

Submission no: 086



# SCOIL NA MAINISTREACH QUIN DANGAN

Proposal

To Improve the Safety and Sustainability of Quin Village

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## Overview

### Quin Village

Our village is located roughly eight miles from Ennis in the County of Clare, nestled very close to employment areas of Ennis and Shannon. Quin is a peaceful, picturesque village with an ever growing population and a very busy tourist attraction. The spectacular monument of Quin Abbey can be seen from the Ennis and Tulla roads entering into Quin village.



Quin is unique by virtue of the magnificent, historical presence of Quin Abbey which is open to the public and attracting people from all over the world. Although virtually roofless, the structure of the abbey is relatively well preserved and many other surviving architectural features such as the Cloister make the Abbey of significant historical value.

Quin Abbey is adjacent to the 13th century gothic style church, St Fineen's and graveyard holding. St Fineen's church has a fascination element where tourists and locals are often seen wondering around the graveyard taking all the history it has to offer. It is not clear when St Fineen's finally fell to ruin, but an enticement for a stroll around to tourist worldwide.



### Church

St Mary's Church, Quin is situated at the corner of Quin Village and Newline Road. Our Parish Priest is Fr Tom O'Gorman. The Parish of Quin is a caring Christian community, which fosters belonging and participation, encourages creativity and talent, while promoting spiritual development and personal fulfilment. The epicentre of our village where you would see the whole village come together to celebrate all types of spiritual events.





## School

Scoil na Mainistreach Quin Dangan is a co-educational Catholic Primary School under the patronage of the Bishop of Killaloe. Our vision is that each individual, through positive learning experiences, will be stimulated to achieve his/her full potential, face life confidently, find fulfilment and be respectful in an ever-changing world. Scoil na Mainistreach Quin

Dangan was first built in 1960 but was not occupied until 1962, due to planning issues. It was originally three classrooms but in the late seventies the building was extended to include a general purpose room which is now two classrooms.



**Our Motto:** We do our best, we show respect.

In 2007 a school field was purchased and developed by the school community to enhance the school recreational and sporting grounds. In 2008 dressing rooms were added. In 2009 an astro-turf facility was purchased by the School Development Committee to further enhance



the vision of recreational facilities of the highest standard for school pupils. In 2010 a school staffroom was built and the GP room was extended for mainstream class teaching purposes. In 2012 the onsite preschool and Montessori facility was transferred to a permanent building on site with the support of a Pobal Grant. The school Jubilee, which was held in October 2012, entitled “Caoga Bliain Ag Fás” celebrated the links between Quin Abbey and the school and the provision of 50 wonderful years of education on the current site.

Throughout the period 2005, to date, the school has experienced huge growth in enrolments. The school population has almost doubled during this period. Over the years various Boards of Management have vigorously campaigned for permanent mainstream accommodation for



our students to replace the temporary accommodation supplied by the Department of Education and Skills.

The school was successful in retrieving funds from the Department in 2013 and in 2014 an eight classroom extension was constructed. In 2017 / 2018 we built a General Purpose room. This was part funded by the Department of Education and also a fundraising initiative which is still ongoing to date. The hall is an excellent asset to the school as it is used daily by all classes and also after school clubs and organisations from the community.

### Demographics of Quin

As of 1831 there were 2,918 inhabitants, of whom 173 lived in the village. According to a 2002 Census, Quin had a population of 853. By 2006, the population had grown to around 1,048. In the 2011 census the population had increased to 1,454.

### Sport

Clooney Quin GAA was founded in 1888. Players for the Clooney/Quin club include Amby Power, who captained the Clare 1914 All-Ireland winning team. Clooney Quin GAA club is a voluntary community based Gaelic games sports organisation based in 1.9 miles from Quin Village. Excellent pitches and facilities for players and good parking facilities.





