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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The *Kildare County Development Plan 2011-2017* was adopted by the Council Members on 4th April 2011 and became effective on the 2nd May 2011. Section 15(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) requires the County Manager to give a report to the Elected Members not more than two years after the making of a Development Plan, on the progress achieved in securing the objectives of the Development Plan. In addition, under Section 95(3) of the Act, the Manager is also required to include in his Report a review of the progress achieved in implementing the Housing Strategy. It is noted that some of the strategic policies and objectives of the Plan relating to the future strategic development of the county have a much longer time horizon than the six year period of the Plan itself.

1.1 Structure of Report

This report commences with a summary of the overall development strategy for the county. It also outlines some of the key trends arising from the 2011 Census which have implications for land use planning. This is followed by a review of subsequent chapters outlining progress made in relation to policies and objectives of the Plan. Given the number and complexities of the policies and objectives, it is not practical to indicate detailed progress on each individual one. The Report provides an overview on the progress made in relation to relevant topics over the two year period.

2.0 OVERALL STRATEGY

The overall strategy for the county is framed by the core strategy. This sets out a strategic approach to the management of development in the county. This is followed through in the

settlement strategy, infrastructure chapters and environmental topics which comprise important components of the development plan. It is clear that the implementation of the Council's objectives are dependent in some measure on the Council's funding position which has deteriorated significantly, in line with trends in the national exchequer position. However, the fundamental sustainability agenda of the Plan remains robust.

Key principles of the core strategy are to:

- (i) Facilitate more consolidated urban form by directing development to appropriate settlements centres in the settlement hierarchy. It further identifies the need to support rural communities through the identification of lower order centres.
- (ii) Maintain a sustainable economic base through the adoption of a hierarchy of employment centres together with the identification of sectoral strengths for each settlement. Diversification of the rural economy is also recognised as an important element in the development of the rural economy. Policies to support, encourage, promote and attract economic activity within the county remain a priority.
- (iii) Create sustainable and integrated communities through the creation of quality homes, mixed tenure neighbourhoods supported with appropriate social and community facilities creating a diverse mix of activities and facilities.

- (iv) Balancing natural and built environment with sustainable and appropriate development.

The principles outlined above have informed the review of local area plans since the adoption of the CDP 2011-2017 and the implementation of development management throughout the county. Since the adoption of the County Development Plan, a number of development / local area plans have been reviewed. Mechanisms have been introduced into recent land use plans to ensure compliance with the core strategy including phasing of lands together with monitoring the take up of development land over the period of the plan. The realisation of many of the objectives of these plans has been materially affected by the economic downturn of recent years. The implementation of critical publicly-funded projects such as wastewater and drainage infrastructure has been delayed. Significant private sector development initiatives have been almost completely absent. Whilst the overall strategies and objectives contained in the various plans remain robust and sustainable, the projected timeline for their implementation is uncertain. Table 1 outlines the current position regarding the review of development plans / local area plans as appropriate.

Table 1: Development Plans / Local Area Plan Review Programme

<p>Naas: The Naas Development Plan 2011-2017 was adopted in May 2011. It sets out a framework for the future development of the town in accordance with the principles of proper planning and sustainable development. Capacity constraints in the Osberstown Wastewater Treatment Plant have impacted significantly on the delivery of housing within the town. The Naas Development Plan is also subject to a two year progress report which will be completed in the coming weeks.</p>
<p>Athy: The Athy Development Plan 2012-2018, was adopted in April 2012 and provides the framework for the future sustainable development of the town. The Plan incorporated significant reduction to residential landuse zonings (approx 100ha) to comply with the provisions of the CDP 2011-2017. Furthermore the Plan seeks to achieve a more sustainable town through the identification of character areas and key opportunity sites. This Plan will be subject to a two year progress report in 2014.</p>
<p>Kill, Prosperous, Rathangan, Athgarvan, Derrinturn, Castledermot: Variation no 1 of the County Development Plan was adopted in June 2012. The purpose of the variation was to bring the plans for these 6 towns in line with the provisions of the core strategy.</p>
<p>Kildare The Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2012-2018 was adopted in November 2012. The plan established a framework for the future development of the town based on appropriate growth rates over the short to medium term and created opportunities for local economic development.</p>
<p>Maynooth The draft Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-2019 was placed on public display from 9th January 2013 – 19th February 2013. 50 submissions were received during the consultation period. The Manager’s Report will be submitted to the Elected Members for their consideration no later than the 2nd of April 2013. A further period of public consultation may follow if amendments to the plan</p>

are material.
Newbridge: The draft Newbridge Local Area Plan 2013-2019 is currently being prepared and is likely to be placed on public display in May. Submissions will be invited over a period of 6 weeks.
Kilcullen, Monasterevin, Sallins, Kilcock, Clane: Pre-draft submissions have been invited for the review of the Kilcullen, Monasterevin, Sallins, Kilcock and Clane Local Area Plans. Planning controls will be incorporated as appropriate into relevant plans to ensure compliance with the core strategy. These may include phasing of lands, landuse zoning changes and the implementation of a monitoring mechanism to ensure compliance with the core strategy.
Celbridge and Leixlip (Inc Collinstown): Limited work has commenced on the review of the Local Area Plans for Celbridge and Leixlip. It is anticipated that pre-draft submissions will be sought later in the year. The plans are being reviewed to comply with the provisions of the core strategy.

Planning Applications

Table 2 below sets out details in relation to planning applications received by Kildare County Council between 1st May 2011 and 31st January 2013. 71 % of planning applications determined were granted planning permission.

Table 2: Planning Applications Status 1st May 2011 – 31st January 2013.

Decision	No. of Applications
Invalid	326
Withdrawn	56
Additional Info sought and not yet submitted	99
Grant permission	910 (71%)
Refuse Permission	375 (29%)
No decision yet made	134
Total Applications	1,900

Source: I-Plan Stats

Of the 1,900 applications, 247 were for extension of duration (13%). In total 106 files were subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanala with a further 17 appealed on financial contributions only. Of the 106 files subject of an appeal, 27 have no decision/invalid/dismissed/withdrawn, 39 were confirmed, 20 were modified, 16 were reversed and 4 were a split decision.

2.1 Recent Trends arising from Census 2011

Since the adoption of the CDP the 2011 Census results have been published. The following section outlines some of the key highlights from the Census with implications for land use planning. Census data are considered in more detail in the subsequent sections of this report where appropriate.

Population

The 2011 Census indicates an increase of 23,977 in the county population, or 12.9% over the intercensal period 2006-2011. This represents a slight decrease in the annual average growth rate compared to the previous intercensal period (13.7% over a four year period). The

projected population to 2017 is 237,458. The rate of growth in the county is in accordance with projected growth patterns.

Households

The Census 2011 recorded 70,763 households within the county. This represents an increase of 16% (60,957) since 2006. 37.7% of all households are made up of husband, wife and children. Average household sizes have continued to decline from 3.07 in 2006 to 2.9 in 2011. The RPGs forecast a further reduction of household sizes to 2.66 in 2016 and 2.39 in 2022.¹

Dwellings

The housing stock in County Kildare has increased by 9,954 from 68,840 dwellings in 2006 to 78,794 dwellings in 2011, an increase of 14%. There were 6,311² vacant dwellings in the county in 2011 compared to 6,838 in 2006. The vacancy rate has declined from 9.9% to 8% compared to a rate of 14.5% nationally and of 8% in the Dublin Region.

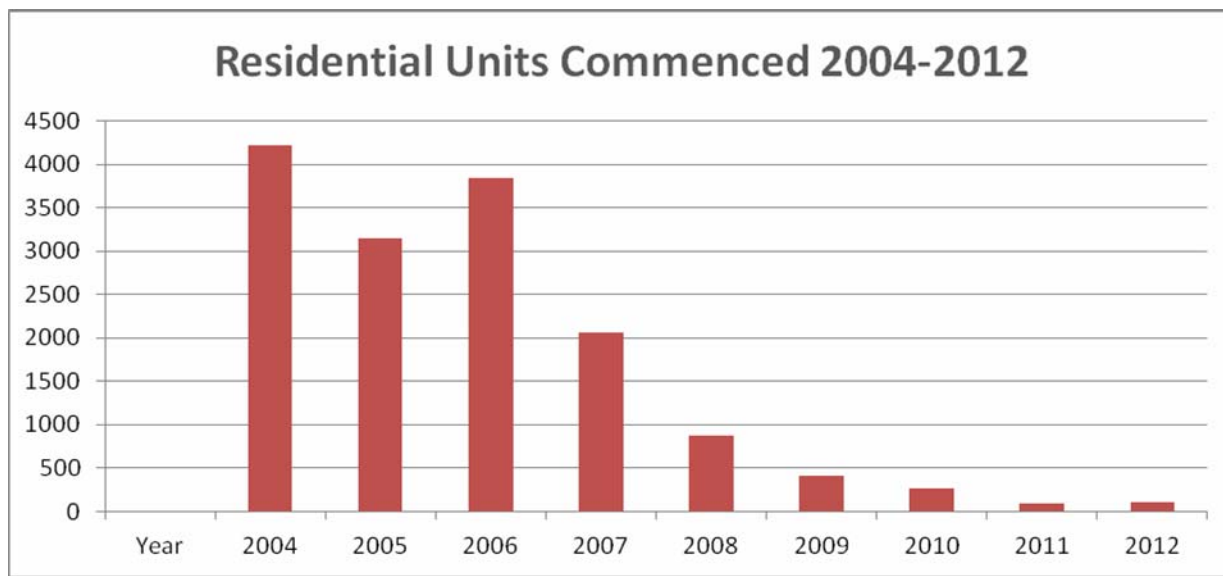
In 2011, 41% of the population resided in a detached houses representing a decrease of 1% from the 2006 figure. 38% resided in semi-detached houses in 2011 also representing a 1% decrease from the 2006 figure. 11% resided in terraced houses up 1% from the 2006 figure. 7.6% resided in purpose built flats (increase from 5.7% Census 2006), while 0.9% resided in a flat or apartment in a converted houses or commercial buildings (decrease from 1% in 2006) Those residing in bed sits have also decreased from 0.26% in 2006 to 0.1% in 2011.

¹ Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022.

² . 4,432 vacant houses, 1,691 vacant flat, 188 vacant holiday homes

2.2 Recent Development Trends

The number of residential units commenced construction has largely collapsed from a high of 4,224 in 2004 to 92 in 2011. There was a slight increase in the number of dwellings commenced in 2012 (102 units).



Source: DoECLG

Commencement Notices

In the period 1st May 2011 and 31st Jan 2013, over 400 commencement notices were received. Of this figure 46% were for extensions, 28% for single houses, 6 % for educational developments, 3% agriculture, 2% Industry and 2% retail with other applications comprising the remaining 13% (e.g. infrastructure, garages etc).

2.3 Development Contribution Scheme

The current Development Contribution Scheme was adopted by Kildare County Council on the 7th September 2011 for the period 2011-2018. The total receipts in Development Contributions between May 2011 and January 2013 amounted to approximately €8,547,664.50. Development Contributions are collected to part fund projects identified in the Capital Programme adopted by the members each year. The charges relate to six elements – roads, water, waste water, surface water, recreation / amenity and community. Both the recreation and amenity

and community elements are ring fenced to each electoral area.

The Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government has recently issued *Development Contribution Scheme Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (Jan 2013) under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). Planning Authorities are required to have regard to these guidelines in the performance of their duties.

3.0 SETTLEMENT STRATEGY

The aim of the settlement strategy is to provide a coherent planning framework for the county based on a well developed urban structure supported by rural areas. It seeks to strengthen the urban fabric of the county, with an emphasis on building critical mass in key towns. Rural populations will continue to be supported through a sustainable approach to maintaining rural economy and population, balanced against responsible environmental protection. In accordance with the core strategy, housing

units are allocated to the various settlements throughout the county. The following sections outline the position regarding the level of growth in the settlement centres throughout the county since the adoption of the plan with reference to the 2006 population figures.

3.1 Population at a County Level

The 2011 Census results for Co. Kildare are outlined in Table 3 below. The Census indicates an increase of 23,977 in the county population, (12.9% over 5 years). This represents a slight decrease in the annual average growth rate compared to the previous intercensal period (13.7% over a four year period). The projected population to 2017 is 237,458. The rate of growth in the county is in accordance with projected growth patterns.

Table 3: Population of County Kildare

Year	Population	Increase	% Increase in Intercensal Period
1991	122,656		
1996	134,881	12,225	10
2002	163,944	29,113	21.6
2006	186,335	22,391	13.7
2011	210,312	23,977	12.9

Source: Census of Population 2011

3.2 Population Changes of Main Urban Centres

Table 4 outlines population changes over the census period 2006 – 2011 for the higher order settlements within the county comprising Large Growth Towns, Moderate Sustainable Growth Towns and Small Towns. The highest percentage increases took place in Castledermot (+57.6%) followed by Sallins (+38.8%), Rathangan (+38.2%) and Clane

(+34.9%), all of which are designated as small towns within the county settlement hierarchy. The largest numerical increase took place in Celbridge (+ 2,275 persons) followed by Maynooth (+ 1,795 persons), Clane (+1,734 persons), Athy (+1,644 persons), Sallins (+ 1,477) and Kilcock (+ 1,433 persons). The lowest levels of growth occurred in Newbridge³ (0.5%) followed by Naas (3.3%), Leixlip (5.3%) and Kildare (8%). These lower levels of growth are attributable in some measure to capacity constraints in wastewater infrastructure.

