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Health Service Executive

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Re: Draft Local Area Plan for Leixlip 2020-2026

To whom it may concern,

Please find enclosed the Environmental Health Service Consultation report in relation to the Draft Local Area Plan for Leixlip 2020-2026.

If you have any queries regarding this report please contact Environmental Health Dept. at The Crossings, Naas, Co.Kildare

Yours Sincerely

Margaret Byrne
Senior Environmental Health Officer

Endorsed by

Terri Mullee
Principal Environmental Health Officer



Leixlip Draft Local Area Plan 2020-2026

Date: 24th June 2019

The Environmental Health Service is making this submission under the remit of Healthy Ireland and relevant supporting health strategies. The aim of this submission is to incorporate relevant health actions into the strategic planning of the spatial and built environment of Leixlip, with the overall aim of improving health and wellbeing in the population of the town and the surrounding area.

The aim of the Leixlip area plan is to set out the legal requirement and statutory context of the Plan in accordance with the Core Strategy of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023. The vision for the Leixlip area plan is to ensure that growth planned for the Plan period and beyond occurs in a sustainable and sequential manner while prioritising a low carbon, compact, consolidated and connected pattern of development.

The Environmental Health Service identifies the following as being of relevance to the Draft Local Area Plan for Leixlip 2020-2026

Healthy Ireland in the Health Services – National Implementation Plan

The HSE has an implementation plan for Healthy Ireland in the Health Service. One Key action outlined in the plan is:

“Ensure that each programme is supported by a network of partner organisations, including the community and voluntary sector, academia and professional bodies”.

The draft Local Area Plan for Leixlip 2020-2026 should strategically aim to support community involvement in the development of health services and Healthy Ireland Initiatives.

Tobacco Free Ireland

<http://static.rasset.ie/documents/news/tobacco-free-ireland.pdf>

A strategic aim of the Draft Local Area Plan for Leixlip 2020-2026 should be to implement the tobacco free playgrounds initiative.

Promote tobacco free environments, parks and beaches. All public campus and grounds should be promoted as tobacco free.

Kildare County Council
Planning Department

2 JUL 2019

RECEIVED

Healthy Ireland: Get Ireland Active – National Physical Activity Plan for Ireland

<http://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Get-Ireland-Active-the-National-Physical-Activity-Plan.pdf>

A key aim of the National Physical Activity Plan for Ireland is compiling a directory of publicly accessible sports/recreational and amenities facilities. The HSE welcomes the provision and promotion of cycle and pedestrian paths in Leixlip Draft Local Area Plan 2020-2026.

The plan should also explore opportunities to maximise physical activity and recreation amenities in the natural environment, and provide recreational facilities for staff in industrial estates and ensure connectivity of work to park and recreational activities.

Plans for Nursing Homes or Residential Care Facilities should include proposals for gardens and recreational activities. Physical activity should be incorporated into long term care planning and practice

Healthy Ireland - A Healthy Weight for Ireland

<http://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/A-Healthy-Weight-for-Ireland-Obesity-Policy-and-Action-Plan-2016-2025.pdf>

It was noted in the Draft Local Area Plan for Leixlip that almost 63% of the population falls within the 0-45 age category.

A strategic aim of the draft Local Area plan for Leixlip should be to develop guidelines and support materials for those working in developing the built environment for urban development and planning in relation to reducing the obesogenic environment. Help create environments that make the healthy choice the easy choice.

Support community based initiatives that target high risk groups and develop programmes that support healthy lifestyles and prevention of obesity in children and adults.

- Promote the benefits of healthy eating, physical activity and non-sedentary behaviour.
- Improve availability of and access to healthier food choices, particularly amongst low income groups.
- Create environments to promote/encourage active living including active travel (walking, biking, public transport) and access to recreational spaces.

- Support opportunities for increasing physical activity levels generally/ in the community through Local Sports Partnerships and supporting initiatives e.g. Park runs.
- Facilitate community gardens through identifying and releasing suitable publicly owned land.