#### Building Key

1. Quin Abbey & Graveyard
2. St Fineens Hall Community Centre
3. Ruins of St Fineens Church & Graveyard
4. Scoil na Mainstreach Quin Dangan
5. The Old School
6. Quin Bridge
7. St Mary's Church
8. Old Garda Station
9. Village Inn Pub
10. Monks Well Pub
11. Tea Rooms
12. Abbey Tavern Pub & Restaurant
13. Malachy's Pub
14. Post Office
15. Water Tower
16. Water Fountain

#### Building Key

- A. New Heritage sign
- B. Bottle Bank
- C. Footpath at Quin Gardens
- D. Re-decoration of Grotto
- E. New Picnic Bench
- F. Pedestrian Crossing
- G. Tidy Towns Stone Plaque
- H. New Stone Estate Signs



## Our Community Centre



### Tourist Centre / Digital Hub

Our village is quite unique in that we have a magnificent, Franciscan monastery, Quin Abbey. This historical site possesses great history, not only to our locality but to our country as a whole. Adjacent to the Abbey is our Community Centre. It is a central meeting point for the village, here people gather for anything from yoga, badminton, martial arts, drama performances, mother & toddler groups, to mention but a few.

This would serve as an ideal place for a tourist centre, which not only could give information on the history of Quin and its wonderful structure, but also create employment through guided tours tying in with the famous Wild Atlantic Way.

This particular site would also be ideal as a digital hub for our village which is centrally located and has the capacity to be the main digital hub for the md-west. This digital Hub centre would be created as a collaborative space to encourage companies to scale and grow in our community. We envisage a Digital Hub Centre in Quin would attract local companies to reap the benefits of being part of the wider digital community, bringing people together and revitalising the area with greater employment opportunities.

## Our Vision

### Road resurfacing

Quin Village has become largely populated over the past 10 years. There are 7 housing estates linked to public water and sewers. The connection of such services caused considerable damage to the road surfaces and were partly filled in but did not match the original road surface. As a result, pooling of water as well a large amount of road depressions are evident. The village roads are in dire need of full resurfacing and relining in order to tie in with the regional roads that lead into it.



There are many housing estates in Quin

1. Manor View
2. Dun na Manach
3. The Park
4. Cluain Gearrain
5. Maigh Dara
6. Ard na Mainistreach
7. Arbutus Grove
8. Cnoc na Caithe
9. The Cloister

With the upgrading of the waste water treatment there is the potential for further lands to be zoned for housing.



## Recreational facilities

Quin boast its very own playground which is suitable for 3 to 12 year olds, having this playground was a must for our children and since the build it is widely used throughout the community and beyond. However, the playground is in need upgrading due to high usage and weather wearing. Due to the population out growing the amenities for younger people especially, it is envisaged the playground to be extended containing a wider variety of climbing apparatus as well as equipment that cater for the older children. This also is an ideal site for a forest to be planted as part of helping our environment but also creating a place for people to walk and run tying in with the playground facility.





## Cycle Lanes

Reducing the carbon footprint is a very important issue here at in Scoil na Mainistreach Quin Dangan with that said, we encourage the children to stay fit and healthy by walking and cycling to school weather permitting. The danger arises with speeding vehicles travelling

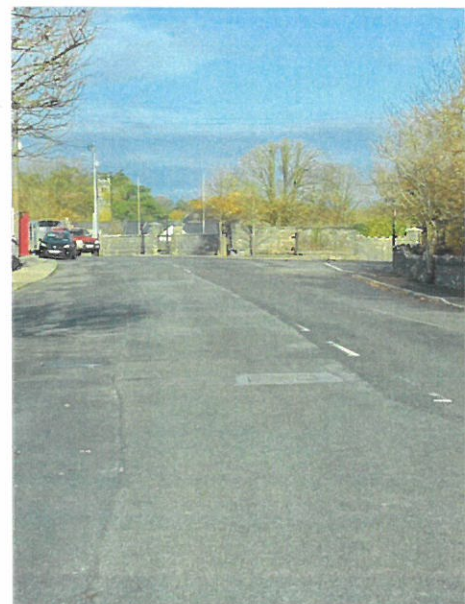


along the village but especially on Newline Road, posing a potential danger to children who are forced onto the road by vehicles parked on the pavement. Our cyclists are also in danger by their invisibility to the car driver. Reducing the number of cars parking in Newline Road and introducing cycle lanes through the village would really help diminish the risk of an accident waiting to happen. Also, young children cycling to school have limited room to cycle safely, to quote RSA guidelines for cyclists (*'a little bit of space for a lot*

*more safe'*). Cycle lanes throughout Quin Village would be an added welcome to the safety of all of our community. Bicycling, like walking, produces no significant carbon emissions. If we want less polluted air, we need to make it easier and safer to commute by bike, especially in our village for residents and tourists alike. Bike lanes are among the cleanest ways to travel.

