

KILDARE COUNTY Development Plan 2017-23



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Chief Executive's Report on Pre Draft Consultation



Kildare County Council

17th July 2015



Kildare County Council

**Planning, Community & Culture
Department**

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1.0 Introduction

KILDARE COUNTY Development Plan 2017-23

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1.0 Introduction

Kildare County Council gave notice of its intention to review the existing Kildare County Development Plan 2011-2017 and to prepare a new County Development Plan for the period 2017-2023 on Thursday 2nd April 2015 (see Appendix A – Newspaper Notice).

The review will take up to two (2) years and will conclude with the adoption of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023. The key stages in the review process are summarised in Figure 1 below. Notice of the review was issued on 2nd April 2015. Pre-Draft Development Plan consultation was undertaken over an eight (8) week period from 2nd April to 29th May 2015 and the Chief Executives Report on Pre-Plan Consultation is hereby submitted to the members of the Planning Authority for consideration.

The elected members have up to ten (10) weeks to consider the Chief Executive’s Report. Members will be briefed in relation to the review in September 2015 and a Special Meeting of Kildare County Council will also take place in September 2015.

Table 1 – Summary of the Review Process

PRE-DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PLAN CONSULTATION	TIMELINE
NOTICE OF REVIEW	APRIL ‘15
STAKEHOLDER & PUBLIC CONSULTATION	APRIL/MAY ‘15
CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT ON CONSULTATION SUBMITTED TO MEMBERS	JULY ‘15
MEMBERS CONSIDER REPORT & GIVE DIRECTIONS REGARDING PREPARATION OF THE DRAFT PLAN	AUG – SEPT ‘15
CHIEF EXECUTIVE PREPARES PROPOSED DRAFT PLAN AND SUBMITS TO MEMBERS FOR CONSIDERATION	SEPT – DEC ‘15
MEMBERS CONSIDER PROPOSED DRAFT PLAN AND CAN ACCEPT OR AMEND DRAFT	DEC ‘15– JAN ‘16
PREPARATION OF THE DRAFT COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN	
NOTICE OF DRAFT PLAN	FEB ‘16
CONSULTATION ON DRAFT PLAN	MARCH – APRIL ‘16
A CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT ON SUBMISSIONS/OBSERVATIONS SUBMITTED TO MEMBERS	JULY ‘16
MEMBERS CONSIDER REPORT & DRAFT PLAN AND CAN AMEND	AUG – OCT ‘16
MATERIAL AMENDMENTS (IF ANY) TO THE DRAFT COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN	
NOTICE OF PROPOSED MATERIAL AMENDMENTS	NOV ‘16
CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED MATERIAL AMENDMENTS	NOV – DEC ‘16
CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT ON SUBMISSIONS/OBSERVATIONS SUBMITTED TO MEMBERS	DEC ‘16
MEMBERS CONSIDER REPORT & PROPOSED AMENDMENTS AND CAN ACCEPT OR MODIFY	JAN – FEB ‘17
ADOPTION OF THE County Development Plan	FEB ‘17 (EFFECTIVE IN MARCH 2017)

1.1 Purpose of Report

Pursuant to Section 11 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 – 2014, Kildare County Council invited written submissions or observations with regard to the review of the existing Kildare County Development Plan 2011-2023 and the preparation of the new Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (including Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment processes) between Thursday 2nd April and 4 p.m. on Friday 29th May 2015. Kildare County Council also consulted with stakeholders at public information sessions during the consultation period.

The Chief Executive's Report on pre-Draft Development Plan consultation reports on submissions or observations received during the consultation period and on matters arising out of consultation. The report:

- Lists the persons or bodies who made submissions or observations, as well as any person or bodies consulted;
- Summarises the issues raised in the submissions and during consultations but does not refer to a submission relating to a request or proposal for the zoning of land for any purpose;
- Gives the opinion of the Chief Executive to the issues raised, taking account of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, and any relevant policies or objectives of the Government or of any Minister of the Government; and
- States the Chief Executive's recommendations on policies to be included in the Draft Development Plan.

2.0 Overview of Consultation

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2.0 Overview of Consultation

Kildare County Council engaged in consultation with stakeholders and the public over an (8) eight week period between Thursday 2nd April 2015 and Friday 29th May 2015. The key elements of the consultation are summarised below:

- On Thursday 2nd April 2015 the pre-Draft County Development Plan consultation period commenced with the publication of the newspaper notice in the Irish Times which formally invited submissions. The notice outlined details of the website link, general information about the process and details of scheduled public information sessions. The notice also invited submissions or observations with regard to the review between Thursday 2nd April 2015 and Friday 29th May 2015.
 - Council also published an Issues Paper on Thursday 2nd April 2015. The Issue Paper set out the strategic issues affecting the County and was also used to stimulate full debate and facilitate public involvement at this early stage of the process. A copy of the Issues Paper was put on display in each public library in the County and sent to all secondary schools and a range of public and community institutions and organisations which included amongst others Citizen's Advice Bureaus, Money Advice and Budgeting Services (MABS) Offices and Credit Unions.
 - A poster was also published to advertise and inform the public of the consultation process and to encourage submissions. A copy of the poster accompanied the Issues Paper to external stakeholders.
 - Letters were sent to and contact made with the prescribed bodies, service providers and others requesting information on their plans and policies.
 - A dedicated web page was provided on the Kildare County Council website to host and make information publicly available. The purpose of the webpage is to act as a "hub" for interaction throughout the two-year plan making process. See attached link below (www.kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Planning/DevelopmentPlans/KildareCountyDevelopmentPlan2017-2023)
 - The Kildare County Council Facebook and Twitter accounts were also used to notify the public of the commencement of County Development Plan review, the publication of the Issues Paper and the Public Information Sessions.
 - Kildare County Council commissioned a radio advertisement on KFM which publicised the review of County Development Plan and invited members of the public to the public information sessions. KFM had a feature on the review of the County Development Plan on its mid morning show which featured a staff member from Kildare County Council being interviewed on air.
 - An online submission form was provided to facilitate submissions being made during the statutory consultation period at www.kildare.ie/planning. An online booking facility was also provided for members of the public to register their interest in attending the Public Information Sessions.
 - Five public information sessions were held, one in each municipal district, over a two-week period in May 2015. The dates and venues are listed below:
 - a. Aras Chill Dara, Naas Tuesday 5th May 2015 7pm-9pm
 - b. Glen Royal Hotel, Maynooth Wednesday 6th May 2015 7pm-9pm
 - c. Áras Bhríde, Kildare Town Monday 11th May 2015 7pm-9pm
 - d. Athy Heritage Centre, Athy Tuesday 12th May 2015 7pm-9pm
 - e. Newtown House, Leixlip Wednesday 13th May 2015 7pm-9pm
- A total of one hundred and six (106) people attended the five (5) sessions.

3.0 Submissions & Observations Received

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3.0 Submissions and Observations Received

One hundred and eighteen (118) submissions/observations were received during the public consultation period 2nd April to 29th May 2015. A list of all the persons/bodies that made submissions/observations is provided below together with a submission number.

Table 2: List of persons/bodies that made submissions

Submission Number	Person	Company (if applicable)	On behalf of (if applicable)
1	Deirdre Lardner	ESB Telecom Ltd	
2	Sean Flannery		
3	John Colgan		
4	Grid Link Action Group		
5	Yvonne Nolan	Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht	
6	Integrated Services Programme Kildare Town		
7	John Osborne	Kildare Failte	
8	Kevin O'Donovan	Element Power Ireland	
9	Roger Garland	Keep Ireland Open	
10	Councillor Fintan Brett		
11	Christy O'Sullivan	ILTP Consulting	Waterstown Land Co Owners
12	Thomas Maguire	Maguire and Associates	Thomas Maguire
13	Vincent JP Farry	Vincent JP Farry & Co Ltd	David Hanley and Edwina Hanley
14	Vincent JP Farry	Vincent JP Farry & Co Ltd	Fintan Flood
15	Jimmy Kelly		
16	David Mulcahy	David Mulcahy Planning Consultants Ltd	Pat Geraghty
17	David Mulcahy	David Mulcahy Planning Consultants Ltd	Sharon Loughnane, Daire Loughnane and Gerard Mullins
18	David Mulcahy	David Mulcahy Planning Consultants Ltd	Applegreen Service Areas Limited
19	David Mulcahy	David Mulcahy Planning Consultants Ltd	Robert Walsh
20	David Mulcahy	David Mulcahy Planning Consultants Ltd	Gerry Dooley
21	Martin Murphy	Murphy Design & Build Solutions	Bridie Dunney
22	Martin Murphy	Murphy Design & Build Solutions	Shay Sargent
23	Martin Murphy	Murphy Design & Build Solutions	Brendan Farrell
24	Martin Murphy	Murphy Design & Build Solutions	James Kelly
25	Martin Murphy	Murphy Design & Build Solutions	Leo Shannon
26	Martin Murphy	Martin Murphy Design & Build Solutions	Ciaran Smith
27	Martin Murphy	Martin Murphy Design & Build Solutions	Dan Boland
28	Martin Murphy	Martin Murphy Design & Build Solutions	Pauline Byrne
29	Martin Murphy	Martin Murphy Design & Build Solutions	Gavin O' Connor
30	John Spain Associates	John Spain Associates	Goffs, Kildare

Submission Number	Person	Company (if applicable)	On behalf of (if applicable)
31	Michael MacAree	National Transportation Authority	
32	Patrick Sheridan		
33	John Spain Associates	John Spain Associates	Alleycastle Ltd.
34	Allan Shine	North Kildare Chamber	
35	John Spain & Associates	John Spain & Associates	Sequana Assets Ltd
36	Bridget Boyle	Irish Wheelchair Associations (IWA)	
37	Colm McLoughlin	McCutcheon Halley Walsh Planning Consultants	Bridgedale M&D
38	Padraig Gill, Mick Barber, Tracey Kenny		Round Towers GFC, Kildare Town AC, St. Bridgids Boxing Club
39	Gerry Ryan	Bord na Mona	
40	Michael McCormack	National Roads Authority	
41	Thomas Maguire	Maguire and Associates	Two Mile House Parish
42	Celbridge Heritage Tourism Forum		
43	Mary Brady	Geological Survey Ireland	
44	Tina Kingston		
45	Tom O'keeffe		Ballymore Eustace Community Development Association
46	A Whitty		
47	Ballymore Eustace GAA		
48	Kieran Rush	Kieran Rush Consultant Ltd	Ballymore Group & Tetrarch Capital
49	Kieran Rush	Kieran Rush Consultant Ltd	Ballymore Group
50	Board of Management, Kildare Town Educate Together Primary School.		
51	C Angel		
52	Conor Mallaghan		Carton House Maynooth
53	Jeanne Meldon		The Castletown Foundation
54	June Stuart		Celbridge Action Alliance
55	David Trost		Celbridge Community Council
56	Celbridge Town AFC		
57	Des Drumm		Clane Community Council
58	Councillor Teresa Murray		
59	Councillor Fiona O'Loughlin		
60	Cultivate Celbridge & Maynooth		
61	Yvonne Dalton	Dublin Airport Authority	
62	D. O'Brien		

Submission Number	Person	Company (if applicable)	On behalf of (if applicable)
63	Laura Brock	Brock McClure Planning Consultants	Dennis & Belinda Brereton
64	Lorraine Brennan	Dept. of Education and Skills	
65	John Spain & Associates	John Spain & Associates	Devondale Ltd.
66	Jim Conway	Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly	
67	Gael Gibson	Eirgrid	
68	Cian O'Mahony	Environmental Protection Agency	
69	F. Reidy		
70	John Cronin	John Cronin & Associates	Faite Ireland
71	Geraldine Kriégel		
72	Hugh Morrison		
73	John Spain Associates	John Spain Associates	HWBC Allsop
74	Nick West	Iarnród Éireann	
75	Susan Bookle	Integrated Services Programme	
76	Paula Madden	Irish Traveller Movement	
77	Suzanne Dempsey	Irish Water	
78	Brian Dawson	Irish Wind Energy Association	
79	J. O'Connor		
80	Cliona Ryan	Property, Resource Planning Management and Development	Janus Securities
81	K. E. Griffin		
82	Kevin Maher		
83	Kildare Environmental Awareness Group		
84	Kilcock and District Community Council		
85	Kildare Children and Young Peoples Services Committee		
86	Kildare Environmental Network		
87	Jim Brogan		Kildare GAA County Board
88	Declan Brassil	Declan Brassil & Co	Kilross Properties
89	Fintan Morrin	The Planning Partnership	Lidl
90	M. Doran		
91	M. Mooney		
92	Maynooth Cycling Campaign		
93	John Walsh	Morley Walshe Consulting Engineers Ltd	
94	David Flynn		Patricia Rafter
95	Naas Tidy Towns		
96	Eamonn Prenter	Cunnane Stratton Reynolds	Nua Healthcare
97	John Spain Associates	John Spain Associates	O'Connor Family
98	Kieran Kennedy	RPS Planning and Environment	Oliver Murphy and Sky Castle Ltd.
99	Kieran Kennedy	RPS Planning and Environment	Osberstown Developments Ltd
100	P Hanna		
101	S. Cusack		

Submission Number	Person	Company (if applicable)	On behalf of (if applicable)
102	S. Mooney		
103	S Saul		
104	Sallins Community Council		
105	Sinn Féin		
106	John Spain & Associates	John Spain & Associates	Sequana Assets Ltd
107	Auveen Byrne	Auveen Byrne & Associates	Saint John of God Trust (Ire)
108	Muirenn Duffy	GVA Grimley Ltd	Tesco Ireland Ltd
109	Bernard Mc Hugh		Burke Family
110	Eamonn Prenter	Cunnane Stratton Reynolds	The Curragh Racecourse
111	Brian Maher	GVA Grimley Ltd	Educena Foundation
112	Laura Brock	Brock Mc Clure	Alan Torpey Robbie Winder Mick Mc Ginn
113	Robert McLoughlin	GVA Grimley Ltd	Value Retail (Dublin) Ltd
114	Vivienne Kelly Keane		
115	Stephen M. Purcell	Future Analytics Consulting Ltd (FAC)	Weston Aviation Academy Ltd
116	Women's Integrated Network (WIN), Athy		
117	John Walsh		Naas GAA
118	Shauna Moran		Athy Campogie Club

4.0 Summary of Written Submissions and Observations

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4.0 Summary of Written Submissions and Observations

A summary of the issues raised in the one hundred and eighteen (118) submissions and observations that were received within the specified timeframe is set out by category in Section 4.2 below, together with the opinions and recommendations of the Chief Executive.

A total of four hundred and eighty one (481) issues were identified in the submissions and observations received. Many of the issues are interrelated and have been summarised under seventeen (17) broad category headings for ease of reference. (Refer to Table 2 below. Appendix B sets out the full list of issues identified by category).

Issues relating to transportation and movement were raised most frequently (11%). Other issues that featured prominently included urban design and architecture (10%) population and housing growth (7%), economic and employment issues (6%), landscape and natural heritage (9%), recreation (5%), Social Community and Cultural (7%) and tourism (7%). A breakdown of the issues raised in submissions or observations is outlined in Table 2 below.

Section 11 (4) (bb) and (bc) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 – 2014 requires a summary of the issues and recommendation made by the National Transport Authority (NTA) and the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) and to outline the recommendations of the Chief Executive in relation to the manner in which those issues and recommendations should be addressed in the Draft County Development Plan.

In view of this specific requirement and the strategic nature of these submissions, the submissions of the EMRA and the NTA have been summarised in Section 4.1 below. The recommendations of the Chief Executive in relation to the manner in which the issues and recommendations made in these submissions should be addressed in the Draft Development Plan are also set out in Section 4.1.

Table 3 Breakdown of Issues

Breakdown of Issues			
	Topic	No. of times issue raised	% of Total
1	Core Strategy	14	3%
2	Settlement Strategy	20	4%
3	Population and Housing	32	7%
4	Economic Development	31	6%
5	Retail	25	5%
6	Movement and Transport	55	11%
7	Water / Wastewater / Flooding / Surface Water	26	5%
8	Waste Management	13	3%
9	Energy and Communications	27	6%
10	Environment	16	3%
11	Social / Community and Cultural Development	34	7%
12	Recreation	26	5%
13	Urban Design and Architecture	46	10%
14	Built Heritage	12	2%
15	Landscape and Natural Heritage	44	9%
16	Rural Development including Equine	25	5%
17	Tourism	35	7%
Total		481	100

4.1 Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly and National Transport Authority

4.1.1 Submission of Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly

The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) was established on the 1st January 2015, as the successor to the dissolved Dublin and Mid-East Regional Authorities. EMRA's role, amongst other things, is to formulate, adopt and implement a Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES), which will replace the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010 – 2020 (RPGs). The RSES will be informed by the upcoming review of the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) and its replacement with the National Planning Framework (NPF) by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG). EMRA have stated that it is unlikely that the timeframe for the adoption of the RSES will coincide with the Development Plan Review process for Kildare County Council. As a result the relevant document for County Development Plan review is the RPGs which contains strategic goals and objectives providing a regional focus for NSS implementation. The RPGs identify strategic infrastructural priorities in the main growth areas and sets out priority locations for future investments in line with current NSS and funding objectives.

Summary of Issues Raised

- **Strategic Planning, Population and Housing**

The Development Plan's Core Strategy is a key component to inform future planning requirements and to ensure consistency of policies and objectives with the RPGs and NSS. The delivery of new housing should support the NSS, "Smarter Travel" and "Guidelines on Sustainable Residential Development". The RPGs encourage the consolidation of new housing development within the existing built footprint. This has particular focus on the metropolitan area and supports the achievement of sustainable towns and national investment on public transport, in order to achieve the integration of land use and high quality transport services and a build up of economies of scale for services.

The growth scenario and settlement strategy for Kildare should support the key elements of the RPGs settlement strategy and be informed by the regional population and housing targets established within the RPGs, whilst incorporating current data, in a holistic approach to produce an evidence based Core Strategy.

An integrated approach should be taken to settlement, employment and transport policy, as advocated throughout the RPGs.

Significant challenges for the new Development Plan will be to meet the current market demand for housing supply and to align with the RPGs and the NSS/NPF. An evidence-based Core Strategy complemented by an analysis of current data trends in particular the Central Statistics Office (CSO) regional projections, and the housing strategy for the county, should address this challenge. The Core Strategy should cover aspects of demographic changes and projections, housing mix, infrastructure delivery, implementation and residential densities, whilst retaining the principles of the growth in the Region that underpin the RPGs settlement strategy, and include Kildare County Council's share of that growth.

- **Economic Development, Enterprise and Employment**

The RPGs identify a number of strategic employment centres within the county. Naas / Newbridge and Maynooth / Lexlip are designated as Core Economic Areas. These settlements are strategic employment centres, well located on transport nodes for sustained international and regional

economic development and growth, and focal points for economic development.

The County Development Plan should address the location of current employment in the county; assess employment trends, typology and demands in the County in determining future and additional economic land use requirements for Kildare.

The Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs) introduced in the Local Government Reform Act 2014 are a central component of the local authority's role in economic development. The LECP should be consistent with the RSES and the core strategy of the County Development Plan. EMRA will consult with Kildare County Council during the preparation, consultation and development of the LECPs.

Retail policies and retail development within the County support the policies and recommendations of the Retail Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area and economic growth areas as identified within the RPGs, and follow the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2012. In particular this applies to the Retail Hierarchy in the RPGs and the Retail Strategy for the GDA.

- **Movement and Transport**

There have been achievements in promoting sustainable transportation and in the provision of public transport. However current trends are still disposed towards private car use and the mode share needs to shift to more sustainable options.

Land use policies that support and protect national investments made in public transport and to optimize that investment, need implementation.

Policies such, as promoting higher densities for employment and residential uses around public transport, should be retained in the Development Plan.

Transport planning, spatial planning and land use management should aid reduced travel demand, reduced distances and encourage a sustainable change in mode share.

- **Infrastructure**

The RPGs promote regional sustainable growth through the alignment of land use planning with transport planning, water services, energy supply and waste management infrastructure. The RPGs population and housing targets support the growth and consolidation of the metropolitan area and exiting settlements. The RPGs support the requirement for additional infrastructure capacity to facilitate this growth within these locations.

- **Environment**

It is important that all relevant plans and infrastructure projects, which have the potential to impact on Natura 2000 sites either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, are subject to relevant environmental assessment under the provisions of the Habitats Directive.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment process is important with regard to the plan making process and subsequent plan aims and policies.

The Development Plan should be informed by and compliant with national, EU and international law including environmental directives and take into consideration issues of flood risk and flood risk management plans, climate change mitigation and adaptation, river basin management plans,

impacts on water quality, biodiversity and landscape assessment.

Climate change has an influence on a cross section of themes including transportation, water provision and distribution of population. Climate change considerations should be integrated into the Development Plan in conjunction with the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework.

- **Social Community and Cultural Development**

Population growth, the delivery of new housing, and the needs of existing communities should be supported by the necessary community infrastructure and recreational facilities to serve these communities, for example adequate capacity in terms of education, health care and housing accommodation, access to services and support networks and leisure. Kildare County Council through co-operation and co-ordination with other agencies and groups can assist in meeting these needs through the planning process. Policies and measures within the Development Plan, which advocate these issues, should therefore be considered.

The development of a strategy for green infrastructure within County Kildare should be considered in the Development Plan. It has the potential to raise awareness of issues such as biodiversity and the way green spaces are used, developed and managed.

- **Urban Design and Architecture**

Housing should be delivered with a sufficient level of density that will be supported and integrated with a range of accessible community facilities. Residential densities should be increased at locations proximate to public transport corridors and nodes.

- **Landscape and Heritage**

The County Development Plan should have regard to the RPGs policy on landscape classification, landscape character assessments, and the draft National Landscape Strategy 2014.

The County Development Plan should include policies, which encourage the protection, enhancement and integration of new development with the built heritage.

The County Development Plan should include policies, which protect and conserve the natural environment in particular designated sites and extended ecological sites.

- **Rural Development and Natural Resources**

The County Development Plan should include policies, which support the continuing viability of agriculture, horticulture and other rural based enterprise within rural areas.

The County Development Plan should include policies, which protect and support rural villages and the countryside whilst responding to the urban demand for rural resources.

- **Tourism**

The RPGs supports regionally balanced tourism and recognize that Dublin city can be considered as a gateway to attracting increased tourism to other parts of the GDA. The County Development Plan should set out its tourism strengths in terms of regional cooperation.

Chief Executives' Opinion and Recommendations

The submission recommends that the growth scenario and settlement strategy of Kildare County Council supports the key elements of the RPGs settlement strategy and is informed by the regional population and housing targets established within the RPGs, whilst incorporating current data, in a holistic approach to produce an evidence based Core Strategy. This recommendation is acknowledged and accepted.

The Draft County Development Plan will incorporate an evidence based Core Strategy that accords with the provision of the Planning and Development Act 2000 - 2014. The Core Strategy will include: population targets; requirements for zoning of lands for residential purposes; and outline the existing and proposed future distribution of population within the plan area within a Settlement Hierarchy that is consistent with the Settlement Strategy set out in the RPGs. The strategy will retain the principles of growth for the region that are set out in the RPGs and include Kildare County Council's share of that growth. The population targets and housing allocations will be complemented by an analysis of current demographic and population data trends.

The Core Strategy will form the basis for policies and objectives throughout the Draft Development Plan. The submission notes the importance of Naas/Newbridge and Maynooth/Leixlip as Core Economic Areas and recommends that they be considered a focal point for economic development. It is recommended that analysis in the Core Strategy should address the location of current employment in the County, assess employment trends, typology and demands in the County in determining future and additional enterprise land use requirements. There are important relationships and synergies between the LECP, the RSES and the core strategy of the County Development Plan. This recommendation is noted.

The submission recommends that retail policies and retail development within the County support the policies and recommendations of the Retail Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) and economic growth areas as identified within the RPGs, and follow the "Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities", (2012). This recommendation is noted.

The submission recommends promoting higher densities for employment and residential uses around public transport and consistency between transport planning, spatial planning and land use management to aid reduced travel demand, reduced distances and encourage a sustainable change in mode share. This recommendation is noted.

Other recommendations relate to the provision of community infrastructure and recreational facilities; and ensuring high quality infrastructure by the alignment of land use planning with transport planning, water services, energy supply and waste management. The proposed development of a green infrastructure strategy is welcomed, while the provisions of the Regional Planning Guidelines in relation to built heritage, natural heritage and landscapes, energy and communications are noted. It is proposed to address all of the above issues in the Draft Development Plan, which will be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment, Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

Recommendation: The Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 and its Core Strategy will be in compliance with national and regional population targets.

4.1.2 Submission of the National Transport Authority

The National Transport Authority (NTA) is a statutory non-commercial body, which operates under the aegis of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. The NTA has a specific role, amongst others, in respect of the management of transport infrastructure and the integration of transport and land use planning in the Greater Dublin Area.

