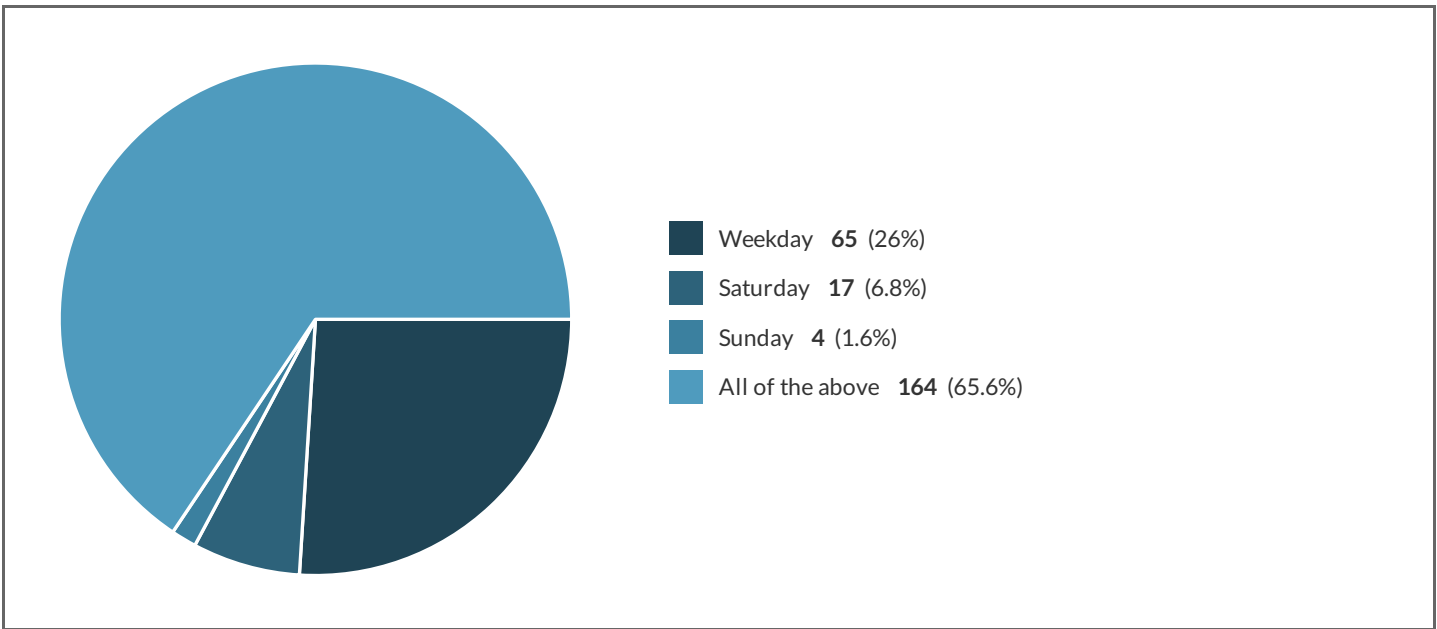
Showing all 36 responses	
I live here.	1084418-1084400-114382866
I live there	1084418-1084400-114400291
Live here	1084418-1084400-114402650
I live here.	1084418-1084400-114402305
I live in Naul	1084418-1084400-114406991
Bring kids to varoous events in seamus ennis centre	1084418-1084400-114407859
I live there.	1084418-1084400-114409125
Live there	1084418-1084400-114409943
Walking my dog	1084418-1084400-114409688
I live in Naul	1084418-1084400-114412192
My Children attend school in the village	1084418-1084400-114411839
I live there	1084418-1084400-114412489
I live here!	1084418-1084400-114414311
Dropping kids to village for school bus/to meet friends	1084418-1084400-114421621
Mass	1084418-1084400-114427670
Pub/Mass/GAA	1084418-1084400-114431181

Walking my dog	1084418-1084400-114430620
Mass	1084418-1084400-114439470
With my family	1084418-1084400-114443256
Hair cut	1084418-1084400-114453246
I live within the village and it is the only safe place to walk	1084418-1084400-114487092
I live there	1084418-1084400-114496009
I live in Naul and frequently visit the graveyard. I also go to the cafe, cultural centre and shop. I also visit the church.	1084418-1084400-114524910
Living in village	1084418-1084400-114533917
I live in Naul	1084418-1084400-114560494
Hairdressers	1084418-1084400-114562093
Walk	1084418-1084400-114566568
I live in the village	1084418-1084400-114599664
I live in the village	1084418-1084400-114609339
Walking the dog	1084418-1084400-114627460
Visit grave yard	1084418-1084400-114629043
Volunteer work	1084418-1084400-114651695
Visit graveyard	1084418-1084400-114658969
Going to Mass or Funeral	1084418-1084400-114693836
Live in Village	1084418-1084400-114750566
Barbershop	1084418-1084400-114777536

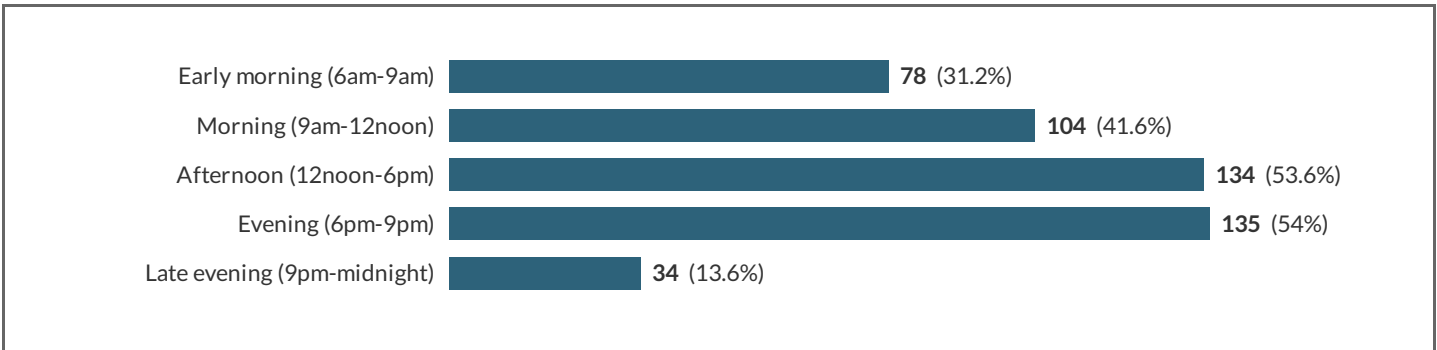
5 On average, how often do you visit Naul Village?



6 Generally, what day of the week do you most often visit Naul village?

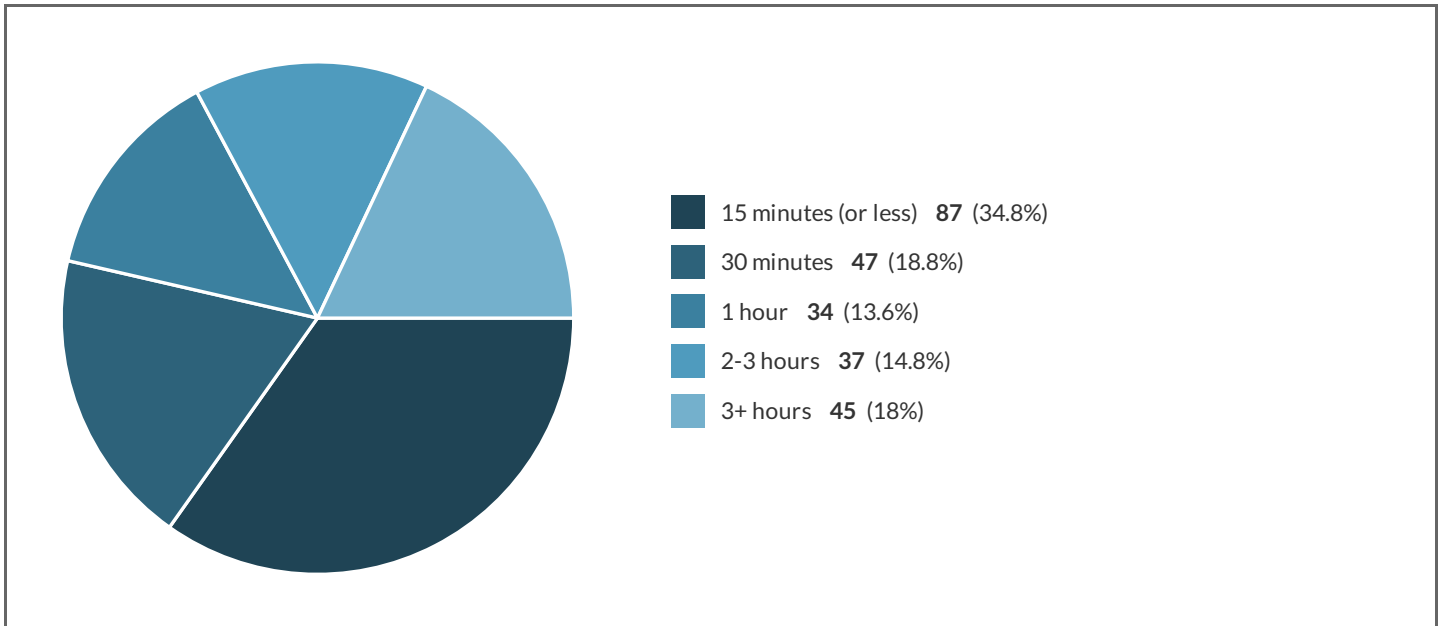


7 On average, at what time(s) do you most often visit Naul Village?

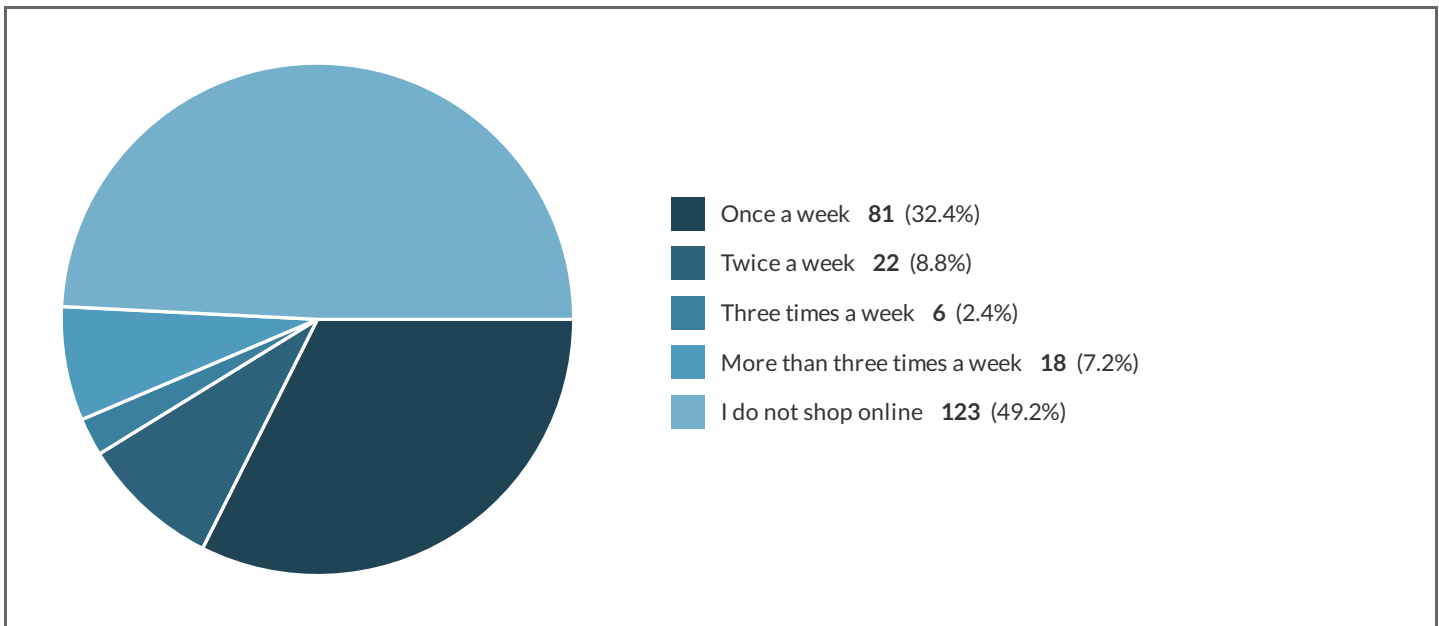


Multi answer: Percentage of respondents who selected each answer option (e.g. 100% would represent that all this question's respondents chose that option)

8 How long would you spend per visit in Naul village?



9 On average, how often do you shop online locally? i.e. booking an appointment at the beauticians, ordering local produce/takeaway, purchasing local goods/services online.

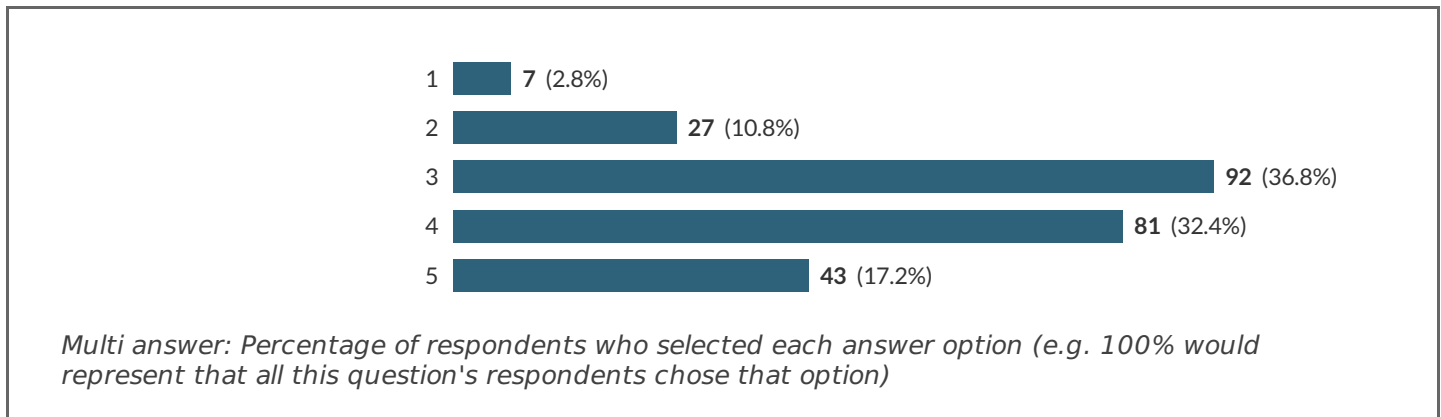


10 What is your first thoughts or impressions when you think about Naul?

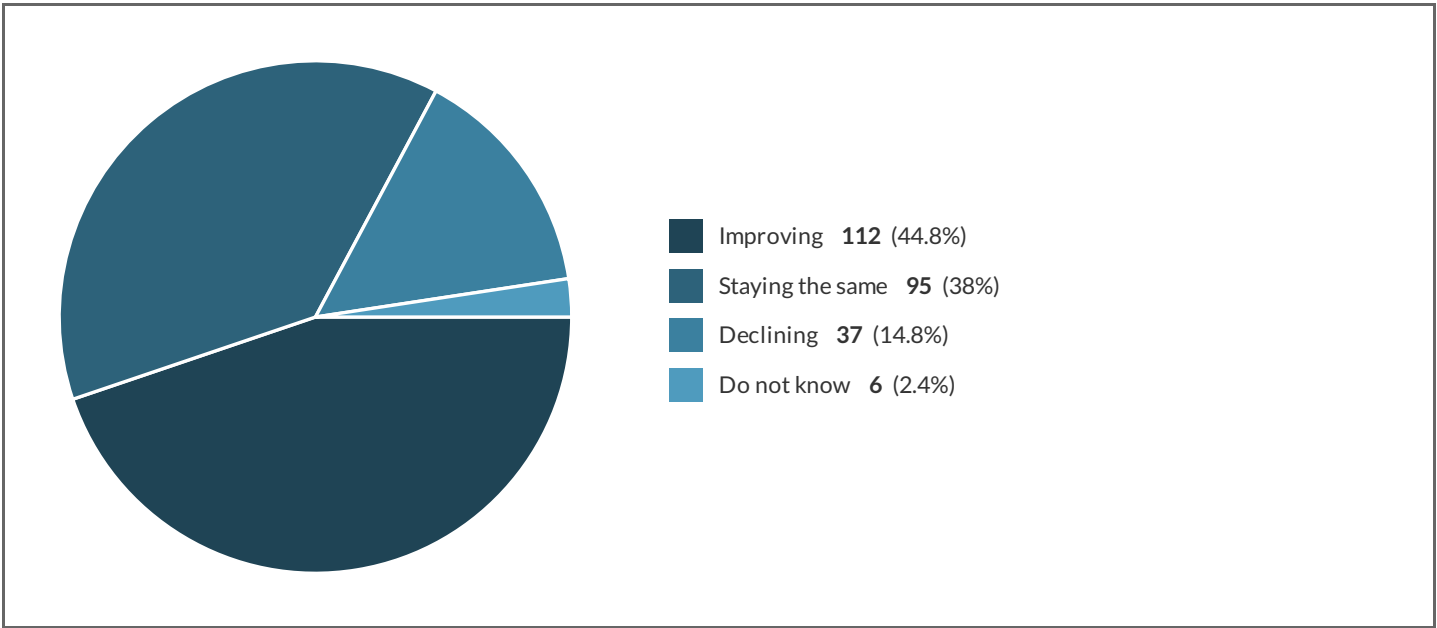
Showing first 5 of 250 responses	
Run down, neglect houses on left as enter, lack of shops eg pharmacy	1084418-1084400-114382039
Nice village but needs serious traffic claiming	1084418-1084400-114383182
It is usually a quiet village. However since the café closed it has lost a lot of the life it had in it.	1084418-1084400-114382866
I love the naul village its full of character an history's we are so lucky to live in the naul I only wish there was some way to keep it in its original sate hate seeing new building poppin up n changing it to much the village should be a sacred place preserved the history keep its culture an charm. getting more of the inner community involved in helping out an hearing out what the community wants and other ideas days out events ect..	1084418-1084400-114381740
Cute village	1084418-1084400-114384216

