

Athy Local Area Plan 2019-2025

Pre-draft Public Consultation Issues Paper



Pre-draft Information Session

Take the opportunity to meet the Planning Team preparing the Athy Local Area Plan

Tuesday 10th April 2018

3pm to 7pm

*at Athy Community Library,
Dominican Church, Convent Lane,
Athy, Co. Kildare*

**Tell us
your views!**

**CLOSING DATE FOR
SUBMISSIONS**

**5pm Tuesday
24th April 2018**



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF ATHY

Kildare County Council
Comhairle Contae Chill Dara

Athy Local Area Plan 2019-2025

Kildare County Council is commencing the preparation of a Local Area Plan (LAP) for Athy. The purpose of this LAP is to set out a land use strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area incorporating a framework for the development of transportation, housing, retail, heritage, employment, social and community facilities.

Presently we are at the 'pre-draft' stage, which is followed by the preparation and publication of a Draft LAP. At both stages Kildare County Council will undertake public consultation exercises and invites your comments. If you are interested in the preparation of the Athy LAP and wish to contribute to the shaping of the future of the town, please make a written submission by 5pm on 24th April 2018.



Get Involved

Local input is vital to the success of the entire LAP process and the County Council value what you have to say. It is intended that this Issues Paper will initiate interest and debate resulting in positive and helpful feedback. Submissions are not limited to the issues raised in this paper so please feel free to raise any other issue or area of interest and concern which you consider relevant. As a first step, Kildare County Council is inviting interested parties including but not restricted to residents, business owners, retailers, community, children or groups representing children and sports groups to identify 'bigger picture' issues that need to be addressed in the LAP on how Athy should develop into the future.

There are two key components to this pre-draft consultation process:

- An invitation to stakeholders and interest groups to make submissions;
- and
- A drop-in pre-draft information session



Strategic Planning Context

The Athy LAP is intended to provide a framework of detailed planning policies for the town which will be informed through a process of public participation and consultation. The LAP is an important policy framework to be used to promote and encourage economic renewal, to facilitate new housing to ensure that lands are zoned for specific and appropriate purposes whilst protecting environmental and heritage qualities.

The Settlement Strategy of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (CDP) sets out the policies for the development of County Kildare up to 2023 and beyond in accordance with population allocations and housing targets set out in the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022 (RPGs). The LAP will need to address the policy requirements of the recently published National Planning Framework (NPF) as well as the anticipated Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) and be prepared in the context of the settlement strategy of the CDP.

The 2016 population of Athy was 9,847, with 4,347 dwellings. For the period up to 2025, it is anticipated that lands will be required to be zoned for 2,028 dwellings. This figure incorporates inbuilt headroom of 50% to meet anticipated need and to ensure continuity of supply of zoned lands over a 9 year horizon in accordance with the Development Plan Guidelines, DECLG, 2007. (This means an actual figure of anticipated dwellings for the 6-year period up to 2025 of 1,352, with an anticipated increase in population of 3,515).

The LAP will consist of a written statement and accompanying maps including a Vision, Policies and Key Objectives specific to Athy, to provide for a sustainable level of growth in tandem with a range of services, physical and social infrastructure and employment over the next six years and beyond to meet the needs of the town and its hinterland


A Vision for Athy

The aim of this pre-draft public consultation stage is to engage with the people who live, work, recreate and visit Athy and to stimulate debate on land use planning issues to establish a vision for the town over the plan period and beyond. The Athy LAP may address the following but will not be restricted to;

- Strategic Vision for Athy
- Employment, Enterprise & Tourism
- Urban & Retail Development
- Movement & Transportation
- Housing & Community Facilities
- Urban Design, Regeneration & Key Development Areas
- Built & Natural Heritage
- Strategic Open Space & Green Infrastructure
- Infrastructural challenges & delivery
- Climate Change & Sustainability
- Leisure, Amenity and Culture
- Implementation


