



Maynooth and Environs Social Infrastructure Audit

*Iniúchadh ar Bhonneagar Sóisialta
Mhaigh Nuad agus a Phurláin*

A supporting document of the
Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031

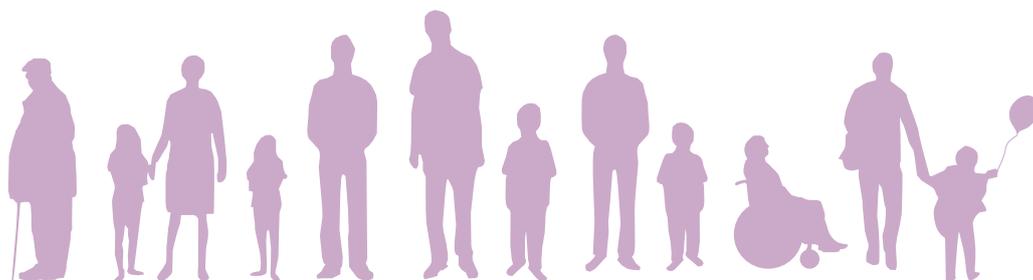
April 2024



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1 Introduction

The following Social Infrastructure Audit (SIA) was prepared by Kildare County Council (KCC) for the purposes of informing the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025 – 2031, hereafter referred to as the ‘Joint Plan’ or ‘the Plan’.

The function of the SIA is to examine and analyse the availability and capacity of existing social infrastructure facilities, to determine future requirements, and to make recommendations based on anticipated settlement growth. This report is a statement of the outcome of the SIA.

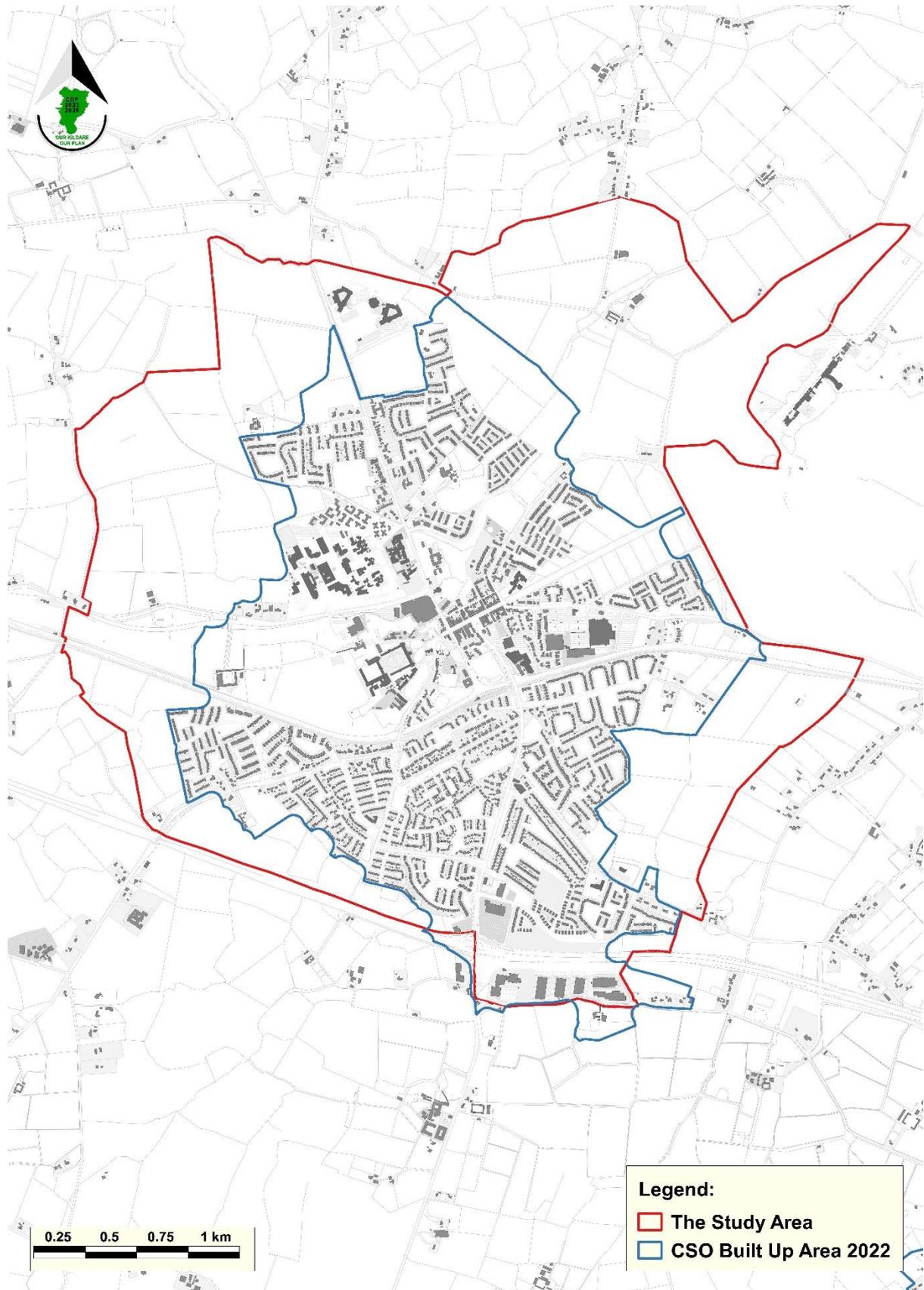
Social Infrastructure relates to the provision of services and facilities which are essential for the health, wellbeing and social development of a settlement/town. Social infrastructure facilities cater for a broad range of services including educational and health services such as schools, surgeries and community specific services, as well as areas which can offer active sports and passive recreational activities. In addition, to their actual activity and function, social infrastructure facilities can provide an invisible platform of community and social interaction which some residents may rely upon for personal wellbeing. The provision of the requisite levels of social infrastructure within Maynooth and Environs is therefore vital to support the planned residential base in both physical facilities and social engagement.

The study area for examining the existing provision of social infrastructure in Maynooth and Environs is illustrated by the red line boundary of Map 1 (see overleaf). This boundary comprises the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013 – 2019 boundary and the Maynooth Environs (Moygaddy, County Meath) boundary as contained in the Meath County Development Plan 2021–2027.

The provided demographic profile data relates to the area within the 2022 Built-Up Area boundary¹ (BUA) of Maynooth, as defined by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and outlined in blue on Map 1 (see overleaf).

¹[https://www.cso.ie/en/census/census2022/census2022urbanboundariesandbuiltupareas/census2022urbanboundariesandbuiltupareasfaq/#:~:text=Built%20Up%20Areas%20\(BUAs\)%20are,group%20buildings%20together%20into%20BUAs](https://www.cso.ie/en/census/census2022/census2022urbanboundariesandbuiltupareas/census2022urbanboundariesandbuiltupareasfaq/#:~:text=Built%20Up%20Areas%20(BUAs)%20are,group%20buildings%20together%20into%20BUAs)

Map 1: Maynooth and Environs SIA Study Area and CSO 2022 Build-Up Area Boundary



1.1 Policy Context

The assessment of social infrastructure has been considered in the context of spatial development objectives for the town of Maynooth, the parameters of which have been defined in statutory policy documents at national, regional and local level.

The National Planning Framework (NPF) is the Government’s high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of our country to the year 2040. It recognises the importance of quality of life and notes that how future development in Ireland is planned will continue to be a significant determinant of people’s quality of life. Of particular relevance is National Strategic Outcome No. 10 which relates to access to quality childcare, education and health services and National Policy Objective No. 33 which seeks to “*prioritise the provision of new homes at locations that can support sustainable development and at an appropriate scale of provision relative to location*”.

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) 2019-2031 prepared for the Eastern and Midland Region seeks to support the implementation of the NPF, and prioritises the creation of healthy and inclusive places, which require improvements to, and the identification of social infrastructure needs within urban centres. There are a number of Regional Policy Objectives (RPO’s) within the RSES which support the provision of and access to social infrastructure, including RPO 9.13, which seeks to ensure that new social infrastructure developments are accessible and inclusive for a range of users, and RPO 9.19 which states that the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) shall work collaboratively with stakeholders including the wide range of service providers through the Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs) to effectively plan for social infrastructure needs.

This SIA is guided by the population allocations for Maynooth and Environs as per the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031 set out in Table 1 (see overleaf). For the purpose of preparing the SIA the growth in population has been annualised to cover the Plan period to the end of 2031 (Table 2 refers).

To this effect the estimated population in Quarter 1 2023 is 17,426 persons. This figure will be used to assess the current need for social infrastructure. The planned population target for Maynooth and Environs over the lifetime of the Plan to 2031 is 27,332 persons and this will be used to determine the projected need for social infrastructure.

Table 1: Total Housing and Population Allocation to Maynooth and Environs 2025–2031

	Unit Target	Population Target
Maynooth (County Kildare) (Including NPO 68 / MASP provision)	2,920 units ²	8,031 persons (@ 2.75 persons per unit)
Maynooth Environs (County Meath)	750 units	1,875 persons (@ 2.5 persons per unit)
Total target	3,670 units	9,906 additional persons

Table 2: Projected Population Growth for Maynooth to 2031

Population Census 2016	14,585
Population Census 2022	17,259
Estimated Population Q1 2023 ³	17,426*
Population Target 2031	27,332 (increase of 9,906 persons on 2023 estimate)

*This figure is provided for the purposes of:

- a) Providing an estimate of the population of Maynooth at the commencement of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 i.e., at the start of the period covered by the Core Strategy Population/Housing Allocation for Maynooth (County Kildare), as discussed in Section 3.22.
- b) To ensure a more accurate estimate of the target population in 2031 to determine social infrastructure provision in the town as part of the Social Infrastructure Audit.

² NPO 68 / MASP and Kildare CDP allocation and annualised growth (1,591 + 997 + 332 = 2,920 units).

³ This figure was calculated based on the 2022 Census population of the town (17,259), in addition to the increased population residing in new homes completed in the town between the start of Q2 2022 and end of Q4 2022 (i.e., the period following the Census in April 2022). CSO data records that 75 units were constructed in the town in 2022. Accordingly, 75 units / 4 (Quarters) x 3 Quarters = 56.25 units x 2.97 average unit occupancy for Maynooth in 2022 = 167 persons + 17,259 Census 2022 population provides an estimated population for Q1 2023 of 17,426 persons.

1.2 Methodology

The Social Infrastructure Audit (SIA) was conducted using desktop research and surveys in the field, as well as incorporating data previously logged and mapped by Kildare County Council. The SIA process comprises three parts; an assessment of the existing situation with regards to infrastructure provision; a future demand analysis; and social infrastructure recommendations.

1. Existing Infrastructure Provision

The ‘baseline’ assessment was derived from a desktop-based examination of available information and use of digital mapping techniques to identify spatial relationships between community infrastructure and population catchment in conjunction with several site visits for verification purposes. This assessment included the identification, cataloguing and mapping of existing community infrastructure features (including where relevant, their capacity) under a number of predefined themes including Education and Training, Childcare, Health, Sports and Recreation and Open Space, Social and Community Services, Arts and Culture, Faith and other features. The location of schools, childcare and neighbourhood centres are mapped to illustrate catchment areas within an 800m walking distance, as per the 10-minute settlement concept⁴.

2. Future Demands Analysis

Future Demand was analysed by assessing the existing infrastructure provision relative to the existing population, the planned population growth and best practice provision. This study seeks to rationalise the demand for community infrastructure and to determine need through application of standards and best practice recommendations where possible.

3. Recommendations

Recommendations for future social infrastructure provision will inform the preparation of the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025–2031. The spatial and demographic outputs will bring significant added value in the preparation of evidence-based spatial development objectives and to address the 10-minute settlement principle.

Reference is made throughout the document to the Chief Executive’s Report on Submissions Received on the Pre-Draft Consultation Stage of the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan (March 2023)⁵. This is an important source of information as social Infrastructure was a significant issue raised by residents of Maynooth during the public consultation stage.

⁴ Objective UD O3 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 seeks to ‘support and promote the 10-minute settlement concept across all towns and villages and require that all Local Area Plans incorporate policies and objectives that will assist in its implementation’.

⁵ <https://consult.maynooth.ie/en/node/6/outcomes>

2 Profile of Maynooth

2.1 Demographic Profile

Census 2022 showed Maynooth to have a population of 17,259 persons⁶ which represents a 18.3% (2,674 persons) increase in population from 2016 (14,585 persons). Maynooth represented 7% of County Kildare’s entire population (247,774 persons) in 2022.

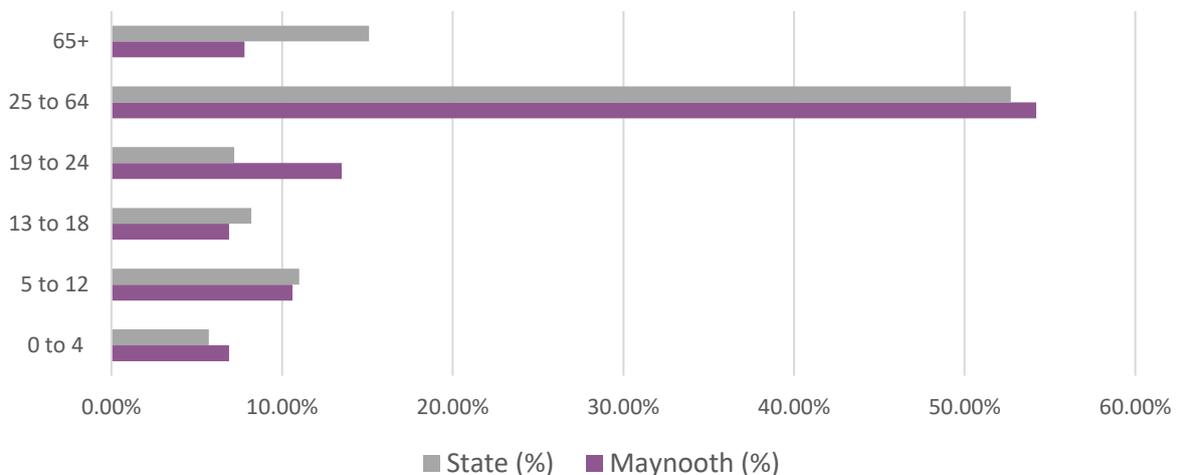
According to Census 2022, the percentage of the population of Maynooth (24.4%) recorded in the 0-18 age group is very similar to the percentage of the state (24.9%). The 19-24 age group of Maynooth make up 13.5% of the population, which is noticeable higher than the 7.2% of the population of the state. This is due to the presence of two third level universities in the town. The percentage of population in Maynooth in the 25-64 age group (working age group) at 54.2% is slightly higher than the state percentage of 52.7%. Also of significance is the difference between the 65+ age group of Maynooth and the state. Maynooth recorded 7.8% in this age group compared to 15.1% nationally.

Figure 1 below clearly shows the two most significant differences between the state age profile and the Maynooth age profile which are the 19-24 age group and the 65+ age group.

Table 3: Age Profile

Age Group	Population	% of Total Population Maynooth	National Proportion (%)
0-4	1,184	6.9	5.7
5-12	1,836	10.6	11.0
13-18	1,199	6.9	8.2
19-24	2,331	13.5	7.2
25-64	9,360	54.2	52.7
65+	1,349	7.8	15.1

Figure 1: Population Profile by Age Group, CSO 2022



¹ The figure of 17,259 comprises the population living within the Built-Up Area (BUA) of Maynooth as defined by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and is based on the results of Census 2022.

3 Existing Infrastructure

The SIA assessed the existing social infrastructure and analysed the future demand for additional social infrastructure within the study area under the following headings:

- Education and Training
- Childcare
- Health
- Sports, Recreation and Open Space
- Social and Community
- Arts and Cultural
- Faith
- Neighbourhood Centres
- Student Accommodation

3.1 Education and Training

There are five primary schools, three post-primary schools, one special school and four third level/further education and training centres within the study area.