11 Based on your experience, how satisfied are you with Naul village on a scale from 1-5? (1 being very poor, 3 being average and 5 being very good)

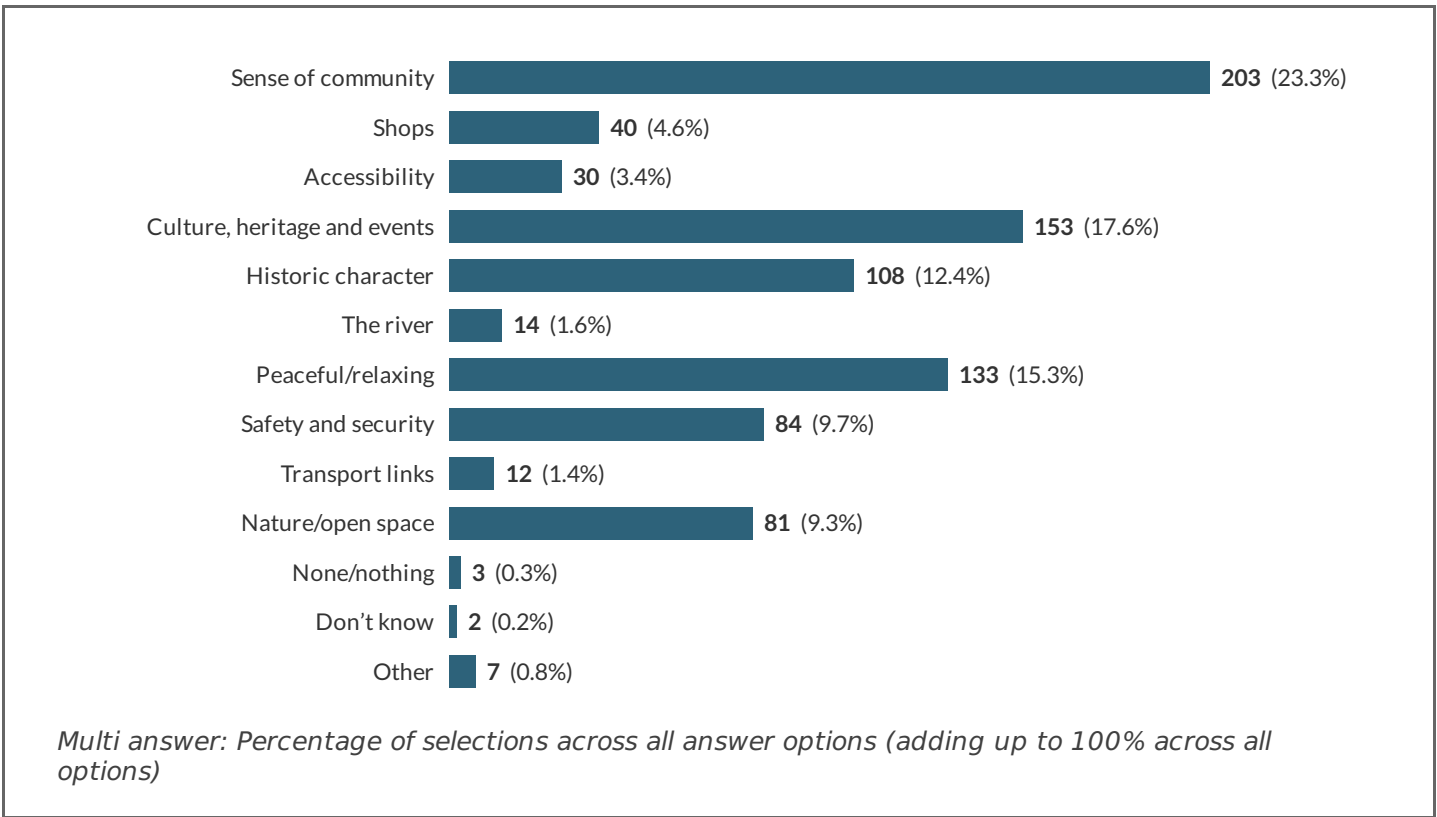
11.1 Naul Village



12 Overall, would you say Naul village is?



13 What do you like about Naul village?



13.a If you selected Other, please specify:

Showing first 5 of 7 responses	
The GAA Pitches	1084418-1084400-114404509
GAA	1084418-1084400-114431181
Sports facility	1084418-1084400-114575664
Football Culb	1084418-1084400-114590107
Naul does have a great community but due to a lack of amenities people are not as involved as they were in the past. There is great history to Naul but it is not utilised and brought to the fore	1084418-1084400-114626720

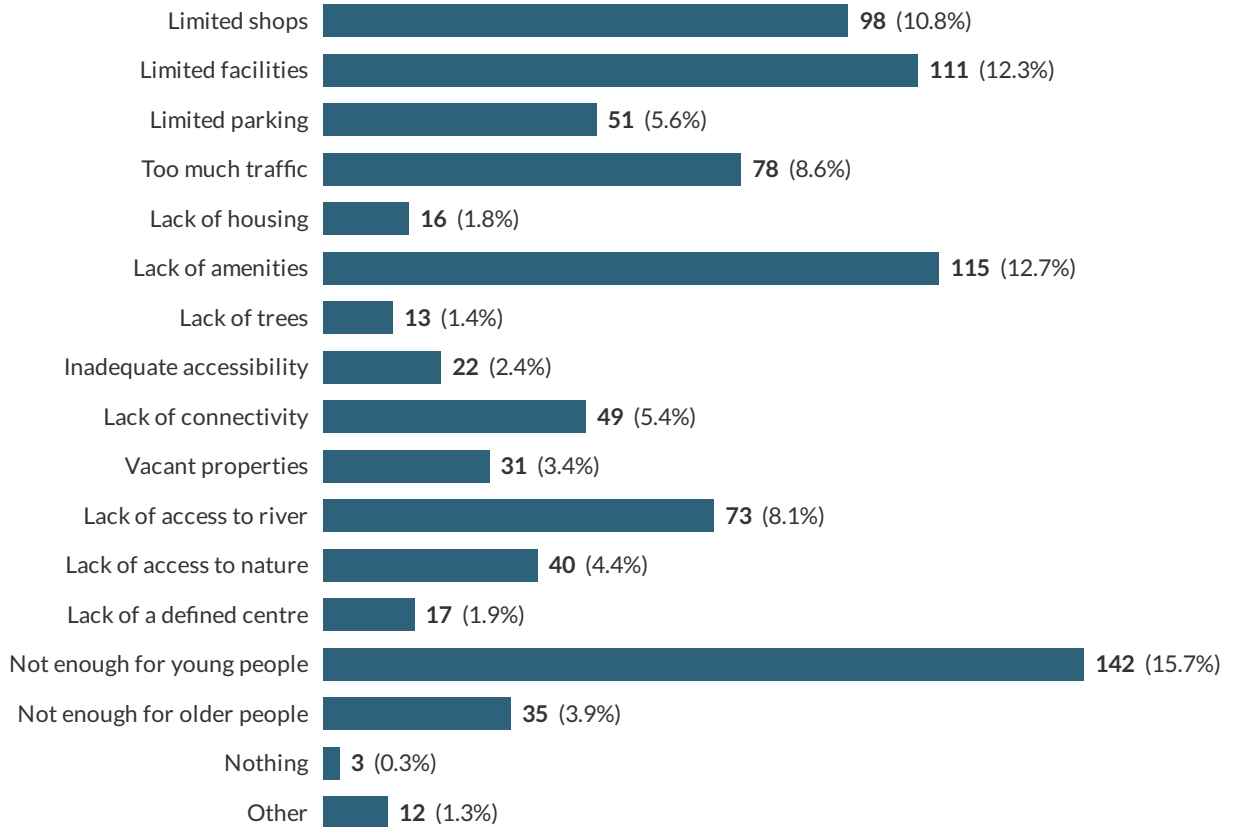
13.b If you selected Other, please specify:

No responses

14 Please tell us one special thing you would like us to know about Naul!

Showing first 5 of 198 responses	
Friendly great sense of community	1084418-1084400-114382039
Small village	1084418-1084400-114383182
It is a tight knit community.	1084418-1084400-114382866
The Séamus Ennis Centre is a real gem that the town is very lucky to have	1084418-1084400-114383797
Fantastic community sense of responsibility	1084418-1084400-114385010

15 What do you not like about Naul?



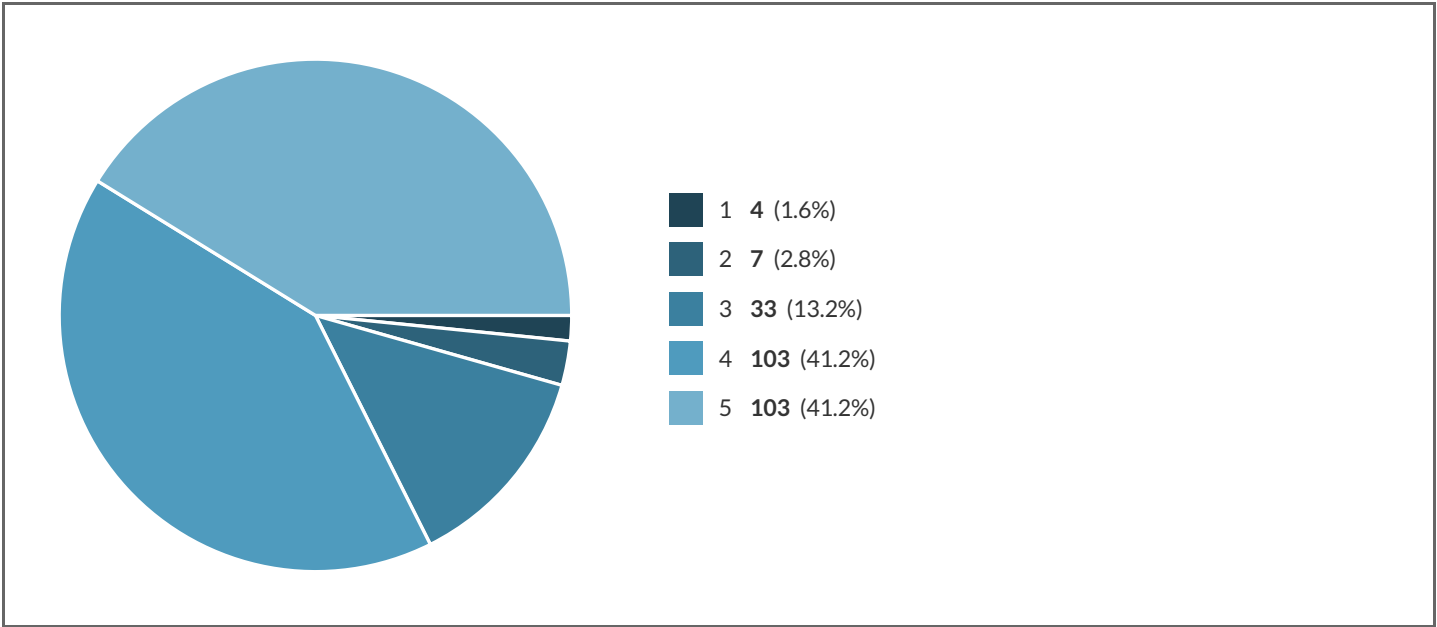
Multi answer: Percentage of selections across all answer options (adding up to 100% across all options)

15.a If you selected Other, please specify:

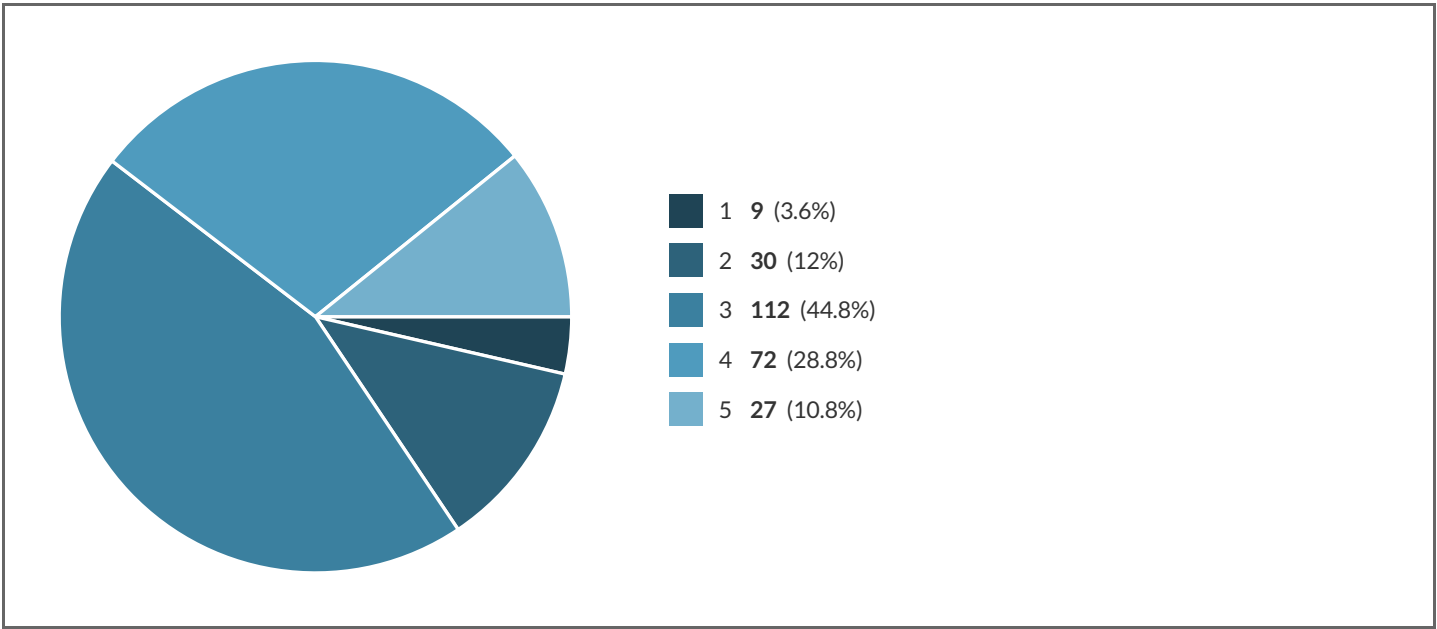
Showing first 5 of 12 responses	
The public transport is awful. If you don't drive it's very difficult to get anywhere.	1084418-1084400-114382866
to much building estates beening built its getting to populated and build up the naul should stay a small tigh community friendly Village	1084418-1084400-114381740
Could be a hub for cycling stop offs	1084418-1084400-114407859
No playground for kids; poor internet	1084418-1084400-114431780
Reopen the cafe lower the rent so that they can afford to open . Don't ruin it by over populating it	1084418-1084400-114453246

16 Please rate the following key aspects of Naul village on a scale from 1-5 (1 being very poor, 3 being average and 5 being very good)

