



## **Balla Community Nature Park and Biodiversity Meadow**

### **Incorporating Wildflower Alley and Contemplative Areas**

Develop a Balla Community Nature Park to include a Wildflower Alley, Biodiversity Meadows and Contemplative Park located in an existing area on the old Castlebar and Kiltimagh road. This will include seating, picnic and outdoor meeting areas and improved study. Install Strategic, Contemplative areas with seating in an area that is currently overgrown, unused, derelict and liable to fly tipping.

This area would provide better access to the local schools and shops for cyclists and walkers and would be a more pleasant area that could be used by residents from the adjacent housing estates.

We are currently developing a five year development plan with the help of Sharon Eastwood, Environmental Consultant, Woodrow Sustainable Solutions Ltd, as part of our Tidy Towns planning process and one of the recommendations is to erect an appropriate sculpture to commemorate and reflect our rich local history and heritage. This would be a very welcome addition to this project

The Community has recently been accepted to the Sustainable Energy Communities Project (SEAI) and is currently drawing up a Sustainable Energy Communities Masterplan. The development of the Balla Community Nature Park is seen as a critical element of this plan.

The objective of this proposal is to re-open public access and increase footfall to an existing area that is currently overgrown, derelict and dilapidated through an environmentally friendly, sustainable and attractive approach to the town. This will enhance accessibility and encourage walking and cycling which will also encourage all of the community to enjoy outdoor living. This development will also improve connectivity with the existing and recently developed greenway, walking and cycling trails throughout Balla Woodlands.

By providing pleasant Contemplative Areas in a strategically located public space that is currently and eyesore, we will facilitate local families to enjoy our natural resources and local heritage in an environmentally responsible and sensitive manner.

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5<sup>th</sup> June 2021