



Castledermot Development Plan 2002

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Planning Department, Kildare County Council, St Mary's, Naas, Co. Kildare

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MAP

Map 1	Land Use Zoning and Specific Objectives
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of Plan

The aim of the Castledermot Development Plan 2002 is:

To establish a framework for the planned, co-ordinated and sustainable development of Castledermot and for the conservation and enhancement of its natural and built environment.

The Plan sets out the objectives and policies of Kildare County Council in respect of physical planning as well as coordinating the activities of the Council as, *inter alia*, Housing, Sanitary and Roads Authority. This plan was prepared under the provisions of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Acts 1963 to 1999 and provides the statutory basis for the considerations of planning applications.

The Castledermot Town Development Plan consists of this Written Statement and attached Map. It is essential that both be referred to in considering the proper planning and sustainable development of the town. The Written Statement takes precedence over the Map should any discrepancy arise between them. The period of this plan shall be taken as being from the date of its adoption until it is reviewed or another plan made.

1.2 Planning Area

While Castledermot is not a scheduled town as defined by the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 1963, Kildare County Council considered it appropriate to draw up a distinct town development plan in the 1985 review of the Kildare County Development Plan. A town development boundary was established by the Council. (This boundary is shown in the map accompanying this plan.)

Kildare County Council has decided to zone additional land in the county area and to designate development boundaries beyond the 1985 boundary. The area to which this plan relates is shown on the attached map.

1.3 Review of 1985 Plan

Since the last Castledermot Development Plan was adopted in 1985, the pressure for growth for Castledermot have increased substantially. The sustained buoyancy of the economy over the last eight years and resulting escalation in property prices, is greatly increasing the pressure for growth and development in the town.

Growth in the town has been constrained up to now by the lack of capacity in the sewerage system. Relatively large tracts of land within the existing town boundary remain undeveloped. With the development of additional capacity and enhanced road linkages Castledermot is well placed to benefit from growth, and is likely to experience substantial additional development during the period of this plan.

1.4 Regional Context

Castledermot is located within the Mid-East Region and was identified in the *Strategic Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area* as being within the 'Strategic Green Belt Area', outside the Dublin Metropolitan Area. The strategy advocated by the guidelines is to restrict development within these areas to meet local needs only. The guidelines call for strict control

of development in green belt areas so as to secure a clear distinction between urban areas and rural areas.

Castledermot was identified in the *1999 Kildare County Development Plan* as being a secondary growth centre. Concentrating local growth in Castledermot is considered the most appropriate way of reducing the pressure for one-off housing and other development in the surrounding countryside, while at the same time providing enough serviced land to satisfy local demand.

Castledermot is identified in the 1999 Kildare County Development Plan as being a town of 'Special Townscape/Heritage Character'. The special townscape or heritage character of the village nucleus is recognised. It is a policy of the County Development Plan that this character is respected and that new development in the centre will conform to this.

1.5 Sustainable Development

The principles of sustainable development, as set out in the document *"Sustainable Development – A Strategy for Ireland"* published in 1997, have been adopted by the Government. Kildare County Council, through the *Castledermot Development Plan 2000*, seeks to support this strategy. The Council will seek to integrate its land-use planning with strategic economic, social and transportation planning.

The Council supports Local Agenda 21 and will endeavour to implement the initiative through appropriate actions. These will include the involvement of local communities in the consideration of policies affecting conservation, resources and the environment.

1.6 Social Exclusion

The Council supports the national anti-poverty strategy and seeks to address the issues of poverty, social exclusion and multiple deprivation in the various policies and objectives of this Development Plan. The Council is aware that reducing physical isolation and promoting accessibility are key factors in combating social exclusion. In particular, the Council's policies on social and affordable housing, promotion of public transport and pedestrian friendly environments, access for the disabled and provision of childcare facilities are all intended to combat social exclusion.

More generally, the Council, through the County Development Board and in partnership with other agencies and local communities, will take a leading role in tackling poverty and social deprivation.

1.7 Location

Castledermot is located in the extreme south of County Kildare on the N9 National Primary Route. The village lies 32 km from Kilcullen, 10 km from Carlow Town and 11 km from Athy.

1.8 Town Function and Role

Castledermot is a service centre for the surrounding rural hinterland. Recently the town has emerged as a commuter town for workers in Carlow.

1.9 Population

In 1996 the town of Castledermot had a population of 733 persons.

Table 1.1 Population change in Castledermot, 1971 to 1996

	Castledermot	Annual % rate of Change
1971	583	
1979	798	+4.0%
1981	805	+0.5%
1986	792	-0.5%
1991	741	-1.5%
1996	733	-0.2%

Source: CSO.

The population of Castledermot grew steadily in the 1970s before peaking at 805 persons in 1981. Since then the population has fallen slowly but steadily.

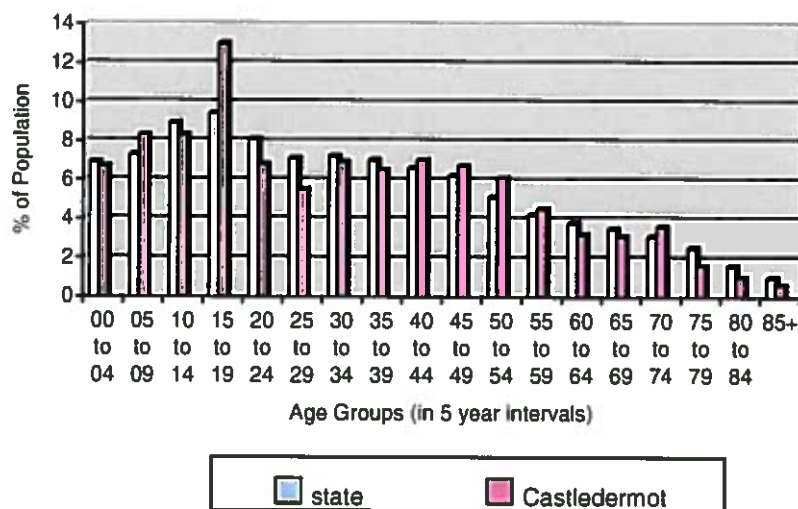


Fig 1.2 Age profile of Castledermot, 1996

Castledermot village is located within Castledermot DED, with a recorded population of 1,154 in 1996. Details of the population of the village itself are not available, however a profile of the population of Castledermot DED is illustrated in Fig. 1.2. The age profile of the DED does not vary significantly from the national average.

The average household size for Castledermot DED was of 3.41 persons in 1996, slightly higher than the national average of 3.14 persons. Average household size in Kildare is expected to decrease from 3.71 in 1991 to 3.01 by 2006.¹

¹ Source: Strategic Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area

1.8 Population Projections

Population projections for towns such as Castledermot are particularly difficult because of the town's small size and the influence of nearby towns such as Carlow. Escalating house prices in the eastern region and an increase in employment opportunities have pushed up demand for housing from commuters in rural villages such as Castledermot.

The extent by which population growth has been artificially constrained in the recent past by the lack of an adequate sewage treatment capacity is difficult to determine. However, since the announcement of the imminent construction of a sewage treatment plant, a considerable number of planning applications for new housing developments have been lodged.

This commercial interest in development, the improved access to the town from the proposed M9 motorway and the recent rapid growth of Carlow all suggest that the town is poised to reverse the recent trend of population decline and enjoy a period of steady population growth.

The 1999 Kildare County Development Plan established a target population for Castledermot of 2,150 by 2006. This represents a population increase of almost 200% over the '96 population in ten years. Over 500 new housing units will be required to accommodate this population increase.

1.11 Urban Form

The present town of Castledermot has developed from a monastic settlement founded by Diarmait O Aedh Roin circa 600AD. The village was walled in the 13th century, by which time two important ecclesiastic centres had been established; St. John's Priory and the Franciscan Monastery. The dissolution of the monasteries saw the role of Castledermot decline. From being an important religious centre it became a service centre for the surrounding rural hinterland, a role it retains to this day.

The decline in the town's importance has enabled Castledermot to retain its medieval street pattern and extensive archaeological remnants of the monasteries and old town walls.

There has been relatively little ribbon development or urban sprawl to detract from the compact nature of the village.

1.12 Development Vision

The rapid growth Castledermot is likely to experience over the next five years is both an opportunity and a threat. The danger is that the village's own unique character is swamped by urban sprawl.

On the other hand, the growth in population may allow Castledermot to develop the critical mass needed to sustain a range of economic and social facilities not currently viable in the town.

The development strategy of Kildare County Council, as set out in this Development Plan, is to consolidate Castledermot as a self-sustainable town retaining its own unique village atmosphere. In order for this to be achieved the Council recognises that the town must offer living and working conditions, educational, recreational and cultural opportunities of the highest standard in an attractive urban environment and that the existing village core be protected and preserved. The Council aims to achieve this in partnership with the people of Castledermot.

It is critical, if this vision is to be realised, that the town grows in a balanced fashion. Growth in population must be accompanied by the growth in the social, cultural and economic infrastructure of the town.

Kildare County Council aims to achieve this by;

- Protecting and enhancing the unique natural and man-made heritage of the town,
- Making adequate provision for safe and convenient circulation around the town, by foot, bicycle and car.
- Ensuring an adequate supply of serviced, zoned land is made available to accommodate future population and economic expansion.
- Strictly controlling ribbon development and urban sprawl
- Ensuring that adequate recreational facilities are available to the residents of the town and its hinterland
- Ensuring all new development in the town, by the Council or by the private sector, is of the highest standard.

It is envisaged that the centre of the town will remain as the focus for most social, cultural and economic activity. The bulk of residential development will be within a 500m radius of the centre. Pedestrian/cycleway links will be focused on connecting residential areas with the town centre and major recreational areas. Employment and traffic generating activity, whether industrial, warehousing or office developments, will be concentrated on the fringes on the town with easy access to the N9.

This plan for the future development of Castledermot is guided by the policies of the *1999 Kildare County Development Plan*, the *Strategic Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area* (1999), the *1996 Regional Report* of the Mid-East Regional Authority and *Sustainable Development – A Strategy for Ireland* (DoELG 1997).

The plan has also been informed by the *Residential Density Guidelines for Local Authorities* and the *Retail Planning Guidelines*, both issued by the Minister for the Environment and Local Government in 1999.

The Planning Authority is under a general obligation to secure the objectives set out in the Development Plan. The Council must also have regard to the provisions of the Plan when exercising its powers under the Planning and Development Act 2000. The plan should not be interpreted as committing the Council to any specific expenditure.

2.0 DEVELOPMENT POLICY

2.1 Housing Policy

In 1996 there were approx. 220 housing units in Castledermot. Since 1996 a small number of houses has been built within the town but essentially the population has stagnated. With the new sewage treatment works coming on stream in the near future this is likely to change.