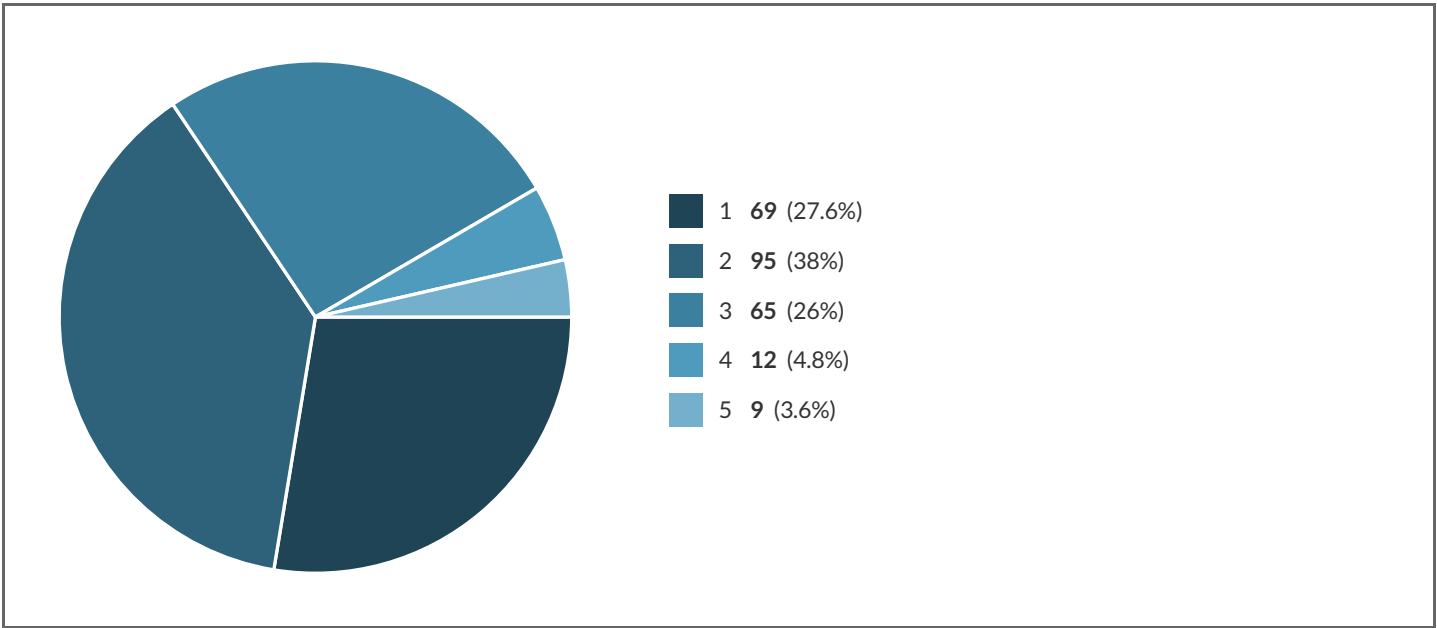
16.1 General attractiveness and cleanliness



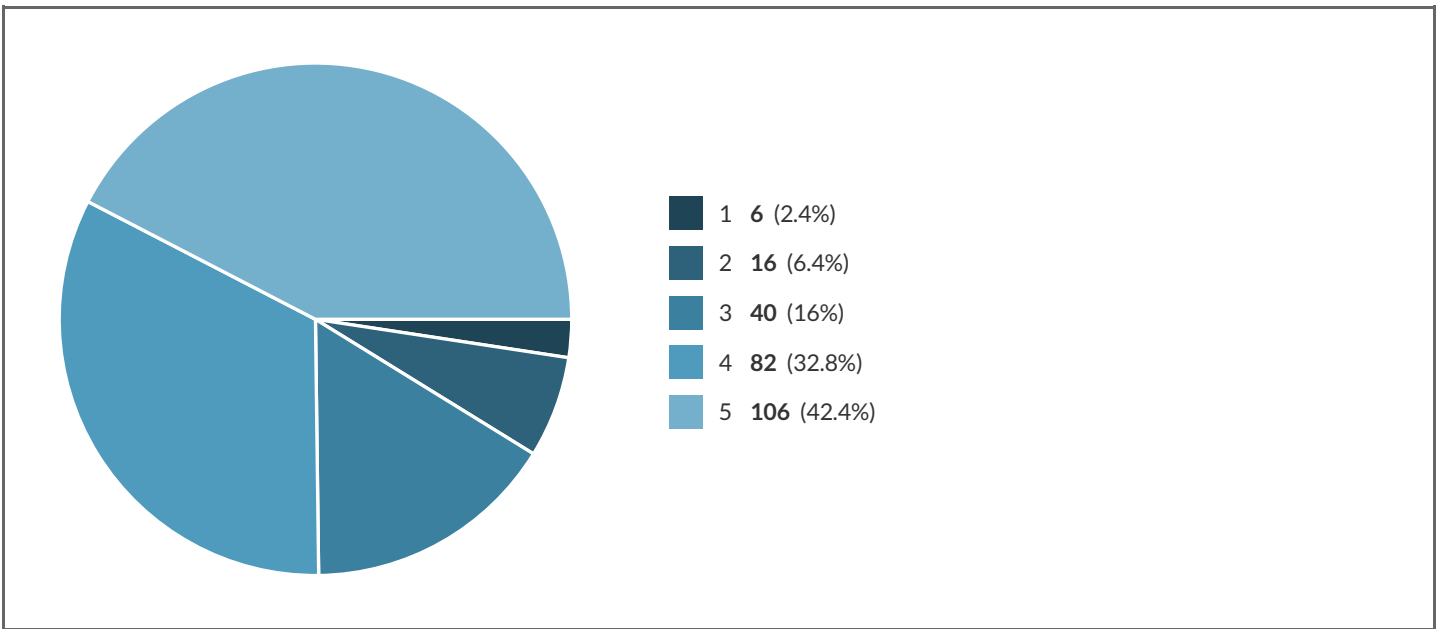
16.2 General feeling of vibrancy



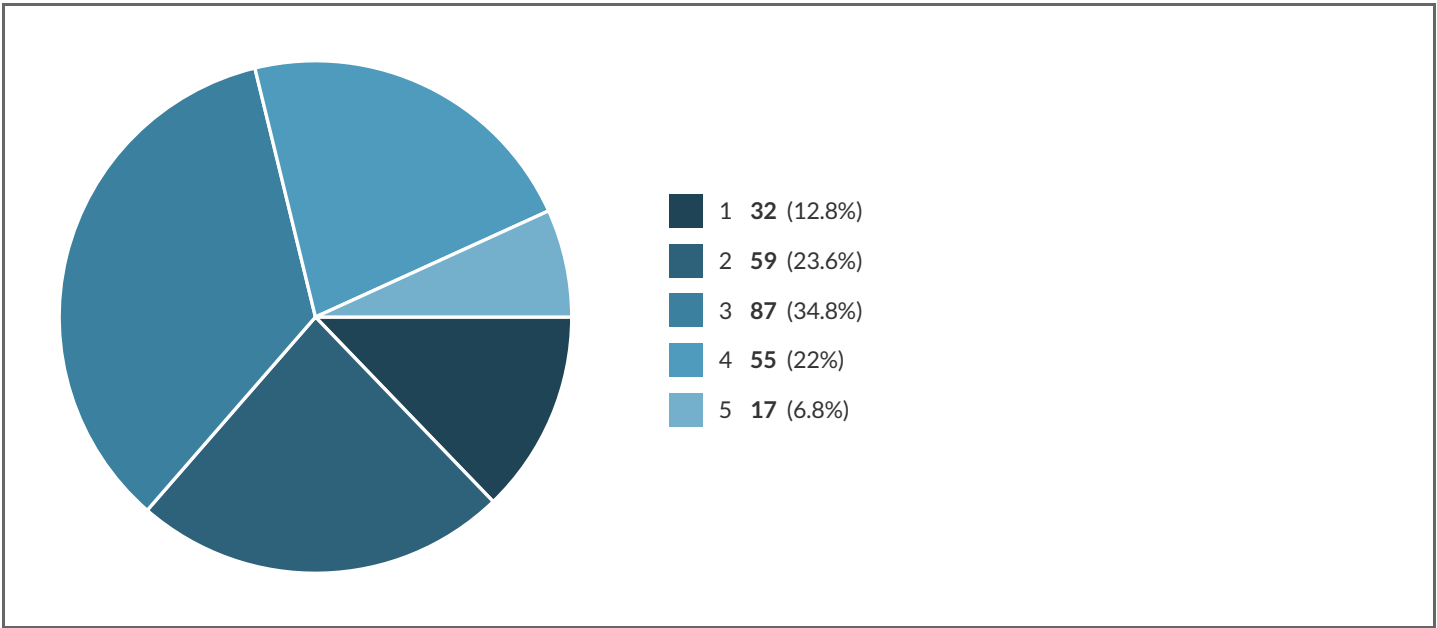
16.3 Variety and range of shops



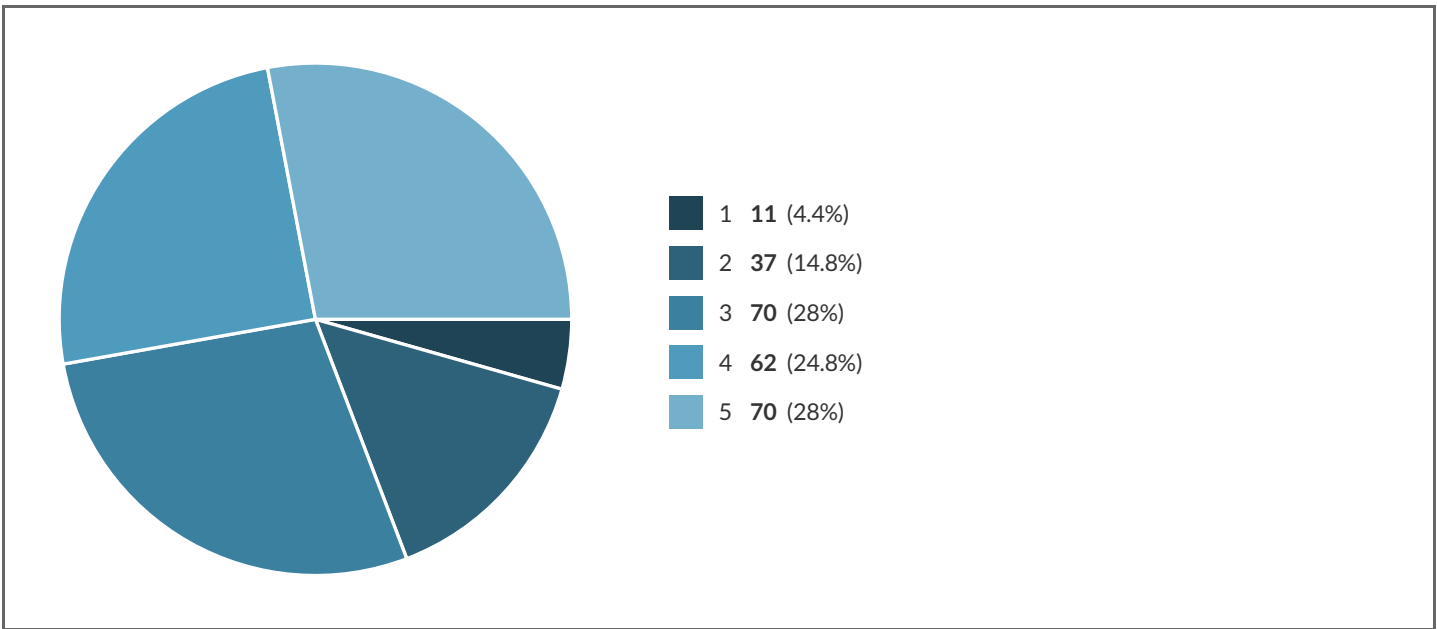
16.4 Standard of service in shops



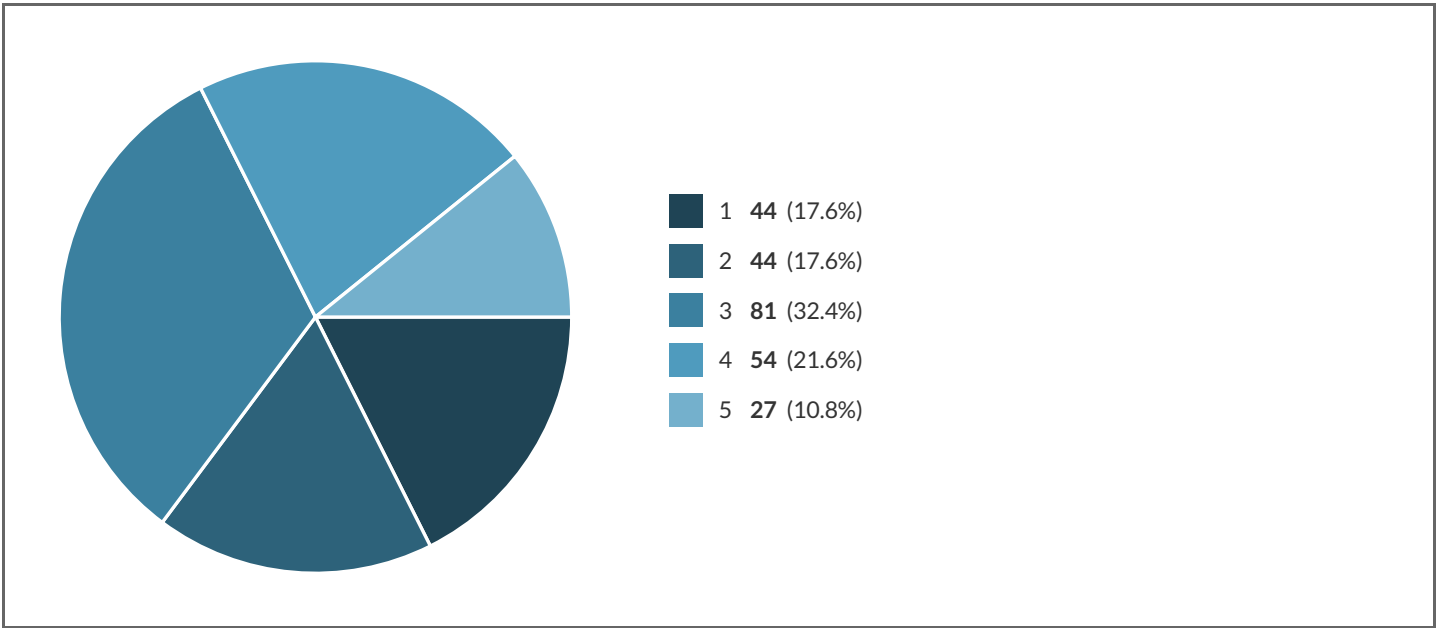
16.5 Attractions other than shopping



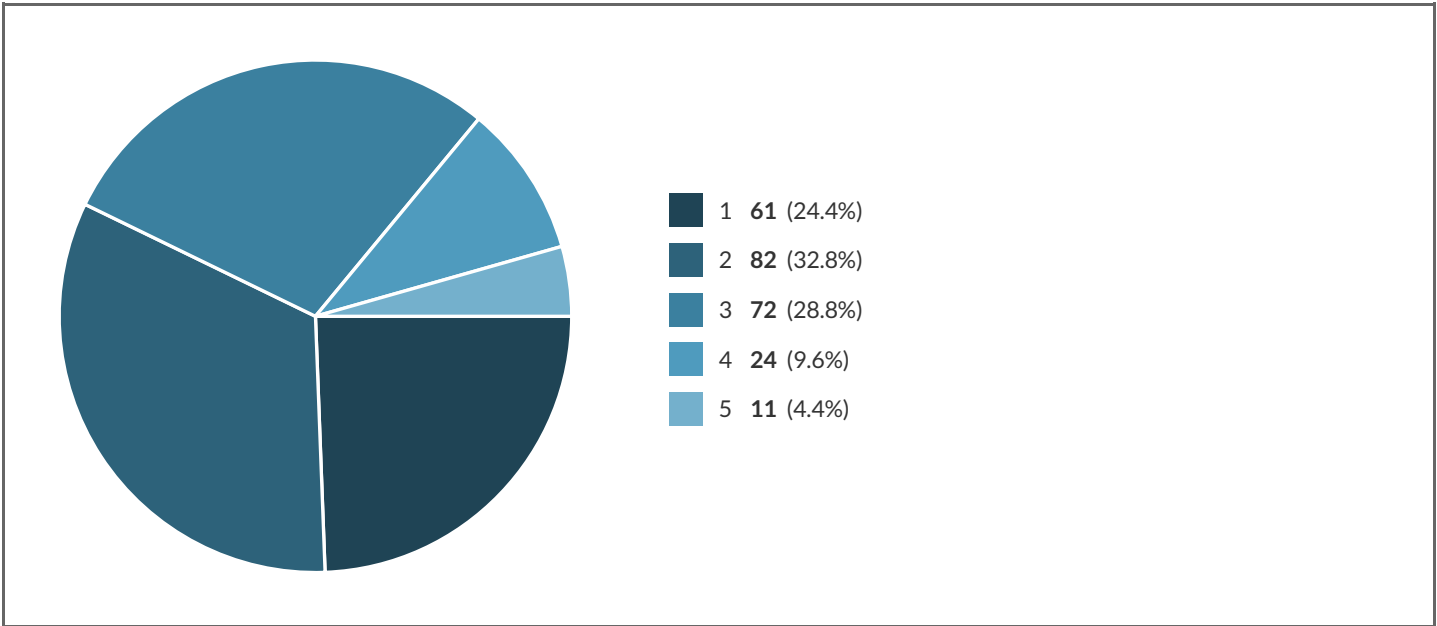
16.6 Range of public events and festivals



