

Chapter 39. Bellaghy Village Plan

The Settlement Strategy for County Sligo designates Bellaghy as a **village sustaining rural communities**. The village has adequate infrastructural capacity for small-scale development and can offer a viable alternative to rural one-off housing.

39.1 Village profile

Situated on County Sligo’s border with County Mayo, Bellaghy forms a joint settlement with Charlestown. The settlement is located 48 km to the south-west of Sligo Town and 9 km from Ireland West Airport (Knock). The disused Western Rail Corridor, which crosses the village’s Main Street, marks the separation between Bellaghy and Charlestown.

Bellaghy village assets		
Population	2022 Census	196 persons in the statistical Small Area which includes Bellaghy; 1,172 residents in Charlestown-Bellaghy
	2016 Census	191 persons in the statistical Small Area which includes Bellaghy; 1,033 residents in Charlestown-Bellaghy
	2011 Census	914 residents in Charlestown-Bellaghy
	2011-2022	+2.6% in the Small Area; + 28.5% in Charlestown-Bellaghy
Housing stock	2022 Census	119 dwellings in the Small Area, of which 38 vacant
	2016 Census	117 dwellings in the Small Area, of which 33 vacant
Service infrastructure	Water supply	Sourced from Lough Talt Regional Water Supply
	Wastewater treatment	The wastewater treatment plant for Charlestown-Bellaghy is located in Bellaghy. It has a 3,250 PE, with spare capacity of approx. 1,888 PE
	Road network	Located along the N-17 (Sligo to Galway Road)
Social infrastructure	Schools	One primary school and one secondary school in Charlestown
	Churches	One church in Charlestown
	Sports facilities	GAA pitch, soccer pitch and swimming pool in Charlestown
	Other assets	Town park and burial ground in Charlestown
Sustainable transport	Train	Not available at present. Adjacent to disused Western Rail Corridor
	Bus	Served by Bus Eireann routes 22, 64, 440, 442 & 451 and by the Local Link

Bellaghy village assets		
	Active travel	No current proposals
Architectural heritage	Protected Structures	None
Natural heritage and environment	Natura 2000 sites nearby	River Moy SAC
	Natural amenities	River Moy to the north-west of the village
	Flood risk	Present. Flood Zones A and B are mapped in Appendix 1 of the SFRA

39.2 Village-specific objectives

Note: These objectives must be considered in conjunction with the urban development policies for towns and villages contained in **Chapter 10 Urban Development Principles** of this Volume (Vol. 2) and the general development policies and objectives set out in Volume 3 of this Plan.

39.2.1 Archaeological heritage and open space

- A.** Reserve land to the south of the L-8915-0 for a public park. The park should be developed as a semi-natural open space area and should protect and highlight the archaeological monument on the site.

39.2.2 Transport and circulation

- A.** Support the provision of pedestrian links between the village, new residential development, areas of open space and surrounding natural amenities, including a possible riverside walkway. The provision of such links will be required in conjunction with the development of adjoining lands.
- B.** Protect the Western Rail Corridor by preventing any type of development with the potential to compromise its future use for any type of transport-related project.

39.2.3 Commercial development

- A.** Require high standards of design, layout and landscaping of any new commercial developments located near the village’s gateway, i.e. the junction between the N-17 and the old Sligo Road.