



Isle of Man
Government
Reillys Eilan Vannin

ISLE OF MAN **INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC SPACE**

The first step to better public places

Planning Policy, Cabinet Office



Foreword

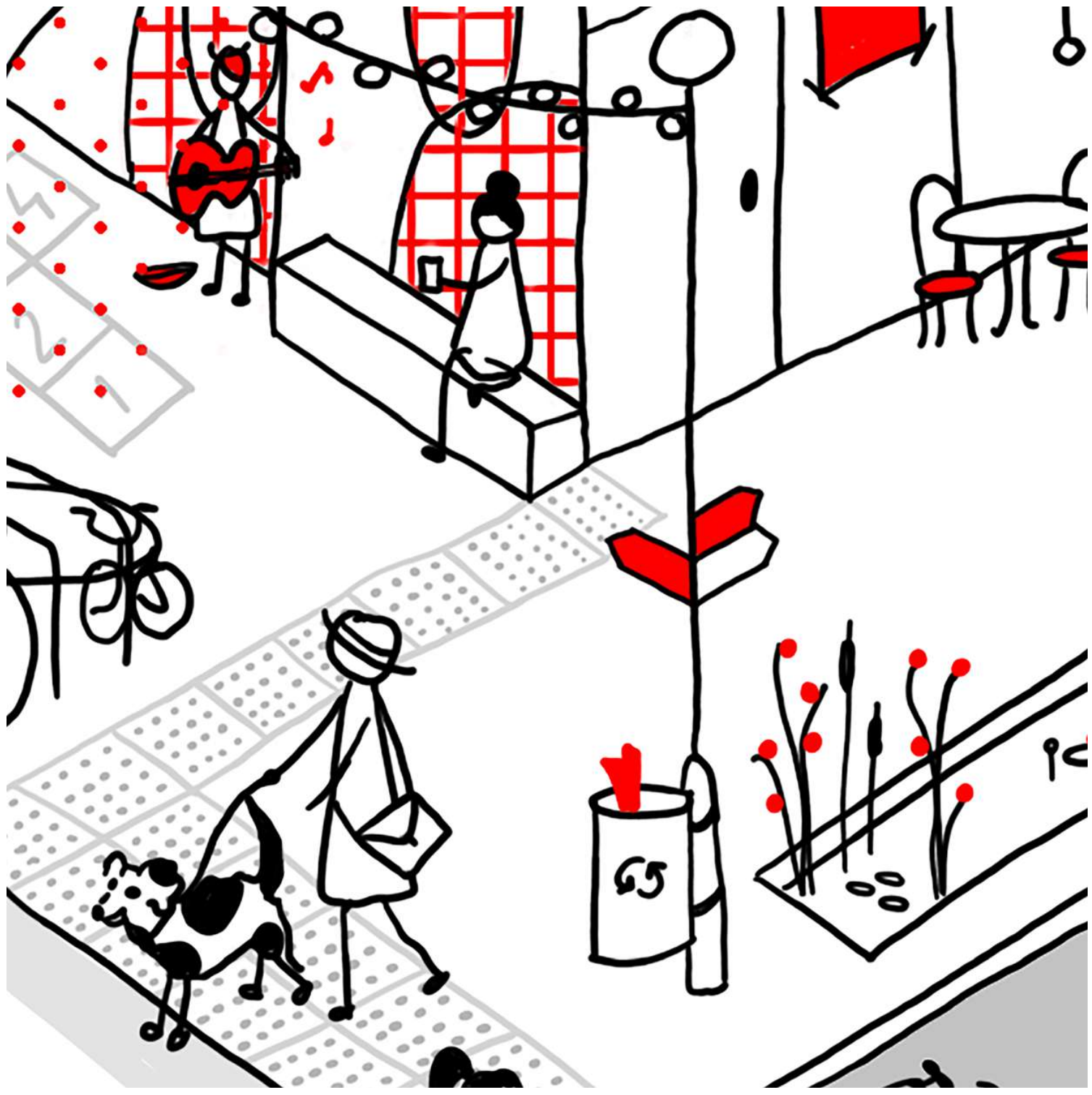
Public spaces are the heart of our communities. Whether they are grand public squares, quiet pathways, or modest street corners, these spaces shape how we live, connect, and experience our surroundings. They offer places to rest, to play, to gather, and to enjoy nature - regardless of age, background, or circumstance.

This document, *Introduction to Public Space*, marks the beginning of a new conversation about how we design, use, and value these shared environments across the Isle of Man. It reflects a growing recognition that high-quality, flexible, and inclusive public spaces are essential to the wellbeing of our communities and the vibrancy of our towns and villages.

The Cabinet Office is committed to working collaboratively with local authorities, government departments, and the public to reimagine and improve our public realm. By learning from past approaches and embracing new thinking, particularly the renewed emphasis on walkability and pedestrian-friendly design, we can create a more connected and resilient network of public spaces.

This guide will support strategic and local planning documents but it is also an invitation; an invitation to notice the spaces we often overlook, to imagine what they could become, and to take part in shaping them. Through early engagement, shared expertise, and community dialogue, we can build places that reflect our values and support our future. We hope this introduction sparks curiosity, encourages collaboration, and lays the foundation for a more inclusive and inspiring approach to public space across the Island.

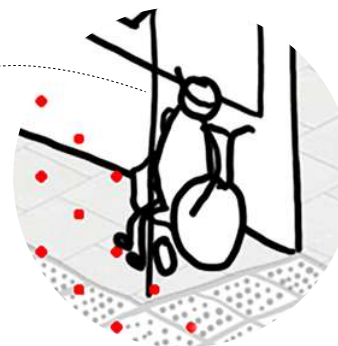
Planning Policy Team
Cabinet Office

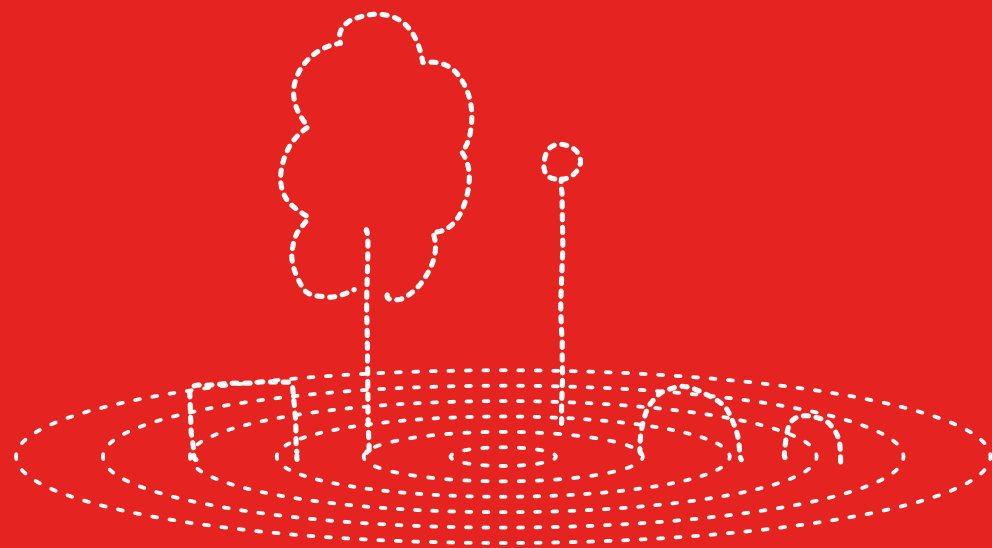


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This document looks at what public spaces are, their types and history on the Isle of Man, why they matter as part of our Biosphere, shares case studies, and provides tools and ideas for their improvement.





What are public spaces?

We move through public spaces every day - sometimes lingering, sometimes barely noticing them. What makes us stop? Often, it comes down to small but significant details: the comfort of a seat, a sense of safety, the atmosphere. A well-designed space invites reflection: Do I feel welcome here? Could I stay a little longer? Would I come back?

There are many reasons to shine a light on the importance of public spaces. They tell us a lot about a place and can leave us with a lasting impression - positive or negative. So what does this mean? And how do we define a high-quality public space?

Research suggests that well-designed public spaces can boost local economies by increasing property values, attracting investment, and supporting community wellbeing (CABE, 2004 – The Value of Public Space).

Quality public spaces are essential for achieving long-term success in many types of development. They should be considered from the earliest design phases - not as an afterthought. The Island has strong examples of good public space but some examples are less effective. The following sections explore how these spaces have evolved to now, examine recent improvements, and outline basic principles and practical tools to inform future work.

This document offers a practical early framework for enhancing public spaces as part of the overall public realm.

One of government's wider initiatives is to build great communities and this work aims to enhance the quality, accessibility, and understanding of public spaces and strengthen cross-sector collaboration - by aligning public objectives with private sector capabilities - we can create shared spaces that support both community wellbeing and economic vitality.

The Island Plan Update 2025/2026 reinforces this direction, highlighting the need to “revive our urban landscape and improve the public realm in a sustainable way.” The *Introduction to Public Space* supports ongoing work on brownfield sites but also takes a broader view to benefit all citizens across the Island.



“In research carried out for CABE, 85 per cent of people surveyed felt that the quality of public space and the built environment has a direct impact on their lives and on the way they feel. But having access to public space is not all that matters – just as important are the planning, design and management of that space.”

CABE (2002)
Streets of Shame. Summary of findings from 'Public Attitudes to Architecture and the Built Environment'. London, CABE

Types of public spaces on the Isle of Man

While the way we use public spaces may vary across cultures and locations, some qualities remain consistent. Put simply, they need to be functional, inclusive and meaningful. In the following pages, we explore the fundamental qualities of public space and the most common types found across the Island; what they currently look like, and opportunities for them to change. The way we name, use and invest in these spaces plays a powerful role in shaping how they are valued by the community.

Street and Road

A street or road is the basic element in the urban network. Street is more often used in a town or city that has houses or other buildings by the English dictionary. Street however does not need to be a road, which is primarily used for vehicles. Streets are linear in geometry and one of their functions is to connect, but they also have to serve the community to meet and dwell. The Manual for Manx Roads specifies street as primarily being a 'place' not by the movement that it facilitates. Streets should be lively and vibrant, with buildings surrounding them supporting this. The primary user of a street is a pedestrian and the design and features should reflect this. The latest good practice prioritises the sense of place of a street before its use for movement.

Alley, Lane and Ginnel

Alleys, lanes and ginnels are technically smaller or less important than streets. They have a specific typology, function, and for some even charm. Back alleys tend to have little or no traffic. They can be places where local residents choose to gather, talk or play. There have been initiatives globally to improve the look, safety and perception of these areas as they are often crucial in terms of the connectivity network.