2.1.0 It is the policy of the Council to seek for a balance and mix in the provision of social and private housing in order to promote a social and demographic balance within the town.

2.1.1 Social and Affordable Housing

Kildare County Council, in carrying out its housing functions, will have regard to Government policy as established in *'Social Housing – The Way Ahead'* (DoELG1995) and *Social Housing Design Guidelines* (DoELG 1999) or as subsequently amended. The Council recognise that social housing should have regard to a wide range of households. These should include the households that currently live in unfit or overcrowded accommodation, the homeless, travelers, elderly, disabled/handicapped, medical/compassionate reasons, involuntary sharing, young persons leaving institutional care as well as those that are unable to afford existing accommodation.

In 2000, 40 applicants to Kildare County Council for local authority housing requested to be housed in Castledermot, 25 of whom chose Castledermot as their first preference.

The Council will continue to seek for the provision of additional social and affordable housing to meet local needs and will consider other measures to assist in the accommodation of those on the local authority housing list. These may include joint social and private housing schemes developed through collaboration between private developers and the local authority.

It is the policy of the Council to promote the provision of social and affordable housing accommodation in accordance with the proposals outlined in *'Social Housing – The Way Ahead'* and in other appropriate ways, including seeking an element of social and affordable housing in new residential proposals.

A particular difficulty is the availability of land within the town for social housing provision and the relatively high cost of sites. It is the policy of the Council to actively seek for the provision of additional social housing units on suitable sites in Castledermot.

2.1.2 Residential Densities

The Council recognises that average household sizes continue to decline and that a greater diversity in household composition calls for a greater variety of dwelling types. Developments catering for a variety of household sizes, including one and two person households, will be encouraged as part of an overall development mix.

In accordance with the principals of sustainable development, government policy on residential density and *the Strategic Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area*, higher residential densities may be acceptable within the village centre.

It is the policy of the Council to encourage infill housing developments and higher residential densities at appropriate locations, subject to a high standard of layout, design and finish.

The Council is anxious that new residential estates develop as integrated neighbourhoods with a full range of social facilities and access to public transport easily available to their residents. The availability of such facilities will be a material consideration in all residential planning applications.

2.2 Industry and Enterprise Policy

2.2.1 Industry and Enterprise Policy

Castledermot has historically been a service centre for the surrounding rural hinterland. While Castledermot has never been an industrial centre, a number of enterprises exist within and near the town, the most significant of which is Kelly's Coach Builders.

It is the policy of the Council to facilitate the continuity and encourage the expansion of such enterprises having regard to the protection of the amenity and economic value of neighbouring properties.

The Council will co-operate with IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, the County Enterprise Board, County Development Board, KELT and other agencies, organisations and individuals in promoting enterprise in Castledermot.

2.2.2 Retail Policy

Carlow serves as the principal retail centre for Castledermot. Retailing in Castledermot is primarily for convenience goods to serve local needs. The retail centre in Castledermot is the village centre. In 2000 there is an estimated 1,200. sq. gross floor area of retail space. The anticipated significant increase in population the town is likely to experience in the period of this plan may lead to some additional demand for retail space in the village.

It is the policy of the Council that any new retail development should be located within the existing village core.

2.2.3 Tourism Policy

The historical and archaeological remains still extent in the village considerable potential for the development of tourism. The industry has not yet developed in the town due to its remoteness from more established tourist destinations and the high volume of traffic passing through the village on the N9. The 4* Kilkea Castle Hotel located close to the town together with the town's attractive urban environment suggest there is considerable scope for the development of restaurants and guest house accommodation.

It is the policy of the Council to promote the development of tourism in Castledermot in partnership with Duchas and the Mid-East Tourism Authority through the conservation, enhancement and promotion of the town's built and natural environment.

2.3 Education, Cultural and Community Facilities

2.3.1 Community Facilities

The range of community facilities throughout the town include a primary school, church, library, community hall and other meeting places that in turn facilitate a wide range of activities.

It is the policy of the Council to facilitate the land use requirements of the education and community needs of the population of Castledermot.

The Council recognises the need to provide a range of social and recreational facilities throughout the town to meet the needs of all residents. In major new residential and commercial developments the Council will seek to ensure that adequate provisions are made for community facilities, where this is appropriate, and to seek for their provision concurrent with the development.

2.3.2 Crèche and Playgroup Facilities

Changes in the population structure, changing lifestyles and economic needs have led to increasing demands for pre-school childcare facilities and day nurseries. The Council is aware of the importance of the provision of adequate childcare facilities in consolidating new and existing communities and as a means of addressing social exclusion and disadvantage.

The Council will seek to facilitate the provision of crèche and playgroup facilities in appropriate location and will require their provision in large residential, commercial and retail developments.

It is the policy of the Council to encourage the provision of purpose-built creches and playschools in residential areas and in workplaces.

However, the Council is also aware that such facilities, when located in residential areas, can adversely affect amenity through increased traffic generation and other impacts.

It is the policy of the Council to permit the conversion of part of existing dwellings to such uses, where the bulk of the building remains in residential use, subject to residential amenity and traffic considerations.

In this regard the location and accessibility of the proposed creche or playschool and size, location and quality of private open space associated with it, will be material considerations. The Council will have regard to the *Childcare Facilities Consultation Draft of Guidelines for Planning Authorities* issued by the Department of the Environment in May 2000 and as subsequently amended.

2.3.3 Schools

The population of Castledermot is serviced by 1 primary school, Castledermot National School, located in the village centre. Recreation space is considered inadequate.

Colaiste Lorcaín Community College provides second level education. As with the primary school, outdoor recreation space is considered inadequate.

It is the policy of the Council to facilitate the development of educational facilities and related recreational facilities to meet the needs of the population of Castledermot and its environs.

2.3.4 Places of Worship

Castledermot is served by The Church of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church on Abbey St. and St. James Church of Ireland in the village centre. These churches are considered to have adequate capacity to meet future demand.

2.3.4 Cemeteries

The cemetery at Bigbog is adequate to serve the needs of the town for the immediate future.

2.3.5 Library Facilities

Kildare County Council Library Service operates a library in the converted Methodist Church in Castledermot.

2.3.6 Health Services

The South Western Area Health Board operates a Health Centre in the town offering a wide range of medical services. It is recognised that present facilities are inadequate. The Council will facilitate the expansion the health centre in co-operation with the SWAHB.

2.3.7 Fire Service

Castledermot is served by Athy and Carlow Fire Stations. While the fire service is considered adequate to cater for existing demand, the anticipated expansion of the town, together with continued development in the Athy and Carlow areas, will require an enhancement of the capacity of these stations. The needs of an expanded Castledermot should be taken into account in any upgrading of these stations.

2.4 Public Utilities Policies

2.4.1 Water Supply

Castledermot is supplied by its own water supply and distribution system. This system is operating close to capacity. It is proposed to connect Castledermot to the North Carlow Regional Water Supply scheme. Pending the upgrade of the system, developers with proposals likely to place a significant demand on the water supply system should consult the Sanitary Services Department of Kildare County Council at an early stage.

It is the policy of the Council to provide water in sufficient quantity and quality to serve the needs of the existing and future population, and future commercial development.

2.4.2 Sewerage

The sewage treatment system in Castledermot is operating at capacity. It is recognised that this lack of capacity is the principal constraint on the development of the village.

It is proposed to upgrade the plant during the period of this plan to meet anticipated future demand. Provision of separate foul and surface water sewerage systems will relieve the pressure on the foul sewerage network.

It is the Policy of the Council to ensure that the necessary drainage facilities to serve the needs of all development within the town and to prevent pollution are provided and to separate the disposal of foul and surface water through the provision of separate sewerage networks.

2.4.3 Solid Waste Disposal

Refuse collection in Castledermot is currently carried out by a private contractor on behalf of Kildare County Council. The Council will continue to encourage recycling and the minimisation of waste and will work with the community in the provision of a refuse disposal service and recycling facilities for Castledermot.

2.4.4 Electricity and Telecommunications

Electricity is supplied by the ESB transmission system, which is considered adequate.

Within the town, phone boxes provide a valuable service to the local community. The Council will encourage the provision and renewal of call boxes in the town and will seek consultation with the telecommunication undertakers with regard to location and design.

It is the policy of the Council to have regard to the "Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures, Guidelines for Planning Authorities" (DoELG 1996) or as subsequently amended, when considering proposals for telecommunication antennae and support structures.

2.5 Transportation Policy

2.5.1 Access to and from Castledermot

Castledermot is located on the N9 National Primary route linking Dublin with Carlow and Waterford. While a number of by-pass routes were identified in the 1995 Castledermot Draft Development Plan it has since been decided to construct a motorway from Dublin to Waterford rather than upgrade the present route. The Council welcomes the construction of the M9 and recognises that it should greatly improve access to Castledermot and south Kildare in general.

Pending the construction of the M9 motorway the Council considers it prudent to protect the routes of the bypasses originally identified. Notwithstanding the construction of the motorway the Council will continue to seek the construction of a relief road around the village to divert through traffic from the village centre.

It is the Policy of the Council to carry out the upgrading of the road network in conjunction with the NRA.

The town is served by provincial bus services provided by Bus Eireann.

It is the policy of the Council to co-operate with Bus Eireann and private bus operators to secure improvements in the transportation system.

The Council will seek to further develop and diversify this system by encouraging the development of local public transport connecting towns and villages within Co. Kildare in general and with the rail network in Athy and Carlow towns in particular.

2.5.2 Access around the town

The basis of the Council's roads policy will be to relieve traffic congestion in the village centre and protect residential areas from incursion by through traffic.

2.5.3 Parking and Loading

Parking is mostly provided on-street. While car parking in the town is generally adequate, congestion can occur on Main St. due to the high volume of through traffic.

It is the policy of the Council to continually review parking requirements in Castledermot and to seek off-street car parking in the town centre.

All new developments will be required to provide sufficient and adequate off-street car parking facilities, either directly or indirectly by way of contributions, to cater for the immediate and anticipated future demands of the development. In addition, adequate loading and unloading facilities will be required. The Council will also seek that adequate parking facilities are provided for schools and other uses.

The parking of trucks in residential estates can pose nuisance problems. The Council will facilitate the provision of truck parking in industrial zoned lands in the town. All truck parking areas should be appropriately landscaped.

2.5.4 Cycleways and Pedestrian Routes

The Council will seek to establish and provide a network of safe, convenient and pleasant cycle and pedestrian links between the town centre and residential areas. All footpaths will be designed with the needs of the disabled in mind. A vital component in encouraging people to travel by bicycle is the provision of secure cycle parking facilities. The Council will seek for the provision of such facilities as part of new developments.