There is no specific population benchmark for the provision of primary or post-primary school facilities in Ireland. Instead, these are determined on an area specific basis by the Department of Education (DoE) having regard to available school capacity, demographic projections, an analysis of child benefit records, and local GIS travel pattern modelling.

Consultation took place with the Department of Education in relation to the projected need for primary and post-primary school places in Maynooth up to the end of the Plan period.

3.1.1 Primary Schools

The Maynooth primary schools, the number of students enrolled for the 2023/24 academic year and the capacities of these schools are provided in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Maynooth Primary Schools

Map Ref.	School Name	Enrolled 2023/24	Capacity	Operating Level	Availability	Admission Application Refused
ED1	Gaelscoil Ruairí	113	155	73% ⁷	42 ⁸ pupils	Yes
ED2	St Mary's Boys' National School	626	648	97%	22 ⁹ pupils	Yes
ED3	Presentation Girls Primary School	600	600	100%	None	Yes
ED4	Gaelscoil Uí Fhiaich	457	462	99%	5 pupils	12 pupils
ED5	Maynooth Educate Together National School	400	400	100%	None	Unknown
TOTAL		2,196	2,265	93.8%¹⁰	69 pupils	Unknown

⁷ Gaelscoil Ruairí opened in 2019 and is currently in its fifth year of existence offering classes up to 3rd Class.

⁸ Places available in 2nd class and 3rd class.

⁹ Places available in junior infants, 2nd class, and 3rd class. All other classes are full.

¹⁰ Average Operating Level across the five schools.

There is currently one extant planning permission for a new primary school building (Table 5 refers) to accommodate Gaelscoil Ruairí which is currently located in a prefabricated building on the Maynooth Education Campus (MEC).

Table 5: Primary School Extant Planning Permission

File Ref.	School Name	Location	Development description:	Current Status:
20/1296	Gaelscoil Ruairí	Moyglare Road, Maynooth	A two storey eight classroom primary school building which could accommodate 232 pupils ¹¹	Stage 2b, detailed design ¹²

Additionally, there is one live planning application for the extension of the existing Presentation Girls School building (Table 6 refers).

Table 6: Primary School Live Planning Applications

File Ref.	School Name	Location	Development description:	Current Status
22/1250, ABP-306511-20	Presentation Girls School	Dunboyne Road, Maynooth	The demolition of existing single storey section of the school and the construction of a new two storey extension including 3 no. SET rooms and 4 no. mainstream classrooms	Planning Permission Appealed to An Bord Pleanála

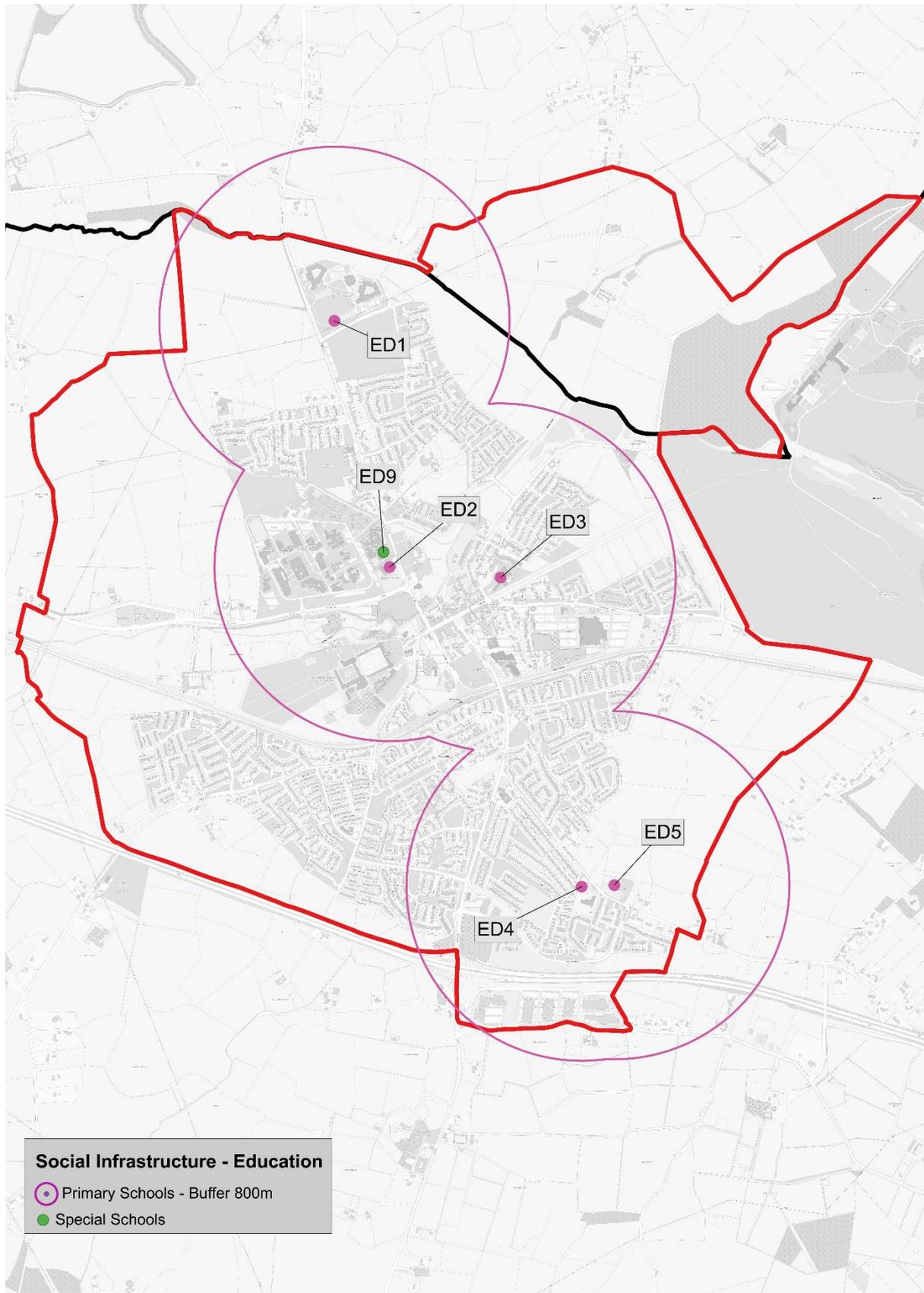
Figure 2: St Mary’s Boys’ National School



¹¹ Waterman Moylan Engineering Consultants. School Travel Plan: Proposed Primary School Development at Moyglare Road, Section 2.2, Table 1: Schedule of Accommodation. Dated: October 2020

¹² Houses of the Oireachtas, School Building Projects Dáil Éireann Debate, Thursday - 29 June 2023. <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2023-06-29/275/#pq-answers-275>. Date of Access: 06/11/2023

Map 2: Locations of Primary Schools



Demand Analysis

There is no guiding population benchmark for the provision of primary school facilities in Ireland. The Department of Education’s Circular 0006/2023 ‘*Staffing arrangements in Primary Schools for the 2023/24 school year*’, outlines a primary staffing approach, indicating a general average of 1 classroom teacher for every 23 pupils for the 2023/24 school year.

Census 2022 records that 10.6% (1,836 persons) of the population living within the Built-Up Area (BUA) of Maynooth (as defined by the Central Statistics Office) is of primary school age (5 to 12 years inclusive). However, the total number of primary school students enrolled in the five Maynooth schools for the 2023/2024 academic year amounts to 2,196 pupils, which equates to 12.6% of the estimated 2023 population figure. This figure indicates that primary schools in Maynooth are catering for populations beyond the settlement boundary of the town into the significant rural catchment area.

Applying the current figure of 12.6% (to take account of the wider catchment) to the projected population growth during the lifetime of the Plan to 2031 (9,906 persons) indicates that an additional 1,248 pupil places would be required. The requirement of pupil places can be reduced to 1,102 pupil places when considering the available capacity in the existing primary schools (69 pupils) and the extant planning permission for a new school building for Gaelscoil Ruairí which will increase the capacity of the school by 77 pupil places¹³. Additionally, if planning permission is granted for the extension of the Presentation Girls School an additional 92 pupil places¹⁴ will be made available.

Regarding the locations of the primary schools, there is a significant area towards the southwest of Maynooth that is not serviced with a primary school within a notional 10-minute (800 metre) walk (see Map 2).

The Department of Education in their submission on the Issues Paper of the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan noted that the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031 (RSES) provides an additional population allocation for Maynooth and that if this projected population increase materialises, a requirement for additional education provision at primary level may emerge over the lifetime of the plan.

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan:

- 1,102 additional primary school pupil places, or 48 additional classrooms comprising 23 pupils each. This could be delivered in one school or two smaller schools. In terms of the 10-minute settlement concept, the south-west of Maynooth (Newtown) is lacking in this regard.

¹³ Additional school places: 232 pupils (Number of pupils that can be accommodated in the proposed new school building) – 155 pupils (Existing number of pupils accommodated in the temporary school building).

¹⁴ 92 pupil places = (4 mainstream classes x 23 pupils)

3.1.2 Post-Primary Schools

The Maynooth Post-Primary Schools, the number of students enrolled for the 2023/24 academic year and the capacities of these schools are provided in Table 7 below.

Table 7: Maynooth Post-Primary Schools

Map Ref.	School Name	Enrolled 2023/24	Capacity	Operating Level	Availability	Admission refused
ED6	Maynooth Post Primary School	1,200	1,200	100%	None	Yes
ED7	Maynooth Community College	878	1,000	88%	122	Yes
ED8	Gaelcholáiste Mhaigh Nuad ¹⁵	123	48 per year group	Expansion of newly established school		No
TOTAL:		2,201				

Gaelcholáiste Mhaigh Nuad is currently located in Manor Mills Shopping Centre in Maynooth and the Department of Education is in the process of delivering a new 350 pupil school building for Gaelcholáiste Mhaigh Nuad which is currently at Project Brief stage¹⁶.

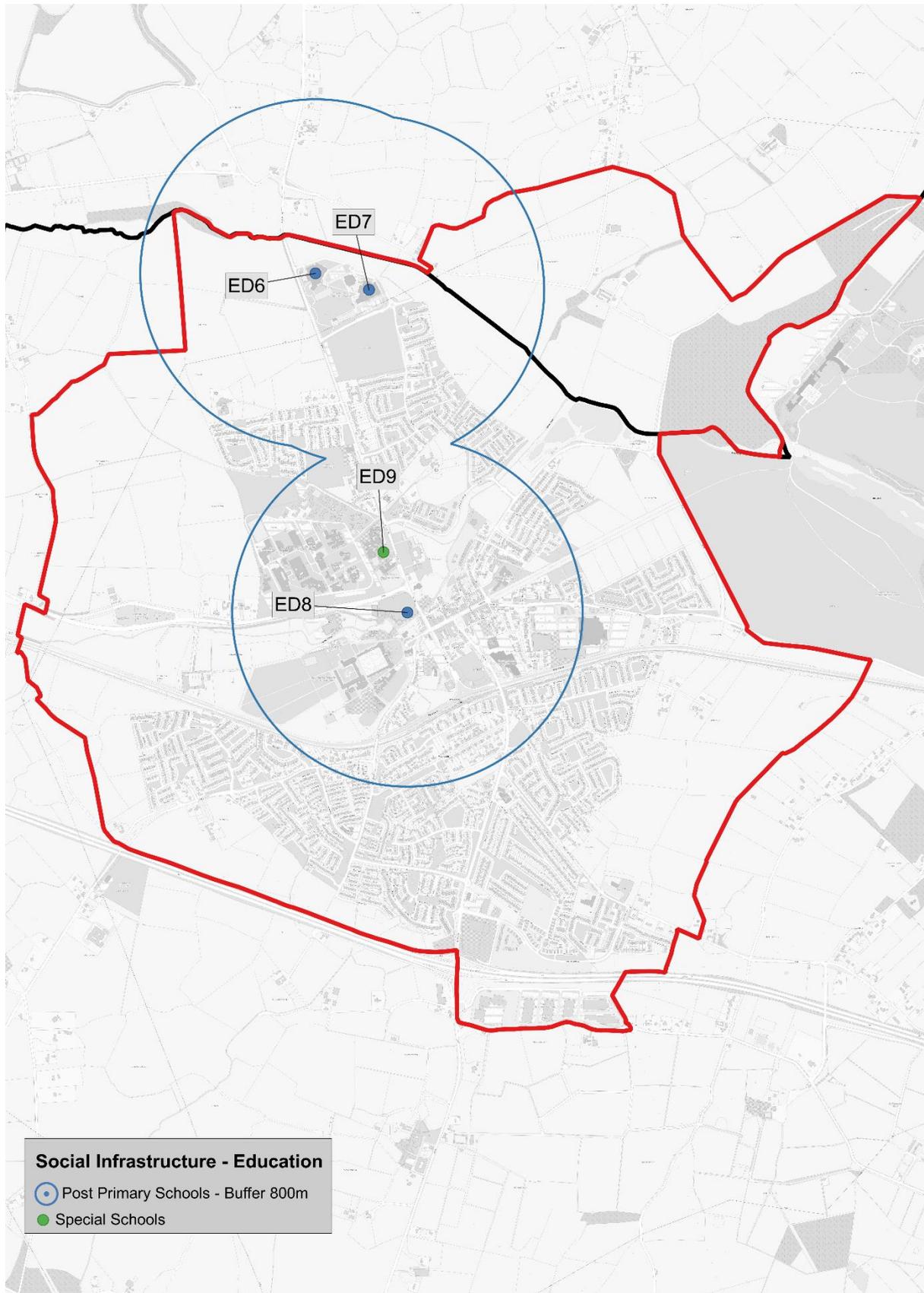
Figure 3: Maynooth Education Campus



¹⁵ Gaelcholáiste Mhaigh Nuad is in its fourth year after it was established in 2020. The school is currently located in Manor Mills Shopping Centre and at present does not offer 4th or 6th year classes. The school Principal indicated that when a permanent school building is available the school hopes to grow to 48 students in every year group, if not more.

¹⁶ House of the Oireachtas. School Building Projects Dáil Éireann Debate, Thursday - 29 June 2023. <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2023-06-29/275/#pq-answers-275>. **Date of Access:** 06/11/2023

Map 3: Locations of Post-Primary Schools



Demand Analysis

There is no guiding population benchmark for the provision of post-primary school facilities in Ireland.

According to Census 2022 figures, 6.9% (1,199 pupils) of the population within the Built-Up Area (BUA) boundary of Maynooth is of post-primary school age (13 to 18 years inclusive). The total number of pupils enrolled in the three post-primary schools registered in Maynooth is 2,201, which is 12.6% of the estimated 2023 population figure. Once again, this would imply that Maynooth’s post-primary schools cater for children from beyond the town, in the surrounding rural hinterland, and further afield.

Applying the current figure of 12.6% to take account of the wider catchment and the projected population growth during the lifetime of the Plan to 2031 (9,906 persons) indicates a requirement of an additional 1,248 pupil places to be made available. If delivered, a new school building for Gaelcholáiste Mhaigh Nuad would increase the capacity of the school by 227 pupil places, which will bring down the requirement for pupil places to 1,021 places. A portion of this requirement for additional school places up to the end of the Plan period could be accommodated by extending the existing post-primary schools of Maynooth.¹⁷

The Department of Education in their submission on the Issues Paper of the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan noted that the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031 (RSES) provides an additional population allocation for Maynooth up to 10,000 persons over the period to 2031. It stated that if this projected population increase materialises, a requirement for additional education provision at post-primary level may emerge over the lifetime of the plan.

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan:

- 1,248 additional post-primary pupil places.
- To facilitate the delivery of a new school building for Gaelcholáiste Mhaigh Nuad on the site along Moyglare Road previously occupied by Maynooth Post Primary School.
- Extension of the existing post-primary schools in Maynooth.
- Reserve a site for a new post-primary school. In terms of the 10-minute settlement concept, the south-west of Maynooth (Newtown) is lacking in this regard.