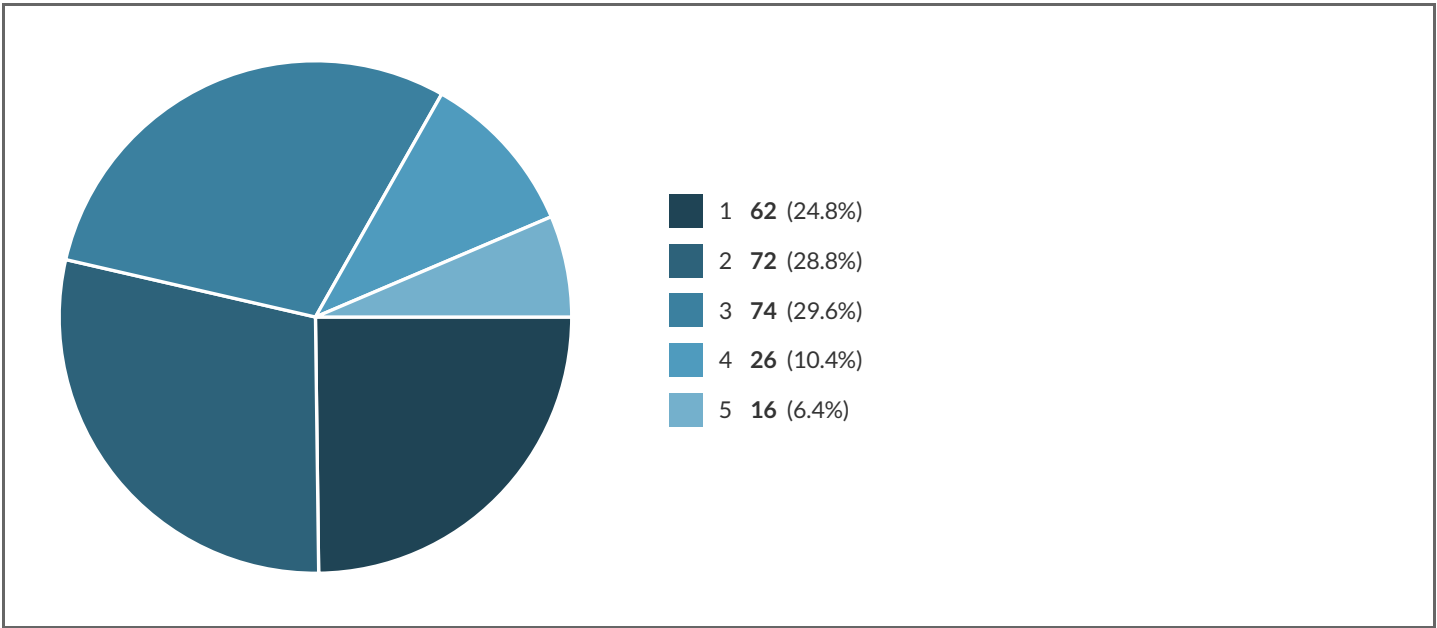
16.7 Pedestrian accessibility



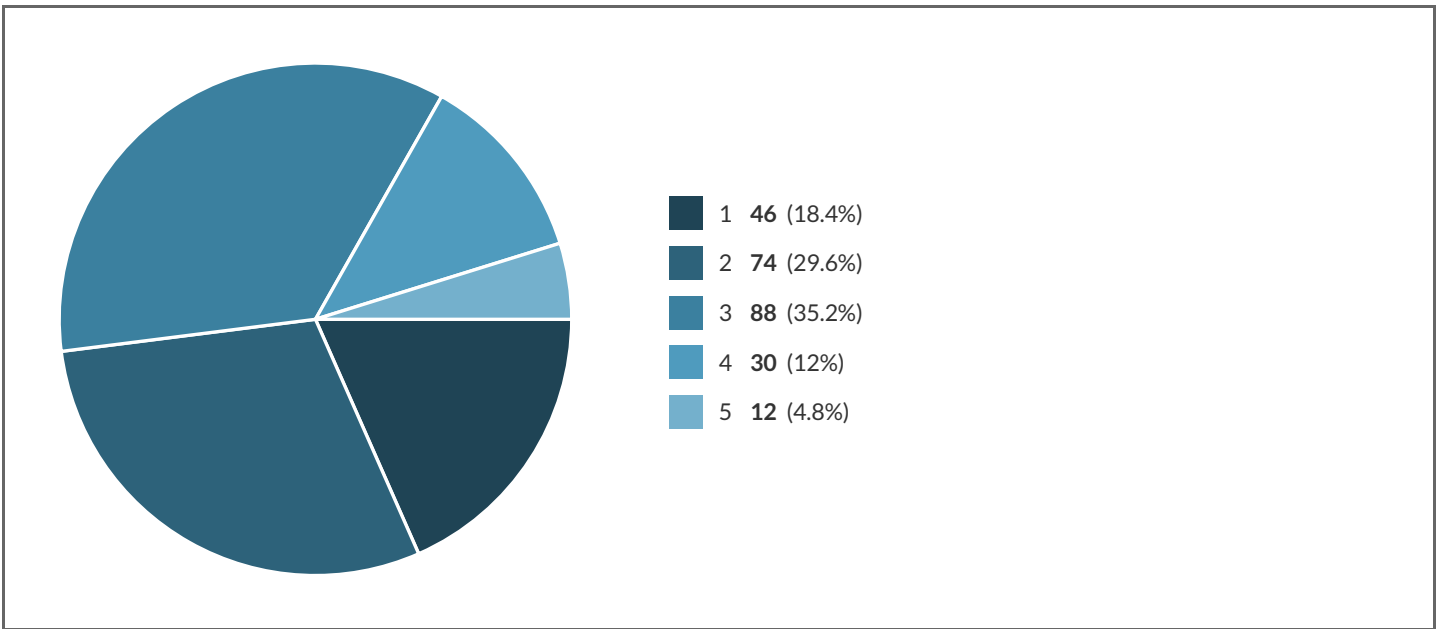
16.8 Public transport



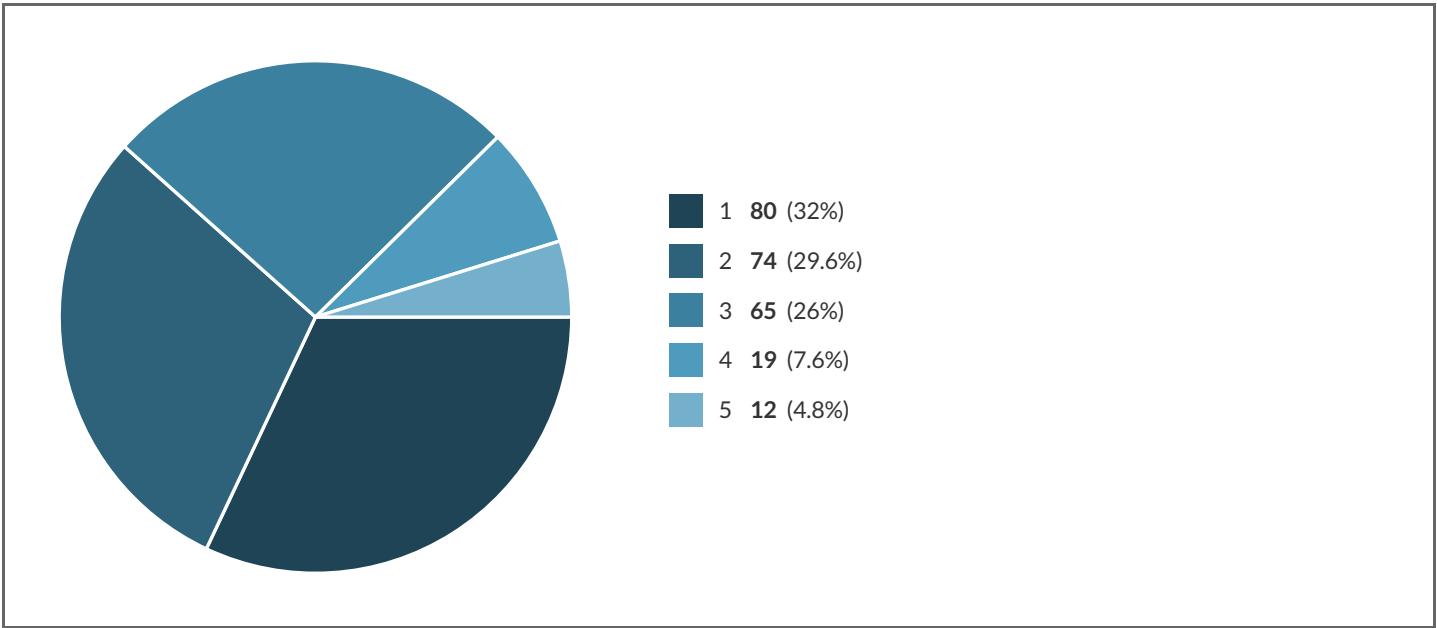
16.9 Traffic management / flow



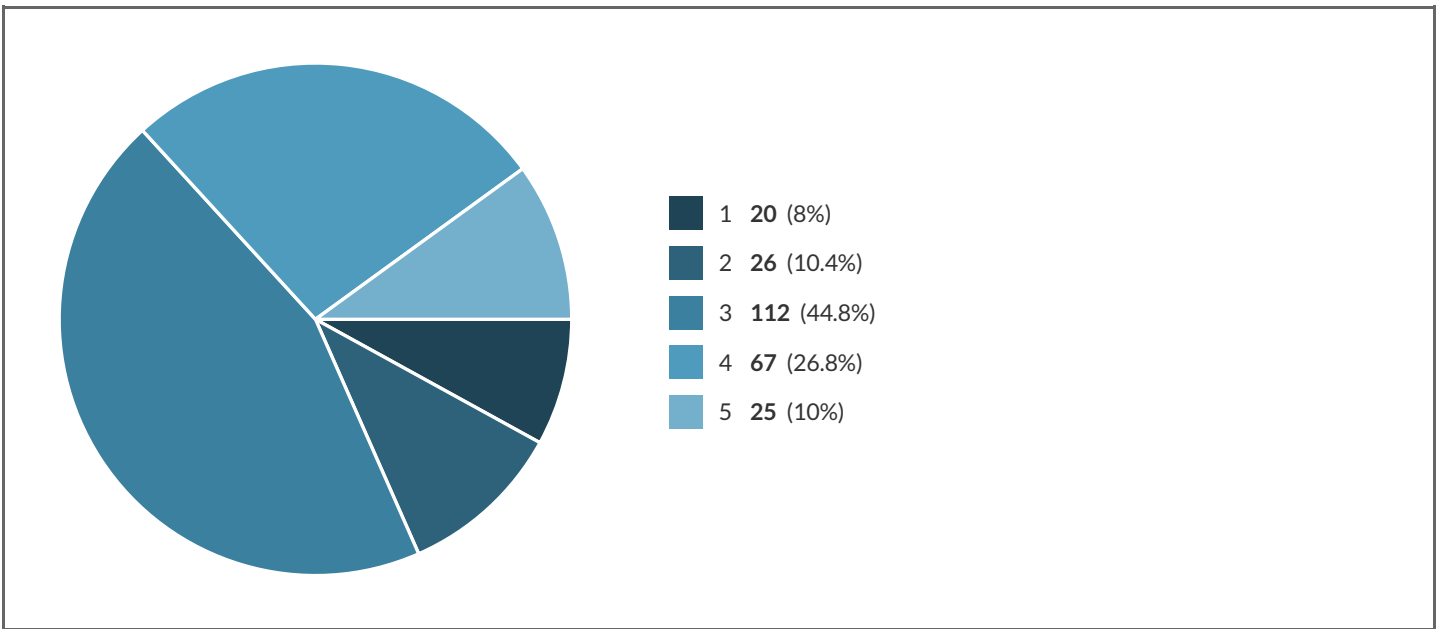
16.10 Car parking availability



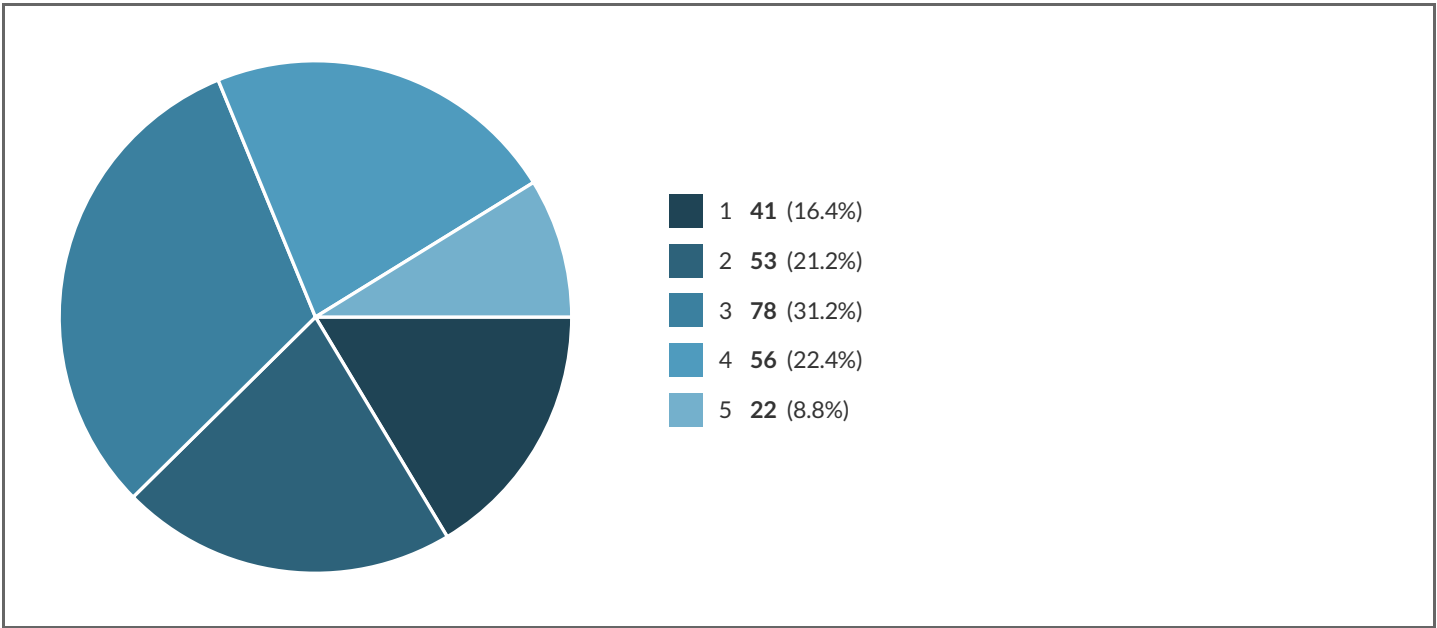
16.11 Bicycle parking



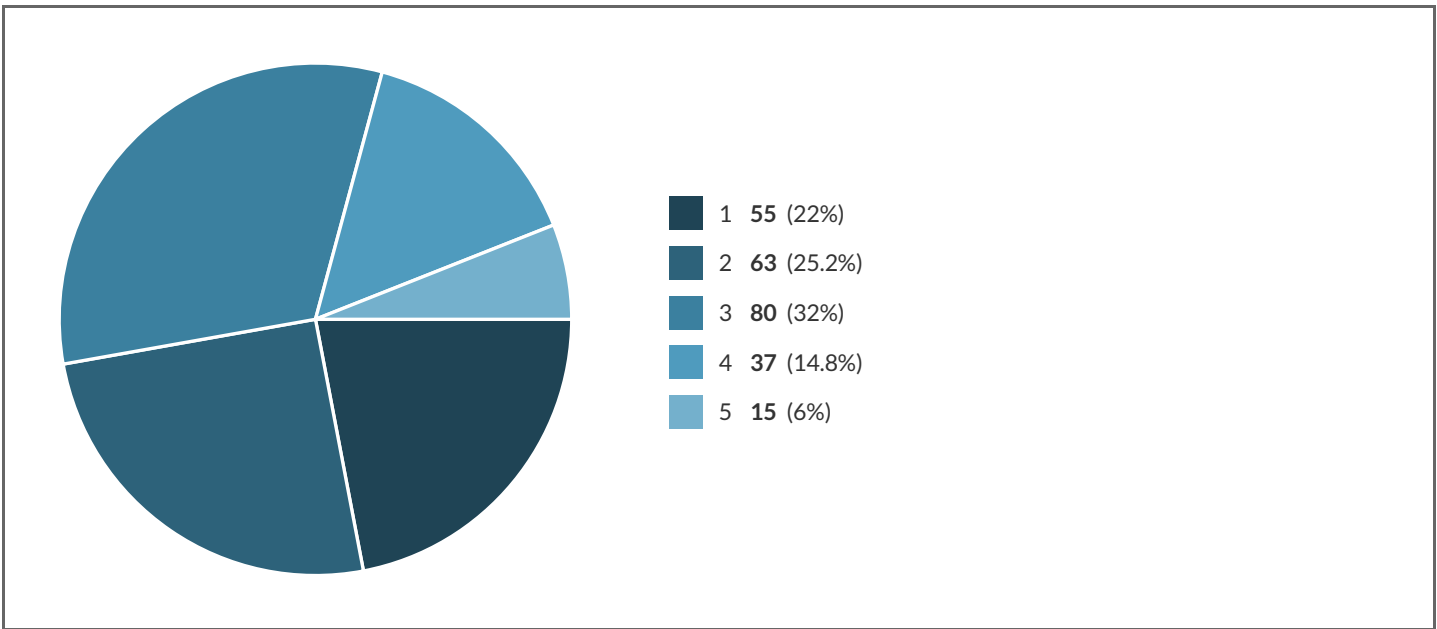