It is the policy of the Council to facilitate and encourage cycling and walking as a more convenient, popular and safe mode of transport.

2.6 Open Space, Recreation and Amenity Policies

2.6.1 Recreation Facilities

A number of clubs and organisations operate within Castledermot including GAA, soccer, badminton and pitch and putt. The community centre is used as a meeting hall by a number of organisations while the facilities of Colaiste Lorcaín are also made available to the wider community.

The Council is conscious of the need for the provision of recreational facilities in the rapidly expanding towns of Kildare and recently appointed a Recreation Officer to assess needs and promote the provision of a wide range of recreational facilities. The Council will investigate ways of improving the quality and capacity of existing sporting and recreational facilities and possible sources of funding.

The provision of recreational open space for the school is considered inadequate and the Council will assist in the provision of appropriate, conveniently located recreational open space to serve the school.

It is the Policy of the Council to co-operate with sports clubs, schools and community organisations in the provision of sports and recreational facilities to serve the residents of Castledermot.

2.6.2 Provision of Open Space

The provision of attractive recreational open space is an essential component of the Council's vision of developing Castledermot. The quality and location of such space is as important as the quantity.

It is the policy of the Council to seek a contribution towards the landscaping of public open space and creation of recreational facilities in association with the development of nearby residential or commercial developments.

The loss of existing public or private recreational open space will normally be resisted by the Planning Authority unless alternative recreational facilities are provided at a suitable location, or it can be demonstrated that there is not sufficient demand to sustain the facility. Within Castledermot the Fairgreen constitutes an excellent passive open space area bordered on two sides by lines of mature lime trees. The strip of open space along the river to Doyle's Bridge provides the possibility of developing a riverside walk. One of the main advantages of the site is that it can be easily linked to the archaeological and historical remnants in the Church of Ireland grounds, through which there is a public right of way.

At the moment the area lacks definition and the wide expanse of space needs more of a sense of enclosure.

2.6.3 Protection of Existing Open Space

It is the policy of the Council to protect land zoned as open space from inappropriate development. Within such areas only very limited development, directly related to amenity and leisure uses and to the on-going development of agriculture, will be permitted.

In certain circumstances, where proposed developments are considered to be in the best interests of the general community, the Council is willing to facilitate the re-location of some facilities, on condition that the overall level of sports facilities in the town and environs is not diminished.

The Council will seek to ensure roads, pedestrian and cycle routes are appropriately landscaped and maintained to a high standard.

2.7 Town Centre Policies

2.7.1 It is the policy of the Council to re-establish the historic town centre as the heart of the town, to increase its vibrancy and to improve its environment.

Accordingly, the Council will encourage the development and re-development of sites that will enhance residential, commercial, cultural and social activity in the area.

2.7.2 Urban Renewal

Castledermot was selected by Kildare County Council to benefit under the Town Renewal Scheme. This scheme will make tax incentives available for appropriate development on selected sites in accordance with the policies of the Castledermot Town Renewal Plan. Kildare County Council will actively encourage the redevelopment and refurbishment of sites benefiting from tax incentives.

The Council recognises the importance of maintaining a strong retail base in the town centre and its policies on retailing reflect this (see par. 2.2.3). It is Council policy to direct appropriate retail, commercial and other uses to the village centre. The retention and further development of ground floor retail uses will be particularly favoured.

In the interests of the balanced development of the town the Council recognises the need to develop a stronger service sector which will strengthen Castledermot as a service centre for its surrounding rural hinterland.

It is the Policy of the Council to promote the town centre as a retail commercial and service sector location.

It is the Policy of the Council to protect the architectural quality of the town centre through designating a significant portion of it as an Architectural Conservation Area (see par 2.8.2).

To complement the Town Renewal tax incentives the Council intends to carry out the development of a small housing scheme in the village centre.

2.7.3 Obsolescence, Dereliction and Areas in Transition

There are a number of high profile properties and lands in the town that are vacant or under-utilised. The Council recognises the need to encourage the beneficial use of these properties.

It is the policy of the Council to seek the removal and renewal of derelict, underused and vacant sites throughout Castledermot.

In this regard the Council will use its powers under the Derelict Sites Act (1990) or as subsequently amended, as appropriate. These powers will be used in particular where properties benefiting from tax incentives under the Town Renewal Scheme continue to lie derelict.

The Council is aware that the town pound has fallen into a state of disrepair and has become an eyesore in a prominent location in the town centre.

It is the policy of the Council to seek an appropriate location for the relocation of the pound and to secure the redevelopment of the pound as a small park, as funds allow.

2.8 Environment and Conservation Policies

The natural and built environments make vital contributions to the quality of life in Castledermot. The Council will require new development to be sympathetic to existing structures, particularly in the village centre. The Council will also seek to promote environmental awareness and good practices, together with high standards of design in all development proposals.

2.8.1 Buildings and Structures

The built heritage of the town centre is an important element in the character of Castledermot. Buildings and structures with an architectural, historical and/or streetscape value have been listed for preservation or for consideration for preservation and are listed in Table 3.2.

It is the policy of the Council to protect buildings and structures listed for protection in Table 3.2 of this plan.

In this regard, the Council will offer such expert advice on conservation as is available to it. The Council will also actively pursue funding for building conservation under the Conservation Grants scheme run by the Department of Environment and Local Government.

It is the Policy of the Council to encourage and support Duchas in carrying out an Inventory of Architectural Heritage for the Town of Castledermot.

2.8.2 Pollution

Development that causes noise, smell, smoke, soot, grit, dust, vibration or other forms of disturbance can damage the health of people, animals and plants and lead to a deterioration of building materials. Government policy, as expressed in *'Sustainable Development - A Strategy for Ireland'*, attaches great importance to controlling and minimising pollution. It advises that relevant agencies should aim to prevent pollution, minimise the risk to human health and the environment; and encourage and apply the most advanced technical solutions.

While the *Environmental Protection Agency* is responsible for the control and monitoring of pollution, Kildare County Council, as planning authority, exercises control over pollution and nuisance primarily through the development control process. The Council will refuse planning applications that are likely to give rise to unacceptable levels of pollution or nuisance, and will adopt a precautionary approach where scientific knowledge is inconclusive.

It is the policy of the Council to refuse planning permission for development that would create unacceptable air, water, noise or other pollution or nuisance and to improve the water quality of the Castledermot River.

2.8.3 Trees

The Council is mindful of the importance of mature trees in development and accordingly the preservation of such trees will be a prime consideration in the determination of applications for sites containing trees of amenity value. All new developments will be required to integrate existing trees into the new schemes, where this is appropriate and practical.

It is the policy of the Council to make tree preservation orders for the trees, groups of trees and woodlands listed in par. 3.11.

Where development is proposed in landscapes of which mature trees are a feature, the Council may request the submission of a comprehensive tree survey with the application.

In some instances, the Council may require a detailed landscaping scheme to accompany the planning application. Planting details will be required, including the type and density of species to be planted and a likely time-scale within which this would be completed.

It is the policy of the Council to ensure, wherever appropriate, that existing trees are incorporated into development proposals and that detailed landscaping schemes are incorporated into major development proposals.

2.8.4 Control of Litter

The Council recognises the importance of maintaining the town free from litter and protecting it from indiscriminate dumping and bill postering. Accordingly, the Council will carry out its functions under the Litter Act (1997) and as subsequently amended, to control litter.

2.8.5 Archaeology

The Urban Archaeological Survey commissioned by Duchas has identified a zone of archaeological potential in Castledermot. This is identified in the Map accompanying this plan. It is the policy of the Council to ensure an archaeological investigation of a site is carried out by an archaeologist licensed by Duchas, prior to any development works within this zone. The carrying out of such a survey will be a condition of any planning permission granted within this zone which may damage or disturb archaeological deposits and will be carried out at the expense of the developer.

3.0 DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

3.1 Land Use Zoning

The purpose of land use zoning is to indicate the planning authority's intentions for all lands within the boundaries of Castledermot. The land use zoning objectives are detailed below and are shown on the Land Use Zoning and Specific Objectives Maps at the back of this plan. A range of land uses are listed in the matrix in fig. 3.1 together with an indication of their broad acceptability in the different land use zones.

3.1.1 Permitted in Principle

The Council will seek to ensure the development of lands and properties in accordance with the Zoning Objectives set out in this section of the plan. Land uses designated under each zoning objective as 'Permitted in Principle' are generally acceptable, subject to compliance with the relevant policies, standards and requirements set out in Section 4 of the Development Plan.

3.1.2 Open for Consideration

Land uses shown as 'Open for Consideration' are uses that are not considered acceptable in principle in all parts of the relevant use zone. However, such uses may be acceptable in circumstances where the Council is satisfied that the proposed use would not conflict with the general objectives for the zone and the permitted or existing uses as well as being in the interests of the proper planning and development of the area.

3.1.3 Not Permitted

Land uses which are indicated as 'Not Permitted' in the in the land use zoning matrix (Fig. 3.1) will not be permitted.

3.1.4 Other Uses

Proposed land uses not listed in the matrix in table 3.1 will be considered on the merits of the individual planning application, with reference to the most appropriate use of a similar nature indicated in the table and in relation to the general policies and zoning objectives for the area in question of the Plan.

3.1.5 Non-Conforming Uses

It is not intended that existing established uses within the zones outlined in this Plan that are inconsistent with the primary zoning objective should be curtailed. All such cases, where legally established by continuous use for the same purpose prior to 1st October 1964 or by a planning permission, will not be subject to legal proceedings under the Acts in respect of their continued use.

Where extensions or improvements of premises accommodating these uses are proposed each shall be considered on its merits in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

3.1.6 Transitional Areas

While the zoning objectives indicate the different uses permitted in each zone it is important to avoid abrupt transitions in scale and use at the boundary of adjoining land use zones. In these areas it is necessary to avoid developments that would be detrimental to amenity.

In zones abutting residential areas, particular attention will be paid to the uses, scale, density and appearance of development proposals and to landscaping and screening proposals in order to protect the amenities of residential properties.

Development abutting amenity and open space will generally facilitate the passive supervision of that space, where possible by fronting onto it.