## Traffic calming measures

There are 287 children attending Scoil na Mainistreach Quin Dangan, with at least 100 children attending the two pre-school on Newline Road. The children, parents, and carers mostly travel from the village onto Newline Road creating a very busy time.





Two years ago a zebra crossing was placed outside the Monks Well Pub in the village. The crossing, although commended by the community, does not serve the children well when coming / leaving school.

If another crossing was situated from the Park Estate onto Newline Road opposite the church, it would give access to Newline Road footpath, keeping all pedestrians safer when travelling to and from school. Also, there is a need to narrow the junction at both sides of the road leading into Newline Road. For instance, when you are travelling from The Park Estate side of the road coming across into Newline Road the junction is so wide that this poses a problem to pedestrian crossing safely. Pedestrians at times have been forced to wait in centre of the road to allow vehicles to travel by until crossing the second half of the road.

At the junction between the Park Estate, the church and Newline Road the village either needs Islands or a build out from the footpaths which would help reduce any accidents waiting to happen. These measures would certainly slow traffic throughout the whole village but most importantly make it a safer place.

Coming into the village we most certainly need traffic calming measures. Vehicles travelling from R469 Kilmurry direction, enter the village at a considerable speed. Firstly, these vehicles will travel past the children's playground. Then they round the corner past Malachy's bar before even considering to slow down. As the footpath and boundary walls beside Malachy's bar are in need of repair on both sides of this junction, this then pushes pedestrians onto the road, posing a concerning hazard. We need to protect our villagers and visitors.

### Footpaths/ walkways/ Parking facilities

Newline Road is a very narrow residential road with obstruction of parked cars on footpaths. The main issues primarily arise when parents are dropping and collecting children at the start and end of the school day. There is no parking for cars on this road, this leads motorists to park their vehicles half on the footpath and half on the road. Hence, parked vehicles are severely restricting pedestrians, young families with prams. This poses a danger to young



children making their way to school and pre-school in a safe environment whether walking or cycling. There are only two disabled parking bays outside the church. No mother/ baby parking at all in Quin Village.



Lack of parking for customers to the Abbey Tavern pub who again, park haphazardly on the lead up the bridge and across the road from the church.

There are sites within the village that may be developed in order to facilitate overflow parking in the event of large gatherings in the village. These sites can be a solution to a growing parking problem in our village. Opposite the church there is room for six or seven vehicles, however there are no road markings or signage to indicate parking. Therefore, in the event of a large gathering at the church the roads are extremely congested with cars parking on the wrong side of the road haphazardly.

In the event of a large gathering at the community centre, vehicles parking along on the footpaths also obstructing pedestrians and forcing them at times to navigate along the main road.



Bollards are placed along the footpath over the newly configured bridge which prevent cars mounting the path. The installation of such bollards throughout the village would certainly prevent obstructing pedestrians travelling safely.

### Environment and Climate change

Although extremely important to our environment trees and vegetation are causing obstruction to cars and pedestrians on the many roads leading into the village. These should be removed so that safer navigation for all is achieved. It would be proposed an alternative site be purchased in order to create walkways and woodland trails which in turn would replace felled trees.



As there is a global shift towards green energy and carbon neutrality, we are encouraged to use electric cars. The vision of having an electric charging point in our locality would definitely consolidate decisions to purchase electric powered vehicles which would benefit the environment.

Quin Tidy Towns was one of four communities to have been nominated in 2018 by the Rural Development Directorate of Clare County Council to participate in the IPB Pride of Place Competition, which is run by Co-operation Ireland. They aim is to recognise and celebrate



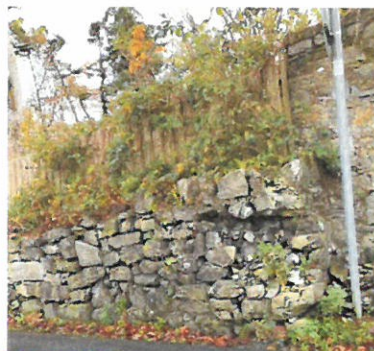
the vital contributions that communities make to a society. We would like to see the day when we can be nominated again and maybe even go on to win. However, in order for our village to compete in such competition, we need to have litter bins with signage placed in strategic positions in Quin Village. Not only litter bins but dog waste bins are a much needed resource and would be a useful civic amenity.