The NTA is currently preparing a Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area which will set out the programme for investment in strategic transport across the GDA to 2035. The NTA has stated that the strategy will go out on consultation in the summer of 2015 and the finalised strategy will be published in autumn 2015. The Draft County Development Plan will be informed by the strategy which will have a critical bearing on the location, timing and scale of development in Kildare.

Summary of Issues Raised

- **Transport Investment Priorities**

The NTA requests that the Draft Development Plan reflects the proposed transport options set out in the “Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area” (2015).

The NTA request that those elements of the GDA Cycle Network Plan, April 2014, which apply to Kildare County Council, are reflected in the Draft Development Plan, with particular reference to the primary routes and proposed greenways.

The NTA requests that the Draft Development Plan reflects the NTA’s Integrated Implementation Plan, which sets out the key regional objectives and outputs from 2013-2018, and its implementation through the Sustainable Transport Measures Grants Programme.

- **Protecting Strategic Transport Infrastructure**

The NTA recommends that the Draft Development Plan contains a clear policy, which states that zoning for employment uses will be done in a manner, which protects investment in the national road network, in accordance with DECLG “Spatial Planning and National Road Guidelines” (2012).

The NTA states that the N4, M7/N7, and M9 have a strategic function as vital economic corridors for the GDA and should not be used to facilitate the development of employment, which would be more appropriately developed close to existing public transport services and/or the key settlements within the County.

The NTA state that any significant future employment developments in the vicinity of the strategic road network should be dependent upon the availability of non-car based transport options.

- **General Land Use Recommendations**

The NTA requests that the key principles of the NTA’s Integrated Implementation Plan are reflected in the Draft Development Plan as follows:

- i. High volume, trip intensive developments, such as offices and retail, should primarily be focused into town centres, and at selected locations adjacent to high capacity public transport;

- ii. The role and function of town centres and neighbourhood centres should be supported and promoted in order to exploit the levels of accessibility offered by public transport, walking and cycling;
- iii. Except in limited circumstance such as where specific physical requirements exist for the siting and operation of a particular land use, trip intensive developments or significant levels of development should not occur in locations not well served by existing or committed high quality public transport;
- iv. All non-residential development proposals should be subject to maximum parking standards and should vary spatially and on the basis of centrality and the level of public transport provision;
- v. In locations where the highest intensity of development occurs, an approach that caps car parking on an area wide basis should be considered;
- vi. Travel plans in accordance with the NTA's "Toolkit for School travel" and "Workplace Travel Plans – A Guide for Implementers" should be conditioned as part of a planning permission for all new and extended schools and all major employment development;
- vii. Residential development should be carried out sequentially whereby infill and brown field lands are, or will be, accessible by walking, cycling and public transport;
- viii. Planning at a local level, through the application of appropriate residential densities, should promote walking, cycling and public transport by maximizing the number of people living within walking distance of their neighbourhood or town centre, public transport services and other services such as schools;
- ix. New development areas should be fully permeable for walking and cycling and the retrospective implementation of walking and cycling facilities should be undertaken where practicable in existing neighbourhoods; and
- x. Where practicable all new proposals for the extinguishment of rights of way should only be considered where they do not result in more circuitous walking and cycling trips for local residents accessing public transport or local destinations.

Chief Executive's Opinion and Recommendations

The Draft Development Plan will incorporate an evidence based Core Strategy that accords with the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 - 2014. The Core Strategy will also inform the land-use and transportation policies and objectives.

The submission recommends that the Draft Development Plan supports the delivery of an efficient and effective transport system and encourages smarter travel choices based on available options, taking account of proposals at a regional level, with particular regard to the NTA's forthcoming "Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area". This recommendation is noted. Kildare County Council will work with the NTA to ensure that the principles which underpin this strategy inform the Draft Development Plan while having regard to the particular characteristics of County Kildare, its settlement pattern and its location in the Greater Dublin Area.

The submission recommends that the Draft Development Plan reflects the NTA's Integrated Implementation Plan which sets out the key regional objectives and outputs from 2013-2018 and its implementation through the Sustainable Transport Measures Grants Programme. This recommendation is noted.

The submission states that the N4, M7/N7, and M9 have a strategic function as vital economic corridors for the GDA should not be compromised by facilitating car dependent employment uses which would be more appropriately developed close to existing public transport services and/or the key settlements within the County. It recommends that Draft Development Plan contains a clear

policy, which states that zoning for employment uses will be done in a manner, which protects investment in the national road network. This recommendation is noted.

The submission recommends that the Draft Development Plan promotes greater use of public transport, encourages walking and cycling, and promotes growth around existing and planned services so that the demand for travel in general and for car based travel is reduced. This is particularly important in terms of the location of employment uses and educational facilities. This recommendation is noted.

The submission recommends that the role of car parking and its potential to generate car based travel is balanced against the availability of alternative transport options. Parking provision should be based on whether or not the proposed number of spaces is justified, taking into account factors such as location, access to public transport and turnover rates. This recommendation is noted.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 and its Core Strategy has regard to the recommendations of the submission from the NTA. The Draft Development Plan will seek to address the transportation and mobility issues outlined in the NTA submission in the following broad ways:

- The Council will work in partnership with national agencies to secure and develop major improvements to the transport network;
- The Draft Development Plan will seek to cater for population and economic growth in a sustainable manner by directing growth toward existing and planned transport services;
- The Draft Development Plan will encourage walking and cycling by outlining policies and objectives to improve the walking and cycling environment and support behaviour change initiatives. Walking and cycling have a major role in transporting people over shorter distances (including access to public transport services). The Draft Development Plan will seek to ensure that improvements to the local road/street network are focused on improving facilities for cyclists and pedestrians to ensure that walking and cycling is a safer and more convenient option;
- The Council will work closely with the National Roads Authority (NRA) to address the future capacity of national routes, such as the N4, M7/N7, and M9 to minimise the impacts on the management of the broader network;
- The Council will continue to promote traffic management through behaviour change initiatives, particularly those aimed at schools and workplaces; and
- The Draft Development Plan and Core Strategy will seek to move towards a greater alignment between retail and settlement hierarchies within the framework offered by the RPGs and GDA Retail Strategy (or any updated/ forthcoming plans).

4.2 Summary By Category

4.2.1 Strategic Planning

4.2.1.1 Core Strategy

Summary of Issues Raised

The Core Strategy category was commented on in twelve (12) submissions (10%). Issues raised under this category related to the strategic importance of lands for economic/employment development and reserving strategic land banks for long term housing proximate to key transport corridors, and in particular the rail network. A number of submissions highlighted particular areas for development, such as Naas and Newbridge (residential and employment), the Dublin metropolitan area, particularly Celbridge (for housing proximate to Hazlehatch Station) and Ballymore Eustace. One submission promoted the zoning of additional lands for residential and commercial activity to allow towns to prosper. Another submission stated the plan should cater for the needs of the County up to 2026 as per the DoECLG “Development Plan Guidelines” (2007) by ensuring sufficient zoned land to provide market choice. One submission stated that the Core Strategy should pay close attention to the spare capacity of existing schools, retail centres and social facilities such as sports clubs when designating new growth areas. One submission identifies the need for climate change to be placed at the centre of the Core Strategy. The need to balance development between north and south of the County was also identified as an important consideration for the Draft Plan.

One submission stated that zoning should be restricted to a percentage of the current town / village population and current housing, (e.g. 10 - 15%). Zoning boundaries should be centred on the town / village centres and infill areas should be developed before extending the zoning boundary. Zoning should also be restricted to sites contiguous to the built up areas. No isolated developments unconnected with services and totally dependent on private transport should be permitted. Another submission stated that the Core Strategy must ensure that a reasonable share (and spin offs) of the opportunities and income between small and neighbouring large towns is achieved. (Submissions 11, 14, 34, 49, 57, 60, 65, 68, 81, 84, 94, 97).

Chief Executive’s Opinion and Recommendations

The Draft County Development Plan will incorporate an evidence based Core Strategy that accords with the provision of the Planning and Development Act 2000 - 2014. The Core Strategy will articulate a medium to longer term quantitatively based strategy for the spatial development of the county, identifying the quantum, location and phasing of proposed development, as well as growth scenarios, details of transport plans and retail development. The Core Strategy will also be cognisant of the social infrastructure within each settlement and the capacity for additional growth in particular towns and villages.

The Core Strategy and the Housing Strategy will include: population targets; requirements for zoning of lands for residential and/or allied mixed uses; and outline the existing and proposed future distribution of population within the plan area within a Settlement Hierarchy that is consistent with the Settlement Strategy set out in the RPGs. The Settlement Strategy will retain the principles of growth for the region that are set out in the RPGs and include the County’s share of that growth.

The population targets and housing allocations will be complemented by an analysis of current demographic and population data trends, in particular the CSO Regional Population Projections, 2014. The Core Strategy will form the basis for policies and objectives throughout the Draft Development Plan.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 and its Core Strategy has regard to the issues raised and complies with the recommendations of the submission of the EMRA.

4.2.1.2 Settlement Strategy

Summary of Issues Raised

The Settlement Strategy category was mentioned in twenty (20) submissions (16%). A number of submissions have been made in relation to the settlement hierarchy in the County Development Plan. Some have requested that certain towns should be higher on the settlement hierarchy whilst other submissions state that certain settlements have not been fulfilling the role they have been designated.

One submission stated that the overall strategy and planning framework should be maintained for the county. One submission noted that while Maynooth and Leixlip are designated as Large Growth Towns, the population of Leixlip has stagnated over the last census periods. Other submissions note that Sallins has all the attributes of a Moderate Growth Town while Celbridge, with a population in excess of 19,000 should be elevated to a Large Growth Town II. The proximity of Celbridge to Hazlehatch Rail Station was also presented as an opportunity to maximise public transport in tandem with growth in the town. In contrast another submission stated that in line with Celbridge being designated as a Moderate Growth Town a much slower rate of population growth is needed in order to ensure that infrastructure, services etc. are upgraded/delivered to cater for the current numbers and any slight increase in population.

The submissions also highlight the need to ensure that when identifying settlements for expansion, the social and community facilities are commensurate with such growth. The requirement to ensure that new development integrates with existing towns and villages was also raised on a number of occasions, as part of formal submissions and during the public consultation process.

One submission highlighted the special status of Ballymore Eustace and the need to protect the setting of the village (and the requirement to have a clear and concise strategy for the future development of the village while another submission highlighted the capacity for additional housing in the village). The expansion of the Kill Small Town Plan to include employment generating uses was proposed in another submission. Another submission requested that the settlement designations of Twomilehouse be altered to accommodate a community development in the settlement centre and extended to include a residential site to the south west.

A number of submissions also proposed the expansion of the settlement boundary of Milltown in line with other various proposed upgrades in the village while another urged the consideration of a site outside the Ardclough settlement boundary for inclusion as part of the forthcoming Draft

County Development Plan. One submission noted that development in the village of Calverstown must be considered in context of the existing infrastructure (eg. schools) and ability to provide community amenity areas.

Transportation, with reference to the need to improve connections between towns, was raised by a number of submissions. Spatial planning policy should be cognisant of the role of the larger towns and connectivity to the surrounding settlements and villages.

The health and wellbeing of people through access to a clean and natural environment was also noted in a number of submissions and this should be prioritised in the spatial strategy of the Draft Plan. (Submissions 3, 11, 15, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 41, 45, 55, 62, 65, 72, 73, 97)

Chief Executive's Opinion and Recommendations

Within the hierarchy of plans, the RPGs provide a long term strategic planning framework for the development of the Greater Dublin Area. The RPG's also prescribe a settlement hierarchy as a core element of spatial planning for each County in the region. The hierarchy identifies key locations and towns in which to direct future population and economic activity; and for services like transport, infrastructure and social services to achieve a joined up investment plan that will deliver sustainable growth.

To be consistent with regional policy, the Draft County Development Plan will contain a detailed Settlement Strategy for Kildare having regard to population allocation at a regional level. The Settlement Strategy will distribute population growth throughout Kildare having regard to national and regional planning policy, having particular regard to supporting infrastructure (physical and social) and the natural and built environment.

The "Development Plan Guidelines" (2007) issued by the DoEHLG also indicate that the quantification of housing needs and identifying locations for additional housing within an objective, needs-driven framework, is a key way in which the objectivity and robustness of Development Plans can be assured.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 and its Settlement Strategy has regard to the issues raised and complies with the recommendations of the submission of the EMRA.

4.2.2 Population and Housing

Summary of Issues Raised

The Population and Housing category was commented on in twenty two (22) submissions (18%). Issues were raised in relation to population growth, demographic and social mix of population, housing supply, social housing, dwelling tenure, housing density and building heights, location of new housing, dwelling design, estate design, supporting infrastructure and facilities and rural housing.

Population

A number of submissions stated that the Draft County Development Plan must provide for the necessary infrastructure (physical and social) in tandem with population growth. In identifying the location for this growth, many expressed the view that new housing should integrate with and respect the prevailing density and special character of the respective village(s). Density was mentioned on a number of occasions and many questioned the need for apartments, especially in out of town locations. Higher density development should be assessed in the context of accessibility to public transport corridors and town centre development only.

In relation to the RPGs a submission also stated that all necessary steps should be taken to ensure that the population targets of settlements are respected and that they are not consistently extended every time they reach or exceed those prescribed at regional level.

A submission stated that population density should be used instead of population targets. A submission has suggested that additional residential zoning is required to create prosperous town. A submission states that Naas needs planned population growth in order to meet its targets in the RPGs. (Submissions 3, 35, 65, 81, 87, 97, 104, 105, 106, 109,)

Housing

A submission stated that the housing provision for Kildare Town should be increased in the new County Development Plan. A submission recommended that Kildare County Council should look to purchase dwellings in established estates for social purposes in order to encourage upward mobility of residents. A number of submissions raised the issue that new developments should include for a proper mix of house types including family sized units. It was also noted that the number of one and two person households is forecast to increase and this needs to be catered for in new development.

It was also suggested that housing should be developed along proposed tourist parks, cycle paths, canals, floral villages, agreed public transport routes and local community centres.

From a sustainability aspect, a number of submissions advocated the development of homes and workplaces in close proximity to one another. This would negate the need for long distance commuting with all the associated environmental, social, and economic costs. One submission recommended that the majority of new builds should be of high quality design and located in town and village centres. (Submissions 3, 4, 13, 34, 35, 36, 45, 49, 57, 60, 105, 107, 119)

Rural Housing

Despite the rural nature of Kildare and the rural economy, rural housing was only mentioned in five (5) submissions. One submission proposed that the rural housing policy distance catchment be extended to ten miles. Another submission stated that one-off housing is largely no longer viable. Where farmers give sites to children, compliance with a period of residence must be ensured. The rate of residential development should be strictly in accordance with RPGs.

A detailed submission was received for Ballymore Eustace setting out the rate of growth in the village in comparison to the number of one-off dwellings granted in the wider catchment. The submission argues that in real terms the granting of one off houses has not consolidated population growth within Ballymore Eustace and has not contributed to the development of a vibrant and sustainable community.

Consideration should be given to relaxing the controls on one off housing in the countryside areas where there has been population decline or where there is an older population. The plan should also seek to incentivise residential development in the settlements and villages and should consider a reduction or waving of development contributions. (Submissions 4, 10, 47, 57, 87)

Chief Executive's Opinion and Recommendations

The Draft County Development Plan will incorporate an evidence based Core Strategy that accords with the provision of the Planning and Development Act 2000 - 2014.

The Core Strategy and the Housing Strategy will include: population targets; requirements for zoning of lands for residential and or allied mixed uses; and outline the existing and proposed future distribution of population within the plan area within a Settlement Hierarchy that is consistent with the Settlement Strategy set out in the RPGs. The Settlement Strategy will retain the principles of growth for the region that are set out in the RPGs and include the County's share of that growth. The population targets and housing allocations will be complemented by an analysis of current demographic and population data trends, in particular the CSO Regional Population projections, 2014. The Core Strategy will form the basis for policies and objectives throughout the Draft County Development Plan.

The Housing Strategy prepared in accordance with Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 – 2014 will examine the existing and inform the future housing need across the County over the period of the County Development Plan. The needs assessment, carried out as part of the preparation of the Settlement Strategy, will assess all housing needs for all types of housing across the County including those of older persons, accommodation for Travellers.

The design and layout of new areas will be informed by Guidance Documents issued by Government, including the "Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas" (2009), the "Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets" (2013) and the "Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments Guidelines for Planning Authorities" (2007).

Particular regard will be had to the increasingly diverse needs of the County's population for housing. Policies in relation to housing in rural areas will be reviewed having regard to the "Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines for Planning Authorities" (2005).

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 policies and objectives in relation to population and housing are informed by the Core Strategy and Housing Strategy which are prepared in accordance with national and regional planning policy and that standards are based on relevant Ministerial Planning Guidance Documents. Particular regard will be had to the increasingly diverse needs of the County's population for housing.

4.2.3 Economic Development

Summary of issues raised:

Economic Development issues were highlighted in twenty five (25) of the submissions received (21%) The main issues noted in the submissions were economic opportunities, incentives, supports, high tech and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), physical infrastructure, tourism, the equine industry and other areas of potential and the location of development.

One submission stated that the community / local economy should prioritise certain core economic activities such as food and energy production, caring services, and education. One submission promoted the growth of the Green Economy while another promoted e-business and flexible work hubs. The creation of employment opportunities in the towns and villages of the County should be realised. Access to meaningful employment for people with disabilities is noted in another submission. A number of submissions stated that more employment including Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is required in Kildare as this would reduce commuting for the County's inhabitants

One submission noted that further commercial zoning is required to facilitate prosperity. One submission noted that Kildare is now an attractive location for office space and that the planning process should be streamlined to speed up the delivery of office space. The endorsement of a Comprehensive Employment Strategy is requested in one submission to ensure sustainable employment for people with disabilities. This submission also promoted education and training initiatives and to ensure access to these courses by people with disabilities. A number of submissions stated that zoning for employment and enterprise uses must incorporate sustainable transport principles at the earliest stage. One submission noted that if the economic recovery is to be consolidated, the efficient use of existing infrastructure is required.

One submission proposed the upgrading of Celbridge to a primary economic growth town on par with Maynooth and Leixlip with all three towns forming a North Kildare Business hub attracting investment and business set up. The dependence of north Kildare on FDI for employment opportunities was noted in another submission which also promoted the development of manufacturing type employment (brewing, distilling) in the area. One submission also noted that unemployment in the south of the County is a major concern while another noted that specific attention needed to be given to what activities can create jobs. A copy of the Kildare Town Integrated Services Plan makes recommendations for the economic development of the town. A number of submissions promoted further economic development in the Naas / Newbridge area and that these lands should be juxtaposed with existing employment lands such as at Ladytown, Toughers and Millennium Park mentioned. One submission noted the opportunity that Weston Airport offers in terms of the ongoing economic development of the county.

A number of submissions stated the importance of the equine industry to the County's economy and that it should be built upon. Many submissions recognised the contribution that tourism makes to the economy. The potential to develop tourism further around key strengths like the equine industry, the natural environment, heritage, landscape and recreational activity was stated. A number of submissions identified the potential of the peatlands to make a contribution to the economy through the development of these areas for uses such as renewable energy, forestry, tourism and amenity uses. A number of submissions noted the importance of broadband to the economy. (Submissions 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 14, 19, 30, 34, 36, 39, 40, 49, 55, 57, 60, 82, 84, 99, 101, 105, 109, 110, 115, 116)

Chief Executive's Opinion and Recommendations

The review will seek to build on the policies and objectives contained in the current County Development Plan and incorporate policies and objectives that will strengthen the County's economic competitiveness and attractiveness. In particular, policies and objectives relating to the delivery of housing, infrastructure and environmental protection should seek to retain and enhance the attractiveness of the County as a place within which to live, work or invest and policies and objectives that would undermine economic competitiveness should be avoided. The consolidation and sustainability of existing centres will be a key factor to the long term viability of the county.

While a number of submissions raised issues in relation to incentives that may be worthwhile, it is important to note that these fall outside the scope of the County Development Plan, which sets out a framework for the physical growth and development of Kildare. There may be an opportunity to address some of these issues in the Council's Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). The LECP will strengthen the Council's economic development capacity for the future development of the county. The Draft Development Plan will inform and be informed by the LECP.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the policies and objectives of the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 seek to:

- Support economic growth by having regard to the regional economic strategy contained within the Regional Planning Guidelines and recognising the strategic importance of the higher level centres in the County;
- Support economic growth by making provision for further large scale FDI investment and indigenous enterprise at appropriate locations;
- Support economic diversification within areas that support a range of education and skill levels such as tourism, niche retailing, events and festivals;
- Support appropriate renewal opportunities in older employment areas;
- Place a particular emphasis on maximising the economic potential of the County based on its strategic position within the Midlands and East Region: and
- Support the forthcoming LECP.

4.2.4 Retail

Summary of Issues Raised

Retail issues were highlighted in nineteen (19) of the submissions received (16%) The main issues included the retail hierarchy, town centres, types of retail and public realm improvements.

Various submissions stated that small scale local shops should be supported as opposed to making it easy for everyone to shop in out of town shopping centres while another submission stated that the policy of encouraging small scale retail in traditional centres should cease. A number of submissions stated that retail must remain in the town centres and that out of town shopping can have severe negative impacts on high streets. One submission stated that the quality of retail in town centres should be protected and they must not deteriorate into areas dominated by low grade premises characterised by a multiplicity of betting shops and fast food outlets. Vacant units on main streets should be used as pop up shops and farmers markets should be licensed. One submission stated that town centres are more suited to higher order comparison retailers and smaller more specialised retailers.

One submission urged the continued implementation of the Kildare Retail Strategy 2010 ensuring the needs of people with disabilities are reflected. One submission stated that the importance of discount food stores should be detailed in the County Development Plan and Retail Strategy and that their suitability for neighbourhood centres and small town centres should be acknowledged. One submission stated that the County Development Plan must have regard to the operational requirements of modern retailers.

One submission proposes that the County Development Plan downgrade the Collinstown / Leixlip Major Town Centre to District Centre level as the need for retail of that scale in that location will not materialise in the short to medium term. Another submission proposed the phased delivery of retail lands at Collinstown from Neighbourhood Centre through to Major Town Centre over a longer time frame. A number of submissions proposed a new rates regime to incentivise development in Naas and Celbridge Town Centres. One submission stated that improving the attractiveness of the Celbridge town centre will attract people to the area. One submission noted that there are enough supermarkets in Celbridge but more shops are required in the town centre. Many submissions requested the continued support of Kildare Outlet Village thus generating employment and spinoff enterprises. (Submissions 3, 12, 33, 34, 36, 43, 55, 57, 59, 60, 70, 88, 89, 90, 99, 105, 108, 113, 114)

Chief Executive's Opinion and Recommendations

The submission of the EMRA stated that retail policies and retail development within the County should support the policies and recommendations of the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2012, the Retail Strategy for the GDA and the economic growth areas identified within the RPGs.

The policies and objectives of the Draft County Development Plan will seek to maintain and strengthen established retail centres within the county, having regard to each centre's role within the overall settlement and retail hierarchies for the county. The Draft Plan will incorporate an evidence based Core Strategy that will outline a Settlement Hierarchy for the county. The Retail Hierarchy will be reviewed in the context of the Settlement Hierarchy and is required to accord with

the Retail Strategy for the GDA and the economic growth areas identified in the RPGs. The Core Strategy will form the basis for policies and objectives in relation to retail development and the future role of retail centres. Based on analysis of available data and in accordance with the terms of the Regional Planning Guidelines and the Retail Strategy for the GDA, Kildare County Council will carry out a detailed review of retail policies and objectives for the County to reflect existing provision and planned future growth.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the retail policies and objectives of the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 are reviewed in the context of the emerging Kildare Settlement Hierarchy and that it supports the implementation of the Retail Strategy for the GDA (2008) and the Regional Planning Guidelines (2010). Policies and objectives will be informed by the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012).

4.2.5 Movement and Transport

Summary of Issues Raised

Movement and Transport issues were highlighted in forty (40) of the submissions received (34%). Of the submissions received the main issues noted in the submission related to road conditions and maintenance, safety, cycle and pedestrian routes, parking, town and villages, public transport linkages and services. Submissions also noted national and regional projects and legislation in relation to transportation.

Road and Rail Infrastructure

A number of submissions raised concern in relation to the condition, maintenance and high traffic volumes on rural roads. Many of these roads provide a link for the local community to experience biodiversity. There is a need to achieve a balance to ensure the safety of all road users. Better signage and lower speed limits need to be implemented on rural roads.

Where roads are listed for improvement and upgrading in the County Development Plan the opportunity should be taken to address inadequate design in terms of drainage, underpasses etc. When including specific objectives in the County Development Plan, decisions should be based on information on ecological constraints, and should allow sufficient flexibility for impacts to be avoided or mitigated.