Land Use	A	B	C	D	E	F
Dwelling	y	y	y	o	n	o
Guest house/hotel/hostel	y	o	o	o	n	n
Restaurant	y	o	o	o	n	n
Pub	y	o	o	o	n	n
Shop (convenience)	y	o	o	o	n	n
Shop (comparison)	y	n	n	o	n	n
Retail warehouse	n	n	n	n	n	n
School	y	o	n	o	o	n
Medical and Related Consultant	y	o	o	y	n	n
Health centre	y	o	o	y	n	n
Nursing home	y	o	y	o	n	n
Community hall & Sports halls	y	o	o	y	o	o
Recreational buildings	y	o	o	o	o	o
Cultural uses, library	y	o	o	o	o	n
Offices	y	n	n	o	n	n
Garages, panel beating and car repairs	n	n	n	o	n	n
Petrol station	o	n	n	o	n	o
Motor sales	o	n	n	o	n	n
Car parks	y	n	n	o	n	n
Heavy commercial vehicle parks	n	n	n	o	n	n
Cinema, dancehall, disco	y	n	n	o	n	n
Warehouse (wholesale)	n	n	n	o	n	n
Repository, store, depot	n	n	n	o	n	n
Industry	n	n	n	o	n	n
Waste Incinerator	n	n	n	n	n	n
Utility structures	y	o	o	o	o	o
Industry (light)	n	n	n	o	n	n
Workshops	o	n	n	o	n	n
Playing fields	o	o	y	o	y	y
Place of worship	y	o	o	o	n	n
Park/playground	y	o	y	o	y	y
Tourist camping site	o	n	o	o	o	o
Tourist caravan park	o	n	o	o	o	o
Halting site	o	o	o	o	o	o
Cattleshed/slatted unit	n	n	n	n	n	y
Broiler house	n	n	n	n	n	y
Stable yard	n	n	o	o	n	y
Amusement Arcade	n	n	n	n	n	n
Hot food take-away	o	n	n	o	n	n
Creche/playschool	y	o	o	o	n	n
Funeral homes	y	o	n	o	n	n

y = permitted in principal, o = open for consideration, n = not permitted

Fig. 3.1 Land Use Zoning Matrix

3.2 Use Zoning Objectives

3.2.1 Zoning Objective A Village Centre

To provide for the development and improvement of appropriate village centre uses including retail, commercial, office and civic use.

The purpose of this zone is to protect and enhance the special character of Castledermot town centre and to provide for and improve retailing, commercial, office, cultural and other uses appropriate to the centre of a developing town. It will be an objective of the Council to encourage the use of buildings and backlands and especially the full use of upper floors. Warehousing and other industrial uses will not be permitted in the village centre.

3.2.2 Zoning Objective B Existing Residential/Infill

To protect and improve existing residential amenity; to provide for appropriate infill residential development; to provide for new and improved ancillary services.

This zoning principally covers existing residential areas. The zoning provides for infill development within these existing residential areas. The primary aims of this zoning objective are to preserve and improve residential amenity and to provide for further infill residential development at a density that is considered suitable to the area and to the needs of the population. Such areas, particularly where bordering the commercial centre, will be protected from the pressure of development of higher order uses such as retail and offices.

3.2.3 Zoning Objective C New Residential Development

To provide for new residential development

This zoning provides for new residential development and associated local services incidental to residential development. Permission may be granted for home based economic activity in this zone, subject to the preservation of residential amenity and traffic considerations. New residential developments should be developed in accordance with a comprehensive plan detailing the layout of services, roads and the landscaping of public open space.

3.2.4 Zoning Objective D General Development

To provide for general development

This zoning encompasses lands within the 1985 Development Boundary that have not yet been developed. While a wide range of uses is acceptable in this use zoning objective, particular care must be taken to ensure proposed uses are compatible with neighbouring uses. In this regard paragraph 3.1.7 is particularly relevant.

3.2.5 Zoning Objective E Open Space and Amenity

To protect and provide for recreation, open space and amenity provision.

The areas included in this zoning objective cover both private and public open space and are dispersed throughout the town. The aims of this land use zoning objective include; to protect and provide for recreation, open space and amenity; to protect and maintain public open space; to preserve private open space and to provide recreational facilities. The Council will not normally permit development that would result in a loss of open space within the town except where specifically provided for in this Development Plan.

3.2.6 Zoning Objective F Agriculture

To retain and protect agricultural uses

The purpose of this zoning is to ensure the retention of agricultural uses and protect them from urban sprawl and ribbon development. Uses which are directly associated with agriculture or which would not interfere with this use are open for consideration.

3.3 Specific Objectives

This section of the plan sets out specific objectives which the Council itself intends to carry out or intends other parties to carry out during the period of this plan in order to realise the stated aims and detailed policies of the plan. Achievement of these objectives will, in many cases, be dependant upon adequate finance being made available to the Council from Central Government and other sources. Where possible Specific Objectives are illustrated on Map 1 accompanying this plan. However some objectives are not site specific and are therefore not illustrated on this plan.

3.4 Housing and Residential Objectives

The Council is committed to promoting a high quality of design in residential development. It is an objective of the Council to;

- HR1 Ensure a high standard in design, layout, provision of open space and landscaping and variation in house type and size in new residential development,
- HR2 Co-ordinate the provision of roads and other services to new housing developments
- HR3 Ensure the development of safer housing areas by encouraging layouts which facilitate pedestrian and bicycle movement and restrict traffic speeds,
- HR4 Prohibit ribbon development along routes into the town,
- HR5 Encourage the provision of landscaped pedestrian and bicycle links between and within estates and between residential areas and the town centre.
- HR6 Preserve and reinforce existing mature trees and hedgerows in new residential areas,
- HR7 Ensure that infill development is in keeping with existing development in the vicinity in terms of scale, character and finishes.
- HR8 Ensure that all extensions to residential buildings are sympathetic in massing and scale to the existing building,

The Council is aware that increased demand has pushed the cost of housing beyond the reach of many families and is anxious to ensure that local residents in particular can be housed in Castledermot, if they so wish. It is an objective of the Council therefore to;

- HR9 Identify and acquire appropriate lands for social housing as necessary,
- HR10 Continue to co-operate with the South Western Area Health Board and other statutory and voluntary bodies in the provision of sheltered and social housing,
- HR11 Seek an appropriate element of affordable and social housing in new residential development and utilise such powers as may be made available to local authorities and in accordance with a Housing Strategy to be prepared by Kildare County Council, to ensure appropriate proportions of new housing are made available as social and affordable housing.

3.5 Industry and Commercial Objectives

The Council is anxious to ensure that Castledermot develops in a balanced manner, with adequate employment opportunities for the residents of the town and its hinterland. It is an objective of the Council to;

- IC1 Facilitate the development of light industrial and warehousing development on appropriately zoned and serviced lands in co-operation with the IDA, Enterprise Ireland, the County Enterprise Board, LEADER, Action South Kildare and the County Development Board.
- IC2 Safeguard residential areas, the village centre and areas of high environmental quality from the adverse effects of industrial development,
- IC3 Ensure that all new industrial schemes are appropriately landscaped and screened.

3.5.1 Retail Objectives

It is an objective of the Council to;

- IC4 Encourage the upgrading and expansion of existing retail outlets in the town centre,
- IC5 Encourage the use of upper floors in retail premises for commercial or residential use,
- IC6 Prohibit the development of large scale retail and retail warehouse developments on the outskirts of the town in accordance with the *1999 Consultative Draft Retail Planning Guidelines* (or as subsequently amended).

3.5.2 Tourism Objectives

It is an objective of the Council to;

- IC7 Support the efforts of Bord Fáilte, The Midlands East Regional Tourist Authority and the private sector in developing the tourism industry
- IC8 Protect and enhance the natural and built heritage of the town through the various conservation measures outlined elsewhere in this plan.

3.6 Education Cultural and Community Objectives

3.6.1 Health Services

It is an objective of the Council to;

- EC1 Co-operate with and facilitate the South Western Area Health Board in the provision of health and social facilities, sheltered housing and nursing homes.

3.6.2 Education

It is an objective of the Council to;

- EC2 Co-operate with the Department of Education and Science and the local school management board in the provision of an adequate number of school places to serve the needs of the town's population,
- EC3 Facilitate the development of sports, recreational and cultural facilities for the school.
- EC4 Facilitate the relocation of the existing National School in the town.

3.6.3 Library

- EC5 It is an objective of the Council to upgrade the library building as funding allows.

3.7 Utility Services Objectives

3.7.1 Water Supply

It is an objective of the Council to;

- U1 Provide sufficient water to serve all lands zoned for development in this plan,
- U2 Minimise wastage in the water supply network,
- U3 Preserve free from development the way leaves of all public water mains.

3.7.2 Sanitary Services

It is an objective of the Council to;

- U4 Ensure the necessary drainage to serve the needs of all development are provided,

- U5 Prohibit the connection to the sewerage system of any proposed development out of phase with the overall development of the town or where the existing services are committed for other development,
- U6 Ensure the separation of foul and surface water effluents through the provision of separate sewerage and surface water run-off networks,
- U7 Ensure the changeover from septic tanks to mains connections where this is feasible,
- U8 Preserve free from development the way leaves of all public sewers,
- U9 Maintain and improve existing sewerage services,

3.7.3 Solid Waste and Recycling

It is an objective of the Council to;

- U10 Ensure Castledermot has an adequate solid waste collection system,
- U11 Regulate private contractors under the 1996 Waste Management Act by issuing refuse Collection permits when the appropriate regulations are made by the Department of Environment and Local Government,
- U12 Endeavor to ensure that the public has easy access to recycling banks by arranging for the provision of bring banks where possible in easily accessible locations,
- U13 Continue to work with and encourage the local community regarding waste management issues through the Kildare Integrated Waste Initiative (KIWI) programme.

3.8 Transportation Objectives

3.8.1 Roads and Streets

It is an objective of the Council to;

- T1 Protect routes of proposed bypass routes as shown on the Land Use Zoning and Specific objectives Map from development.
- T2 Carry out the following road improvements;
 - 1 Realign and improve the bad bend on the Athy Rd, subject to the protection of the amenity of the area (i.e. the reconstruction of the existing granite wall and replanting where necessary)
 - 2 Widen and improve Green Bridge on the way to Corballis Crossroads
 - 3 Realign and improve The Deals between Main St. and the Green Bridge
 - 4 Widen Athy Rd. at the junction of Barrack Rd. and Carlowgate,
 - 5 Widen and improve Hamilton Rd.
 - 6 Realign and improve Skenagun rd. between Main St. and Athy Rd.
 - 7 Realign and improve the road at Woodlands between the sports ground and Woodlands Lodge.
 - 8 Realign and improve some sections of the Tullow Rd.
 - 9 Realign and improve some sections of the road at Mullarney.
- T3 Improve the following junctions;
 - 1 At Woodlands and the football pitch
 - 2 Between Skenagun Rd. and Athy Rd.
 - 3 Between Athy Rd. and Barrack Rd.
 - 4 Between Tullow Rd. and the road at Mullarney.