Square

Other names include plaza or place. These are open areas used for various activities, usually with a hard surface. Town squares were traditionally places where people came together to meet, sell and buy things, or be

entertained. They often had markets and entertainment, or they were used for concerts.

Today, squares host civic gatherings, parades, and other community events, as well as serve as an informal meeting or recreational space. They are often surrounded by shops or cafés. On the Island, there are various types of squares that meet the typical criteria, as well as others such as Victorian garden squares set in residential areas.

Quay

A structure built along the shoreline of a water body, such as a river, harbour, or sea, designed to facilitate the loading and unloading of ships and boats. Historically, quays were also some of the first places of trade or markets. Today, they also have recreational function for marine sports or social gatherings, especially when lined with bars or restaurants.

Promenade

A form of public space that emerged in Victorian times with the seaside tourism boom. There is a legacy of promenades on the Island with some lined (albeit intermittently) with hotels and guesthouses. They serve as a connecting space between the town and the beach. Today, they are used for recreation, walks, events and parades.

Park and Gardens

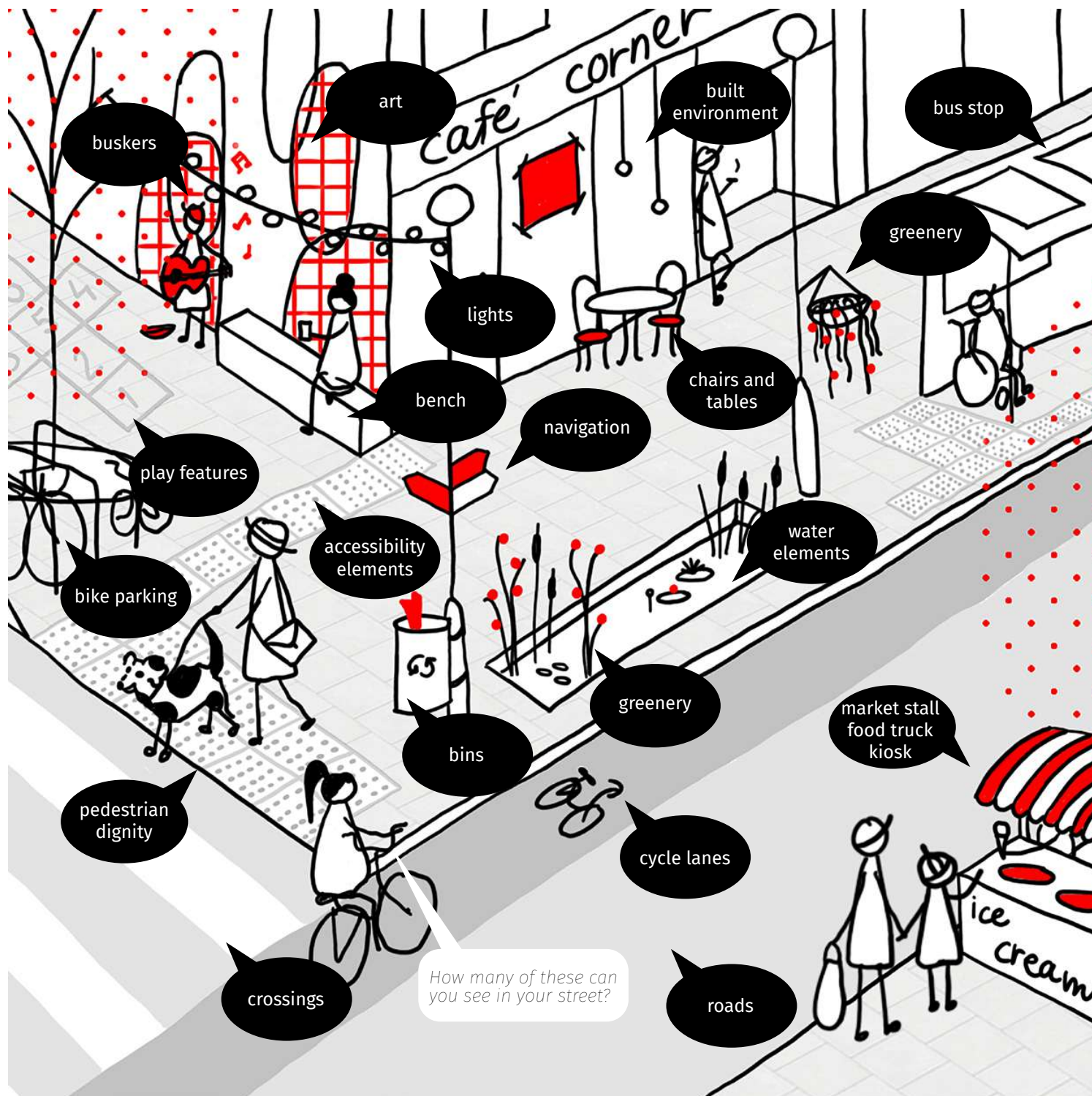
The green spaces within the town fabric which can be landscaped, natural, or wild. Parks are designed for recreation, sports, and events, with a mix of natural and managed landscapes. Public gardens, on the other hand, focus on aesthetic enjoyment and relaxation, with curated plantings. Glens on the Island, especially those with artificial features and paths, can also be classified as parks.



There are of course more types of public space - for example an open courtyard in an urban block or a playground or a sports field. Indoor spaces can also be 'public' - for example a local library, museum or religious building.

*This is an illustrative and
imaginary map, but it is
inspired by one local town.
Can you guess which one?*





Public space is made up of elements

Public spaces come in many forms - some are lively and bustling, others calm and contemplative. They vary in size, function and shape yet most share a common structure made up of layers and elements. A high quality space does not need every element and some are more important than others. What matters most is how a space serves its users.

Elements of public space can be physical, fixed, or mobile but can also be abstract relating to activities and events. Elements can be divided into movement - e.g. paths and crossings or living spaces e.g. areas for sitting or playing. Every public space offers both, though the balance can vary depending on the site's purpose and design.



Infrastructure is one layer of public spaces. These are structures that facilitate movement and access. Roads, bike lanes, crossings, bus stops, and accessibility features such as tactile paving and ramps belong here. Good quality public spaces are inclusive, which means they are walkable and 'rollable', and support equality and dignity of people in society.



Built environment is what defines public spaces. The facades of buildings, their geometry, openness, entrances, and functions all play a significant role in shaping the experience of public spaces. Lively ground

floors, transparent facades, and active building fronts can positively influence how we perceive, interact with, and use these spaces.



Surfaces define the interface of the public space. These are facades, pavements or roads. Surfacing can define a function, such as a motorway, bike lane, or pavement. They can also represent and reflect the character (historical town centre with cobblestones etc.). Proper surface selection supports the smoothness of movement, heat and rainwater absorption and navigation through reflectivity, colourway, and tactile textures.



Greenery is a layer both functional and aesthetic. It can be fixed as large trees, grass or flower patches or mobile in pots and containers. It plays a role in the local biodiversity and tackling the effects of global warming and pollution. In limited space, it can be seen in green walls, roofs or hanging baskets.



Water in public spaces can be artificial—like fountains—or natural and unavoidable, such as rainfall or high tides. Features like rivers, lakes, or seafronts often enhance the overall appeal of a space. In places without natural access to water, additions such as rain gardens, splash parks, fountains, or drinking fountains can offer similar benefits.

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) play an important role—not only in managing surface water runoff, but also in supporting biodiversity and creating more comfortable, attractive environments. Examples include rain gardens, green roofs, and permeable pavements.



Furnishings are all the smaller things we can find in public spaces. They can improve or harm our perception of place. Elements such as street furniture carry and reflect the identity of a place. They should respond to the town/village scale and the character of the area.

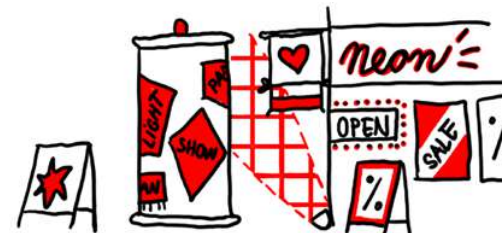
Elements include benches, seats, tables and chairs, bins, and navigation features such as information signs. Decorative sculptures and art installations, whether temporary or permanent, should also have some guidelines and support.

Small features to support play for all ages can also be placed in public spaces to improve their attractiveness.

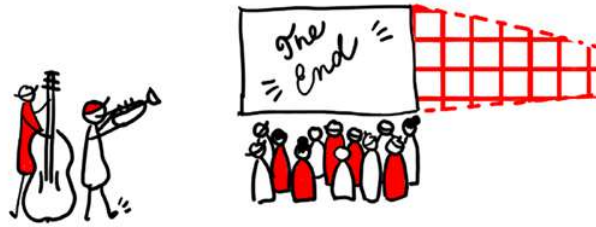
Retail features such as small kiosks or food trucks, either permanent or occasional, work well when they are well managed: they should contribute to the space - not deter from it.



Lighting in public spaces has safety, decorative and navigational functions. There is a fine line between not enough and too much lighting. Some lights can be blinding or distracting (flickering or colour-changing lights). It is also important to design and place lights that respect wildlife, even in urban areas, and that do not cause light smog to disturb the dark skies locations.



Advertising and shopfronts can, when done well, activate public spaces. Regulation can help to avoid overcrowding and inconsistency (visual pollution), limiting walkability or compromising the perception of safety. Banners, posters, billboards, advertising signs, shop signs or A-frames and more should follow local guidelines and recommendations.



Activities in public spaces are an extra category to mention at this point. They are an abstract layer but they can influence the overall perception of public space. These could be seasonal events such as concerts, screenings or games, or small performances as buskers (many towns have schemes to support buskers since they help the liveliness of the street). Activities in less popular public spaces can raise awareness of these areas and aid future development.

Where design elements have been able to vividly stimulate multiple senses, as the ones identified can do, the likeliness of pedestrians wanting to return to a place to sustain its liveliness and activation is increased.

*Rathod, Dhruvi & Wagner, Cesar. (2021).
The condition of public spaces: the role
of sensory experience design*

Sensory public spaces

It is important when thinking about the various layers of public space that too many can overcrowd or overwhelm. This happens when there is simply too much happening in the place. Being mindful of the senses can avoid inconsistency in design and unnecessary repetition of features.

