Sallins
Social Infrastructure Audit

Iniúchadh ar Bhonneagar Sóisialta Na Solláin

A supporting document of Variation No. 6 (Sallins Settlement Plan) of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied)

April 2026

Comhairle Contae Chill Dara
Kildare County Council

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DISCLAIMER

This Social Infrastructure Audit (SIA) has been conducted to provide an overview of the available social infrastructure within the study area. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information, it is possible that some facilities, clubs, or organisations may have been inadvertently omitted, or that new ones have been established since the audit was conducted between April and May 2025. The findings are based on the best available data at the time of the study.

1 Introduction

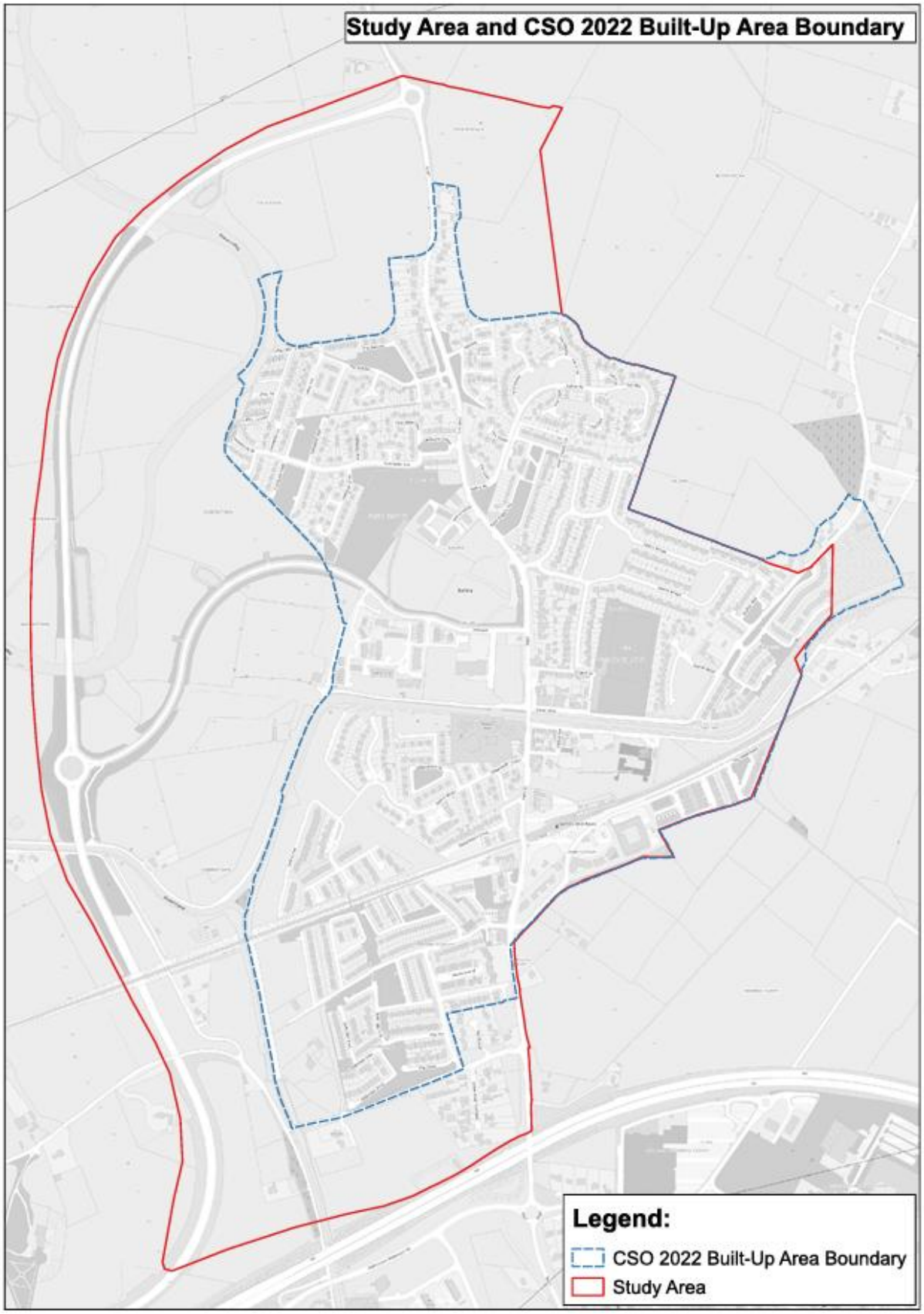
The following Social Infrastructure Audit (SIA) was prepared by Kildare County Council (KCC) for the purposes of informing Variation No. 6 (Sallins Settlement Plan, hereafter referred to as the 'the Plan') of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied). The function of the SIA is to examine 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, doctors' surgeries and community specific services, as well as areas that 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 Sallins is therefore important and vital to support the planned residential population in both physical facilities and social engagement.