Table 4: Population of Main Towns within the County

Towns/Villages	Pop 2006	Pop 2011	Actual Change 2006-2011	% Change 2006-2011
Naas	20,044	20,713	669	3.3
Maynooth	10,715	12,510	1795	16.8
Leixlip	14,676	15,452	776	5.3
Newbridge ⁴	17,042	17,127	85	0.5
Celbridge	17,262	19,537	2275	13.2
Kilcock	4,100	5,533	1433	35
Kildare	7,538	8,142	604	8
Monasterevin	3,017	3,710	693	23
Kilcullen	2,985	3,473	488	16.3
Athy	7,943	9,587	1644	20.7
Clane	4,968	6,702	1734	34.9
Prosperous	1,936	2,248	312	15.9
Rathangan	1,718	2,374	656	38.2
Sallins	3,806	5,283	1477	38.8
Athgarvan	-	1,016		-
Castledermot	887	1,398	511	57.6
Derrinturn	1,138	1,541	403	35.4
Kill	2,510	3,095	585	23.3

Source: Census of Population 2011

³ excludes environs

⁴ excludes environs

3.3 Changes at Rural Area and Urban Area Level (2006-2011)

Electoral Divisions are aggregated to give Towns/Cities and Rural Areas. In Kildare there are 4 Rural Areas and 2 Urban Areas classified by the CSO. The rural areas have a population of 180,012 persons (refer Table 5). 41.3% of the county's increase was recorded in the Naas Rural Area followed by 30.4% in the Celbridge Rural Area. The proportion of the county's population residing in the 4 rural areas has increased slightly from 84.9% in 2006 to 85.6% in 2011. The County Settlement Strategy to 2017 projects this figure to remain relatively stable at 84% of the projected population by 2017.

Table 5: Population Changes at Rural Area Level 2006-2011

	Pop 2006	Pop 2011	Actual Change	% Change
Athy No. 1	18,775	21,530	+ 2,755	+14.7%
Celbridge No. 1	55,372	62,677	+ 7,305	+13.2%
Edenderry No. 2	10,059	11,756	+ 1,697	+16.9%
Naas No. 1	74,142	84,049	+ 9,907	+13.4%

Source: Census of Population 2011

Table 6 outlines growth levels within the two urban areas. Athy experienced significant growth at 20% while very limited population growth occurred in the Naas urban area. This is, in some measure attributed to capacity restrictions in the Osberstown wastewater treatment plant.

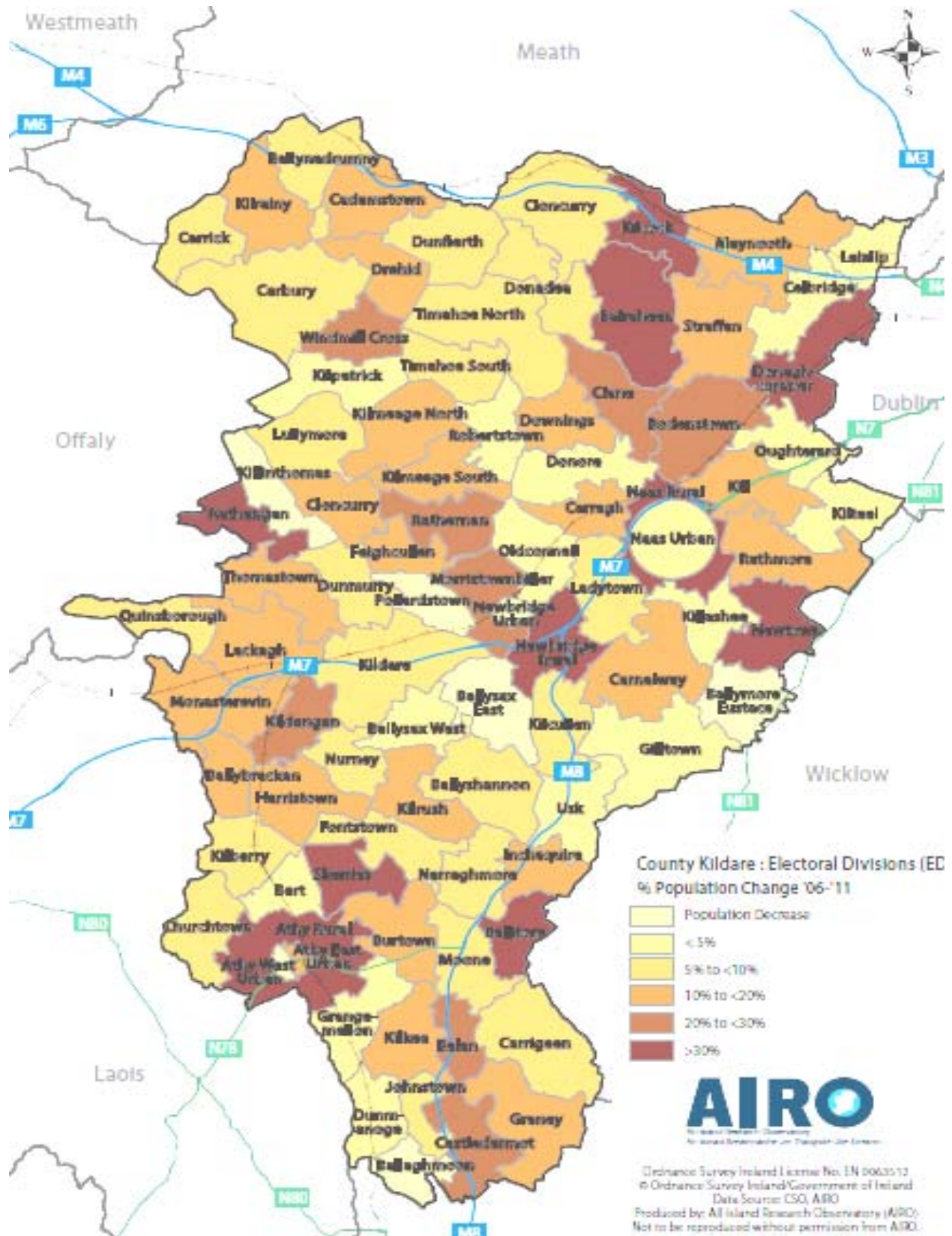
Table 6: Population Changes at Urban Area Level 2006-2011

	Pop 2006	Pop 2011	Actual Change	% Change
Athy Town	7,943	9,587	+1644	+20.7%
Naas Town	20,044	20,713	+669	+3.3%

Source: Census of Population 2011

3.4 Changes at Electoral Division (ED) Level

There are 89 EDs in Co. Kildare. 50 of these experienced growth of 10% or more in the period 2006 -2011. Of these 14 grew by $\geq 15\%$, 10 grew by $\geq 20\%$, 7 by $\geq 30\%$ and 3 by over 40%. (Refer Map: County Kildare: Electoral Divisions % Population Change 06-11)



3.5 Review of Census Figures with Reference to Settlement Strategy Figures

Table 7 and 8 outline 2006 census population figures for each settlement and group of settlements and target figures as contained in the County Development Plan 2011-2017.

The following can be noted:

- Higher order settlements (large growth towns and moderate sustainable growth towns) are growing at a lower rate and have potential to accommodate an additional 27,809 persons by 2017. This represents 54 % of the overall increase to 2017. In 2011 these towns accommodated 57.2% of the county's population.
- A number of the small towns have experienced population growth levels in excess of that anticipated (refer Table 7). The population growth in excess of the target vary from 94 in Kill to 763 in Clane. These figures are not considered significant in the context of overall population growth for the county which is in line with the overall targets for the county.
- Since 2006 the number of persons residing in the rural areas (comprising villages, settlements, nodes and rural dwellers) has increased from 62,750 persons to 66,098 persons (+3,348, 5.3% growth over the period). Capacity for additional growth on the basis of existing target levels remains available in these rural areas (1,108 persons).

Table 7: Settlement Hierarchy Growth Levels

Settlement Type	2006 Census Pop and % of County Pop	2011 Census Pop and % of County Pop	2017 Pop Target
Large Growth Town I	20,044 (10.8%)	20,713 (9.9%)	27,933 (11.8%)
Large Growth Town II	42,433 (22.8%)	49,523 (23.5%)	60,468 (25.5%)
Moderate Sustainable Growth Towns (6)	42,845 (23%)	50,321 (24%)	59,965 (25%)
Small Towns (8)	18,263 (9.8%)	23,657 (11.2%)	21,886 (9.4%)
Villages (11) Rural Settlements, Rural Nodes, Rural Dwellers	62,750 (33.6%)	66,098 (31.4%)	67,206 (28.3%)
County Total	186,335	210,312	237,458

Source: Census of Population 2011

Settlement Type	Towns/Villages	2006	2011	2017	2006-2017
		Pop	Pop	Pop	Housing Units
		Census	Census	Target	Target
Large Growth Town I	Naas	20,044 (10.8%)	20,713 (9.8%)	27,933 (11.8%)	3,610
Large Growth Town II	Maynooth	10,715 (5.8%)	12,510 (5.9%)	15,897 (6.7%)	2,364
	Leixlip (Including Collinstown)	14,676 (7.9%)	15,452 (7.3%)	21,326 (9%)	3,042
	Newbridge	17,042 (9.1%)	21,561 (10.3%)	23,245 (9.8%)	2,839
Moderate Sustainable Growth Towns (6)	Celbridge	17,262 (9.3%)	19,537 (9.3%)	25,084 (10.6%)	3,579
	Kilcock	4,100 (2.2%)	5,533 (2.6%)	5,956 (2.5%)	850
	Kildare	7,538 (4%)	8,142 (3.9%)	10,176 (4.3%)	1,187
	Monasterevin	3,017 (1.6%)	3,710 (1.8%)	4,056 (1.7%)	475
	Kilcullen	2,985 (1.6%)	3,473 (1.6%)	4,014 (1.7%)	470
	Athy	7,943 (4.3%)	9,926 (4.7%)	10,679 (4.5%)	1,252
Small Towns (8)	Clane	4,968 (2.7%)	6,702 (3.2%)	5,939 (2.5%)	683
	Prosperous	1,936 (1.0%)	2,248 (1%)	2,315 (1%)	274
	Rathangan	1,718 (0.9%)	2,374 (1.1%)	2,055 (0.9%)	244
	Sallins	3,806 (2%)	5,283 (2.5%)	4,550 (1.9%)	527
	Athgarvan	1,300 (0.7%)	1,016 (0.5%)	1,555 (0.7%)	188
	Castledermot	887 (0.5%)	1,398 (0.7%)	1,109 (0.5%)	131
	Derrinturn	1,138 (0.6%)	1,541 (0.73%)	1,362 (0.6%)	165
	Kill	2,510 (1.3%)	3,095 (1.5%)	3,001 (1.3%)	351
Villages (11)	Johnstown, Straffan, Ballymore-Eustace, Allenwood, Johnstownbridge, Coill Dubh/Coolearagh, Kilmeague, Caragh, Kildangan, Suncroft & Ballitore/Timolin/Moone/Crookstown	No Census Figures	8,297 (3.9%)	9,929 (4.1)	1,024
Rural Settlements (21)	Broadford, Milltown, Kilteel, Staplestown, Ardclough, Robertstown, Allen, Brannockstown, Rathmore/Eadestown, Twomilehouse, Brownstown, Cutbush, Maddenstown, Nurney, Calverstown Rathcoffey, Narraghmore, Maganey/Levitstown, Moyvalley, Kilmead & Kilberry	No Census Figures	No Census Figures	6,079 (2.6%)	449
Rural Nodes (23)	Clogherinka, Cadamstown, Kilshanchoe, Newtown, Tirmoghan, Carbury, Timahoe, Lackagh/Mountrice, Ballyshannon, Ballyroe, Kilkea Ellistown, Newtownmoneenluggagh, Kildoon, Booleigh, Castlemitchell, Williamstown, Clongorey/Blacktrench, Ballyteague, Lullymore, Ticknevin, Tipperkevin & Killina	No Census Figures	No Census Figures	2,254 (0.9%)	114
Rural Dwellers		No Census Figures	No Census Figures	48,944 (20.6%)	4,164
County Total		186,335	210,312	237,458	27,982

Table 8: Settlement Hierarchy - Population Levels (2006, 2011 and Target Population 2017)

3.6 Availability of Existing Zoned Land to Accommodate Development

Within the County there are 1,074ha of new residential or general development zoned land which remains undeveloped. Of this 116.4ha is zoned for phase 2 (generally beyond the period of the relevant development/local area plan). A further 80ha of undeveloped land is zoned town centre which could accommodate an element of residential development. 97ha of undeveloped land is also zoned existing residential.

4.0 HOUSING

The collapse of the property market has had a profound effect on the realisation of the residential objectives of the County Development Plan 2011-2017.

Overarching policies, which seek to ensure the implementation of the Regional Planning Guidelines, in the centres in the county are unlikely to be delivered in the short to medium term. While the overall housing stock in the county has increased by 14% between 2006 and 2011 (see Table 9), much of this development took place between 2006 and 2007 with a significant fall off in construction from 2008.