3.1.3 Special Schools

The Maynooth Special School is located on Moyglare Road and caters for pupils aged 4 to 18 years of age. The number of pupils enrolled for the 2023/24 academic year and the capacity of the school is provided in Table 8 overleaf.

¹⁷ Confirmed by the Department of Education.

Table 8: Maynooth Special Schools

Map Ref.	School Name	Enrolled 2023/24	Capacity	Operating Level	Availability
ED9	Stepping Stones Special School	30	30	100%	None

The Stepping Stones School indicated that a new classroom is due to open this year which will accommodate an additional 6 students¹⁸.

Demand Analysis

This SIA focuses on demographic requirements. Hence, it did not identify any specific requirements for a special school(s) in the study area. The Department of Education stated in their submission to the Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (dated 24 May 2022) that the department will liaise with Kildare County Council should a specific need arise for more special schools in the County.

3.1.4 Further Education and Training Facilities

Maynooth is one of Ireland’s longest established ‘university towns’ and includes four further education and training facilities as outlined in Table 9 below.

Table 9: Further Education and Training Facilities

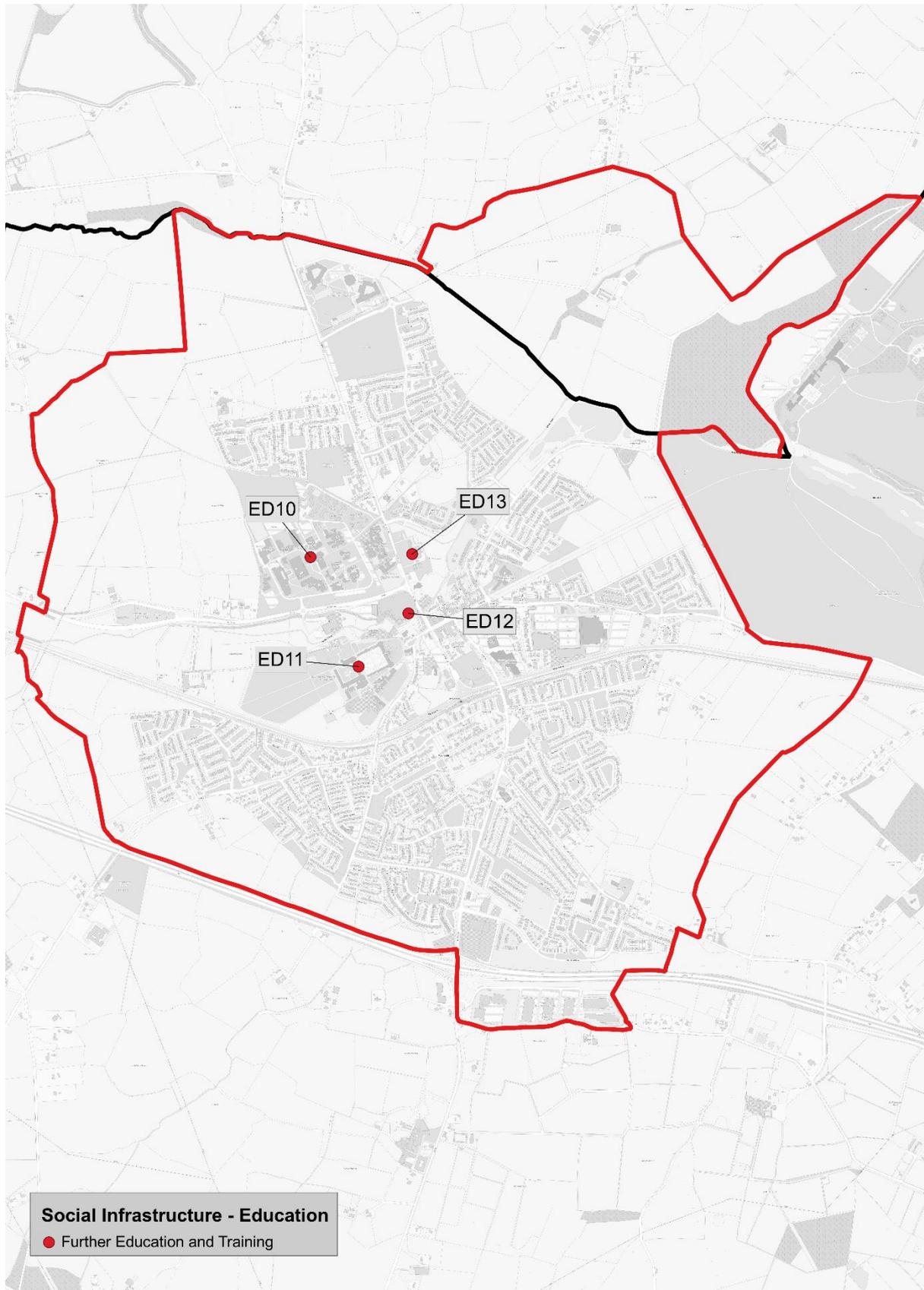
Map Ref.	Name	Description	Awards
ED10	Maynooth University (National University of Ireland)	MU offers a range of programmes in the humanities, science and engineering, and social sciences, including business, law, and education	Diplomas, Undergraduate Degrees, and Postgraduate Degrees
ED11	St Patrick's College, Maynooth	The College specialises in the study of theology and philosophy and related areas	Diplomas, Undergraduate Degrees and Postgraduate Degrees
ED12	Maynooth Further Education and Training Centre	Offer a range of part-time adult education courses	Ranges from basic reading and writing skills up to Level 5 QQI Certificate courses
ED13	Divine Word School of English	The Divine Word School of English is an English Language School	Offers full and part-time courses

Figure 4: St Patrick's College, Maynooth



¹⁸ Correspondence with Stepping Stones School dated 08/11/2023.

Map 4: Locations of Further Education and Training Facilities



Demand Analysis

The Maynooth University plans to grow its student population by an additional 4,000 students per decade from its current enrolment of approximately 16,000, which will bring the total number of students up to $\pm 20,000$ by 2030.¹⁹ This is in accordance with the National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030 (Hunt Report, 2011).

St Patrick's College, Maynooth is focused on maintaining their current on-campus student enrolment numbers of approximately 600 students. Over the short to medium term, the College aims to channel its growth efforts into hybrid courses.

Figure 5: Technology, Society and Innovation (TSI) Building, Maynooth University



3.2 Childcare

Childcare infrastructure is spatially well distributed in Maynooth, with nine facilities spread throughout the area, predominantly located close to or within existing residential developments. Map 5 illustrates the location of each existing childcare facility and the locations of those that currently have planning permission. The existing childcare facilities are evenly distributed across the town which provides all residential areas access to childcare facilities within a notional 10-minute walk (800 metres) of their homes.

The capacity audit of each childcare provider is set out in Table 10 (overleaf) and the details of extant permissions for childcare facilities are provided in Table 11.

¹⁹ Communication with the Interim Director of Estates and Capital Development. 24 February 2022

Table 10: Registered Childcare Facilities and Total Number Enrolled

Map Ref.	Name	Enrolled 2023/24	Capacity	Places Available	Notes:
C1	Maynooth University Crèche	23	69 children at any one time	2 places available in the playroom (2-3.5 years)	<p>Full Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 to 6 years of age <p>Waiting List Unknown</p> <p>Other notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service only available to fulltime students and staff of Maynooth University Facility unable to operate at capacity due to a shortage of staff
C2	Tiddlywinks and Scallywags	76 children enrolled ²⁰	67 children at any one time	30 places left in the ECCE afternoon sessions	<p>Sessional and Part Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A mix of ECCE (Early Childhood Care and Education Programme) and early intervention Physical Therapy From 2 years 6 months to 6 years of age <p>Waiting List</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waiting list of 2 years for all ECCE morning classes <p>Other notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tiddlywinks and Scallywags have reported a significant decrease in the enrolment of children for the afternoon ECCE classes in recent times
C3	Little Harvard Childcare	150	124 children at any one time	Operating at 95% capacity. Still some ECCE places available	<p>Full Day and Sessional Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 to 5 years of age <p>Waiting List</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 100 children on the waiting list

²⁰ Divided over 6 ECCE morning and afternoon classrooms.

Map Ref.	Name	Enrolled 2023/24	Capacity	Places Available	Notes:
C4	The Montessori Children's Academy (Maynooth) ²¹	Unknown	22 sessional and 16 part time	Unknown	<p>Sessional and Part Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 years 8 months to 6 years of age <p>Waiting List</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unknown
C5	Kidz@Play Playschool and Afterschool	69	56 children at any one time	9 ECCE places and 0 full day places	<p>Full Day and Sessional Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 years 6 months to 6 years of age <p>Waiting List</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full day services waiting list of 10 children ECCE waiting list for 2024 of 212 children <p>Other notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five children currently supported through the AIM (Access Inclusion Model) Level 7. Each year Kidz@Play ensures that they hold a space in each class of the ECCE programme for children requiring AIM level 7 support Kidz@Play are noticing a greater demand for full day care services since the increase of the National Childcare Scheme subsidy
C6	Kinder Crescent	94	94 children	0	<p>Full Day and Sessional Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 to 6 years of age <p>Waiting List</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waiting list of 20 children
C7	Minnows Childcare	61	44 children at any one time	0	<p>Full day Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 to 6 years of age <p>Waiting List</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waiting lists for all rooms Future plans to open another full day room

²¹ The Montessori Children's Academy not forthcoming with information. The information provided for this facility in the table above are obtained from the Child and Family Agency (Tusla) website: <https://www.tusla.ie/>

Map Ref.	Name	Enrolled 2023/24	Capacity	Places Available	Notes:
C8	Naíonra Ghearoidin ²²	30	33 children	3 places left in the ECCE afternoon session	<p>Sessional Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 years 8 months to 5 years 6 months • 22 children in the morning and 11 children in the afternoon <p>Waiting List</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waiting list up to and including September 2027 <p>Other notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normally oversubscribed, currently places available for the first time in 20 years
C9	Moyglare Hall Montessori	33	44 children	11 places left in the ECCE afternoon session	<p>Sessional Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 years 8 months to 5 years 4 months • 22 children at any one time

Table 11: Extant Permission for Childcare Facilities

Map Ref.	Location	Planning Ref. No.	Note	Capacity
pC1	Moyglare Hall, Mariavilla, Maynooth	1473		Caters for between 118 and 130 childcare spaces
pC2	Mariavilla, Moyglare Road & Dunboyne Road, Maynooth	ABP-301230-18		The proposed development includes a crèche of c. 601 sqm which could cater for c. 100 children

²² There is uncertainty regarding whether Naíonra Ghearoid will remain open for children to complete their second ECCE year commencing September 2024, as Maynooth Educate Together requires the room currently used by the facility back by the end of June 2024.

Map Ref.	Location	Planning Ref. No.	Note	Capacity
pC3	Greenfield, Maynooth	18761		Caters for a minimum of 47 childcare spaces
pC4	Dunboyne Road, Maynooth	21310865		Caters for between 60 and 75 childcare spaces
pC5	Parson Street, Maynooth	21370		The proposed crèche has been sized to accommodate 40 no. childcare spaces ²³
pC6	Railpark, Celbridge Road, Maynooth	21156		The proposed childcare facility could accommodate 30 children ²⁴
pC7	Lands adjoining and to the rear of St Mary's Church, Mill Street, Maynooth, Co Kildare	23494		Proposed childcare facility with a capacity to accommodate up to 25 children ²⁵

Table 12: Live Planning Applications for Childcare Facilities

Map Ref.	Location	Planning Ref. No.	Note	Capacity
Not Mapped	Moygaddy, Maynooth Environs, Co. Meath	ABP-312213-21	Case to be decided by An Bord Pleanála.	The proposed childcare facility will accommodate 96 children ²⁶

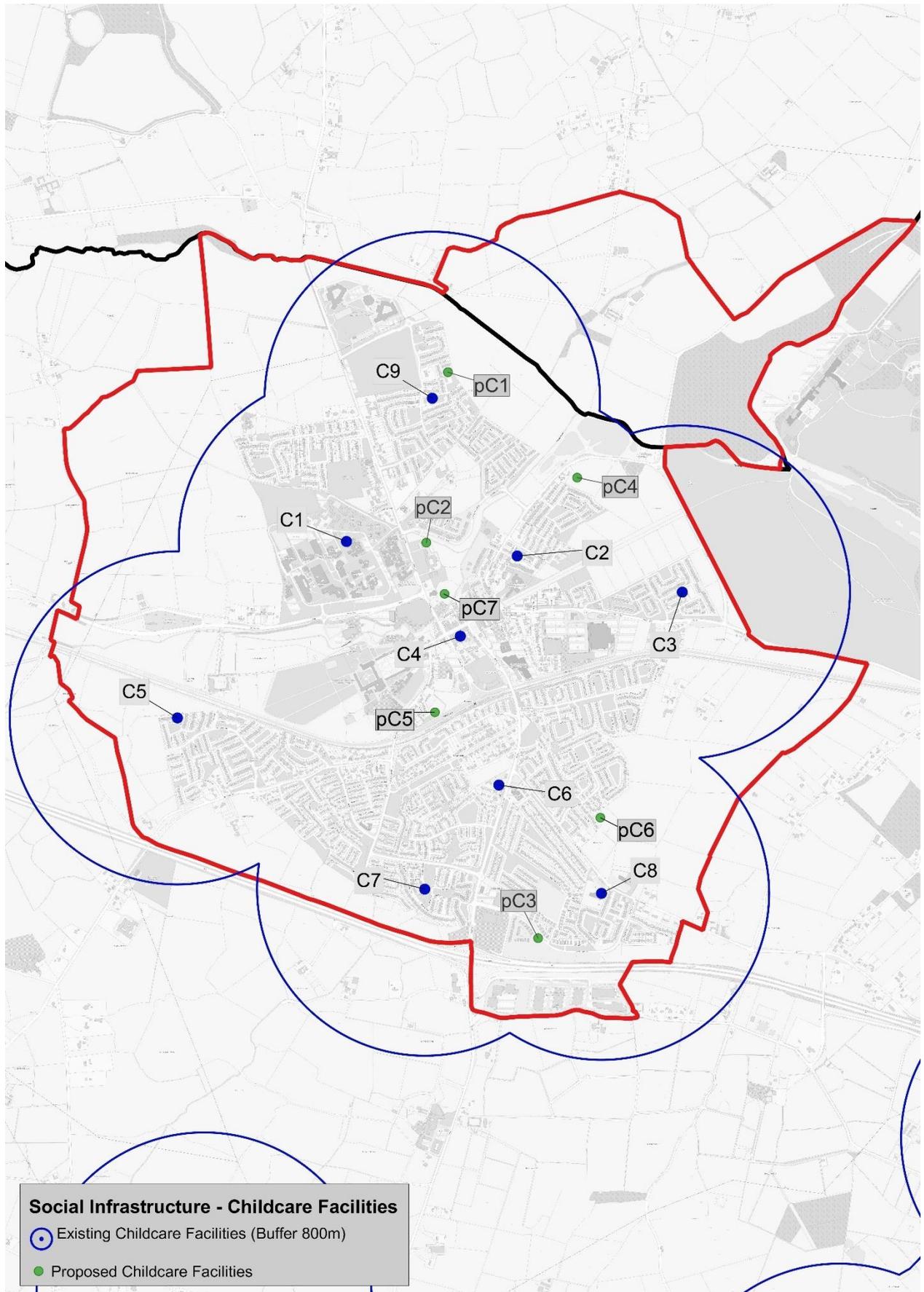
²³ Childcare Facility Assessment (MKO Planning and Environmental Consultants, 03/2021)

²⁴ Planning Application File Ref. No.:21156 (Tom Phillips Associates, 02/2021)

²⁵ Schools, Childcare & Social Infrastructure Assessment (Genesis Planning Consultants, 05/2023)

²⁶ An Bord Pleanála Inspector's Report on Recommended Opinion ABP-312213-21

Map 5: Locations of Childcare Facilities within the Study Area



Demand Analysis

Contact was made with each childcare facility in Maynooth to gather information about enrolment, capacity and availability for the 2023/2024 year. Among the childcare facilities that were forthcoming with information, a total of 536²⁷ children are enrolled for childcare in Maynooth. There are approximately 61 ECCE (Early Childhood Care and Education Programme) slots available, primarily for afternoon sessions, and only 2 full day care places, exclusively for the children of fulltime students and staff of Maynooth University. The majority of the children on waiting lists are for full time childcare and morning session ECCE slots. Notably, none of the nine childcare facilities in Maynooth provides childcare for babies aged between 0 and 1 year old.