All layers of public space affect our senses and awareness of this can prevent sensory overload which is even more crucial for neurodivergent people. It is good practice to limit negative sensory stimuli such as loud or sudden noises or loud music, flickering lights of varied colours and strong smells. Waste bins should be carefully placed. Too many restriction signs or defensive design can have a negative impact too.

We recognise five senses through which we assess our surroundings; sight, hearing, touch, smell and taste.

A combination of these senses and our previous experience is sometimes called a 'sixth sense' and it's what gives us the feeling of an atmosphere or 'vibe'.

It is important to keep all sensory layers of space in mind when designing and creating public spaces to be sure to include people with sensory impairments.



The story of public spaces on the Isle of Man

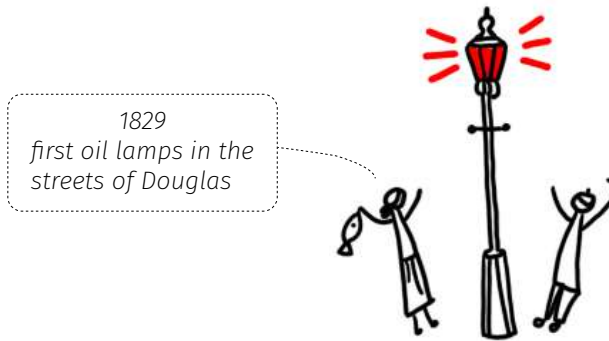
The story of our public spaces is an ongoing and never-ending process. We start by describing the Island's historical evolution, to show how our public spaces have constantly evolved according to the needs of the community at the time.

Most settlements on the Island started as fishing villages with the quay or harbour being a place for trade and therefore one of the first public and meeting spaces (1)*. In the 18th century quays were improved and harbours grew to cater for growing trade. These were marketplaces; one of the first public spaces in towns and villages (2).

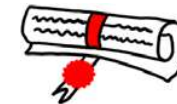


The old market place, Douglas, end of 19th century ¹

The industrialisation (3) in the 19th century was followed by global trend of more people moving to towns and urban areas (4). These became more populated creating needs for new housing but also public spaces. Industrialisation also brought another trend; leisure and recreation became more accessible for people. On the Isle of Man the tourism boom started, which continues more or less to this day but in a different form (5).



This sudden growth was followed by necessary legislation, leading to the Towns Act of 1852. Although it introduced a framework for elected local authorities, it was not adopted by any town. Instead, local Acts were later passed for Douglas (1860), Ramsey (1865), Castletown (1883), and Peel (1884), closely mirroring the original Act but adapted to each town's needs (6).



1852
An Act to provide for paving, cleansing, lighting, and watching the Streets of the several Towns of this Island; and for making and keeping in repair public sewers therein, and otherwise improving the said Towns.

** The numbers in brackets are points in illustrated timeline on page 20. The timeline offers quick overview of this chapter.*

*** The speech bubbles on photographs illustrate social connections that public spaces help to facilitate. Social connections are essential to healthy and resilient communities.*

New public spaces started to emerge, these were either part of new development by private developers (Derby Square, Woodburn Square) or gifted to the Commissioners by private owners (Nobles Park). In the 1870s, during Governor Loch's tenure, the first section of Douglas's later Loch Promenade was formed on reclaimed land, alongside improvements to Victoria Street (7).



Loch Promenade, Douglas, late 19th cent. ²

Mooragh Park in Ramsey was created in 1881 on a former tidal swamp by the Commissioners (8). Open air baths and pools gained popularity (Port Skillion, Douglas; Traie Meanagh, Port Erin etc.) as well. This trend can be seen all around Europe, reclaiming land for public leisure and recreation to boost economic growth through tourism.



Mooragh Park, Ramsey, late 19th cent. - early 20th cent. ³

While new spaces were created to cater for growing tourism, some were demolished. Douglas particularly lost some of its urban squares (St. Barnabas Square, Wellington Square). These were smaller pocket squares but as we know now they have their place in well-functioning town fabric.



St Barnabas Square, Douglas, 1928 ⁴

In 1899, new market halls were erected in Douglas which caused the town to lose its open air market space, leaving only three other market towns on the Island with an outdoor market space (Castletown, Peel and Ramsey) (9).



Market in front of Market Halls, Douglas, early 20th cent. ⁵



Development of the Market Square in Castletown from 1852 to 2010 and recent image from 2023. ^{6, 7, 8,}



The Main Road in Kirk Michael used to be a place to meet and socialise, not only commute. Today it has lost its community function. Photo from early 20th Century ⁹

Fairs were another popular event taking place in public spaces. Fairs included except for trade also other entertainment and games. The number of fairs on the Island apparently dropped considerably over the years, and markets continued in the local towns. Market and congregational places were in most towns and villages (e.g. St Marks, Kirk Michael) around the Island, connected to trade, religious and social life.



19th Century

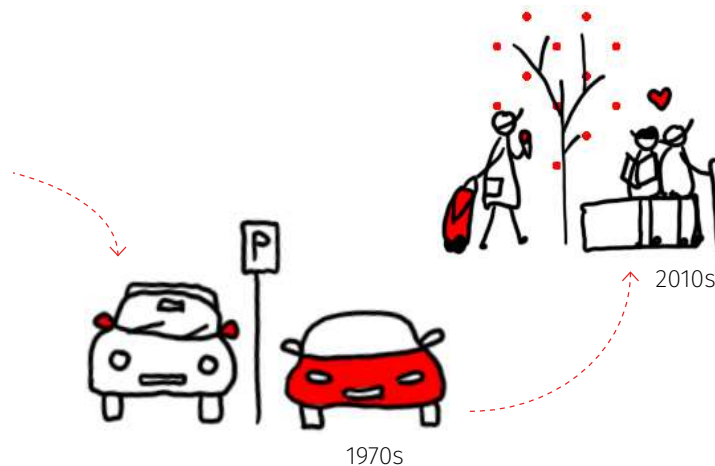
Another milestone in the development of public spaces were the World Wars (10). At the end of the WWII the main focus was on redevelopment and economic growth.

The increase in private car ownership defined the use of many public spaces as well (11). The mid-20th Century is marked by turning town squares into town car parks. The private car was seen as the future of the modern world and car parks as the best use of open spaces. We can see this illustrated in Market Square in Castletown or Market Place in Ramsey (12).

The motorisation of our towns and cities was first received carefully, still placing the right of a pedestrian as the first priority.

It was in the 1950s when the shift started and the need for cars became dominant. Changing attitudes over the next few decades, saw town design and growth built around the private car. Motorisation was seen as great progress and a step towards a better future.

Children stopped playing in the streets, pedestrians were pushed to the pavements and they were educated to stay out of the car's way. The adaptation of separate legislation to close streets occasionally for children to play also illustrates how the main function of the street belonged to the car and fast-paced transport.



Original cartoon by Dusty Miller, published 13 April 1956 and relevant to this day.¹⁰

Men, women and children want more than food, shelter and warmth. They want, if their lives are to be full and good, space near their homes for exercise, quiet, good air, and sight of grass, trees and flowers; they want colour, which shall cheer them in the midst of smoke and fog; they want music, which shall contrast with the rattle of the motors and lift their hearts to praise and joy; they want suggestion of nobler and better things than those that surround them day by day.



Octavia Hill
Charity Organisation Review
New Series, Vol. 18, No. 108 (DECEMBER 1905), pp. 314-319

The growth of private car ownership, concerns about air pollution and the climate change effect of fossil fuels started to change this direction of town planning, and bringing the design focus back to the people in the street and placemaking. This shift is obvious in many European cities like Barcelona, Vienna, Oslo, and Copenhagen (13).

While parking remains an important consideration in town planning, it's worth recognising that each space - typically around 10m² per car - represents a significant use of land. In areas designed primarily around car access, space that could otherwise support a broader range of public uses may become limited. Prioritising more inclusive layouts can benefit all citizens, including those who don't drive - such as children, older adults, and people facing physical or financial barriers to car ownership (14).

The story of public spaces around the world is dominated by our attitude towards car ownership and transport, and it is important to know that we cannot address one without the other. It is becoming clear that there is not enough physical space to accommodate a private car for each citizen in a form of parking spaces.

Modern public spaces are formed by streets with active ground floors and terraces serving refreshments, squares offering places to meet and celebrate, promenades to commute, walk and meet or parks to play or rest.

The reclamation of public spaces from car usage began in the 2000s and continues to progress. The Mary Portas Review, initiated in 2011, was a response to the growth of online shopping and the concern over the decline of the high street. This review emphasised that the primary function of the high street should be a place for people to dwell and socialize rather than merely a retail space.

I think we want four things. Places to sit in, places to play in, places to stroll in, and places to spend a day in.

Octavia Hill 1883



Strand Street, Douglas, Isle of Man, 2000s ¹¹

Research published by Transport for London found that **people who walked, cycled or travelled by public transport spent 40% more in their local shops** than motorists. Pedestrianisation strategies also stimulate enterprise by rise in refreshment start-ups and decrease of shop closures.



Some of the earliest efforts to enhance local public spaces came from local authorities, followed by short-term projects such as Play Streets organised by the Department of Infrastructure and the Isle of Play charity.

Notable examples include the Christmas Market held in Douglas High Street, which initially faced disapproval from local shop owners. However, data showed that visitors to the market also tended to shop more at existing brick-and-mortar stores.

Another example is the effort to pedestrianise Market Square in Castletown, which has faced both support and challenges, including complaints from businesses and divided opinions about the changes.

Management of high-quality public spaces today can come from local authorities as well as private stakeholders. While this is not yet a local trend, there are examples from other places where privately owned spaces are developed as public spaces benefiting the wider community. Such models show that private investment can contribute positively to the creation of vibrant, accessible public spaces.

In recent years, there has been a slow but steady improvement in the quality of local public spaces. For instance, the pedestrianisation of Market Square has been positively received and continues to grow in popularity, as have the North Quay closures in Douglas. Existing public spaces are being progressively improved, but when doing so, it is important to regularly assess the community's needs, adapting spaces to their evolving use patterns, whether they be linked to popular activities or changing demographics.

A recent trend in urban design is the creation of adaptable, flexible public spaces that can support both the social and economic resilience of local communities. These spaces aim to be multifunctional, able to meet diverse needs and foster community interaction.