Table 9: Housing Stock

	Housing	Vacant	Vacancy Rate
1991	35,580	1,812	5.1%
1996	41,477	1,480	3.6%
2002	54,589	3,198	5.8%
2006	68,840	6,838	9.9%
2011	78,794	6,311	8.0%

Source: Census of Population 2011

Notwithstanding the collapse in the property market, this framework set out in the CDP, is being maintained to

facilitate growth in the identified growth centres once the economy begins to recover and demand for housing increases. In this regard, the two development plans for Naas and Athy, a local area plan and six small towns have been aligned to comply with the provisions of the CDP. Furthermore, two local area plans are in the process of being reviewed with a further five LAPs at pre-draft stage.

4.1 Extant Housing Permissions

There are extant planning permissions for approximately 9,278 dwelling units in the zoned urban areas of County Kildare. 6% of these are located in the villages, 11% in small towns, 23% in Naas and Athy (including their environs) with the remaining 60% in the large growth towns of Maynooth, Leixlip and Newbridge and the sustainable growth towns of Celbridge, Kilcock, Kildare, Monasterevin and Kilcullen.

4.2 Residential Density and Housing Mix

There has been a discernable shift towards demand for more traditional low-density housing, as opposed to apartment schemes, for traditional residential sites. The Census 2011 recorded 70,763 households within the county. This represents an increase of 16% (60,957) i.e. on the 2006 figure. Table 10 outlines the number of households consisting of a husband, wife and children which account for 37.7% of all households.

Table 10: Private Households⁵

Type of Household	Households	Persons	% Household Type of Total Households
One Person	12,586	12,586	17.8%
Husband and Wife	9,911	19,838	14%
Cohabiting couple	19,838	6,938	4.9%
Husband, wife and children	26,676	109,676	37.7%
Cohabiting couple with children	2,969	11,114	4.2%
Father and children	974	17,591	1.4%
Mother and children	11,114	2,421	9%
Couple and others	1,034	3,518	1.5%
Couple, children and others	1,551	7,900	2.2%
Father, children and others	141	536	0.2%
Mother, children and others	607	2,260	0.9%
Two or more family units	929	5,062	1.3%
Non-family households and relations	1,225	2,934	1.7%
Two or more non-related persons	2,266	6,148	3.2%
Total	70,763	208,522	100%

Source: Census of Population 2011

⁵ A private household comprises either one person living alone or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address with common housekeeping arrangements - that is, sharing at least one meal a day or sharing a living room or sitting room. In order to be included in the household, a person must be a usual resident at the time of the census. Therefore, visitors to the household on census night are excluded, while usual residents temporarily absent (for less than 3 months) are included.

4.3 Social and Affordable Housing

The Department of Environment, Community and Local Government published a *Housing Policy Statement* in June 2011 promoting the vision for the future of the housing sector in Ireland to be based on choice, fairness and equity across tenures and on delivering quality outcomes for the resources invested. The overall strategic objective of the Department's Housing Policy is to enable all households access good quality housing appropriate to household circumstances and in their particular community of choice. Much of this is centred on a balanced housing sector that requires a strong, vibrant and well regulated rented sector. The social housing leasing initiative will be a key delivery mechanism of this Housing Policy. In addition responsibility for housing support for those with long term housing needs will transfer to local authorities.

Kildare County Council is working to increase the supply of permanent new social housing through options such as purchase in lease agreements; build to lease; assisting approved housing bodies in the sourcing of loan financing for construction / acquisition; consulting with the Housing Agency; the National Assets Residential Property Services realising Social Dividend. Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), is likely to be piloted this year with national introduction in 2014, will effectively replace rent supplement (administered by local housing authorities) where housing applicants will enter into standard leases with landlords and the council will pay the lease rent. The tenant will pay a differential rent appropriate to their means to the housing authority.

Table 11: Kildare County Council Housing List

Areas	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
No. of applicants on Housing List	2,392	4,016	5,052	6,542	7,865
Applicants in receipt of rent supplement	1,850	2,016	2,292	2,352	2,730
Social Housing Allocations	204	234	233	146	111
Social Leasing Initiative	0	0	57	31	24
CAS / CLSS	55	45	15	53	10
RAS Allocations	75	109	112	147	67

Source: Kildare County Council Housing List

Approximately 25% of applicants on the Council's housing list are in excess of 18 months in receipt of a social housing support.

1,040 social or leased houses have been allocated since January 2008 with 178 additional units delivered through the voluntary housing sector. In addition 510 Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) properties have been procured over the same period.

4.4 Traveller Accommodation Programme

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-13 was reviewed in 2011. The review did not identify any significant changes that would require an amendment of the Traveller Accommodation Programme before the preparation of the next Programme in 2014. In 2012, a Part 8 proposal for the redevelopment of the Traveller's Halting Site at Tankardsgarden, Newbridge was approved by council and this development is being progressed.

4.5 Rural Housing Policy

There continues to be significant pressure for one off housing in the rural areas of the county. Over the period 1st May 2011 – 31st January 2013, 463 planning applications for one-offs were made to the planning authority. The breakdown of these applications is contained in Table 12.

Table 12: One Off Rural House Applications

One Off Rural House Applications 1 st May 2011 – 31 st January 2013	
Grant	131
Refusal	170
FI/ No Decision / Pre-Validation	62
Extension of Duration	100
Total	463

Source: Iplan Statistics

Of the 170 refusals of permission for one off dwellings, 45 were subject to reapplication (26%) with 10 subsequently granted (22%). Of the 100 extension of duration applications, 33 were granted, 50 were refused and no decision was made on 17 applications. 12 of the refusals were subject to reapplication with 4 granted.

5.0 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

It remains the primary aim of the Council to provide for the future wellbeing of the residents of the county and the region by encouraging economic development. Key objectives include promoting the growth of employment opportunities in all sectors in accordance with the principles of sustainable development; achieving a reduction in the unsustainable levels of

commuting from the county and providing a greater focus on community building and improving quality of life.

5.1 Census 2011

Table 13 below shows a 6.5% reduction in the population of the county over 15 yrs old, registered as “At Work” in the period from 2006 to 2011. The figure recorded in the 2006 Census, at the height of the economic boom, showed a 23.2% increase on the figure recorded in 2002.

Table 13: Persons over 15 at Work

	2002	2006	2011
Persons at work	74,347	91,581	85,587
% change		+23.2%	-6.5%

Source: Census of Population 2011

An analysis of the Working Population of the County, i.e. numbers from Kildare working in Kildare and persons commuting into Kildare indicates that there are 55,918 persons working in Kildare, 31% of whom are resident in Kildare, with the remaining 69% commuting into Kildare from outside the county. This statistic is of interest, in that it shows that there is a localised Kildare population working in Kildare but it also shows that there is a solid employment base within Kildare attracting workers from outside the county.

Table 14: Working Population Kildare 2011

	2011	%
Kildare residents working in Kildare	17,476	31
Persons commuting into Kildare	38,442	69
Working Population Kildare	55,918	

Source: Census of Population 2011

Kildare has 15,910 government agency assisted employment positions representing a reduction from 17,592 in 2007. The county has become a leading centre for ICT with significant agency assisted jobs in this sector (Table 16).

Table 15: Kildare Residents – Location of Employment

	2011	%
Total Kildare Residents with fixed place of work	72,137	
Working in county	17,476	24%
Working outside county	54,661	76%

Source: Census of Population 2011

Table 16: Government Agency Assisted Jobs in Co. Kildare

Kildare	2002	2007	2011
Computer Consultancy	855	805	1,886
Computer Programming	6,655	7,444	6,118
Chemicals	2,092	2,173	1,838

*Source: Regional Planning Guidelines
Economic Update 2013"*

There are 19 assisted IDA businesses in the county (3 in financial services, 4 in ICT, 3 in pharmaceuticals, 5 consumer goods, 1 chemical and 3 in industrial products and service).

5.2 Kildare in a Regional Context

At a regional level Kildare performs reasonably well being the county with the third lowest unemployment rate in the GDA (Refer Table 17). Kildare however has the highest number of people commuting outside the county for employment purposes. There is a clear need to provide more job creation opportunities within the county to address this outflow thereby providing more sustainable settlement patterns.

	Kildare	Meath	Wicklow	DLR	Fingal	South Dublin	Dublin City
Population	210,312	184,135	136,640	206,261	273,991	265,205	527,612
Total in labour force	104,226	90,634	65,581	98,561	141,916	132,573	279,128
Total at work	85,587	74,342	52,907	87,490	119,276	106,534	227,429
Unemployed	18,639 (17.9%)	16,292 (18%)	12,674 (19.3%)	11,071 (11.2%)	22,640 (16%)	26,039 (19.6%)	51,699 (18.5%)
Total residents with a fixed place of work	72,137	60,843	43,942	62,509	83,854	63,769	236,661
No. persons working and living in the county	17,476	15,826	13,128	55,890	34,654	50,606	222,064
No. persons working outside the county	54,661	45,017	30,814	6,619	49,200	13,163	14,597
No. persons working in Dublin City/suburbs	25,237	19,863	17,300	N/A	27,064	N/A	N/A
No. persons commuting into the county	38,442	22,996	18,003	16,891	48,084	29,390	71,826
Daytime working population	55,918	38,822	31,131	72,781	82,738	79,996	293,350
Net daily gain/loss in working population	-16,219	-22,021	-12,811	10,272	-1,116	16,227	56,689

Table 17: Source: Regional Planning Guidelines Economic Update 2013

5.3 Significant Enterprise and Employment Announcements Since 2011

The Council supports commercial and business development directly by the provision of serviced and zoned land and indirectly by providing essential services and infrastructure. The role of local authorities in economic development will increase significantly with the establishment of the Local Enterprise Offices. During the two years since 2011, there has been a number of significant announcements in the county including:

- Planning permissions granted to Intel Ireland Ltd. for expansion of its operations and extension of its facility at a 40ha site in Leixlip. It is anticipated that the proposed facility could generate up to 3,500 construction jobs and 800 permanent jobs. The Company currently employs c. 5,000 people, with further employment generated in spin-off/supporting industries in the region.
- Kerry Group announced (October 2012) its intention to set up a global technology and innovation centre in Naas. It is anticipated that the investment will see the creation of up to 800 jobs on site by 2015, with a further 100 by 2016. It is also anticipated that there will be c. 400 construction jobs during the construction phase. A planning application to permit this development has been received by Naas Town Council. It is of note that Naas is the only growth town in the GDA to experience a net gain in working

population between 2006 and 2011.

- MSG. Mfg Group Inc (Hewlett Packard) announced (December 2012) the creation of c. 150 new jobs at a new manufacturing facility on the HP campus in Leixlip.

Large scale investments such as these show confidence in the marketplace and in the ability of County Kildare to service these investments. There will be an increased demand for services in the vicinity of these locations, particularly housing, transportation, community, social and other commercial facilities. A number of strategic projects of national and regional importance are likely to benefit the economic position of the county including the following:

- Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Project which aims to provide the drainage infrastructure needed to allow the Greater Dublin Area to continue to develop, both socially and economically. The project involves the provision of a new wastewater treatment works, a marine outfall and new drainage network, in the northern part of the Greater Dublin Area.
- Water Supply Project in the Dublin Region aims to meet the projected long-term water supply needs of the Greater Dublin Area, up to 2050 and beyond. The Project proposes to make a proportion of the treated water available en route between the

likely new source (River Shannon) and Dublin.

- Eirgrid – East/West Interconnector project, Ireland’s first electricity link with the United Kingdom which will bring many benefits to electricity consumers over the decades to come, provides benefits such as increased competition, secure supplies of energy and the opportunity to export indigenous renewable energy.
- The Grid 25 project which plans to develop and upgrade the electricity transmission network from now until 2025.
- Leinster Outer Orbital Route project which will strengthen the links between key development centres, assist the economic development of these centres and improve the overall regional transport network.

5.4 Tourism

Kildare’s tourism resource remains an important sector of the economy. The County’s natural features, combined with a rich architectural heritage and sporting attractions have contributed to the appeal of Kildare as a tourism destination. In addition, the existing commercial base of the county, including the availability of quality accommodation and services such as transport, retail/commercial facilities, all serve to boost the county’s economy.

The Council is represented on the Board of County Kildare Failte, a not for profit organisation which is involved in the promotion and marketing of Kildare as a tourism destination, aided by funding

from Kildare County Council and Kildare Leader Partnership. The organisation has produced a booklet entitled “*25 Free Things to do in County Kildare*”, the first in a series of brochures designed to attract visitors to the county.

As well as County Kildare Failte, the Council acknowledges and supports the work of Failte Ireland, the Midlands and East Regional Tourism Authority and Tourism Ireland in promoting tourism internationally and at a national, regional and local level. The Council is supporting “The Gathering 2013”, the national initiative aimed at encouraging individuals, groups, organisations to create an event in 2013 to attract visitors from abroad.

The Council also participates in a number of cross border tourism initiatives including the Kildare / Wicklow. This collaboration has been set up to focus on development of the tourism potential of the region, particularly with respect to the generation of overseas and overnight revenues. The Council is also actively involved in the NRA’s National Cycleway project the first phase of which will extend to 60km from Maynooth to Mullingar along the Royal Canal. This phase of the cycleway is expected to be completed by the end of 2013. Upon completion, the project will deliver the first cross-country national cycleway from Dublin to Galway and establish one of the most significant tourism investments that will assist in regional and local job creation.

There is an opportunity to further enhance the economic benefit for the county through tourism. This can be achieved through participation and support for future initiatives/events and

by providing for appropriate tourism infrastructure/facilities in a manner consistent with proper planning and sustainable development.