A number of submissions noted issues pertaining to consistency between transport planning and landuse management in order to encourage a sustainable modal shift. The Council needs to provide additional capacity for future population growth along the rail lines radiating from Dublin City and the GDA, particularly growth on the Kildare and Maynooth lines. Two submissions requested that the objective to provide train stations in Kildare and Leixlip should be omitted from the County Development Plan as there is unlikely to be the critical mass of population to support it.

Roads Projects

One submission focused on the managing Exchequer investment and statutory guidance in relation to the Trans European Transport Network (TEN-T) focusing on national roads, in particular N/M7, M4 and M9, N78 and N81 routes through Kildare.

Submissions referred to the following specific road projects:

- Upgrade the M7;
- Osberstown Interchange;
- Sallins By Pass;
- Athy Southern Distributor Road;
- Junctions and road signage particularly in relation to Staplestown;
- Proposed bypasses for Leixlip and Celbridge;
- N7 Newlands Cross to Naas;
- Naas to Newbridge By Pass upgrade;
- N81 Tallaght to Hollywood Cross;
- Leinster Orbital Route from mid Kildare to Drogheda;
- M9 junction to go Southbound on M7 to allow access to Newbridge & Kildare; and
- A ring road to address congestion in Maynooth.

A number of submissions raised the issue that no new bridges have been built in over 200 years in the north Kildare area and that the towns in this area are particularly congested with traffic. It is requested that a new river crossing is provided in Celbridge upstream that does not detract from Castletown. A new vehicular river crossing upstream of the present bridge in Celbridge should be considered.

The National Roads Authority (NRA) submission made detailed recommendations that the County Development Plan contain policies and objectives:

- 1) Facilitating the development of the national road schemes and protection of route options;
- 2) Ensuring that the capacity of the national road network is utilised;
- 3) Managing access onto the national road network is plan led and undertaken in cooperation with the NRA;
- 4) Referencing the NRA *"Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines"* 2014 and the Road Safety Impact Assessment (RSIA) and Road Safety Audit (RSA) processes;
- 5) Referencing the NRA *"Policy on Service Areas"* (August 2014) including specific on-line NRA service area proposals as they relate to the N7 ;)
- 6) Referencing the NRA policy document *"Provision of Tourist and Leisure Signage"* (March 2011) and the DoECLG *"Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines"*; and Referencing *S.I. No. 140 of 2006 Environmental Noise Regulations* in relation to noise mitigation measures.

A submission also noted that Kildare needs better integrated transportation network that facilitates east to west movements/journeys.

Public Transport

A number of submissions related to public transport and the need to provide a sustainable and accessible urban and rural network and to improve public transport to reduce car dependency. Capacity of schools, sports facilities etc must be taken into account when planning for public transport provision. A number of submissions request that HGV's are eliminated from town/village centres and residential areas.

One submission stated that tourism facilities should be convenient to established bus and rail routes, and could benefit from shuttle services. The County Development Plan should include a commitment to provide these services and to provide tourist coach bus parking to serve visitor sites on touring routes.

Specific proposals and improvements are included in many submissions as follows:

- Re-route main link road from Millennium Park Naas directly into the town centre area with a public transport corridor link with park and ride facilities and cycle ways;
- Improvements to public transport facilities in the Celbridge, Leixlip, Maynooth area, particularly a feeder bus to Hazelhatch station; and
- Provide "Park and Ride" and feeder buses to/from train stations, linking main towns, Naas Hospital and attractions to encourage public transport and further reduce traffic from central areas of towns and villages.

One submission requests that Kildare County Council stop permitting developments with open-ended car-parking spaces on site, instead of obliging staff to use public transport and nudging Irish rail to provide trains to suit working (arrival and departure) times. This is contrary to public policy for sustainable transport facilities.

Car Parking

Require off-street parking where new development is proposed in urban areas. This would facilitate more open spaces and in the case of historic towns and ancient squares or marketplaces, it would afford high visibility to the local built heritage.

One submission suggested a more flexible approach to car parking arrangements based on local traffic conditions particularly in relation to areas with a lack of public transport and where a Transport Mobility Plan demonstrates a high level of modal shift or where a good level of public transport provision exists. It is submitted that free parking passes should be provided for local amenities to encourage visitors and/or users of this transport to stop and spend some time in the towns and villages in co-ordination with Office of Public Works.

Walking and Cycling

One submission sought that Kildare County Council commit to the Department of Transport's "Smarter Travel" policy and asks why no towns in Kildare were selected for the 'Active Travel' Towns. The County Development Plan needs to bring, at the very least, the same funding to the towns of Kildare for local cycling and walking strategies by 2023.

A number of submissions recommended that particular recognition be given to the value of canal banks as walking and cycling routes. The County Development Plan should include objectives for the

sustainable development of walking and cycling routes in co-operation with local communities, business enterprises, Waterways Ireland and National Parks and Wildlife.

Any changes to public transport, cycling and parking policies in the County should be subject to public consultation. The County Development Plan should have regard to Smarter Travel 2020 and place an emphasis on delivering better public transport linkages and cycle/walk ways particularly along canal ways.

The County should have better pedestrian and cyclist facilities which connect schools and attractions to residential areas and town centres. This issue was highlighted with particular reference to Ballymore Eustace, Kilcock, Celbridge, Naas connecting to Sallins, Kill, Johnstown and Punchestown, Sallins Road, Dublin Road, and Kill to Naas route, bridge across the River Barrow, Athy particularly in terms of provision of pedestrian and cycling routes and Kildare Bikes initiative. One submission requested that urban design features in towns and villages are in accordance with Best Practice Access Guidelines published by the Irish Wheelchair Association and the National Disability Association.

It was submitted that Kildare County Council should not promote car based developments such as the M7 lane additions at Newbridge/Naas and car based developments like the extension to the Kildare Retail Village and Kerry Group Campus on the N7. The County Development Plan should encourage people to reduce their use and dependency on cars and create the conditions within which to pedestrianise urban centres.

Signage

One submission requested the County Development Plan include policies and objectives that promote signage for tourist amenities and areas of interest on motorways and tourist routes. A proliferation of street signage can result in visual clutter, which can detract from the character and a sense of place of towns, villages and rural area. Signage should be provided on the principle of way finding and arranged in a hierarchy to guide people in the “last mile” rather than from further distances.

It should be acknowledged that as information technology develops, audio guides and electronic information waypoints would inform future travellers.

Town/Village Centre

A number of submissions requested the restriction of heavy goods vehicles to national and primary routes.

Two submissions set out recommendations for a series of public realm improvement schemes, road improvements and linkages, car parking provision, pedestrianisation of key town centre areas and the location of bus stops in Naas.

Specific public realm improvements and works were suggested for Celbridge and Maynooth. It is recommended that Kildare County Council collaborate with South Dublin County Council and Fingal County Council to improve roads in the area.

It is recommended that on street parking is reintroduced on Main Street Leixlip in order to reduce traffic speeds and improve pedestrian safety.

Miscellaneous

One submission promoted the importance of Weston Airport as an economic driver within the County.

(Submissions 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 31, 33, 34, 36, 37, 40, 42, 47, 49, 53, 54, 55, 57, 59, 60, 66, 69, 74, 75, 79, 84, 88, 92, 95, 98, 99, 100, 104, 105, 114, 115, 116)

Chief Executive's Opinion and Recommendations

The Draft County Development Plan will seek to support an efficient and effective transport system and to encourage smarter travel choices based on available options, taking account of proposals at a regional level, including the GDA Cycle Network Plan (2014). The Draft Plan will seek to promote greater use of public transport, increase walking and cycling, and direct growth around existing and planned services so that the demand for travel in general and for car based travel is reduced.

Careful consideration will be given to any new road proposals in the County. The creation of more road space to cater for traffic congestion, particularly in existing areas, is expensive and often attracts more cars to the network. The focus of any new road construction will therefore be for access to new communities and to support the economic development and tourism activities of the County. The Draft Plan will need to identify strategic routes that are required over the medium to long term in order to provide access to strategic lands. There will be a particular focus on catering for commercial traffic in order to divert Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) away from residential areas and providing direct and efficient access to the national network for logistical and safety purposes.

The role of car parking and its potential to generate car based travel will need to be balanced against the availability of alternative transport options. Flexibility in terms of the level of parking provision should be based on whether or not the proposed number of spaces is justified, taking into account factors such as location, access to public transport and turnover rates.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 should seek to address transportation and mobility issues in four broad ways:-

- By improving public transport services. Whilst Kildare County Council is not a public transport service provider, the Council will strive to continue working in partnership with national agencies to secure and develop major improvements to the transport network. The Draft Plan will also seek to identify and guide the development of future routes into the medium to longer term and look at how existing services may be improved;
- By directing new development around existing and planned services. The Draft Development Plan will seek to cater for population and economic growth in a sustainable manner by directing growth toward existing and planned transport services. This approach will be a continuation of those policies contained within the current Development Plan, with more intensive land uses and residential densities developed in close proximity to services;

- By encouraging walking and cycling (through the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets), by improving the walking and cycling environment and engaging in behaviour change initiatives. Walking and cycling have a major role in transporting people over shorter distances (including access to public transport services). The Development Plan will seek to ensure that improvements to the local road/street network are focused on improving facilities for cyclists and pedestrians to ensure that walking and cycling is a safer and more convenient option; and
- Kildare County Council will also work closely with the National Roads Authority (NRA) to address the future capacity of national routes (N4, M7/N7, and M9) and to minimise the impacts on the management of the broader network.

4.2.6 Infrastructure (including Water Services and Energy)

4.2.6.1 Water and Wastewater

Summary of Issues Raised

Water and Wastewater infrastructure issues were raised in fifteen (15) of the submissions received (13%). The main issues included water quality, waste water capacity, new water sources, collaboration with Irish Water, water conservation and infrastructure issues in particular locations.

One submission noted that the extraction of water from the rivers to processing plants resulted in reduced flows and greater concentrations of pollutants. One submission proposes that adequate water and waste infrastructure needs to be in place prior to development. A number of submissions state that Council should protect and where possible, improve surface water, groundwater resources and their associated habitats and species, in accordance with the Water Framework Directive and associated relevant River Basin Management Plan and associated Programme of Measures. The County Development Plan should include a commitment to collaborate with Irish Water in the provision of adequate and appropriate critical service infrastructure to cater for future development over the lifetime of the plan. One submission states that the County Development Plan should recognise the need for investment in a new water supply source and in infrastructure for the east and midlands region. Water conservation policies and water protection policies were requested in another submission. One submission proposes that Irish Water be scrapped.

A number of submissions states that the County Development Plan needs to include a long term policy for the treatment of sewerage in Milltown. One submission stated that the deficiency in waste water treatment capacity in Blessington environs should be recognised and that policy objectives identifying the measures required to address this are included in the Draft Plan. (Submissions 3, 5, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 68, 77, 105, 112)

Chief Executive's Opinion and Recommendations

Irish Water is responsible for Public Water Services in Ireland, since January 2014. While Kildare County Council continues to undertake water services functions within its area under a service level agreement with Irish Water, all operational and investment decisions are made by Irish Water centrally. The Council recognises that the capacity of the County to accommodate future growth is dependent on the capacity of water supply sources and water / wastewater infrastructure within the County as well as the wider Dublin Metropolitan area. The Council will engage with Irish Water to

ensure that the future demands of the County are considered, as part of future Capital Investment Programme (CIP). The Council will continue to promote water conservation through the Environmental Awareness Programme and work in conjunction with Irish Water to minimise unaccounted for water levels in the system. In accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive, the Eastern River Basin Management Plan 2009 - 2015 details a programme of measures which will be used to deliver surface and groundwater quality targets in the County.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Council continue to consult with Irish Water to ensure that the CIP of Irish Water is informed by the spatial planning framework set out in the Core Strategy of the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023.

4.2.6.2 Flooding and Surface Water

Summary of Issues Raised

Flooding and Surface Water infrastructure issues were raised in six (6) of the submissions received (5%). The main issues included attenuation, identification of flood plains and protection from pollution.

One submission promotes the use of proper attenuation by developments and transportation infrastructure in proximity of the Liffey. Many submissions propose that flood plains should be identified and left undeveloped to allow for the protection of these valuable habitats and provide areas for flood water retention. The protection of ground water and surface water from pollution is noted in another submission. One submission states that the County Development Plan should promote the integration of the recommendations of the relevant Catchment Flood Risk Assessment Management (CFRAM) studies.

One submission notes that flooding is a problem at Newtownmoyaghy, Kilcock and that no further housing developments should be granted until it is rectified. (Submissions 3, 5, 51, 54, 55, 68)

Chief Executive's Opinion and Recommendations

Kildare County Council is responsible for the management of surface water drainage at a local level and the Office Public Works (OPW) has responsibility for flood risk management at a national and regional level. In accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive, the South Eastern River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 and the Eastern River Basin Management Plan 2009 - 2015 detail a programme of measures which will be used to deliver surface and groundwater quality targets in the County.

The Eastern and South Eastern CFRAMS projects are currently at Public Consultation Stage for the predictive Draft Final Flood Mapping. These maps are currently available for viewing online and the OPW are welcoming comments from interested parties.

Recommendations: It is recommended that the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 endorses the CFRAMS and the current River Basin Management Plans and the preparation and implementation of the second round of River Basin Management Plans (2015 – 2021). In addition, the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 will outline the specific infrastructure

objectives, both long term and within the lifetime of the County Development Plan, required to achieve the spatial planning framework set out in the Core Strategy.

4.2.6.3 Waste Management

Summary of Issues Raised

Waste Management infrastructure issues were raised in thirteen (13) of the submissions received (11%). Recycling was a key concern for many people. One submission stated that recycling facilities should be provided in each of the five municipal district areas. One submission identified the need for a recycling facility in North Kildare and those new facilities should not be an issue in terms of noise or pollution for nearby residents. One submission promotes the investigation of retrofitting a turf power station to generate electricity from burning waste paper and plastic which in contrast another submission states that the Council needs to reaffirm its opposition to incineration in the Plan. A number of submissions propose the development of a designated recycling area in Milltown. (Submissions 2, 3, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 84, 105)

Chief Executive's Opinion and Recommendations

Kildare County Council is no longer active in the waste collection or processing area. The Council's role is primarily in relation to policy making and regulation of the sector within the County. Kildare is now part of the Eastern and Midlands Waste Region and the new Regional Waste Management Plan (RWMP) 2015-2021 has been adopted. The RWMP provides the framework for waste management for the next six years and sets out a range of policies and actions in order to meet the specified mandatory and performance targets. Most importantly the RWMP seeks to assist and support the community and local business to develop resource efficiency and waste prevention initiatives. A key plan target is to achieve a 1% reduction per annum in the quantity of household waste generated per capita over the period of the County Development Plan. In tandem, the RWMP identifies measures to develop a circular economy where waste management initiatives stop being confined to treating and disposing of waste, instead supporting initiatives that value waste as a resource or potential raw material. The Kildare Litter Management Plan (KLMP) is currently being reviewed and submissions from the public will be sought in the next two months. A new KLMP will be adopted for 2016-2018.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 reflects and supports the implementation of the Regional Waste Management Plan and the implementation of relevant legislation, Bye-Laws and policy. The Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 will also include policies and objectives to reduce waste and to develop recycling facilities in the county.

4.2.6.4 Energy and Communications

Summary of Issues Raised

Energy and communications infrastructure issues were raised in sixteen (16) of the submissions received (13%). The main issues included broadband provision, renewable energy generation, district heating schemes, wind energy, transmission infrastructure.

A number of submissions note inadequacies in broadband provision and make recommendations in relation to the development of this infrastructure. A number of submissions state the need for broadband throughout the county. The need for charging points for electric cars should be encouraged was mentioned in another submission.

One submission states that reusing existing transmission infrastructure should be a key policy of the County Development Plan. Another submission requests that the County Development Plan recognises the need for the development and renewal of transmission networks, in order to meet both economic and social policy goals.

One submission states that appropriate wind energy development should be facilitated as fuel prices will increase. One submission notes that the expansion of the Irish wind industry will be an extremely positive economic development for the entire country and, indeed, for Kildare. It will result in direct local investment, job creation, as well as increased local authority income through commercial rates and development contributions. At the same time, new wind energy development will also bring about a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and help tackle global climate change. A number of submissions urge the completion of the Council's Wind Energy Strategy which should be based on an opportunities and constraints model, include targets and identify geographical areas that may be more suitable to wind energy development. One submission states that Kildare should be committed to renewable energy as an alternative to our heavy reliance on fossil fuel consumption and encourages local and community renewable energy projects.

One submission states that the County Development Plan should examine the economic, social and environmental issues of wind and grid planning and development. A resolution of these issues is a prerequisite to any location, health, setback, noise, flicker discussion and that concerns have been raised in relation to all these issues. One submission notes that the scale of the turbines will have a dominant effect on the skyline and a number of submissions state that turbines will impact negatively on tourism. Another submission states that in relation to wind farms, there should be a setback distance of at least 10 times the size of any turbine. Another submission states that energy infrastructure has to be sensitive to historic landscapes and areas of natural beauty and may have a negative impact on the equine industry. One submission states that wind energy development remain under constant review as more information on their impacts comes to light. (Submissions 1, 3, 4, 8, 10, 46, 54, 55, 59, 63, 67, 78, 83, 86, 105, 114)

Chief Executive's Opinion and Recommendations

The policies and objectives relating to the development of new and the upgrading of existing electricity transmission infrastructure shall be reviewed in light of the ongoing evolution of national guidance, related technology and the desire to achieve social acceptance of such development.

It was agreed by Council in December 2013 to carry out a variation of the current County Development Plan 2011-2017 to prepare a Wind Energy Strategy. Some preliminary work has been carried out on the strategy and it will proceed to completion once the DECLG review of the Wind Energy Development Guidelines is completed.

Existing policies to promote and facilitate a high quality broadband and telecommunications network throughout the County to support social and economic development will also be reviewed and strengthened.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the:

- The Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 will incorporate a Wind Energy Strategy which will be informed by national energy targets and guidelines;
- Existing policies to promote and facilitate high quality broadband and telecommunications network throughout the County will be reviewed under the Draft Plan; and
- Policies and objectives in relation to the siting of telecommunications infrastructure will also be reviewed having regard to national policy.

4.2.7 Environment

4.2.7.1 Environmental Assessment, Climate Change & Renewable Energy

Environment issues were raised in twelve (12) of the submissions received (10%). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) made a lengthy submission detailing procedure and requirements for the County Development Plan. In particular the approach to incorporating national guidelines and policy in areas such as water quality, flooding, wastewater treatment, biodiversity and relationship with other plans and programmes.

One submission noted that the Geological Survey of Ireland should be consulted as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). One submission notes that the databases / baselines in the SEA are insufficient and leave out many aspects of landscape etc.

One all inclusive submission refers to the issues of climate change and renewable energy. The submission makes recommendations for reduction in energy consumption and CO2 emissions for residential, commercial and industrial, agriculture, transport and energy development and seeks the inclusion of specific targets. The submission also seeks the establishment of an Energy Agency in Kildare. Many of the submissions that promote renewable energy identify the contribution it makes to adaptation to climate change. A number of submissions mention the importance of dealing with climate change. Another submission states that a climate change strategy should be carried out. While another submission recommends that Kildare should declare itself as a Litter-Free County and institute a balanced programme of “stick-and-carrot” to achieve this during the plan period.

Another detailed submission was received recommending that a clear programme for monitoring the carbon performance of the Draft County Development Plan should be adopted. In addition it was argued that Kildare should strive to become a low carbon county. The submission also requested that support and encouragement is put in place to encourage people to avail of the SEAI Better Energy Programme to increase the efficiency of Kildare’s housing stock.

Submissions note noise, light and air pollution as being a problem in certain circumstances and another submission maintained that air quality standards need to be maintained. Iarnród Éireann note that they will continue to consult with the Council in relation to Noise Action plans, and also state that the rail operation and activities will sometimes result in environmental noise emissions and, subject to adherence to statutory requirements, such operations and activities should not be

unreasonably restricted because of land use changes in the future. Noise from overhead power lines was stated as a problem in one submission. A number of submissions also linked wind energy with the local environment and the potential impacts on health. Noise emanating from wind farms was also raised. These are summarised under the Energy and Telecommunications section. (Submissions 3, 7, 8, 43, 54, 63, 68, 74, 78, 86, 93, 105)

Chief Executive's Opinion and Recommendations

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a formal process that involves the systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the new County Development Plan before a decision has been made to adopt it. An SEA is carried out as a parallel process to the County Development Plan. Any significant environmental effects must be taken into account prior to the adoption of the County Development Plan.

The Draft County Development Plan will also be subject to the overall process of Appropriate Assessment Screening under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). Pursuant to the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, a Stage One Appropriate Assessment Screening shall be carried out as part of the overall process and a Stage Two Appropriate Assessment (AA) shall be carried out, if required. Policies and objectives of the Draft County Development Plan shall be drafted to avoid adverse effect on sites of EU importance.

The importance of factoring climate change adaption measures into the County Development Plan is recognised. The Draft County Development Plan will have regard to the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework, Building Resilience to Climate Change (2012), which requires the integration of adaptation and mitigation measures into the Plan.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 is subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment and that Climate Change Adaption informs policies and objectives throughout the Plan. Renewable energy will also form a key part of the Draft Plan.

4.2.8 Social and Community

4.2.8.1 Community and Culture

Summary of Issues Raised

Community issues were raised in twenty one (21) of the submissions received (18%). The main issues included the needs of the elderly, young people, childcare, education and shortfalls in facilities.

A number of submissions stated that the County Development Plan needs to cater for the needs of the elderly and one promotes the implementation of the age friendly strategy. A number of submissions promote the development of services for young people including youth clubs, skate parks and cafes. Community clean up initiatives were promoted in one submission. One submission supported community led tourism which could include initiatives that would link tourism to the development of social, community and cultural facilities. One submission states that community facilities should be accessible and inclusive for all. One submission proposes that the needs of the three Integrated Service Programme towns of Kildare, Kilcock and Celbridge are considered as part

of this process. The importance of youth friendly services and facilities in the County were highlighted in one submission. The Kildare Children's and Young People's Services Committee 3-Year Plan (2015-2017) identifies 4 locations of particular need in terms of youth facilities: Monasterevin, Rathangan, Kildare Town and Newbridge.

It is stated in one submission that neither the Issues Paper nor the current County Development Plan adequately identifies the planning issues associated with providing facilities for intellectual disabilities and mental health. In relation to institutional land one submission states that the County Development Plan should, quantify the requirement for community and educational facilities in the Council's administrative area, work with stakeholders to identify particular sites for particular institutional purposes and ensure delivery of adequate community and educational facilities as part of residential and mixed development proposals. The inclusion of a number of policies and objectives is sought which refer to those with physical and/or mental health intellectual disabilities and seeks to include private operators in the list of stakeholders mentioned in the current County Development Plan. Another submission recommended that the Kildare Integration Strategy 2014-2019 be fully implemented in the County Development Plan.

Ballymore Eustace was identified as being in need of multipurpose community facilities. A submission stated that Sallins urgently needs a public playground and a public community centre with potential for multi-purpose usage by a variety of groups and the provision of land and facilities for local sports clubs.

One submission stated that all children should be able to attend schools close to where they live. One submission recommended that education facilities at all levels should be accessible and inclusive for all. Another submission noted the need for both primary and secondary education facilities in Kildare town. One submission promoted the expansion of the Yellow Flag Programme which aims to promote diversity and inclusion in schools. Another submission stated that all new educational facilities must have facilities for sports to be played. The need for a Gaelcholaiste in north Kildare is noted in another submission. The Department of Education and Skills outlined its infrastructural requirements in one submission. A number of submissions stated that County Development Plan should be put in place to develop community childcare at locations close to schools, even in rural areas.

It was noted in one submission that Maynooth needs a performing arts centre to cater for the cultural and artistic needs of the town and its environs. There is a lack of such a facility in the north of the county. The expansion of services at Kilcock library was promoted in another submission with increased cultural events in the evening suggested. Library services play an active role in the social inclusion of all areas. Horse racing should be recognised as a cultural activity is stated in another submission. One submission suggested that the Council should hold free, small scale outdoor family friendly concerts and other cultural themed events in parks or town centres. (Submissions 2, 3, 6, 7, 36, 45, 47, 50, 58, 64, 75, 76, 82, 84, 85, 96, 104, 105, 107, 110, 116)

Chief Executive's Opinion and Recommendations

There is a wide range of community facilities, civic facilities and social services existing in the County. It will be important to protect existing resources through appropriate policies and objectives. It will be equally important to facilitate and support the development and expansion of facilities and

services throughout the County, based on identified need, in order to deliver a high quality of life for all communities in Kildare.