16.12 Wayfinding/signage



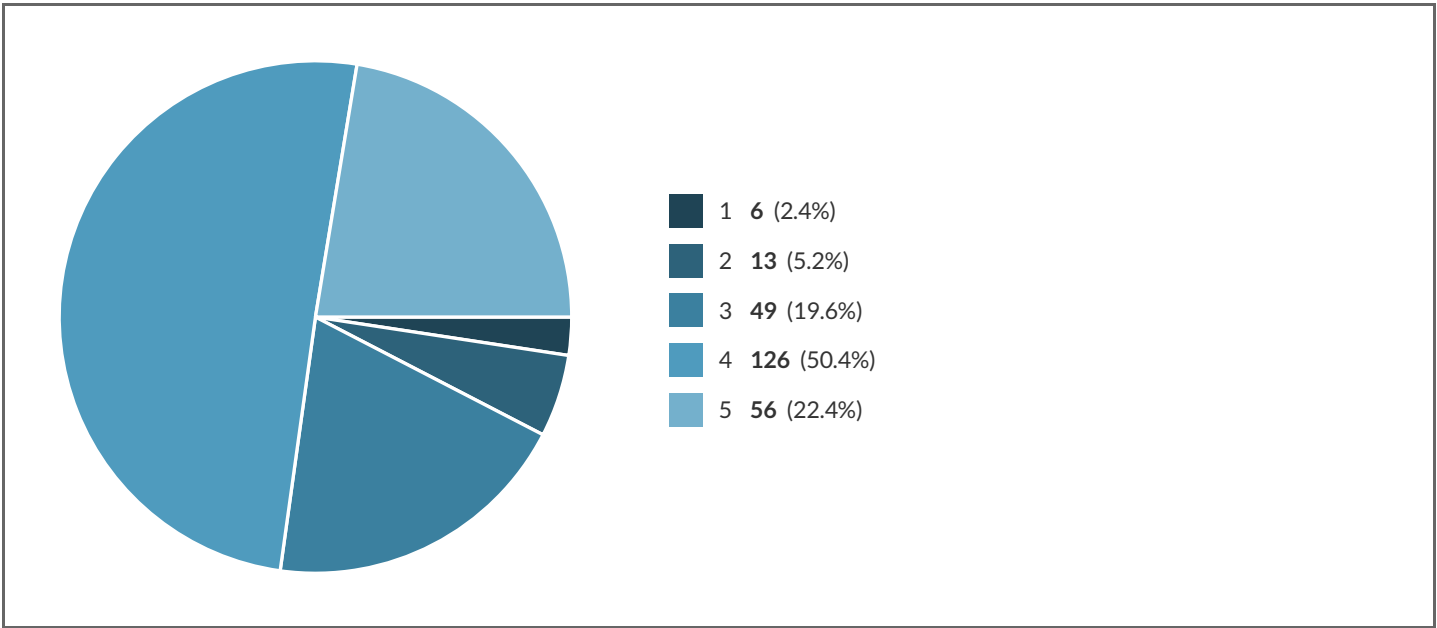
16.13 Pavement quality



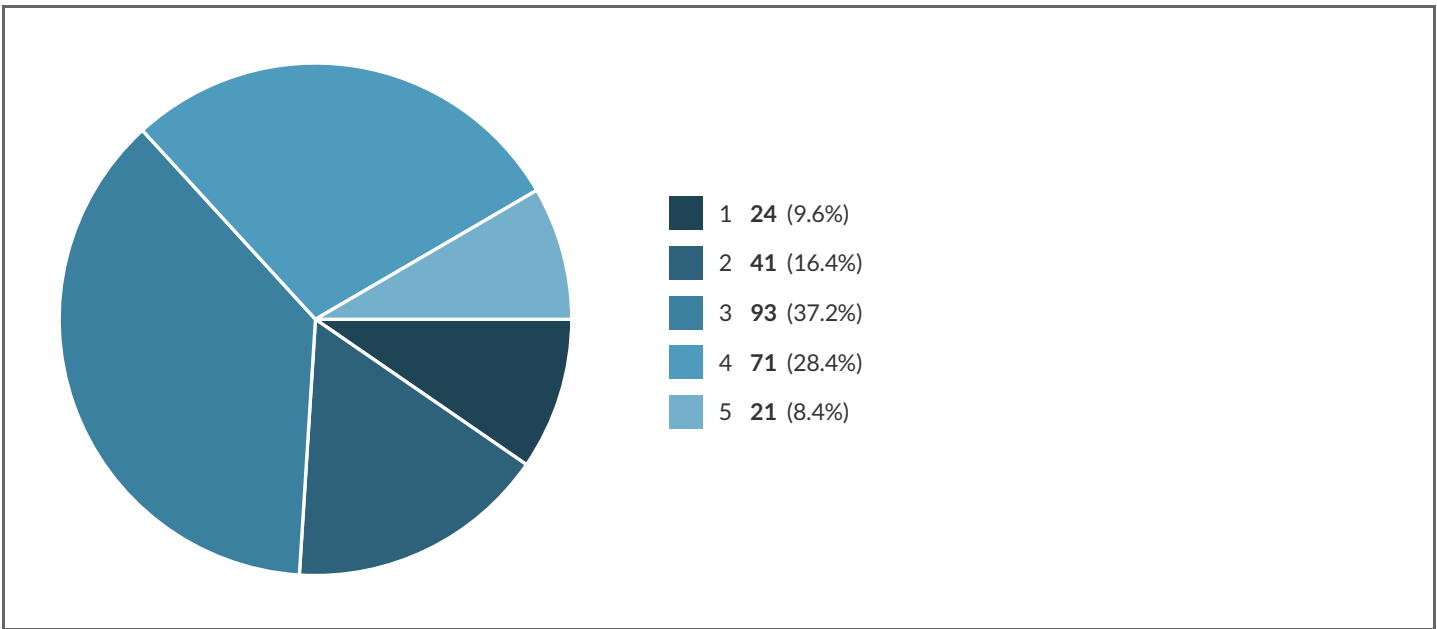
16.14 Seating and areas to congregate



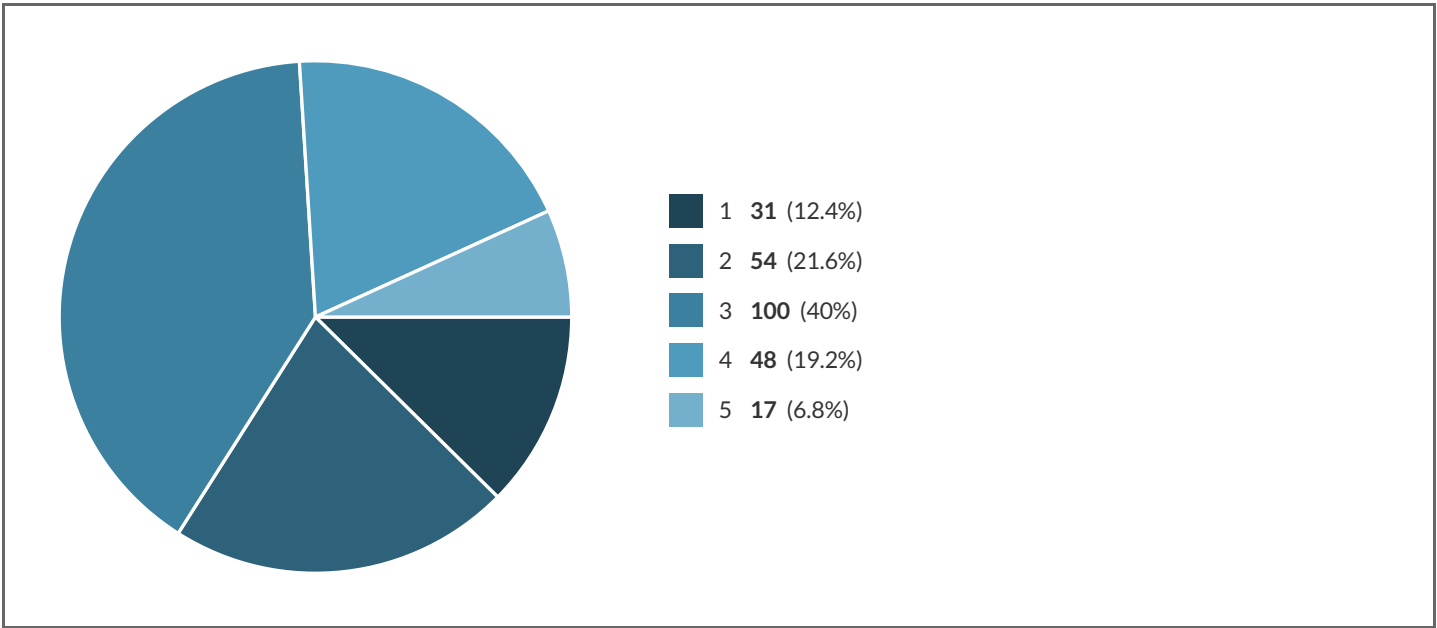
16.15 Feeling of safety and security



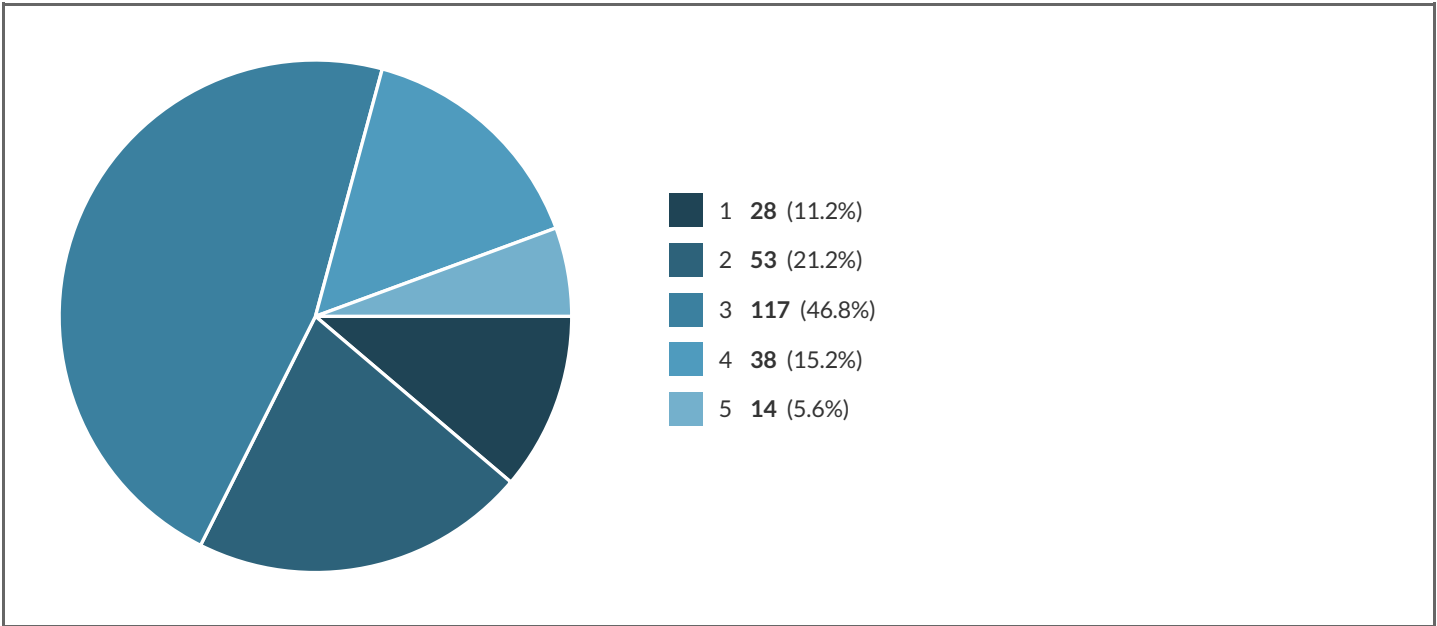
16.16 Connections to heritage assets



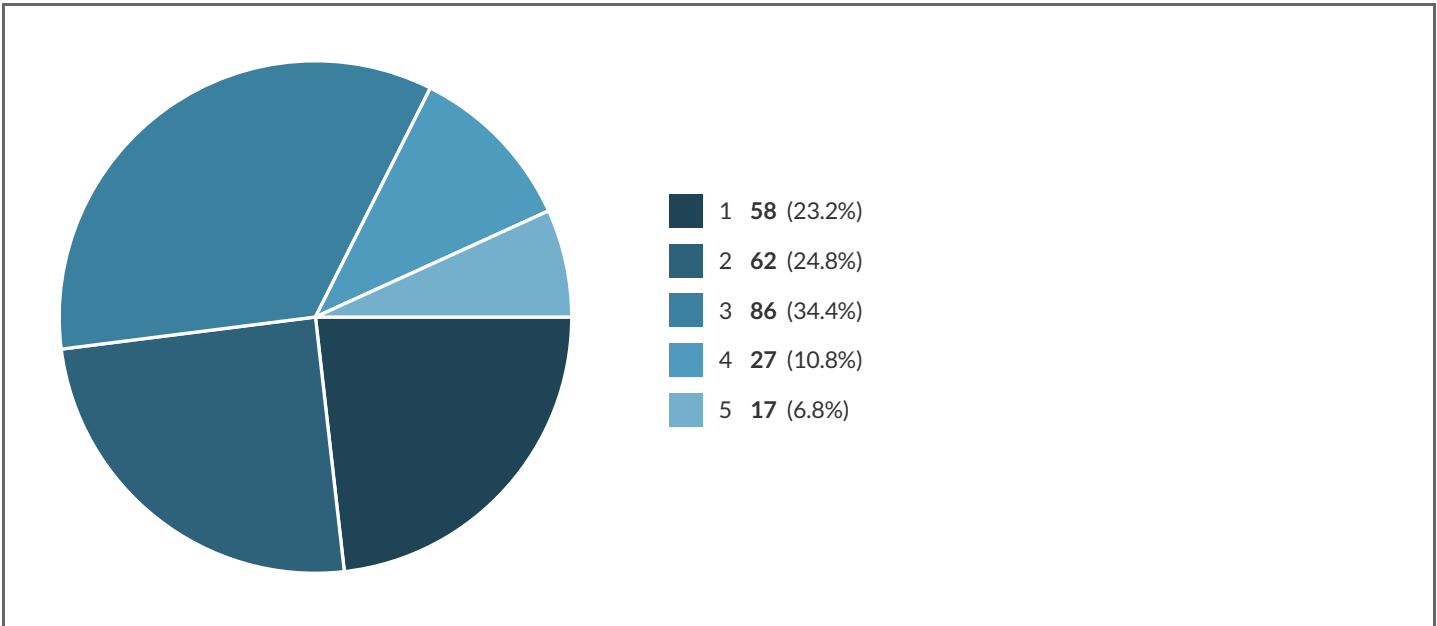
16.17 Connections to nature/natural areas