One of the nine facilities may face closure by the end of June 2024 if they cannot secure a new location due to the school reclaiming their current premises to accommodate more children. The potential closure could result in a reduction of the total number of facilities to eight in total, including a decrease of 33 ECCE places.

According to Census 2022, 1,184 children in Maynooth are under the school going age (0-4 years inclusive) and may require childcare. Based on the number of children enrolled this suggests that approximately 45.3% of eligible children in Maynooth avail of such services. It's also important to note that some children aged five years may also require preschool care.

Appendix 2 of the *Childcare Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2001)* establishes an indicative standard of one childcare facility per 75 dwellings in new housing areas. One facility providing a minimum of 20 childcare places is therefore considered to represent a reasonable target. The guidance acknowledges that other case specific assumptions may lead to an increase or decrease in this requirement.

Whilst the provision of childcare facilities must be spatially considered in the context of existing levels of service, **an additional 979 childcare places²⁸ are anticipated to be required in Maynooth** over the plan period, having regard to the 3,670 additional residential units projected to be developed in the town by 2031. This would comply with the quantitative standard contained within the Childcare Guidelines for Planning Authorities.

Objective SC O79 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 requires childcare provision is delivered in new communities prior to or in tandem with Phase 1 of any residential (or commercial) development and is fully operational prior to the occupation of any residential units within the subject site.

²⁷ Excluding the children enrolled in the Montessori Children's Academy childcare facility.

²⁸ Appendix 2 of the *Childcare Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2001)* establishes an indicative standard of one childcare facility per 75 dwellings in new housing areas. The additional unit growth envisaged over the lifetime of the LAP is 3,670 units. Therefore, 979 [(3,670/75) x20] new childcare places is required.

It is noted that there are seven extant permissions (Map 5 and Table 11 refers) for new childcare facilities in residential areas, which could accommodate circa 447 childcare places if implemented.

Additionally, there is one live planning application (Table 12 refers) which includes a childcare facility. If An Bord Pleanála grants planning permissions this additional childcare facility could accommodate circa 96 additional childcare places.

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan:

- The development of 3,670 additional residential units in Maynooth by 2031 will require an additional 979 childcare places at least. Childcare in County Kildare is to be delivered in tandem with new housing in accordance with Section 28 Guidelines and Objective SC O79 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029.
- Where childcare facilities have not been built as part of a permitted residential scheme (see Table 11) that these lands be zoned specifically for childcare.

3.3 Health

This section focuses on existing health facilities including general practitioners (GPs), health centres, dentists and other related facilities, as illustrated in Tables 13 to 16 and Map 6 and 7 below.

Table 13: General Practitioners in Maynooth

Map Ref.	Name	Medical Services	No. Practitioners	Availability
GP1	Maynooth GP Clinic	Medical card and private patients	1 General Practitioner (GP) and 1 nurse • GP works full-time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not currently accepting new patients • Operate a waiting list
GP2	Park Lodge Medical Centre	Medical card and private patients	2 General Practitioners and 1 nurse • One GP works full-time, and one works part-time, three days per week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not currently accepting new patients • Do not operate a waiting list
GP3	Glenroyal Medical Centre	Private patients only	1 General Practitioner • GP works full-time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepting new patients • Private patients only
GP4	Manor Mills Medical	Medical card and private patients	4 General Practitioners and 2 nurses • One GP works full-time, and three GPs works part-time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not currently accepting new patients • Current waiting list of 101 patients
GP5	Maynooth Medical Centre	Medical card and private patients	2 General Practitioners and 1 nurse • Both GPs works part-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not currently accepting new patients

Map Ref.	Name	Medical Services	No. Practitioners	Availability
			time, one 2 days per week and one 3 days per week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not operate a waiting list
GP6	Maynooth University Student Health Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exclusively for the use of students Private patients only 		

Table 14: Health Centres in Maynooth

Map Ref.	Name	Services
HC1	Maynooth Health Centre	Public Health Nurse, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy

Table 15: Older Persons Care in Maynooth

Map Ref.	Name	Bed Spaces (Capacity)	Number of Residents
NH1	Moyglare Nursing Home	53 bed spaces	43 residents
NH2	Maynooth Lodge Nursing Home (Orpea Residences Ireland)	85 bed spaces	75 residents
NH3	TLC Centre (Orpea Residences Ireland) - Residential Nursing Care	125 bed spaces	117 residents
CC1	Maynooth Community Care Unit ²⁹	40 bed spaces	30 residents
TOTAL:		303 bed spaces	265 residents

²⁹ The centre provides continuing long-term care and a respite service for residents over 18 years of age with high dependency needs. The centre has a regular turnover of two respite persons. **Source:** Health Information and Quality Authority. Report of an inspection of a designated centre for older people. Date of inspection: 10 May 2023

Map 6: Locations of Health Facilities Within the Study Area

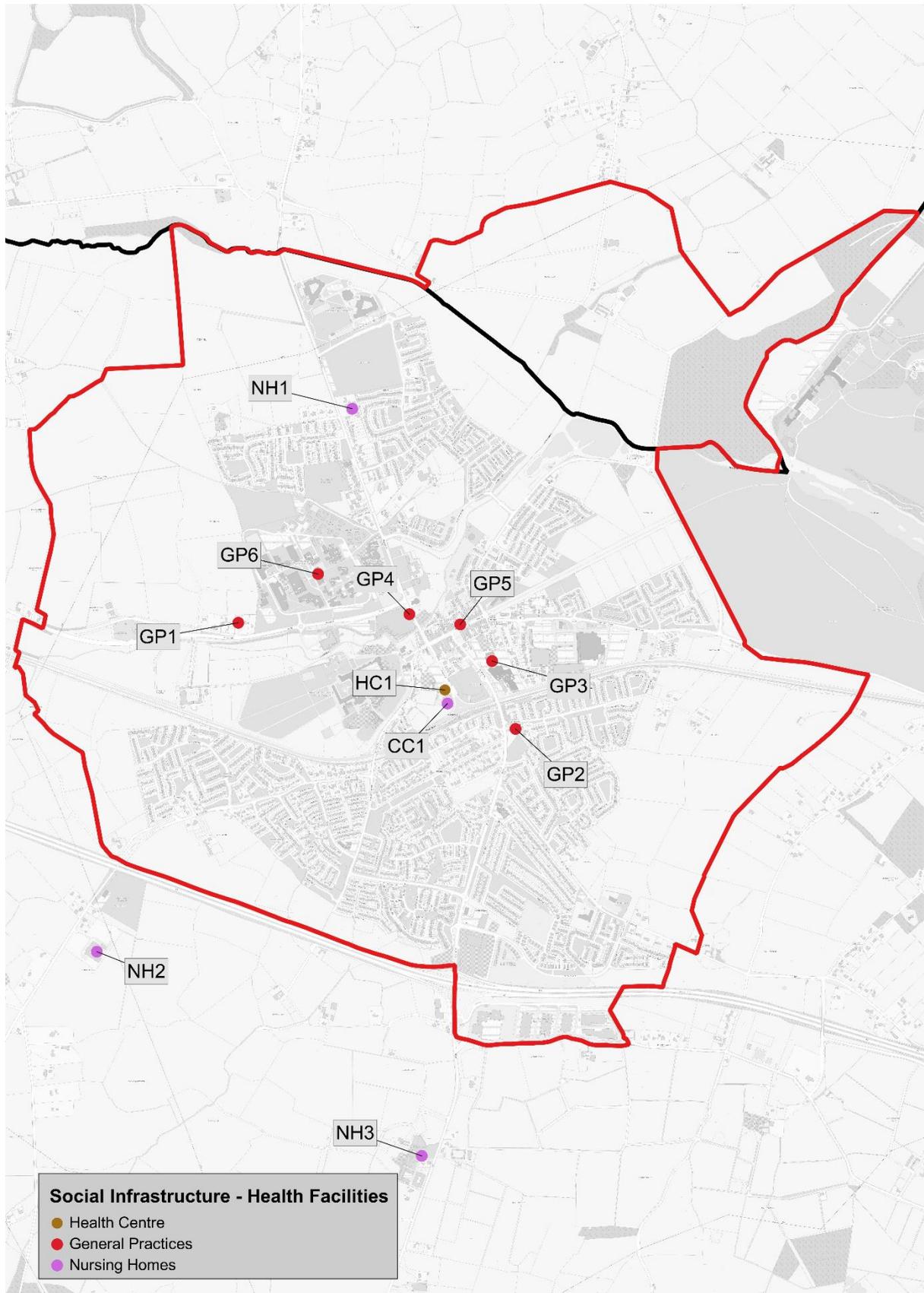
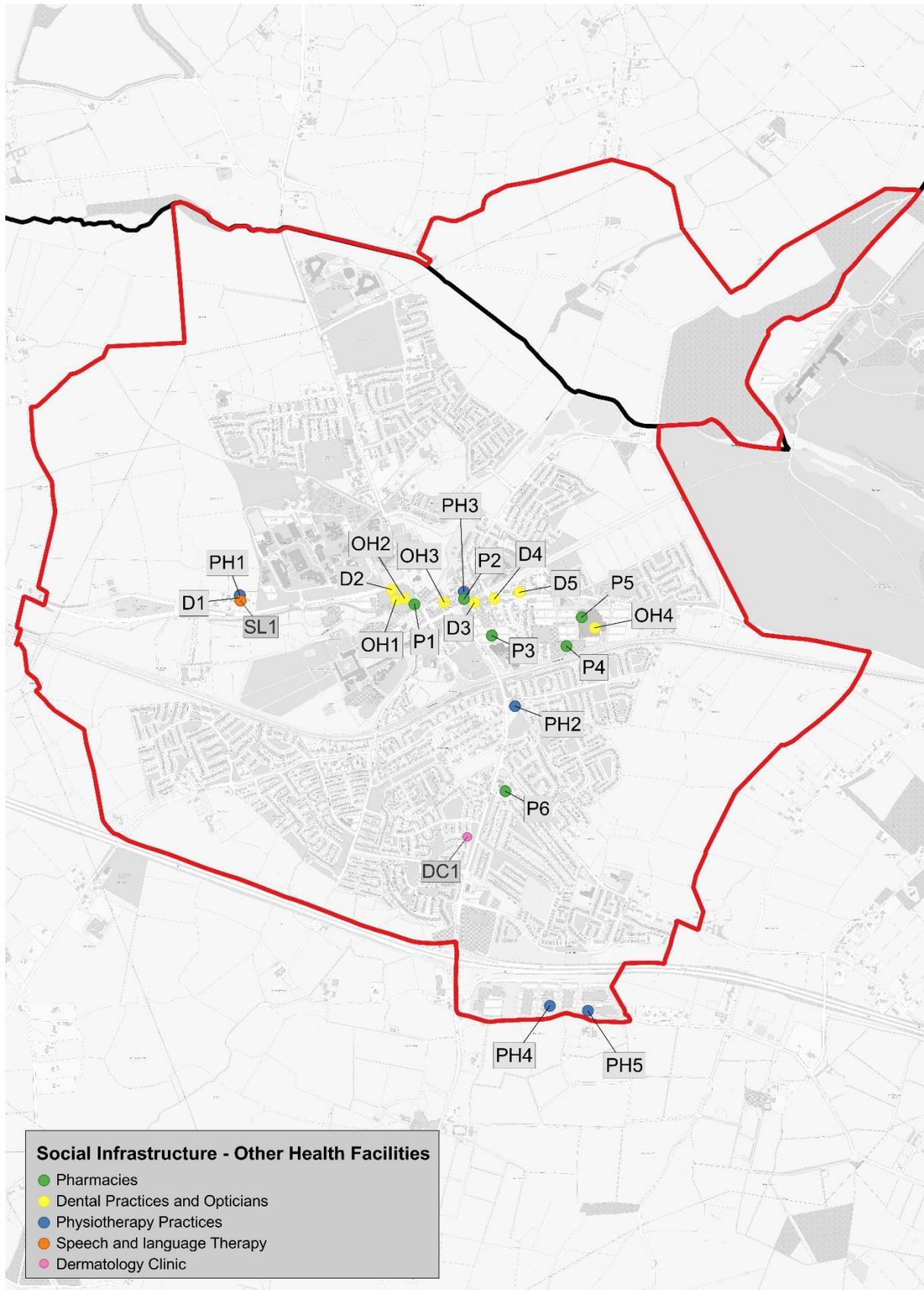


Table 16: Other Healthcare Services in Maynooth

Map Ref.	Name
Dermatology Clinic	
DC1	Kingsbry Medical Centre
Pharmacies	
P1	Hickey's Pharmacy
P2	McCormack's Pharmacy
P3	CarePlus Pharmacy
P4	Boots
P5	McCartan's Pharmacy
P6	St Patrick's Pharmacy
Dental Practice	
D1	The Leinster Clinic
D2	Pearls Dental House
D3	John Merrick Dental
D4	Boyne Dental
D5	Carton Dental
Opticians and Audiologists	
OH1	Specsavers
OH2	Mullins & Henry
OH3	Gildea's Opticians
OH4	Vision Express
Speech and Language Therapy	
SL1	The Leinster Clinic
Physiotherapist	
PH1	The Leinster Clinic
PH2	Therapy Xperts
PH3	PhysioFit Kildare
PH4	The Grove Physio Clinic
PH5	LWF Physiotherapy

Map 7: Locations of other Health Facilities Within the Study Area



Demand Analysis

Primary Care Centres

The Health Service Executive (HSE) states that a typical primary care centre can serve a population of between 10,000-20,000 people, subject to appropriate resourcing. It is therefore considered that Maynooth is currently well served in that regard with the Maynooth Health Centre.

General Practitioners (GP)

The Irish College of General Practitioners (ICGP) and Irish Medical Organisation (IMO) recommend a minimum of 12 GPs per 10,000 population to ensure a safe and effective healthcare service. The current doctor-to-population ratio in Maynooth is 4³⁰ per 10,000 population, comprising of four full-time GPs and six part-time GPs practicing from five different surgeries³¹ which is below the ICGP and IMO recommended ratio and the current average national ratio of Ireland which is seven GPs per 10,000 population³². However, should the population grow by the anticipated 9,906 persons by the end of the Plan period to 2031, the ratio of existing doctors per population will fall to 2.6³³ per 10,000 population which is far below the recommended ratio. This is assuming no increase or decrease in doctor numbers takes place during that period.

Out of the six GP practices, only one is currently accepting new patients (restricted to private patients), and one practice has a waiting list of 101 patients. It is also evident that the healthcare facilities in Maynooth serve a substantial rural hinterland beyond the scope of this study which puts additional pressure on the existing GP services.

To aim to achieve the recommended doctor-to-patient ratio, while considering the anticipated population growth to 2031, an additional 26 GPs will be needed in Maynooth by the end of the Plan period.

Residential Care Settings for Older People

7.8% (1,349 persons) of the population living within the Central Statistics Office 2022 Built-Up Area (BUA) boundary of Maynooth is aged 65 and older. The total number of older persons residing in the Maynooth care facilities outlined in Table 15 is 265 persons (or 19.6% of the population aged 65+ years in 2022). These facilities on average are at 84.5% capacity, with a total of 38³⁴ available bed spaces between the four care facilities.

³⁰ (7 GPs / 17,426 population) * 10,000 = 4 GPs per 10,000 population

³¹ There are 4 full-time GP's and 6 part-time GP's practicing in Maynooth. For accuracy purposes all calculations are based on 7 GPs in Maynooth. Excluding the GPs of NUIM Medical Centre which exclusively serve full-time students.