The Draft County Development Plan will incorporate an evidence based Core Strategy that will outline the existing and proposed future distribution of population within the plan area within a settlement hierarchy that is consistent with the Settlement Strategy set out in the Regional Planning Guidelines. The Core Strategy will form the basis for policies and objectives in relation to the spatial distribution of community infrastructure.

The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP), which is currently being prepared by Kildare County Council, will have a more significant role in terms of identifying issues in relation to community infrastructure in the County and the investment to deliver infrastructure and community facilities at a local level. Government agencies such as the HSE, the Department of Education and Skills and the Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform are responsible for delivering infrastructure for health, education and policing. In preparing the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP), the Council must therefore work closely with government agencies to ensure phased provision of facilities where a need is identified.

The Draft Plan and Core Strategy will identify the key growth or renewal areas within the County, and more detailed master planning at a later stage will include an assessment of community and civic facilities that are needed in consultation with the relevant statutory agencies.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that policies and objectives in the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 seek to protect and enhance the viability of existing resources through appropriate policies and objectives and to facilitate and support the development and expansion of new facilities and services by the relevant agencies, as appropriate and as required.

4.2.8.2 Recreation

Summary of Issues Raised

Recreation issues were raised in eighteen (18) of the submissions received (15%). The main issues included lack of facilities for sports clubs, play areas for children and walking and cycling routes.

Two submissions outlined the need for a public swimming pool in North Kildare. One submission promoted the development of accessible open spaces. Catering for the sporting and recreational needs of all is mentioned in another submission. It was the view of one submission that there should be a strategy to identify areas for open space, whether passive or active, and that the demesne lands throughout the County should be investigated for use as open space for amenity purposes. The Council was urged in another submission to keep tourists in mind when approving recreational facilities and walking routes. It was suggested in a few submissions that community centres should be set up throughout the County offering a range of sports and activities. Any area deemed as open space should not be permitted to be redeveloped for residential use was pointed out in one submission. One submission proposed that the Parks Department of the Council be expanded to cater for the County's large population. One submission states that the County Development Plan needs to ensure consultation with the relevant stakeholders in relation to the provision of amenity

facilities. Also 'local parks' should allow for the development of multipurpose all weather games areas so that all children can participate in close proximity to their homes. Gaelic games should be considered when designing these areas. Larger neighbourhood parks should be developed as recreational hubs with all the relevant facilities and could be delivered through public private partnership schemes. One submission states that horse racing should be recognised as a sport in the new County Development Plan. A few submissions noted that the County Development Plan should commit more strongly to the co-operation of schools and GAA clubs in the provision of sporting facilities within school grounds.

A number of submissions promote the development of children's play areas that are accessible to all children, namely Ballymore Eustace. A number of submissions promoted the development of parks with an opportunity sites identified for Caragh Court in Naas and Magee Barracks, Kildare Town, new parks should have exercise and play facilities. One submission includes a proposal for the development of a Naas neighbourhood Greenway walking /cycling / running network throughout Naas connecting to Sallins, Kill, Johnstown and Punchestown. One submission promotes the preservation of existing and requirement for new recreational facilities in Kildare Town. The provision of facilities for the Athy Rowing Club was mentioned in another submission. A submission from Celbridge Town AFC states the need to build a community based sports complex with associated pitches, athletics track, swimming pool and associated facilities. The Athy Camogie club also made a submission requesting the provision of playing facilities. (Submissions 3, 36, 38, 44, 47, 54, 56, 70, 71, 82, 84, 87, 95, 103, 105, 110, 117, 118)

Chief Executive's Opinion and Recommendations

There is a substantial network of parks and open spaces within the County. There is a hierarchy of managed parks from regional scale parks to smaller open spaces within residential areas all with a range of resources (sports pitches, play grounds, running tracks etc) and natural amenities (flora, fauna, watercourses etc). While some of the parks and open areas are interlinked to form continuous open spaces (for example, by canals, rivers or hedgerows), there are possible opportunities to create a more coherent network within the County. The Draft County Development Plan will review the role and function of parks and recreational areas within the County and consider policies to strengthen the network of parks and recreational areas.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the role and function of parks and recreational areas within the County is reviewed and that policies and objectives in the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 seek to strengthen the network of parks and recreational areas within the County.

The Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 will include policies to collaborate with national agencies and sporting bodies to improve and develop a range of passive and active recreational facilities to meet the needs of a growing population and to cater for visitors to the County.

4.2.9 Urban Design and Architecture

Summary of Issues Raised

Urban Design and Architecture Issues were raised in twenty six (26) of the submissions received (22%). The main issues raised included the requirement to regenerate our key public spaces in our towns and villages and ensure that proper design is elevated over the needs of the car.

One submission in particular stated that a certain amount of green areas should be kept within town centres and village as our towns generally have very low levels of green areas, free of concrete and pavements. Trees, open spaces (hard and soft) and grass areas should take precedence over pavements, gates and concrete/tar areas.

In order to offset the impact of developments within our towns, a submission recommends that a specific area should be planted within developments as a wildflower meadow to support local biodiversity.

The need to protect the quality of the built environment was also referenced in many submissions. It was suggested that Kildare embark on a 'Pride of Place' award to promote our built heritage and link this to tourism.

The Irish Wheelchair Association highlighted the need for the Universal Design approach to building houses to ensure that such units are open to everyone and lessen the need for expensive adaptation over the life of the house. The submission also highlights the need to ensure that our spaces and towns are accessible to everyone. In particular Kildare County Council should promote good shopfront design which is accessible to all.

Ballymore Eustace GAA made a submission highlighting the fact that a lack of appropriate development and the closure of many places have left a feeling of dereliction which has damaged the character of the village. The County Development Plan needs to identify Ballymore Eustace as open for new business, and as a place to live and work and do business. Urban design and architectural requirements must be realistic and sympathetic without being prohibitive. It is not good enough to assign a protected status to something if that means it becomes undesirable from a developmental aspect and is allowed to go derelict.

Public Realm

The relationship between high quality public spaces and the business and tourism life of towns was raised on a number of occasions. A submission highlighted that a high quality public realm can increase business confidence and foster civic pride. The Council should, where appropriate, support proposals on enhancing the overall character and quality of public spaces, de-cluttering streets, removing unnecessary signage, rails, bollards, street furniture etc. One submission suggested that towns be designated as plastic free areas and to discourage plastic shop signs.

Another submission stated that the public realm (streetscapes, parks and greenspaces, river fronts, public buildings and cycling and pedestrian facilities) provides the key element in the overall urban fabric of the County's settlement – essential to achieving a sense of place, increasing safety and enhancing visual amenity.

In order to secure the delivery of public realm improvement works, a collaborative approach between Central Government (funding), Kildare County Council, Private Sector and Voluntary Associations is required.

Traffic, and in particular Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) was highlighted as a problem in towns and a submission recommends that the Council restrict HGV's in town centres.

A number of submissions referred to the quality of the urban and village/rural environment and its impact on quality of life. It was noted that it is important to conserve what is good and to create new townscapes that respect the past while allowing for appropriate new interventions. Where possible incentives should be made available in some form to encourage re-use of urban spaces and places to regenerate urban vibrancy in traditional main streets.

For Naas, one submission lists a range of public realm improvement works and changes to traffic movements which could improve the overall appearance and dynamic of the town.

A number of submissions were made from various groups in Celbridge highlighting the international importance of the town and the need to protect the historic demesnes. The requirement to improve the urban fabric and public realm was highlighted in a number of towns including Naas, Celbridge, Sallins, Clane and Kilcock.

Another submission suggests that Council policy must be strongly opposed to gable ends of buildings in prominent positions being covered with advertising - and policy must be backed by the resources to enforce them. From a heritage perspective, it was suggested that new or redeveloped buildings, bridges and other structures must include provisions to encourage appropriate urban biodiversity.

One submission stated that the design of buildings in the past few years is not in keeping with surroundings. While some might be spectacular pieces of architecture some of these buildings (built in the past ten years) are more akin to a city like Berlin and not Kildare and that a plan to regenerate empty buildings is needed.

Development Management Standards

A number of submissions have queried Council standards in the current County Development Plan which exceed or differ from national standards. In particular the requirements for block boundary walls, extra storage space and car parking standards make it difficult to deliver schemes. Other submissions refer directly to the density prescribed for sites. It is felt that a more flexible approach to key standards will enable developers to deliver high quality housing at affordable prices. The standards should allow for the falling average household size and other demographic trends.

One submission requested that the Council maximise energy efficiency development standards and BER ratings to ensure environmental efficiencies for the next wave of building stock at a cost effective level. Another submission stated that it is neither equitable nor viable for householders of new build housing to be burdened with the social cost of wider community service provision.

One submission requested specific development standards are set for recreational and playing fields to ensure higher standards of design that future proof these facilities and increase their usage year round. Car parking standards relevant to these facilities also need to be reviewed.

(Submissions 3, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, 42, 44, 47, 49, 54, 57, 60, 66, 84, 87, 89, 104, 105, 113, 116)

Chief Executive's Opinion and Recommendations

It is recommended that the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 will review and incorporate policies and objectives as appropriate, to address the issues raised in each of the areas mentioned above. Specific reference to public realm improvement works may be set out, where relevant, in the relevant Village Plan/ Local Area Plan. The Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 will include various policies and objectives in accordance with national policy and guidance documents to enhance the overall streetscape and appearance of our towns and villages and use national and international best practice as reference points where appropriate.

4.2.10. Landscape and Heritage

4.2.10.1 Built Heritage

Summary of Issues Raised

Built Heritage issues were raised in nine (9) of the submissions received (7.5%). The main issues included the Record of Protected Structures (RPS), Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) accessibility to structures, tourism potential individual sites like Castletown.

A number of submissions promote improved accessibility to and conservation of built heritage sites throughout the County for amenity and tourism purposes. One submission promotes the conservation and maintenance of the stone cut bridges in the County for their character and heritage value. Submissions note the importance of vernacular buildings such as cottages, schools and industrial buildings and that they should be included in the Record of Protected Structures. One submission proposes that all development with a possible impact on built heritage be assessed by a suitably qualified person. One submission proposes that the conservation of heritage is acknowledged and recognised as a key component of quality of life. Many submissions state that Country Houses and in particular Castletown, are an important component of the architectural heritage patrimony of the county. It is vital that such houses are conserved together with their demesnes, views and wider landscapes. One submission promotes the development of a strategy for the development of Castletown and its associated lands as a tourism and heritage attraction.

A number of submissions state that ACAs should be developed further with improved streetscape, shop fronts and the under grounding of utilities etc to make them more attractive. One submission states that the Council should define boundaries for an Architectural Conservation Area for Castletown and Donaghcumper demesnes. One submission wishes to have lands removed from those identified for protection under Map 12.10 of the current County Development Plan. (Submissions 2, 3, 4, 42, 53, 54, 65, 80, 105)

Chief Executive's Opinion and Recommendations

The current County Development Plan seeks to protect and conserve the architectural and architectural heritage of the County. 1,276 structures are listed on the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) in the Plan. The Plan also lists 9 ACA's.

Recommendations: It is recommended that an appraisal of the RPS and ACA's are carried out to inform the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 and that any issues arising are addressed. Policies and objectives relating to the County's built environment will also be reviewed as part of the County Development Plan review process. The County Development Plan will also include policies and objectives to safeguard the protected structures and vernacular architecture of the County.

4.2.10.2 Landscape and Natural Heritage

Summary of Issues Raised

Landscape and Natural Heritage issues were raised in twenty one (21) of the submissions received (18%). The main issues included recreation and tourism potential of sites, accessibility, protection of sites impacts on landscape and biodiversity.

In general, the majority of the issues raised under this category, dealt with the importance of gaining the most from the County's assets. A number of submissions propose the appropriate protection and development of key natural heritage sites as amenities for recreational and tourism uses, most notably the designation of the Bog of Allen as a National Park. A number of submissions noted the importance of accessibility for all users to all heritage sites and the provision of associated facilities. Many submissions state that the canals, water corridors and the Barrow and Liffey valleys in particular have significant heritage value and should be protected and appropriately developed for leisure / tourism activities. One submission proposed the idea of opening a museum in the county.

A number of submissions make suggestions in relation to the promotion and the conservation of the County's archaeology including the historic core of towns and villages. One submission promoted the County's archaeological heritage as a tourism resource.

One submission states that Kildare County Council should protect landscape from inappropriate development. A number of submissions promote cognisance of the impact of renewable energy and transmission infrastructure on the County's landscape and the possible related impact on the tourism and equine sectors. One submission states that landscape sensitivity should take account of historic and designed landscapes. One submission states that the Kildare Uplands should be protected from residential zoning.

One submission promotes the protection of biodiversity including species not protected under current legislation. Many submissions state that habitats including hedgerows, wetlands, bogs and rivers and their associated biodiversity should be protected for present and future generations. A number of submissions state that amenity developments must not have a negative impact on biodiversity or designated sites.

One submission promotes geological heritage in the county. One submission stated that existing rights of way should be catalogued, protected and maintained. One submission noted Kildare's rich republican heritage and it should be highlighted and conserved. One submission wishes for horse racing related activities to be considered as part of the County's heritage and culture. (Submissions 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 32, 36, 39, 43, 47, 53, 54, 57, 59, 68, 82, 84, 86, 102, 105, 110)

Chief Executive's Opinion and Recommendations

It is clear from the number of submissions that landscape and natural heritage are an integral part of the lives of residents and they should therefore be conserved managed and enhanced. The Draft County Development Plan will seek to build on the existing policies and to identify the potential to improve the accessibility of natural heritage and amenities (e.g. river valleys and bogs) and to promote their value for leisure, tourism and related purposes, while continuing to ensure appropriate levels of protection.

The Draft Plan will seek the protection and enhancement of the County's landscape to ensure that development respects and where necessary, enhances the appearance and character of the landscape. The Draft Plan is required to incorporate policies and objectives to protect and conserve natural heritage and designated sites, these include a proposed Special Protection Area, seven proposed Special Areas of Conservation and twelve Proposed Natural Heritage Areas. Other designated areas include sites of Geological Importance, sites of Archaeological Importance, Tree Protection Orders etc.

The County Biodiversity and the County Heritage Plan are currently being reviewed and will provide guidance on many of the issues raised in the pre-draft submissions once completed.

Recommendations: It is recommended that policies and objectives of the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 seek to protect Natural Heritage and Biodiversity, while improving the accessibility and promotion of key assets through enhancement projects.

It is also recommended that the policies and objectives in the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 that relate to landscape are formulated in the context of the recently published National Landscape Strategy (2015).

4.2.11 Rural Development & Natural Resources

Summary of Issues Raised

Rural Development and Natural Resource (including Equine) issues were raised in ten (10) of the submissions received (8%). The main issues included rural development, the equine industry and natural resources.

4.2.11.1 Rural Development

Summary of Issues Raised

Rural Development issues were raised in eight (8) of the submissions received (6.7%).

A number of submissions note the impacts of new development on the landscape, natural heritage and biodiversity of rural Kildare. Two submissions also support the need to support and protect the agricultural land base and rural communities.

One submission strongly supports the need for public rights of way to be identified, protected and enhanced. One submission highlights the need to support LEADER partnerships and the need to redress the balance between urban and rural economies and activities. (Submissions 4, 7, 9, 32, 59, 63, 70, 105)

Chief Executive's Opinion and Recommendations

The review will seek to build on the policies and objectives contained in the current County Development Plan and incorporate policies and objectives in the forthcoming County Development Plan that will strengthen the County's economic competitiveness and attractiveness. In particular, policies and objectives relating to rural development should seek to retain and enhance the attractiveness of the rural areas in the County as a place within which to live, work or enjoy. It is important to note that the scope of the County Development Plan, which sets out a framework for the physical growth and development of the county, includes a specific focus on the future development, protection and enhancement of rural Kildare.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the policies and objectives of the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 seek to:

- Promote a vibrant, environmentally sustainable and well managed agricultural, horticultural, forestry sector and bloodstock/equine industry which contributes to the rural economy;
- Encourage rural development in the County in a sustainable manner, while recognising the need to protect the County's agricultural land base;
- Recognise and support the changing nature of rural communities in Kildare, including the support of local LEADER initiatives;
- Facilitate development in rural Kildare in accordance with the core strategy of the Draft Plan and the forthcoming Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy; and
- Facilitate farm diversification and encourage the sustainable development of alternative rural enterprises as a way of supporting a viable rural community subject to environmental considerations and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

4.2.11.2 Equine

Summary of Issues Raised

Equine issues were raised in five (5) of the submissions received (4.2%).

A number of submissions state that equestrian activities are significant contributors to economic activity both locally and nationally. Two submissions highlight the need to enhance the links between tourism and the bloodstock and equine industries.

One submission refers to a recent publication by the Minister for Agriculture 'Reaching New Heights: Report of Irish Sport Horse Industry Strategy Committee'. One submission relates to the need to relax the rural housing policy to ensure there are sufficient locally based employment opportunities. One submission details the importance of the Curragh Racecourse and the challenges it faces while analysing its importance to the county.

One submission from a rural equine enterprise in the County states that the biggest threat to their rural based industry is the Eirgrid proposals. The potential impact on noise, animal welfare issues, depreciation of values, impact on landscape are among some of the issues which are essential to the successful operation of the equine industry in rural areas by local people. (Submissions 4, 30, 63, 70, 110)

Chief Executive's Opinion and Recommendations

It is policy under the current County Development Plan to protect, support and enhance Kildare's role as a leader in the equine industry. The Draft County Development Plan will seek to build on these existing policies and objectives to identify the potential to improve the economic, community, social and tourist related spin offs of Kildare as a centre for equine excellence.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the policies and objectives of the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 seek to:

- Promote a vibrant, environmentally sustainable and well managed bloodstock/equine industry which contributes to the rural economy; and
- Encourage the expansion of the bloodstock industry by protecting the environment and amenity value of rural areas, from encroachment by urban sprawl and incompatible development.

4.2.11.3 Natural Resources

Summary of Issues Raised

Natural Resources issues were raised in three (3) of the submissions received (2.5%).

A number of submissions called for policies to ensure that future development does not impinge on the natural heritage assets in the County, including the protection and management of the County's boglands, inland waterways and geology.

Two submissions referred to forestry in the County and the need to manage and implement best practice to protect the landscape, heritage of the County and to ensure access is provided and maintained for amenity and recreation.

Two submissions requested specific policies and objectives in relation to the registration, siting, operation, management and aftercare of extractive industries and for a fracking free county.

One submission called for support for changes in agricultural practice and links with an Energy Strategy with the growth in the production of energy crops. (Submissions 4, 9, 105)

Chief Executive's Opinion and Recommendations

The Draft County Development Plan will include policies which will address the need to manage, protect and enhance the natural resources of County Kildare. Existing policies to facilitate and manage the extractive and forestry industries in a sustainable manner will also be reviewed and strengthened.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the policies and objectives of the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 will seek to allow for the sustainable use of the County's natural resources in accordance with national policy. Furthermore the recently published National Landscape Strategy (2015) will inform the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023.

4.2.12 Tourism

Summary of Issues Raised

Tourism was raised in thirty one (31) of the submissions received (26%). The main issues included promotion and development of tourism sites and the development and protection of natural and built heritage attractions in the County with a particular emphasis on walking and cycling trails. A recurring theme was that a more joined up approach to tourism, tourist attractions and hospitality is required with all key stakeholders in the county.

The County Development Plan should support the work of County Kildare Fáilte in conjunction with other tourism bodies at National, Regional and district levels and should include general objectives to improve the County's attractiveness to tourists to facilitate tourism and economic development particularly in relation to the Barrow Blueway boglands, ACA, walled towns etc. An objective should be included for the sustainable development and promotion of the Barrow Blueway and the County's waterways in co-operation with local communities and enterprises and also with Waterways Ireland and National Parks and Wildlife. Submissions stated that the key visitor attractions in Kildare are built upon the following principal assets: archaeological, built heritage and historical sites, sporting and outdoor activity sites, natural heritage sites, shopping venues and retail centres and touring routes be protected and promoted in the County Development Plan.

One submission outlined how Kildare should develop and promote accessible tourism including people using mobility aids, manual and powered wheelchairs and scooters. In conjunction with Fáilte Ireland, Kildare Fáilte and Waterways Ireland, the Council should ensure that accessibility for all is embedded in the planning of tourist amenities and developments.

A number of submissions mentioned the abundance of natural heritage in south Kildare and that future development should not impinge on these assets. Kildare County Council should develop specific action plans, not aspirations, to provide walking routes and cycling routes such as the Barrow Blueway and the Canals, the Gordon Bennett route, Coillte Forests which should look to encompass both the natural heritage and the built heritage. Linkages should be developed along these routes to bring businesses to towns and villages. Signage in English and in Irish should be improved. The contribution of Kildare Outlet Village to tourism in the County should be promoted. Tourism and its associated economic contributions and importance within the County merit a separate standalone chapter within the County Development Plan.

A number of submissions focused on improved promotion, protection and provision of facilities should be provided at cut stone bridges, the Grand and Royal Canals, the Curragh, Ballynafagh Lake, Pollardstown Fen, Bog and Hill of Allen, Donadea Forest and walled gardens in the county. The Kildare portion of the Bog of Allen should be designated as a National Park as an alternative to Wind Energy. Flora and Fauna particularly bird species and native hedgerows should be protected in the County Development Plan. One submission requested that the "indicative zones for potential" in the Midlands area, identified in the Strategic Framework Plan for future use of Peatlands (Bord Na Mona), are not constrained for industrial peat land use if other alternative uses are identified in the future. Kildare County Council must promote and develop potential the East Kildare Uplands has for tourism in the region. The importance of Geological Heritage and County Geological Sites should be acknowledged in County Development Plan.

Eight submissions made a number of suggestions in relation to the protection of the natural and built heritage and proposed tourism initiatives particularly for Celbridge and north Kildare. In particular submissions focused on the need for an ACA in Celbridge and a combined effort to protect the designed landscape (and associated views) of Castletown, Donaghcumper and St. Wolstans as well as linking Celbridge and Castletown and other attractions in north Kildare as part of a tourism heritage plan. It is also proposed that the Orchard/St. Wolstan's be promoted as part of the wider Castletown experience. Due consideration should be given in the County Development Plan to Carton House and the contribution it makes to tourism in the county.

The development and promotion of walking and cycling trails and greenways across the County was a recurring theme in a number of submissions. It is also submitted that the Royal Canal Cycle-pathway/Walkway from Dublin to Galway is of major importance to Kilcock. The County Development Plan should support the new idea of the "Irish Camino Way" and address the pollution saga in the Royal Canal. Closed shops and boarded up premises in town centres do nothing to add to the attraction of a town. Urban design needs to be improved in all town and village centres. A number of walkways in the Ballymore Eustace area identified for potential development.

One submission suggested that academic centres of learning are linked to tourism by promoting unique features of County Kildare at academic conferences. Two submissions highlighted the role that horse racing plays in tourism in the county. This should be retained and expanded upon in the County Development Plan. Specific suggestions were proposed in relation to the wording of specific policies and objectives in the County Development Plan in relation to the contribution that the three racecourses make to tourism in the county.

The Regional Planning Guidelines supports regionally balanced tourism and recognizes that Dublin city can be considered as a gateway to attracting increased tourism to other parts of the Greater Dublin Area. The local authority should set out its tourism strengths in terms of regional cooperation.

It was submitted that Kildare needs more festivals, farmers markets, Christmas markets rather than weekly market days in each area to draw in tourism and community participation. The Milk Market on weekend mornings in Limerick City is a good example. Local producers should be prioritised. Hold free, small-scale outdoor family friendly concerts or cultural event in parks or town centres. The Council should consider the implementation of an annual 'Kildare Day' to encourage people to get out and about in the county. Develop the Kildare Tourist Trail producing booklets etc and highlighting all activities that would be of interest. Tourism should concentrate on the opportunities that exist for green tourism. (Submissions 2, 4, 7, 9, 20, 32, 34, 36, 39, 42, 43, 47, 52, 53, 54, 55, 57, 59, 60, 62, 66, 70, 71, 80, 82, 84, 104, 105, 110, 113, 114)

Chief Executive's Opinion and Recommendations

Having regard to the number of submissions received relating to tourism and its development and promotion within the county, it is evident that this is a topic which is high on the agenda of the residents and business owners of the County.

The Draft County Development Plan will seek to put a greater and more focussed emphasis on the importance of tourism within the County. It is proposed that Tourism as a topic will have a

standalone chapter in the Draft Plan with focused and prioritised policies and objectives. It is proposed to identify the key tourist attractions across the County and identify potential to improve the overall promotion and accessibility of these attractions in conjunction with Kildare Failte, Fáilte Ireland, key stakeholders and community groups.

It is clear from the submissions received that there is a particular interest in and appreciation of the natural heritage of the County and the development of walkways and cycle trails and waterways. The Draft Plan will contain policies and objectives to support the development of the Barrow Blueway in conjunction with Waterways Ireland. The Draft Plan will also focus on the promotion and enhancement of the value of our natural and built heritage for tourism, leisure and related purposes, while continuing to ensure appropriate levels of protection and conservation.