16.18 Level of vacancy and dereliction



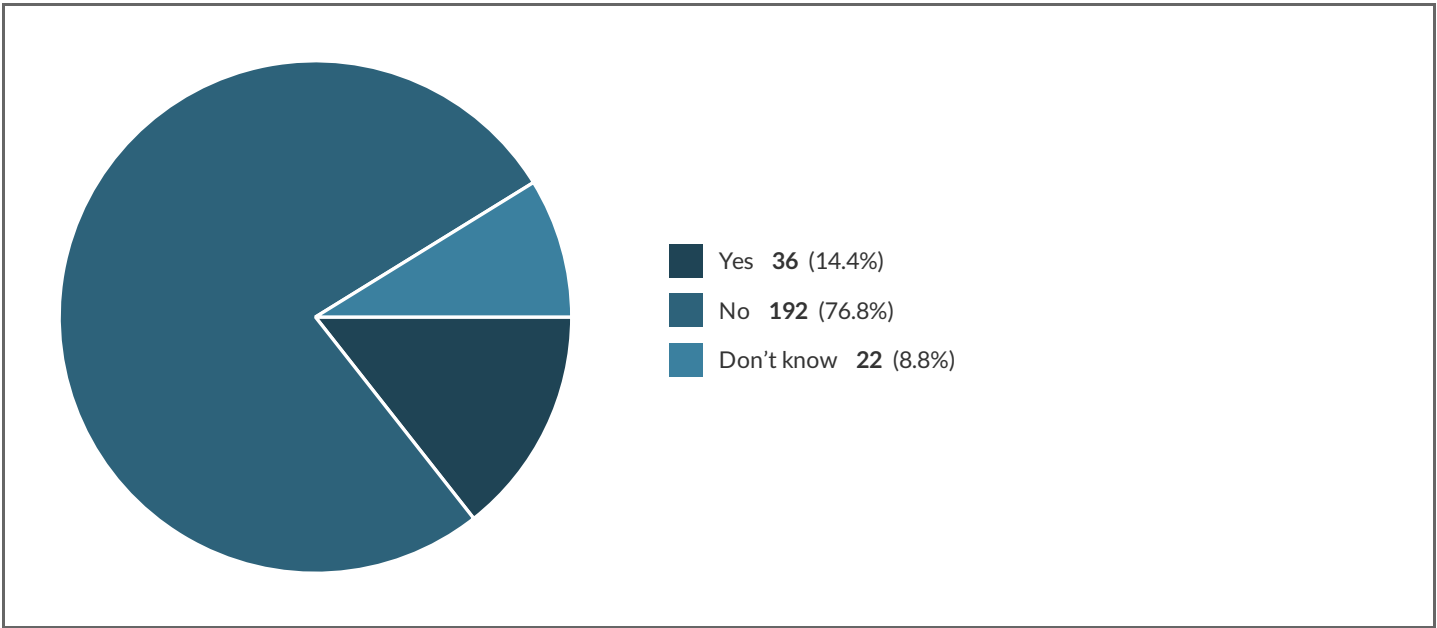
16.19 Safe routes to school



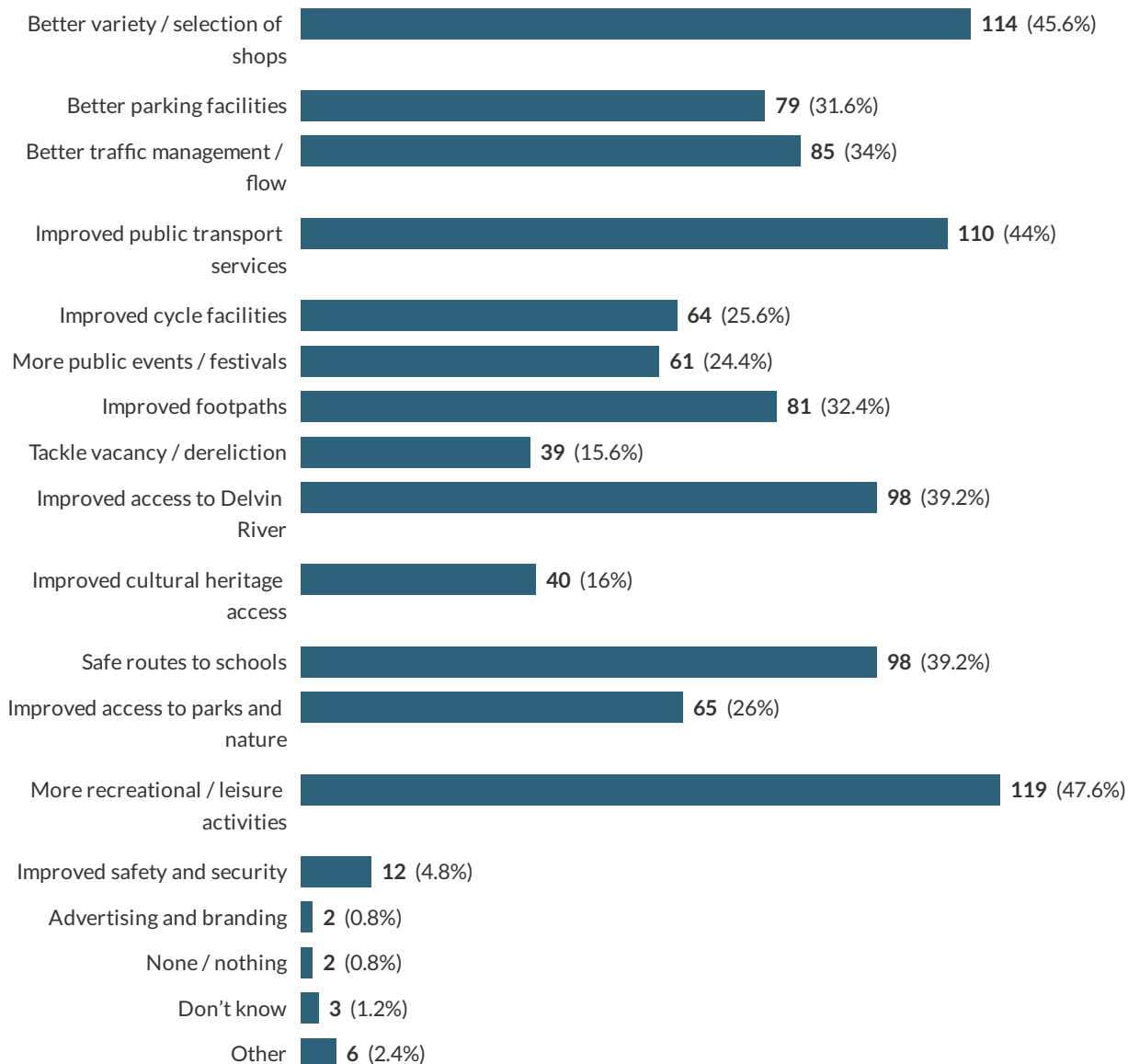
17 Is there anything you would like to add regarding your perceptions and experiences of Naul Village?

Showing first 5 of 160 responses	
Too many lorries and speeding	1084418-1084400-114382039
Please help with traffic. Serious issues.	1084418-1084400-114383182
I have lived here all my life and love where I am from. However, public transport links need to be vastly improved and there needs to be more for young people in the area to do so they do not continue to vandalise the area etc.	1084418-1084400-114382866
I definitely feel like there should be more access to nature, the ability to walk in nature or walk from one part of the village to the other safely	1084418-1084400-114383797
Safer roads Pedestrian and cycle lanes needed Cafe as social aspect needed Irish language on all signs	1084418-1084400-114385010

18 Is there sufficient amenities in Naul for families, customers and visitors?



19 What improvement(s) do you feel is needed to Naul village? Please select your top five!

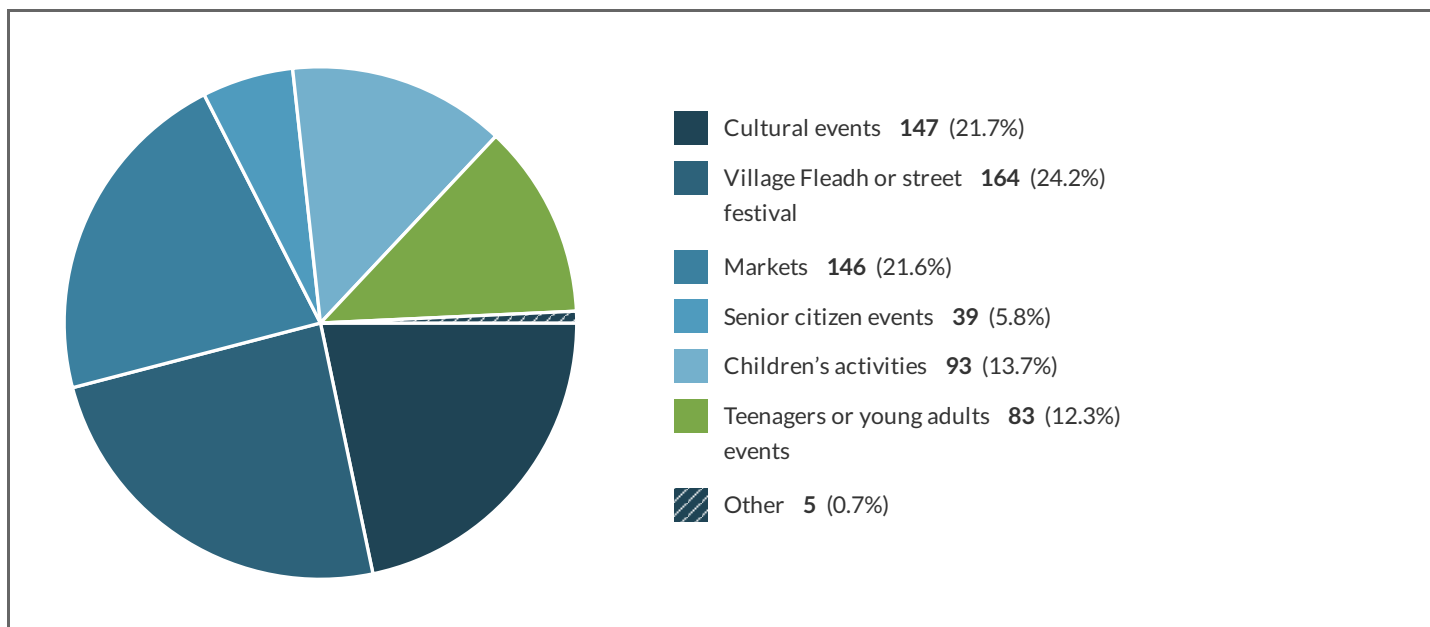


Multi answer: Percentage of respondents who selected each answer option (e.g. 100% would represent that all this question's respondents chose that option)

19.a If you selected Other, please specify:

Showing all 5 responses	
safe place to bring your dogs out to meet other dogs an socialize	1084418-1084400-114381740
Cafe or more places to eat out	1084418-1084400-114410995
Playground and cafe/ coffee shop	1084418-1084400-114436177
Coffee shop	1084418-1084400-114449116
Naul needs a total revamp without destroying the historical value. It is an area steeped in history.	1084418-1084400-114764267

20 What events would entice you to visit and spend time in the village?



20.a If you selected Other, please specify:

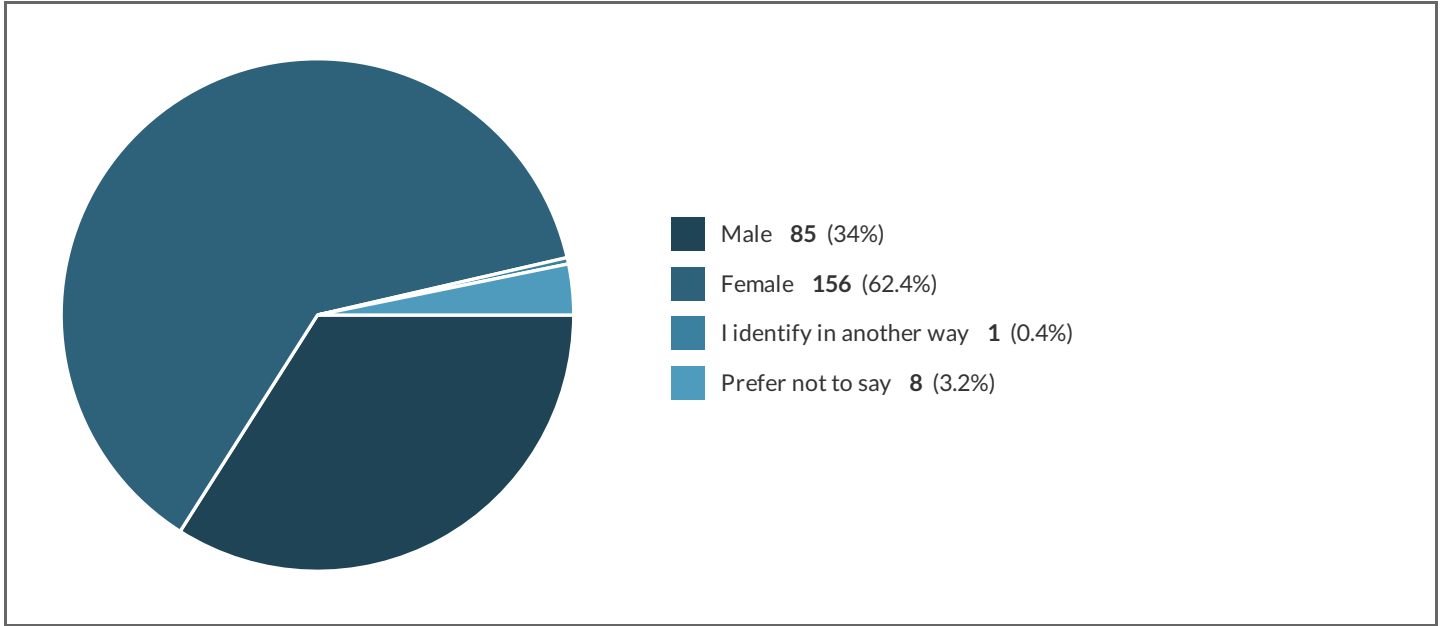
Showing all 5 responses	
Restaurant cafe	1084418-1084400-114408400
Cafe	1084418-1084400-114431780
Group exercise activities	1084418-1084400-114487092
Coffee shop	1084418-1084400-114503550
Nothing	1084418-1084400-114566568

21 Are there any further comments you would like to make regarding potential improvements in Naul?

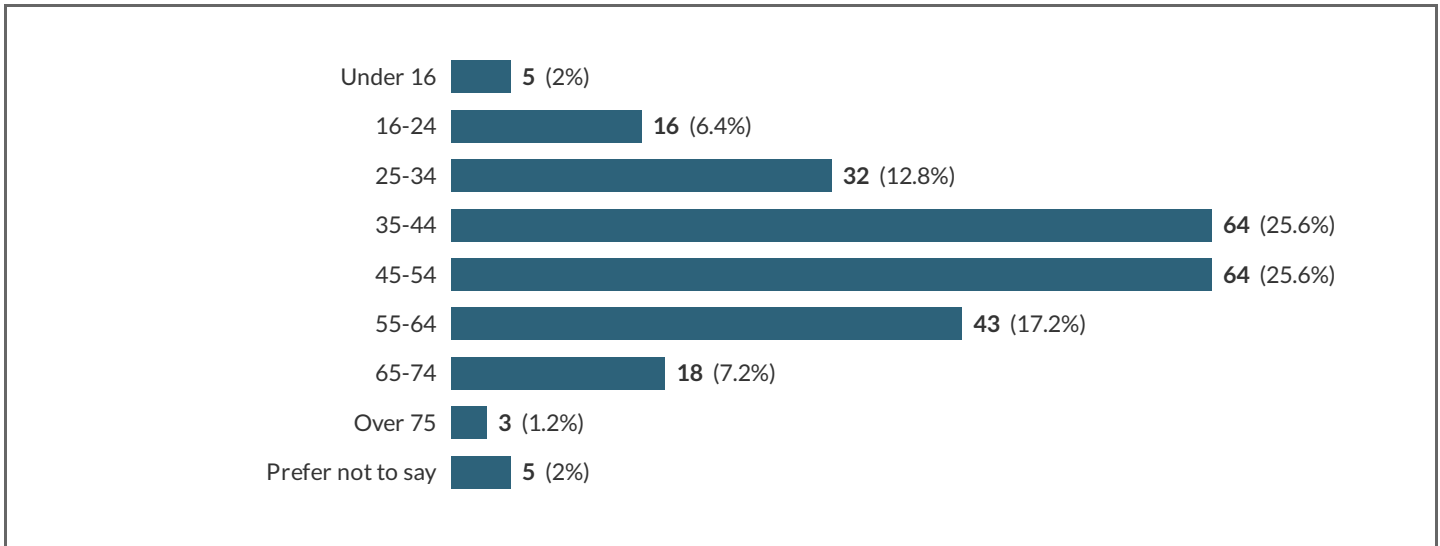
Showing first 5 of 136 responses	
Stop parking on footpaths and on the corner at tseac	1084418-1084400-114382039
More shops and housing.	1084418-1084400-114383182
It would be fantastic if improvements to our village didn't take years and years to happen. There has been talk of a playground since I was a child and it has still not happened.	1084418-1084400-114382866
Direct access to Dublin City or better transport links badly needed	1084418-1084400-114383797
Area to be promoted by arts and culture Seamus Ennis centre for example is an excellent resource	1084418-1084400-114385010

A few last question about you!