³² <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/debate/dail/2024-02-21/8/>

³³ (7 GPs / 27,332 population) * 10,000 = 2.56 GPs per 10,000 population

³⁴ Health Information and Quality Authority Reports of inspections of these designated centres for older people dated between the 2nd of February 2023 and the 16th of August 2023.

The population of Maynooth aged 65 and older comprised 7.8% of the population in 2022 up from 6% in 2016. Projecting this level of increase forward and applying it to the 2031 target population would indicate the potential demand for an additional 243 bed spaces³⁵ by the end of the Plan period.

It is noted that the HSE is monitoring the demand for and provision of health services in Maynooth and Environs on an ongoing basis and Kildare County Council will continue to consult and liaise with the HSE in this regard.

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan:

- Considering the anticipated population growth of Maynooth over the Plan period, the population of Maynooth will exceed the number of people that a typical primary care centre can serve by 7,332 people. Therefore, there may be a requirement for an additional primary care centre within Maynooth over the Plan period.
- Up to 26 additional GPs may be required to meet the recommended doctor to patient ratio of the ICGP and IMO.
- To include an objective in the Joint Plan requiring a feasibility study for a GP practice to be submitted with all new neighbourhood centre developments.
- An additional 243 bed spaces may be required in residential care facilities for older persons over the lifetime of the Plan to 2031.

Figure 6: Maynooth Health Centre



³⁵ The projected population of people aged 65+ years in 2031 is 2,788 (or 10.2% of a total projected population of 27,332). Applying the 2022 figure which indicated that equivalent of 19.6% of this age cohort resided in nursing homes would give a figure of 546 nursing home bed spaces. Factoring in the existing 303 bed spaces provided in residential care settings would show a need for an additional 243 spaces (i.e., 546 total bed spaces required – 303 existing bed spaces = 243 new bed spaces required by 2031).

3.4 Sports, Recreation and Open Space

The open space in Maynooth includes public parks, playground, amenity green space and outdoor sports areas.

3.4.1 Open Space

An open space audit was carried out, having regard to the overall public open space minimum standards contained in Section 15.6 of the Kildare County Development Plan and the Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy (Appendix 3 of the Kildare CDP), as outlined in Table 17 below.

Table 17: Public Open Space Standards

Public Open Space Minimum Standards	
Overall Standard	
2.5 Ha per 1,000 population to comprise of formal and informal public open space areas as follows:	
Formal	Informal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Open Space (outdoor sports, pitches, courts) • Neighbourhood/local park • Play areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks and Gardens • Amenity Green Space • Natural and Semi-natural

The public parks and gardens of Maynooth are presented in Table 18 to 22 below having regard to the hierarchy set out in the Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy (Appendix 3 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029). The spatial location and distribution of these public parks and all other open spaces in Maynooth are illustrated on Map 8 below.

Figure 7: Moyglare Green, Mariavilla



Table 18: Urban Neighbourhood Parks in Maynooth

Urban Neighbourhood Parks				
Definition ³⁶	Map Ref.	Name	Description	Size
Large Parks range in size between 16 and 50 hectares and are located within settlements for local use to contain facilities for active recreation and a wide variety of facilities and uses, to be accessible by pedestrians and cyclists and provides linkages between settlements; biodiversity areas can also be retained, enhanced, and accommodated.	Not mapped	St Patrick's College	St Patrick's College, Maynooth is noted as a future proposed urban neighbourhood park in the Open Space & Outdoor Recreation Strategy (Appendix 3 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029) Ownership: St Patrick's College, Maynooth	Unknown
	Not mapped	Carton Demesne	A small portion of Carton Demesne lies within the study area, specifically in the Maynooth Environs (Moygaddy, County Meath). Although Carton Demesne largely aligns with the criteria of an Urban Neighbourhood Park, it cannot be classified as such since it is privately owned. However, it is worth noting that this national attraction offers active recreational amenities and is utilized by the residents of Maynooth. Ownership: Private Ownership	Carton Demesne spans ± 446 ha, with only ± 45 ha situated within the study area.

³⁶ Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy (Appendix 3 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029)

Table 19: Local Parks in Maynooth

Local Park				
Definition ³⁷	Map Ref.	Name	Description	Size
Local Parks range in size between 2 and 16 hectares and are located within settlements for local use for passive recreation, playing fields, organised sports, biodiversity, play facilities.	P1	Carton Avenue	Carton Avenue is a tree lined avenue connecting Carton House to Maynooth Town. The Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy (Appendix 3 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 – 2039) identifies Carton Avenue as a local park in Maynooth and includes the following action for the park: <i>‘To prepare a detailed design and conservation plan for Carton Avenue, Maynooth having regard to the significant natural, cultural and built heritage of the area.’</i> Carton Avenue is managed by Kildare County Council.	± 10.3 ha

Table 20: Local Linear Parks in Maynooth

Local Linear Park				
Definition ³⁸	Map Ref.	Name	Description	Size
Linear parks follow a defined corridor such as the riparian corridor of a river, canal and/or disused rail line.	P2	Royal Canal Greenway	The Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy (Appendix 3 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029) notes Greenways as an example of Local Linear Parks. A 4 km portion of the Royal Canal Greenway is located within the study area.	± 8.2 ha (portion of the Royal Canal Greenway)

³⁷ Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy (Appendix 3 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029)

³⁸ Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy (Appendix 3 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029)

Table 21: Small Parks in Maynooth

Small Park				
Definition ³⁹	Map Ref.	Name	Description	Size
Small parks range in size between 0.2 ha and 2 hectares and can accommodate play facilities, kick-about areas and passive recreation. Small parks should be generally within 400m walking and cycling distance of homes and centrally located within new developments.	P3	Harbour Field	<p>The Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy (Appendix 3 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 – 2039) identifies Harbour Field as a small park in Maynooth. Harbour Field Park currently includes a playground (0.12 ha), a kickaround area, a basketball court and an outdoor gym.</p> <p>In a recently approved Part 8 application for the redevelopment of Harbour Field Park, several new facilities are set to be introduced, including a state-of-the-art playground, a new path network through the park, a boardwalk adjacent to the Royal Canal, a skate park with an associated pump track, a new formal lawn area and an adult gym area.</p>	± 2.1 ha
	P4	Pound Park and Little Pound Park	Pound Park and Little Pound Park is a small park along the Lyreen River which includes a path network. This is managed by Kildare County Council.	± 1.5 ha
	P5	Linden Demesne	Linden Demesne Park which includes informal trails, nature play area, a pond, a quarry woodland garden and a footpath connecting the park to Carton Avenue.	± 1.1 ha

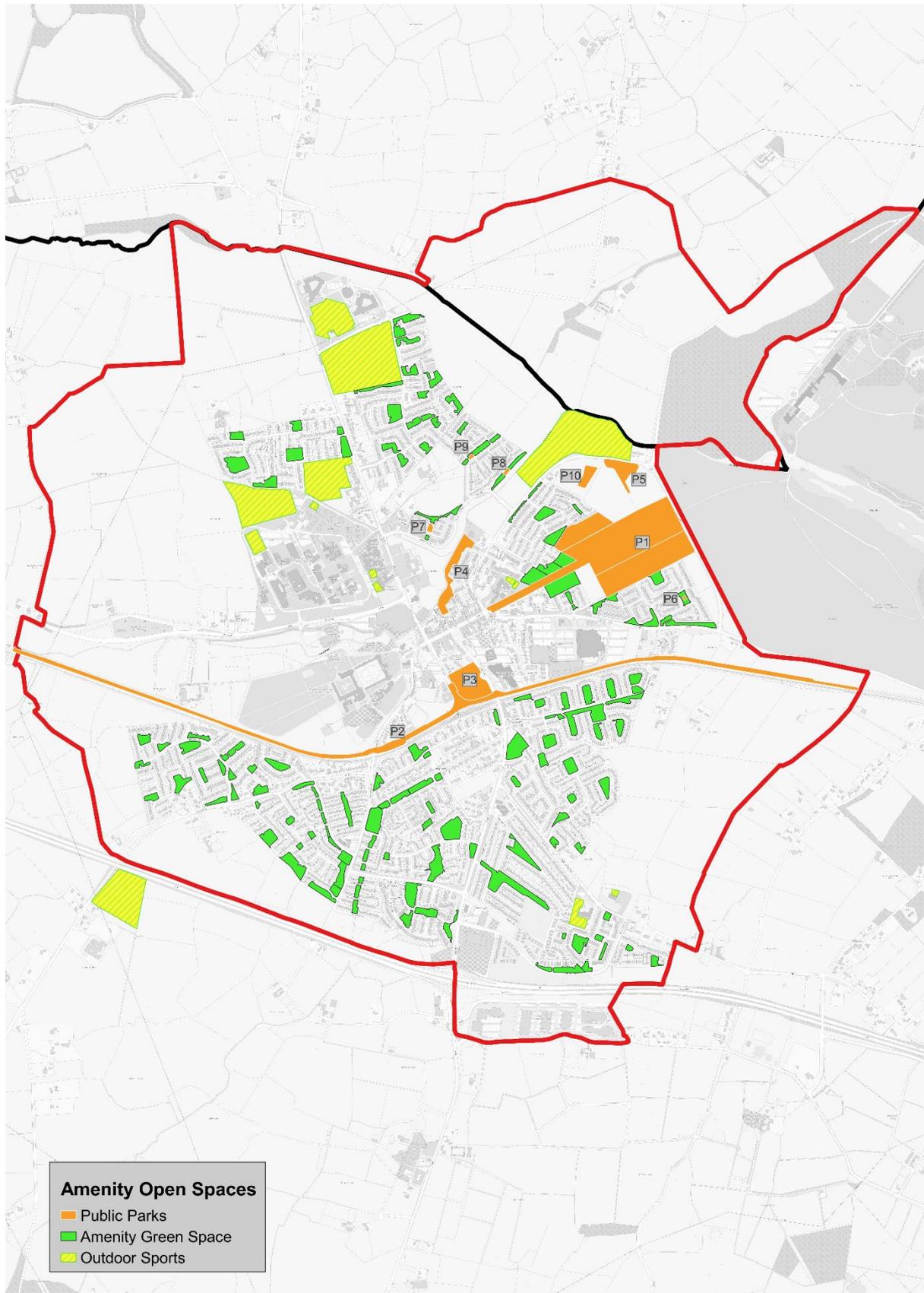
³⁹ Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy (Appendix 3 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029)

Table 22: Pocket Parks in Maynooth

Pocket Parks				
Definition⁴⁰	Map Ref.	Name	Description	Size
Pocket parks are less than 0.2 hectares in size and provide facilities for smaller children and have an important visual and social function. Pocket parks must not be to the side or back of houses and must be adequately overlooked. They should contain natural play elements. Each home should be within 500m walking distance (5-minute walk) to a pocket park and centrally located within all new developments.	P6	Carton Wood	Pocket park including facilities for smaller children.	± 0.03 ha
	P7	Mariavilla, Mariavilla Square	Pocket park including facilities for smaller children.	± 0.09 ha
	P8	Mariavilla, Moyglare Green	Pocket park including facilities for smaller children.	± 0.04 ha
	P9	Mariavilla, Lyreen Close	Pocket park including facilities for smaller children.	± 0.06 ha
	P10	Linden Demesne	Pocket park including facilities for smaller children.	± 0.5 ha

⁴⁰ Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy (Appendix 3 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029)

Map 8: Public Open Spaces of Maynooth



Demand Analysis

There is approximately 91.5 hectares of existing public open space within the study area as illustrated in Map 8 and Table 23, as follows:

- 32.7 ha (or 36%) is classified as amenity green space within residential estates,
- 28 ha (or 30.6%) is classified as outdoor sports areas, and
- 30.8 ha (or 33.7%) comprises public parks and gardens, of which 0.84 ha are playgrounds and 0.88 ha are outdoor sports areas within parks.

Table 23: Overall Audit of Open Space in Maynooth

Typology	Area in Hectares
Public Parks*	30.8
Amenity Green Space	32.7
Outdoor Sports	28.0
TOTAL:	91.5
* <i>Playgrounds (included in the area sizes of public parks.)</i>	<i>0.84</i>
* <i>Outdoor Sports Areas (included in the area sizes of public parks.)</i>	<i>0.88</i>

Public Open Space

Applying the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 open space standards (Table 17 refers) to the current 2023 population (17,426 persons) indicates that currently in Maynooth there is 5.3 hectares⁴¹ of open space per 1,000 residents, which exceeds the minimum standard set out in Table 17.

Over the Plan period this population is planned to rise to 27,332 persons to 2031. If no further open space were to be provided, there would still be 3.3 hectares⁴² of open space per 1,000 residents, which exceeds the minimum quantitative standard set out in Table 17.

However, there are qualitative issues regarding the current provision and accessibility of open space, as detailed in the Chief Executive's Report on Submissions Received to the Pre-Draft Consultation State for the Joint Plan. The consideration of public parks, playgrounds and outdoor sports areas are all considered in further detail below. In relation to amenity green space provided in new residential developments, it is considered pertinent to reiterate that the respective quantitative and qualitative requirements of the Kildare and Meath County Development Plans should be upheld, in addition to the requirements contained in the relevant Section 28 Guidelines.

⁴¹ (91.5 hectare / 17,426 population) * 1,000 = 5.3 ha per 1,000 population

⁴² (91.5 hectare / 27,332 population) * 1,000 = 3.3 ha per 1,000 population

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan:

- Provision of public open space within new residential developments to be in accordance with the requirements of:
 - Section 15.6.6 of the Kildare County Development Plan, where relevant
 - Section 11.5.11 of the Meath County Development Plan, where relevant, and
 - Section 4.10-4.13 of the Design Standards for New Apartments Guidelines where relevant.

Public Parks

Regarding the open spaces that qualify as public parks outlined in Tables 18 to 22, and in the absence of a national Irish standard for public park provision, consideration has been given to the United Kingdom’s Fields in Trust (FIT) 2015 recommended benchmark guideline of 0.8 hectares of parks and gardens per 1,000 persons. However, it must be noted that it is not a policy of Kildare County Council or Meath County Council to implement FIT standards and that this standard is used for discussion purposes.

If no further parks and gardens were to be provided, the ratio of parks and gardens in Maynooth would be 1.1 hectares⁴³ per 1,000 persons by 2031 and this would still exceed the FIT benchmark guidelines for parks and gardens.

However, the Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy (Appendix 3 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029) identified the Lyreen River Park/St Patrick’s College lands as a future proposed urban neighbourhood park and Section 7.1.4 of the Maynooth Local Area Plan 2013-2019 includes provision for a 3 hectare park within the Railpark Key Development Area.

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan:

- A new urban neighbourhood public park at Lyreen River / St Patrick’s College.
- A new local park within the Railpark Key Development Area.
- Public open spaces of appropriate scale to be included in new Key Development Areas.

Figure 8: Carton Avenue Public Park



⁴³ (30.8 hectare / 27,332 population) * 1,000 = 1.1 ha per 1,000 population

Playgrounds

Whilst there are no current Irish standards for playground provision at a settlement level, the requirements for play areas within new residential developments are included in Section 15.6.6 of the Kildare County Development Plan and in Section 4.13 of the Design Standards for New Apartment Guidelines. From a municipal perspective, consideration is given to the United Kingdom’s Fields in Trust (FIT) recommendations which includes guidance for a range of play areas as illustrated in Table 24 below. However, it must be noted that it is not a policy of either Kildare or Meath County Councils to implement FIT standards and that this is used for discussion purposes.

Table 24: Fields in Trust Benchmark Guidance for Playing Areas

Typology	Hectares per 1,000 population	Walking distance from dwelling
<u>Equipped / Designated Play Areas:</u>		
• Local areas for play (aimed at very young children)	0.25	100 m
• Local equipped areas for play (aimed at children who can go out to play independently)	0.25	400 m
• Neighbourhood equipped areas for play aimed at older children	0.25	1,000 m
• Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) and skateboard parks, etc.	0.30	700 m

In terms of existing provision, there is one playground included in Harbour Field Park and five in pocket parks around the town which includes play areas for very young children (see Map 8). The combined area of these play areas is 0.84 hectares. FIT guidance advises that 0.25 ha of playing space be provided per 1,000 population or 6.83 ha⁴⁴ up to 2031. Therefore, 5.99 ha of additional playing space would be required over the plan period to meet the FIT guidance.