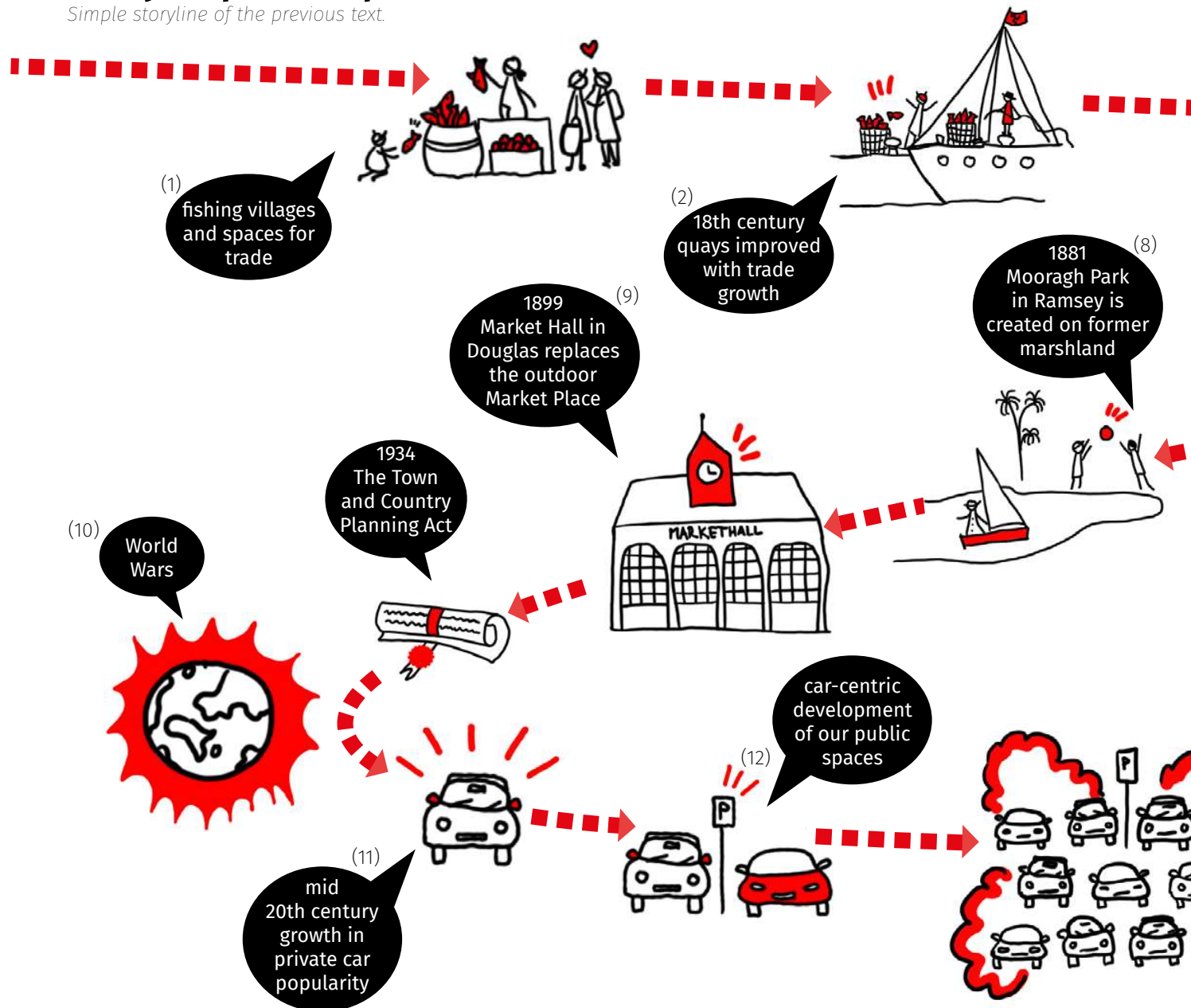
Public space in front of a coffee shop in a registered building in Castletown. The use of materials is corresponding with the current revitalisation of Market Square. This is tied together into a network of public spaces in Castletown and also brings attention to the surroundings that includes many historically important buildings, strengthening the story of Castletown.¹² Design by Horncastle:Thomas Architects + Designers 2016

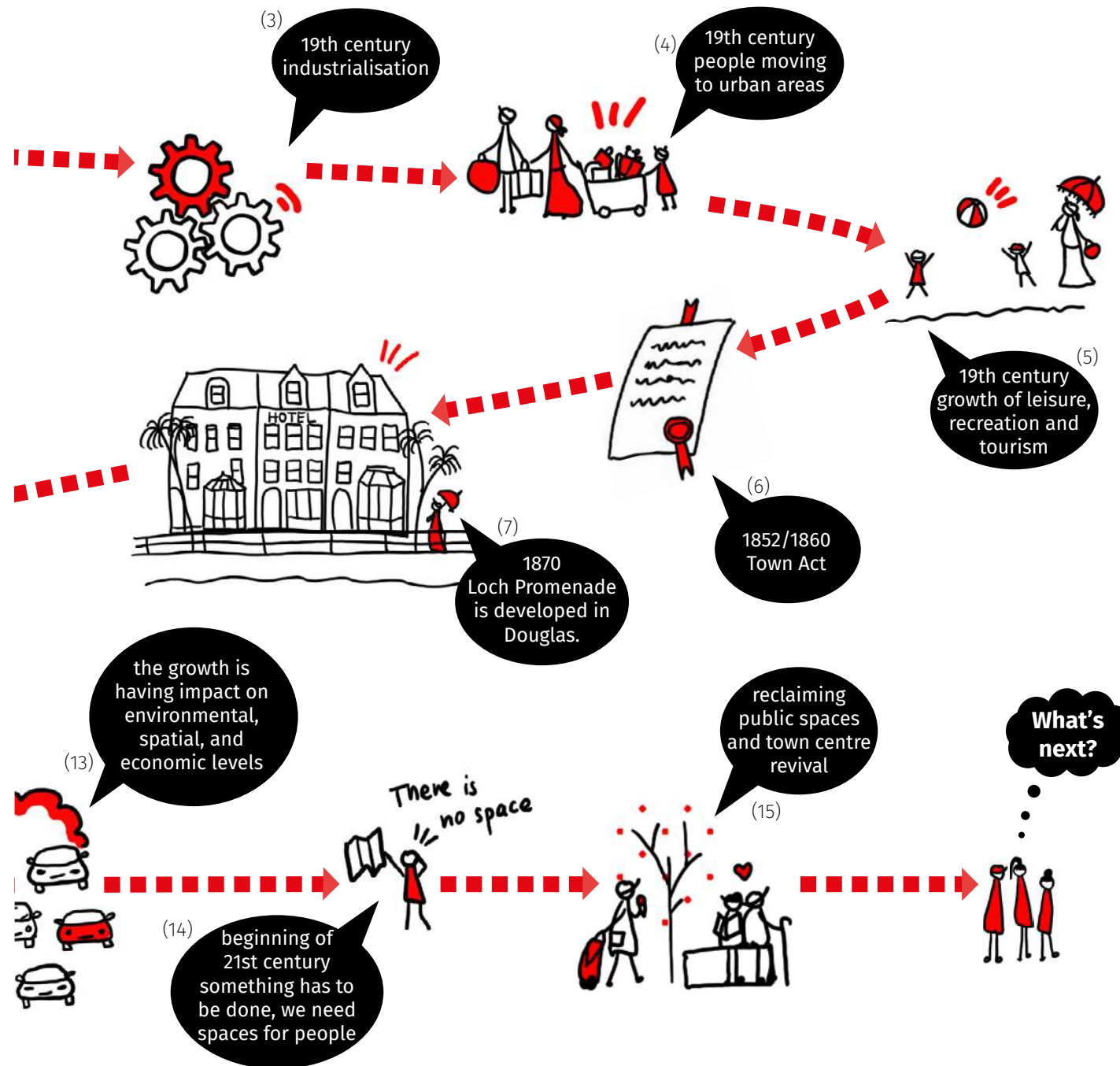
Some of the latest stories of local public spaces are published in the chapter [Case studies](#) on page 33.



Story of public spaces on the Isle of Man

Simple storyline of the previous text.







Why do we need well designed public spaces?

Building great communities is one of the five top priorities for the Island. Public spaces are everywhere around us and have a big impact on quality of our lives. The streets we walk through, the places where we meet with friends, play with family, walk our dogs, enjoy the first spring sun with a take-out coffee or eat lunch.

The Isle of Man, as a UNESCO Biosphere reserve and crown dependency, follows and supports the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations Agenda 2030. Many aspects of the Isle of Man Government's Our Island Plan complement these goals. The 17 Goals and 169 associated targets were designed to provide a consistent framework for countries to address urgent sustainability issues.



To explore all SDGs click on the logo above or go to <https://sdgs.un.org/goals> if reading printed document.¹³

SDG 11 focuses on sustainable cities and communities and making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Every SDG covers multiple targets. Target 11.7 addresses universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities. The indicator is the amount of public spaces that do not discriminate and provide the same access and opportunities for all.



SDG 11



Target 11.7

Public space as a common good is the key enabler for the fulfilment of human rights, empowering women and providing opportunities for youth. It is vitally important for recreation, social, cultural and economic development.

To read more about the different impacts of good public space see chapter [Measures of success](#) on page 24.

"...In spite of the important role that green and public spaces play, they are often threatened by the migration to cities. As land becomes more precious, green and public spaces are converted to residential housing and businesses. This is why target 11.7 that addresses green and public spaces is so important. Without strong commitment from Governments to preserve, protect, and value these spaces they will be lost forever...."

Kristie Daniel
Goal 11—Cities Will Play an Important Role in Achieving the SDGs
April 2015, No. 4 Vol. II, Beyond 2015

Measures of success - Our Biosphere

Public space can influence, improve, or negatively affect many aspects of our lives. This chapter illustrates the impact of various elements that society believes define success. These elements are closely tied to how the exceptional status of UNESCO Biosphere is defined. Specific examples of the impact are described.

People and Society

People spend a lot of time in various public spaces. These form our habits and lifestyles but also relationships with others. It is becoming more widely accepted that our public spaces have a big impact upon our **mental health** and well being - which significantly influences the quality of our lives.

Good quality public spaces, and the possibility to commute to school by foot aid healthy children's development. Learning how to be independent around age 10 has an impact on us as adults. More research also showed that people living in walkable neighbourhoods are generally happier.

Another example tied to mental health is the growing impact of what is called the loneliness epidemic. People who live in walkable communities with a network of inclusive and accessible public spaces claim to know their neighbours better and have more friends in the area.

Good mental health has a great impact on our **physical health**, and there is also a connection between people living in areas with good walkability and public spaces who tend to eat healthier and get more exercise, even if it is only walking to the corner shop or seeing your neighbours.

Lifestyle changes are an important part of prevention and help to reduce the pressure on our healthcare services.