22 What is your gender?



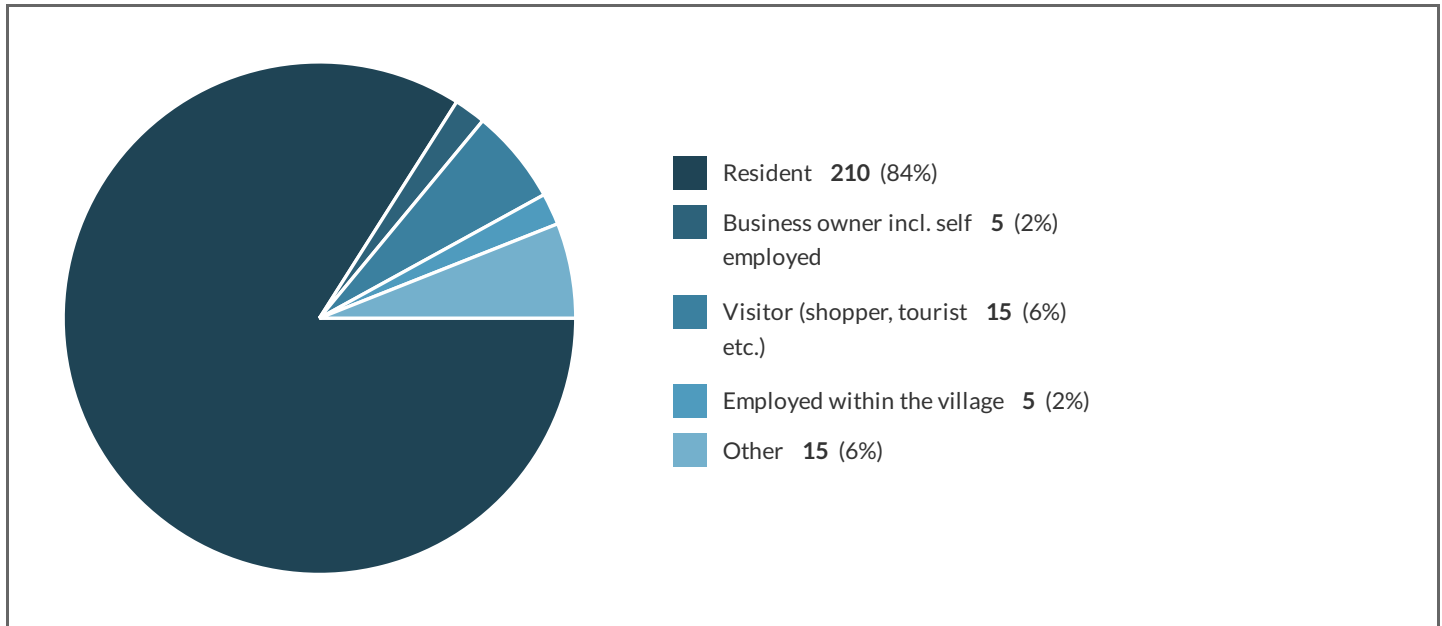
23 What is your age group?



24 If you are involved in any local groups, organisations, or activities please list below.

Showing first 5 of 131 responses	
GAA	1084418-1084400-114383182
N/A	1084418-1084400-114382866
No	1084418-1084400-114384216
Cycle club	1084418-1084400-114385010
Naul Tidy Towns	1084418-1084400-114385682

25 What option best describes your connection to Naul village?



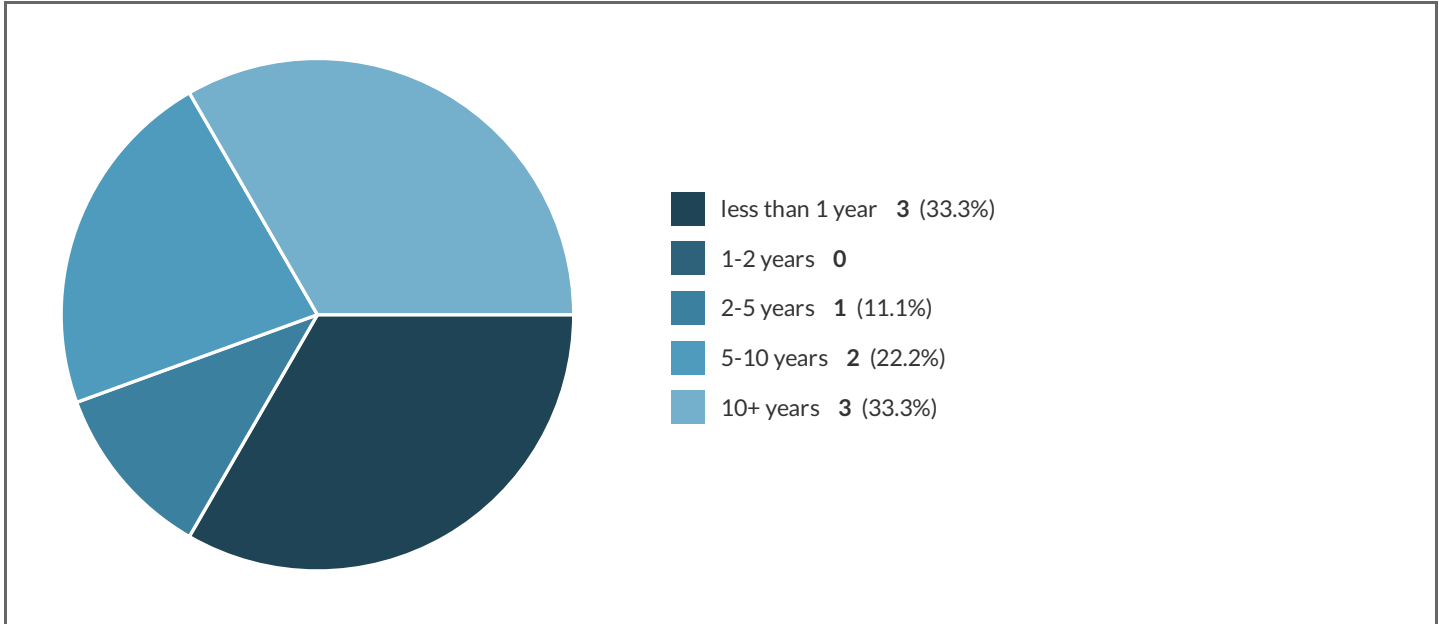
25.a If you selected Other, please specify:

Showing first 5 of 15 responses	
I live close by and occasionally come to the Naul but I am not a resident nor a tourist	1084418-1084400-114402679
Former resident, family still residents	1084418-1084400-114412673
Don't live in the village	1084418-1084400-114427670
I live outside the village but pass through almost every day	1084418-1084400-114450466
Born in the area	1084418-1084400-114461797

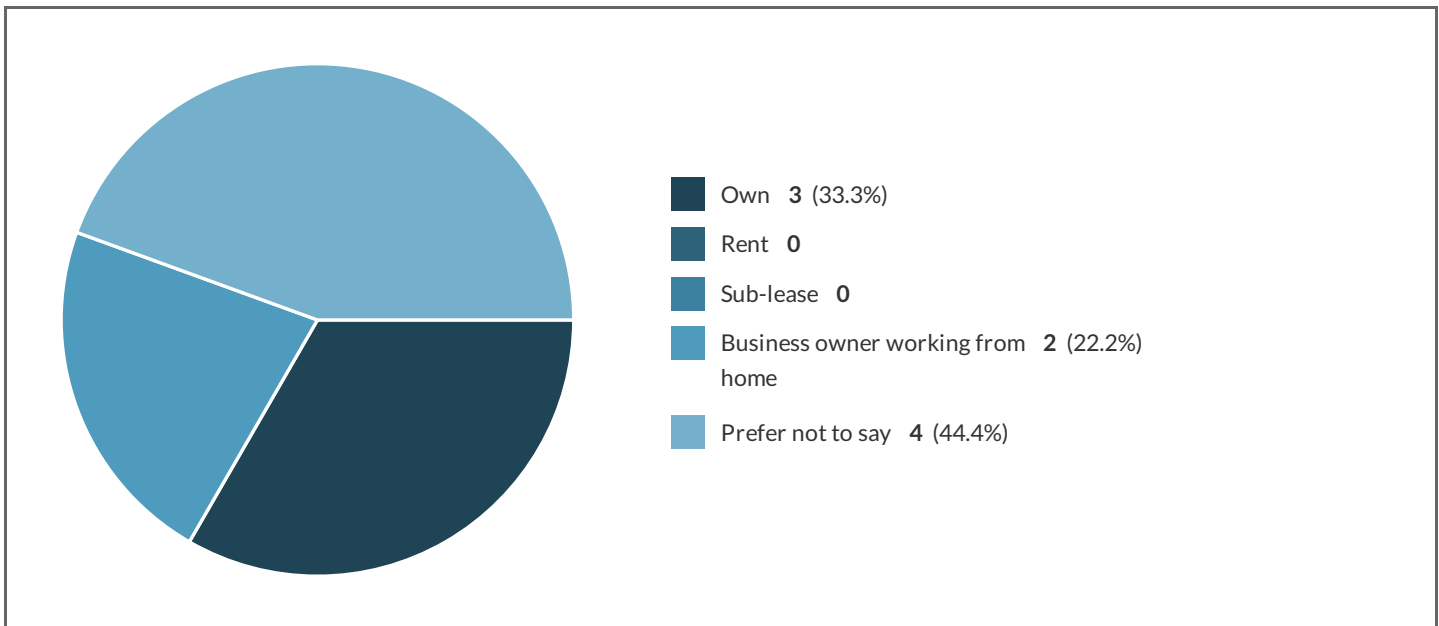
26 Do you rent or own property in Naul Village?



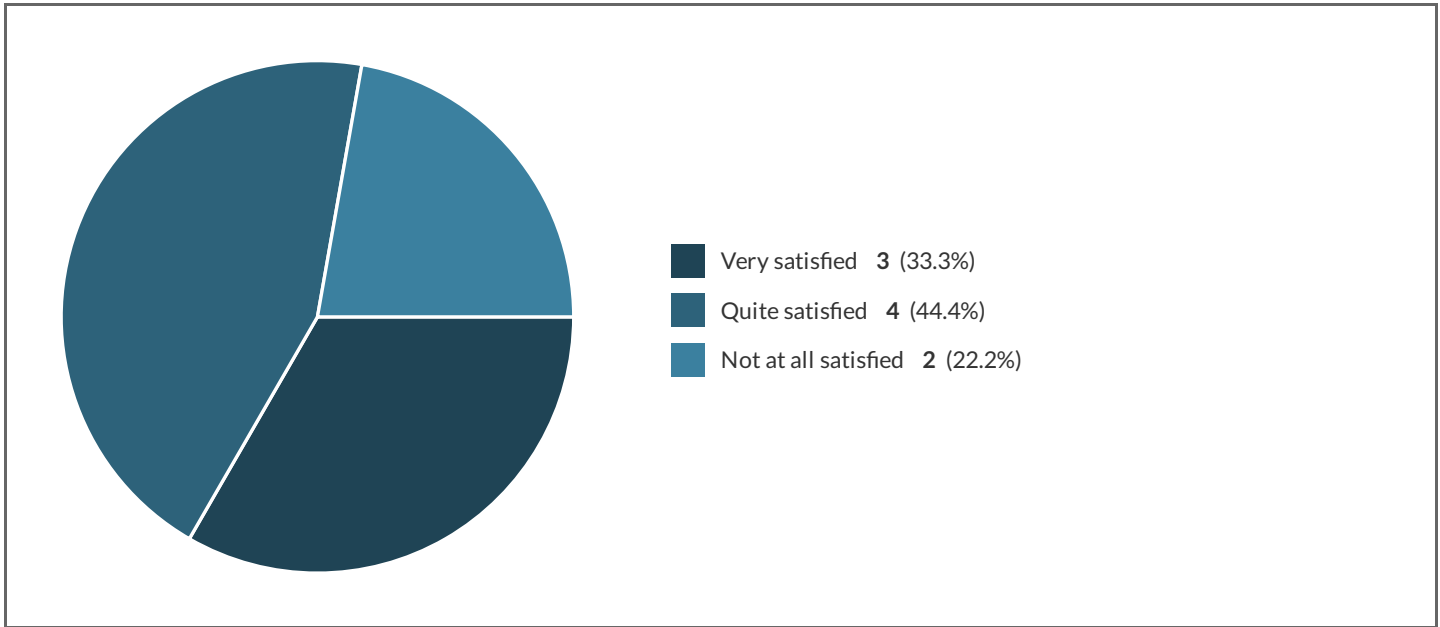
27 How long has your business operated in Naul?



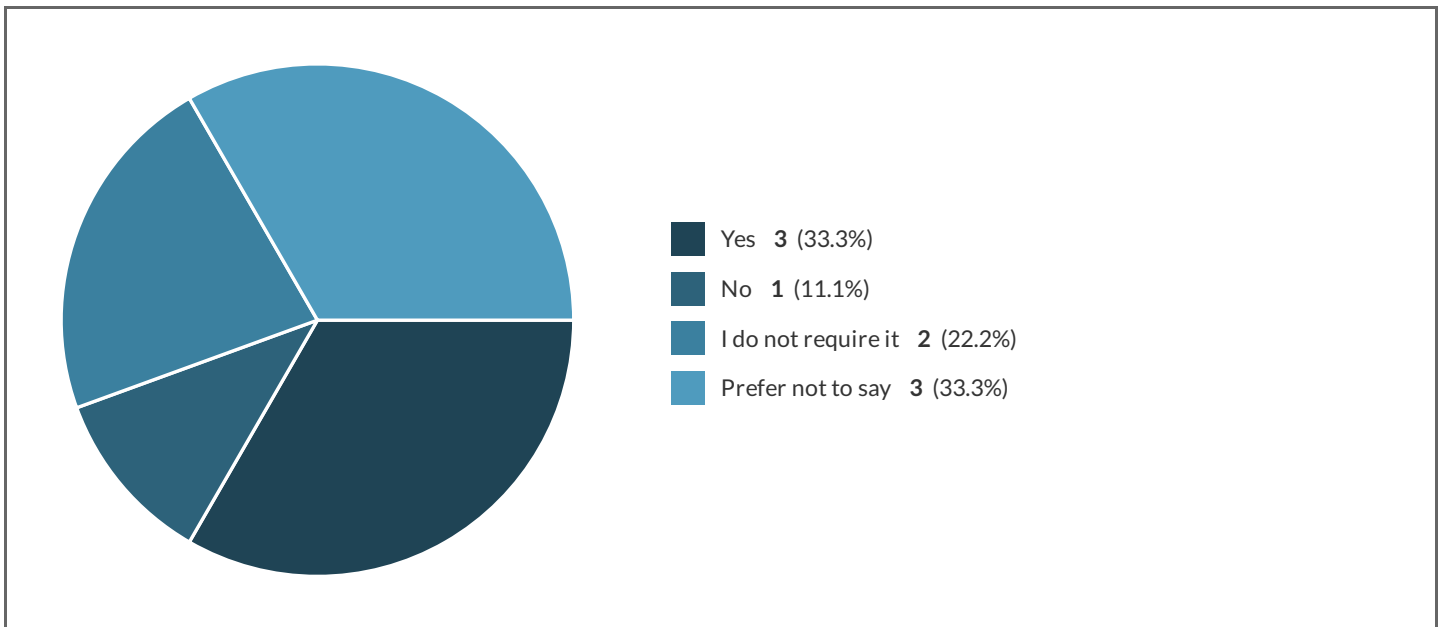
28 Do you rent or own the business property?



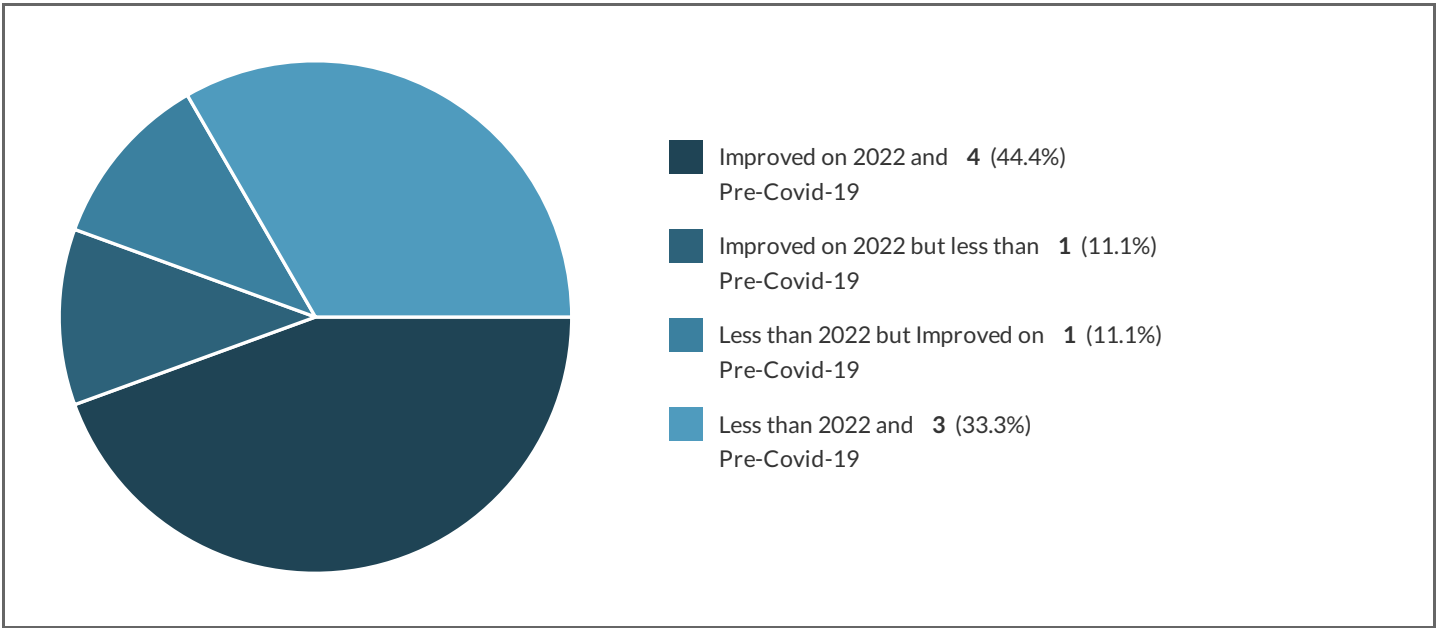
29 Are you satisfied with your current premises?