There is currently a recycling point in the car park at Malachy's bar. This is privately owned land and it is there at the goodwill of the owner. Consideration could be given to relocate or even upgrade the recycling facility. The existing facility is now reaching its capacity due the ever increasing population.



### Boundary walls

There are some walls that are in line with footpaths and roads in the village that pose a very unsafe site. Some of the stone walls are in poor condition and are almost ready to fall. This is a major safety concern for those who are in our village.





### River Rhine

One of the charms running through Quin is the beautiful, meandering river. This river is underutilised and in need of some attention. The banks are in need of stabilising and clearing back the hedges. What a wonderful feature to have in our village. We envisage a walkway on the river bank from the Quin Abbey as far as the bridge in Ballyhannon. This would be an enormous amenity addition for our tourists and would give the families of Quin a valuable amenity in Quin.



### Old Garda Station

Is located on the entrance to Quin village and has been standing empty for a number of years. The building is in good repair and would be an ideal location for a local library or digital hub. Providing the residents of Quin with ample supplies of books and information. It would improve the aesthetics of the village but also provide a service that would be widely used by the community of Quin.





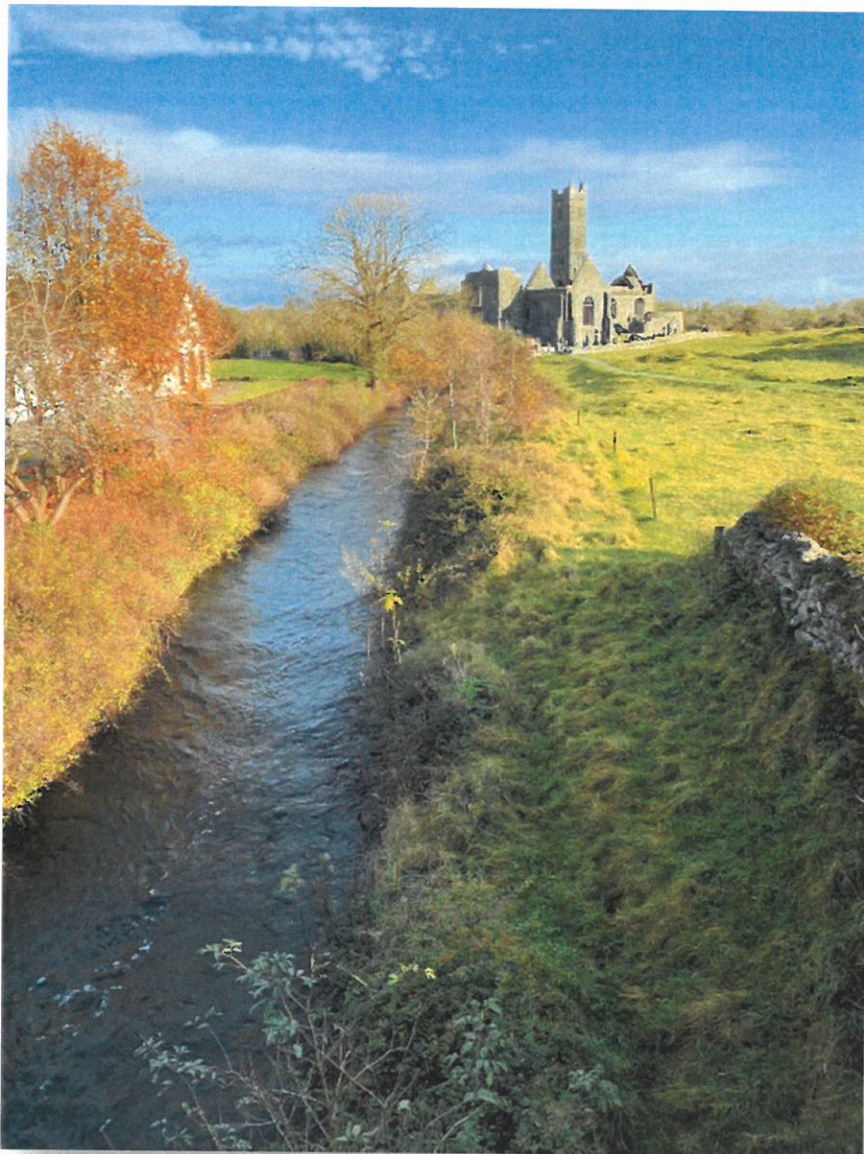
## Conclusion

I would like thank you most sincerely for taking the time to consider our proposal.

Our objective is for us all to live in a safe, healthy and clean environment. Keeping our surroundings clean will only help the betterment of our society and to be a proud part of this delightful parish.

It is our vision to help benefit the mental well-being of our parishioners, by providing a safe, improved facilities such as our roads, footpaths, walls and recreational areas

Again, your support in our project would be greatly appreciated. Our village would be a safe clean place to live, exercise and consolidate ongoing friendships.





## Quin 2028:

### A Letter from the 6<sup>th</sup> Class of Scoil na Mainistreach to Clare County Council.

We, the 6<sup>th</sup> class of Scoil na Mainistreach acknowledge how beautiful Quin is. However, we believe that there are multiple changes that Quin would benefit from. In the following paragraphs we will discuss our ideas to improve Quin village under the following headings: transport, environment, recreation and culture/history.