Natural Environment

One of the main elements that earned the Isle of Man the UNESCO Biosphere status is its natural environment.

These are not only the natural reserves, peatlands or beaches that have a large impact on the overall **sustainability** of our nature but also the smaller parts such as parks, green streets, private gardens, pocket parks etc. Good quality public spaces include green elements such as wildlife or grass lawns and trees.

Well-spread greenery provides habitat for various species of insects, nesting birds and other small animals, supports **biodiversity** and also connects existing bio-corridors not restricting the natural flow of movement for different species.

A dense network of green spaces has a cooling effect on the urban areas reducing the impact of urban heat islands and the need for air-conditioning. The greenery of public spaces plays a big role in the water management system, dealing with rainfall naturally and turning it into an asset that makes places around us more welcoming.

Good public spaces promote and motivate walkability and active travel, and therefore reduce **carbon emissions** and improve the air quality in our towns and cities.





“Public space is for buying and selling, or for meeting, playing, and bumping into one another unexpectedly. Public space is where water management happens (or doesn’t), where miles driven become CO2 burned (or doesn’t), and where ecosystems of urban flora and fauna thrive (or don’t). Public space is for conveying our outrage and our highest aspirations, as well as for laying the most mundane utilities and infrastructure. And when we let it, public space can be a medium for creativity, expression, and experimentation.”

*Public Space at the Crossroads of Everything (2016)
Project for Public Spaces*

Economy

Cities and towns with a good network of public spaces are popular with locals and visitors alike. Places such as squares, and walkable streets with opportunities to sit down or meet friends help to grow the footfall in the town and this way bring more people to the **local businesses**.

Walkability and reduced car traffic in the central zones of town contrary to widespread belief help the local businesses in the long term and improve the number of people that visit the town. This motivates people to spend more locally, in various shops and services, supporting sustainability and resilience of the local **circular economy**. Investment into public realm and public spaces supports **economic resilience** and **self-sufficiency** of the location.

Good provision of high-quality public spaces helps to attract more people and businesses to an area, raising the property prices in the key areas and also providing healthy competition for the local businesses.

While economy is partially a subcategory of *People and Society* in this chapter it is described in a separate paragraph since economic development is described as one of the functions of society in the UNESCO Biosphere.



Cultural Identity and Civic Pride

The last measure of success and a sign of a thriving society is the protection and development of local **culture**.

Public spaces to meet your neighbours and friends support the **sense of belonging**, which is important for people who are new to the area but also locals.

Public spaces offer an opportunity to practice local culture with various **events**, music or theatre performances, art installations, immersive art pieces (art involving the audience) or community projects such as urban farming or collaborative art.

Spacious public spaces offer space for educational activities and provide a place for groups of people to meet and organise.

This is an important part of celebrating the local history and supporting the local **democracy**, helping people unite and offering places for protests, demonstrations or parades.



From ideas to action

There are many ways to improve the Island's public spaces. Change can come from anywhere; authorities, private businesses or motivated communities. Some might not require permissions from the authorities and can be a good start to make the surroundings more livable. Often small or insignificant changes can have a big impact.

The impacts of various tools and measures that can make a difference are categorised based on the duration of their effects:

Testing / trials

Examples include closing some roads for traffic to see the impact, making some roads one way, giving parking places a different function - park, playground, cafe terrace etc. If these prove successful they can be turned into seasonal or permanent changes. Their success is judged after a certain period of time, not on first impressions and comments. Tactical urbanism belongs to this category.

Temporary / seasonal

Seasonal changes usually depend on the weather or various events (e.g. TT). An example is a pedestrianisation of Market Sq. in Castletown during summer months, closing some roads due to construction activities etc. Seasonal changes if proven successful can be turned into permanent changes or testing changes to gain more data.

Permanent

Temporary/testing changes proven successful or with supportive evidence can become permanent. For example changing traffic patterns, changing areas purpose or function etc.



Testing changes can become permanent or seasonal and seasonal changes can be testing at the same time.



Another way to categorise ways or tools that help us change our urban spaces depends on the physical impact these have on the actual place or area. They vary from abstract or imaginary concepts to real, newly built developments or neighbourhoods.

Think about the differences and steps from writing a blog post about the need for a new road and the construction of the road in an area. Not all abstract tools need to have physical results. Changing the public image or reputation of a place in the minds of people is just as important.

Awareness and education

One of the very first steps for any change is to create awareness of a problem and education about its impact. This can be talking about pollution in a specific area and its dangers to health, or the importance of accessible and walkable communities.

The opportunities are endless such as art pieces, comic books, zines, illustrative maps or posters, blog posts, lectures and social media but also organised explorative walks or bike rides, scavenger hunts, site-specific games, creative competitions of any kind - write a story about an area...



Online presence and online tools

Online space is not only a great tool for spreading awareness but also for connecting people in co-creation.

Many citizen-led activities and groups have a Facebook group or a group chat. Forums for specific areas (neighbourhoods, streets...) or problems (dangerous dark streets, unsafe public staircases...) collect feedback, but also solutions.

The pandemic brought us a variety of online communication tools from collaborative whiteboards to interactive maps. These can be used formally or informally and motivate people to be creative in their own time and place.

You can try motivating people using emojis or stickers on a photograph of your street, creating hashtags for specific local features, that you want to bring attention to. Some more official tools could be polls or online surveys collecting data.

While online tools are a great way to share a message and get input it is important to remember that they are not the most inclusive, since there are members of our community who do not want or cannot access them.



Quick wins and interventions

Quick wins are changes that are relatively easy to implement and have a significant impact. Often, strategically placed small upgrades can make a big difference in our built environment. For example, dropped curbs constructed at every spot where people cross the roads, or adding a few lights in a dark area. Tactical urbanism in a form of asphalt art is a form of intervention, pointing out the unfair division of areas see example from Slovakia on the next page.

Smaller-scale projects that connect social and urban life are a good way to highlight existing issues, such as derelict, undeveloped, neglected areas in towns or villages, dangerous intersections, and missing connections. For their disruptive or highlighting aspect they are often called urban interventions and you can find many examples under this name.

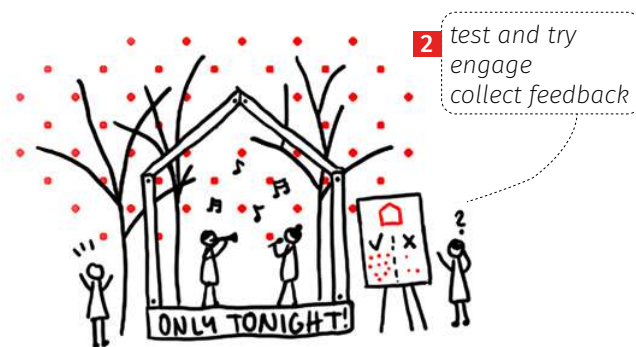
Place activation

Raising awareness done in-situ is also called place activation. The purpose is to bring attention to an area that is neglected, avoided or has a bad reputation.

Organising a concert or a film screening under bridges or other dark corners can help uncover future potential and attract investment. Cultural nights and art installations bring attention to gaps in the urban fabric. These can be organised individually or as a part of an art festival (known light festival concept is Nuit Blanche also known as White Night or Light Night internationally).

Temporary parks, parklets, or playgrounds on empty properties, agreed upon with residents and authorities, turn underutilised areas into valuable community spaces.

Proper safety measures need to be addressed when organising public events, and improvement in legislation can simplify the organising processes (simple applications and approval process, funding and support).



From ideas to action - examples in practice

This chapter wants to showcase some examples of how different scale of changes and engagement with public spaces helped to improved them. You can see examples of urban interventions, testing changes and tactical urbanism.

Lé Galvaudeûx, created by artist Tim le Breuilly, is a guided walk in St Helier, Jersey, designed to uncover hidden parts of the city and promote wellbeing through active public space. The free walk encourages participants to document and share their experiences online.



Lé Galvaudeûx, St Helier, Jersey ¹⁴



Cultures and climates differ all over the world, but people are the same. They'll gather in public if you give them a good place to do it. First life, then spaces, then buildings – the other way around never works.

*Jan Gehl
Danish architect, Founder of Gehl Architects*



Granby Park, Lower Dominick Street, Dublin ^{15, 16}

The Upstart Collective turned a derelict site on Lower Dominick Street, Dublin, into **Granby Park**, a pop-up park with cafés, plants, and art. Supported by Dublin City Council and community groups, the project aims to reclaim public spaces.

Upstart, known for creative interventions, has been working on this for two years and is crowdfunding for additional funds, highlighting a trend to repurpose vacant urban spaces for community use.



before



trial - tactical urbanism



after

Vazovova st., Bratislava, Slovakia ^{17, 18, 19}

The intersection in **Bratislava** has been redesigned to be safer and more pleasant, with a layout change to slow traffic to 30 km/h (20 mph). Led by “City for Children” with UNICEF, the Metropolitan Institute, the municipality, and Bloomberg Foundation support, this initiative aims to improve public spaces.

The London Borough of Camden trialed pedestrianisation in Queen’s Crescent, with Street Space conducting 6 months of community engagement. Activities like book swaps, creative days, supper clubs, play streets, and market celebrations engaged 263 residents in collaboration with 12 local organizations.

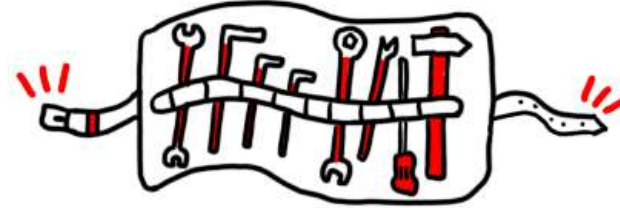


Queen’s Crescent, The London Borough of Camden ²⁰



Open-source tools and guides

There are many organisations that provide free and open source resources and manuals on placemaking and different levels of public space improvement or change. Here is a list of some. They can be adjusted and used in many different contexts or combined. Feel free to invent your own!



Placemaking Europe

"We are a European network of front-runners, who together accelerate placemaking as a way to create healthy, inclusive, and beloved communities. To make the spaces we live into places we love."

<https://placemaking-europe.eu/toolbox/>



STIPO

"At STIPO we work on better cities and sustainable growth. Our work is open source so we can inform and inspire others."

<https://stipo.nl/tools/?lang=en>



Project for Public Spaces

"We bring public spaces to life by planning and designing them with the people who use them every day. Our knowledge, skills, and strategies equip people to fuel lasting change. Together, we create community-powered public spaces around the world."