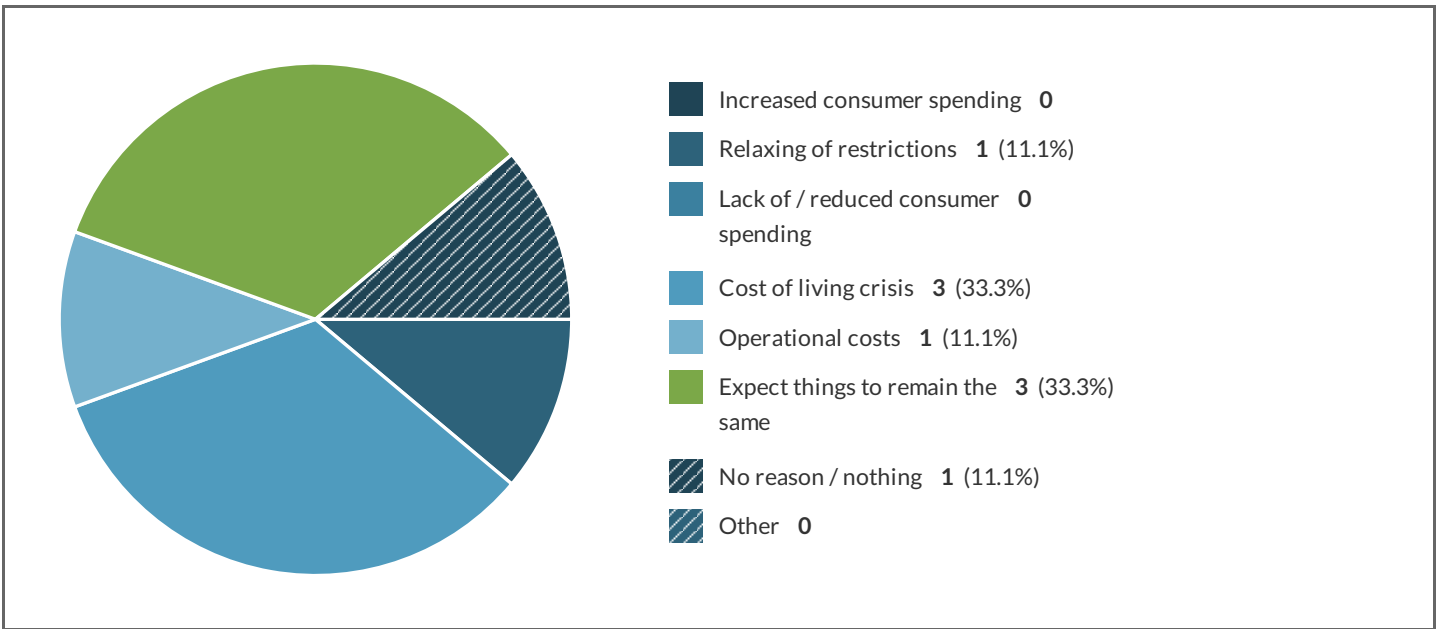
30 Would you like the option of working from a hub or a co-operative environment located within Naul?



31 What is your sense of the trading environment over the next 12 months?



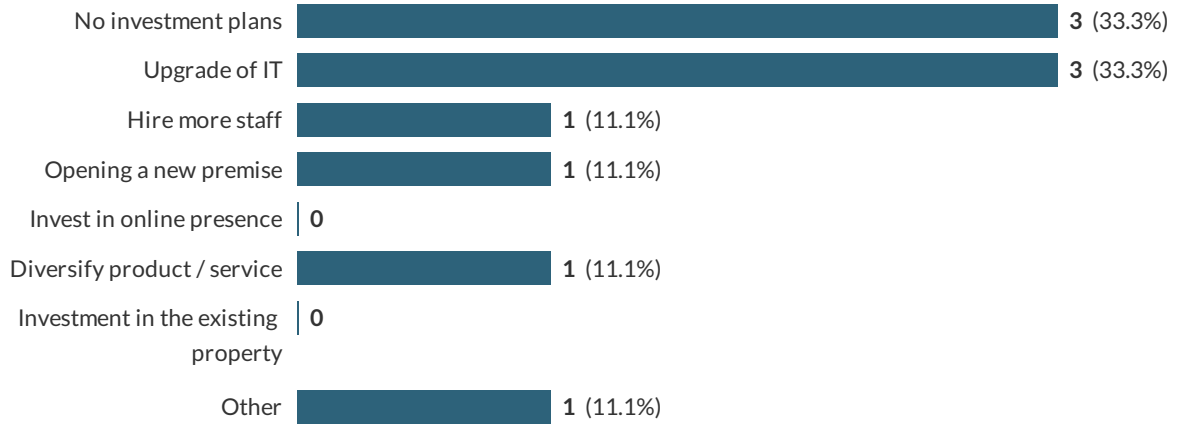
31.a What is the main reason for your opinion?



31.a.i If you selected Other, please specify:

No responses

32 Have you any investment plans for the future?

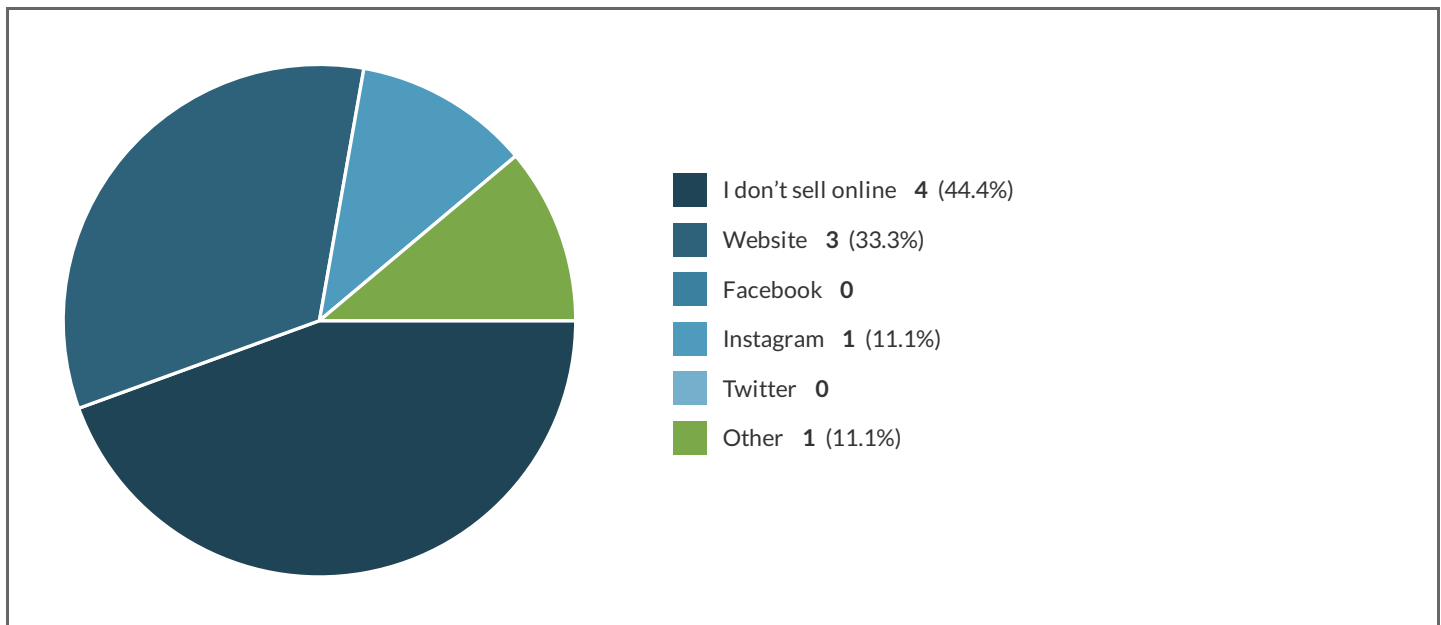


Multi answer: Percentage of respondents who selected each answer option (e.g. 100% would represent that all this question's respondents chose that option)

32.a If you selected Other, please specify:

Showing 1 response	
other	1084418-1084400-114590107

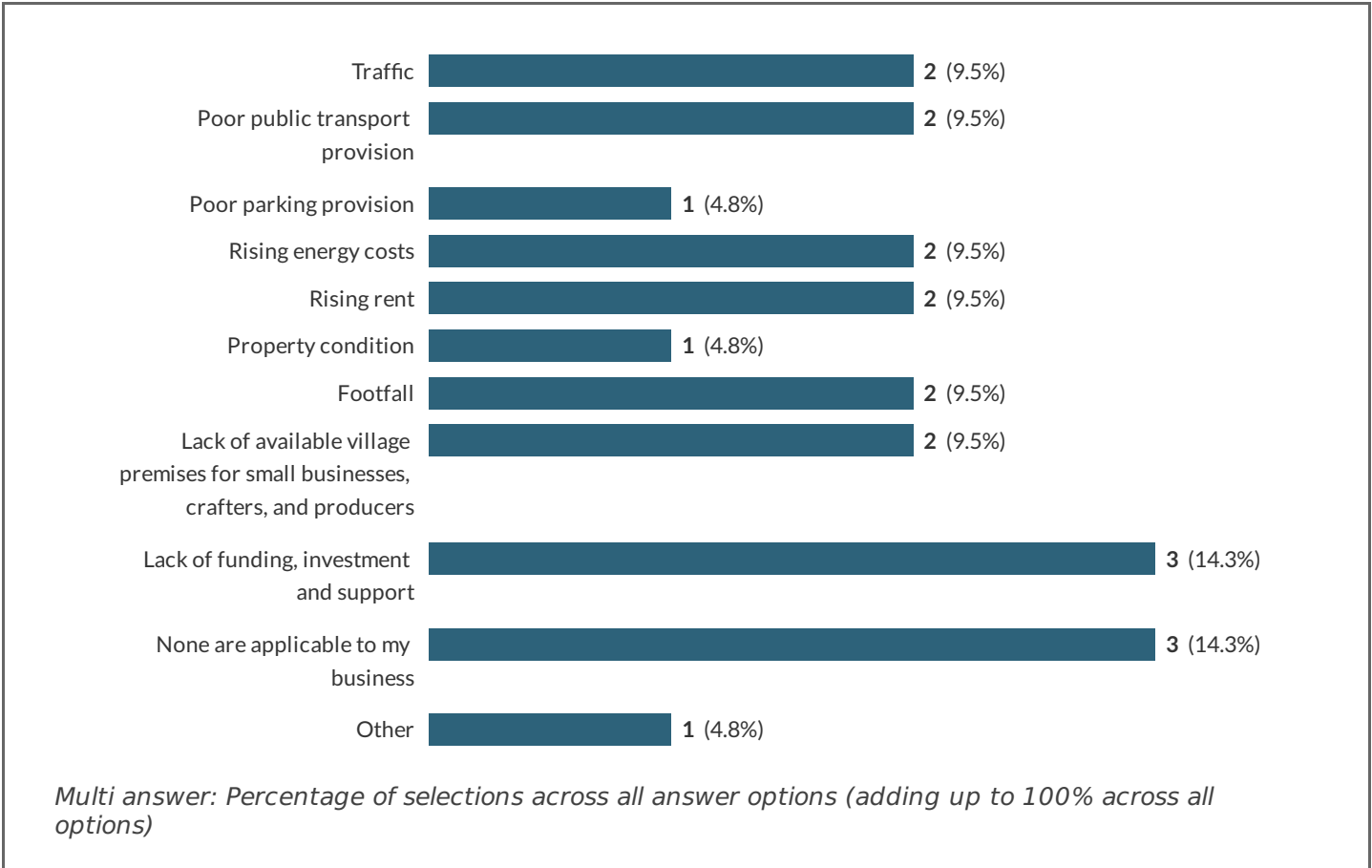
33 Do you sell online? If so, what is the main method you use?



33.a If you selected Other, please specify:

Showing 1 response	
other	1084418-1084400-114590107

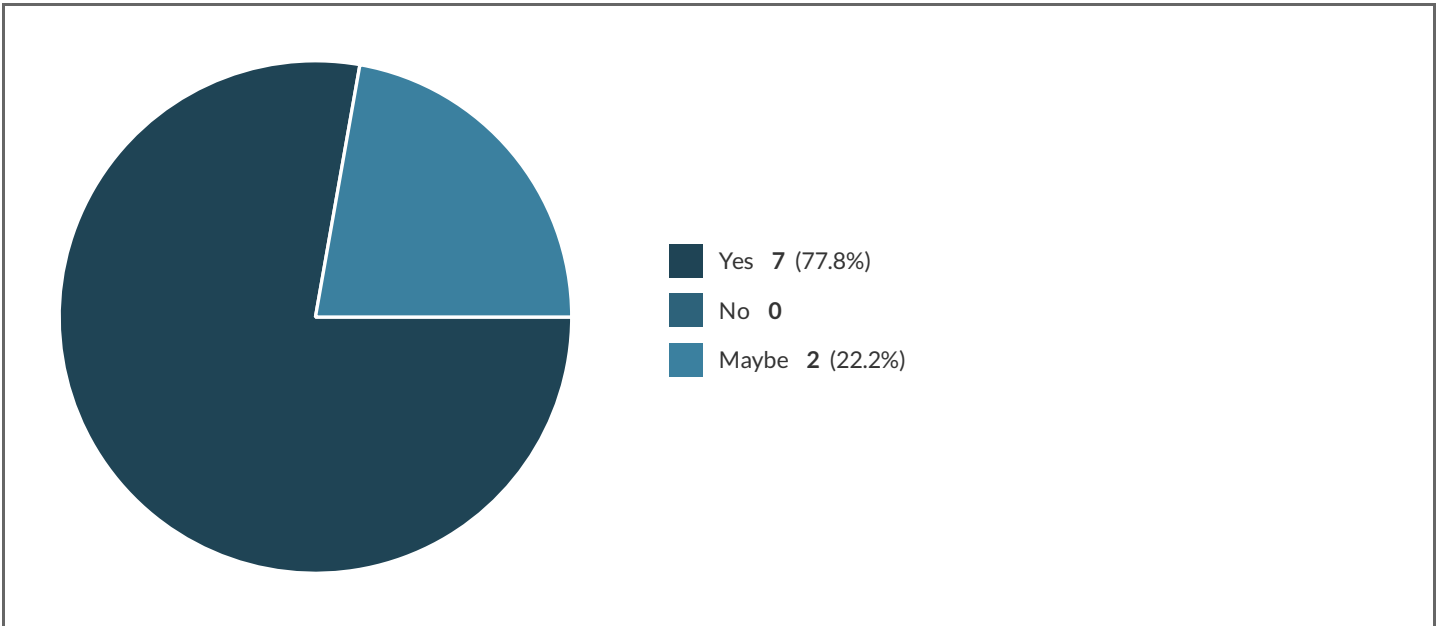
34 Which of the following is currently harmful to your business?



34.a If you selected Other, please specify:

Showing 1 response	
other	1084418-1084400-114590107

35 Would you be willing to participate in organising events in the village in the future



36 Are there any potential interventions, initiatives or improvements to Naul that would positively benefit your business and help create a favourable trading environment going forward?

Showing first 5 of 6 responses	
N/A	1084418-1084400-114435946
More retail spaces offered to business in the area	1084418-1084400-114462116
No	1084418-1084400-114493911
Provision of a cafe/restaurant and public toilet facilities. Improved public transport	1084418-1084400-114534349
A co op in the village for local business people along with investment in the village to attract tourists. They have beautiful country villages all the West Coast and Naul could be the same with it being a historic village. It has so much to offer.	1084418-1084400-114626720

37 Are there any further comments you would like to add regarding your business and Naul?

Showing all 5 responses	
N/A	1084418-1084400-114435946
My business is in a growth phase and has huge potential to attract foreign visitors and export but I need help and support	1084418-1084400-114462116
No	1084418-1084400-114493911
I look forward to seeing things improve in the future. I don't want to see Naul become another suburban place convenient to Dublin City. I would like to see Naul becoming a thriving little Country Village.	1084418-1084400-114626720
No	1084418-1084400-114693836

38 Would you like to add any further comments or information?

Showing first 5 of 100 responses	
Need speed ramps , maybe fcc could add benches and flowers on the poles . Access to the river (walkway) would be great as the roads are very dangerous to walk	1084418-1084400-114382039
The government and council need to put a plan in place to help locals. Housing, shops and traffic are the major issues.	1084418-1084400-114383182
N/A	1084418-1084400-114382866
Mail is a special place to live ,we have a community striving to improve our village. As a resident over 40 years the impression is that we are the poor relation to bigger fingal towns such as Balbriggan and swords	1084418-1084400-114385010
Please don't build anymore estates in the Naul. Leave it at its current population. It's a quaint village, please don't make it larger than that. We need rural spaces.	1084418-1084400-114393474

What happens next?

Contact Details