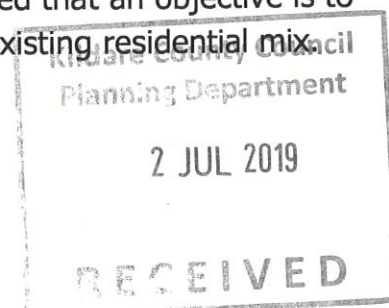
The National Positive Ageing Strategy

<https://health.gov.ie/healthy-ireland/national-positive-ageing-strategy/>

A key aim for older people is to ensure they live in well-maintained, affordable, safe and secure homes, which are suitable to their physical and social needs. The Draft Local Area Plan for Leixlip 2010-2026 should take note of the National Positive ageing strategy and ensure that there is:

- Provision of age-friendly public transport.
- Provision of public transport linkages to major health facilities and personal social services.
- Supporting the design and development of age friendly public spaces, transport and buildings.
- Designing age friendly urban environments (street lighting, footpaths, roads, public seating).
- Carry out an assessment of housing need and provision and consider all housing options in development (i.e. social housing, sheltered housing; retirement villages).
- Implement Older People Remaining at Home (OPRAH) strategy.
- Promote lifetime adaptable housing and design and the use of assistive technologies.
- Promote access (in terms of affordability, transport availability, accessibility of venue) to a wide range of opportunities for continued learning and education for older people.
- Promote the concept of active citizenship and the value of volunteering, and encourage people of all ages to become more involved in and to contribute to their own communities.

It was noted in the draft Local Area Plan for Leixlip 2020-2026 that it is an objective of the Council to ensure that an appropriate mix of housing type, tenure, density and size is provided in all new residential areas to meet the needs of the population including the provision of appropriate supported housing and longer term residential care solutions designed for older people. It is also noted that an objective is to ensure that any new developments complement the existing residential mix.



Time to move on from congregated settings – A strategy for community inclusion

<http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/disability/congregatedsettings/congregatedsettingsreportfinal.pdf>

A strategic aim of the Draft Local Area Plan for Leixlip 2020-2026 should be to promote and improve community inclusion of people with disabilities in their local community and community based services.

Promote and improve greater connectivity between generic community based services and disability specific organisations. Facilitate their engagement as stakeholders.

Focus on meeting the housing and accommodation needs of people with disabilities through a combination of purchased housing, new-build housing, and leased housing or rented housing. A local re-housing plan should be prepared and jointly co-ordinated with the HSE, in collaboration with service providers. The plan should be based on best practice in including people with disabilities in local communities and should facilitate dispersed housing with personal supports.

- The Local Authority should give consideration to reserving a certain proportion of dwellings for people with disabilities.
- Focus on supporting and sustaining people with disabilities to live in their own homes in the community through the provision of housing grants.
- Support people with disabilities to access employment and education opportunities.
- Support people with disabilities to access mainstream community services.

Sustainable Development

Our sustainable future – A Framework for Sustainable Development

<http://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/migrated-files/en/Publications/Environment/Miscellaneous/FileDownload%2C30452%2Cen.pdf>

Our environment is one of the country's most valuable assets and has the capacity to contribute significantly to our economic revival. We must be very conscious of the need to manage effectively all activities which impact on this vital asset. All future development in Leixlip should be designed so as to reduce its carbon footprint. The HSE welcomes the environmental friendly proposals outlined in the plans such as the integration of public transport infrastructure, building typologies that minimise the use of energy, SuDS management initiatives and the integration and utilisation of open space.

Energy

Ireland's Second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan to 2020

<http://www.seai.ie/Publications/Energy Policy Publications/Energy Service Companies/Ireland%E2%80%99s second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan to 2020.pdf>

The Draft Local Area Plan for Leixlip 2020- 2026 shall:

- Promote and facilitate the incorporation of energy efficient design into projects.
- Develop and implement an energy management programme for all public buildings.
- The Local Authority should aim to deliver new key skill sets in areas such as green procurement, carbon accounting, carbon management and energy management.
- The Local Authority shall support the Better Energy Communities Scheme to enable communities around the country develop new and innovative, locally-based solutions to energy poverty.