3.8.2 Pedestrian

It is an objective of the Council to;

- T4 Provide footpaths and public lighting at the following locations;

- 1 At the western side of Athy rd. between Carlowgate junction and the Barrack Rd. junction.
- 2 At Woodlands, between the football pitch and Woodlands Lodge
- 3 At the northern side of Keenan's Lane
- 4 At the Deals, between Main St. and the Green Bridge
- 5 Between Skenagun/Main St. and Green Bridge,
- 6 Between Barnhill Cottages and the village along the front boundary of Castledermot Pitch and Putt club,
- 7 At Hamilton Rd.
- 8 From the Castlevilla football grounds to the Main St.

Ensure all footpaths are designed and constructed to cater for the needs of people with disabilities and the mobility impaired.

Develop a safe pedestrian link between Coltstown cemetery and the two churches

3.8.3 Traffic and Parking

T6 It is an objective of the Council to;

- 1 Investigate the provision of additional off-street public car parking in the village centre,
- 2 Provide disabled car parking spaces at appropriate locations throughout the town and ensure all new development has adequate provision for parking for the disabled,
- 3 Ensure the provision of permanent durable surfaces to all public and private car parking facilities,
- 4 Provide passive traffic calming measures at appropriate locations as the need arises.
- 5 Carry out a Local Transportation Study for the town after the completion of the M9 motorway and implement its recommendations

3.8.4 Public Transport

T7 It is an objective of the Council to;

- 1 Co-operate with Bus Eireann and private operators in ensuring an adequate bus service in the town and in the provision of bus stops at appropriate locations,
- 2 Ensure where possible all public transport is accessible to the disabled.
- 3 promote the further development of the local public transport network linking the towns and villages of County Kildare.

3.8.5 Cycling

- T8
- 1 It is an objective of the Council to ensure adequate secure bicycle parking facilities are provided as part of new educational, recreational and commercial developments.

3.9 Open Space, Recreation and Amenity Objectives

It is an objective of the Council to;

- OSA1 Provide and facilitate the provision of suitably located land for community use,
 OSA2 Co-operate with community and sports bodies in the development of a town park and other recreational areas in the town,

- OSA3 Protect existing open spaces and recreational uses from encroachment by other uses.
- OSA4 Preserve the townscape character of the town centre with its pattern of one and two storey buildings with pitched slate roofs.
- OSA5 Encourage the undergrounding of utility cables in the town centre,
- OSA6 Strictly control advertising and seek to remove existing established signage (in particular neon and plastic signs) which is visually obtrusive or out of scale with the character of the village centre.
- OSA7 Investigate the relocation of the pound and lay out the existing pound as a small park, as funds allow.
- OSA8 Landscape the Fair Green as an attractive recreational space for the town's residents.

3.10 Environment and Conservation Objectives

3.10.1 Protected Structures

- EC1 It is an objective of the Council to secure the preservation of certain items and structures of artistic, historic or architectural interest in Castledermot which are listed in table 3.2 below.

The Council will accordingly, in its development control function, have regard to this objective. Any proposal to demolish or alter these items in any way will require planning permission and the effect of this objective is to remove any such development from exempted development provisions of the Planning Acts and Regulations.

The listing of these items for preservation denotes their inherent value to the community. This value is recognised by the Council and to this end, the Council will draw attention to the heritage value they represent. It will be an objective to develop the tourist and recreational potential of the items listed where possible and appropriate.

- EC2 It is an objective of the Council to assist owners of such properties in their maintenance and repair through advice and grant aid under the Building Conservation Grants scheme operated by the Department of Environment and Local Government.

The Council recognises that structures listed for preservation are best protected if kept in economic use and will therefore favourably consider a change of use to higher value economic use which would not normally be approved in that particular zone, subject to the character and artistic, historical and architectural value of the building being maintained and the amenity value of neighbouring properties being retained.

In addition to the items themselves it is an objective of the Council to preserve their environs and setting and to prevent and exclude any development which would destroy or detract from their amenity value.

Under the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 1999 the entire building and curtilage of a protected structure is protected. Property owners are entitled to a 'Declaration' from the Planning Authority outlining the nature and scale of development which may be acceptable to a particular protected structure. Those seeking to alter a protected structure are advised to discuss their proposal with the Planning Department of Kildare County Council before any alteration is made.

The following structures are listed for protection;

Reference	Item and Location	Description
IP 1	St. John's or 'the Pidgeon Tower'	Ruin (Nat. Monument)
IP 2	House, Main St. (originally two houses)	building
IP 3	Old Presbyterian Church (now library) gate and railings	building
IP 4	Doualla, Main St.	building
IP5	'The Shamrock Bar, Main St	building
IP6	Community Centre, Barrack Rd.	building
IP7	The Granite House, Market Square	building
IP8	'The Rectory', Abbey St.	building
IP9	The Parochial House, Abbey St.	building
IP10	Church of the Assumption, Abbey St. (including bell)	building
IP11	Franciscan Friary	Ruin (Nat. Monument)
IP12	Doyle's Bridge	bridge
IP13	Pump at junction of Carlow Rd.	Street furniture
IP14	Old National School, Abbey St.	building
IP15	St. James School, Church Lane	building
IP16	Round Tower, Church Lane	Ruin (Nat. Monument)
IP17	Doyles Pub, Main St.	building
IP18	Thompson's House and Shopfront, Main St	building
IP19	St. James Church of Ireland, Church Lane and graveyard including 'Swearing Stone', Hiberno-Romanesque Arch, North Cross, South Cross, Cross base graveyard walls and gate	Church and graveyard (National Monuments)
IP20	'Church View', house	building
IP21	Granite wall, Main St.	wall
IP22	Remains of the town wall, Barrack Rd.	wall
IP23	Granite wall each side of Barrack Rd.	wall
IP24	Granite wall Keenan's Lane	wall
IP25	Granite wall, Ivor's Lane	wall

Table 3.2 Protected Structures

3.10.2 Tree Protection Orders

EC6 It is an objective of the Council to protect, by way of tree protection orders trees and groups of trees of special amenity value at the following locations through the use of tree preservation orders or by other means;

- 1 'The Laurels', Avenue of mature lime trees between Abbey St. and Church Lane.
- 2 Row of Lime trees on Keenans Lane
- 3 Lime trees bounding two sides of Fair Green.
- 4 mixture of Lime, Alder and Hawthorn on Hamilton Rd. along the river bank

3.10.3 Archaeology

An area of the town (delineated in Map 1) has been recognised by Duchas as being a Zone of Archaeological Potential.

EC7 It is an objective of the Council to protect the town's archaeological heritage within the Zone of Archaeological Potential and in the vicinity of sites listed on the Sites and Monuments Record.

All development proposed within this zone, and in the vicinity of National Monuments will require to be undertaken under the supervision of a licensed Archaeologist. Planning applications within these areas will be referred to Duchas.

4.0 DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

4.0 General

- 4.0.1 The Planning Authority is required under the Local Government (Planning and Development) Acts to control development, ensuring that permissions granted under the Acts are in accordance with the proper planning and development of the area and are consistent with the policies and objectives of the Development Plan. The Castledermot Development Plan is the statutory framework for change in terms of land use, development and conservation in the town of Castledermot.

The purpose of this section of the Plan is to ensure that a high standard of design, layout and function for all development for which planning permission is necessary under the Planning Acts and regulations, to conserve what is good in the existing built and natural environment, and to protect the amenities of the town.

Development Control will be exercised by the Council in a positive manner, having regard to the provisions of the Planning and Development Act, and in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the town.

Discussions with the Planning Authority prior to the submission of planning applications are useful in helping to clarify policies and issues for both the Planning Authority and developer. Any such discussions will take place without prejudice to the decision of the Planning Authority on the individual or other development proposals. Development proposals that are consistent with the provisions of the Plan will not necessarily be permitted.

Development proposals may be subject to other regulations and statutes, covering fire, air and water pollution etc., as well as building regulations. In cases where development has commenced or is being carried out without planning permission or in breach of a permission, the Council will take enforcement action. In particular developers' attention is drawn to their obligations to cater for the needs of the disabled under Part M of the building regulations.

4.1 Development Standards

4.1.1 Zoning

The Council will seek to secure the development of lands and properties in accordance with the zoning and other objectives set out in Section 3 of this plan.

4.1.2 Site Coverage

Site coverage standards are intended to avoid the adverse effects of over development. Site coverage is calculated by dividing the total area of ground covered by buildings by the total ground area within the site curtilage. The maximum site coverage shall be 50% for residential development and 66% for industrial, retail and commercial development.

A particular site coverage standard shall be acceptable only where it is consistent with other standards such as open space requirements, car parking, plot ratio, building lines and building heights, fire safety and building regulations and the amenity of adjoining dwellings.

4.1.3 Plot Ratio

The purpose of plot ratio standards is to prevent the adverse effect of over-development on the layout and amenity of buildings on the one hand and to ensure an adequate sense of enclosure and the efficient and sustainable use of serviced land on the other hand.

Plot ratio is the gross building floor area divided by the gross site area. The gross floor area is the sum of all floor space within the external walls of the buildings, excluding plant, tank rooms and car parking areas. The gross site area is all land within the curtilage of the site. Generally the maximum plot ratio standard shall be 1.0 for all development.

4.1.4 Building Lines

Building lines in the urban environment define and contain public space. They are also intended to provide protection from the noise and fumes associated with traffic, allow for the provision of off-street car parking and allow for future road development.

Generally, in determining applications for development works the Council will seek to ensure that development is not carried out in front of established building lines or in a position where it would be in conflict with the building lines determined by the Council to be appropriate for that area. However, in specific situations, it may not be in the interests of good planning to enforce a rigid standard for building lines. Consequently, the Planning Authority, in the interests of maintaining a good townscape, will examine each application on its own merits.

4.1.5 Building Heights

A high building is defined as one which is significantly higher than neighbouring or nearby buildings. In a number of locations, particularly within the town centre, consideration may be given to developments in which an increase in building height is proposed, especially where this provides added definition to the streetscape. Where buildings front onto large expanses of open space or wide streets and roads, taller buildings help give definition to the space or road. In such situations buildings of up to four storeys may be acceptable.

The building height of proposed developments will generally be considered in terms of the extent and location of the site, its relationship to open space, the width of the road or street onto which it faces and its setting within the town.

- the degree of overshadowing and loss of light to surrounding property;
- the degree of overlooking (particularly of residential property) and consequent loss of privacy to surrounding premises;
- the extent to which there is a disruption of the scale of an existing streetscapes;
- the extent to which the building detracts from structures or spaces of architectural or historic importance;
- the extent to which the building detracts from important landmarks;
- the detrimental effect on any existing building having special visual identity;
- any attractive view from significant vantage points that would be obscured by the building;
- the degree of obtrusion of the building on the skyline;
- the visual relationship as well as the scale of the building in relation to open space and the effects of the building on the quality of the space;
- the area of the site and whether it is large enough to provide a visual transition from the scale of surrounding development and
- whether the purpose or civic importance of the building would justify its prominence

4.1.6 Drainage

Developers will be required to provide separate foul and surface water drains. On site attenuation of surface water may be required if, in the opinion of the Council, there is a risk of the development causing flooding or significant damage due to storm surge in existing water courses.

