

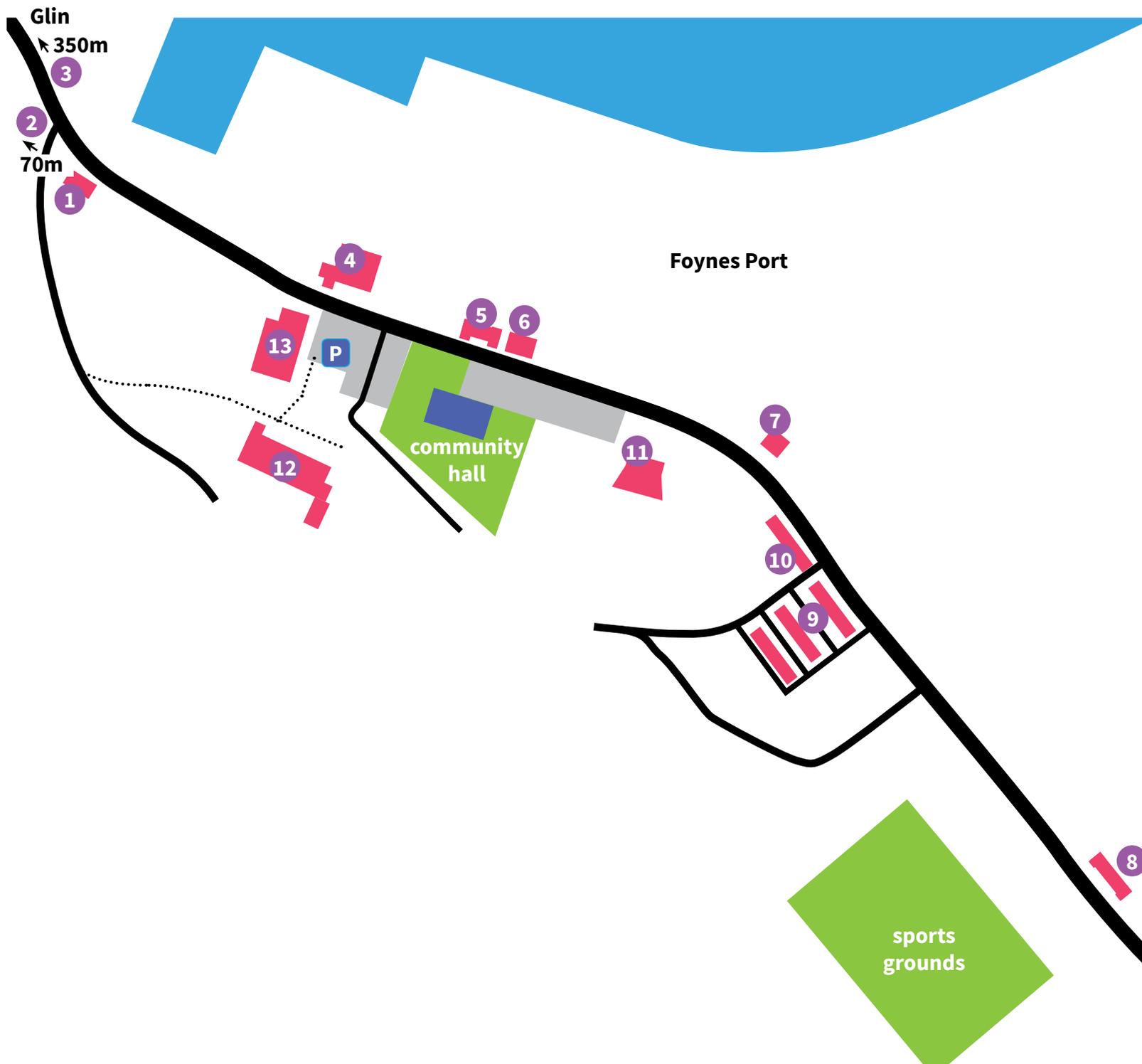


OpenHouseLimerick

Thomas Spring Rice, the Second Baron Monteagle of Brandon (1849–1926) was the most prominent family member and built schools, churches and roads. He devoted his life to furthering the interests of the rural population of Foynes. This included an ambitious scheme to transform Foynes into an urban centre to serve the growing agricultural and port activities.