The Draft Plan will seek to maintain and improve existing attractions and infrastructure and also to incorporate policies and objectives to promote protect and conserve our heritage as well as support the development of other tourist attractions across the County such a horse racing, retail and leisure activities.

Recommendations: It is recommended that policies and objectives of the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 seek to acknowledge the positive contribution that tourism makes to the economic and social wellbeing of the county. The Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 will seeks to capitalise on the proximity of Kildare to Dublin and Wicklow and to expand the existing tourism offer and brand for the County in conjunction with Kildare Fáilte, Fáilte Ireland and key stakeholders while. The Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 will seek to identify the key tourism draws and attractions across the County and to include supportive policies where appropriate. It is also recommended that the policies and objectives in the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 that relate to tourism are formulated in the context of the Strategic Tourism Development Plan 2013-2016 and the Kildare/ Wicklow Tourism Destination Development Strategy.

4.2.13 Other Issues

4.2.13.1 Zoning

2 submissions, comprising (1.6) % of the total written submissions received related to rezoning proposals. This submission related to the rezoning of a specific site from agricultural to residential. (Sub 15).

The submission requests that 10.3 acres of land currently zoned KE1 Integrated Leisure in the current County Development Plan be unzoned so that the lands revert back to being deemed primarily for agricultural use (Sub 17)

Chief Executive's Opinion and Recommendations

Pursuant to Section 11(2) (bc) of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 - 2014, requests or proposals for zoning of particular land for any purpose cannot be considered at this stage of the process. Kildare County Council intends to review the zoning of the area of the County Development Plan at the next stage of the process.

Recommendation: No recommendation.

5.0 Next Steps



KILDARE COUNTY
Development Plan 2017-23
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5.0 Next Steps

5.1 Consideration of Chief Executives Report

The elected members have up to ten (10) weeks to consider the Chief Executive's Report. A Special Meeting of Kildare County Council will then take place in September 2015 (date to be scheduled). Pursuant to the requirements of Section 11 (4) of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 – 2014 the elected members will consider the Chief Executive's Report on Pre-Draft Development Plan Consultation at this meeting and following consideration of the report may issue directions to the Chief Executive regarding the preparation of the Draft County Development Plan.

5.2 Preparation of the Draft Development Plan

Not later than twelve (12) weeks after the consideration of the Chief Executive's Report and the issuing of directions, the Chief Executive is required to prepare the proposed Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 and submit this to the members of Council for consideration. It is envisaged that the proposed Draft Plan will be submitted to the elected members in December 2015. Members will then have an 8 week period within which to consider the proposed Draft Plan.

A Special Meeting of Kildare County Council will take place in January 2016 to allow for consideration of the Proposed Draft Plan. Within two (2) weeks of consideration of the Draft Plan by members, the Chief Executive is required to publish notice of the preparation of the "Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023" and to make it available for inspection by the public for a period of not less than ten (10) weeks. This will take place in March to May 2016. The Council will engage in consultation with stakeholders and the public during this period.

A report on the outcome of the Draft Plan public consultation will be considered by Members, following which either (a) the Plan will be made or (b) material alterations will be made to the Draft Plan. If material alterations are made, there will be a further public consultation period regarding these and a further report will be prepared for Members' consideration. This will be followed by the making of the Plan.

A timescale for the entire process is outlined in **Table 1** of this report.

Appendix A Newspaper Notice

KILDARE COUNTY **Development Plan 2017-23** Your county, your future





**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED)
REVIEW OF THE KILDARE County Development Plan 2011-
2017 AND PREPARATION OF A NEW County Development
Plan 2017-2023**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 11 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) that Kildare County Council intends to review the existing Kildare County Development Plan 2011–2017 and to prepare a new Kildare County Development Plan 2017–2023.

The Planning Authority will carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as part of the review process, and for this purpose, the Planning Authority will prepare an environmental report of the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the new plan, and the provisions of Articles 13C to 13J of the 2004 SEA Regulations shall apply.

An Appropriate Assessment pursuant to Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC will also be carried out.

Public Consultation

To inform the process, an issues paper has been prepared which gives a broad overview of some of the main development issues to be addressed in the new plan.

This issues paper is available to view or download from www.kildarecoco.ie/planning

and copies are available to view at the Planning Department, Kildare County Council, Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co. Kildare, the Athy Customers Services Unit, Rathstewart Road, Athy and in Kildare County Council libraries during normal opening hours (excluding Bank Holidays) from Thursday 2nd April, 2015 to Friday 29th May, 2015 (inclusive).

A series of Public Information Sessions are scheduled for the following dates and venues:

Kildare Co. Council	Aras Chill Dara, Naas	Tuesday 5 th May 2015	7pm - 9pm
Glenroyal Hotel, Maynooth	Straffan Road	Wednesday 6 th May 2015	7pm - 9pm
Aras Bhríde, Kildare Town	Parish Centre	Monday 11 th May 2015	7pm - 9pm
Athy Heritage Centre	Emily Sq., Athy	Tuesday 12 th May 2015	7pm - 9pm
Newtown House, Leixlip	Captain's Hill	Wednesday 13 th May 2015	7pm - 9pm

Submissions/Observations

Kildare County Council hereby invites any interested parties to make submissions or observations with regard to the review of the existing Kildare County Development Plan 2011–2017 and the preparation of the new Kildare County Development Plan 2017–2023 including the SEA and AA processes.

In respect of making a submission or observation please note the following:-

- Submissions/observations regarding objectives and policies to deliver an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Kildare may be made in writing from **Thursday 2nd April 2015 to 4pm on Friday 29th May 2015**. Submissions/observations at this stage of the overall plan-making process should be strategic in nature and focus on 'big picture' issues.
- Submissions/observations should include your name and address and, where relevant, details of any organisation, community group or company etc., which you represent.
- Children, or groups or associations representing the interests of children, are particularly encouraged to make submissions or observations regarding the foregoing.
- The Planning Authority intends to review the zoning of the area of the development plan for the purposes of developing objectives and policies to deliver an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area of the development plan and the core strategy.
- **Requests or proposals for the zoning of particular land for any purpose shall not be considered at this stage.**

Submissions or observations to:

Online form at: www.kildarecoco.ie/planning

By Post: Senior Executive Officer, Forward Planning Section, Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co. Kildare. (Please mark envelope "County Development Plan Review").

- Kildare County Council is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Acts 1997 and 2014. If you consider that any information supplied by you is either commercially sensitive or confidential in nature, this should be highlighted and the reasons for its sensitivity specified. In such cases, the relevant material will, in response to FOI requests, be examined in light of exemptions provided for in the FOI Act.

- Kildare County Council is subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Acts, 1988 and 2013. In order to assist us with complying with the Data Protection Act **please include your name and contact details on a separate sheet** to the content of your submission/observation.

PLEASE NOTE:

Please make your submission by **one** medium only. As an online facility has been provided for your convenience, e-mail and faxed submissions will not be accepted.

The final date for receipt of submissions is 4p.m. on Friday 29th May 2015. Late submissions will not be accepted.

P Minnock
Director of Services
Planning, Community and Culture
2nd April, 2015

Appendix B List of issues Raised
in Written Submissions

KILDARE COUNTY
Development Plan 2017-23
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APPENDIX B: List of Issues Raised in Written Submissions

1 STRATEGIC PLANNING

Core Strategy

1. Future economic and residential development within the County should be concentrated along the existing rail corridors. (Sub 11, 97)
2. Land for large scale industrial and employment enterprise should be located in the Naas / Newbridge area close to existing future population areas, transportation infrastructure and services. (Sub 14)
3. Zoning of large land banks residential and commercial activity will allow towns to prosper. (Sub 34)
4. The Plan should zone sufficient land to cater for the anticipated needs of the County to the year 2026 for the following reasons: to ensure competition, to offer market choice, to take account of housing obsolescence. (Sub 49)
5. It is appropriate to concentrate future residential zoning in the metropolitan area and the primary growth centres of Naas and Newbridge. (Sub 49, 65, 94)
6. It is suggested that in preparing its Core Strategy and designating new growth areas, Council pays close attention to the spare capacity of existing schools, retail centres and social facilities such as sports clubs. (Sub 49).
7. Through better provision of public transport links and other infrastructure, sustainable growth in the south of the County should be encouraged, rather than concentrate on the north only. (Sub 57)
8. The biggest issue to be faced in the future is climate change. It is from this fact that the development plan must position its core strategy. It is vital for the future of the County that the battle against runaway climate change and the preparation for the effects of climate change is tied into every aspect of development within the county. (Sub 60)
9. The County Development Plan should take account of the following key national / regional plans, programmes and strategies: National Rural Development Programme (DECLG), National Forestry Programme (DAFM), National Peatland Strategy (DAHG), Regional Planning Guidelines, Eastern – Midlands Regional Waste Management Plan, Ireland's Environment 2012 (EPA), National Biodiversity Action Plan (DAHG), National Landscape Strategy (DECLG), Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy (NTA), Grid 25 Implementation Programme (Eirgrid), Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan and Capital Investment Programme, Relevant Catchment Flood Risk Assessment Management Studies (DECLG/OPW), Agri-Food 2025 Strategy (DAFM). (Sub 68)
10. Zoning should be restricted to a percentage of the current town / village population and current housing, (e.g. 10 - 15%). Zoning boundaries should be centred on the town / village centres and infill areas should be developed before extending the settlement boundary. Zoning should be restricted to sites contiguous to the built up area. No isolated

developments unconnected with services and totally dependent on private transport should be permitted. (Sub 81)

11. Strategies must ensure that a reasonable share out of the opportunities and income between small and neighbouring large towns is achieved. (Sub 84)

Settlement Strategy

1. The overall strategic hierarchy and planning framework for the County should be maintained and support and underpin the principles of locating development proximate to existing social services, infrastructure and good transportation links. (Sub 65)
2. While Maynooth and Leixlip are designated as Large Growth Towns, the population of Leixlip has stagnated over the last census periods. (Sub 3)
3. Sallins is designated as a Small Town in the current plan but has all the attributes of a Moderate Growth Town and should be regarded as such in the Draft County Development Plan. (Sub 11)
4. It was recommended that consideration be given to the inclusion of a 2.32 ha site outside the development boundary of Milltown for low density residential development. (Sub 15)
5. The expansion of the Milltown Settlement Boundary outside the existing village boundary set out in the Kildare County Development Plan 2011-2017 is proposed. This submission seeks to support the sustainable development of Milltown over the period of the forthcoming County Development Plan by: (1) Improving Community Services; (2) Providing new residential units and ancillary services; and (3) Upgrading services and transportation infrastructure. Proposals to facilitate the necessary Local Authority Services and Infrastructure (foul sewer, water, roads, etc.) are also set out. Key issues raised by the community for the future development of the village are also outlined. (Sub 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29)
6. That the settlement designations of TwoMileHouse be altered to accommodate a community development in the settlement centre and extended to include a residential site to the south west. (Sub 41)
7. Sustainable population and employment growth has been proposed for Ballymore Eustace. (Sub 45)
8. Consideration should be given to designating Celbridge as a Large Growth Town II in the settlement hierarchy due to its large population. The proximity of Celbridge to Hazlehatch Rail Station presents an opportunity to maximise public transport in tandem with growth in the town. (Sub 73, 97)

9. Celbridge is designated as a Moderate Growth Town. A much slower rate of population growth is needed in order to ensure that infrastructure, services etc. are updated and provided to cater for the current population and any slight increase. (Sub 55)
10. Development in the village of Calverstown must be considered in context to existing infrastructure schools and ability to provide community amenity areas. (Sub 62)
11. The expansion of the Kill Small Town Plan was suggested to include opportunities to generate employment uses. (Sub 72)

2 POPULATION AND HOUSING (INCLUDING RURAL HOUSING)

Population

1. Population growth should be delivered through higher residential densities with targets set for each Municipal District. (Sub 3)
2. Population growth should retain the existing County Development Plan Settlement Hierarchy and Core Strategy which are focused on the sustainable delivery of new housing and population in a sequential manner within settlements which have the benefit of maximising the return from existing infrastructure. (Sub 65, 87,105, 109)
3. Population and housing growth should be limited to a 10% increase on that of the existing town/village, focussed on consolidating town centres and take cognisance of environmental sensitivities. (Sub 81, 105)
4. Population growth should take place in locations which maximise the potential of existing rail based public transport corridors in the County as new settlement areas. (Sub 97, 106)
5. The scale of population growth in all settlements must be considered in light of their capacity to absorb development with the necessary supporting social, community and physical infrastructure (Sub 104)
6. The majority of future population growth should be focused on lands served by good quality public transport infrastructure and within the Metropolitan Area. (Sub 35)

Housing

1. Social housing should be provided by purchasing units in privately built residential developments. (Sub 3)
2. Town and villages should be developed sustainably based on appropriate residential densities and housing typologies with the necessary infrastructure. (Sub 4, 34, 35)
3. Residential units need to be of sufficient size and designed to accommodate different housing needs (i.e. family units, people with disabilities, homeless, students, older people, special needs, victims of domestic abuse) which is integrated into mainstream housing. (Sub 4, 36, 105, 107)

4. The current housing target for Kildare town should be increased without phasing restrictions on residential lands. (Sub 13)
5. Affordable housing including apartments development should be encouraged in town centres particularly Naas (Sub 34)
6. Housing development should be plan led, proportionate and evidence based. (Sub 45)
7. A competitive and affordable housing market is vital to economic competitiveness and dependent upon an adequate quantum of zoned and serviced lands and appropriate design standards (Sub 49)
8. The rate of residential development should be strictly in accordance with Regional Planning Guidelines (Sub 57)
9. Affordable, high quality, housing should be available to all within valued, vibrant and strong local communities with highly energy-efficiency, using local environmental low carbon materials such as straw, cob and hemp as much as possible. (Sub 60)
10. Social housing needs of the County should be addressed in a plan led and evidence based manner. (Sub 105)
11. Housing development in town centres should be developed sequentially and incentivised by reductions in the development contributions. (Sub 105)

Rural Housing

1. Rural housing policy should support the development of the equestrian industry. (Sub 4)
2. Rural dwellers should be allowed construct family homes in their locality – the 5 mile limit (18 kph) should be extended to 10 miles (36 kph). (Sub 10)
3. The consolidation and growth of Ballymore Eustace should not be compromised by permitting one off residential development in its rural hinterland. (Sub 47)
4. It must be accepted that one-off housing is largely no longer viable. Instead permissions should be concentrated on developments. Where farmers give sites to children, compliance with a period of residence must be ensured. (Sub 57)
5. Consideration should be give to relaxing the controls on one off housing in the countryside areas where there has been population decline or where there is an older population. The plan should also seek to incentivise settlement in the town and village centres by reducing or waiving of development contributions. (Sub 87)

3 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (INCLUDING RETAIL)

1. Creating a dependency on foreign direct investment employers in the north of the County is unwise. The planning authority should foster the creation of complementary industrial employment (i.e. jobs for blue-collar workers) in this area (Sub 3).
2. Key strengths such as the equine industry, natural environment, heritage and landscape should be utilised to generate employment through tourism and other enterprises. Unemployment in the south of the County is a major concern. (Sub 4, 101, 116)
3. The Kildare Town Integrated Service Programme makes recommendations for the economic development of the town through the following: (i) Enhancing heritage / tourism opportunities; (ii) Facilitating development of a business plan for the town centre; (iii) maximising tourism and retail opportunities and local enterprise support; and (iv) Maximising uptake of training and employment supports. (Sub 6)
4. In County Kildare, tourism contributes almost €100 million to the local economy, and it provides direct and indirect employment for 6,000 people. (Sub 7)
5. Sustainable tourism and recreation should be included in a separate chapter of the existing County Development Plan as these have much in common. (Sub 9)
6. The development of further economic development lands in the Naas / Newbridge area should be promoted and these lands should be juxtaposed with existing employment lands. (Sub 14, 19)
7. Major employment development should be encouraged in the North West quadrant of Naas. (Sub 99, 109)
8. The contribution that the equine and bloodstock industries make to the County's economy is noted and should be enhanced further. (Sub 30, 110)
9. Kildare is now an attractive location for office space, the planning process should be streamlined to speed up the delivery of office space. (Sub 34)
10. Further commercial zoning is required to facilitate prosperity. (Sub 34)
11. The endorsement of the Comprehensive Employment Strategy is requested to ensure sustainable employment for people with disabilities. (Sub 36)
12. Education and training initiatives should be promoted. The Council needs to ensure access to these courses by people with disabilities. (Sub 36)
13. The creation of employment opportunities in the towns and villages of the County is to be promoted and to ensure that people with disabilities are encouraged to access meaningful employment. (Sub 36)

14. The peatlands areas have the potential to make a contribution to the economy through their development for uses such as renewable energy, forestry, tourism and amenity uses. (Sub 39, 105)
15. Zoning for employment and enterprise uses must incorporate sustainable transport principles at the earliest stage including access to public transport. (Sub 40)
16. If the economic recovery is to be consolidated we need to make efficient use of existing infrastructure. (Sub 49)
17. Celbridge should be upgraded to a primary economic growth town on par with Maynooth and Leixlip. All three towns should constitute a North Kildare Business hub in order to attract investment and business. (Sub 55)
18. Economic developments need to be sited within convenient range of residential settlements to minimise unsustainable private commuting. (Sub 57)
19. The local economy should prioritise certain core economic activities such as food and energy production, caring services, and education.(Sub 60)
20. A key aim of economic development in Kildare in the next few years should be the enabling of community and local economies, to support higher levels of human wellbeing, shorter supply chains, more equitable distribution of resources, lower energy and resource use, healthier ecosystems, greater levels of democratic participation, and a wrenching back of control of our economic destiny from the vagaries of the global economy. (Sub 60)
21. The Plan should promote the growth of the Green Economy. (Sub 82)
22. More Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is required in Kildare as it would reduce commuting for the County's inhabitants (Sub 84)
23. The drafting of Kildare's first "Local Economic and Community Plan" is welcomed. Economic development requires looking at the costs to local businesses of rents, rates and services to ensure the survival of the local economies in the County thus creating local employment opportunities for local people. (Sub 84)
24. The existing County Development Plan should support new and evolving work patterns such as e-business, flexible work hubs. (Sub 105)
25. Weston Airport offers a unique opportunity in terms of the ongoing economic development of the County particularly with its complimentary links to equine and business users. (Sub 115)

Retail

- 1 The Council policy of supporting small family run shops in traditional town centres should cease and these buildings should be used for residential or professional services. (Sub 3)
- 2 A new rates regime to incentivise development in Naas and Celbridge Town Centres could include commercial rates on all out of town car parks and a rates holiday for a period of up to 5 years for new commercial tenants in the town centre. (Sub 12, 55, 99)
- 3 The existing County Development Plan should downgrade the Collinstown / Leixlip Major Town Centre to District Centre level as the need for retail of that scale in that location will not materialise in the short to medium term. (Sub 33)
- 4 The phased delivery of retail lands at Collinstown from Neighbourhood centre to District centre to major town centre should be facilitated over a longer time frame. (Sub 88)
- 5 Retail must remain in the town centres, out of town shopping must be carefully regulated as it can have severe negative impacts on high streets. (Sub 34, 60, 90, 105)
- 6 The continued implementation of the Kildare Retail Strategy 2010 is required to ensure the needs of people with disabilities are considered (Sub 36).
- 7 Improving the attractiveness of the Celbridge town centre will attract people to the area. There are enough supermarkets in Celbridge but more shops are required in the town centre. (Sub 55)
- 8 The importance of the town centre as the principal shopping area must be prioritised and protected above out of town shopping developments. Within the town centre the quality of trade must be protected. Town centres must not deteriorate into areas dominated by low grade premises characterised by a multiplicity of betting shops, fast food outlets and the likes. (Sub 57, 60, 90)
- 9 Small scale local shops should be supported as opposed to making it easy for everyone to shop in out of town shopping centres. (Sub 59, 60, 90)
- 10 The importance of discount food stores should be detailed in the existing County Development Plan and Retail Strategy. Their suitability for neighbourhood centres and small town centres should be acknowledged. (Sub 89)
- 11 The existing County Development Plan must have regard to the operational requirements of modern retailers, in terms of design, building regulations, unit size, signage and parking. (Sub 108)
- 12 Historic and fine grain town centres are more suited to higher order comparison retailers and smaller more specialised retailers. (Sub 108)
- 13 The existing County Development Plan should continue to support the Kildare Outlet Village thus supporting future employment and spin off enterprises including tourism. (Sub 70, 113)

14 Vacant units on Main Streets should be used as pop up shops. (Sub 114)

15 Farmers markets and Christmas market should be licensed and encouraged. (Sub 114)

4 MOVEMENT AND TRANSPORT

1. Dangerous junctions need to be traffic calmed (e.g. Staples town Crossroads). Directional road signage need to be vandal proof. Towns in the north of the County in particular are congested with traffic. (Sub No. 2)
2. Maynooth and Leixlip need traffic calming schemes to reduce vehicle speeds and create a safer pedestrian environment which can be assisted by re-introducing on-street car parking. Maynooth and Leixlip should be provided with new town by-passes. Leixlip 'village' and much of the town is bounded by the Liffey, Rye and Royal Canal; no new bridges have been built in over 200 years in North Kildare. (Sub. No 3)
3. Sustainable transport infrastructure should be provided with the necessary internal and external connections. Car parking standards for major employment locations should not be waived unless there are viable alternative public transport alternatives. (Sub No. 3)
4. Rural roads are important as transport and biodiversity corridors. The needs of all road users in rural areas need to be managed motorists, pedestrians, cyclists, horses. Rural roads need better signage and lower speed limits.(Sub No. 4)
5. The improvement and upgrading transportation routes should be designed so as to mitigate the impacts on wildlife and address inadequate existing mitigation measures which impeded their passage, (Sub No. 5)
6. The role of the County's transport networks in facilitating access to tourist facilities should be recognised in the existing County Development Plan. The provision of way marked routes and signage is important in this regard. (Sub. No 7)
7. Areas of ecological, historical and cultural interests should be subject to wayfinding with appropriate signage. The visual clutter of street signage detracts from a sense of place. Signage should be arranged in a hierarchy to guide people in the "last mile" rather than from a great distance. (Sub. No. 9)
8. The transportation value of canal banks and river banks as walking and cycling routes should be recognised. The existing County Development Plan should include an objective that they are developed sustainably in co-operation with local communities, businesses and also with Waterways Ireland and National Parks and Wildlife. Off-street parking should be encouraged where new development is proposed in urban areas to facilitate more public open spaces particularly in historic town squares and centres. The existing County Development Plan should acknowledge the benefits of audio guides and electronic information waypoints to

inform travellers. Shuttle services should link to transport services and attractions. Tourist coach/ bus parking is needed to serve visitor sites on touring routes. (Sub. No. 7)

9. Heavy goods vehicles should be restricted to national primary routes. (Sub. No 10, 34)
10. Naas should be subject to a series of public realm improvement and road improvement schemes. These include: (i) assessing car parking arrangements; (ii) removal of town bus stop; and (iii) Re-routing and design of the main link road from Millennium Park into the town centre as a public transport corridor. (Sub. No. 12)
11. The existing County Development Plan objective to provide a train station at Collinstown should be omitted as there is unlikely to be the critical mass required to support it. (Sub. No 33, 88)
12. Exchequer funding is required to upgrade the County's roads including M7 Upgrade, Osberstown Interchange, Sallins By Pass, the Southern Distributor Road in Athy and a new river crossing in Celbridge. (Sub. No. 34)
13. Any changes to public transport, cycling and parking policies in the County should be subject to public consultation. The County Development Plan should have regard to "Smarter Travel 2020". Emphasis should be put on delivering better public transport linkages and cycle/walk ways within the County particularly along canal ways. (Sub. No. 34)
14. The County Development Plan should include policies to protect exchequer investment and provide statutory guidance in relation to the Trans European Transport Network (TEN-T) which is focussed on the national road network (i.e. N/M7, M4, M9, N78, N81 and the Leinster Orbital Route) within the county. These routes are highly important routes as Strategic Radial Corridors in the National Spatial Strategy. The submission requests the inclusion of the following policies and objectives that provide for the following:
 - objectives providing for the development of national road schemes; and
 - a policy to protect routes of national road schemes free from adverse development that may compromise the development of route options or the construction of preferred routes, or add to the overall costs associated with proposed schemes. (40)
15. It is stated that where large scale development is proposed in urban areas or areas adjacent to national roads, major junctions and interchanges the development plan should ensure that the capacity on national roads is utilised appropriately by:
 - protecting undeveloped lands adjoining national roads and junctions from development to cater for potential capacity enhancements;
 - ensuring that capacity enhancements and or traffic management measures will be put in place to facilitate new development; and

- Improving operational efficiency of the regional and local road and transportation infrastructure-where appropriate, promoting new regional and local road networks and alternative modes.