KEY GROWTH TARGETS FOR ATHY

Anticipated population for Athy in 2025 is 13,362*



HOUSING

2,028 additional housing units required for the period 2017-2025**

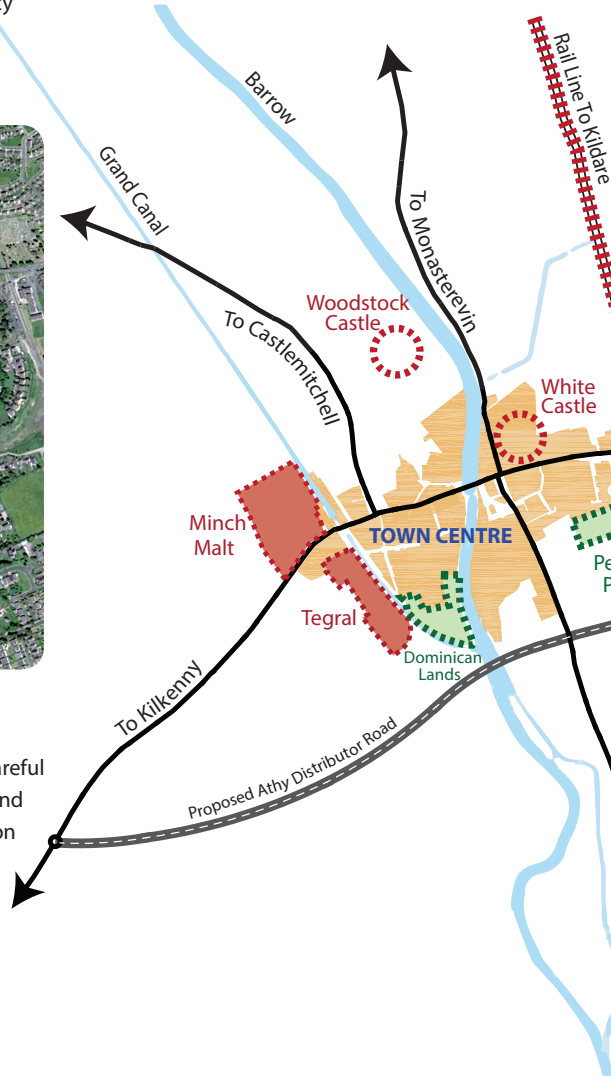


* Derived from the Kildare CDP 2017-2023

** Derived from the Kildare CDP 2017-2023 and subject to CSO Census Data updates

Key Considerations

Athy is a town characterised by its rich cultural, historical and industrial heritage. Built upon the Barrow and the Grand Canal, its industrial heritage continues to support tourism and economic development in the town centre. Athy has grown significantly in scale in the last 20 years. However this development has generally been peripheral to the town centre, resulting in the loss of vibrancy of the centre with congestion on the local road network increasing.



As development opportunities emerge during the lifetime of the Athy LAP they will require careful management in the interest of the wellbeing and quality of life of the residents and the protection of the environment and heritage.

Consultation with the public will form a key part of the overall plan preparation process and will inform the policies, objectives and actions of the Local Area Plan.

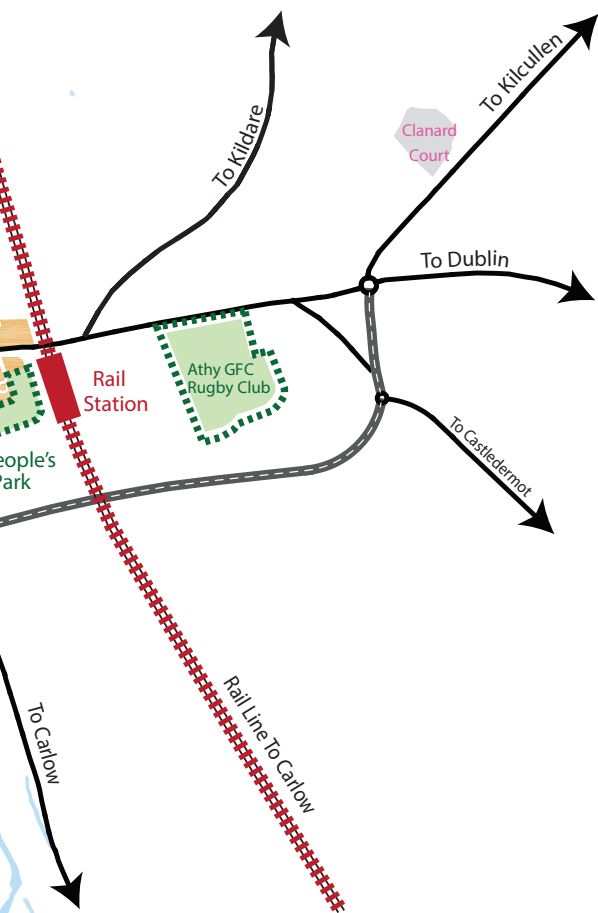


What can the Local Area Plan do?

The plan review and preparation process will be guided by a wide range of considerations, such as public and stakeholder consultation, the key issues and needs identified by local communities and businesses, employment activities and opportunities, services and infrastructure available and required, heritage and environmental issues, statutory requirements, etc. This Issues Paper highlights key issues/questions that may need to be considered in preparing the Local Area Plan for Athy.