4.1.7 Car Parking

In all developments the Planning Authority will normally require the provision of car parking spaces within or convenient to the site of the development. The provision should be based on the extent to which the development is likely to generate demand for additional parking spaces. The parking standards given in Table 4.1 shall apply.

The Council reserves the right to alter the above requirements having regard to the circumstances of each particular development and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Car parking bays will be a minimum 2.4 x 4.8m with a circulation aisle of minimum 6m in width. Loading bays will be a minimum 6 x 3m.

The Council reserves the right to alter the above requirements having regard to the circumstances of each particular development and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Car parking bays will be a minimum 2.4 x 4.8m with a circulation aisle of minimum 6m in width. Loading bays will be a minimum 6 x 3m.

Table 4.1 Car Parking Standards

Type of Development	Relevant Car Parking Standards
House and flats (3 bedrooms or less)	1 car space per dwelling unit + 1 visitor's space per two dwellings
Houses (more than 4 bedrooms)	2 car spaces per dwelling unit
Shops (< 250 sq. m. gross)	1 car space per 24 sq.m. of gross floorspace
Shops (250 - 1,000 sq. m. gross)	1 car space per 18 sq.m. of gross floorspace
Large stores (> 1,000 sq. m. gross)	1 car space per 12 sq.m. of gross floorspace
Banks, Financial institutions	1 car space per 14 sq. m. of gross floor space
Offices (town centre)	1 car space per 25 sq.m. of gross floorspace
Office Park	1 car space per 20 sq. m. of gross floor space
Industry/manufacturing	1 car space per 33 sq. m. of gross floorspace
Warehousing	1 car space per 100 sq. m. of gross floorspace
Theatre, cinema, church, stadium	1 car space per 3 seats
Hotels, guest houses (excl. function rooms)	1 car space per bedroom
Lounge bars	1 car space per 3.75 sq. m. of public floorspace
Restaurants	1 car space per 4.5 sq. m. of public floorspace
Take-aways	1 car space per 18 sq. m. gross floor area
Function-room, dance halls, clubs	1 car space per 3 sq. m.
Playing fields	15 car spaces per pitch
Primary Schools	1.2 car space per classroom
Secondary Schools	2 car spaces per classroom
Nursing homes	1 car space per 2 bedrooms
Hospitals	1.5 car spaces per bed
Clinics and Group Medical Practices	2 car spaces per consultant

Note: Large or complex developments may be assessed separately with regard to the circumstances.

The Council reserves the right to alter the above requirements having regard to the circumstances of each particular development and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Car parking bays will be a minimum 2.4 x 4.8m with a circulation aisle of minimum 6m in width. Loading bays will be a minimum 6 x 3m.

Where the provision of car parking is required by this plan, such provision may be met by providing the required spaces within the development or, where the council require, by a contribution in accordance with the powers contained in the Local Government (Planning and Development) Acts, 1963 to 1999.

4.1.8 Parking for the Disabled

In addition to the parking standards below, all developments must make provision for car parking for the disabled in accordance with the recommendations of *You Can Park Here*, published by ABLE.

4.1.9 Bicycle Parking

The planning authority will require the provision of a minimum level of cycle parking facilities in association with new development and a change of use. Where the provision of cycle parking facilities are intended for use by the staff of that particular development stands should be located within the curtilage of the development to ensure effective security and supervision.

Cycle stands for use by visitors should be located to maximise convenience to the entrance of buildings, and positioned so as to ensure safety, security and supervision.

Table 4.2 Bicycle Parking Standards

Type of Development	Relevant Cycle Parking Standards
House and flats	1 stand per dwelling
Shops	1 stand for every 200 sq.m. of gross floorspace
Offices and industry	1 stand for every 200 sq.m. of gross floorspace
Warehousing	1 stand for every 250 sq.m. of gross floorspace
Theatre, cinema, church, stadium	1 stand for every 20 seats
Hotels, guest houses	1 stand per 4 bedrooms
Bars & Restaurants	1 stand for every 30 sq.m. of public floorspace
Function-room, dance halls, clubs	1 stand for every 30 sq.m.
Playing fields	4 stands per pitch
Schools	1 stand per 10 pupils

Note: Large complex developments may be assessed separately with regard to the circumstances.

4.1.10 Public Utilities

The Planning Authority will normally require that all wires, cables and pipes for the provision of public utility services shall be ducted underground to preserve the amenity and visual character of an area, and in the interests of public safety in urban areas.

4.1.11 Environment

It is the policy of the Planning Authority to minimise the threat of air, land, water or other environmental pollution by use of the statutory powers of the local authority. The attention of developers is drawn to the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.

4.1.12 Noise

The Council will seek to ensure that new development does not cause an unacceptable increase in the noise levels affecting surrounding properties.

4.1.13 Access for Disabled Persons

The Planning Authority will require that the layout and design of a proposed development gives consideration to the needs of the disabled. Building designs and site layouts shall allow full access to the building for all disabled persons, whether employees, residents or the visiting public.

4.1.14 Access to Land

It is the policy of the Planning Authority to ensure that no development takes place that will prejudice the provision of vehicular and pedestrian access to undeveloped zoned lands.

4.2 Residential Design Standards

4.2.1 Residential Density

The Department of the Environment and Local Government recently published *Residential Density Guidelines for Planning Authorities*, which identifies that increased residential density has the following benefits.

- more economic use of existing infrastructure and serviced land;
- a reduced need for the development of green field sites, urban sprawl and ribbon development;
- reduced need for investment in new infrastructure;
- better access to existing services and facilities; and
- more sustainable commuting patterns.

The guidelines identifies the Development Plan and the exercising of development control functions as a way for planning authorities to take effective action to achieve higher levels of residential density. The guidelines also identifies the Development Plan as a method of recognising the importance of achieving higher residential densities in appropriate areas such as brownfield sites, sites in proximity to town centres and public transport nodes in the interest of providing a more sustainable residential development pattern.

Existing residential densities vary considerably throughout the town. The Council will seek to promote appropriate levels of higher residential densities in the village centre.

Whilst higher development densities will be promoted by the Council, it is recognised that over-development of sites can have an adverse effect on the amenity of adjoining properties and areas, can give rise to significant levels of traffic and has implications for the provision of private open space. The Council recognise that a high quality of design and layout and a good quality living environment, including the availability of proper shopping, transport and leisure infrastructure, are essential if increased residential densities are to be acceptable.

Subject to the over-riding density control for each zoning objective, indicative densities for various types of residential development are identified in the following table. These standards may be altered in the light of planning advice and guidance from the Department of the Environment and Local Government and revised legislation.

Where the Planning Authority grants permission for higher density developments, the Council reserves the right to request developers to contribute towards the cost of providing larger areas of open space and/or recreational facilities elsewhere in the town.

Table 4.3 Indicative residential densities per acre

	Indicative residential density per acre
2 storey buildings of apartments	20 dwelling units
3 storey buildings of apartments	26 dwelling units
Terraced housing and maisonettes ²	10 dwelling units
Semi-detached houses	8 dwelling units
Detached houses	6 dwelling units

4.2.2 Layouts

Layouts for residential development should be designed to create a strong sense of identity for residential areas.

Where land is being developed for housing the following considerations will be taken into account in the assessment of the proposal:

1. The need for land to be used economically;
2. The capacity of the infrastructure to cater for the design population;
3. The adequacy of present and future community facilities;
4. Appropriate density;
5. Adequate privacy for individual houses, flats etc.;
6. The safety of proposed layouts and the capacity of existing roads to absorb future development;
7. Adequate provision for car parking, open space, landscaping and planting; and
8. Integration with existing development and the preservation of features on site.

² For the purpose of this plan a house and a maisonette is defined as a dwelling with its own external access, an apartment, flat or duplex is a dwelling accessed from an internal lobby or hallway.

While residential estates may be laid out in the traditional manner of roads, cul-de-sacs, footpaths and verges, the Council will welcome more innovative layouts. Well designed cluster layouts can create attractive environments at higher residential densities.

The Council encourages a mix of residence sizes and layouts. Apartments, maisonettes, terraced housing, detached and semi-detached housing can be combined to create interesting and innovative layouts while at the same time ensuring the most efficient use is made of the land available. Thus, for example, two or three storey apartment/maisonettes may be located on corner sites to form a gateway into a cluster and allow the designer more flexibility in the use of awkward sites.

Three storey apartment or maisonette development may give a more appropriate scale fronting on to large open spaces or wide distributor roads, while more intimate spaces can be created with traditional two storey houses developed in clusters to the rear. Terraced housing can create a stronger sense of enclosure than semi-detached or detached houses. The judicious siting of single aspect housing, where the private open space to the front of the house is minimal, can reduce the apparent width of the roadway, again helping to define and enclose a semi-private space and acting as a traffic calming measure.

Housing schemes designed in accordance with An Foras Forbatha's 'Streets for Living' (1976), 'Places, Streets and Movement' (DETR, London, 1998) the 'Essex' and 'Cheshire' design guides (published by the eponymous English County Councils) shall be particularly encouraged. The Planning Authority will give advice to estate designers and builders and may permit a higher density where 'courtyard' or 'precinct' type layouts are proposed.

4.2.3 Road Layouts in Residential Areas

The layout and detailed design of roads is crucial to the shaping of all developments. Road layouts should be considered as part of the overall concept and should not be the starting point of the design layout. Housing layouts dictated solely by the geometry and size of roads lead to bland, anonymous residential housing estates with no 'sense of place' or neighbourhood.

Instead, the arrangement of buildings to create enclosure and a sense of space with which residents can identify should be the primary consideration. Traffic demands generated by the resultant layout can then be checked against the requirements of road engineering standards. In this way attractive urban forms, where security for pedestrians, cyclists and children and 'traffic calming' to ensure low ambient traffic speeds can be designed in to the layout from the outset, rather than added as an afterthought.

Distributor roads must be not less than 7.3m.

For detailed guidance on the design of road layouts the designer is referred to *Design Bulletin 32, Residential Roads and Footpaths – Layout Considerations*, (2nd edition) published by the British Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions. This guide sets out minimum carriageway widths for the free movement of traffic. Areas for other functions, such as parking or cycle lanes, should be included as an addition to the minimum widths. The DoELG publication *Recommendations for Site Development Works for Housing Areas (1998)* is also acceptable.