Additional costs such as land acquisition, additional road infrastructure and environmental mitigation measures arising to the national roads network to accommodate local development proposals will not be funded by the NRA and thus should be integrated within future development contributions schemes. (Sub 40)

16. The submission states that the Development Plan should make it clear that the creation of additional access points from new development or the generation of increased traffic from existing accesses to national roads with speed limits greater than 50kph should be avoided. Control of development accessing national roads should be plan led in consultation with the NRA. (Sub 40)
17. The submission requests that the development plan references the NRA Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines 2014 and the two processes which address the road safety of projects or proposals namely Road Safety Impact Assessment (RSIA) and Road Safety Audit (RSA). The submission recommends that planning applications for significant development proposals should be accompanied by a Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) and a Road Safety Audit (RSA) to be carried out by competent consultants, which are assessed in association with their cumulative impact on neighbouring developments on the road network. (Sub 40)
18. The submission refers to the recently updated *NRA Policy on Service Areas (August 2014)* and would welcome that its policies are reflected in the development plan, including specific on-line NRA service area proposals as they relate to the N7. (Sub 40)
19. The submission refers to the NRA policy document *Provision of Tourist and Leisure Signage (March 2011)* and the *DoECLG's Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines* which indicates a requirement to control the proliferation of non-road traffic signage on and adjacent to national roads. The submission seeks the incorporation of the provisions of the NRA policy and the DoECLG guidelines into the development plan. (Sub 40)
20. The submission requests that the development plan refers to the requirement of *Statutory Instrument No. 140 of 2006 Environmental Noise Regulations*. Development proposals will be required identify and implement noise mitigation measures, where warranted. The cost of implementing mitigation measures shall be borne by the developer. (Sub 40)
21. A sustainable and accessible urban and rural public transport network should be developed and promoted. New development should be designed on the principles of Universal Design to facilitate access by people with disabilities in accordance with the Best Practice Access Guidelines published by the Irish Wheelchair Association and the National Disability Association. (Sub. No. 36)

22. Ballymore Eustace – specific proposals have been made in relation to: (i) road safety; (ii) improving the pedestrian environment; and (iii) controlling HGV movements through the village. (Sub. No. 37, 47)
23. Capacity of schools, sports facilities etc must be taken into account when planning for public transport provision. (Sub. No. 42, 49)
24. Celbridge – specific proposals have been made in relation to: (i) the opposition to a vehicular bridge crossing in the vicinity of Castletown House; (ii) provision of a vehicular river crossing upstream of the present bridge; (iii) Improvements to the public transport network in the Celbridge, Leixlip, Maynooth area, particularly a feeder bus to Hazelhatch station; (iv) Providing a pedestrian bridge onto the existing bridge, while protecting the historic fabric of the village. (Sub. No. 42, 53, 54, 55, 69)
25. Develop safe and smart pedestrian and cycle friendly routes to schools and other key land uses while ensuring that historical centres remain attractive places for pedestrians by completing bypass and ring road plans as a matter of urgency. Remove HGV movement from urban centres and provide “Park and Ride” facilities to encourage public transport and further reduce traffic from central areas of towns and villages. Improvement of bridges required across the County as well as junction upgrades, and provision of link roads particularly in the north of the county. (Sub. No. 42, 57)
26. Kildare needs better integration of transport -in particular East to West and vice-versa. (Sub. No. 59)
27. We must encourage more walking and cycling in order to meet binding emission reduction targets of 20% on 2005 levels by 2020 in the non Emissions Trading Sector. (Sub. No. 60)
28. Stop promoting car based developments such as the M7 lane additions at Newbridge/Naas and car based developments like the extension to the Kildare Retail Village and Kerry Group Campus on the N7. People should be encouraged to reduce their use and dependency on cars. Urban centres should be pedestrianised appropriately. (Sub. No. 60)
29. A more flexible approach to car parking arrangements based on local traffic conditions should be considered particularly for areas with limited public transport. The Council must commit to the Department of Transport's “Smarter Travel” policy. Why were no towns in Kildare selected for the 'Active Travel' Towns created from this policy? The new County Development Plan should look to bring funding to the towns of Kildare for local cycling and walking strategies by 2023. A reduction in parking standards would be welcomed where a Transport Mobility Plan demonstrates a high level of modal shift or where a good level of public transport provision exists. (Sub. No. 60)

30. There should be a consistency between transport planning, spatial planning and land use management to aid reduced travel demand and distances. There is a need to achieve and provide for a modal shift to sustainable forms of transport. (Sub. No. 66)
31. The County Development Plan should facilitate the collaboration between Council and South Dublin County Council and Fingal County Council in order to improve roads and transportation network in the area. (Sub. No. 69)
32. The safety and reliability of the GDA railway system should be protected through investment in upgrading of train control and monitoring systems. The Kildare and Maynooth lines should be upgraded to facilitate additional carrying capacity to meet future population growth. (Sub. No. 74)
33. Kilcock –proposals in relation to: (i) the provision of cycle lanes, (ii) pedestrian environment; (iii) road improvements; (iv) support for Leinster Outer Orbital Route. (Sub No. 75, 84)
34. The existing M9/M7 junction should be relocated further south to allow traffic to access Newbridge & Kildare without necessitating going through Kilcullen & the Curragh. (Sub. No. 79)
35. The County Development Plan should include specific measures to promote and encourage more sustainable modes of transport. Car dependency should be reduced and the conditions for cycling and walking improved (Sub. No 92)
36. A walking/cycling/ running network should be developed connecting Naas to Sallins, Kill, Johnstown and Punchestown. (Sub. No. 95)
37. Naas Northwest Quadrant Masterplan lands - specific proposal in relation to transportation and movement and the delivery of key roadways and improvements to public transport, park and ride and cycling facilities. This includes progressing the Osberstown Interchange and the Sallins Bypass project within the life of the County Development Plan (Sub. No. 99)
38. Kildare County Council should co-operate with Meath County Council in the design, reservation and delivery of the Maynooth Outer Relief Road. (Sub. 98, 100)
39. Kildare County Council's emphasis on improving facilities for pedestrians and cyclists is welcomed. KCC should commit to the improved pedestrian and cycling facilities for the Sallins Road, Dublin Road, and Kill to Naas routes. (Sub. No. 104)

40. Public transport should be improved in order to reduce car dependency. HGVs rat running through housing schemes should be eliminated. Create streets that easily and safely facilitate vehicles, cyclists, pedestrians with greater linkages and permeability between existing and proposed housing areas. Provide feeder buses to train stations (with timetables at bus stops for these also) and buses linking main towns and attractions. Provide bicycle parking facilities and develop Kildare Bikes (similar to those in Dublin). Encourage pedestrian connections from existing and proposed residential areas to town centres. Actively pursue avenues to address the discrepancies in fees on public transport in parts of Kildare where people are commuting to work. Free parking passes for local amenities to encourage visitors and/or users of this transport to stop and spend some time in our towns and villages in co-ordination with Office of Public Works. (Sub. No. 105)
41. Carry out a feasibility study with a view to providing better public transport in rural areas to train stations, Naas Hospital etc and to encourage visitors. (Sub. No. 114)
42. Roads in towns should be redesigned to accommodate cyclists, pedestrians, wheelchair users. Bridges should be provided across the River Barrow in Athy to facilitate pedestrian movement between facilities and reduce the strain on Crom-a Boo bridge. (Sub. No. 116)
43. Weston Airport is an important economic driver within the county. (Sub. No. 115)

5 INFRASTRUCTURE (INCLUDING WATER SERVICES AND ENERGY)

Water and Wastewater

1. The extraction of water from the rivers to waste water processing plants has resulted in reduced flows to deal with effluent and greater concentrations of pollutants which as a result affects humans and wildlife. (Sub 3)
2. Adequate water and waste water infrastructure needs to be in place prior to development. (Sub 5)
3. The County Development Plan should provide a policy for the long term plan for sewerage disposal in Milltown. (Sub 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29)
4. The deficiency in waste water treatment capacity in Blessington environs should be recognised in the County Development Plan and that policy objectives identifying the measures required to address this are included in the Plan. (Sub 112)
5. The County Development Plan should protect and where possible, improve surface water, groundwater resources and their associated habitats and species, including fisheries, in accordance with the Water Framework Directive and associated relevant River Basin Management Plan and associated Programme of Measures. (Sub 68, 77)

6. The County Development Plan should include policies to protect water quality above and below the ground. (Sub 77)
7. The County Development Plan should include a commitment to collaborate with Irish Water in the provision of adequate and appropriate critical service infrastructure to cater for future development in the Plan area over the lifetime of the Plan. (Sub 68)
8. The County Development Plan should recognise the need for investment in a new water supply source and in water infrastructure for the east and midlands region. (Sub 77)
9. The inclusion of water conservation policies would be welcome (Sub 77)
10. Irish Water should be scrapped. (Sub 105)

Flooding and Surface water

1. In relation to proper surface water attenuation by developments and transportation infrastructure in proximity of the Liffey, storm waters should be stored for a half-day before discharging them slowly to river courses. (Sub 3)
2. Flood plains, if present, should be identified in the County Development Plan and left undeveloped to allow for the protection of these valuable habitats and provide areas for flood water retention. (Sub 5, 54, 55)
3. The County Development Plan should promote the integration with the recommendations of the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) studies. (Sub 68)
4. Ground waters and surface water should be protected from pollution. (Sub 5)
5. Flooding is a problem at Newtownmoyaghy, Kilcock and no further housing developments should receive planning permission until it is rectified. (Sub 51)

Waste Management

1. Recycling facilities should be provided in each of the five electoral areas. (Sub 2)
2. Recycling facilities should be located so that there is not an issue with noise or pollution for nearby residents. A facility should be provided for north Kildare. (Sub 105)
3. Kildare should take advantage of Dublin's burnable waste and convert, in collaboration with the ESB, the turf-fuelled power stations on the bogs in the County to burn the paper and plastic waste produced in the metropolitan area to produce electricity. (Sub 3)
4. Kildare County Council needs to reaffirm its opposition to incineration in its development plan. (Sub 84)
5. A recycling area should be designated in Milltown. (Sub 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29)

Energy and Communications

1. The planning authority should foster combined heat-and-power generation plants and the use of the spent heat for either industrial processing or for district heating schemes, in the interest of sustainable development. (Sub 3)
2. Broadband needs to be rolled out to the towns and villages not currently well served. (Sub 4, 10, 46, 55, 59, 105)
3. In relation to the development of broadband and telecommunications infrastructure, distance requirements should be on a case by case basis, no separation distance, contributions should be waived for broadband infrastructure, only in exceptional circumstances (environmental, particular site) should permissions have a time span, co-location of services to be retained. (Sub 1)
4. Appropriate wind energy development should be facilitated as fuel prices will increase; the council should provide induction to the technology. (Sub 3)
5. The Council's Wind Energy Strategy is required. However the sheer scale of the turbines will have a dominant effect on the County's skyline. The Wind Strategy should be based on an opportunities and constraints model and should include targets and identify geographical areas that may be more suitable to wind energy development. (Sub 4, 8, 78)
6. Wind farms and energy infrastructure may impact upon tourism and the equine sector. (Sub 4, 63, 83, 114)
7. The expansion of the Irish wind industry will be a positive economic development for the entire Country and, indeed, for Kildare County. It will result in direct local investment, job creation, as well as increased local authority income through commercial rates and development contributions. At the same time, new wind energy development will also bring about a reduction of Green House Gas emissions and help tackle global climate change. (Sub 8, 78)
8. Wind farm technology should be kept under review as further information comes to light (effects on bird life) (Sub 57).
9. In relation to wind energy development the new County Development Plan should examine the economic, social and environmental issues of wind and grid planning and development. A resolution of these issues is a prerequisite to any location, health, setback, noise, and flicker. Concerns have been raised in relation to all these issues. (Sub 83)
10. In relation to potential wind farms, there should be a setback distance of at least 10 times the size of any turbine. (Sub 59)
11. Energy infrastructure has to be sensitive to historic landscapes and areas of great natural beauty. (Sub 54)
12. A Renewable Energy Strategy should be developed and implemented. (Sub 86)

13. Kildare should be committed to renewable energy as an alternative to our heavy reliance on fossil fuel consumption and encourage local and community based renewable energy projects. (Sub 105)
14. Support the development of renewable energy in rural areas where it is considered appropriate and does not result in environmental effects. (Sub 105)
15. Reusing transmission infrastructure should be a key policy of the plan. (Sub 4)
16. The Planning Authority should recognise the need for the development and renewal of transmission networks, in order to meet both economic and social policy goals. A number of objectives are proposed for inclusion in the Draft Plan. (Sub 67)
17. Charging points for electric vehicles should be encouraged. (Sub 105)

6. ENVIRONMENT

1. Climate change is one of the main environmental issues the County Development Plan needs to deal with. (Sub 3)
2. The development of wind energy plays an important role in Ireland in addressing one of our biggest challenges which is climate change. (Sub 8, 78)
3. The County Development Plan should consider long term impacts on CO2 emissions as decisions made as a result of the plan will impact on Kildare for generations to come long after 2023. A climate change strategy be developed and implemented. (Sub 86)
4. With more storms as a result of climate change we need better standards of construction. (Sub 3)
5. Noise and air pollution is a problem as a result of traffic and light pollution is a problem on the edges of built up areas. (Sub 3, 105)
6. Noise from overhead power lines is almost a constant issue and can threaten animal welfare and the equine industry. (Sub 63)
7. Air quality standards should be maintained. (Sub 7)
8. The Geological Survey of Ireland note that they it be routinely consulted as part of the preparation of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). (Sub 43)
9. SEA must refer to the actual environment. Statutory databases are insufficient; many aspects of landscape etc. are not included in such databases. (Sub 54)
10. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) made a lengthy submission detailing procedure and requirements for the County Development Plan preparation. In particular the approach to incorporating national guidelines and policy in areas such as water quality, flooding, wastewater treatment, biodiversity and relationship with other plans and programmes. (Sub no 68)

11. One all inclusive submission refers to the issues of climate change and renewable energy. Many of the submissions that promote renewable energy identify the contribution it makes to adaptation to climate change. Another submission states that a climate change strategy should be carried out. The submission makes recommendations for reduction in energy consumption and CO2 emissions for residential, commercial and industrial, agriculture, transport and energy development and seeks the inclusion of specific targets. The submission also seeks the establishment of an Energy Agency in Kildare. (Sub 93)
12. The most effective method of protecting the environment of Kildare County is through the undergrounding of proposed high voltage power lines and the County Development Plan can provide appropriate policies to safeguard this. (Sub 63)
13. Iarnród Éireann is committed to conducting its operations and activities in an environmentally responsible manner and in accordance with applicable legislation in relation to environmental noise. They will continue to consult with Local Authorities to assist them in producing noise action plans (Sub 74)
14. Iarnród Éireann is seeking recognition in the new County Development Plan that rail operation and activities will sometimes result in environmental noise emissions and, subject to adherence to statutory requirements, such operations and activities should not be unreasonably restricted because of land use changes in the future. (Sub 74)

7. SOCIAL, COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL

Social and Community

1. Community clean up initiatives should be developed. (Sub 2)
2. The County Development Plan needs to cater for the needs and desires of the elderly and promote the implementation of the age friendly strategy. (Sub 3, 36, 105)
3. The County Development Plan needs to promote the development of services / facilities for young people including people with limited mobility (Sub 36, 82, 105, 116)
4. Plans should be put in place to develop community childcare at locations close to schools even in rural areas. (Sub 105)
5. More affordable childcare spaces should be provided by design not as an afterthought so as to provide adequate, accessible and affordable childcare. (Sub 116)
6. To ensure that all community, educational, recreational, cultural, childcare and healthcare facilities are accessible and inclusive for all. (Sub 36)
7. A copy of the Kildare Town Integrated Service Programme makes recommendations for community facilities in the town. (Sub 6)

8. An opportunity for community led tourism which could include initiatives that would link tourism to the development of social, community and cultural facilities should be supported. (Sub 7)
9. That the Council continues to provide an inclusive environment for people with disabilities (Sub 36)
10. Ballymore Eustace is in need of community facilities including a multipurpose hall and a playground. The community groups in the village are very active and have plans for the development of local walking routes. (Sub 45, 47)
11. Kildare Integrated Services Programme (ISP) currently has 3 ISP towns, Kildare, Kilcock and Celbridge. The County Development Plan offers an opportunity for the ISP to highlight the priorities identified in the three ISP towns, to ensure that these priorities are considered as part of this process. (Sub 75)
12. The importance of youth friendly services and facilities in the County were highlighted. The Kildare Children's and Young People's Services Committee 3-Year Plan (2015-2017) identify 4 locations of particular need in terms of youth facilities: Monasterevin, Rathangan, Kildare Town and Newbridge. (Sub 85)
13. Neither the issues paper nor the current County Development Plan adequately identifies the planning issues associated with providing facilities for intellectual disabilities and mental health. The inclusion of a number of policies and objectives is sought which refer to those with physical and/or mental health intellectual disabilities and seeks to include private operators in the list of stakeholders mentioned in the current County Development Plan. (Sub 96)
14. Sallins, at a minimum, urgently needs: (i) A public playground; (ii) The provision of a public community centre with potential for multi-purpose usage by a variety of groups; and (iii) The provision of land and facilities for local sports clubs. (Sub 104)
15. The County Development Plan should, quantify the requirement for community and educational facilities in the County administrative area, work with stakeholders to identify particular sites for particular institutional purposes and ensure delivery of adequate community and educational facilities as part of residential and mixed development proposals (Sub 107)
16. All children should be able to attend schools close to where they live; it would promote social cohesion and reduced travel times. (Sub 3)
17. The County Development Plan should ensure that education facilities of all levels are accessible and inclusive. (Sub 36)
18. The need for new education facilities including primary and secondary in Kildare Town is noted (Sub 50)
19. The Department of Education and Skills detailed the standards required in relation to all school related development. (Sub 64)

20. All new educational facilities must have facilities for sports to be played which is not the case with the Pipers Hill campus in Naas. (Sub 82)
21. There is a need for a Gaelcholaiste in North Kildare servicing children from Celbridge, Leixlip, Maynooth, Kilcock, Clane and North West Kildare. (Sub 105)
22. The Irish Traveller Movement's Yellow Flag Programme which is an intercultural innovative solution where children learn to celebrate and value different cultures. It should be rolled out in more schools in Kildare with the support of the Council in order to promote inclusion and diversity. (Sub 76)
23. The Kildare Integration Strategy 2014-2019 be fully implemented (Sub 116)

Recreation

1. A public swimming pool needs to be developed in North Kildare. (Sub 3, 71)
2. The County Development Plan needs to promote the development of accessible open spaces. (Sub 36)
3. The County Development Plan needs to cater for the sporting and recreational needs of all people (Sub 36)
4. The County Development Plan needs to ensure the development of children's play areas that are accessible to all children. (Sub 36)
5. A number of sports clubs in Kildare Town promote the preservation of existing recreational facilities and note the need for further facilities to facility the clubs adapting to a growing population. (Sub 38)
6. The County Development Plan needs to provide facilities for the Athy Rowing Club (Sub 44)
7. Ballymore Eustace is in need of community facilities including a multipurpose hall and a playground. The community groups in the village are very active and have plans for the development of local walking routes. (Sub 47)
8. There should be a strategy to identify areas for open space, whether passive or active, the demesne lands throughout the County should be investigated for use as open space for amenity purposes. (Sub 54)
9. Celbridge Town AFC state the need to build a community based sports complex with associated pitches, athletics track, swimming pool and associated facilities. (Sub 56)
10. Council must continue supporting local community groups to develop recreation facilities including walking routes and amenities in the most appropriate locations. The promotion of the tourism sector would be best served if the Council adjudicated on community group proposals to develop well thought-out recreation facilities with the interests of the visitor to the area in mind. (Sub 70)

11. Community centres should be set up throughout the County offering a range of sports and activities for children and adults alike. (Sub 71, 105, 117)
12. No development should be permitted on lands previously deemed Open Space. (Sub 82)
13. Parks should be developed throughout the county. Any new parks could include exercise, multi use games areas (MUGAs) and children's play facilities. Suggested locations for such facilities include Caragh Court, Naas and Magee Barracks Kildare Town. (Sub 82, 103, 105, 117)
14. The County Development Plan needs to ensure consultation with the relevant stakeholders in relation to the provision of amenity facilities. Also 'local parks' should allow for the development of multipurpose all weather games areas. So that all children can participate in close proximity to their homes. Gaelic games should be considered when designing these areas. Larger neighbourhood parks should be developed as recreational hubs with all the relevant facilities and could be delivered through public private partnership schemes.(Sub 87)
15. The County Development Plan needs to should commit more strongly to the co-operation of the shared use of facilities between schools and clubs (e.g. GAA clubs sharing the provision of sporting facilities within school grounds). (Sub 87, 117)
16. The parks and recreation service needs to be expanded so as to adequately service the needs of the County population of 210,312 (Sub 84)
17. The submission includes a proposal for the development of a Naas neighbourhood Greenway walking /cycling / running network throughout Naas connecting to Sallins, Kill, Johnstown and Punchestown. (Sub 95)
18. That horse racing is recognised as a sport in the County Development Plan. (Sub 110)
19. Camogie / hurling pitch with changing rooms and ancillary facilities should be provided in Athy. (Sub 118)

Culture

1. Maynooth needs a performing arts centre to cater for the cultural and artistic needs of the town and its environs. There is a lack of such a facility in the north of the county. (Sub 58)
2. The library opening hours in Kilcock need to be increased, and it needs to be opened up for more cultural nights and events. (Sub 84)
3. The library services play an active role in the social inclusion of all areas. (105)
4. That horse racing is recognized as a cultural activity in the new County Development Plan. (110)
5. Kildare County Council should hold free, small-scale outdoor family-friendly concerts and other cultural/themed events in parks or town centres. There can be one headline act but a

few smaller, bands/choirs that are local to each Municipal District. These could include intercultural acts to showcase “new Kildare” (Sub 114).