Due to the economic downturn some of the county's tourism resources have closed or are open at a much reduced level. The council is proactively seeking to ensure the extension and further development of these outlets for the benefit of the county and to source and further development employment opportunities.

6.0 MOVEMENT AND TRANSPORT

The Council's resources and strategy seeks to improve levels of sustainable travel in the county as well as the continued improvement, protection and development of the local, regional and national road network. The promotion of an integrated approach to the delivery of transportation infrastructure with particular emphasis on the use of public transport as well as strategic road and rail corridors is a key element of sustainable transport. Reduced congestion, public realm improvements and healthier lifestyles are the product of greater levels of sustainable transportation. Walking and cycling will continue to be promoted as a priority mode of transport that also fosters a healthy lifestyle.

6.1 Public Transport

The population using public transport to get to work or school has reduced from 13.9% in 2006 to 12.5% in 2011. Iarnod Eireann have carried out improvements to facilities at Kildare Town and Sallins railway stations and improvements have also been made at Newbridge and Hazelhatch train stations in cooperation with the Council. Kildare County Council

in association with the NTA is working on the following improvements:

- Completion of design for bus stop improvements, Main Street Naas.
- Bus priority schemes into and out of Main Street, Newbridge.
- Design of a turning facility for Dublin Bus route 66 on the Newtown Road Maynooth.

The Council will continue to work with the relevant authorities to facilitate the improvement of services and facilities where necessary.

6.2 Walking and Cycling

Kildare County Council in association with the National Transport Authority (NTA) is involved in a number of projects to improve access for cyclists and pedestrians. These projects will provide improved access to local facilities and encourage people to walk and cycle. The NTA is currently finalising their strategic cycle network study which will inform the provision of cycle routes within the county. The design of cycle facilities on a number of routes is under way for the following locations:

- Dublin Road, Naas.
- Sallins Road, Naas.
- Along a north-south corridor in Maynooth with links to the University and the train station.
- The county Kildare section of the Royal Canal towpath.
- A new pedestrian / cycle bridge in Athy.

With regard to pedestrian facilities, the NTA has funded the construction of new footpaths since the adoption of the CDP. These include:

- Corban's Lane in Naas
- A footpath link to St. Farnan's in Prosperous

- A link to the boy's school in Rathangan

In addition, new footpaths and pedestrian facilities have also been provided in Maynooth, Ardclough, Rathcoffey, Straffan, Celbridge, Leixlip, Johnstown and Athy. Further pedestrian improvements planned in conjunction with the NTA are proposed for:

- Wellesley Manor, Newbridge
- Main Street, Johnstown
- To the school Rathangan
- Meadow Lane / Academy Street Kildare Town
- To the school in Athgarvan
- Convent Lane, Maynooth
- Between the church and Liffey bridge in Ballymore Eustace
- Dublin Road, Maynooth
- The Square to the Canal in Kilcock
- Celbridge Town centre

The Council is committed to providing bicycle parking at locations throughout the county in order to promote cycling and also to provide facilities for existing users. The locations chosen for these facilities include town centre locations, retail, community and educational premises and public transport interchanges. Public cycle parking facilities were provided in Celbridge, Leixlip, Clane and Naas in 2012. An application for funding to continue the rollout of cycle parking in 2013 has been made to the NTA.

6.3 Car Ownership

Car ownership has continued to increase over the past few years. The 2011 census shows a reduction in the number of households without a car from 13% in 2006 to 11%. The number of households with one car has increased from 36% to 38%, the

number of households with two cars has remained constant at 41% and the number of households with three or more cars has reduced from 10% to 7% in 2011.

6.4 Roads Programme

The County Development Plan provides for the development or upgrade of a number of National and Regional schemes. A number of strategic road improvements had been carried out in the county up to 2011. A number of new distributor roads have also been provided. The economic downturn has reduced the capabilities of providing further large scale road developments.

The Council in association with the NTA, is progressing a number of projects for traffic management improvements and some are listed below:

- Traffic calming at Maynooth Road in Celbridge.
- Traffic calming in Leixlip.

The Kildare Road Safety Plan 2012 - 2015 seeks to ensure a coordinated, collaborative and consistent approach to improving road safety for all road users and focuses on the four E's of Road Safety i.e. Education, Engineering, Enforcement and Evaluation. The committed support of key services is necessary for the success of this plan.

6.5 National Roads

The development of National routes through Kildare has been critical to the development of the county. The M4 and M7 provide excellent links to the larger towns in Kildare making them accessible for business and commerce. The road infrastructure has increased the

attractiveness of a number of towns in Kildare, providing convenient places to live for commuters to the Dublin area. Major road infrastructure development has stalled due to the economic downturn. However a number of projects are under construction or planned over the period of the Plan. These include:

- Improved merge lane from the M9 to the M7 to improve flows
- Construction of a third lane on the M7 between Maudlins and Greatconnell.
- Interchange upgrade at Newhall
- Osberstown / Sallins Interchange and bypass
- Completion of N81 Route Selection report.

works throughout the lifetime of the plan as funding allows.

6.6 County Regional Roads

The upgrade and maintenance of the county regional roads is necessary for efficient local trips and the safety of road users. A number of regional roads / distributor roads are proposed as routes in the larger towns. The Council will endeavour to provide as many of these roads as funding allows.

The R402 Enfield to Edenderry Road Improvement Scheme is currently underway and will cost approximately €36.5 million. The project will take approximately two years to complete. The works consist of the realignment and improvement of the R402 Regional Road between Enfield and Edenderry, a distance of approximately 11km. This project is 100% funded by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.

The Council has completed upgrades of the sections of road listed in Table 18 and will continue to carry out improvements

Table 18 Upgrade Works to Regional Roads

Road No.	Location	Details
R125	Kilcock to county boundary	There are plans for traffic lights at the junction with the R148, funding and consultation dependent
R148	County boundary at Kilmurry to county boundary at Clonard	Surface improvements were carried out in 2012
R160	Ballynadrummy to county boundary	Safety and surface improvements were carried out in 2012 at Ballynakill crossroads
R401	County boundary at Boyne Bridge to county boundary at Ballyboggan	Surface improvements were carried out in 2012
R403	Clane to junction with R402 via Prosperous, Allenwood & Derrinturn	Surface improvements have been carried out on this route a section at a time and another section is proposed for improvement this year
R407	Kilcock to Naas Ring Road via Clane Inner Relief Road	A major realignment was carried out south of Kilcock on this route in 2011
R409	Naas Ring Road to junction of R403 at Blackwood	Resurfacing works are proposed with funding available for works in 2013, Phase 1 works are likely to be between Naas and Caragh
R410	Naas Ring Road to county boundary via Eadestown	Surface Improvements are proposed in the Eadestown section of this route, subject to funding, in 2013-2016 programme of works.
R411	Naas Ring Road to county boundary via Ballymore	Resurfacing works were carried out on a section of this route in 2012 and more works are proposed for this year
R413	Brannockstown to Ballymany via Kilcullen	A section of this route from Milemill Cross Roads to Kilcullen has been resurfaced in 2012. Drainage improvement works completed at locations near Kinneagh Cross.
R414	Monasterevin to junction with R403 at Allenwood via Rathangan	Resurfacing works were carried out on a section of this route in 2012 and more works are proposed for this year.
R415	Allenwood to Kildare via Kilmeague	New bridge just south of Allenwood was rebuilt in 2012 and resurfacing works were carried out at Kilmeague in 2012.
R415	Kildare to junction with N78 at Crookstown	Road and footpath works carried out in Nurney Village. Junction improvements at Walterstown and Newtown Cross.
R416	Junction with R413 at Kinneagh to Newbridge	Footpath improvements at Graveyard and Kilbelin Estate.
R416	Newbridge to junction with the R415 at Milltown	Approximately 50% of the road within this area has been resurface. New pedestrian bridge provided at the train station.
R418	Athy to county boundary at Newtown via Castledermot	Improvements were carried out on this road in 2009. There are still sections due for upgrade around Castledermot on the Athy and Tullow Roads. The completion of the works is dependent on funds being available.
R427	Junction with R417 at Cloney to county boundary	This junction has been completely upgraded including resurfacing, realignment and new signage.
R428	Athy to county boundary at Blackford	These improvements have not been carried out and are dependent on funding being available.
R445	Naas to county boundary at Killinure via Newbridge, Kildare & Monasterevin	Improvement works have been recently completed from the motorway bridge to Toghers roundabout. It is proposed to close off the junction of the L2031 with the R445 at Newhall Cross Roads.
R448	Naas to Kilcullen and junction with M9	Improvements have taken place on the Main Street in Kilcullen from the Liffey Bridge to the Logstown Road
R747	Ballitore to county boundary	This section of road was upgraded in 2011 including resurfacing and new signage.

6.7 Car parking

The provision of adequately sized and appropriately located car parking in the county's towns and villages is an important element of the service provision function of these settlements.

Parking arrangements in various towns in the county are updated and revised as part of the ongoing review of parking bye laws. A new car park has been provided on the Dunmurray Road in Kildare and discussions are taking place with private developers with a view to providing additional car parking in Maynooth.

The Council has held discussions with the ESB with a view to providing car charging points in public parking areas. Charging points have already been provided at the M7 Junction 14 services area and at Newbridge Train Station.

7.0 WATER DRAINAGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

It is the aim of the Council to develop, protect, improve and extend water, waste water and flood alleviation measures throughout the County. Furthermore the Council is seeking to prioritise the provision of water services infrastructure to complement the overall strategy for economic and population growth and to achieve improved environmental protection.

7.1 Water

Since the adoption of the CDP a number of water infrastructure projects are being implemented including:

Castlewarden to Ballygoran Pipeline and Reservoir Scheme

This project comprises a new water main between Bishopstown (Blue Door) and Ballygoran Reservoir, and additional storage

at Ballygoran Reservoir. It is being part funded by the Department of the Environment Community and Local Government under the Water Services Investment Programme 2010 - 2013. The scheme will provide a new supply of potable water from the Ballymore Eustace Water Treatment Plant to North East Kildare. Works started in late December 2012 and will be completed by December 2013 (pipelines) / December 2014 (reservoir).

Barrow Abstraction Scheme

As part of the Barrow Abstraction Scheme the Srowland Water Treatment Plant is currently nearing completion. Construction commenced in April 2011, the new water treatment plant is scheduled to be commissioned in Q3 of 2013. This will provide the production of a maximum of 38.4ML of drinking water per day.

7.2 Wastewater

The following wastewater infrastructure projects are being implemented:

- The Kildare Town Sewerage Scheme is partially complete with the delivery of the 28,000 p.e. plant. The upgrade of the sewerage network feeding this plant is to follow. Some elements of the network were completed in 2011 with the reminder of works to start this year and finalised by mid 2014.
- The pre-qualification for tenders for the Upper Liffey Valley Sewerage Scheme - Osberstown upgrade was advertised on the 21/12/12 with closing date for submissions 08/02/13. The pre-qualification submissions are being assessed with potential tender date being the end of May 2013 (i.e. invite pre-qualified contractors to submit tenders).

The network contract for the Upper Liffey Valley Regional Sewerage Scheme is being designed. A Part 8 will be required for 4 of the pumping stations (Q3 of 2013). Advertisements for tenderers will follow by the end of this year, 2013.

- The Lower Liffey Valley Sewerage Scheme Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade from 80,000PE to 150,000PE is being part funded by the Department of the Environment Community and Local Government under the Water Services Investment Programme 2010 - 2013. The proposed works comprise the expansion of Leixlip WWTP to 150,000PE capacity under a 27-month design/build contract with an additional 12-month process proving period. The full Scheme cost estimate is currently €29.5m. Works are planned to start in Q2 2013 for completion by Q3 of 2015 (150,000PE capacity). The 12-month process proving period will run from mid 2015 to mid 2016.
- Significant work has also been carried out on the Ballymore Eustace Sewerage Scheme. This scheme consists of two separate contracts. Contracts for both parts of the project were signed in December 2012 and construction has commenced on Contract B (pumping station and pipeline network). The project consists of the demolition of the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant in Ballymore Eustace, construction of a new pumping station and storm tank at the site of the old treatment works. It will ensure the construction of a new rising main to transfer flows

from the new pumping station to the proposed new wastewater treatment plant to be constructed at Stonebrook Road. This new WWTP will be constructed under a separate contract - Contract A. The design of Contract A is currently ongoing (the waste water treatment plant is a design build contract). Both contracts should be complete by the end of 2013.

7.3 Surface Water and Flooding

Kildare County Council is part of the Eastern CFRAM Study which is being funded and managed by the OPW. The OPW is tasked with producing flood maps for the relevant rivers by the end of 2013 and a Flood Risk Management Plan by the end of 2015.

Kildare County Council has carried out improvement works in a number of locations that were prone to flooding. General flood alleviation works have been completed along the Morrell, Annagal and Hartwell Rivers. General flood alleviation works are substantially complete in the Ardclough area. In Ballymore Eustace the repair of the River Walk stream has been completed. A preliminary report for flood alleviation works in the Ballymore Eustace catchment has also been completed with funding to be identified. General flood alleviation works in the Butterstream catchment along the Prosperous road in Clane have been completed. Further flood alleviation works are proposed for the Morrell Stream close to the N7 and at Mooneys Stream in Newbridge.