While the Harbour Field playground will provide adequate facilities for a range of age groups, the location of the play areas is not evenly distributed around the town as they are all located north of the rail line and canal corridor. An additional playground south of this corridor would address current geographical deficiencies. New play facilities will be required to be delivered in new residential developments to comply with the requirements of the respective county development plans for Kildare and Meath, along with the relevant Section 28 Guidelines. Furthermore, it is noted there is no MUGA located within Maynooth and given the issues raised at pre-draft public consultation⁴⁵, it is considered that a MUGA would be a positive addition to the social infrastructure of the town.

⁴⁴ (0.25 hectare / 1,000) * 27,332 population = 6.83 hectare

⁴⁵ <https://consult.maynooth.ie/en/node/6/outcomes>

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan:

- Provision of a playground at a location in the southern part of the town (south of the rail line and canal corridor).
- Provision of play facilities within new residential developments in accordance with
 - Section 15.6.6 of the Kildare County Development Plan, where relevant
 - Section 11.5.11 of the Meath County Development Plan, where relevant, and
 - Sections 4.10-4.13 of the Design Standards for New Apartments Guidelines where relevant.

3.4.2 Sport and Recreational Facilities

There are 25 sports facilities / clubs in Maynooth as outlined in Table 25 below.

Table 25: Audit of Existing Sports and Recreational Facilities

Sport Clubs			
SR1a	Maynooth GAA Club	Facilities Clubhouse and two pitches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fee-paying 	±3.37 ha
SR1b	Maynooth GAA Training Grounds	Facilities Five pitches. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fee-paying 	±8.13 ha
SR2	Maynooth Football Club	Facilities Clubhouse, three full size pitches and one smaller seven-a-side pitch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fee-paying • Not located within the study area 	±3.92 ha
SR3	Carton House Golf Club	Facilities Clubhouse and two championship golf courses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fee-paying • Not located within the study area 	±297.69 ha
SR4	Meadow Lodge Fisheries	Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 lakes 	±8.03 ha
SR5	North Kildare Basketball (Old MPPS Sports Hall)	Facilities Sports Hall	N/A
Leisure Clubs/Centres			
SR6	Carton House Leisure Centre	Facilities Two swimming pools and a gym <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fee-paying 	N/A
SR7	Glenroyal Leisure Club	Facilities Two swimming pools and a gym <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fee-paying 	N/A

Sports Facilities of Educational Facilities			
SR8	Maynooth Community College and Maynooth Post Primary School	<p>Shared Sports facilities One set of outdoor basketball courts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only accessible to the students of the schools 	±0.29 ha
SR9	Maynooth Boys National School Sports Facilities	<p>Facilities Three ball courts, one astro pitch and one sports hall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only accessible to the students of the school 	±0.22 ha
SR10	Presentation Girls Primary School Sports Facilities	<p>Facilities Astro turf and a basketball court</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only accessible to the students of the school 	±0.15 ha
SR11	Gaelscoil Uí Fhiaich Sports Facilities	<p>Facilities Grass playing area, small astro pitch, ball wall and basketball courts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only accessible to the students of the school 	±0.65 ha
SR12	Maynooth Educate Together National School	<p>Facilities One basketball court</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only accessible to the students of the school 	±0.07 ha
SR13	Maynooth Community College and Maynooth Post Primary School	<p>Shared Sports facilities One Astro (no lights), One Playing Pitch (No lights) One set of outdoor basketball courts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only accessible to the students of the school 	±2.26 ha
SR14	Maynooth University Sports Facilities	<p>Facilities/Clubs 'Phoenix' Sports Centre Basketball Club Volleyball Club Badminton Club Tennis Club Multiple Martial Arts and Dance Classes Fitness Centre 'Gym' Three sand-carpet natural turf floodlit playing fields A 3G synthetic pitch catering for Gaelic games, soccer and rugby</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only accessible to the students of Maynooth University 	±4.8 ha

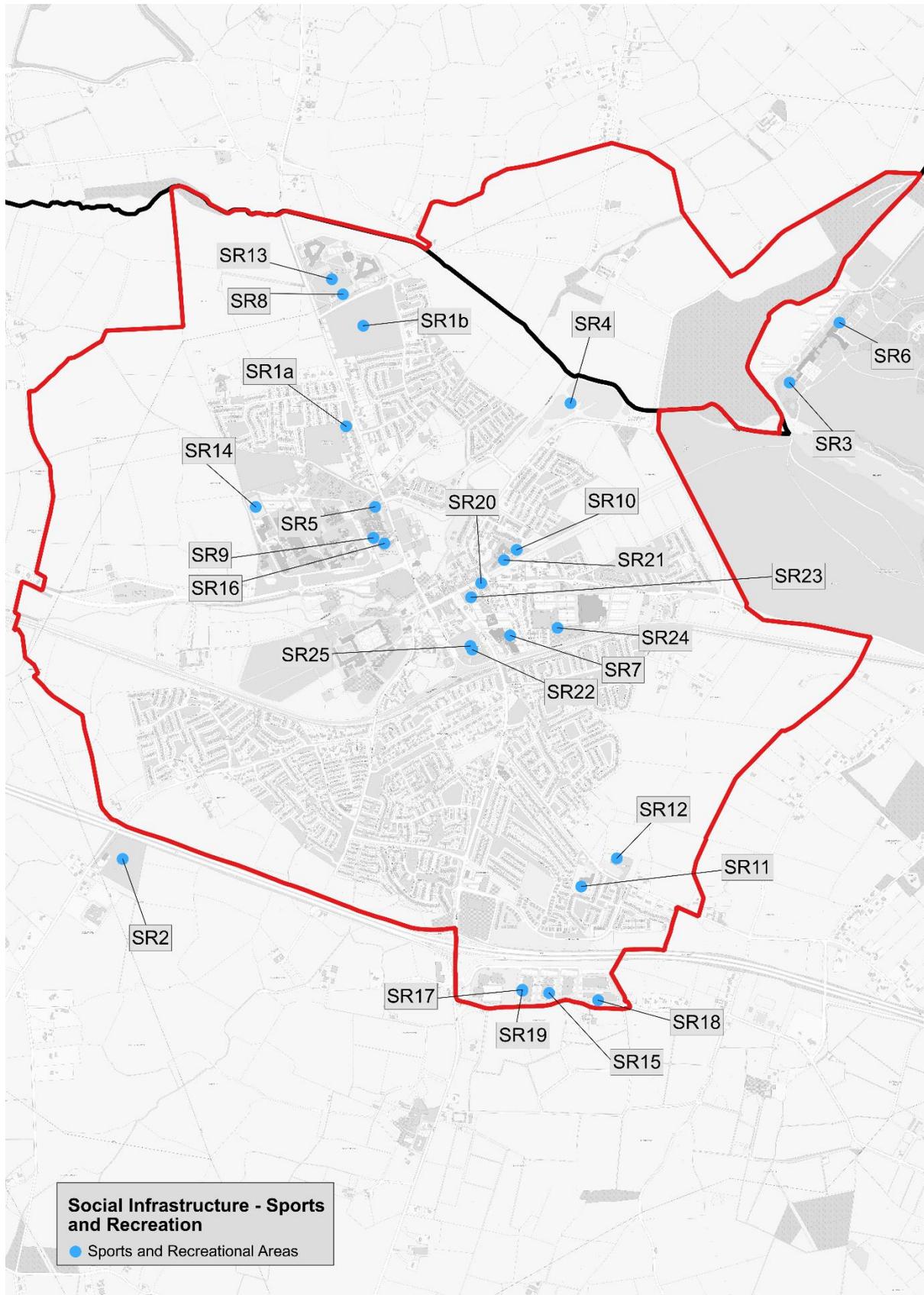
Sport and Fitness Classes/Schools		
SR15	Sphere Health and Fitness Centre	Fee-paying
SR16	Maynooth Taekwon-Do School	Fee-paying
SR17	YoGrá Yoga Studio	Fee-paying
SR18	INFINITY Hot Yoga & Recovery Room	Fee-paying
SR19	Fierce Fitness Dance Studio	Fee-paying
SR20	Finesse Movement Maynooth	Fee-paying
SR21	Mugendo Maynooth Kickboxing Club	Fee-paying
SR22	Fitness Bootcamp	Fee-paying
SR23	Ace Fit Club	Fee-paying
SR24	Anytime Fitness Maynooth	Fee-paying
Outdoor Sports Area included in Public Parks		
SR25	Harbour Field Park	±2.12 ha

Figure 9: Harbour Field Park Concept Image⁴⁶



⁴⁶ Kildare County Council. Harbour Field Park Improvement Project – Concept Images

Map 9: Sports and Recreation Facilities



Demand Analysis

Outdoor Sports Areas

There are no Irish standards for sport and recreational facilities at a settlement level. For discussion purposes, the United Kingdom’s FIT benchmark guidance recommends that 1.6 hectares of outdoor sports area should be provided per 1,000 population.

Within the study area there is currently 28.88 ha of outdoor sports areas (including basketball, tennis, playing pitches and fishing ponds). This equates to 1.7ha per 1,000 population⁴⁷. This figure includes existing outdoor sports areas associated with educational facilities which have very limited public access. When excluding these outdoor sports areas from the overall total, there would only be 0.75 hectares⁴⁸ of outdoor sports areas per 1,000 persons by 2030.

Therefore, approximately 23 hectares⁴⁹ of additional outdoor sports areas would be required up to 2030 to meet the FIT benchmark guidance for the projected population growth. Whilst it is not a policy of either local authority to implement FIT standards, it is an objective of the Kildare County Development Plan (SC O12) *‘to proactively seek suitable sites within the Key Towns of Naas and Maynooth for the provision of Municipal Sporting Facilities where shared amenities are provided for sports clubs and the general public.’*

The need for additional sporting facilities is also recorded in the Chief Executive’s Report on Submissions Received to the Pre-Draft Consultation Stage of the Plan. It is considered that a facility of approximately 23 hectares is reasonable in this regard and would address current deficiencies and the projected need.

Noteworthy is a submission from Maynooth University which outlined their intentions to create a landmark sports campus which would promote partnerships with sport’s governing bodies and the local community.

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan:

- To identify a site (approximately 23 hectares) for a Municipal Sporting Facility in Maynooth to comply with Objective SC O12 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029.

⁴⁷ (28.88 hectare / 17,426 population) * 1,000 = 1.7 ha per 1,000 population.

⁴⁸ (20.41 hectare / 27,332 population) * 1,000 = 0.75 ha per 1,000 population.

⁴⁹ (0.85 hectare / 1,000) * 27,332 population = 23 ha.

3.5 Social and Community

Social and Community facilities are varied in nature and can include general civic services and services targeted to specific sections of the community. There are 12 social/community services identified within the study area (Table 26 refers), which includes facilities such as the fire station, Garda station and library. The locations of these facilities are indicated on Map 10 below.

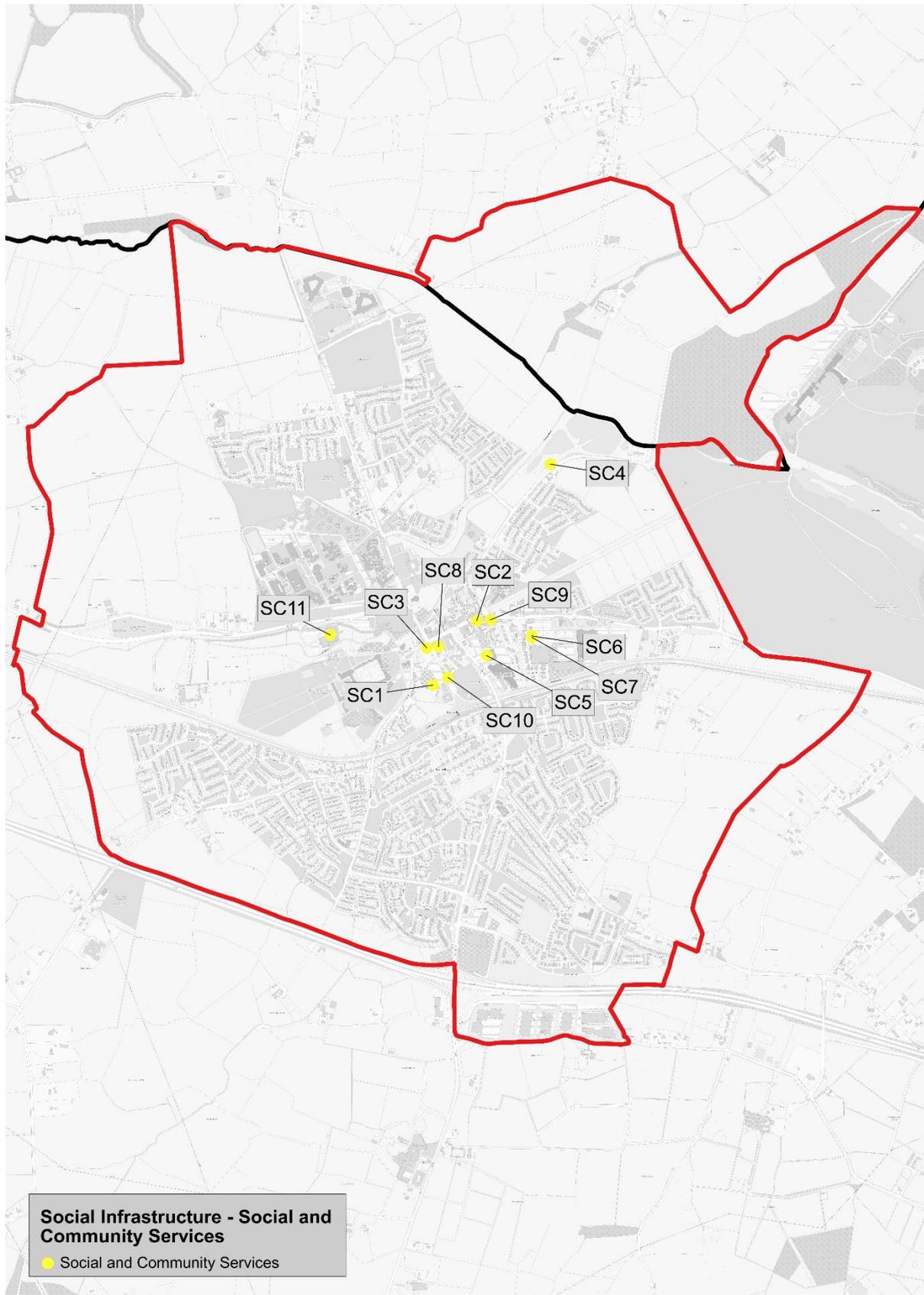
Table 26: Social and Community Services and Facilities in Maynooth

Map Ref.	Name	Description
SC1	Maynooth Fire Station	Fire Services
SC2	Maynooth Community Library	Library
SC3	Maynooth Garda Station	Garda Síochána
SC4	Men's Shed	Social Facility/Service
SC5	Counselling Centre Maynooth	Social Facility/Service
SC6	Maynooth Community Employment Project	Social Facility/Service
SC7	Maynooth Community Space	Community Centre
SC8	Social Welfare	Social Facility/Service
SC9	Citizens Information Centre	Social Facility/Service
SC10	Irish Countrywomen's Association	Social Facility/Service
SC11	Maynooth University Library	Library
SC12	Maynooth Scouts	Social Facility/Service

Figure 10: Maynooth University Library



Map 10: Location of Social and Community Facilities Within the Study Area



Demand Analysis

National standards for the provision of social or community services do not exist. However, it is noted that good neighbourhood planning can be achieved by following the recommendation of 0.3 community facilities per 1,000 population⁵⁰. However, this standard is relatively crude as it does not differentiate between different types of facilities; it only quantifies them. Nevertheless, applying this benchmark indicates that Maynooth currently maintains a ratio of 0.57 facilities per 1,000 population⁵¹ (based on ten facilities, excluding the garda station and fire station). This provision is projected to decrease to a rate of 0.37 per 1,000 population⁵² by 2031 (assuming the number of services remains constant), which still falls within an acceptable range.