<https://www.pps.org/article/streets-as-places>



<https://www.pps.org/publications>



<https://stipo.nl/publications/?lang=en>



Greenspace Scotland - Young Placechangers Toolkit

"The Young Placechangers toolkit aims to inspire young people to take the lead in their local community, to voice their opinions and help make positive change happen."

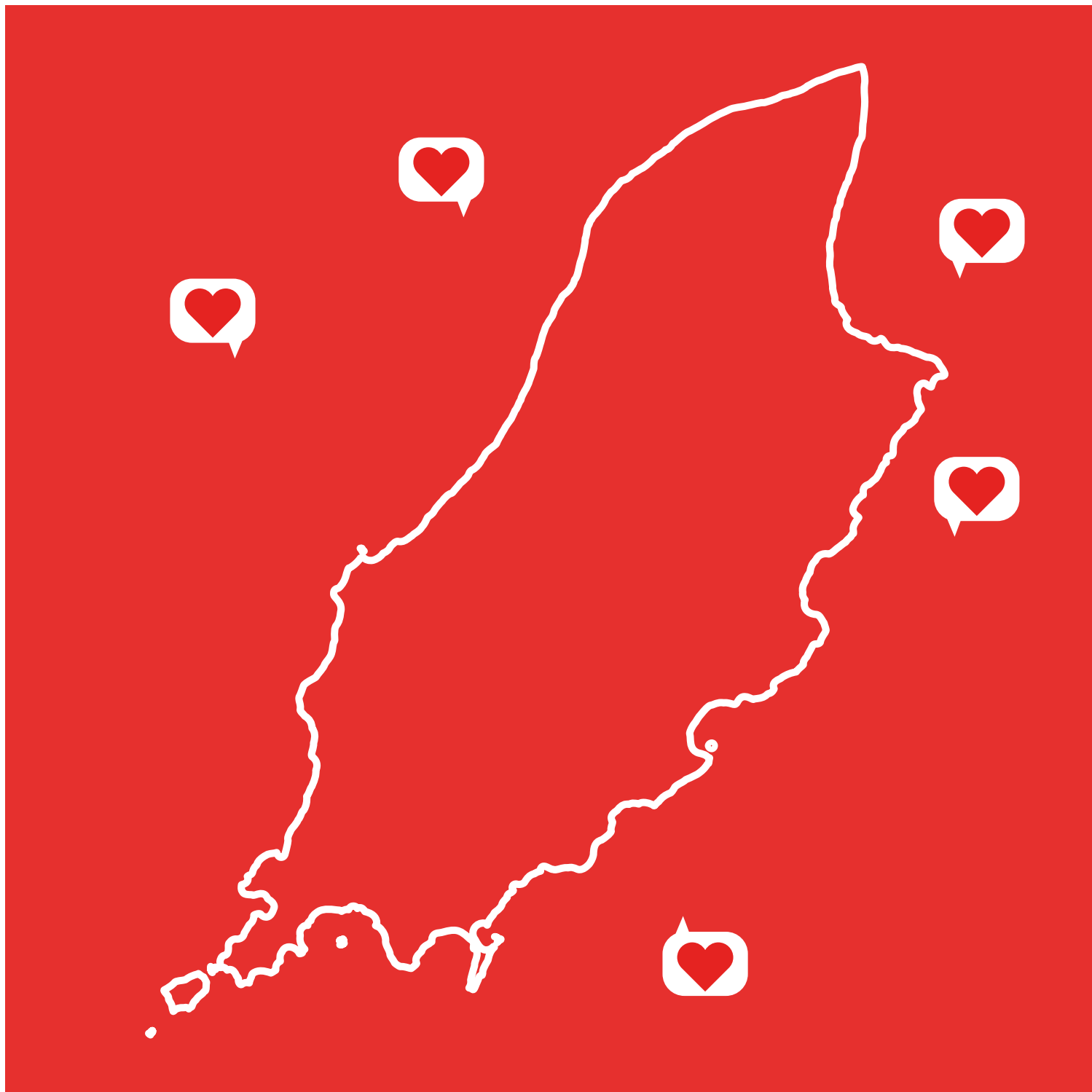
<https://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/young-placechangers-toolkit>



On the next page is an evaluation tool developed by Project for Public Spaces. It is handy for assessing existing public spaces and learning what works. Note that every public space is unique, and what might work in one might not work so well elsewhere, but there are some basic signs to follow and notice.







Local case studies

The story of public spaces (page 14) illustrates that there were always good-quality public spaces on the Isle of Man that were claimed for various functions. The public spaces that served people were turned into infrastructure and parking but are coming back to life.

In the local case studies, we focused on spaces that were recently revitalised to show a positive example of change and possibility.

We briefly touched on the small public space in Castletown on pages 16 and 19, and Castletown, with its history, culture and street network has many opportunities for good public spaces. One is the Market Square, which we go into more detail on page 34.

The second example is the North Quay in Douglas, which recently thanks to private investment received its branding, identity and, therefore online presence to keep it alive.

The last example is a natural place located in the urban centre of Onchan. The Onchan wetlands recently received interest from local charity Manx Wildlife Trust, which made it one of their community projects. Community engagement and collaborative action to improve our public spaces strengthen the sense of ownership, community spirit and, therefore their resilience. Projects of this kind can be driven by charities, and authorities but also by independent groups or individuals.

On the following pages are descriptions of case studies or interviews with individuals and organisations behind these inspiring initiatives. Their perspectives, summarised and presented in their own voice, offer insights into the processes, challenges, and lessons they encountered. While the interviews have been edited for clarity and flow, all contributors reviewed and approved the final texts.



*“...Feels like a park or beach
but in the middle of town....”*

*response from online survey about
public spaces on the island, stating
their favourite public space is Market
Square in Castletown*

Market Square - Castletown



“...keep evolving, keep it fresh...”

Castletown Commissioners

The following summary looks back at the changes that have taken place in Market Square over recent years.

The recent changes in Market Square show how a public space can shift over time through small decisions and local circumstances. The resurfacing of the square in 2014 marked the first step, even though at that time it was still used for parking only. The new surface, however, outlined the area in a way that hinted at other future possibilities.

A more noticeable change began in 2020, when restrictions on indoor seating encouraged the temporary use of the square for outdoor activity. Many people welcomed this, and the positive reaction created support for exploring a wider vision for the space.

From that point, several small trials were introduced to understand what people might enjoy. Artificial turf created a simple play area for children while supporting nearby cafes. Other temporary features, such as a piano, table football and occasional outdoor equipment, allowed the community to interact with the space in new ways. These trials made it easier to observe how the square could function beyond its earlier use.

Testing ideas on a small scale is useful for understanding what works. A clear long-term plan helps guide decisions. It is also important to avoid assumptions based on past use.

Social media was helpful for sharing updates, but how the space was being used is best seen through real time observation.

Another reflection from the project is the importance of recognising what makes Castletown unique.

While places like Port Erin attract people for its beach, the town centre of Castletown has its own strengths, and focusing on these has helped shape the direction of change.

Market Square is seen as an example that supports further improvements around the town. Because the square has changed in a visible way, people are more open to new ideas for other public areas.

Across the case study timeline, a few simple principles have remained useful: keep experimenting, avoid relying on social media for guidance, share a clear vision and always consider how each change fits within the wider town.



Market Square on an August Wednesday afternoon. ²¹

North Quay - Douglas



“...have a plan and go for it!”

*Andrew Bentley
architect
and former Douglas Councillor*

What started the initiative?

During the 2020 pandemic, the Department for Enterprise was inspired by global activities to provide more public outdoor spaces for people and businesses. They started a scheme to pedestrianise a part of North Quay to support the local businesses in this area. In the first year, the pedestrianisation only occurred in the evenings, aligning with the opening hours of the local businesses. After the first year, the pedestrianisation changed to the weekends, and the project moved under the Douglas Council from that point.

What kept the project going?

The collaboration of local pubs and restaurants, and their shared vision of the bigger picture and benefits for all of them, was key in keeping the project going. Viewing neighbouring businesses as collaborators for the common good, rather than competitors, was crucial. The local businesses that drove this change understood that bringing more people to the area meant not only getting customers for their competitors but also for themselves.

What are the lessons learnt during this project?

The lessons learned during this project highlight that large events require substantial work and resources, yet their impact is not significantly greater than that of smaller pop-up events. Funding for this summer's events came partly from local businesses, partly from the Council, and through a series of Domestic Event Fund grants from the Department for Enterprise (DfE). Smaller pop-up events effectively activate the area and provide venues for small businesses. Many local businesses recognized that, even if individual events do not generate immediate profit, they are crucial for securing the area's long-term future and potential economic benefits. It is

essential to communicate with businesses that oppose these events and fear loss of parking and customers, using actual data to provide context.

What are the plans for the future?

The plans for the future include year-long pedestrianisation and the provision of more public seating, such as benches and picnic tables. It is important to promote the newly created public space and bring attention to it, so more seating is crucial.

Advice for anyone wanting to create a good space like this in their town or village?

- have a plan
- provide plenty of seating
- local businesses on board
- determination



Douglas Foodies Market is one of many events taking place on the North Quay and offers selection of local produce and foodtrucks.²²

MWT Onchan Community Wetlands



"...it is amazing to see the growth in confidence of people improving their environment..."

Hannah Phillips
Community Ranger
Manx Wildlife Trust

What started the initiative?

MWT Onchan Community Wetlands has been in the ownership of Manx Wildlife Trust for a long time. Collaboration with the local community began a few years ago, when a proactive resident got in touch to improve a previously muddy and wet path. The area is centrally located, and the path was a strategic link between the residential neighbourhood and the local shops, therefore the path was often used even in its previously muddy conditions. Over the years, the wetlands became overgrown with a number of non-native, invasive plant species.

In 2022, Hannah was hired as a Community Ranger, and her arrival aligned with concerns about the wetland's state. This was a great opportunity to engage with the local community to improve this area. After a few introductory meetings, a volunteer group was formed that started to meet on the weekends to work on the wetlands.

What kept the project going?

After 2 years the attendance stabilized to 12 regular volunteers. The project aims to be community-led, with reduced management and guidance from Manx Wildlife Trust. The volunteers have become more confident and are now leading on the jobs that need to be done. This kind of confidence is beneficial not only for the future of the wetlands but for other areas we live in. One project can help to empower a lot of local people.

What are the lessons learnt during this project?