Kildare County Council is currently carrying out Flood Risk Assessments for the Maynooth and Newbridge Local Area Plans . SFRA will be conducted for all forthcoming LAP's.

7.4 Environmental Services

The Council currently contracts its domestic waste collection obligations to private waste collectors. Commercial waste is also collected by private operators. A new Litter Management Plan was adopted by Council in 2012 and runs to 2015. The ban on the marketing, sale and distribution of bituminous coal has also been extended to include the towns of Sallins and Newbridge. The Council remains committed to providing a recycling centre in the north of the county. The current waste management plan 2005-2010 was evaluated in 2012. A new waste plan will be prepared in 2013 which will result in formation of new waste regions. Kildare is likely to be included in a greater Leinster region.

8.0 ENERGY AND COMMUNICATIONS

The CDP supports the development of indigenous renewable energy resources, the maximisation of electricity production and to promote environmentally sensitive sources as an alternative to existing resources.

8.1 Energy Infrastructure

Kildare's energy supply is provided from the National Grid and the natural gas pipeline that runs through the county from Cork to Dublin. The majority of Kildare's electricity is sourced from non renewable sources but renewable sources are increasing. Eirgrid recently completed its second stage of public consultation associated with the Grid Link project. This project is stated to be necessary to ensure that the future needs of the south and east of Ireland are met. The development will consist of a high voltage power line linking Munster and Leinster. Its benefits are stated to include:

- Securing future electricity supply for homes, businesses, farms, factories and communities.
- Empowering growth in the south and east of Ireland
- Helping Ireland to meet its 40% renewable energy targets.

The project is beneficial to Kildare as it is proposed that the link will join the National Grid at Dunstown near Naas. Once the consultation phase is completed work will begin on the detailed design of the project.

The Eirgrid Draft Transmission Development Plan 2012-2022 has also been subject to public consultation and contains the following infrastructure projects for Co. Kildare:

- Cushing to Thornsberry 110kV New Build (Cos. Kildare and Offaly - Estimated Completion Date (ECD) 2013).
- Grid Link 400kV Project New Build (Cos Cork, Tipperary, Waterford, Kilkenny, Wexford, Laois, Carlow, Wicklow, Kildare 1– ECD 2020).
- Cushing 110 kV Station – Busbar Uprate (Co. Kildare ECD 2013).
- Dunstown – Maynooth 220kV Part Line Refurbishment (Co. Kildare ECD 2012).
- Corduff – Ryebrook 110kV Line Uprate and Ryebrook 110kV Station Busbar Uprate (Cos Dublin, Kildare ECD 2014).
- Maynooth – Ryebrook 110kV Line Uprate (Co. Kildare ECD 2013).
- Dunstown 400/220 kV Station – New 2nd 400/220 kV MVA Transformer New Build (Co. Kildare ECD 2013).
- Dunstown – Kellis 220kV Line Refurbishment (Cos Kildare, Carlow ECD 2013).

- Baroda 110kV Station – 2 new 110 kV Bays Upgrade (Co. Kildare ECD 2015)

The first two schemes comprise new build projects. The remainder of the projects are upgrading (may include increasing ground clearances and / or replacing conductor, together with changes to terminal equipment and support structures), refurbishment/ replacement of existing infrastructure. Detailed consideration of projects will be afforded at planning consent stage where required.

8.2 Wind Energy

Kildare currently does not have any commercial wind energy generating plants. Private developers have shown interest at various locations throughout the county and in surrounding counties. No planning applications have been made for commercial windfarms to-date in Co. Kildare.

8.3 Telecommunications

The availability of high quality telecommunications infrastructure throughout the county is critical for economic development. The provision of telecommunications and broadband infrastructure is being carried out in line with the objectives of the County Development Plan. A number of telecommunication providers have obtained planning permission to retain existing masts at various locations throughout the county and there has also been planning permissions granted to telecommunications providers to erect new masts.

Since the adoption of the Plan, Circular Letter PL 07/12 referring to the *Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures Guidelines* was issued by the Minister under section 28 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 - 2012 to update certain sections of the

Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures Guidelines (1996).

9.0 RETAIL

On the 1st May 2012, the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, issued the *Retail Planning Guidelines 2012*. The Guidelines are designed to ensure that the planning system plays a key role in ensuring competitiveness in the retail sector, advancing choice for the consumer while promoting and supporting the vitality and viability of town centres. The Guidelines acknowledge that apart from the direct and indirect employment generated by the retail sector, shops play a major role in attracting people to cities, towns and villages, thus contributing to the overall economic vitality of those centres and supporting their role as centres of social and business interaction in the community.

The Guidelines are accompanied by a *Retail Design Manual – A companion document to the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (April 2012)*. Together, the Guidelines and Design Manual provide a planning framework for the future development of the retail sector, taking into consideration the needs of modern shopping while at the same time, contributing to protecting, supporting and promoting the attractiveness and competitiveness of town centres as places to live, work, shop and visit.

The 2012 Guidelines revised the retail floorspace caps set down in the 2005 Retail Planning Guidelines by introducing a floorspace cap of 3,000sq m in County Kildare and other areas outside of Dublin, Cork, Limerick/Shannon, Galway and Waterford. This is a reduction from 3,500 sq m which applied nationally in the 2005 Retail Planning Guidelines. The distinction between ‘discount

stores' and other convenience stores which was contained in the 2005 Retail Planning Guidelines no longer applies.

The Council is committed to supporting the implementation of the Retail Planning Guidelines 2012.

9.1 Retail Context

The results of Census 2011 showed that 15.97% of the population of Kildare over 15 years of age at work by broad industrial group are employed in the "wholesale, retail trade and motor repair". Although not all are working within the county it shows that the wholesale/retail trade is a significant employer for residents of Kildare, slightly higher than the national rate of 14.51%.

Kildare continues to maintain a strong retail presence, particularly in the larger towns of the county. The retail hierarchy set down in the CDP remains unaltered, with Naas and Newbridge designated as Level 2 Town Centres and Leixlip/Collinstown, the county's Major Town Centre. The remaining towns/villages fall into the Level 3 and 4 centre with Level 5 centres comprising the smaller village centres/crossroads and rural settlements.

Additional retail floorspace provided in the county since the adoption of the CDP includes:

- Tesco District Centre, Monread Naas
- Aldi, Monread Naas
- Tesco, Kildare Town
- Extension to services at Mayfield Junction Monasterevin
- Redevelopment of Tesco Store, Newbridge
- Neighbourhood Centre, Donaghcumper, Celbridge (under construction)
- Lidl, Kilcock (under construction)

- Aldi, Monread, Naas.

The Council continues to support the provision of retail in appropriate locations within the county and has permitted a number of schemes including:

- Penneys – redevelopment of Superquinn, North Main Street, Naas.
- Value Retail (extension to Kildare Village) – permitted but currently on appeal.

Unfortunately however, Kildare is not immune from the effects of the economic downturn and has witnessed the closure of a number of shops throughout the county, including units in town centres, shopping centres and retail parks. Statistics released by the GeoDirectory in August 2012, showed an average vacancy rate on commercial premises of 10% in County Kildare.

The Collinstown LAP identified a Major Town Centre site to address leakage from the county in terms of spending and employment and to act as a catalyst for further investment in the area. The role of this area in the context of the county will be reconsidered as part of the review of the LAP.

The Council remains committed to supporting the core retail areas of towns and villages to ensure that the needs of the county's residents are met insofar as possible within Kildare. To this end, adherence to the principles set down in the recent 2012 Retail Planning Guidelines as well as to the existing objectives set out in the CDP is a key driver for the Council in seeking to sustain and improve the retail profile and competitiveness of the county.

10.0 RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The CDP seeks to support the provision of a high quality rural environment, encourage diversification and improve competitiveness of the rural economy. The aim of the CDP is to sustain the livelihood of rural communities and promote the development of the wider rural economy within the context of the sustainable management of land and resources. These objectives are in line with the commitments relating to economic development contained in the Programme for Government, in particular, commitments to encourage job creation and sustainable enterprise development, which are reliant on the ability of all parts of Ireland to contribute to economic growth.

10.1 Rural Employment Base

Diversification of the rural economy is achieved by promoting economic growth in key towns and villages and settlements to support local populations. Traditional rural based activities including agriculture, equine industry, agri-food, tourism, leisure etc will be facilitated as appropriate together with diversification into alternative appropriate uses.

10.2 Agriculture

The role of agriculture in the county has increased in recent years. The CDP noted a fall in employment in the “farming, fishing and forestry” occupational group from 3.7% in 2002 to 2.9% in 2006 (CSO). The 2011 census shows an increase in this sector to 3.7%. Last year there was a significant increase in the number of applicants for new herd numbers. This may possibly be due to the proposed changes to the CAP in 2015.

Dairy is still the most profitable enterprise and there are 1930 herd owners in Kildare. Of that figure approximately 150 are dairy farming,

with 1780 dry stock operations⁶. Cattle and sheep farmers make up the majority of the remainder (approximately 900) and finally there are approximately 300 cereal farmers.

There are 182 agency assisted jobs provided in the agriculture, fishing and forestry, mining and quarrying and food sector in the county (Source: Forfas).

10.3 Equine

The equine industry is very important to the economy of Kildare. It attracts a large number of tourists each year and generates significant foreign direct investment. There are 57 trainers and 145 stud farms recorded in the Irish Field Directory 2011.

10.4 LEADER

Rural Development LEADER funding has made a valuable contribution to private and community projects in the county. Listed below is a sample of the community based projects supported by LEADER. Some of these are completed; others are currently in the process of development.

- Teach Dara Community and Family Centre - Kildare Town
- Athy Heritage Centre -Shackleton event
- Athy Farmers Market
- Castletown Foundation for the Wonderful Barn Feasibility Study
- The National Ploughing Championships Athy – Food and Craft Village – 2010/2011
- Kildare Town Strategic Plan and Governance Training
- Kilcock Strategic Plan and Governance Training
- Clane Sprao and St Patricks Day Festivals

⁶ Source: Teagasc

- Cellbridge Community Centre Gym
- Solas Bhríde Centre Hermitages – Kildare Town
- RACE Kildare Town
- Rathangan Community Alert
- Monasterevin Community Facilitates Group
- Teach Diarmada Community – Castledermot
- Sallins Community Festival and Sallins Wolfe Tone Event
- Prosperous Dramatic Society
- Kildare FAILTE
- The Curragh Family Resource Centre
- Nas na Riogh Housing Association Naas Community Centre & Cultural Centre
- Newbridge 200 Celebrations
- Ready Steady Grow Enterprise Promotion Newbridge
- Newbridge Family Resource Centre
- The Kildare Derby Festival
- North Kildare Chamber Strategic Plan
- The Geraldine Hall – Maynooth
- Kildare Down Syndrome
- Medical Device and Pharmaceutical Industry Training
- Save our Stories Initiative
- Tourism and Farm Diversification Mentoring
- Strategic Business Planning for Rural Women

In addition County Kildare LEADER Partnership is currently supporting local private promoters in developing their own business as a valuable input into the local economy. The LEADER Partnership has also developed and delivered a wide range of Training and Developmental Initiatives in response to the needs of Communities and Special Interest Groups throughout the county.

Since the implementation of the LEADER programme in 2008, County Kildare Leader

Partnership has supported over 200 projects in County Kildare.

10.5 Sand and Gravel Extraction

On the 15th November 2011, sections 74 and 75 of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 were commenced, which amended Section 261, and inserted a new section 261A into the Planning and Development Act 2000. Section 261A contained new provisions in relation to the regulation of quarries.

Under Section 261A a new procedure was legislated for, whereby projects requiring environmental impact assessment could for a very limited period of time; apply for a form of retention permission called *substitute consent*. Quarries which had commenced prior to the inception of the planning system in 1964, or which had obtained a planning permission at some stage, would be permitted to apply for substitute consent for unauthorised development which was in breach of the EIA Directive and/or Habitats Directive in relation to Appropriate Assessment. This would be conditional on such quarries having previously registered under Section 261 if required to do so.

Section 261A also provided that where a quarry was always unauthorised, (i.e. it commenced on or after 1 October 1964 and never obtained planning permission, or it failed to register under Section 261 if required to do so), it will not be permitted to apply for substitute consent for unauthorised development which was in breach of the EIA/Habitats Directive, and instead an enforcement notice will be issued by the Planning Authority requiring the quarry to cease operation. It should be noted that the new legislation also provided that there would no longer be a limitation of 7 years on the taking of enforcement action against unauthorised quarries.

Following an initial 6-week public consultation period, the Planning Authority commenced detailed desktop survey work in order to first identify all sites of interest within the County. Out of this desktop survey work a total of 965 sites of interest were identified. A second review of these sites was then carried out, reducing the number to approximately 500.

The desktop survey work was followed by site inspections of the 500 sites of interest referred to above. These site inspections, in conjunction with the preparation and completion of site survey reports and quarry assessment reports, resulted in a final figure of 185 quarry sites. Section 261A notices were issued for a total of 77 quarries. 40 of the notices issued required the respective quarry owners/operators to submit an application for substitute consent to An Bord Pleanála and 37 notices issued informed quarry owners/operators of the intention of the Planning Authority to take enforcement action requiring the cessation of quarrying activities. The remaining 108 quarry sites that were examined were deemed to require no further action under the legislation.