Applying the current figure of 0.57 facilities per 1,000 population (to take account the wider catchment) to the projected population growth during the lifetime of the Plan to 2030 (9,906 persons) indicates a requirement of six⁵³ additional social/community facilities.

Several submissions received during the pre-draft consultation stage of the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2024-2030 relate to the lack of a community centre or civic centre in Maynooth. Submissions received also suggested the development of a range of community facilities on the fire station site including a community centre; a new and expanded library; a community garden; a community-run crèche; a recreation facility similar to Leixlip Amenities Centre; a swimming pool and a centre for youth amenities.

It's important to note that Maynooth, as a service town, serves a broader catchment area. Even if the quantity of services doesn't increase, there may be a need for more services and a bigger variety of services, regardless of the benchmark guidance.

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan:

- Six additional community facilities may be required over the plan period and having regard to issues raised during pre-draft public consultation it is suggested that these are:
 - A community centre
 - A community garden/Allotments
 - A community-run crèche
 - A Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)
 - A new/expanded public library
 - A youth centre

⁵⁰ Barton et al. (2010). *Shaping Neighbourhoods: For Local Health and Global Sustainability* 2nd Edition. London: Routledge.

⁵¹ (10 facilities / 17,426 population) * 1000 = 0.57 per 1,000 population

⁵² (10 facilities / 27,332 population) * 1000 = 0.37 per 1,000 population

⁵³ (0.57 / 1,000) * 9,906 population growth = 6 additional facilities

3.6 Arts and Culture

Maynooth has fifteen organisations/facilities dedicated to arts and culture, offering music lessons, drama and spaces for art. Map 11 (overleaf) shows that the location of these facilities within the town is mostly located north of the railway line. Table 27 below provides further details on each facility.

Table 27: Arts and Culture Clubs and Facilities in Maynooth

Map Ref.	Name	Services
AC1	National Science and Ecclesiology Museum	Museum
AC2	Brennan Performing Arts School	Acting and Performing Arts
AC3	Saor Dance and Fitness	Dancing Classes
AC4	Peelo School of Dance	Dancing Classes
AC5	St Marys Brass and Reed Band	Concert/Marching Band
AC6	Maynooth Music School	Music and Singing Lessons
AC7	Barbera Dunne Piano School ⁵⁴	Music Lessons
AC8	Aula Maxima	Theatre
AC9	Comhaltas Maynooth Irish Traditional Music Lessons	Music Lessons
AC10	Daisy School of Dance	Dancing Classes
AC11	Fierce Fitness Dance Studio	Dancing Classes
AC12	Edge Dance Studios	Dancing Classes
AC13	Dramatic Action Stage School	Music and Drama Classes
AC14	Lil Tully School of Irish Dance ⁵⁵	Dancing Classes
AC15	Nina Patterson – Art courses and workshops	Art Classes

In addition to the facilities and groups listed above, festivals form a significant part of the arts and cultural identity of Maynooth. These include the Maynooth University Arts and Minds Festival, Maynooth Community Church Annual Arts Festival and the Kildare Readers Festival.

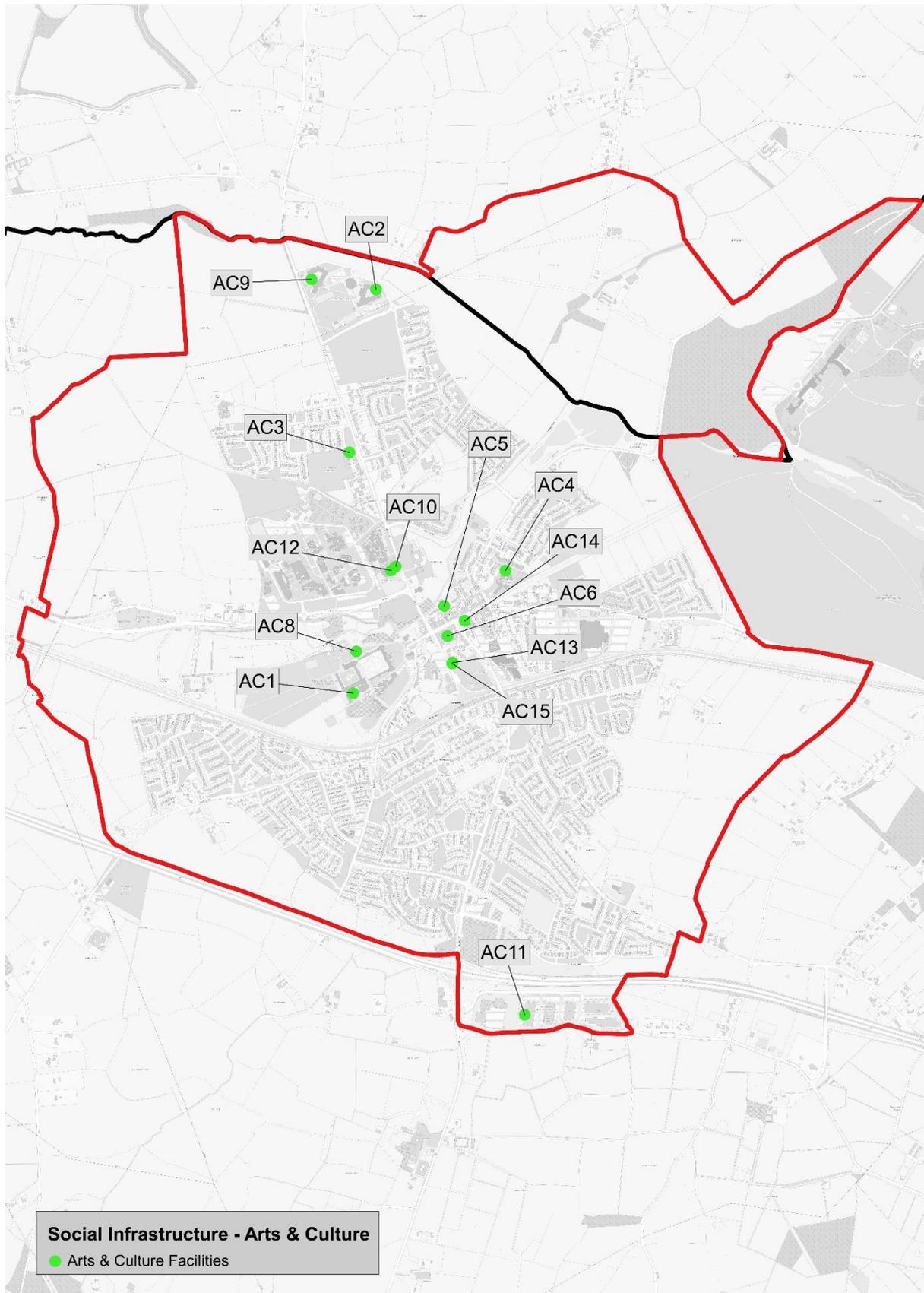
Demand Analysis

Typical benchmarking standards for arts and cultural facilities relate to the spend per capita in a given area, as opposed to the provision of physical infrastructure. There is no record of such spending patterns in Maynooth.

⁵⁴ Location not mapped.

⁵⁵ Lil Tully School of Irish Dance Classes are running from three different locations in Maynooth (i.e., Presentation Girls School, Maynooth Educate Together and Brady’s Clockhouse). The location mapped for this facility is Brady’s Clockhouse.

Map 11: Locations of Arts and Culture Facilities Within Study Area



3.7 Faith

A total of nine faith facilities were identified in Maynooth comprising of seven places of worship and two cemeteries. Table 28 provides a list of these facilities and Map 12 (overleaf) illustrates their locations.

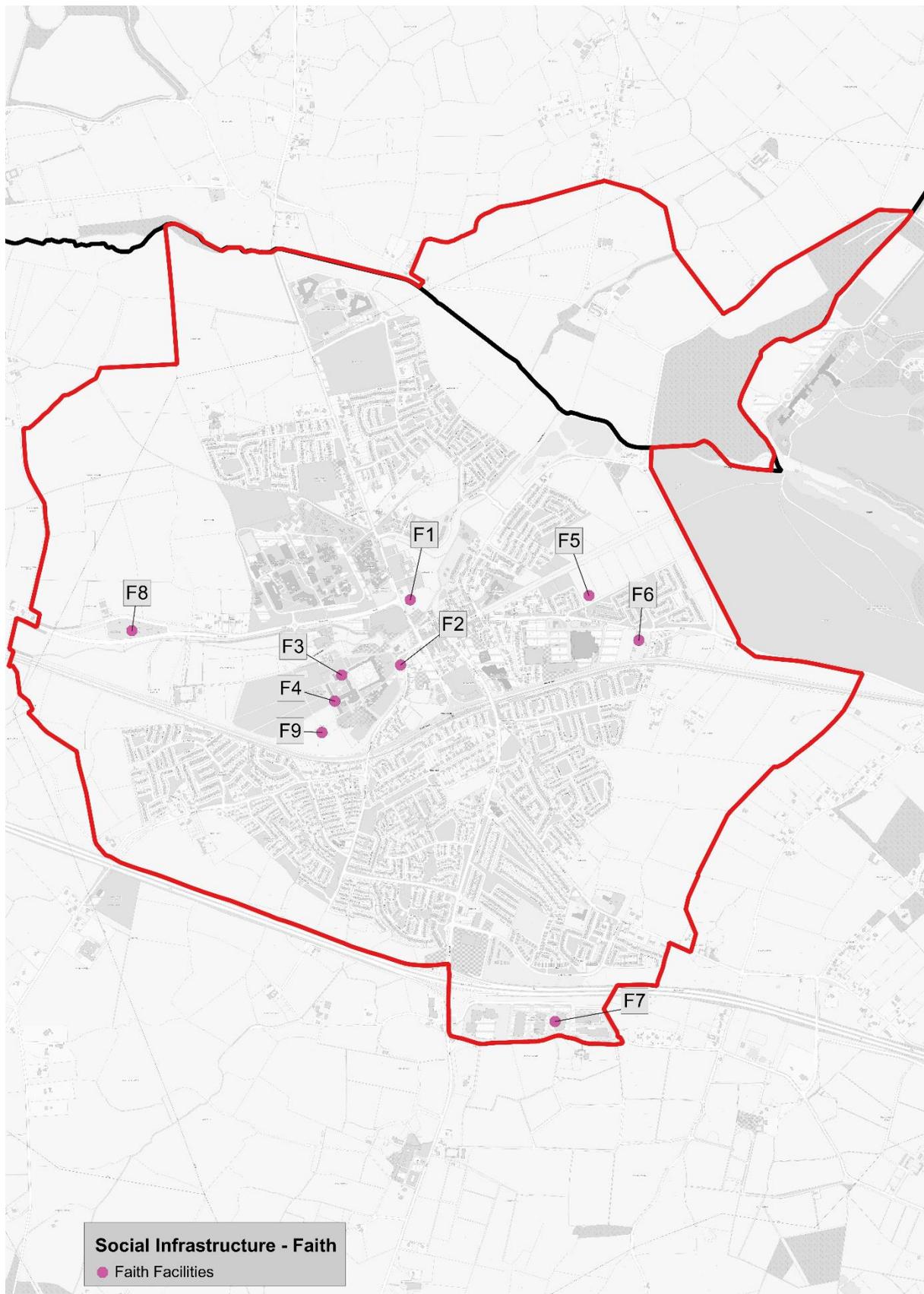
Table 28: Faith Services and Facilities in Maynooth

Map Ref.	Name	Comments
Churches and Chapels		
F1	St Mary's Catholic Church	Catholic Church
F2	St Mary's Church of Ireland	Anglican Church
F3	University Chapel	Catholic Chapel
F4	St Mary's Oratory	Catholic Chapel
F5	Maynooth Community Church	Presbyterian Church
F6	River Valley Baptist Church	Baptist Church
F7	RCCG Life Sanctuary	Redeemed Christian Church of God
Cemeteries		
F8	Laraghbryan Cemetery and Columbarium	Kildare County Council Cemetery
F9	St Patrick's College Cemetery	Located on the St Patrick's College grounds

Figure 11: St Mary's Church of Ireland Church



Map 12: Location of Faith Facilities Within Study Area



Demand Analysis

There are no known benchmarking standards for this category of infrastructure provision.

Places of Worship

In the study area of Maynooth, according to the 2022 Census, 57% of the population identified as Catholic. The town is served by one Catholic church and two Catholic chapels. Additionally, 13% of the population follows ‘other religions’ and there are four places of worship for other religions present in Maynooth. Furthermore, 23% of the population indicated that they have no religious affiliation.

Cemeteries and Columbarium

Laraghbryan cemetery is the only Kildare County Council managed cemetery in the town. Correspondence with the Environmental Section of Kildare County Council, dated November 2023, reveals that the cemetery only has 7/8 years of capacity left, which amounts to around 350 graves, assuming all available space can be utilised, taking into account factors including tree roots, the presence of invasive species and underground utilities.

The Laraghbryan cemetery’s columbarium currently has 96 niches, and it is at 35% capacity, leaving 62 spaces available.

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan:

- Considering the projected increase in Maynooth’s population, which is expected to grow by an additional 9,906 persons, and the uncertainties regarding the availability of existing grave spaces in Laraghbryan cemetery, an additional cemetery may be required for Maynooth.

Figure 12: St Patrick’s College Cemetery



3.8 Neighbourhood Centres

Neighbourhood centres, as defined in the Section 28 Retail Planning Guidelines (2012), generally comprise a small group of shops, typically a newsagent, small supermarket/general grocery store, sub-post office and other small shops of a local nature serving a small, localised neighbourhood catchment population.