4.2.4 Car Parking in Residential Areas

Car parking standards are laid out in table 4.1. Car parking should be within the curtilage of the site where possible. While grouped car parking is acceptable, for security reasons car parking should always be overlooked by housing. No more than 10 car parking spaces should be grouped together. The visual impact of large areas of car parking can be reduced by the judicious use of screen planting, low walls and the use of different textured or coloured paving for car parking bays.

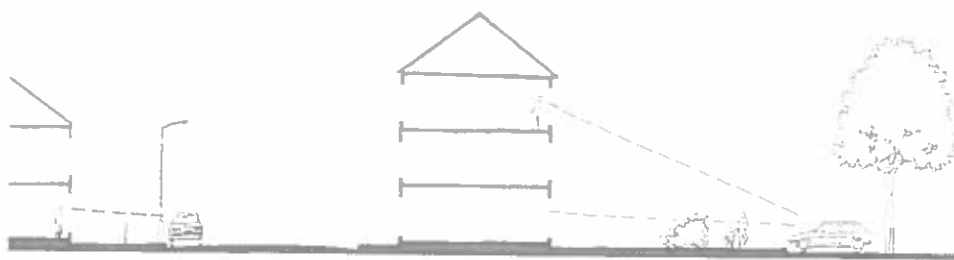


Fig 4.1 In the interests of security car parking should be overlooked by buildings where possible.

4.2.5 Sub-Standard Development

New dwellings that closely overlook the rear curtilage of existing dwellings will not normally be permitted. Houses located in a piecemeal fashion to the rear of existing houses, with inadequate independent road frontage and that do not form part of a comprehensive development plan for a particular area are considered to represent sub-standard development and will not normally be permitted.

4.2.6 Pedestrian and Cycle Access

The Planning Authority intends that provision be made for main pedestrian and cycle links between the various centres of activity in the town and between the town centre and residential areas. All existing pedestrian routes will be preserved. New pedestrian routes should be designed with the security and safety of users in mind.

Generally, people prefer to walk along roads and streets where they can be seen by drivers, residents and other pedestrians. If segregated pedestrian routes are to be provided, they must be well-connected, well lit and overlooked by houses and other buildings. Pedestrian routes through backland areas are unacceptable.

Layouts should be designed to encourage cycling, including cycling by unaccompanied children over 12 years. Where possible roads should be designed to be safe for cyclists. Where cyclists and pedestrians share the same space a raised kerb and different coloured paving is helpful in segregating cyclists from pedestrians.

4.2.7 Private Open Space

Privacy is an essential part of human living and is particularly important in relation to homes. Private open space should be designed for maximum privacy and orientated for maximum sunshine and shelter. Access and layout should ensure normal household activities such as refuse and fuel storage, clothes drying etc. can be carried out comfortably. The Council will also seek to ensure that neighbouring residential amenity is protected.

An absolute minimum private open space of 80 m. sq. will be required for all houses. The standards to be applied for private open space provision per bed-space³ are 20 sq. m. for houses and 12 sq. m. for apartments and flats. (Thus a standard 3 bedroom house, with one single bedroom and two double bedrooms, would require private open space of not less than 100 m. sq.). Car parking bays are not considered in private open space calculations. A minimum 2.5m is required between dwellings to facilitate maintenance. In addition a minimum of 22 m will normally be required between directly opposing first floor rear windows.

Private open space for apartments should ideally be provided in the form of terraces, balconies or patios directly accessible from each individual apartment. However the provision of some or all of the space as communal open space may be acceptable. In such cases a management plan for the maintenance of the space must be provided.

³ A bedroom of not more than 10 sq. m is considered to be one bed-space while a bedroom of 10 sq. m. or above is considered to be two bed-spaces.

In innovative designs, where a mix of houses, maisonettes and apartments with semi-private and communal open spaces, are proposed, private open space may be provided in the form of courtyards, balconies, terraces and patios. In such cases adequate alternative provision for storage and laundry must be provided.

4.2.8 Public Open Space and Landscape Considerations

The primary functions of open space in housing areas are aesthetic and recreational. The purpose of the open space being provided, whether for small children playing close to their homes, larger open 'kick about space' for older children or smaller pockets of space for visual delight, should be clear and the space designed and landscaped accordingly.

Open spaces should be provided on a hierarchical system with areas intended for small children sited within sight of their homes and larger 'kick about' areas more remote from houses.

Attention must be paid to the proportions and gradient of open space. Long narrow spaces and steeply sloping land will generally be unacceptable.

Open space must be considered as an integral part of the design and should always be overlooked by as many houses as possible. Incidental space and 'space left over after planning' will not be acceptable as open space provision. Areas of road, grass margin, car parking and communal open space not accessible to the general public shall not be considered open space.

Generally public open space in new residential development, in access of private space attached to dwellings, shall be provided at the rate of 12 sq. m. per bed-space for houses and 10 sq. m. per bed-space for apartments.

Where, in the opinion of the Planning Authority, it would not be in the interests of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area to require the provision of open space to the above standards, the Planning Authority may require a developer to pay a stated sum of money towards the cost of providing open spaces and/or recreational facilities elsewhere in the town. Thus, in areas close to existing public amenity/open space areas, the developer may be required to contribute towards the cost of recreational facilities elsewhere in the town, rather than provide additional open space in the immediate vicinity. Such a requirement will be in the form of a condition attached to the grant of planning permission.

The developers will be required, at their own expense, to vest all open spaces in the Council ownership as public open space in the taking-in-charge of the estate. As the Council does not have a Parks Department or other resources to maintain public open spaces, a management plan for the maintenance of open space should be provided as part of the development proposal. This plan will outline how, and by whom (whether a management company or the residents themselves), the open space will be maintained.

Landscaping is an integral part of any development and should be designed for long term ease of maintenance. The potential of existing site features should be fully explored and planning applications should include an accurate landscape survey plan. Wherever possible, existing healthy trees should be protected and integrated into the development.

The landscaping should be appropriate to the function of the space and proposed long term maintenance plan. Thus, while seeding with grass may be appropriate for larger 'kick about spaces', grass cutting is high maintenance. Tree and shrub planting, or decorative paving, are lower maintenance alternatives which may be more appropriate in smaller and highly trafficked spaces.

Generally developments should include new trees within the site at a ratio of at least two trees per dwelling. Garden areas should be adequately landscaped. Rear gardens should be treated with a 300mm minimum cover of consolidated top soil, and front garden areas with grass, shrubs or paving.

Where town centre or infill development is proposed, particularly apartments and flats, a reduction in the levels of public open space provided per unit may be considered acceptable if the quality of building and landscape design is sufficiently high. The developer will be required to provide sufficient detail in his application, including a detailed planting schedule, fully rendered drawings and samples of proposed materials for such an assessment of quality to be made.

4.2.9 Apartment Developments

Apartment developments should be of high quality incorporating car and bicycle parking facilities (see tables 4.1 and 4.2) and refuse storage areas for the use of all residents. Refuse stores should be conveniently located, well ventilated and comply with all public health and fire safety requirements. A minimum internal storage areas of 5 cubic meters should be provided within each apartment. Where combined kitchen/living areas are proposed, the apartments should have separate facilities for clothes washing and drying.

Entrance hallways, stairs and corridors should be well designed with good lighting and ventilation. Vertical and horizontal circulation should be arranged so that corridors do not extend more than 15 m from a widened 'landing' area, that should include natural lighting where possible. Corridors should be widened at entrances to apartments.

Service ducts serving two or more apartments should, as far as practicable, be accessible from common circulation areas for maintenance purposes. The number of apartments served by a single lift/core should not exceed 30 units.

The Council requires that an adequate level of public open space be provided for residents. (see par. 4.2.8). Where it is not possible to provide an adequate level of open space on the site of the apartment block the developer will be required to make a contribution to the Council towards the provision of public open space that facilitates the occupants of the apartments.

4.2.10 Infill Development

Infill development policies apply to areas that are largely built up and where the proposal is not of such a scale that it represents a major addition to, or redevelopment of, the existing physical fabric. The design of new development in these areas must be in sympathy with the existing character and must protect and, where possible, enhance amenity. Proposed development must have due regard to the surrounding environment and predominant design features, the existing residential density and the existence of particular elements such as towers, groups of trees, listed buildings or open spaces.

In infill development the proposed building should relate to the overall character of the area. Particular regard should be had to materials and finishes proposed in this context. It is an objective to seek to provide public open space to Development Plan standards in infill areas. However where this is not possible or desirable, the Council may require a financial contribution towards the improvement of existing open space or recreational facilities.

4.2.11 Street Lighting

Street Lighting should be at least to the standards set out in the ESB publication *Public Lighting in Residential Estates*. Pedestrian links must also be illuminated. All electrical cabling is to be underground. Lighting levels within a development must create a secure environment. Dark corners and alleyways should be avoided. Lamp posts in prominent positions can help to define an area. Two lamp posts at the entrance to a road or estate, for example, can be used to form a gateway, which will help mark the area as special, in which drivers should behave differently.

4.2.12 Road Names

Bilingual road names of the standard Council type shall be erected on all housing estate roads. It is the policy of the Council that names of residential developments should reflect local and Irish placenames. The naming of residential estates shall be approved by the Planning Authority in order to avoid duplication or confusion. All dwellings will be provided with numbers visible from the public road.

4.2.13 Standards of Construction

Standards of construction of roads, footpaths, sewers and drains shall be as set out in the DoELG publication *Recommendations for Site Development Works for Housing Areas (1998)*. Arrangements shall be made during construction work to allow monitoring by Council staff.

4.2.14 Services

All services, including electricity, telephone and TV, shall be provided underground. Provision should be made for the siting of transformer stations, control boxes, pumping stations and other necessary service buildings in unobtrusive locations. Siting so as to cause obstructions to pedestrians, the disabled, cyclists and traffic will not be acceptable. Early discussions with utility companies are advisable. Pole mounted equipment such as transformers will not be permitted.

To protect services all services must be a minimum 300mm below ground level under grass verges and 600mm below roads, footpaths and other paved areas. Water services must be a minimum 600mm below ground level in all cases.

Landscape features and utilities should be co-ordinated, with services bunched where necessary, to avoid tree pits.

4.3 Retail Development

4.3.1 Petrol Filling Stations

Petrol filling stations must be located on the outskirts of the town but inside the 30mph or 40 mph speed limits. The preferred location is the near side of the roadway on the way out of town. Filling stations will not be allowed in open country, within the town boundary. Access to/from the proposed filling station must be in accordance with the Council's requirements, relating to each site.

The element of convenience retailing forming part of the station must be made explicit in any planning application.

4.3.2 Gaming and Amusement Arcades

The Council considers that gaming and amusement arcades are an undesirable use and potentially detrimental to the business and commercial environment of the town centre. Any proposals for such arcades accordingly, will be refused.