Transport

The HSE recognises that the objective of the draft Leixlip Local area Plan is to promote the delivery of a sustainable transport system that prioritises walking, cycling and public transport and provides an appropriate level of road infrastructure, road capacity and traffic management to support future development.

Smarter Travel Policy

http://www.smartertravel.ie/sites/default/files/uploads/2012-12-27_Smarter_Travel_english_PN_WEB%5B1%5D_0.pdf



The Draft Local Area Plan for Leixlip 2020-2026 shall aim to:

- Specify a maximum permitted level of car parking for commercial sites, which have suitable public transport facilities and are within walking/cycling distance to amenities.
- The Local Authority should require that developments above a certain scale have viable travel plans in place.
- Reduce the necessity to travel to work through the adoption of flexible working policies. The Local Authority should set targets to encourage e-working where appropriate.
- Ensure that schools in Leixlip and its environs have school travel plans to encourage students to take alternatives to the car. The local authority shall identify and implement safe walking and cycling routes to and from schools and other educational institutions as well as providing better access for people with disabilities.
- Implement more radical traffic management measures to improve the punctuality and reliability of bus services.
- Improve bus shelters to make this mode of transport more attractive by providing seating, overhead shelter and digital timetables.
- Review the school transport service, the current distance eligibility criteria, where it is not feasible to provide safe walkways and/or cycle paths
- Provide facilities such as secure bike parking and changing/showering facilities at places of employment in public authorities to encourage staff to cycle
- Reprioritise traffic signals to favour pedestrians instead of vehicles, reducing waiting times and crossing distances at junctions. Create level grade crossings for pedestrians across junctions.
- Widen footpaths where there are high pedestrian flows, particularly close to public transport nodes. Clear footpaths of unnecessary street furniture, E.g. rationalisation of signage poles etc. Improve the surface quality of Footpaths. Provide appropriately designed safe, well-lit, direct, continuous facilities for pedestrians. Signpost pedestrian routes to important urban destinations such as public buildings and public transport nodes.
- Provide green, safe and enticing pedestrian routes to help ensure coherence of the different neighbourhoods and quarters. This will have the added advantage of improving biodiversity and visually improve the streetscape with a "greening" of the areas whilst providing an additional benefit of possible health gain.

Support private and public sector initiatives to establish car club schemes in Ireland. Provide on-road parking spaces to be designated for car clubs through appropriate signage.

National Cycle Policy Framework

http://www.smartertravel.ie/sites/default/files/uploads/2013_01_03_0902%2002%20EnglishNS1274%20Dept.%20of%20Transport_National_Cycle_Policy_v4%5B1%5D%5B1%5D.pdf

It was noted within the draft plan that it is the objective of the council to promote enhanced permeability for pedestrians and cyclists within the urban environment. This will include providing improved connectivity across the River Rye, Royal Canal and Railway Line, with enhanced links with Maynooth, Celbridge and Dublin. The draft Local Area Plan for Leixlip 2020 - 2026 should include the needs of cyclists and in particular:

- Take measures to reduce the volumes of through-traffic, especially HGVs, in town centres and especially in the vicinity of schools and colleges.
- Introduce traffic calming measures / enforce low traffic speeds in urban areas, make junctions safe for cyclists
- Ensure that all surfaces used by cyclists are maintained to a high standard and are well lit and signposted.
- Provide secure cycling parking at all destinations of importance to the cyclist.
- Aim to integrate cycling and public transport.
- Ensure that the urban road infrastructure (with the exception of motorways) is designed / retrofitted so as to be cyclist-friendly. Link up all existing cycle lanes.