#### Transport

We believe we can improve transport in Quin by 2028. For instance, we can link estates with cycle routes for children commuting to and from school, as they will meet less cars and it will reduce the risk of accidents. We also feel that more pedestrian crossings would make walking safer and more enjoyable. As our school has more than 300 students, better walking and cycling facilities would encourage both parents and children to choose an alternative to cars. We wish to add a public bus stop to connect Quin to the National Bus Link. This would help the residents of Quin to travel to Ennis and further around Ireland. In the coming years, electric cars will become a huge part of our lives. Therefore, car charge points would encourage more residents to buy electric cars, so we have included two in the village.

#### Environment

Quin community has helped improve the environment greatly over the years. Despite this, we aim to improve Quin's environmentally friendly outlook by 2028.

Our first idea is to move the bottle bank to a more central location, to encourage more residents to use this facility. We would love to plant groves of trees, as this would decrease carbon dioxide levels and provide a home for wildlife. In our opinion, it is also vital to place bird feeders and bird baths to support them during the colder months. We would like to broaden the wildflower population throughout the village to increase pollination. We would also strongly benefit from including bug hotels and bee hives. As mentioned previously, cycle lanes will help to reduce the carbon footprint in our village. So we have added these to all the main roads.

#### Recreation

In terms of recreation Quin has made an acceptable effort however we firmly believe it could have so much more. It has a playground for younger children but lacks facilities for people our age. We would like to add a skate park to give teenagers a place to meet their friends. As previously mentioned we are adding cycle lanes to the village. We would like to add benches and flower beds along the cycle lanes to make it an enjoyable place to go for a nature walk or a run, as well as a way of travelling to school. We feel we would benefit from having more picnic benches throughout the village, especially in the Abbey. Finally, we think there should be more bike sheds around the village to encourage people to be more active.

## History and Culture

In Quin we are grateful to have a rich heritage, but we believe that it's not being shown off to its full potential. Quin Abbey, is a unique, historical monument in the heart of our village, but it would benefit hugely from a tourist information centre. In our opinion the old Garda station, would be an ideal location for the centre. This facility would include an information area, a cafe and public toilets. Quin is also home to Magh Adhair, where Brian Boru was crowned High King of Munster. This hidden gem needs to be promoted by crafting signs and linking it to Quin Abbey via a cycling and walking path. Our information centre will provide information to tourists about the Abbey and Magh Adhair. This would also create local employment.