8. URBAN DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE (INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT STANDARDS)

Public Realm

1. A number of submissions were made from various groups in Celbridge highlighting the international importance of the town and the need to protect the historic demesnes. The requirement to improve the urban fabric and public realm was highlighted in a number of towns including Naas, Celbridge, Sallins, Clane, Ballymore Eustace and Kilcock. (sub 3, 37, 42, 47, 104)
2. Kildare County Council should promote good shopfront design. Quality of the urban and village/rural environment has an impact on quality of life. It is important to conserve what is good and to create new townscapes that respect the past while allowing for appropriate new interventions. Where possible incentives should be made available in some form to encourage re-use of urban spaces and places to regenerate urban vibrancy in traditional main streets. (sub 10, 54, 57, 84)
3. Planning practice in County Kildare has managed the balance between old and new, and successful policies in this regard should be retained in the new County Development Plan. It should also include a policy to give credit in the assessment of planning applications where it is proposed to provide or restore living accommodation over shops: (sub 7)
4. Recognition should be given to the Walled Towns Initiative, which seeks to protect the medieval core of towns, to raise awareness of this heritage and to conserve any remains of the former structures associated with the town walls. (sub 7)
5. In order to offset the impact of developments within our towns a specific area should be planted within developments as a wildflower meadow to support local biodiversity. (sub 32)
6. The need for the Universal Design approach to building houses to ensure that such units are open to everyone and lessen the need for expensive adaptation over the life of the house. There is a need to ensure that our spaces and towns are accessible to everyone. (sub 36)
7. The County Development Plan needs to identify Ballymore Eustace as open for new business, and as a place to live and work and do business. Urban design and architectural requirements must be realistic and sympathetic without being prohibitive. It is not good enough to assign a protected status to something if that means it becomes undesirable from a developmental aspect and is allowed to go derelict. (sub 44)
8. The public realm (streetscapes, parks and greenspaces, river fronts, public buildings and cycling and pedestrian facilities) provides the key element in the overall urban fabric of the County’s settlement structure. It is essential to achieving a sense of place, increasing safety and enhancing visual amenity. (sub 37)
9. The Council must strongly oppose the gable ends of buildings in prominent positions being covered with advertising - and policy must be backed by the resources to enforce them. From

a heritage perspective, new or redeveloped buildings, bridges and other structures must include provisions to encourage appropriate urban biodiversity. (sub 57)

10. Planting fruit and nut trees, herbs and vegetables in public spaces around towns and villages – that can be harvested as part of community based food initiatives – work with actively promoting these initiatives with Tidy Towns and residents associations. Provision of allotments to be actively planned and supported. (sub 60)
11. The oversupply of apartments could create a ghetto effect rather than achieving their goal of fostering a sense of place. (sub 84)
12. Designs of buildings in the past few years have not been in keeping with surroundings. While some might be spectacular pieces of architecture some of these buildings (built in the past ten years) are more akin to a city like Berlin and not Kildare. A plan to regenerate empty buildings is needed. (sub 105)
13. The Kildare Tourist Outlet Village has a very particular architectural language which sits appropriately within its environment. The Council is encouraged to continue to support the design format and endorse same within the policies of the County Development Plan. The Council is also encouraged to incorporate policies into the Draft County Development Plan which facilitate the developments necessary to deliver the urban environment envisaged by the Kildare Town LAP 2012 – 2018. (sub 113)
14. That a structured plan be developed for the integrity management of the bridges to ensure that they are fit for purpose and so the continued safe usage. (sub 116)

Development Management Standards

1. There is a need for appropriate Development Control Standards that are carefully considered so as not to impose excessive cost with very little financial return. In particular, this includes revisions to development densities, household size, household mix requirements, rear garden boundary wall requirements and internal storage standards. (sub 9, 12, 13, 34, 37, 49)
2. The submission requests that all planning applications have conditions attached to ensure: (i) BER rating of A3 or better; (ii) Water harvesting and solar panels to be included; and (iii) Provision of grease traps at kitchen outlets (Sub 10)
3. Council standards in the current County Development Plan need to exceed or differ from national standards. In particular the requirements for access, accessibility, public rights of way, public amenities, sports and recreation facilities, block boundary walls, extra storage space and car parking standards. (sub 9, 37, 44, 84)
4. A more flexible approach to key standards will enable developers to deliver high quality housing at affordable prices. Development standards should allow for the falling average household size and other demographic trends. (sub 3, 37)
5. A sufficient level of density that will be supported and integrated with a range of accessible community facilities, and where development is closer to public transport corridors and nodes that density should be increased. (sub 66)

6. A number of specific development standards are required to be reviewed for the County Development Plan including development contributions, planning gain, Part V requirements, recreation and amenity and car parking standards (sub 37)
7. The development densities relevant to Collinstown, Leixlip should be reviewed and reduced. (sub 33)
8. Maximise energy efficiency development standards and BER ratings to ensure environmental efficiencies for the next wave of building stock at a cost effective level. (sub 34, 60,)
9. It is neither equitable no viable for householders of new build housing to be burdened with the social cost of wider community service provision (sub 37)
10. Development Management Standards should be revised to relate the provision of open space to a population equivalent. (sub 9)
11. Car parking standards should be reviewed as part of the review of the Draft County Development Plan. (sub 37, 84, 87, 89)
12. Specific polices in relation to recreational and playing fields are required to ensure higher standards of design that future proof these facilities and increase their usage year round. Car parking standards relevant to these facilities also need to be reviewed (sub 87)

9. LANDSCAPE AND HERITAGE

Built Heritage

1. The County Development Plan should include policies and objectives that ensure that conservation of heritage is acknowledged and recognised as a key component of quality of life. The character of the built and natural environment should be maintained and enhanced in towns and their environs. (Sub 53)
2. The County has many fine cut stone bridges, these structures need to be maintained and conserved so that the public can appreciate them. (Sub 2)
3. No planning permission that could have an impact on built heritage should be granted without the input of a qualified conservation officer. (Sub 3)
4. Vernacular architecture such as cottages, schools, and industrial buildings need to be included in the Record of Protected Structures. (Sub 3, 105)
5. Architectural Conservation Areas should be developed further improving streetscape, shopfronts undergrounding of services etc so as to make towns more attractive and aid in their revitalisation i.e. Celbridge. (Sub 4, 42)
6. It should be an objective of Council to define boundaries for an Architectural Conservation Area for Castletown and Donaghcumper demesnes. (Sub 53)

7. Country Houses and in particular Castletown, are an important component of the architectural heritage patrimony of the county. It is vital that such houses are conserved together with their demesnes, views and wider landscapes (Sub 53, 54)
8. Lands within Donaghcumper should be removed from the Area to be Protected' on Map 12.10 of the current County Development Plan in order to facilitate the provision of a sustainable level of zoned and serviced land which uses the sequential approach to development. (Sub 65)
9. The County Development Plan should facilitate a development strategy for Castletown and the associated lands to deliver a heritage and tourism asset that can make a valuable economic contribution to the county. (Sub 80)

Landscape and Natural Heritage

1. To ensure that all landscape and heritage sites are protected, accessible and have the amenities required for all users to enjoy. (Sub 36, 53, 82, 105)
2. Efforts should be made to open a museum in the county. (Sub 84)
3. Ballinafagh Lake and Bogland Park should be improved (Sub 2, 4)
4. Pollardstown Fen and Feeder Canal should be protected and could be developed as a walking route with an interpretive centre. (Sub 2, 4)
5. The canals, water corridors and the Barrow and Liffey valleys in particular have significant heritage value and should be protected and appropriately developed for leisure / tourism activities (Sub 4, 7, 9, 47, 59)
6. The landscape and heritage of Ireland are of considerable interest to tourists, thus they are important assets in the tourism trade.(Sub 7, 54)
7. The Council must ensure that development does not impinge on the County's natural heritage assets. (Sub 4)
8. The Curragh should be designated as a National Park to provide facilities for recreation. (Sub 2)
9. The Bog of Allen and Hill of Allen should be should be open to the public, along the lines of Boora in Offaly or even designated as a National Park. (Sub 2, 32)
10. The protection of the bogs possibly by way of designation as a National Park may help redress biodiversity loss. (Sub 32)
11. The Walled Gardens, Donadea Forest Park should be open to the public. (Sub 2)

12. Consideration needs to be given to the impacts of renewable energy and transmission infrastructure on the landscape of the County and resultant impact on tourism and the equine sector. (Sub 4, 86)
 13. The Council should ensure that any new developments should not detract from the quality of the landscape of the county. (Sub 9)
 14. The Kildare Uplands landscape is visible throughout the County and there should be no residential development on these lands. (Sub 102)
 15. Landscape sensitivity should take account of historic, designed landscapes. (Sub 53)
 16. The County Development Plan should include an objective 'to conserve the archaeological heritage of the county, above and below ground and water' and to protect the historic core of towns and villages. Many other suggestions for policies and objectives are also proposed. (Sub 5, 9)
 17. The County Development Plan should promote and protect archaeological heritage as a tourism resource. (Sub 9)
 18. Protected species and designated habitats should be protected so that biodiversity loss can be mitigated. The County Development Plan should also protect species not catered for under current legislation. (Sub 4, 5, 68, 86)
 19. The impact on biodiversity will be critical in terms of the future uses of the peatlands and cut away bogs of the county. (Sub 39)
 20. Habitats including hedgerows, wetlands and rivers and their associated flora and fauna should be protected (Sub 5, 32)
 21. Amenity development must not have a negative impact on biodiversity or designated sites. Amenity development should ensure the retention of local flora and fauna. (Sub 5, 9, 32)
 22. The promotion of geological heritage and County geological sites in Kildare is required. (Sub 43)
 23. Existing rights of way should be catalogued, protected and maintained. Historic roadways in particular should be preserved and protected, preferably as a walking amenity. (Sub 57)
 24. Kildare has a rich republican heritage and was home to the first republican uprising in 1798 with every town and village rising up against the Crown. This should be highlighted and areas of historical interest should be identified and conserved. (Sub 105)
 25. That horseracing related activities be considered as part of the County's heritage and landscape. (Sub 110)
10. **Rural Development (including Equine)**

Rural Development

1. Kildare has some of the flattest landscapes and the ability to absorb development is limited. The full impacts of development on both the current landscape environment and the future lost opportunities in terms of tourism and equine investment need to be considered. (sub 4)
2. Hedges and grass verges are becoming overgrown, causing a hazard particularly in the light of increased activities in rural areas. The Council needs to give consideration as to what is the best way to mitigate this health and safety risk. (sub 4)
3. Identify, establish and protect public rights of way in the county. Where public rights of way are not established, agreements with landowners should be sought to help protect and value heritage for tourism. (sub 7)
4. Agriculture is an integral part of the rural environment and provides opportunities for amenity and recreational use. Rural areas are home to natural and built heritage and eco-systems which need to be protected. (sub 9)
5. There has been an alarming decrease in the number of bird species and hedgerows and other native wildlife and species. (sub 32)
6. The County Development Plan needs to provide policies and objectives to support rural communities, allowing opportunities for families to live close to another, supporting intergenerational support. (sub 59)
7. It is essential that Kildare's predominant rural character is protected and supported through policies which support rural enterprises and protect the rural environment. (sub 63)
8. Farm diversification and rural development needs to be facilitated, with more direct emphasis on facilitating changes of use or rehabilitation of derelict farm buildings to convert them to tourist accommodation or other support facilities. (sub 70)
9. The local authorities continued support and collaboration with the local LEADER partnership should help to encourage farm and rural diversification and development of relevant visitor amenities. (sub 70)
10. There is a significant imbalance of economic development activity between urban and rural areas, with a need to focus on sustainable agriculture, equine and rural based industry, and the need for more policies on green infrastructure policies, local food production. (sub 105)

Equine

1. Equestrian activities are significant contributors to the economic activity of the County and must be protected from encroachment of development, with references to employment creation and gross value of the industry to the economy. (sub 4, 110)

2. There are important links between tourism, the bloodstock and equine industries and the need for policies, objectives and land use zonings within the County Development Plan to properly reflect this link for economic reasons. (sub 30, 70)
3. County Development Plan needs to reflect the findings and recommendations of the recently published Reaching New Heights: Report of Irish Sport Horse Industry Strategy Committee. (sub 4)
4. Need to relax the rural housing policy to ensure there are sufficient locally based employment opportunities. (sub 4)
5. The Curragh Racecourse is of strategic importance to the county. This submission supports the retention of certain policies within the new Plan in relation to the equine industry, suggesting specific amendments and/or additions to policies for the development of the leisure industry and equine industry. (sub 110)
6. As rural dwellers running an active rural equine enterprise, our vision for the rural areas of the County is based on the protection of ecological, heritage and distinctive landscape assets while supporting existing rural communities and appropriate rural enterprises. At present, the biggest threat to rural based industry is the Eirgrid proposals. The potential impact on noise, animal welfare issues, depreciation of values, impact on landscape are among some of the issues which are essential to the successful operation of the equine industry in rural areas by local people. The County Development Plan should recognise and prioritise the importance of the equine industry for Kildare. (sub 63)

Natural Resources

1. The Council must ensure that future development does not impinge on the natural heritage assets in the county. (sub 4)
2. The Council also needs to work with Coillte to ensure that forests within the County are contributing to the potential for walking. (sub 4)
3. Forestry in the County needs to be managed and best practice be implemented in order to protect the landscape, heritage of the County and to ensure access is provided and maintained for amenity and recreation. (sub 9)
4. A number of policies and objectives are presented to protect and manage the County's boglands, inland waterways and geology (sub 9)
5. Specific policies and objectives are presented in relation to the registration, siting, operation, management and aftercare of extractive industries (sub 9)
6. Need for more management of quarries and Kildare should be a fracking free county. (sub 105)

7. Support for changes in agricultural practice and links with an Energy Strategy with the growth in the production of energy crops. (sub 105)

11. TOURISM

1. Improved promotion, protection and provision of facilities should be provided at our cut stone bridges, The Curragh, Ballynafagh Lake, Pollardstown Fen, Bog and Hill of Allen, Donadea Forest and walled gardens in the county. (Sub. No. 2)
2. South Kildare has an abundance of natural heritage and beauty; the Council must ensure that future development does not impinge on these assets. The Council should develop specific actionable plans, not aspirations, to provide walking routes and cycling routes such as the Barrow Way and the Canals, the Gordon Bennett route, Coillte Forests which should look to encompass both the natural heritage and the built heritage. Linkages should be developed along these routes to bring businesses to towns and villages. (Sub. No. 4)
3. The County Development Plan should support the work of County Kildare Fáilte in conjunction with other tourism bodies at National, Regional and district levels. The County Development Plan should include general objectives to improve the County's attractiveness to tourists to facilitate tourism and economic development particularly in relation to the Barrow Blueways, boglands, Architectural Conservation Areas, walled towns etc and that an objective be included for their sustainable development in co-operation with local communities, enterprises, Waterways Ireland and National Parks and Wildlife. (Sub No. 7, 70)
4. Tourism and its associated economic contributions and importance within the County merit a separate standalone chapter within the County Development Plan. (Sub. No 9)
5. The tourism potential for The Orchard / St Wolstan's, as part of the wider Castletown experience should be supported and promoted in the plan (Sub 20)
6. The Kildare portion of the Bog of Allen should be designated as a National Park. Flora and Fauna particularly bird species and native hedgerows should be protected in the County Development Plan. (Sub. No. 32)
7. A joined up approach to tourism and hospitality is required with all key stakeholders in the County (Sub. No. 34)
8. Kildare should develop and promote accessible tourism including people using mobility aids, manual and powered wheelchairs and scooters. In conjunction with Fáilte Ireland, Kildare Fáilte, Waterways Ireland, ensure that accessibility for all is embedded in the planning of tourist amenities and developments. (Sub. No. 36)
9. Bord Na Mona's "Strategic Framework Plan for Future Use of Peatlands" states that the Midlands peatland areas should not be industrial peat land use if other alternative uses are identified. (Sub. No. 39)

10. A range of tourism initiatives for Celbridge, Castletown House and a number of large houses and other features of interest in the Celbridge area are proposed. It is proposed to integrate the tourism and heritage attractions to the town, carry out conservation works, market the area effectively, and prepare a Tourism Heritage Plan. (Sub. No. 42)
11. Kildare's Natural Heritage, Geological Heritage and geological sites should be promoted. (Sub. No. 43)
12. Kildare County Council must promote and develop potential the East Kildare Upland has for tourism in the region. A stakeholder group should be established with relevant stakeholders to develop tourism, under infrastructure already held by the state as a good starting point. A number of walkways in the Ballymore Eustace area identified for potential development. (Sub. No. 47)
13. Kildare County Council should give consideration to the considerable impact and contribution that Carton House brings to Kildare in its County Development Plan 2017-23. Carton House will continue to try and improve and/or expand its facilities and offerings and would request that the Council would give due consideration to same. (Sub. No. 52)
14. Celbridge town centre should be designated as an Architectural Conservation Area. The demesne landscapes and associated views of Castletown, Donaghcumper and St. Wolstans should be protected. (Sub. No. 53)
15. There is much that could be done to further promote County Kildare as a tourist destination based on its heritage. The proximity of many of its key attractions including Castletown House, to Dublin should be fully exploited. The implementation of Architectural Conservation Areas would serve to raise awareness of, and pride in, our local heritage particularly Castletown House and Parklands. (Sub. No. 54)
16. The linking and connectivity of Celbridge and Castletown is important as part of a tourism heritage plan. Works to heritage buildings should be supported by Kildare County Council. A tourism office and heritage centre for the town are required if the full potential of Celbridge/Castletown is to be realised as a tourist centre and linking this to Leixlip/Maynooth tourism facilities will enhance the overall tourism offering for this part of Kildare. Castletown is the centrepiece however Kiladoon, Celbridge Abbey, Oakley Park, Donaghcomper, St Wolstans and nearby Carton, Lyons and Straffan House are all locations which should be linked as part of an overall tourism offering. (Sub. No 55)
17. Recognise through support of local communities' efforts the potential of heritage to generate tourism revenue, with County focus on horses and history. (Sub. No. 57)
18. Maynooth University, the racecourses and the Barrow Blueway should be promoted more, and the waterways better developed in general. (Sub. No. 59)
19. Tourism should concentrate on the opportunities that exist for green tourism. (Sub. No. 60)
20. The countryside in central Kildare is important in terms of natural habitat and has the potential to be developed for walking, trails, blueway etc (Sub. No. 62)

21. The Regional Planning Guidelines supports regionally balanced tourism and recognizes that Dublin City can be considered as a gateway to attracting increased tourism to other parts of the Greater Dublin Area. (Sub from NTA)
22. The County Development Plan should set out Kildare's tourism strengths in terms of regional cooperation. (Sub. No. 66)
23. The County Development Plan should promote and protect Kildare's key visitor attractions which are built upon the following principal assets: archaeological, built heritage and historical sites, sporting and outdoor activity sites, natural heritage sites, shopping venues and retail centres and touring routes. (Sub 70)
24. The canals in Kildare are important amenities that could be exploited. The boglands of the County could be developed as a national park in the boglands and there is the potential to develop floral villages. (Sub. No. 71)
25. Castletown Demesne has the potential to increase visitor/tourism numbers for the social and economic benefit of the county. (Sub. No. 80)
26. Marking out of walking/running/cycling routes in km's; protection of natural heritage; encourage life back to town centres (Sub. No. 82)
27. The Royal Canal Cycle/Walkway from Dublin to Galway is of major importance to Kilcock. The delays to this vital tourism infrastructure, is killing off any early-bird advantage North Kildare could get from this initiative. Car parks and facilities to complement this path need to be catered for in Kilcock. The County Development Plan should also support the new idea of the "Irish Camino Way" which would run through Kilcock. The pollution saga in the Royal Canal in Kilcock Harbour is killing off one of Kilcock's major attractions. Closed shops and boarded up premises do nothing to add to the attraction of a town. A County Development Plan must address this issue before it kills off tourism in our county. A tourism plan for the County should seek ways to entice visitors who just visit a popular attraction in the county, to explore and extend their visit in the surrounding local areas rather just visit one attraction and moving on. (Sub. No. 84)
28. The Grand Canal in Sallins should be developed for tourism with a greenway development. Urban design needs to be improved in the town. (Sub. 104)
29. Kildare should develop a rural tourism marketing campaign and market rural Kildare as a tourism destination. Rural Kildare has much to offer with the Grand Canal and the Royal Canal, fishing breaks, and cultural and heritage experiences and cycling holidays. We should investigate the possibility of creating a national park incorporating the boglands of northwest Kildare, the Hill of Allen and the Curragh. This could become a marketing campaign for the County (Sub 105).
30. Signposting of Tourism facilities. Local interest spots/features in Irish, as per Sinn Féin motion April 2015. (Sub 105)

31. Greenway –Canals should be developed as in France and promote the boating and cycling tours. In order to do this we need to have amenities such as hostels, moorings, picnic tables dotted along the canal/greenway. Kildare is a flat County and should be promoting Kildare as a cycle friendly destination. (Sub 105)
32. Kildare needs more festivals in each area to draw in tourism and community participation. (Sub. No. 105)
33. Welcomes that horse racing is acknowledged as having for tourism in the count. Specific suggestions are proposed in relation to the wording of specific policies and objectives in the plan in relation to the contribution that the three racecourses make to tourism in the county. The County Development Plan can influence the tourism product by facilitating the existing tourism product within the County and the identification of strategic sites capable of accommodating new tourism ventures while also ensuring the preservation of the natural landscape of the area. (Sub. No. 110)
34. Kildare Village makes an important contribution to the tourism in the county. (Sub. No. 113)
35. Promote Farmers Markets and Christmas Markets, rather than the market days that currently exist in many Kildare town. Look to the Milk Market on weekend mornings in Limerick City for inspiration. Local producers should be prioritised. Hold free, small-scale outdoor family friendly concerts or cultural event in parks or town centres. As an alternative to Wind Energy, it is proposed to develop The Bog of Allen as a National Park. We have a huge natural resource that can easily be developed into a holiday destination. An analysis on income from tourism in relation to income from turbines is included in the submission. Consider implementation of an annual 'Kildare Day' to encourage people to get out and about in the county. Develop the Kildare Tourist Trail producing booklets etc and highlighting all activities that would be of interest. (Sub. No. 114)

Appendix C Report on Public
Information Sessions

KILDARE COUNTY
Development Plan 2017-23
Your county, your future



1.0 Introduction

Kildare County Council commenced the review of the County Development Plan (County Development Plan County Development Plan) on Thursday the 2nd of April 2015. The review will take up to two (2) years to complete, concluding with the publication of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023. The County Development Plan sets out the strategic spatial vision and future direction for the Kildare over a six-year period up to 2023 and into the future.

The review presents an opportunity to shape the Kildare future growth by building on its strategic advantage as a county. The new County Development Plan will establish the planning context and conditions to ensure that the strengths of communities, built and natural heritage, infrastructure, economy and tourism are realised to their full potential.

2.0 Process

The process of making the County Development Plan is set down in legislation and divided into three distinct stages:

- i. Pre-draft County Development Plan consultation;
- ii. Preparation of the Draft County Development Plan ; and
- iii. Making of the County Development Plan.

3.0 Pre-draft County Development Plan consultation

The review process for the Draft County Development Plan is currently at stage 1 pre-draft consultation. This stage commenced on the 2nd of May and finished at 4pm on the 29th May 2015. The purpose of the pre-draft consultation stage is to stimulate debate and facilitate involvement from a wide range of stakeholders on the 'big picture' issues that affect the county.

The pre-draft consultation stage was marked by;

- i. Publication of Newspaper notice;
- ii. Publication of Issues Paper document; and
- iii. Public Information Sessions.

3.01 Public Information Sessions

Five public information sessions were held, one in each municipal district, over a two-week period in May 2015. The dates and venues are listed below:

1. Aras Chill Dara, Naas Tuesday 5th May 2015 7pm-9pm
2. Glen Royal Hotel, Maynooth Wednesday 6th May 2015 7pm-9pm
3. Áras Bhride, Kildare Town Monday 11th May 2015 7pm-9pm
4. Athy Heritage Centre, Athy Tuesday 12th May 2015 7pm-9pm
5. Newtown House, Leixlip Wednesday 13th May 2015 7pm-9pm

3.1.1 Format

Corporate Community facilitated the events on behalf of Council. Corporate Community, an organisation development consultancy company, designed the format for the sessions in conjunction with Council over the course of two meetings. The format and detail of the sessions evolved over the course of the 5 days in a way that was responsive to the numbers that attended

particular sessions, the kinds of messages being received from the public and the need to build upon and refine the information already gathered. As a consequence, three different formats were devised and used over the course of the five meetings. Adapting the session format and choosing to feedback some of the key points as we went along were important ways of illustrating Council's capacity for listening and commitment to the public consultation process.

Format 1

The event was broken up into the following components:

1. Exercise 1 – a reflection on last 6 years
 - a) The changes that have occurred within Kildare over the last 6 years; and
 - b) The changes to Kildare County Council's role and function over the last 6 years.
2. Exercise 2 – a group discussion on the following themes
 - a) Unique identity and character
 - b) Economic development
 - c) Infrastructure
 - d) Sustainable Communities
 - e) Urban and Rural Economy
3. Key messages identified by Planning staff
4. Recommendations and advice to Planning staff from members of the public

Format 2

This event took the form of a citizen jury where members of the public that were present were asked to adjudicate on the reflections of staff on the issues raised through the process followed at Format 1. This consisted of two key components:

1. Key lessons identified by staff over the course of the previous three nights
2. Issues identified by members of the public that were not identified by staff.

Format 3

The event was broken up into the following components

1. Exercise 1 – a reflection on last 6 years
 - a) The changes that have occurred within Kildare over the last 6 years; and
 - b) The changes to Kildare County Council's role and function over the last 6 years.
2. Exercise 2 – a group discussion based upon key issues by the following age cohorts:
 - a) Children – babies/primary school age
 - b) Teenagers/young adults living at home
 - c) Families with children aged under 10
 - d) Families with children aged 10 to 25
 - e) Adult working years
 - f) Mid Life Adults
 - g) Active older
 - h) Vulnerable older

Throughout, an emphasis was placed on creating comfortable and informal surroundings, hosting small group discussions around tables and lightening the evening through the use of a purposefully created local quiz customised for each meeting. The Public Information Sessions held in Naas,

Maynooth and Kildare town were subject to format 1 above. The Public Information Session in Athy subject to format 2 and the session in Leixlip subject to format 3.

3.1.2 Numbers Attended

A total of one hundred and six (106) people attended the Information Sessions across the five nights. The breakdown of attendance at each event was as follows – Naas twenty-seven (27), Maynooth thirty-seven (37), Kildare nineteen (19), Athy six (6) and Leixlip seventeen (17). A total of twenty-three (23) staff attended and participated over the course of the information sessions with an average of ten (10) staff on duty on any given night. Staff across the planning, enforcement and development management teams volunteered their time to attend and took up roles as welcomers, facilitators, data recorders and quiz-masters.

3.1.3 Feedback on the Process

The Planning Department took a risk to shift from a traditional more controlled format of consultation to working collaboratively with Corporate Community¹ in a way that maximised participation and engagement with the public. The public did engage and the outputs from the sessions are extremely rich and multi-layered. It will take time to process the key messages from the detail. Our experience of the team was that everyone participated in the process whole-heartedly and that was key to its success. Planners genuinely engaged with the public and were curious and open to what they had to say. The capacity to listen and draw people out was clearly demonstrated as well as the skills to synthesize a large volume of data into key points. The public knew that what they said had been heard and appreciated this. The team seemed to enjoy the process and we certainly enjoyed working with the team.