Even if the project aimed to be self-led by the local community, they needed more intense guidance to begin with. Often telling people they can do whatever they

want is intimidating and can scare potential volunteers. More management was needed in the beginning until greater confidence had been built. Promotion of the initiative is also important, especially in the beginning to get people on board.

What are the plans for the future?

There is no specific end goal since it is a natural area and needs constant maintenance to keep it in shape. For maintenance, there are micro goals and plans that the group comes up with. We are hoping to install a shed that can be used to store tools, so people don't have to bring their own. It would also be nice to add some seating and tables. The project received funding from a private company that has helped with the installation of the new paths, information board and future shed. It is great to see that this project has sparked interest for similar initiatives. There is growing enthusiasm for community-led projects such as community orchards and urban green areas.

How do people use the wetlands?

The place is used by dog walkers, families, and people watching the ducks. It is a little oasis in the centre of Onchan and is accessible for people by foot.



Volunteers cleaning up the wetlands. ²³

Are there some other good examples on the island?
Or are there spaces that need some attention and
have potential to become good public spaces?
We all have power to change the environment we live
in. To help you start look at our [Toolbox](#) on page 30.



Who is this document for?

This document has been written to highlight the importance of public spaces for our quality of life as we move through our townscapes. It is to be used by different user groups for different purposes.

Authorities including governmental departments, statutory boards or local authorities responsible for publicly accessible spaces.



Private entities can be involved in two ways. Firstly, design studios and companies working on public spaces and the built environment, such as architects and construction firms. Secondly, companies as property owners can improve and change the appearance of buildings and spaces while also bringing vibrancy to the area through their activities.



Charities or other volunteer groups have the power to influence and improve public areas. They invest in development projects, engage with communities, and promote sustainability through initiatives like community gardens. These groups also use public spaces for events, fostering social connections and advocating for inclusive, well-maintained areas, helping to create vibrant, resilient communities.



General public can benefit from understanding the standards for maintaining public spaces, the positive impact of high-quality environments, and their right to influence and engage in planning processes. They can apply for arts grants to create public art and participate in community projects. This document aims to inspire appreciation for public spaces and encourage contributions to improving our communities, whether through small actions or larger involvement.



...and more

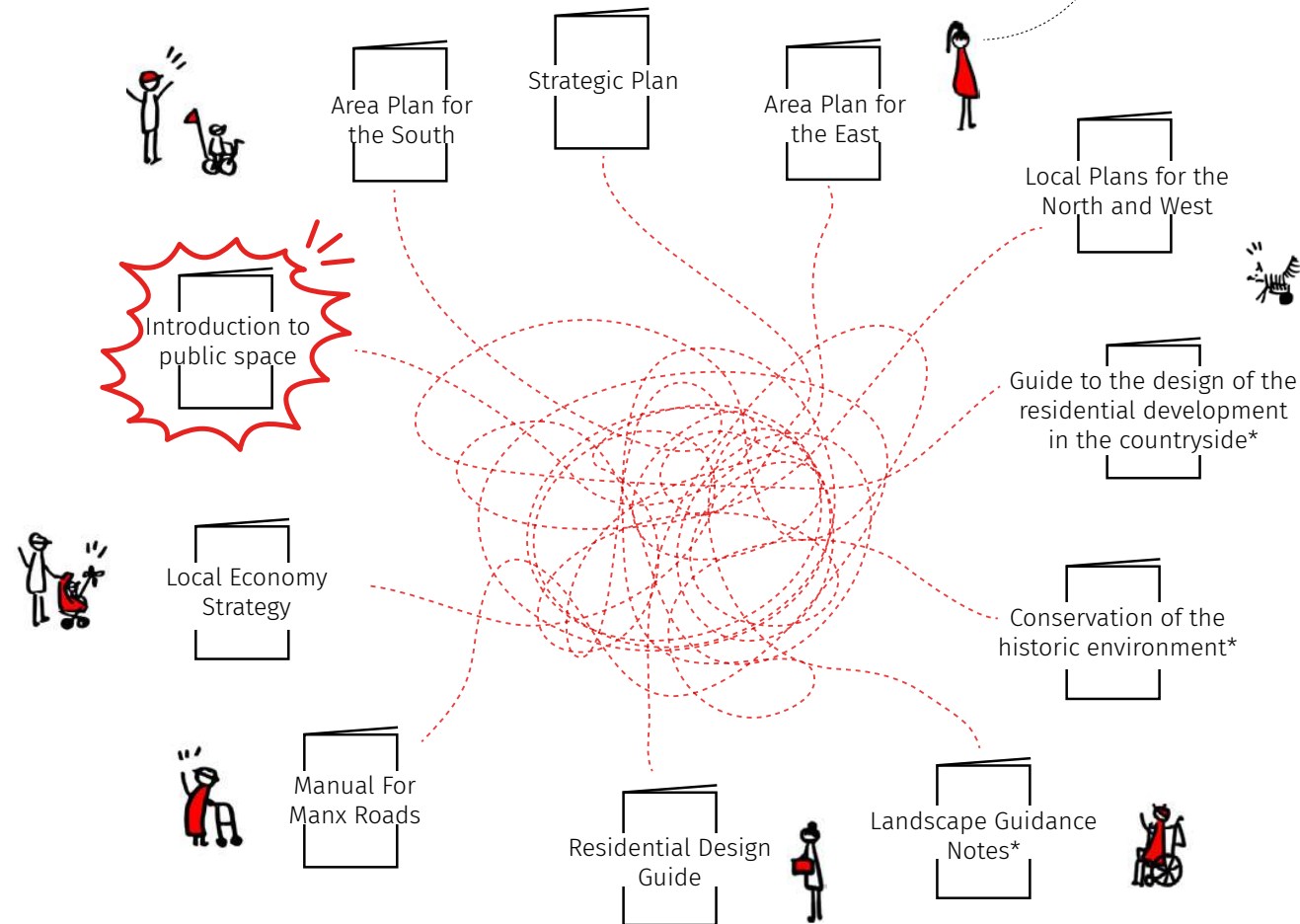
as mentioned earlier, public spaces should be inclusive and created with and by its users as much as possible. To achieve this, basic knowledge and awareness is necessary and this document serves those purposes.



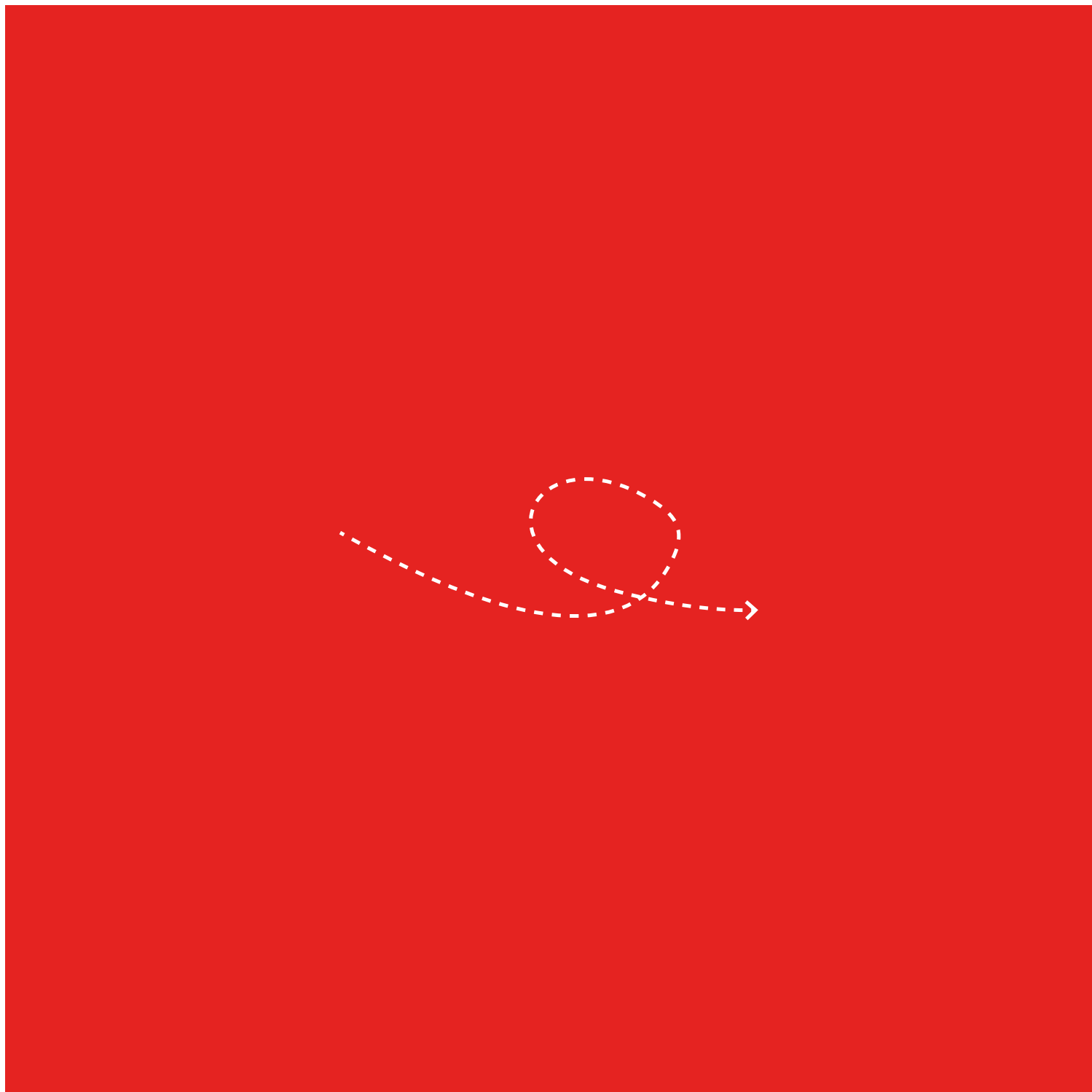
What documents influence our built environment today?

Many existing guidelines are publicly accessible that define how to create our built environment. They deal with different layers such as landscape, infrastructure, historic buildings, or zone areas for future development and growth. This introductory document is a step towards defining our public spaces from the user's perspective.

If you are reading this in a pdf format, click on the icons below to open the each of these documents online



* These documents are retained but much of it has been implemented into the Strategic Plan 2016.



What is next?

This document introduces the topic of public spaces and sets the foundation for future work and guidance. It highlights the potential for more human-centred design and is intended as a first step toward long-term improvements in the places we live and work.