The LAP will set out a vision for the area and will specify the type, amount and quality of development needed to achieve that vision, while seeking to protect and enhance the environment and amenities. It is a positive policy document intended to manage and influence change in our local surroundings, aiming to highlight opportunities and identify what needs to happen to ensure that the opportunities are realised.

Kildare County Council invites you to get involved and to help shape the Draft Athy LAP 2019-2025. This consultation provides the opportunity for you to submit comments and suggestions on the issues raised in this pre-draft consultation paper and any other themes you consider relevant to the preparation of the Local Area Plan. The Council will review and consider all of the pre-draft submissions received prior to the commencement of the preparation the Draft Athy LAP 2019-2025.



Key Issues/Questions

Overall Vision

- What is your vision for Athy and what could the LAP target specifically to help achieve this vision?
- How can the LAP deliver new development in a way that enhances and reinforces the urban structure of the town to make it a more self-sustaining town?
- How can the character of Athy be enhanced and developed to ensure a real sense of place for new residential areas?
- What are the main features of Athy that will contribute towards its character and will make it an attractive place to live, work and visit?

Economic Development & Tourism

- What are the economic strengths and competitive advantages of Athy?
- What type of industry/employment opportunities should be encouraged in Athy and where should it be located?
- How can the Local Area Plan support and facilitate new business and employment?
- Should opportunity sites be identified and specific objectives formulated for underutilised areas of the town?
- Are there specific areas of tourism that should be targeted e.g. heritage, leisure, industrial tourism, and how can the Local Area Plan facilitate these?



Town Centre, Retail and Urban Design

- How can this land use plan help to revitalise and regenerate the town centre?
- How can this land use plan help to reduce vacancy rates and to retain and attract new uses within the town centre?
- What type of retail facilities are needed to meet the demand of future residents?
- Are there particular areas of the town centre that should be identified for development/redevelopment?

Movement and Transport

- What transport objectives should be included in the Plan and which should take priority?
- What improvements could be made to public transport links?
- How can we make the town centre a safer place for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicle users?
- How can cycle and pedestrian movement be encouraged and maximised throughout the town?
- Where should new or improved footpaths, cycle ways and roadways, links and connections be located?



Infrastructure

- What infrastructure/services need to be improved and prioritised, such as broadband, water and wastewater treatment?

Housing and Community

- Where should new housing be developed in Athy?
- How can we develop the land for residential and other developments in a way that is beneficial to consolidation of the area?
- What is the best way to accommodate the future housing needs of Athy, to ensure that the needs of different groups of people i.e. elderly, mobility impaired, first time buyers, families and single people can be adequately catered for?
- How should we seek to integrate the surrounding established residential areas with the new development areas being created?
- Are there adequate health and childcare facilities in the Athy area that are easily accessible to all?
- Can you identify other possible locations appropriate for community facilities?
- Are there sufficient facilities for younger and older residents of the town?



Heritage

- How can the landscape, natural and built heritage, green infrastructure and local biodiversity areas be suitably protected while accommodating the development needs of Athy?
- How can the LAP protect archaeological, natural and architectural heritage of Athy?
- How can the LAP encourage the reuse and regeneration of protected structures and older vacant structures located in the town centre area?

Open Space and Amenity

- How can the Plan utilise and enhance existing amenity areas such as the river and canal to provide for both passive and active recreation?
- Is there an adequate quantity and quality of play, open space and recreational facilities in the Athy area?
- Are there deficiencies in the existing nearby open spaces and, if so, where could new parks/open spaces and recreational areas be located?
- How do you think the Plan can provide for good connectivity for recreational walking and cycling purposes?
- How best can we integrate a Green Infrastructure approach to the lands incorporating the themes of open space, biodiversity, landscape, water and archaeology?



Key Development/Regeneration Areas

- Where in Athy should additional population and economic growth be focused?
- Where are the key development areas for (re)development in Athy for both commercial and new residential development?

How to make your submission

Pre-Draft submissions on the Athy LAP can be submitted online or sent in by post during the consultation period. Written submissions can also be made at the consultation session between 3pm and 7pm on **Tuesday 10th April 2018** at the Athy Community Library, Dominican Church, Convent Lane, Athy.

All Submissions must be made no later than **5pm TUESDAY 24TH APRIL 2018** in order to be considered.

Note: There will be an opportunity to make submissions on the Draft LAP and any subsequent material alterations to the Draft LAP as the plan making process progresses. Public Notices will be published as these consultation stages arise and are scheduled.

Online

www.kildare.ie/countycouncil/Planning/DevelopmentPlans/LocalAreaPlans/AthyLocalAreaPlan2019-2025/

or

Post

Pre-draft Consultation Athy LAP 2019
Planning Department
Kildare County Council
Áras Chill Dara
Naas
Co. Kildare



Tell us your Views!

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