It should be noted that the placing of amusement machines in business premises used primarily for other purposes (e. g. take-aways, licensed premises etc.) require planning permission and is not considered by the Council to constitute exempted development.

4.3.3 Hot Food Take-Aways

Hot food take-aways will only be permitted where they do not interfere with the amenity of other businesses and neighbouring residences. In this regard potential smell, late night noise and potential litter will be taken into consideration

4.3.4 Shop Front Design Standards

The Council requires a high standard of shop front design and advertising. Existing traditional shop fronts should be retained where possible, especially in the town centre.

The Council will encourage good shop front design, either of traditional or modern design, provided that they are constructed of appropriately robust materials and are in scale and proportion to the building and neighbouring buildings. The design must be approached in an integrated way, including signage, advertising and lighting.

Building and plot divisions should be retained externally, even when the internal divisions have been removed.

The use of external roller shutters and the permanent removal of shop fronts leaving the shop open to the pavement, are unacceptable. Security shutters should be mounted behind the window glazing, be of the open grill type and coloured to blend with the overall shop front. Alternatives to roller shutters, such as removable timber shutters or open grilles are preferred.

Externally mounted loudspeakers are unacceptable.

Internally lit neon signs, flashing, reflectorised or glitter type signs located on or visible from the exterior are unacceptable. Signs and advertising of excessive size or number, or projecting above the parapet/eaves height or outside the bulk of the building are unacceptable. Where brand or corporate signage is permitted it will be expected to be in a form and design which is compatible with the streetscape. Compatibility with the streetscape and individual buildings will be considered more important than the uniformity between branches of a company.

Projecting brand signs, of whatever type or design, are unacceptable.

4.4 Advertising and Signage

The Council accepts that advertising is an integral part of commercial and industrial development. However, in considering applications for advertising structures, it remains the primary concern of the Planning Authority to protect the essential character of the town.

4.4.1 Location of Advertising

The Council is opposed to advertisements in residential areas, on or near buildings of architectural or historical importance, adjacent to amenity and recreational areas. As advertising is an accepted part of commercial and shopping activity, appropriate levels and types of it will generally be allowed on commercial buildings and shops. Control will be exercised to prevent clutter in any location and to limit the size and number of signs on any building. Roadside hoardings will not be permitted.

4.4.2 Design of Advertising

The Council will seek to avoid a proliferation of advertisements in the town. Proposals for signs and advertising structures should be in scale and harmony with the surrounding environment, should not interfere with the safety and free flow of traffic and should not obscure traffic signs. Signage that interferes with windows or other features of a building façade, projects or obtrudes, in whole or part, above the eaves of the building or skyline is not acceptable.

4.4.3 Temporary and free standing Advertisements

Free-standing advertising structures, such as sandwich boards, which require a license will not be allowed on footpaths or in pedestrian areas where they have the potential to cause an obstruction and may be a hindrance, particularly to disabled persons. Temporary advertisements may be permitted in certain positions and in greater numbers than would be acceptable on a permanent basis. Where locations are considered suitable, advertising panels may be permitted on builder's hoardings for a specified period. Generally, the planning authority has a preference for smaller sized and vertical proportioned advertising panels.

4.5 Telecommunications Masts and Satellite Dishes

Telecommunications masts, satellite dishes and associated equipment should be located on existing masts or pylons, or in industrial or utility areas. They may be permitted on high buildings of utility or industrial types but will not be permitted on churches or other civic buildings, nor in the vicinity of schools or residential areas.

The Council will require all services to be installed underground in new developments and where possible in existing areas.

Satellite dishes should generally be located to the rear of buildings. Planning permission will be required for satellite dishes on protected structures.

4.6 Environmental Impact Assessments

The Council will operate the provisions of the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment), Regulations 97/11/EC of 1997 and the Local Government (Planning and Development) EIS Amendment Regulations SI No 93 of 1999 and as subsequently amended. All developments to which these regulations apply, including proposed public authority projects, will be required to submit detailed Environmental Impact Statements as part of the planning approval process.

4.7 Care for People with Disabilities

In addition to the obligation to provide for the needs of people with disabilities contained in the Building regulations, the Council shall require all public footpaths and pedestrian links to be accessible to people with disabilities. Street furniture shall be placed so as not to impede wheelchairs, prams and buggies. Footpaths must be dished and marked by stippled paving at crossing points.

4.8 Development Contributions and Cash Deposits

4.8.1 Development Contributions

The Planning Authority, taking into consideration the capital expenditure necessary for the provision of infrastructure required to facilitate development, will require financial contributions in relation to drainage, water supply, roads, open space and car parking. It is the policy of the Council that the rate of contribution in respect of development will be assessed on an individual basis, except where overall contributions are warranted (e. g. for mains water supply over the town as a whole). The Council may update the amount of contribution annually, having regard to the rise in the building cost index or in the consumer price index, as appropriate.

The Council may also impose a levy on all planning applications to assist the Council in the carrying out of objectives contained in this plan.

4.8.2 Cash Deposits and bonds

Developers will be required to lodge a Cash Deposit/Insurance Bond for the satisfactory completion of residential and other developments and their ancillary services, prior to their being taken in charge. In determining the amount of the bond, the previous record of the developer in completing estates satisfactorily will be taken into consideration. Deposits/Bonds will be required in residential, industrial estate development and other developments as the Council considers necessary. It is the Council policy that all developments will be taken-in-charge on completion.

4.9 Planning Advice and Guidance

4.9.1 Planning Clinics

The Council operates a system of free planning advice where intending developers or individuals can avail of guidance on all planning matters. It is intended to operate this system for the period of this plan. All persons contemplating development are strongly advised to consult with Council planning officials prior to submitting planning applications. Even in the event that intended development is exempt and therefore does not require planning permission, developers are advised to consult with the planning authority before beginning work, so as to satisfy themselves that no planning permission is required. It is Council policy to give this advice without charge.

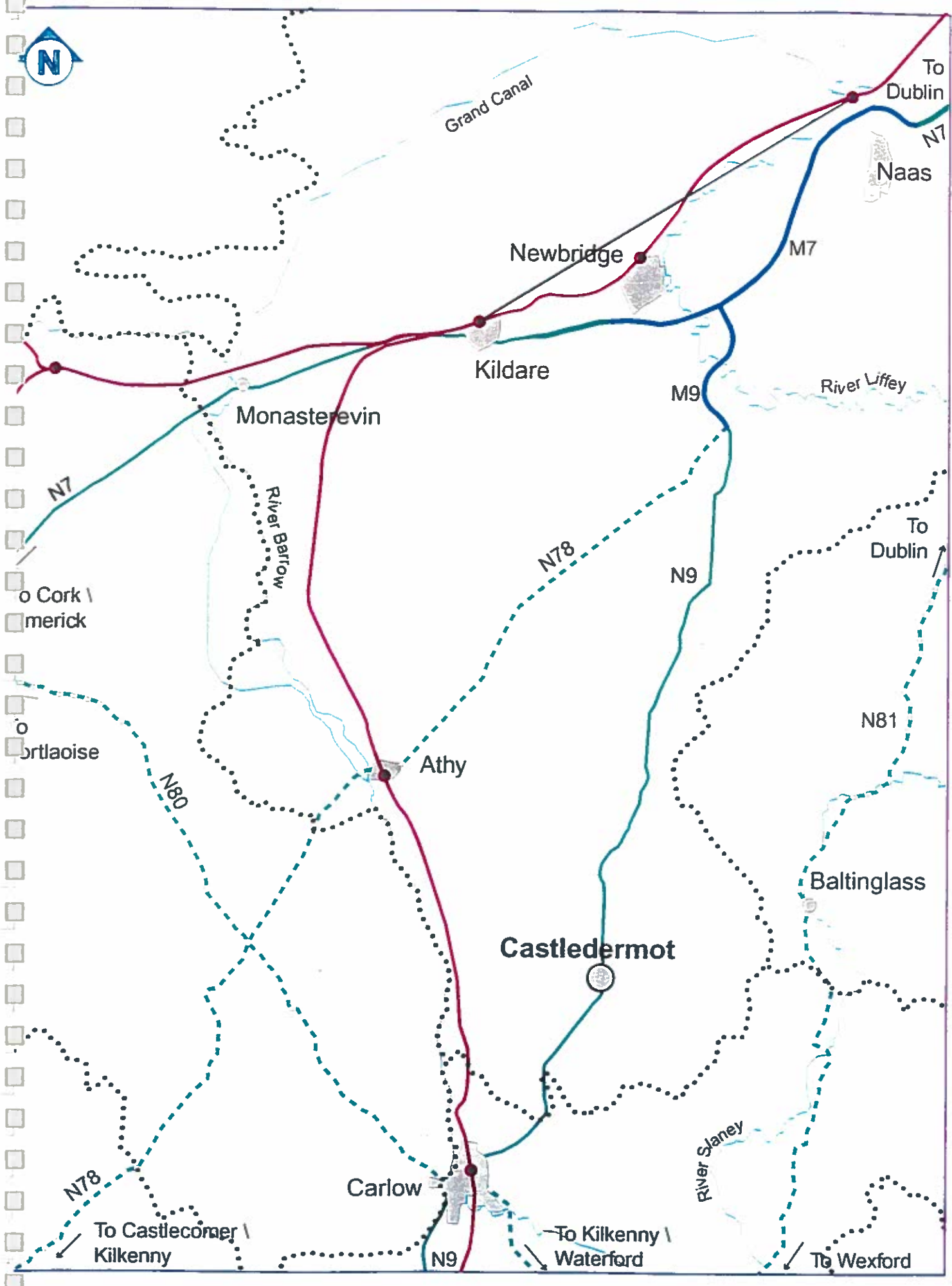
4.9.2 Publication of Guidance

It is the intention of the Council to publish leaflets and brochures to give guidance on many of the policies of the Development Plan to the general public.

4.9.3 Co-operation with Voluntary Bodies.

It is the policy of the Council to co-operate with the various voluntary and statutory bodies towards the development and renewal of the town, and towards its promotion and beautification. To this end joint venture operations and award schemes will be undertaken as appropriate.

MAP



Castledermot Location Map



KILBAKE
COUNTY
COUNCIL

CASTLEDERMOT DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2002

LAND USE ZONING AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- A: Town Centre
- B: Existing Residential/Infill
- C: New Residential
- D: General Development
- E: Open Space & Amenity
- F: Agricultural
- Development Boundary
- 1985 Town Boundary
- Zone of Archaeological Potential
- IP: Items for Preservation Objectives
- T: Roads Objective
- Tree Protection Orders Objective
- Road, cycle path and pedestrian routes are diagrammatic only