Foynes, County Limerick has been an important sea port since 1846, it's natural harbour, thirty miles from the Atlantic Ocean and 24 miles from Limerick City, is sheltered. But during the late 1930s and early 1940s, this tranquil town on the Shannon Estuary was transformed into a major international air-base.

Foynes became a fulcrum point for traffic between the United States and Europe. Passengers travelling from, for example, New York to Lisbon, had to travel through Foynes. International businessmen, famous politicians, film stars, active-service men and refugees from the war in Europe travelling from anywhere in Europe to anywhere in the United States had to come to Foynes. For a few years, Foynes was the centre of the Aviation World.



Limerick

There is a wealth of cut-stone buildings along the main street of Foynes, here are some highlight. PLEASE NOTE, THERE IS NO ACCESS TO THESE BUILDINGS. Please respect the privacy of the occupants.



1 Mill House – Commercial three storey building built in 1863 by architect William Fogarty (1833ca-1878). Originally an agent’s house constructed for Thomas Spring Rice, 1st Baron Monteagle of Mount Trenchard. Dormer style dwelling adjacent



2 Spring Rice Monument, cut limestone Celtic Revival high cross style monument, erected c. 1900 on an elevated position overlooking Foynes town and Harbour—a notable example of late 19th century stone masonry. It was built in memory of Edmond Spring Rice (1814-1865) who died at sea. It was used as a landmark by seaplane pilots.



3 Ardanoir (Golden Height), a detached two-storey house, built c1870. Home of Charlotte Grace O’Brien, a famous Limerick poet and humanitarian, it also provided accommodation for dignitaries and VIP’s who stopped over in Foynes en-route to Europe and America by seaplane in the 1930s & 1940s



4 Railway Station, a limestone building with terminal platform; the Railway Signal box, a red brick building; and the Railway water tank built used to store water for the steam engines, were all built c1850s. The station was used to transport passengers and freight along the Foynes to Limerick railway line from 1858 to 1999.



6 This building is the only element of a market square designed in the early 1900s by Francis Inigo Thomas and William Clifford Smith, as envisioned by Thomas Spring Rice, the Second Baron Monteagle of Brandon (1849–1926). The proposal arranged twenty shops and cottages into a symmetrical layout centred on a traditional arcaded market house where the community hall now stands. Originally a bank and post office building, it would have been to the north of the square.



6 The Shannon House built c1930 is a famous public house, restaurant and bed & breakfast on Main Street. It is a good example of the tradition of combined dwelling and shop



7 M. Fitzgerald Public House, a cut-stone Commercial building on Main Street



8 Creeveen Cottages are a row of cottages by Clifford Smith that compliments the design of the bank and post office building, rather than being a realisation of the cottages proposed for the market square. The terrace is a fine example of early 20th century domestic architecture .



9 Brandon Cottages, typical stone houses of Foynes. There are three rows of cottages, one row is located on Main Street



10 This terrace of single-storey dormer attic buildings c. 1925. With rubble limestone walls, the terrace retains its original form complete with decorative architectural elements.



11 St. Senan’s Church, Roman Catholic Church partly built by Architect James Joseph McCarthy (1817-1882) in 1868 and completed by architect Ralph Henry Byrne (1877-1946) in 1932



12 Designed by Desmond Fitzgerald, architect of the original terminal building at Dublin Airport. This hotel has a restrained composition of horizontal and vertical masses, occupies a dominant elevated location set into the side of a hill. Constructed of dark-grey limestone and green-tinted roughcast, it was originally intended as a hostel for the airport staff, it was then changed into a hotel for passengers, but by 1949 it was converted to a children’s hospital.



13 The terminal building at Foynes Airport (1937–45) was formerly the Monteagle Arms Hotel built in the 1860s. It was the first headquarters for aviation in Ireland and presently houses the Foynes Flying Boat & Maritime Museum. In 1938, the Department of Transport acquired the building by means of a Compulsory Purchase Order to operate the airport. The enclosed courtyard was designed by Brian Grubb.