4. Corporate Community Reflection

4.1 Expectations regarding the shape of the next County Development Plan

The public meetings have informed the overall shape of the next County Development Plan in a number of ways. It is clear now that the next Plan needs to:

- Create a vision and an ambition for the County by communicating a more rounded picture of development – going beyond pure physical infrastructure and offer a more rounded picture in terms of economic and community development.
- Share with the public when positive things are in the process of happening (e.g. Blue ways). The public expressed an interest in seeing evidence of progress and would be better informed if a sense of the progress and timeline regarding significant infrastructural projects were communicated.
- A potential way of doing this is to link the County Development Plan with the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) so that physical infrastructural development becomes more integrated with social, economic and cultural County infrastructure
- The plan might also express something of the dilemmas and balancing acts that the Planning team is working with. Again this informs the public and will lead to the Development Plan being a more sophisticated resource and tool to the Council in future.

¹ www.corpcom.ie

4.2 Call for Ongoing Engagement

The consistent message from the public was the request that the Council continue to build on its capacity to be more engaged with its citizens on a local and countywide basis in ways that both inform the LECP and the County Development Plan and then contribute to questions of implementation and follow through.

4.3 Generative Nature of Consultation and Considerations for Future Consultation

Across all the meetings the form of consultation engaged in by the Planning Department was endorsed and welcomed by the public. The experience for the public translated in to a changing view of the Council overall in terms of transparency and openness. People particularly welcomed the opportunity to engage directly with members of the staff and ‘put faces to names’. For the planning team a different kind of relationship with the public was established that shifted from concerns about hostility or complaint to one of being energised and motivated by the genuine public interest in contributing to making Kildare a better place. The Planning team succeeded so well in building on what they heard at each meeting, demonstrating their grasp of the issues and using later meetings to help refine them or to address gaps helped to create a context for the public that made it clear their efforts were being listened to and valued. Overall, the series of consultation meetings succeeded in being iterative and dialogic and there is potential to build on this success and use consultation in a more integrated and inquiring way in the future.

In terms of building on the success we recommend for any future consultation processes that you ensure a longer lead in time. We also spoke of ensuring that you create opportunities to consult with children and young people and suggest this is built into the design in future. For now, it is important that the Planning Department spends some time figuring out how to take up an appropriate role internally that will contribute to creating conditions for greater integration and connection (the public’s main concern of greater joined-up thinking and improved follow through on implementation).

It is important to build on the learning regarding what really works in generating high levels of attendance at consultation events. Our sense of it was that interview on local radio played an important part in drawing a crowd for Naas for example. The wording of the invitation is also important and it is a key communication tool in educating the public about what they can expect. For example, the term ‘Information evening’ suggests something more passive that it is possible to come along to and leave when it suits as opposed to ‘public participation event’ or ‘evening of public engagement and consultation’ which both suggest the start time matters and there will be more opportunity to engage on offer.

The whole area of database management also needs some consideration – it would be advisable to develop a policy that sets out clearly how names and contact details gathered for the purposes of the Planning Department’s consultation can be used in the future both by Planning and potentially by other Council Departments.

There is lots of potential to see your consultation approach as an ongoing process and to brand it accordingly so that you can reactivate it at any time that suits or is appropriate.

How about ‘Kildare County Dialogue’ for example? This is something that can be experimented with. Such was the success of the consultation that we recommend you look at involving members of the public in smaller numbers – using the database you have as a starting point – to invite small groups of people to discuss particular themes or issues with you when needed. For example, a group of between 6 and 12 people to help inform a local area plan that takes the strengths of a town more into account and is proactive about avoiding the mistake of making Local Area Plans (LAPs) too

generic, as the public identified. The right kind of framing and facilitation can yield high returns, as was discovered in Athy and doesn't necessarily have to involve major time resources.

4.4 Heritage and Identity

There was a consensus view across all the meetings regarding the importance of Kildare's built and natural heritage. There is a belief that the County's heritage is underutilised and undervalued of as a means of strengthening Kildare's identity in terms of tourism interest and potential. It makes sense in this time and social-cultural context to place greater emphasis and priority on exploring the opportunities and the risks associated with proactively harnessing Kildare's heritage and unique location for these purposes.

4.5 Quality of Life

Several comments suggested that many people choose to live in Kildare and work in Dublin. For many, it's a choice that goes beyond economic necessity and is more to do with choices made to improve quality of life. The County Development Plan needs to be more proactive about ensuring that meeting places and opportunities for community engagement and recreation are integral to the development of the county.

4.6 Town Centres

There was consensus and a shared concern across the public meetings about the decline of town centres and the lack of vibrancy and loss of community connection and heart in Kildare's towns and villages. The need for a physical heart or core to be restored to towns was seen as essential to creating strong connected and inclusive communities.

There was a call for the Council to take a leadership role in providing the physical heart that would lead to improved informal community connection and enable easier animation of community connection (e.g. festivals, events, organised gatherings).

Parking and traffic were often identified as the main problem for town centres and it is clear that creative solutions need to be found that may require public participation and acceptance in order to succeed.

4.7 Aesthetic and Quality of Design

The link between aesthetic appearance and its power and potential to help create and embed a sense of identity and pride in Kildare as a place to belong to came up in a variety of different ways at the meetings. Local area plans are seen as too generic and there is concern about a loss of parish and local identity. Standardising signage and being more proactive about coherent visual identity were seen as important.

4.8 Wind Farms

It is clear that there are genuine concerns about how wind farms are going to be developed. In particular, the concerns are about the number of wind farms and their potential negative impact on the environment both physically and socially.

4.9 Joining up the Planning Dots

Balancing competing needs and ensuring that planning policies, objectives and actions are not at odds requires a new way of addressing some of the dilemmas at the heart of planning decisions. Everyone is agreed there needs to be a more joined up approach within the Council and that the

Council as a whole to be more proactive about this. Planning has a distinctive and important role within this. To help join the dots and support greater internal integration, a number of strategies that can be built on and sustained were identified:

- In future consultations, seek to include colleagues from engineering and other Departments where there is little or no previous experience of public consultation.
- Follow up with colleagues after any public consultation/engagement on the areas where crossover occurs.
- Create opportunities to have your learning and experience with relevant colleagues.

4.10 Implementation and follow through of the County Development Plan

To help support improved follow through and implementation of plan objectives a number of ideas were discussed:

- Explore ways or projects where the Council might experiment with acting differently.
- When the public expresses an interest or an idea in a way that is outside the powers of the Planning Department, the challenge is to interpret it and see what might be possible to use Planning as a way to address it. For example, in Naas the public talked about the Council having a role in building and running shops in local villages. This is not within the Council remit to address directly but interpreting what the rural shop represents as a need for a visible core to villages such as Rathcoffey is something of strategic relevance that requires a planning policy response.
- In many cases an opportunity and a challenge cancel each other out and so nothing changes. The public offered suggestions for new solutions to intractable problems, for example, how to achieve a balance between vibrant town centres and traffic and parking. By visibly experimenting with new solutions and communicating, involving and engaging the public in the experiment, the foundations are laid for initial public buy in for any potential behaviour change required to enable an innovative solution to work.

Corporate Community

May 2015

REPORT ON PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSIONS APPENDICES

- I. Public perception of Changes within Kildare County Council**
- II. Public perception of Changes in the County**
- III. Advice From the Public for Planners**
- IV. Planning Team Overview of Consultation Messages**
- V. Feedback to Planners from Local People in Athy**
- VI. Team Feedback on the process at midway debrief meeting**

I. Public perception of Changes within Kildare County Council

In **Naas** the public's perception of the ways the Council has changed since the adoption of the last County Development Plan in that there was greater engagement with the public and this was linked to greater transparency and some people expressing the view that they trust the Council more now than they did in the past. Some of the concerns related to a view that the Council has lost many of its best staff and that the number of Councillors now (40 in total) is "too unwieldy". There was also some criticism directed at the architecture and cost of Aras Chill Dara, which is newly built since the adoption of the last County Development Plan. In the conversation that followed it was clear that people were aware of the changes to the structural delivery of services in the County (e.g. water, waste and enterprise) but they weren't as tuned in to the implications of those changes for them.

In **Maynooth** the public perception of the ways the Council has changed over the last six years was reflected in the abolition of the town councils and the inclusion of the former town councillors into the enlarged County council. Other views articulated by the public included the following:

- In the last 6 years the physical infrastructure has improved greatly with social benefits.
- Economic crisis brought council and private sector together
- Sallins/Kilcock – concern re empty units since the recession
- Note the increase in number of Councillors – how will they help rural areas that are isolated particularly with issues of transport?
- There was both good and bad experiences of communication with the Council. Some have found it difficult to communicate with Council staff and talked about needing to mediate through a Councillor. Another mentioned sending in a submission to corporate plan that they had to follow up a number of times before getting an acknowledgement. In contrast people mentioned improved communication in the last 3 years and now get answers quickly. Other spoke of positive experiences when dealing with the Council as part of a residents association
- Library services have improved greatly – they are free and cater for children well including in midterm break
- Some would like to see a whole day of this kind of consultation – and felt it was too short a time for big issues such as energy

In **Kildare** the impact of the loss of town councils was noticed as a more equitable focus on the whole county, with fewer vested local interests at Council table. At the same time, town centres are dying, there's a real need to invest in them and for the Council to play a part in this. Other changes noticed included:

- There has been more emphasis on pre-planning in individual pre-planning processes that is welcome.
- The County is well served by road and rail infrastructure.
- There seems to be more investment in the north of the County – leading to more industry and employment there. People are concerned that the south of the County is going to become a dormitory for north Kildare and Dublin. People see an imaginary line across the county, dividing north from south.
- Recreation facilities in Kildare town are not adequate – both for sporting and non-sporting activities. There has been growth in the population and investment in facilities hasn't kept up with this.
- Kildare town is a heritage town, but it hasn't invested well in this: buildings have been delisted and other buildings permitted, without regard to the impact on the heritage potential.

In **Leixlip** the public's perception of the ways the Council has changed since the last County Development Plan were contrasting regarding accessibility and efficiency of the Council over the last five years or so – on the one hand some are, experiencing it as more efficient and responsive to queries and on the other some people are finding it much less so. Both viewpoints referred (positively and negatively) to the closure of the town council as partially responsible for the change they experience.

Frustration was expressed regarding responsiveness to difficulties – for example, not adequate response to parking complaints over the years. The Council's record of dealing with unauthorised buildings is seen as poor, and this has a knock-on effect on architects / planning processes and willingness to be compliant. People asked what are the rewards for compliance when there are rarely consequences for non-compliance?

People were very positive about the engagement and assistance of Council staff with a whole range of interests and activities in the community, including tidy towns, heritage, and so on: Bridget got a special mention.

As part of promoting tourism, everyone's putting up signs so that signage seems incoherent and unclear to those at the meeting. They identified a need to engage with proposing changes to the rules and then enforcing them, so that shop fronts and signage works well. Local media interest in the Council is much less than it was in Leixlip's own activities: there's little information available generally now, from that source.

II. Public perception of Changes in the County

The **Naas** public was broadly positive about the policies and strategies in the last County Development Plan but several people named implementation of the policies and objectives as the problem area. This came up in different ways. For example, concerns about the Council not adhering to its own objectives and the lack of consequence in relation to this, the lack of alignment between different plans and the need for a meaningful connection between what is put in the plan and how it is monitored and implemented (i.e. tied in to timelines).

There was a general recognition of the challenges the Council and the County faces given that the population has increased and is younger and more culturally diverse but the level of staff and financial resources in the Council went down in that period. Kildare is now an even busier place and traffic congestion around the urban centres seemed to be the theme of most concern in relation to this. The following issues were identified:

- Increased traffic along the Grand Canal
- North Kildare coming out of Clane – particularly in the mornings.
- Increase in homelessness and so a greater need for social housing which should be dispersed in towns and villages.
- Social amenities – particularly schools – are not located correctly.
- Noticing a decline in the level of maintenance of infrastructural facilities.
- Lack of co-ordination in the balance between developing road infrastructure, delivering utilities and protecting the environment that results in poor road quality at times (e.g. new road bridge).
- Lower levels of Council workers on the ground keeping villages clean than there would have been in the past.
- Many feel that the infrastructure is better now and that there is less traffic congestion moving through the county.
- The potential of the PPN to both enhance and broaden public participation was welcomed.

In **Maynooth** the changes perceived in the County are:

- Infrastructure has improved.
- Rural-urban divide is starker e.g. north Kildare losing buses. Security is a big issue in rural areas but residents in Maynooth say it is just as much a concern for them. It appears that Post Offices, Garda Stations are disappearing and “the feeling is that we don’t want you to live in rural Ireland”. There is no minimum standard for what a town should have – it’s about centralising things into the bigger areas.
- A lot of land was designated green land and de-zoned again.
- Traffic lights make it impossible for people to go about their business. Woman cited it took 22 minutes to get through 6 sets of lights on route to the consultation. Suggestion that button roundabouts could replace lights. In Naas there was a roundabout – now there is a set of lights. Get the impression that traffic light suppliers are well in with Kildare County Council.
- Loss of hedgerows - bogs have been butchered.

In **Kildare** people feel there is a sense of stagnation with regard to the landscape – a lot of underutilised buildings, promised buildings that have never been built, schools built without adequate planning around them. There has been a decrease in activity in town centres as a result of the way people live. Social pressures have changed – there’s been a growth in unemployment and pressures on housing. There has been inadequate provision of facilities for clubs and activities – they’re carried on because of people’s passion and enthusiasm. There are too many one-off rural houses

There have also been positive things, including higher numbers in tourism in the County and migration has brought new people into small towns. There’s a more diverse and more multicultural community although this population growth is also putting pressure on schools and has a knock-on effect on other services

In **Leixlip**, people spoke of how the road network and amenities has improved but that village and town centres are struggling. In particular the loss of ‘the heart’ of town centres is only partly explained by parking charges and restrictions. People spoke of the need for local authority leadership to address the challenges faced by Leixlip and other Kildare town centres. Attention to tidy towns has reduced because of the loss of the town council that supported it over the years.

- People find pay parking in Leixlip is discouraging.
- There’s continuing loss of habitat and consequent loss of bird species in the County that are further threatened due to proposals for large scale wind farms.
- In the twentieth century, there was no bridge built across the Liffey in north Kildare and the feeling was a bridge should be planned and built in this century
- A north-south divide in the County was described: the north with more facilities, more happening, more employment, and proximity to Dublin city. Contrasting with south Kildare – less apparent investment, preoccupied with wind-farm planning.

The session in **Athy** had five members of the public in attendance. The design of the event was adapted accordingly and involved a gathering of all of the staff and the public into one group. With the public given the role as ‘jurors’, each member of staff was invited to say what had struck or surprised them from their participation at the earlier consultation evenings and what in particular they thought should be considered in the preparation of the County Development Plan . Members of the public were invited then to comment and add in anything they felt was missing or needed to be included in the County Development Plan.

The content of the consultation had unexpected outcomes in terms of building the experience of Team amongst the staff and a unique access for the small number of the public who were there. It was quite an inspiring conversation revealing the commitment and ambition of the staff and the public to make this County Development Plan real and relevant. It also highlighted the lack of coherence within the Council around planning and some good ideas as to how this might be addressed.

III. Advice From the Public for Planners

At the end of the first three meetings the public were asked to discuss in small groups what advice they would give to the Planning Department as it sets out to create the next County Development Plan.

<p>Naas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledge that the preparation of the County Development Plan is a complex process. • Sort out the traffic • Really think about the child growing up in Kildare now and plan the County infrastructure on a long-term horizon to meet their needs and their future family's needs. • Be even more visible – attach faces and names to things • Reflect on past erroneous decisions, acknowledge what the problem was and learn from the mistakes. • Wherever possible eliminate red tape • Stick to the plan and be accountable when you don't • It's great to see local government talking to local communities – opportunities like this to talk and share views are positive and valuable
<p>Maynooth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “These meetings are great – fair play – but don't forget about us. We want ongoing consultation and to be much more involved – especially in rural areas” • “You need to listen to the people – developments must have sustainability and the loyalty of those that live there” • “Keep doing the listening surveys and consult on a proper facilitated basis” • “The Council is doing a good job but the Chief Executive can change this plan and then so can the Minister. The Councils need to have more powers” • “Local Area Plans need to be concrete and have targets so that people have more faith in the system. If this process is to be really worthwhile, targets need to be set and accountability back to people by the Council if they are not met – with overall more transparency” • “For the urban environment – greater consultation is needed by the local engineer before any new developments take place”. • Get tourists to Kildare – need to sell what it has to offer” “On the rural side there is a need to develop tourism. We are worried that wind turbines will ruin the county” there is a huge opening for the development of tourism that would benefit the county”. • “We are not the saviours of Bord na Mona – if it has to go – let it go” • “Need to be conscious of what isn't working, make a list and figure out or at least make some attempt to provide solutions to issues”

Maynooth (Continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Recycling should be more readily available. There is a lot of dumping especially in the bogs and this would help”.
Kildare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ About second-level schools: avoid UK-style very large second-level schools. Instead, plan for smaller schools, with less long-distance travelling and provide access to and better facilities for them. Keep them close to communities / housing. ▪ A community School in Kildare has 1,000 students, and one playing pitch – it is really inadequate. There should be a way of planning for the scale of the school with appropriate facilities. ▪ Ideally, public private partnerships should give more back to the community – there needs to be more follow-through ▪ Focus development on the town centres and invest / develop less in the periphery.
Athy	<p>Need to join up all of the plans being developed by different departments within in the Council and proof them against each other</p> <p>Suggestions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form Team made up of Project Managers • Identify different plans and their timelines • Identify common themes, synergies, overlaps • Identify number of people that have been consulted e.g. over last 18 months • Share data from the different consultation processes and where possible in the future - develop joint consultation processes that could serve the different plans. • Possible development programme could be undertaken with PPN to support appropriate citizen / community participation in the various plans • Create access to external bodies that sit on existing integrated structures e.g. LCDC, Children and Young Persons Committees, so that appropriate input can be made into the different plans. • Having reviewed the different plans, if e.g. 10 main themes are identified - they could be titled in a way that all plans could use them <p>Bring Management across Council together to facilitate the development of a process (not a one off event)</p>
Leixlip	The meeting did not focus on giving advice to the Council

IV. Planning Team Overview of Consultation Messages

Shared at Athy meeting

- There needs to be a more joined up approach within the Council
- Greater clarity in the County Development Plan – the LAPs are quite detailed but the County Development Plan should be more action focused and specific
- Heritage is really important in Kildare – building on its strengths, how can we develop and attract visitors and enhance the cultural, built, natural heritage. To do this also requires joining up the dots within the Council

- Need for more leisure / recreation amenities for Kildare's more diverse communities to enable and support them to come together
- Need for sheltered housing to accommodate the aging population
- The County Development Plan is the elected members plan but it should belong to everyone. It should aim to create a sense of place for the people of Kildare, building on its green image, the canals, the Barrow, the Liffey. People love this County and we need to create a sense of place that enhances what we have. Everyone should feel like they belong and be able to say "this is my county".
- Kildare people are very proud of being from Kildare. Kildare has a unique identity and history that should attract visitors but there is an absence of high quality hotel accommodation in the south of the county.
- The Kildare population is growing and demands are increasing. There are often conflicting objectives ... some want to build and develop; others are concerned about the consequences. Kildare people are realising some of our land is being undervalued – a realisation that has come from seeing developers eyeing up opportunities and valuing what we have.
- Back in the 70s, there was a view that bogs should be re-flooded – now this view is resurfacing as an idea. Council will be faced with this challenge in the next number of years.
- There is a need to re-establish the sense of community. The concept of "parish" is diminishing and what replaces it? The parish was the village but the concept of community sounds a bit vague.
- People are beginning to value museums and the cultural heritage in their areas. There is a lot of community good -will towards the museum that is made available to the community for events.
- The square in Athy could be used as a gathering place for community. If pedestrianised, it could have cafes, seats, heaters, and bandstands and give a reason to bring the sense of community back. This would also benefit local business. The importance of use of square was stressed, as there is an absence these days of people calling to visit people in their homes.
- It is interesting that heritage is coming up now as an economic driver – with its potential to provide employment. Regeneration of towns needs to happen in a plan led way that develops the unique features of each town in its own special way.
- In the County Development Plan, Heritage has its own chapter, but it should cross-reference throughout all of the chapters.
- Planning for our future requires planning from cradle to grave – from children services to nursing homes. Plans should be mindful of the demographics of Kildare rather than the developers.
- The new County Development Plan should include in it what we have done from the old Plan. This is a way of letting people know that many things have happened.
- The integrated Service Project led by the Council is being piloted in Kildare, Kilcock and Celbridge and has for the last two and half years been supporting the Council to work in a new way - acknowledging the need for an integrated response by different agencies to address the needs in Kildare. The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) has a key role in this regard. Some staff present expressed surprise at not knowing about this.
- Data gathering is ongoing but it is clear that growth is massive and rapid in Kildare that brings both opportunities and challenges – Kildare is an urban County – a commuting county. It is also a young county. There are therefore huge challenges for service provision. Now the peak is in pre-school and primary school and plans need to take account of this population in the future.

- Quality of life is enhanced through heritage but also through accessible services. There are low levels of GPS, Mental health services, Gardaí in areas of Kildare. The County plan needs to take account of this if we want people to have a good quality of life.
- There is a shortage of sporting, childcare and community facilities. There has been lots of residential development without facilities. The County Development Plan needs to ensure there is the social infrastructure to support the population.
- The need for towns to be made more accessible for people. The issue of car parking rates in town needs to be addressed (e.g. first half hour free etc).
- Kildare needs to establish itself as a destination and not just a pass through county. Kildare is in the shadow of Dublin and this could be an advantage as there are so many tourist attractions that could be marketed. The example of the Wild Atlantic Way was cited and how the canals could be developed. Campsites and a reason for people to spend a night in the county.
- Having recently come to Kildare – realise that there is so much more to Kildare than the headline features. Had always perceived Kildare as being an affluent County and was surprised to learn of the disparity between rural and urban, the lack of access to services in parts, the transport issues especially for the less affluent and more vulnerable. The County Development Plan cannot promise to deliver everything – but it raises the question as to how the Council has a whole can cooperate to prioritise. There is also then the issue of arriving at a consensus amongst elected members as to what these priorities should be.

V. Feedback to Planners from Local People in Athy:

- Would like to see better facilities to support use of the beautiful river. As a member of the rowing club founded in 1997 for young people – and now the only club left in Kildare, the members are reliant on use of old containers. The potential is not being reached and people would love to see the development of a marina on the lake. “We can’t have regattas as we don’t even have a toilet.” Such facilities would be both for local people and visitors and if they could make it happen, it would be something that they could leave for the benefit of their grandchildren.
- Kildangan people want to see a County Development Plan that will result in a better quality of life for children. It would be interesting to know what has been achieved in the previous County Development Plan and important to make sure that this County Development Plan isn’t a carbon copy of the last.
- Interested in canals and renewable energy but is very worried about wind turbines and how heritage will be affected. The bogs are a great asset and should be returned to lakes – returned to people for leisure not for commercialisation
- There is good sense of ‘parish ‘in Kildangan harnessed by Community Development Association. Would like to see Kildare have a unique identity e.g. Kildare Day - a Family Day with lots on, encouraging shops to give 20% discount.
- Rural Transport network has failed because it wasn’t being used enough – but that leaves people who need it isolated.
- Turbines will ruin the reputation of Kildare for Tourists. The Bog of Allen should be made into a national park
- Trails developed for walkers would result in great benefit to the county
- Pedestrianizing would help towns – could have free events put on by the Council – e.g. small version of ‘Lark in the Park’, Open Air cinemas etc. - events that would not cost a lot to put on and would give people a reason to come together.
- There are deficiencies in footpaths creating issues for mothers, babies in buggies and wheelchair users.

- Walking and cycling routes should be developing along the Barrow.
- The Waterways could be developed to attract barges and boats and 'The Blue Way' along the lines of the 'Atlantic Way' could be developed. More information is required from North Barrow Waterways to know what is planned for the canal and the Barrow.
- Lights in the harbour are needed to attract usage and this would also reduce anti-social behaviour.
- A bridge across the river was also suggested
- Need to educate children in schools – reference was made to green school committees and tidy town who would love to include children.

VI. Team Feedback on the process at midway debrief meeting

- The design works well and only needed some mild tweaks
- Concern about managing expectations, as the public don't know the extent of the Council's limitations. It's important they leave with realistic understandings.
- Walked out feeling taller...Reflecting on what more we can do to 'join the dots'.
- Felt it was a really positive experience. Enjoyed it. Had a sense that people are really interested in having strong inclusive communities.
- A bit frustrated by people's focus on the detail but liked the process as people did actually move from venting to being involved.
- Frustrated with how negative the agents were. We need to follow up with them and ask what they think. Also a bit concerned that this is generating positive energy out in the community and will we be able to deliver to it.
- Happy to see the buzz.