

Chapter 52. Riverstown Village Plan

The Settlement Strategy for County Sligo designates Riverstown as a **village sustaining rural communities**. It has adequate infrastructural capacity for small-scale development and can offer a better alternative to rural one-off housing in the area.

52.1 Village profile

Located approximately 20 km to the south of Sligo Town, Riverstown provides a varied range of services for the population of the wider rural area. The Folk Park and the Morrison Centre are Riverstown’s unique cultural and tourist attractions.

The village is crossed by the Douglas River and the Arrow/Unshin River, both having a high amenity and natural heritage value (SACs, NHAs).

Riverstown village assets		
Population [to be updated with 2022 Census figures]	2016 Census	334 persons
	2011 Census	374 persons
	% change	-11.9%
Housing stock [as above]	2016 Census	179 dwellings
Service infrastructure	Water supply	Supply comes from Riverstown Public Water Supply
	Wastewater treatment	600 PE with spare capacity of approx. 234 PE
	Road network	Served by several local roads
Social infrastructure	Schools	Two primary schools
	Churches	Two churches
	Sports facilities	GAA pitch and soccer pitch
	Other assets	Sligo Folk Park, the Morrison Centre, playschool, a playground, a community hall, Garda Station, doctor’s surgery, post office and health centre.
Sustainable transport	Train	Not available in the area
	Bus	Served by Bus Eireann route 471 and TFI Local link
	Active travel	No current proposals

Riverstown village assets		
Architectural heritage	Protected Structures	9, including notably structures such as Cooper Memorial Hall and Kingsville House
Natural heritage and environment	Natura 2000 sites nearby	Unshin River SAC/pNHA (including part of the Douglas River) and Lough Meharth pNHA.
	Natural amenities	Unshin River and Douglas River
	Flood risk	Present. Flood Zones A and B are mapped in Appendix 1 of the SFRA

52.2 Village-specific objectives

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

52.2.1 Archaeological heritage and open space

- A. Develop the site to the west of the Morrison Music Centre as a public park. The park should be developed as a semi-natural open space and should protect the archaeological monument on the site. Pedestrian links should be provided to adjoining lands and Main Street.

52.2.2 Circulation

- A. **Seek to provide pedestrian links between the village and surrounding natural amenities.**
The provision of such links will be required in conjunction with the development of adjoining lands, and shall be subject to Habitats Directive Assessment and the maintenance of the river buffer. [PA-204]

52.2.3 Village centre

- A. Require any redevelopment of the 'Homeland' (Co-Op) site to create a public square to the front, defined by a strong building line. Car parking should be located to the rear of the buildings.

52.2.4 Business and enterprise

- A. Encourage the maintenance and enhancement of the Folk Park as a tourist attraction.
- B. Facilitate the development of additional tourism-related local enterprise initiatives.