Section 261A also provided that the owner/operator of a quarry may apply to An Bord Pleanála, not later than 21 days after the date a notice issued, for a review of the determination and decision of the Planning Authority. Of the 77 notices issued by the Planning Authority a total of 40 were the subject of an application for review lodged with An Bord Pleanála. The details of each of the 40 applications for review have been assessed by the Planning Authority and submissions/observations to An Bord Pleanála have been made on all of them.

10.6 Future Development of Rural Ireland

To further support the development of rural Ireland the government announced the establishment of a commission to carry out an

extensive public consultation on the future economic potential of rural Ireland and how best to apply funding and resources. The commission will examine the non farming or 'outside the farm gate' aspects of economic development in rural areas and will prepare a report by the end of 2013. This will inform the development of future strategies to support the medium term economic development of rural areas for the period to 2025.

11.0 SOCIAL, COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The overall aim of the Council is to seek to ensure that County Kildare is an attractive place to live and work by building strong inclusive communities that have a sense of place and belonging, with the provision of accessible social and community facilities.

11.1 Education

The Department of Education and Skills, together with the City and County Managers' Association, drafted a *Memorandum of Understanding* during 2011 on the acquisition of sites for schools. In essence, the Memorandum of Understanding established a process whereby the local authority assists the Department in the site identification and acquisition process. Official requests were made of Kildare County Council in late 2011 for sites in Monasterevin and Naas and the process of site identification commenced in March 2012. It is envisaged that the sites will be acquired in 2013, with planning applications to follow.

In 2012 the Minister for Education and Skills announced under the School Building Programme that funding would be available for the construction of a number of new schools within County Kildare and for extensions to others. Since the adoption of the previous 2005-2011 CDP, commencement

notices have been received for additional / upgraded educational facilities in Rathangan, Clane, Monasterevin, Staplestown, Newbridge, Twomilehouse, Maynooth, Celbridge, Prosperous, Kilcullen, Rathcoffey and Kilmallum on the outskirts of Blessington.

11.2 Childcare

Kildare County Childcare Committee has continued to provide advice, support and training to 218 Registered Childcare Services in Kildare and 86 Notified Childminders with the aim of improving quality standards linked to the two National Quality Frameworks Siolta and Aistear. The Committee has provided Parent and Toddler grants to 50 Parent and Toddler groups in the county.

Kildare is in the early stages of establishing a Kildare branch of the Association of Childhood Professionals. There are approximately 897 persons employed in the Early Childhood Care and Education sector in Kildare.

It is well documented that participation in Quality Early Childhood Care and Education has significant and long-last benefits for all children and particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Latest figures show that there are:

- 3551 children enrolled to participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education Universal Pre-school year in Kildare in September 2012
- 145 Childcare Education and Training Scheme full-time equivalent places in Kildare
- 56 Childcare services have expressed an interest in participating in Childcare Education Training Scheme

for the School Age Childcare Programme due to commence in September 2013.

11.3 Recreation

The Council continues to encourage, develop and support initiatives for active and passive recreation. Newbridge Sports and Leisure Centre continues to provide state of the art facilities at its sports and leisure complex. The Centre has been awarded a White Flag Award for Spa and Leisure every year for over a decade. Further leisure facilities are also provided in the centres in Naas and Athy.

The Parks Department continues to strive towards achieving the objectives outlined in the CDP. Whilst funding has been reduced somewhat in recent years, the Parks Department facilitated a number of initiatives including the introduction of a pilot allotment scheme at the Wonderful Barn in Leixlip.

In 2011 a Master Plan for the Liffey Valley Linear Park (Newbridge to Athgarvan) was prepared in conjunction with Newbridge Town Council. A boardwalk was constructed along the River Liffey.

In 2012, together with the Transportation Section, the Parks Department introduced a pilot scheme for the sponsorship of a number of roundabouts in the county. There are plans to extend it further in 2013.

The Council also achieved the following since the adoption of the CDP:

- conservation of Toll House at Leixlip Spa;
- tree Planting programme in 2011, 2012 & 2013 across the county;
- landscaping of roundabouts at Kill, Johnstown / Naas, Barnhall, Collinstown and Athy;

- Spring Bulb Planting programme carried out throughout the county in 2011 and 2012 at various towns;
- tree pruning programme carried out across the county in 2011 and 2012;
- upgrade of Leixlip Car Park with Leixlip Town Council;
- grass maintenance programme carried out across the county in 2011&2012;
- landscaping in Nurney Village and development of landscaping plan for open space in the Village;
- ongoing management of Allotments in Wonderful Barn;
- earthworks and drainage plan developed for Bawnogues to assist with implementation of the masterplan for the site.

11.4 Children's Play

The Council continues to support the provision of appropriate recreational facilities throughout the county. There is now a total of 11 dedicated Council playgrounds. The provision of appropriate play spaces for children in the following locations has been achieved since the adoption of the County Development Plan.

- Kilcullen playground (2011)
- St Laurence's GAA (2011)
- Nurney playground (2012)

The Council is also proposing a new playground for the Tannery Park area of Rathangan. The existing Council playgrounds continue to be maintained by the Council. A Play Day event organised in conjunction with The Department of Children and Youth Affairs, County Kildare Childcare Committee and Kildare Local Authorities was held at Aras Chill Dara in September 2012. Financial support has been granted to the playground committee in Castlemitchel for a community

playground and plans have been developed to install outdoor exercise areas in St Catherines Park Leixlip and in Newbridge Town Park.

The Council also supported the provision of a dedicated Children's space within the Riverbank Arts Centre. The space was designed in conjunction with a number of artists and exhibitors.

11.5 Arts and Culture

The Arts Development Plan "*Making inroads: An Arts Development Plan for Kildare County Council 2006 -2011*" has been reviewed and a new Plan "*Continue to make inroads: An Arts Development Plan for Kildare County Council 2012 – 2016*" has been prepared. The Plan was prepared under the stewardship of the Community and Culture Strategic Policy Committee and sets out the role of the service to 'curate, mentor, broker, respond and inspire' artists, arts organisations and community groups.

Key initiatives achieved since the adoption of the plan include:

- Culture Night, an annual national event, encouraging museums, galleries, arts and cultural facilities countywide to open their doors, free of charge of the eve of the third Friday in September.
- Links were established with the Geography Department, NUI, Maynooth to develop Arts and Geography research, mapping and GIS projects
- Animating Architecture - a pilot project, based on buildings in Leixlip, highlighting awareness of architecture through a child friendly fun pack. The programme will be rolled out countywide.

- Enhancement of facilities in the Platform 4 Recording Studio in Leixlip Library.
- Establishment of children's gallery and performance space at Riverbank Arts Centre .Installation of top quality digital cinema facilities also in Riverbank.

The Arts Service will sustain the arts infrastructure in the county by providing financial and other supports to key professional arts organisations in the County. Examples of groups grant aided include The Leinster Printmaking Studio, CAKE Contemporary Arts artist studio, The Performance Corporation, The Moat Theatre and Athy Community Arts Centre.

11.6 Library Service

The Library Service Development Plan 2006 – 2011 is currently being reviewed. A range of initiatives carried out include:

- New Kilcock Community Library 2011.
- Library self-service facility provided in Naas, Monasterevin, Kilcock, Kildare and Maynooth Libraries.
- 3,283 cultural, arts, educational and information provision based events hosted throughout the library network in 2011.
- Libraries Secondary School Educational programme pilot run in Leixlip, Kildare and Naas targeting early school leavers.
- An extensive marketing campaign was undertaken in 2011 resulting in substantial increases in library activity, 41,581 library members in 2011.
- Accessibility Building Programme, works complete at Newbridge, Clane,

Maynooth, Leixlip, Naas, Rathangan and Celbridge Community Libraries.

- Extension of popular 'Toys, Technology and Training' series of lectures and workshops, linking with parents, teachers and occupational therapists.
- TTRS - Touch Type Read and Spell - tutoring provided for young people with Dyslexia in library setting.
- Kildare Digital Library - e Books and audio material.
- Extensive suite of e services to provide access 24/7.
- Changing Minds Changing Practices accessibility awareness training programme produced and currently the resource is being developed into an online accessibility training programme in conjunction with the Local Government Management Agency.

A library service review was also undertaken to reflect modern usages of library services to encompass a three pillar service delivery approach:

- (i) Open Door Time - Traditional Library Services
- (ii) Scheduled Time - Programme delivery allowing cultural inclusion and co-operative networking
- (iii) 24 Hour Time - e service provision.

11.7 Fire Service

The Council continues to maintain the six fire stations in the County – Newbridge, Naas, Athy, Maynooth, Monasterevin and Leixlip. It is also responsible for the operational 24 hour fire and emergency service, provides fire safety and emergency planning services. In 2011, a fire appliance was purchased, refurbished and added to the stock of Fire Service vehicles. Additional funding from the

DoECLG 2011 Capital Expenditure Programme enabled the purchase of an additional vehicle which is being used by Newbridge Fire Station. In 2011, the Fire Service also began the implementation of a suite of Standard Operational Guidance Documents issued by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management. This is designed to ensure that fire services are guided by a common vision and understanding of the contribution that the service makes to society. These improvements have assisted in the improvement of fire service provision to the county.

11.8 Burial Grounds

The Council continues to have responsibility for the provision of burial grounds including as necessary, the acquisition of lands for such purposes. A number of Part 8 procedures were completed by the Council within the two year period including the following:

- Extension to burial ground with car park at Staplestown, Donadea.
- Extension to burial ground at Donaghcumper, Celbridge.
- Extension to burial ground at Newbridge.
- Extension to burial ground at Moone

The construction of burial ground extensions have been undertaken at Staplestown, Donaghcumper and Moone.

Preparations are being made for extensions at a number of other burial grounds within the county.

12.0 ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

Architectural and archaeological heritage is an intrinsic part of our heritage and provides our society with an opportunity to learn about the past, reinforce our sense of place and act as

guardians for future generations. It is an objective of the council to protect, conserve and manage the archaeological and architectural heritage of the county and to encourage sensitive sustainable development so as to ensure its survival and maintenance for future generations. The Council has adopted policies in the development plans within the county and local area plans and gives practical effect to these policies and objectives through the development management process.

The main functions of the planning authority in regard to architectural heritage are:

- The compilation and maintenance of the Record of Protected Structures.
- Ensuring the protection of structures included in the RPS.
- Selection and management of Architectural Conservation Areas
- Ensuring the preservation of the character of Architectural Conservation Areas.
- Provision of architectural conservation guidance on a statutory basis through Part 4 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended.

12.1 Record of Protected Structures (RPS)

Historic buildings and their setting are protected through their addition to the RPS. A full review of all buildings on the RPS for Co. Kildare, Athy and Naas was conducted as part of the relevant development plan reviews. Currently there are 988 structures on the RPS for the County, 131 for Naas and 156 for Athy. In recognition of the costs associated with the reuse of these structures a 50% reduction from levies is available under the development contribution scheme.

12.2 Architectural Conservation Areas

Designed landscapes and demesnes, historic spaces and their material, urban or rural setting can be protected by establishing Architectural Conservation Areas. Boundaries for architectural conservation areas have been incorporated into the CDP for Ballitore, Kilcock, Leixlip, Maynooth, Monasterevin, Moone, Prosperous and Rathangan. ACA boundaries have been identified for Naas and Athy. Preliminary survey work has been undertaken on buildings and structures within these towns which will help inform objectives to preserve the character of these towns. The CDP also recognises the need to investigate the designation of further ACAs. In this regard, Kildare Town Historic Landscape Characterisation Plan was prepared in order to establish a greater understanding of the historic evolution of rural and urban landscapes with the town. The study identifies the principal factors that influenced the evolution of the town and its hinterland, establishes a detailed record of the elements that contribute to the character of the town and its hinterland, and makes recommendations with respect to the protection and enhancement of the historic landscape.

Following the Kildare Town Historic Landscape Characterisation Plan the draft Kildare Architectural Conservation Area was prepared in 2011. The ACA provides the following:

- Rationale for the Architectural Conservation Area
- Description of the planning and development context
- Description of the ACA area
- Review of standing archaeology and the architecture
- Design Guidelines
- Planning Policy Recommendations

It is anticipated that the detailed work completed on Kildare Town will, following all statutory requirements, be incorporated into the County Development Plan as a variation of the plan.

12.3 Grants

The Conservation Grants Scheme has been paused due to Government budgetary cut backs. As an interim measure the Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht has centrally administered a Structures At Risk Scheme (SARS). Kildare Local Authorities was successful in obtaining funding for the repair of the roof to the 1750s Charter School in Monasterevin and consolidation and repair work to Clane Friary.

12.4 Archaeological Heritage

While additions to the Record of Monuments and Places are within the remit of the National Monuments Service, the policy to protect the archaeological heritage of the county is implemented through the development management process and local area plans. Planning permissions granted within a 'Zone of Archaeological Potential' of a National Monument are conditioned to carry out pre-development testing at the site and applicants are required to engage the

services of a suitably qualified archaeologist licensed under the National Monuments Acts.

Technical advice is provided by the local authority to the Historic Monuments Advisory Committee on the ongoing maintenance and repair of medieval monuments and graveyards. It prioritised the repair works for Clane Friary and Grey Abbey for 2012.

Through the 'Irish Walled Towns Network' (IWTN) Athy Town Council received funding to support a medieval walled Towns Festival for the town. Castledermot received funding to carry out a Conservation, Management and Interpretation Plan (CMI Plan) for the towns walls of Castledermot. The CMI Plan provides guidance on the location, protection and conservation of the remaining walls. The Plan also provides guidance on and material to explain the historical significance of these walls which will allow Castledermot to attract more visitors to the town.