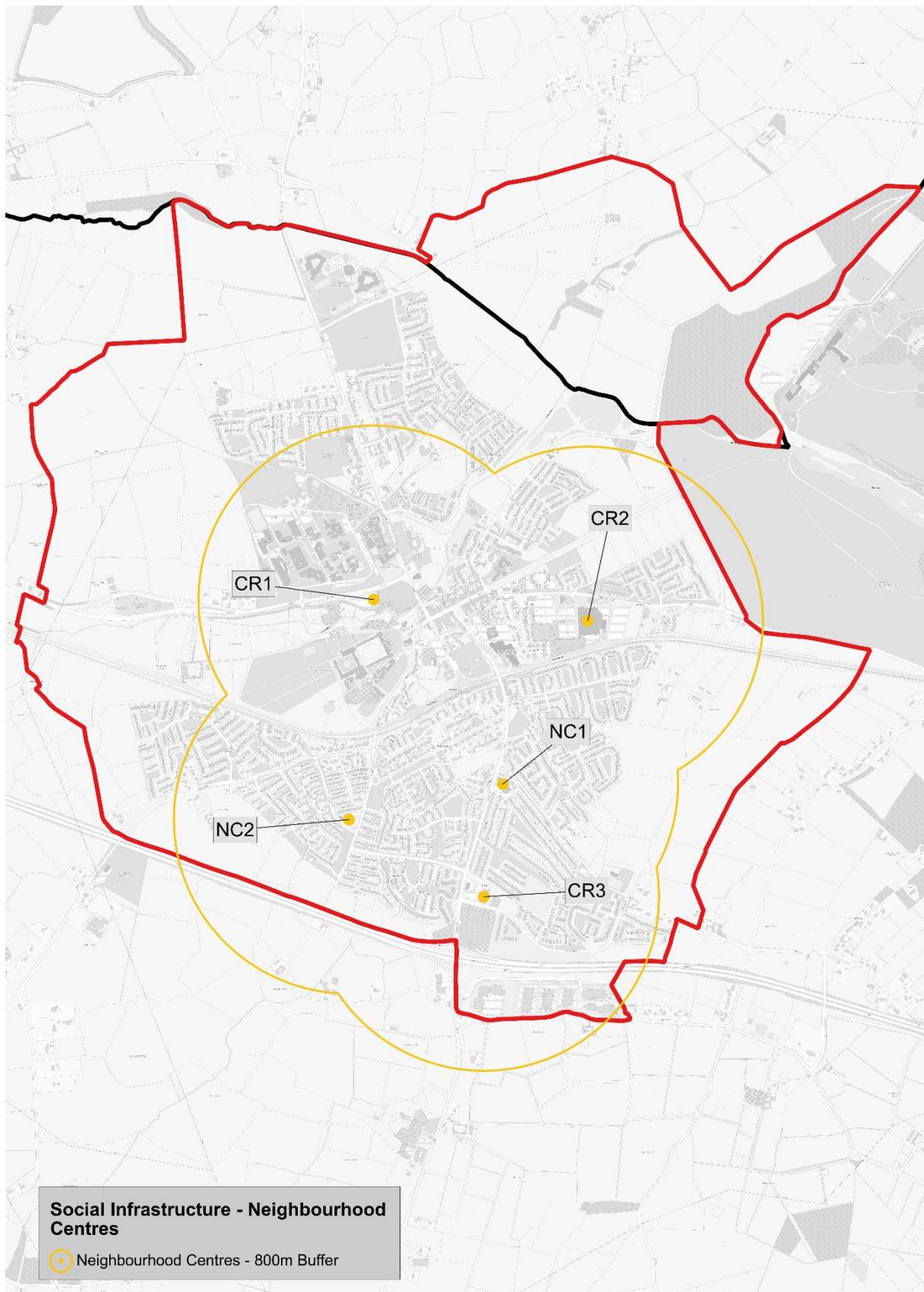
In Maynooth there are only two definable neighbourhood centres in the town, both located south of the rail line (Table 29 and Map 13 refers). Additionally, there are a number of convenience stores throughout the town which serve a local retail function however they would not fall within the definition of a neighbourhood centre. These are also depicted on Map 13 and listed in Table 29 below.

A spatial catchment as defined by a notional 10-minute walk (800 metres radius) from the neighbourhood centres and convenience stores is also shown on Map 13. This spatial catchment reflects the general and accepted threshold of distance that people are prepared to walk to access local services and facilities, while not precisely reflecting routes within an urban context.

Table 29: Neighbourhood Centres in Maynooth

Map Ref.	Name	Services
NC1	Greenfield Shopping Centre	St Patrick’s Pharmacy, Centra, Romayo’s, Dry Cleaner, Barber Shop, Buther’s, Hair Therapy, LANA (Asian street food)
NC2	Newtown Shopping Centre	Spar, Dry Cleaners, Maynooth Cycles, Hot Heads Salon, Newtown Inn bar and restaurant, Newtown Inn Off-Licence
CR1	Aldi/Manor Mills Shopping Centre	Convenience retail stores, Boston Barber Bars, Hickey’s Pharmacy, Maynooth Florist, Opticians, Zeba Hairdressing, etc.
CR2	Carton Retail Park	Convenience retail store, Mc Cartan’s Pharmacy, Boots, An Post, MyVet, Coyne Family Butchers, Occasions Hairdressing, The Grafton Barber, etc.
CR3	Lidl	Convenience retail store

Map 13: Locations of Neighbourhood Centres Within the Study Area



Demand Analysis

There is no national standard regarding the number of people living in an urban area that should be served by a neighbourhood centre or other commercial premises, including financial institutions. Infrastructure requirements are dependent on market conditions and consumer demand, factors which are beyond the scope of this study.

However, it is in the remit of local area plans to designate land as a neighbourhood centre within a town. The aim of providing such shopping facilities locally is to serve catchment areas within approximately 800 metres (10-minute walk) to reduce the necessity to travel by car to the town centre to avail of basic services and thereby ensure reduced traffic congestion and improved sustainability.

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan:

- Provision should be made for a neighbourhood centre in the northern part of Maynooth (off Moyglare Road) where there is a current lack of accessible shopping facilities within a short walking distance of residential areas.
- Provision should be made for new neighbourhood centres in any new Key Development Area or where significant residential development is proposed having regard to the 10-minute settlement concept.

Figure 13: Manor Mills Shopping Centre (Local Retail Centre)



3.9 Student Accommodation

3.9.1 On-Campus Student Accommodation

Maynooth University Student Residences includes four apartment complexes situated on the north campus (Figure 14 refers). These apartments include 1,146 bed spaces (Table 30 refers) available to full time registered students of Maynooth University and St Patrick’s College, Maynooth⁵⁶.

Table 30: Existing On-Campus Student Accommodation

On-Campus Student Residences	Bed Spaces
River Apartments complex	538 bed spaces
Village Apartments complex	240 bed spaces
Rye Hall Apartments complex	76 bed spaces
Courtyard Apartments complex	292 bed spaces
Total On-Campus Student Accommodation:	1,146 bed spaces

Maynooth University⁵⁷ indicated a desire for more on campus student accommodation of 1,000 bed spaces over the course of the Plan period. Construction is currently underway on a recently granted Maynooth University mixed-use development which includes student accommodation of 116 bed spaces on the Buckley House site along Parson Street (Table 31 and Map 14 refers).

Table 31: Extant Planning Permission of Maynooth University

Map Ref.	Planning Permission Reference No.	Location	Bed Spaces Permitted	Current Status
SA1	22/953	Buckley House, Parson Street, Maynooth	116	Under construction

St Patrick’s College has identified 125 underutilised rooms which they are planning to convert into student accommodation. Additionally, the College intends to develop new student accommodation for 400 bed spaces over the Plan period.

Planned proposals during the lifetime of the Plan:

- Student accommodation, providing 1,000 bed spaces for Maynooth University.
- Student accommodation, providing 400 bed spaces for St Patrick’s College.

⁵⁶ Maynooth University Student Residences. <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/student-residences>. Date of Access: 17/11/2023

⁵⁷ Communication with the Interim Director of Estates and Capital Development (24 February 2022)

Figure 14: Existing On-Campus Student Accommodation



3.9.2 Off-Campus Student Accommodation

The existing off-campus student accommodation in Maynooth are listed in Table 32 below. Student Accommodation Maynooth (SAM) includes 62 bed spaces and there are currently 73 individual rooms in private homes available to rent. The total number of individual rooms in private homes currently rented by students are unknown.

Table 32: Existing Student Accommodation

Off-Campus Student Residences	Bed Spaces
Student Accommodation Maynooth (SAM), Moyglare Road	62 bed spaces
Individual Rooms in private homes [73 available to rent on the 10/11/23] ⁵⁸	Total number unknown.

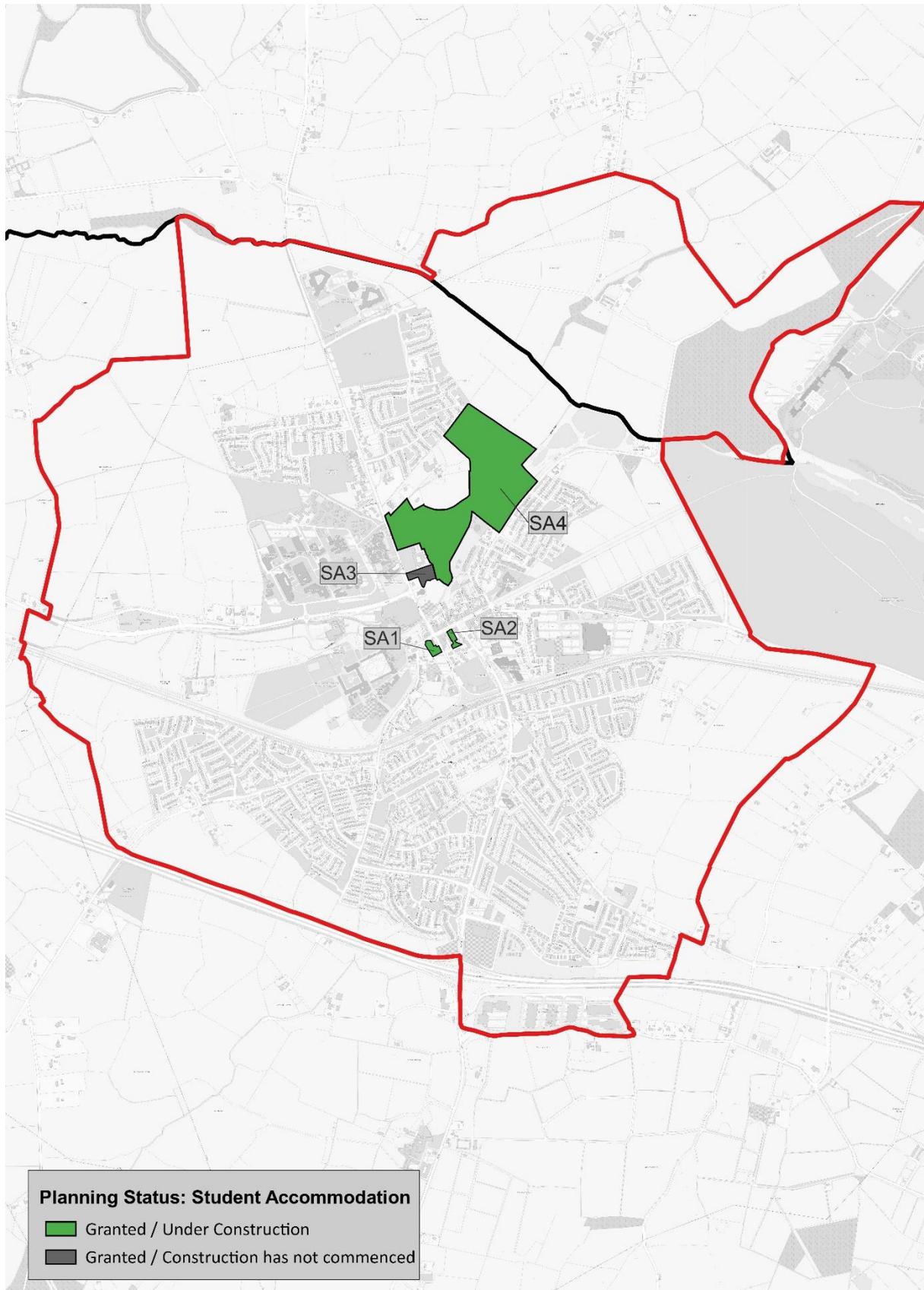
There are three extant permissions (Map 14 and Table 33 refers) for student accommodation in Maynooth, which could accommodate circa 696 bed spaces if implemented.

Table 33: Extant Planning Permissions Off-Campus

Map Ref.	Planning Permission Reference.	Location	Bed Spaces Permitted
SA2	19/542, ABP-306511-20, 21/1837	The Duke and Coachman, Main Street	94
SA3	21/216	Divine Word School of English	119
SA4	22/1469, ABP-301230-18	Mariaville, Moyglare Road and Dunboyne Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	483
TOTAL:			696

⁵⁸ Communication from the Student Support Officer of Maynooth University Student Services.

Map 14: Extant Planning Permissions for Student Accommodation



4 Conclusion

Social and community infrastructure is essential in achieving a balanced approach to the sustainable development of local communities and it is of critical importance to the economic as well as social development of a town such as Maynooth. This study was commissioned to examine the current context with respect to social infrastructure facilities in Maynooth and to determine future requirements based on projected population growth. A summary of the findings of this study is provided in Table 35 below. While this audit highlights the presence of some excellent social infrastructure facilities in the area, it also identifies an absence of some others.

The study will function as an important evidence base for the Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025–2031 where the principal task is to deliver on Maynooth’s social and economic development potential. In essence, the provision of social infrastructure in an area is fundamentally about making the most of and developing the local network of assets, be they facilities, services or the programmes that bring this together.

Table 34: Summary of Findings of the Social Infrastructure Audit

Type of Infrastructure	Existing Infrastructure	Social Infrastructure Requirements over the Plan Period to 2031
Education and Training		
Primary Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five primary schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,102 additional pupil places. Reserve a site for a new primary school or schools. In terms of the 10-minute settlement concept, the south-west of Maynooth (Newtown) is lacking in this regard.
Post-Primary Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three post-Primary schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,248 additional pupil places. To facilitate the delivery of a new school building for Gaelcholáiste Mhaigh Nuad on the site along Moyglare Road previously occupied by Maynooth Post Primary School. Extension of the existing post-primary schools in Maynooth. Reserve a site for a new post-primary school. In terms of the 10-minute settlement concept, the south-west of Maynooth (Newtown) is lacking in this regard
Special Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One special school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department of Education will liaise with the Local Authorities should a specific need arise

Type of Infrastructure	Existing Infrastructure	Social Infrastructure Requirements over the Plan Period to 2031
Further Education and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four further education and training facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maynooth University is projecting to grow by an additional 4,000 students
Childcare		
Childcare Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nine childcare facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 979 additional childcare places, to be delivered in tandem with new housing in accordance with Section 28 Guidelines and Objective SC 079 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 Where childcare facilities have not been built as part of a permitted residential schemes (see Table 11) these lands should be zoned specifically for childcare
Health		
Primary Care Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One health centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One additional primary care centre (approximately 1 hectare)
General Practitioners (GPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four full-time GPs and 6 part-time GPs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 26 additional GPs The emphasis should be placed on Neighbourhood Centres as the preferred location in this regard
Residential Care Settings for Older People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 303 bed spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 243 additional bed spaces

Themes of Infrastructure	Existing Infrastructure	Social Infrastructure Requirements over the Plan Period to 2031
Sports, Recreation and Open Space		
Public Open Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 91.5 hectares (overall total) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provision of public open space within new residential developments in accordance with the requirements of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Section 15.6.6 of the Kildare County Development Plan, where relevant ○ Section 11.5.11 of the Meath County Development Plan, where relevant, and ○ Sections 4.10-4.13 of the Design Standards for New Apartments Guidelines where relevant
Public Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 30.8 hectares 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A new neighbourhood park at Lyreen River/St Patrick’s College ▪ A new local park in the Railpark Key Development Area ▪ Public open spaces of appropriate scale to be included in new Key Development Areas
Playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 0.84 hectares 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An additional playground to be located in the southern part of the town (south of the rail line and canal corridor) ▪ Provision of play facilities within new residential developments in accordance with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Section 15.6.6 of the Kildare County Development Plan, where relevant ○ Section 11.5.11 of the Meath County Development Plan, where relevant, and ○ Sections 4.10-4.13 of the Design Standards for New Apartments Guidelines
Outdoor Sports Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 20.41 hectares⁵⁹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify lands for the provision of a Municipal Sports Facility in the range of approximately 23 hectares

⁵⁹ Excluding the outdoor sports areas within Maynooth associated with educational facilities that have very limited public access.

Themes of Infrastructure	Existing Infrastructure	Social Infrastructure Requirements over the Plan Period to 2031
Social and Community		
Social and Community Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 social/community facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A community centre A community garden/allotments A community-run crèche A Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) A new/expanded public library A youth centre
Arts and Culture		
Arts and Cultural Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 organisations/facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The requirement for additional facilities is unknown, however the plan should support additional facilities where appropriate
Themes of Infrastructure	Existing Infrastructure	Social Infrastructure Requirements over the Plan Period to 2031
Faith		
Places of Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seven places of worship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The requirement for additional places of worship is unknown
Cemeteries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two cemeteries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One additional cemetery
Neighbourhood Centres		
Neighbourhood Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two neighbourhood centres and three local retail centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision for a neighbourhood centre in the northern part of Maynooth (proximate to the Moyglare Road) Planned new residential areas should be assessed for neighbourhood centre requirements in the context of the 10-minute settlement concept
Student Accommodation – Planned Infrastructure		
Infrastructure	Existing Infrastructure	Planned Projects
On-campus student accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,146 on-campus student bed spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,000 additional on-campus bed spaces for Maynooth University 400 additional on-campus bed spaces for St Patrick’s College