The HSE welcomes the proposals to improve, maintain and enhance certain routes for use by both pedestrians and cyclists and in particular the proposal to facilitate and support the implementation of the Royal Canal Way/ North Kildare Cycleway through Leixlip (part of the Dublin-Galway Greenway Project)

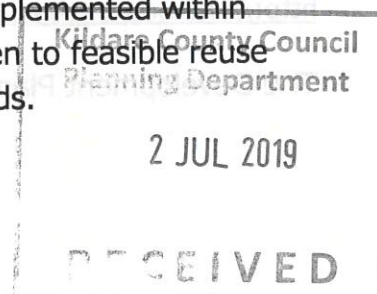
Waste

A Resource Opportunity – Waste Management Policy in Ireland

https://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/waste/plans/Resource_Opportunity2012.pdf

The Draft Local Area Plan for Leixlip 2020-2026 should implement the waste hierarchy set out in the waste framework directive and place prevention and minimisation at the forefront of any waste policy.

- Disposal of municipal waste to landfill should be a last resort.
- The Development strategy should continue to expand and implement waste prevention measures with local business and community groups.
- Waste prevention strategy should include community waste prevention demonstration Programmes, which provides skills to develop waste prevention within local communities.
- A reuse policy should be developed in consultation with the national procurement service and other relevant bodies, and implemented within public bodies in to ensure that full consideration is given to feasible reuse options before embarking on the purchase of new goods.



- The use of easily accessible public recycling bins should be considered for public areas, paths and green spaces that will allow for adequate waste segregation and will encourage the use of the waste management hierarchy.
- Food waste reduction initiatives and incentives should be implemented in homes and in business.

Water

The Draft Local Area Plan for Leixlip 2020-2026 shall strategically aim to ensure the provision of safe, secure drinking water and reduce water waste and overuse. The design and installation of drinking water supplies for the area must provide for a potable water supply and be in compliance with the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014.

Biodiversity & Green Areas

Research 195: Health Benefits from Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure

<http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/research/health/research195.html>

The Draft Local Area Plan for Leixlip 2020-2026 shall strategically aim to:

Develop a Local Biodiversity Action Plan. Guidance on managing Biodiversity in strategic planning and urban areas is found in:

http://www.uep.ie/pdfs/guidelines_complete.pdf

Opportunities for green infrastructure should be explored and integrated into the design of public areas. Existing green areas should be preserved. Opportunities for promoting physical activity, promoting biodiversity and meeting the needs of the elderly and people with disabilities should also be considered in the design of these public areas.

The HSE notes the policies of the Council to protect, reinforce and strengthen the Green infrastructure and 'Stepping Stone' habitats in Leixlip and to strengthen links to the wider regional network.

Environmental Noise

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has identified Environmental Noise as an increasing cause of ill health and detrimental effect on health and wellbeing.

http://www.euro.who.int/data/assets/pdf_file/0008/136466/e94888.pdf

The Development Plans should consider Environmental Noise in the context of:

- a) New roads, railways, airports, industry or recreational activities adjacent to residential properties or noise sensitive premises such as schools or hospitals, or recreational spaces,
- b) New residential properties or noise sensitive premises such as schools or Hospitals, adjacent to existing roads, railways, airports, industry or recreational activities;
- c) The development of mixed residential/commercial use buildings, and multipart Residential buildings;
- d) Public house, night clubs, restaurants or other recreational activities; and
- e) Industrial operations, workshops and factories.

It should be a strategic aim of the Development Plan to map noise and implement Noise Action Plans as per EPA Guidance:

<http://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/noisemapping/epaguidancenotefornoiseactionplanning.html>

Air Quality

The Strategic Development Plan should have an aim to reduce polluting emissions into air and increase the quality of air in Leixlip by:

- a) Participating in, and facilitating national programmes of air quality monitoring where possible,
- b) Working to develop and promote the Air Quality Index for Health,
- c) Local Air Quality Management Plans that identify pollution 'hot spots' and aim to reduce pollution through local action on emissions.

Margaret Byrne
Senior Environmental Health Officer