13.0 NATURAL HERITAGE / BIODIVERSITY -

The Council seeks to protect, conserve and manage natural heritage including sites designated at national and EU level, protected species and habitats outside of designated sites and to secure conservation objectives in the interests of the proper planning and sustainable development of the county.

13.1 Designated Sites- Natura 2000 sites

Due regard is taken of any updated boundaries of Natura 2000 sites and the Council's GIS is updated to reflect any changes to boundaries. Appropriate Assessment screening for the impacts of proposed developments of plans/ projects on Natura 2000 sites are carried out and where required Natura Impact Reports and Statements are sought or prepared. Appropriate Assessment training has been provided to a number of departments within the Council. Two SAC

sites are maintained by the County Council, Leixlip Spa (part of the Ryewater SAC) and Ballynafagh Lake. The walks around Ballynafagh Lake are maintained by a local group 'Tir Na Mona'. The maintenance of these walks contributes to the protection of the more sensitive areas of the site.

13.2 Protection of Non-designated sites, Habitat Mapping and Green Infrastructure

Habitat mapping prepared under the County Heritage Plan has been used to identify key biodiversity areas within the towns surveyed. This mapping has informed green infrastructure mapping for Newbridge, Kilcullen, Kildare, Celbridge and Maynooth.

13.3 County Wetland Survey

Kildare County Council recognises the important contribution wetlands make to the heritage resource of the county. Their value in terms of biodiversity, as landscape features and ecological functions, in particular having regard to flood alleviation and prevention is recognised. A desktop baseline study of Wetlands in the county has been prepared. Further detailed surveys of these sites is ongoing. In light of recent changes to planning regulations regarding wetlands it is important that their location, extent and condition are known, thereby informing future policy considerations regarding these sites.

13.4 Protection of Trees

There are four Tree Preservation Orders in the county. A number of tree surveys have been undertaken for Athy, Naas, Kildare, Newbridge, Maynooth, Leixlip and Celbridge.

13.5 County Heritage Plan

The actions of the first *County Kildare Heritage Plan (2005-2009)* continue to be implemented with support from the Heritage Council and Kildare Leader Partnership. The

actions completed since the adoption of the County Development Plan include:

- Preparation of an Architectural Conservation Area Statement for Kildare Town.
- Kildare Wetland Survey.
- Habitat Mapping Maynooth and Celbridge.
- Development of green Infrastructure maps for Kildare, Newbridge, Kilcullen, Maynooth and Celbridge.
- "Save our Stories"- oral recording training.

Drafting of the new County Kildare Heritage Plan has commenced.

13.6 Biodiversity

Actions for biodiversity – Irelands National Biodiversity Plan 2011-2016 was adopted in 2011 with the vision that biodiversity and ecosystems are conserved and restored, delivering benefits essential for all sectors of society and that Ireland contributes to efforts to halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems in the EU and globally.

The *County Biodiversity Plan* provides a framework for conserving biodiversity and natural heritage at a local level. It complements the *County Heritage Plan* by including detailed actions to deliver positive outcomes focused on species and habitats. A key focus of the plan is gathering information on and managing the biodiversity resource, education, awareness raising and the promotion of effective cooperation between stakeholders. In recent years there has been no dedicated funding stream to carry out the actions in the County Biodiversity Plan. These actions are carried out through the Heritage Plan. Actions such as Habitat mapping, development of green infrastructure maps

and the wetland survey all address actions in the County Biodiversity Plan. Biodiversity considerations are also incorporated into all LAPs by green infrastructure mapping, identification of trees worthy of protection and set backs from rivers to maintain riparian habitats.

14.0 LANDSCAPE, RECREATION AND AMENITIES

The Council aims to provide for the protection, management and enhancement of the landscape of the county and to ensure that development does not disproportionately impact on the landscape character areas, scenic routes, or protected views. This is achieved by implementing appropriate policies and objectives through the development management process.

The Council also seeks to support where appropriate the development of recreation areas and the amenities of the county in an equitable, environmental and sustainable way.

Since the adoption of the CDP the following initiatives have been achieved:

- The development of amenity lands in Lough na Mona has commenced.
- New play grounds were completed in Nurney and Kilcullen. Plans are being developed for Rathangan.
- Kildare County Council has carried out ongoing maintenance of Leixlip Spa and associated structures.
- Ballynafagh Lake is maintained for walking by the local Tir Na Mona group with support from the Council
- *The Kildare Open Space Strategy* continues to be implemented and

includes recommendations for the current and future open space requirements for villages and towns in the county. These recommendations have and will inform the preparation of Local Area Plans.

- The Council has facilitated the introduction of a pilot allotment scheme at the Wonderful Barn in Leixlip.
- The expansion of the Liffey Park in Newbridge along the banks of the Liffey in Newbridge has been developed and will inform the Newbridge Local Area Plan.
- Kildare Sports partnership has prepared a Strategic Plan for Kildare which aims to coordinate and promote the participation in sport and physical activity in the County over the next five years. The Strategic Plan was developed by the Kildare Sports Partnership in consultation with the many sporting bodies and other parties interested in promoting physical activity in the county.

15.0 DESIGN GUIDELINES

Promoting good quality design has become an important element of development plans and local area plans. In this regard clearly defined policies give greater clarity and certainty to developers and their design teams and provide an agenda for pre-application discussions and the subsequent development management process. In this regard the following sections outline progress regarding urban and rural design guidelines within the county.

15.1 Urban Design Guidelines

The urban design guidelines introduced as part of the CDP support a key element of the core strategy which aims to consolidate urban centres and support the achievement of sustainable towns and villages. The Design Guidelines chapter was informed by government guidelines including, Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (Cities, Towns and Villages), DoEHLG, (2009), the accompanying Urban Design Manual; a Best Practice Guide, DoEHLG, (2009) and Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2012, DoEHLG (2009).

It is increasingly recognised that in order to facilitate and promote more sustainable living patterns, single-use zones predominately structured by distributor roads may no longer be considered the ideal model for urban development. A return to the more traditional fabric of mixed uses with consolidated development formed by an urban structure assembled around streets is recommended. This can be achieved through consolidation, by promoting infill opportunities and brown field development.

The guidelines contained in the CDP also outline key principles for urban expansion where deemed appropriate and overall design considerations which should be taken into account. The key principles and design considerations contained within the guidelines are now being implemented through the Local Area Plan process. The Kildare Town Local Area Plan (LAP) adopted in December 2012 and the Draft Maynooth LAP contain urban design considerations and principles as outlined in the Kildare County Development Plan 2011-2017 (CDP), with specific proposals for key opportunity sites within each of the towns.

Kildare Local Area Plan 2012-2018

The Kildare LAP contains specific policies and objectives for the future improvement of the built environment in order to encourage the regeneration and conservation of the Kildare town centre. The Kildare LAP also contains design briefs for two key brown field sites within the town in order to ensure the delivery of sustainable communities based on the guidance and principles contained in Chapter 15 Urban Design Guidance of the CDP. These areas comprise:

- The South West expansion Area which is strategically located between Kildare's historic centre, Kildare Retail Outlet and Tesco. The overall vision is to create a new and vibrant urban expansion area through a well designed public realm and with a mix of uses which are respectful of the existing historic fabric.
- The Magee Barracks site which is located adjacent to Kildare's historic core. The site, a former military barracks, closed in 1998. The vision of the design brief is to create a new vibrant community quarter in the heart of Kildare Town providing a mix of employment, education, residential and community uses, high quality public realm and open spaces, creating a built environment that reflects both the military history of the site and the existing urban fabric of the town.

Draft Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-2019

The Draft Maynooth LAP includes an Urban Design Strategy and Framework which provides specific policies and objectives for the future improvement of the town centre area based on the principles contained within Chapter 15 Urban Design Guidance of the CDP. Key streets, lanes and public spaces

have been identified in order to strengthen and consolidate the town centre area and improve the image of the town by providing a high quality public realm.

The draft Maynooth LAP also contains a design brief for a strategic site known as The Harbour Area located between the Main Street and the Royal Canal and railway station. The overriding vision is to develop this key area in an integrated manner in order to provide a sustainable urban expansion area, increasing permeability and strengthening the linkage between the town core and the train station.

Further design briefs and urban design policies and objectives to achieve more sustainable towns will be incorporated into further reviews of LAPs as deemed appropriate over the period of the CDP.

15.2 Rural Design Guidelines

There continues to be increased pressure for one off residential development within the rural areas of the county. The CDP seeks to promote architecture and design which complements and reinforces the existing character of the rural landscape by indicating guiding principles resulting in good quality design and sustainable development. The Rural Design Guidelines promote an understanding of key design principles and the characteristics of Kildare's heritage and landscape. The rural design guidelines encourage imaginative and innovative design as well as more traditional type solutions, which complement their rural surroundings.

During the lifetime of the CDP, it is an objective of the Council to prepare further guidance regarding how the principles of this chapter could be further implemented.

16.0 VILLAGES, SETTLEMENTS, ENVIRONS

16.1 Village and Settlement Plans

The Council seeks to provide a coherent planning framework for the development of the county's designated villages and rural settlements. As part of the settlement strategy, there are 14 Villages and 23 Rural Settlements. The Council supports the development of villages and rural settlements as local centres to cater for local demands at an appropriate scale.

Table 19 Villages and Rural Settlements

Villages	Johnstown, Straffan, Ballymore Eustace, Allenwood, Johnstownbridge, Coill Dubh/Cooleragh, Kilmeague, Caragh, Kildangan, Suncroft, Ballitore, Timolin, Moone, Crookstown.
Rural Settlements	Broadford, Milltown, Kilteel, Staplestown, Ardclough, Robertstown, Allen, Brannockstown, Rathmore/Eadestown, Twomilehouse, Brownstown, Cutbush, Maddenstown, Nurney Calverstown, Rathcoffey, Narraghmore, Maganey/Levitstown, Moyvalley, Kimeade, Kilberry.

16.1.1 Residential Development

The villages and Rural Settlements in Kildare have experienced residential growth for the most part over the last 10 to 15 years. Much of this growth consists of the development of suburban type housing schemes which were attractive for commuters to the larger towns and the Greater Dublin Area.

16.1.2 Villages

Many of the villages have experienced significant amounts of residential development over the last 10 years where the availability of services have facilitated it. There are also a number of villages that have developments currently under construction. All of the villages have sufficient residential land available as per Table 20 below. Planning permission have been granted and remain valid for 568 residential units in the villages.

16.1.3 Settlements

Some settlements with services have experienced considerable growth whereas others have stagnated. The pace of growth in some settlements was excessive during the economic boom. It is considered that any future development will be more sustainable and consistent with the scale and nature of existing development and the ability of services to cope.

16.1.4 Transportation - Villages

While maintenance and minor resurfacing and repair works are consistently being carried out throughout the county, some specific improvements have been carried out in the villages and rural settlements since the adoption of the Plan. In particular the following areas have experienced transportation improvements and necessary works:

- Allenwood: Traffic calming measures were completed at the crossroads since 2008.
- Ballymore Eustace: A new pedestrian crossing was installed on the R411 to improve pedestrian access to the school. In addition to these works, footpaths have been upgraded at the school. Some

resurfacing works have been carried out to the junction of the R413 (Brannockstown Road) /R411 (Hollywood Road) at Ballymore Bridge.

- Caragh: While the realignment of the junction of the R409 and the L2030 has not been carried out to date, some resurfacing works were carried out at this location in 2011, along with the installations of new speed ramps in the village. Improvements to the quality and width of footpaths with improved access for people with disabilities, is an ongoing project within the village as funding becomes available.
- Coill Dubh/Cooleragh: A continuous footpath has been provided between Coill Dubh and Cooleragh. Some improvements to the quality and width where appropriate, of footpaths within both villages have also been carried out as funding becomes available.
- Johnstown: The junction of L2004 and L6034 has been upgraded comprising removal of the roundabout and its replacement with a stop junction which has vastly improved facilities for all users of this junction. The road at L6033 and L6034 has recently been resurfaced. Footpaths within the village have been improved along the south side of Main Street. Improvements to the north side of Main Street along with a review of on street parking arrangements are to be considered during 2013
- Johnstownbridge: Pedestrian improvements to the quality of

footpaths in the village have been completed. Car parking arrangements have been altered in the village centre with a change to parallel parking being implemented.

- Kildangan: A low cost safety improvement scheme and resurfacing works have been carried out at the junction of the R417 and the L3010 roadways. The junction has been resurfaced and remarked. Warning signs have been installed on all approaches.

In terms of improving the quality, aesthetics, width and accessibility where appropriate of all footpaths in the village, an application for funding to carry out such works was made to the NTA in 2012. However this application was unsuccessful, therefore alternative sources of funding will need to be identified.

- Kilmeague: Minor alterations to the junction of the R415 and the L7081/L7085 roadways have been implemented since the adoption of the CDP .
- Moone and Timolin: Footpath and lighting have been constructed by KCC between the villages of Moone and Timolin.
- Straffan: Following a successful funding application to the NTA, an extension to the footpath and a new pedestrian crossing near the school were constructed in 2012.
- Suncroft: The junction of L3007 and L70721 at Eascanrath Lane was resurfaced and realigned in 2011.

