

# ALLEYES ON CARLOW

Website: [www.carlow.ie](http://www.carlow.ie)

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**The Nationalist**



## Tom Barry, County Manager, outlines **20** reasons why Carlow is a location of choice for investment

Tom Barry, County Manager says that whilst the last two years have been challenging for all, he is quietly confident that County Carlow continues to be to the forefront in securing new investment. Tom says that collectively, through collaboration and structures such as Carlow County Development Board, comprising representatives from the public and private sector, a lot of positive initiatives have been happening to create a pro-business environment. Combining a central location at the core of the fast-growing South Leinster region, with a highly educated workforce, two Institutions of Higher Education, the National Crops Biotechnology Research Centre, substantial infrastructural developments and proximity to both Dublin and the major transport hubs, Carlow is an ideal location for business.

With all the necessary facilities and highly skilled labour force required for any company involved in the knowledge-led sector or any business seeking a location to establish a start-up operation or to expand County Carlow has it all.

Tom says that when you look around the county there has been substantial investment and growth and gives twenty examples of recent significant developments by the public and private sector in County Carlow:

1. Developments by Carlow Local Authorities such as VISUAL Centre for Contemporary Art & GB Shaw Theatre, an €18 million investment in the county opened in 2009; new County Museum at a cost of €1.5 million to open in 2011; €20 million upgrading of Carlow Towns infrastructure through the Carlow Main Drainage Scheme; development of the tourism infrastructure in the county such as Duckett's Grove, Oak Park Forest Park and St. Mullins - all positive examples of confidence in Carlow town and county
2. Recent opening of €2 million expansion of Enterprise House by Carlow Community Enterprise Centres Ltd. and Carlow County Enterprise Board, ensuring facilities and supports are in place for new start up companies
3. Carlow's strategic location in close proximity to Dublin, enhanced by the opening of the €200 million Carlow By-Pass and more recently the completion of the M9 from Dublin/Kilcullen to Carlow
4. Investment in excess of €220 million by Merck Sharp & Dohme, one of the worlds largest pharmaceutical companies, on the Dublin Road, Carlow town, which will result in the creation of 170 new jobs, of which 50 have already been recruited
5. Investment by US Company Unum and the creation of circa 50 new jobs to date
6. Multi million expansion by Carlow Company Netwatch and creation of 50 new jobs. Their new state of the art Headquarters on the Athy Road was opened earlier this year by An Taoiseach, Brian Cowen
7. Expansion & growth of ICL (Integrated Communications Ltd.), on the O'Brien Road, Carlow
8. Recent success in the export market by Carlow Companies Hot Irishman and Oglesby & Butler
9. Current expansion by Autolaunch Automotive Industry and Manufacturing Plant in Bagenalstown (part of Magna Inc)
10. On-going development by Keenans Manufacturing Plant in Borris (Agricultural Machinery etc.)
11. Continuing development by indigenous manufacturing companies such as Burnside and PB Machines
12. Opening of multi million commercial & residential development at Shamrock Plaza by Monaco Developments and also their development at the Four Lakes Business Park
13. Strong retail and commercial sector - Businesses such as Fairgreen Shopping Centre with a number of High Street Chain Stores; Tullow Street Traders and investment by Shaws and other stores and indeed Carlow Shopping Centre. Also investments by businesses such as Milltown Engineering and their development on the Northern Relief Road where Dunnes Stores is now located. Development of Hanover Park by Thompson Holdings with stores such as Woodies, Electro City etc. Home stores such as Doyles Shamrock Business Park, Homebase and also Connollys Topstore Bagenalstown
14. Leading Supermarkets such as Tesco; Superquinn; Supervalu; Aldi; Lidl; Londis; Centra; to name but a few - all provide significant employment and contribute positively to Carlow town and county
15. Investment by the Arboretum Garden Centre Leighlinbridge, the first five star garden centre in Ireland and also the expansion carried out by Rathwood, Tullow and Morgans Garden Centre Carlow
16. Carlow's Institutions of Higher Education - IT Carlow with over 4,000 students and circa 400 staff and Carlow College (St. Patricks) with circa 600 students
17. Recent capital investment in the county's excellent primary and secondary schools including Gaelscoil and Gaelcholaiste together with County Carlow VEC and its College of Further Education
18. Carlow Tourism marketing the county nationally and internationally and its development of the Carlow Garden Trail, Carlow Golf Trail and Carlow Trail of the Saints
19. The county's hospitality sector, with significant investment by hotels such as Mount Wolseley Hotel, Spa & Country Club, Tullow; Killerig Resort; Seven Oaks; Talbot; Dolmen; Lord Bagenal Leighlinbridge and Step House Borris;
20. Multi million re-development of the Penneys site due to commence at an early date and proposals for re-development of Plás na Saoirse currently at pre-planning

Tom says that "through a positive proactive approach by the Carlow Local Authorities and their work with the business sector and County Carlow Chamber, in collaboration with Carlow County Enterprise Board, FAS, Enterprise Ireland, IDA, Teagasc Carlow County Development Partnership and our Institutions of Higher Education, all the fundamentals are right in Carlow for continued successful business and industrial growth."

Asked what he would like to see happening in the county in 2011, Tom says that our next priority is to ensure that a replacement industry is found for the Braun/Proctor & Gamble site, creating new employment opportunities. Carlow, similar to every county in Ireland has been hit by unemployment as a result of the recent downturn, therefore job creation is a priority for all.

He says "Carlow offers a high quality of life along with a strong record in industrial and business performance and I believe that once we continue to be positive the county will continue to achieve success".



Tom Barry, County Manager

CARLOW  
COUNTY COUNCIL  
COMHAILLE CHONTAE CHEATHARLOICHA



Carlow County Council Offices, Athy Road 059 91 70300

Carlow Town Council, Town Hall, Carlow 059 91 72480

Carlow Fire Station, Green Lane, Carlow 059 91 31144

Tullow Civic Offices 059 91 36296 • Muinebheag Area Offices 059 97 21418

Carlow County Library, Tullow Street 059 91 70097 • Dog Warden 059 97 26785