The aim moving forward is to build on this foundation through open collaboration. A series of activities - such as workshops, exhibitions, and discussions - will help engage different groups and communities. The goal is to collectively define:

- **the next steps**
- **the best way forward**
- **best practice on the Isle of Man**

Education and training opportunities are being explored - such as online courses, webinars, and talks - to reach a wide audience, from the general public to professionals and students in the built environment.

The Local Economy Strategy supports empowering local authorities to shape visions for their towns and villages, with practical guidance and checklists to help lead that process.



"...we need more lectures and workshops on this topic..."

participant of placemaking workshop in local government

Technical resources such as new public space standards and an online design toolkit could help support local identity while giving people confidence to initiate change - aligned with the values of the Design Charter for Change.



Collaboration and outreach are essential. Public spaces affect everything from infrastructure to biodiversity and the local economy. Strong engagement - from professionals and the public alike - is key to building more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable places.



Glossary

Words and phrases commonly used when talking about public spaces - both in this document and more broadly. This glossary is here to support understanding and encourage further exploration of the topic.

walkability

The term '*walkability*' was primarily invented in the 1960s due to Jane Jacobs' revolution in urban studies.

Walkability does not describe just the plain possibility of walking from place to place but making walking the preferred and primary choice of movement for people. Walkability includes general accessibility for wheelchair users, prams, walkers, wheeled shoppers as well so we can think of it as a '*rollability*' too.

In recent years, walkability has become popular because of its health, economic, and environmental benefits. Factors influencing walkability include the presence or absence and quality of footpaths, sidewalks or other pedestrian rights-of-way, traffic and road conditions, land use patterns, building accessibility, and safety, among others.

20/15-minute neighbourhood

places where everyone can meet most of their daily needs within a short walk, wheel or cycle of their home. Most Manx towns and villages are 20/15-minute neighbourhoods or can be turned into one.



pedestrian priority

Pedestrian priority areas are a type of shared space that allows all types of transport but the pedestrians always have right of way. The cars can access these places but must drive slowly and carefully always watching out for pedestrians. The speed of traffic is controlled by design not traffic signs. Mills Street in Castletown is a potential example.

public realm

The term public realm is used for all parts of the physical environment that are accessible to the public. In addition to public space, this can include spaces in the urban exterior, courtyards and building interiors open to the public.

public space

Public space refers to urban areas that are open and accessible to everyone. This includes places like parks, streets, and squares. These spaces, whether intentionally designed or developed over time, contribute to the city's overall environment and community spirit. Public spaces are an essential part of the broader public realm.

urban intervention

is a small scale action in the urban public space that solves or points out existing problems with the area. These can be self-motivated by designers, artists, public but also authorities. They are tightly connected with tactical urbanism, but tactical urbanism is usually less formal and more low cost.

tactical urbanism

is a low-cost, temporary change to the built environment, usually in cities, intended to improve local neighbourhoods and city gathering places. Popular is asphalt art to reclaim places from highways, or temporary community urban gardens and greenery. One example of tactical urbanism in practice is on page 29 in Bratislava, Slovakia.

public life

are activities that we do in the public space, in the open. These can be social, professional, leisure etc. Walking a dog, shopping, commuting, sitting on a bench, playing in park, meeting friends, attending events in public space etc.

placemaking

Places are defined by their value for the local community. They have importance for the people living and working within the community and contribute to general wellbeing and livability. Placemaking is an action of turning physical space into a 'place'. These actions can be physical changes in accessibility safety or attractiveness, but they can be non-material actions of event planning, pop-up activities, improvement of awareness and reputation of the place. Placemaking through events and activities is also called **place activation**.

livable (place)

Place good for living that supports long term well-being of people and communities. The highest ranked livable places are often ones with a strong people centred strategy. Criteria for livability can differ from place to place.

visual pollution

refers to the visible deterioration and negative aesthetic quality of the views of the environment. Things that visually obstruct or detract from the environment. For example, visual clutter (imagine too many billboards in one place) or deteriorating structures that disturb the visual quality of the place, dirt or rubbish.

defensive design/hostile design/defensive architecture

Design features that discourage unwanted or unexpected user behaviour. It is often used to stop unhoused people from using benches or covered areas, stop people from sitting on surfaces, stop playing and skateboarding or access some areas or features. Defensive design is not the best practice, and while it stops unwanted uses, it also disturbs the overall perception of the space.



space to place



Public spaces are the “front porches” of our public institutions – libraries, field houses, schools – where we interact with each other and government. When these spaces work well, they serve as the stage for our public lives.

*Project for Public Spaces
<https://www.pps.org/article/grplacefeat>*

Further reading

This initiative is a response to various documents highlighting the importance and power of placemaking. They are all available online for further reading.

Our Island Plan (IOM Government, updated regularly): Outlines a vision for a secure, vibrant, and sustainable community.

Isle of Man Town Audits Report (Didobi, January 2024): Provides a baseline assessment of town centres, identifying challenges and opportunities to drive positive change based on the Place Standard Review criteria.

Placemaking in Practice Symposium (October 2023): The Cabinet Office contributed to this event, which brought together the eight Member Administrations of the British-Irish Council. It explored challenges and opportunities in creating people-centered places amidst rapid changes and climate emergencies. The symposium focused on practical placemaking, supporting the green economy, and ensuring well-being.

Healthy High Streets (Public Health England, 2018): Emphasizes that good placemaking improves community health by creating accessible, safe communal spaces, fostering healthier and more cohesive communities.

The Value of Public Space (CABE, 2003): Highlights the economic, social, and environmental benefits of high-quality public spaces. These spaces enhance property values, attract businesses, improve health, reduce crime, and foster community cohesion, contributing significantly to urban regeneration and quality of life.

The Value of Urban Design (CABE and DETR, 2001): Highlights economic benefits of good urban design, including higher rents, lower maintenance costs, reduced vacancies, and increased public support. It boosts investor confidence and attracts private investment for regeneration.

Another list of publications showcases successful initiatives that serve as an inspiration. They aim at built environment professionals but are accessible to anyone interested.

The Portas Review

*An independent review into the future of our high streets
(Mary Portas, 2011)*

Platform Places *is a new social enterprise on a mission
to unlock town centre buildings
<https://www.platformplaces.com/>*

Asphalt Art Safety Study *(Bloomberg Philanthropies)
shows that properly integrating art into roadways
significantly improves safety.*



Sources

This document used image material from various sources listed below. All other images and illustrations are work of the Cabinet Office.

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¹ https://imuseum.im/search/archive_record/view?id=mnh-museum-118771&type=archive&tab=all&from=&page=&term=market+place&size=20&sort=&filter=&view=&images=&ttmp=0&rfname=&rlname=&machine=&race=&raceyear=&linked=0&pos=16

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² https://imuseum.im/search/archive_record/view?id=mnh-museum-121305&type=archive&tab=all&from=&page=3&term=loch+promenade&size=20&sort=&filter=&view=&images=&ttmp=0&rfname=&rlname=&machine=&race=&raceyear=&linked=0&pos=44

³ https://imuseum.im/search/archive_record/view?id=mnh-museum-450491&type=archive&tab=all&from=&page=&term=mooragh+park&size=20&sort=&filter=&view=&images=&ttmp=0&rfname=&rlname=&machine=&race=&raceyear=&linked=0&pos=3

⁴ https://imuseum.im/search/archive_record/view?id=mnh-museum-447619&type=archive&tab=all&from=&page=&term=st+barnabas+square&size=20&sort=&filter=&view=&images=&ttmp=0&rfname=&rlname=&machine=&race=&raceyear=&linked=0&pos=5

⁵ Manx Nostalgia Facebook Group

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⁶ https://imuseum.im/search/object_record/view?id=mnh-museum-34732&type=object&tab=all&from=&page=&term=market+square+castletown&size=20&sort=&filter=&view=&images=&ttmp=0&rfname=&rlname=&machine=&race=&raceyear=&linked=0&pos=4

⁷ Google Street View

⁸ <https://roycottage.im/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/market-square-castletown.jpg>

⁹ https://imuseum.im/search/archive_record/view?id=mnh-museum-471748&type=archive&tab=all&from=&page=&term=kirk+michael&size=20&sort=&filter=&view=&images=&ttmp=0&rfname=&rlname=&machine=&race=&raceyear=&linked=0&pos=16

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¹⁰ https://imuseum.im/search/object_record/view?id=mnh-museum-282909&type=object&tab=all&from=&page=&term=dusty+parking&size=20&sort=&filter=&view=&images=&ttmp=0&rfname=&rlname=&machine=&race=&raceyear=&linked=0&pos=0

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¹¹ <https://www.flickr.com/photos/146057732@N07/32172761926>

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¹² <https://images.squarespace-cdn.com/content/v1/53c44b3ce4b049a0307fb77d/1568894728272-DK0PPIB5VWRHLPK1AX6X/horncastlethomas-castlegate--isleofman-architecture-conservation-regeneration-01.jpg?format=750w>

page 23

¹³ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/news/communications-material/>

page 28

¹⁴ <https://www.antonygibb.co.uk/projects/le-galvaudeux/>

^{15, 16} <http://www.a2.ie/portfolio/granby-park/>

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^{17, 18} <https://img.projektn.sk/wp-static/2024/04/Vazovovapredpo1-1.jpg?w=990&h=1237&fit=crop&fm=jpg&q=85>

¹⁹ https://image.kurierat/images/cfs_932w/8779346/46-206352461.jpg

²⁰ <https://www.wearestreetspace.org/projects/queens-crescent>

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²¹ Photo by the Planning Policy, Cabinet Office 2024

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²² Douglas Foodies Market Facebook post 2023

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²³ Manx Wildlife Trust - Hannah Phillips 2024

Centenary of the Borough of Douglas 1896-1996, a Celebration

*Kniveton, Gordon N.; Forster, Robert E.; Kelly, Robert; Slack, Stuart; Cowin, Frank
(compiled by)*

ISBN 10: 1873120214 / ISBN 13: 9781873120217

*Published by The Manx Experience in conjunction with The Centenary Committee
of Douglas Corporation 0, Douglas, 2001*

Prague Public Space Design Manual

Prague Public Space Development Strategy/Proposal

*Prague Institute of Planning and Development Urban Design Section Public Space
Office Vyšehradská 57, 128 00 Prague 2
www.iprpraha.cz/manual*

Public Space Design Manual/Manifesto for Public Space

Published in Bratislava in 2021 by the Metropolitan Institute of Bratislava.

Getting more people walking and cycling could help save our high streets

<https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2018/november/getting-more-people-walking-and-cycling-could-help-save-our-high-streets>

*This document was created and published by the Planning Policy,
Cabinet Office, Isle of Man Government in January 2026.*