16.1.5 Transportation - Rural Settlements/Rural Nodes

In the smaller rural settlements across the county, constant improvements and works are being carried out on the rural transportation network.

In the Clane area of the county, since the adoption of the CDP, approximately 30 road schemes have been completed in villages and rural settlements. The following footpath schemes, which were funded by the NTA, were completed in 2012:

- Clogherinka: From the local authority housing development to the Church.
- Rathcoffey: From the National School to the Church.
- Timahoe: Footpath completed along the front of the school.

No NTA funding was provided in 2011 so very few footpaths/road schemes were completed in this area during 2011.

In the Kildare Area, significant improvements were carried out in Nurney village. The works which were completed in October 2011 comprised the construction of a pedestrian footbridge over the Tully River running through the village centre and a complete overhaul was carried out of the alignment, traffic calming and parking arrangements of the village. Footpaths were provided linking the majority of the housing areas in the southern end of the village to the centre. Essential maintenance of the road network in the Kildare area is ongoing.

The rural areas of Naas have not experienced any significant works or improvements since the adoption of the CDP. The main

improvements carried out in 2011/2012 comprised the resurfacing of Brannockstown village from the school to Milemill Crossroads. In Killeel parts of the quarry road were recently resurfaced.

16.1.6 Public Utilities

A number of smaller upgrades have been carried out in the villages and rural settlements to increase local capacity.

- Ballitore: The construction of the waste water treatment plant in Ballitore has only been partially completed. The developer responsible for its construction is in receivership. A receiver has been appointed and has submitted a Site Resolution Plan which has been agreed by the Planning Authority. It is intended to be completed by the end of the year
- Ballymore Eustace: The Ballymore Eustace sewerage scheme consists of two separate contracts. Both contracts were signed before Christmas 2012 and should be complete by the end of 2013. The construction has commenced on Contract B (Pumping station & pipelines and the design of contract A is ongoing (WWTP is a design build contract) with construction expected to commence shortly.
- Caragh: The pre-qualification for tenders for the Upper Liffey Valley Sewerage Scheme - Osberstown upgrade was advertised on the 21/12/12 with closing date for submissions 08/02/13. The pre-qualification submissions are being assessed with potential tender date being the end of May 2013 (i.e. invite pre-qualified contractors to submit tenders).

The network contract for the Upper Liffey Valley Regional Sewerage Scheme is under design. A Part 8 planning for 4 of the pumping stations will be required (Q3 of 2013).

- Ballymore Eustace: A recycling bank facility has been provided at the hand ball club with the assistance of the tidy towns committee.
- Straffan: A site has been identified for a recycling facility in Straffan. However funding is required to provide hard landscaping.
- Johnstown: The Johnstown Flood Alleviation Scheme is substantially complete and operational as planned.
- Kilmeague: There is difficulty in securing funding for the upgrade of the existing Kilmeague Waste Water Treatment System and the provision of a new outfall to a water course of sufficient assimilative capacity.(PU1)
- Suncroft: Drain cleaning in Suncroft is ongoing. Extensive work has been carried out since 2010. (FL1)

16.1.7 Community and Education

The provision of community services and facilities is essential to the health and well being of communities. A number of specific improvements have been carried out in the villages and rural settlements set out in the CDP. In particular, the graveyard in Moone has been extended to the south-east of the RC Church grounds.

Since the adoption of the CDP, an application for a new school at Crookstown has been granted by Kildare County Council, along with numerous extensions to various schools within villages and rural settlements. The majority of these permissions listed below have either been commenced or completed.

- Extension to Brannockstown National School.
- Extension to Rathcoffey National School.
- Extension to Twomilehouse National School.
- Prefabricated classroom at Kilberry National School.
- New 20 classroom school to St. Laurence's National School, Crookstown.
- Extension to Straffan National School.
- Extension to St. Mochuo's National School, Rathcoffey.
- Extension to Kildangan National School.

16.1.8 Amenity and Recreation objectives

Very little work developing amenity and recreational areas has been carried out in villages and rural settlements since the adoption of the County Development Plan.

In Ballitore work is ongoing maintaining the playground in Millview, Ballitore.

There are proposals to develop the Tannyard in Ballitore for art and craft based workshops or studios with associated uses.

16.1.9 Rural Settlements

Extensive hard and soft landscaping was completed in Nurney in October 2011 as well as the provision of new playground in the village centre. Financial support has also been provided to the playground committee in Castlemitchell for a community playground.

16.2 Environs

Since the adoption of the CDP, two notable extension of duration applications have been granted for large mixed use schemes in Naas Environs South and Kilcock Environs. The

former at Piper's Hill, Kilashee, comprises planning permission for the construction of an integrated tourism, recreational, educational, commercial and residential development with a total floor area of 72,120.73sq.m. The latter at Courtown Demense in the Kilcock Environs consists of permission for an integrated leisure/tourism and business/high technology park development (with 126 bedroom hotel with conference, spa and gym facilities).

Elsewhere, in Naas Environs North an extension of duration application was granted for 4 no. retail warehouse units, a neighbourhood convenience store and a comparison goods retail unit, all on a 4.4 hectare site on the Monread Road. An extension of duration application was also granted in this environs plan area at Naas Industrial Estate, Maudlins, providing for 14 no. light industrial units with ancillary office accommodation was also granted an extension of duration. In March 2013 decisions are also due regarding two separate but concurrent applications for planning permission on the Monread Road, comprising (1) a drive-thru restaurant with ancillary sale of hot food and (2) a single storey petrol service station with retail shop and delicatessen with seating.

Permission was also granted for the construction of an industrial and office development with a gross floor area of 34,832sq.m, on a 12.45 hectare site adjoining the Naas Environs West plan area at Osberstown. An extension of duration application was also granted at Naas Environs West for a 21.5 hectare site to include the construction of a 2,045sq.m manufacturing unit and 11 sites for future industrial development.

In Kill Environs Kildare County Council decided to refuse planning permission for a roadside service facility with N7 access, retail, cafes,

play areas, and parking for cars, HGV's and coaches. An appeal made to An Bord Pleanala regarding the refusal of permission has recently been withdrawn.

Table 20 Quantum of Undeveloped Land zoned for New Residential and No. of Units Granted and not Built in Village Plans

Village Plan	Quantum of undeveloped Lands zoned C: New Residential (Ha)	No. units Granted and Not Built
Allenwood	17.2	84
Ballitore	7.2	195
Ballymore Eustace	6.9	18
Caragh	0.5	4
Coill Dubh	5.8	36
Crookstown	2.3	0
Johnstown	4.1	0
Johnstownbridge	2.5	0
Kildangan	5.6	29
Kilmeague	8.6	0
Moone	5.5	0
Straffan	9.4	131
Suncroft	8.7	59
Timolin	6.5	12
Total	90.8ha⁷	568

⁷ 16.1ha are zoned Phase 2 New Residential

17.0 DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT STANDARDS

All development in Kildare for which planning permission is required is subject to a series of Development Management Standards which are set out in the CDP. These standards, known as General Development Standards relate to standards such as site coverage, plot ratio, overlooking, overshadowing, car parking, landscaping, minimum floor areas, open space etc and relate to most types of development from houses/apartments, to commercial developments, childcare facilities, agricultural buildings, telecommunications infrastructure, energy production etc. The Council, in its assessment of planning applications, applies the suite of development management standards insofar as they relate to the development being proposed and seeks to ensure that prospective applicants are mindful of the standards. The Council, in its pre-planning meetings service, is careful to advise prospective applicants of the requirements to comply with the relevant standards. In 2011, there were a total of 209 pre-planning consultations; the figure for 2012 is 188.

17.1 Guidelines/Policy Documents

The Council, while setting out standards for development, is also committed to preparing Guidelines/Design Guides and is currently in the process of preparing Guidelines on Shopfronts. The Guidelines, once formally adopted, are intended to encourage and guide shop owners and designers to maintain the character and appearance of traditional shopfronts and to improve the quality of new shopfront designs so that they respect and enhance their surroundings.

The Council is also in the process of formulating a Policy Document in relation to signage. The purpose of the Policy Document

is to set out Kildare County Council's policy to effectively manage signage. The types of signage considered in the policy statement will relate to:

- Signage proposed for public roads,
- Signage that requires planning permission or a Section 254 licence
- Signage that is exempted development,
- Road signage, (excluding emergency signage).

The Shopfront Guidelines and the Signage Policy Document are being progressed to Council via the Planning and Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC).

Other work progressed through the SPC since the adoption of the Plan includes:

- Report on Taking in Charge / Unfinished Housing Estates forwarded to full council.
- National Monuments Advisory Committee work programme forwarded to full council.
- Economic Development Promotion for SME'S and new businesses through Innovation Seminars.
- Proposal for regeneration of town centers by rates remission under review with Finance Section.

17.2 Enforcement

The Council also upholds Planning legislation in dealing with planning applications, breaches of planning permission and unauthorised development.

Since May 2011, the Council, through its Enforcement Section has dealt with a large number of cases where there have been breaches of the planning code. The statistics below relate to the number of Enforcement Cases dealt with since 1st May 2011.

Table 20 Enforcement Cases Since 1st May 2011

Description	Number of Cases
Enforcement Notices Served	190*
Warning Letters Served	444*
New Cases	346
Cases Closed	625

* 28% of Enforcement Notices and 23% of Warning Letters served related to development levies.

17.3 Material Contravention

As indicated in the CDP, the Council has a statutory obligation to take the necessary steps to secure the objectives of the Development Plan. However, in appropriate circumstances, the Council may permit a Material Contravention of the Development Plan. The Material Contravention process is a Reserved Function of the Elected Members and is voted upon after a period of public consultation. Since 1st May 2011, the Members voted on three proposed developments:

- Glebe Montessori School, Celbridge – single storey Montessori School (Granted in 2011).
- ESB Telecoms, Main Street, Leixlip – retain 30m high monopole (Refused in 2011 but granted in 2012 following Appeal to An Bord Pleanala).
- Alan Shaw, Boycetown, Kilcock – extension to Parke Nursing Home (Granted in 2012).

17.4 Exempted Development Certification

The Council, when formally requested to do so, assesses applications for proposed works to determine whether there is a requirement to obtain planning permission. Certificates of Exemption are issued by the Council when it is satisfied that the works proposed would not require planning permission.

Since 1st May 2011, a total of 77 Exempted Development Certificates have been issued by the Council.

17.5 Building Control

Since 1st May 2011, 466 valid Commencement Notices and 233 applications for Fire Safety Certificates were received under Building Control legislation. In addition, 55 applications for regularisation certificates were received,

157 applications for Disability Access Certificates were received and 45 applications for seven day notices were received. A new Technical Guidance Document - Part M Access and Use 2010 has been introduced. Applications for Disability Access Certificates can be assessed for compliance with the 2000 or 2010 Part M TGD and this will remain the case through 2013.

17.6 Development Control

The Council continues to make significant progress in the taking in charge of residential estates. Twenty five estates were taken in charge since 1st May 2011 comprising 1416 houses. A further fourteen estates will be advertised for taking in charge in the forthcoming weeks.

The management of unfinished estates and estates where developers have found themselves in financial difficulties, in receivership or in liquidation is now the priority for the Development Control Department. It is anticipated that a number of estates will be advertised for taking in charge shortly and the majority of these estates will be recommended to full council for taking in charge later this year.

APPENDIX 1 – Housing Strategy Update

The 2011 Census indicated that the population of Kildare increase by 12.7% (an increase of 23,620 persons) since the census of 2006 giving a population of 209,955 persons. Kildare County Council are working in close co-operation with stakeholders to increase the supply of permanent new social housing including the Social Housing Leasing Initiative in conjunction with Approved Housing Bodies, the Rental Accommodation Scheme with private landlords; options to purchase in lease agreements and build to lease; assisting approved housing bodies in the sourcing of loan financing for construction / acquisition; in consultation with the Housing Agency and the National Assets Residential Property Services realising Social Dividend. The Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) is likely to be piloted this year with a national introduction in 2014, will effectively replace rent supplement administered by local housing authorities where housing applicants will enter into standard leases with landlords and the council will pay the lease rent. The tenant will pay a differential rent to the housing authority appropriate to their means.

Areas	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number of applicants on Housing List	2,392	4,016	5,052	6,542	7,865
Applicants in receipt of rent supplement	1,850	2,016	2,292	2,352	2,730
Social Housing Allocations	204	234	233	146	111
Social Leasing Initiative	0	0	57	31	24
CAS / CLSS	55	45	15	53	10
RAS Allocations	75	109	112	147	67

Source: Kildare County Council Housing List

Approximately 25% of applicants on the Council's housing list are in excess of 18 months in receipt of a social housing support in the form of rent supplement living in a home of their choice in an area of their choice while a significant portion of the rest of the list are in receipt of rent supplement for a shorter period of time.

1,040 social or leased houses have been allocated since January 2008 with 178 additional units delivered through the voluntary housing sector. In addition 510 RAS properties have been procure and over the same period.

Circular Housing 11 /2012 Review of Part V of the Planning and Development Act indicated that, in accordance with the Government's housing policy statement, a review was underway in the context of the radically different housing market that currently prevails compared to when Part V was first introduced. The review will consider how planning gain can still be captured while taking account of prevailing market conditions. The Council continues to work with house builders and developers to ensure

that compliance with Part V obligations is in accordance with the Housing Strategy and meets the needs of the Local Authority.