## Conclusion

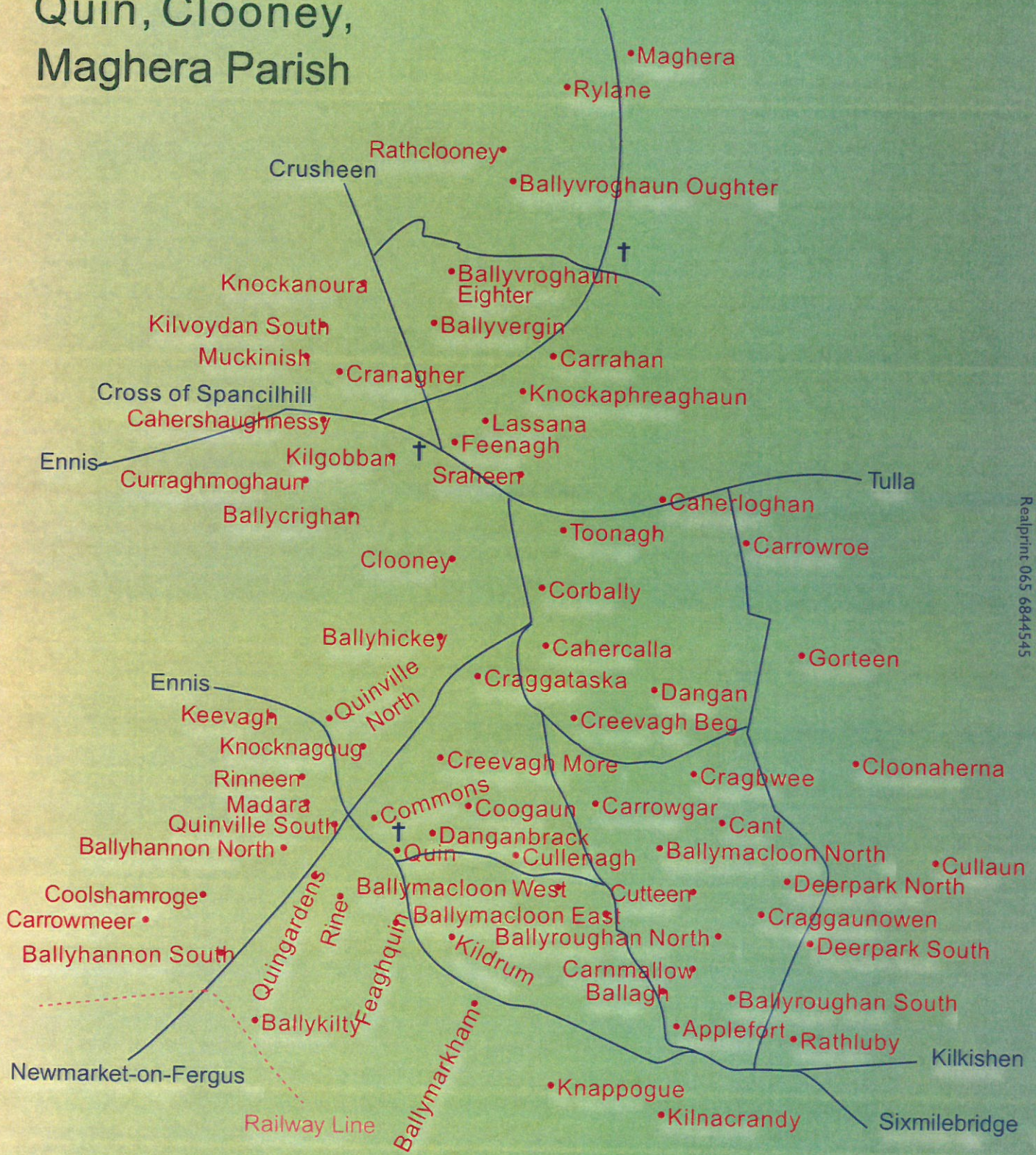
Whilst we realise Quin is a superb village to live in, we firmly believe that our ideas would bring something new to the parish. We hope you consider our proposals and by 2028 Quin will be changed for the better.

To watch the video of our presentation, please click on the link below:

<https://youtu.be/6gABIZG4Paw>



# Quin, Clooney, Maghera Parish



Reprint 065 6844545

## Legend

- † = Church
- = Road
- = Townland