The study area for examining the existing provision of social infrastructure in Sallins is illustrated by the red line boundary of Map 1 (overleaf). For the purposes of the study area, the boundary of the Sallins Local Area Plan 2016-2022 was used. Furthermore, several of the social infrastructure providers identified just beyond the red line boundary have been included in the Audit. The provided demographic profile data relates to the area within the Census 2022 Built-Up Area boundary (BUA) of Sallins outlined in blue on Map 1 (overleaf).[1]

[1] Central Statistics Office, Census 2022, Built-Up Areas [Online] available from: https://www.cso.ie/en/census/census2022/census2022urbanboundariesandbuiltupareas/census2022urbanboundariesandbuiltupareasfaq/#:~:text=Built%20Up%20Areas%20(BUAs)%20are,group%20buildings%20together%20into%20BUAs

Map 1: Sallins SIA Study Area and Census 2022 Built-Up Area Boundary



1.1 Policy Context

The National Planning Framework (NPF, 2025) is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of our country to the year 2040.[2] 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 relevance is National Strategic Outcome No. 10 which relates to access to quality childcare, education and health services and National Policy Objective No. 43 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 Regional Assembly (EMRA) 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.

The County Kildare LECP Implementation Plan 2024-2026 supports the economic growth and community development of towns in Kildare. It also identifies the completion of Phase One of the Sallins Amenity lands to include pitches, car park, paths and wetland areas (Action 1.1.13) and the review of the 821 Local Link connection between Newbridge and Sallins Train Station as high-level goals.

This Social Infrastructure Audit is guided by population and housing unit allocations for Sallins provided for by the Core Strategy of the Kildare County Development Plan (CDP) 2023-2029 (as varied) and the additional housing growth requirements outlined in Proposed Variation No. 3 to the CDP.[3] Table 1 outlines these allocations up to over the lifetime of the Plan and beyond.

1.1.1 Population and Housing Figures Used by the SIA

Growth in housing and population, has a significant impact on the assessment of social infrastructure in a town. It is imperative that this Social Infrastructure Audit

[2] The Revised National Planning Framework was approved by the Oireachtas in April 2025.
[3] The Proposed Variation No. 3 seeks to make a targeted variation to the CDP for the remaining three years (2026, 2027 and 2028) of the plan period only, to provide, *inter alia*, for additional housing growth requirements of the Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines published after the adoption of the CDP, namely, the NPF Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2025) (hereafter referred to as the Housing Growth Requirement Guidelines).

analyses the needs of the existing and future population of Sallins with regards to housing and population growth over the plan period and beyond.

Table 1 (below) estimates the population of Sallins at the start of Quarter 1 2023 to be 6,361 persons. This figure serves as a baseline for assessing current social infrastructure needs and represents an approximation of the starting population of the town at the commencement of the period covered by the Core Strategy of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied) (CDP).

In addition, Table 1 shows the estimated population growth to date and the estimated population growth in compliance with the housing allocation provided by the Core Strategy.

The Core Strategy identified a growth of 174 units for Sallins in 2023. As a result of Variation No. 3, an additional 500 housing units, which along with the commensurate population growth will be added to the Core Strategy numbers in order to determine the projected need for social infrastructure in the Plan area. The Sallins Settlement Plan has also identified growth beyond 2029 which will also be considered with respect to the population growth.

For the purposes of this SIA, the projected (additional) population growth in Sallins is 3,592, resulting in an estimated total population of 9,953 persons. This population growth will support the strategic zoning of land for social infrastructure, ensuring adequate provision throughout the lifetime of the Plan and beyond.

Table 1: Housing and Population Growth Sallins to 2029 and beyond

Housing and Population Allocation to Sallins to 2029 and beyond	
Housing Units	**Units**
Housing unit allocation Kildare County Development Plan (CDP) 2023-2029[4]	174
Additional Housing Growth Units under Variation No. 3 of the CDP	500
Phased Housing Growth Units of CDP 2023-2029 and beyond	632
Total housing unit allocation to expiration of CDP 2023-2029 and beyond:	1,306
Population	**Persons**
Census 2022 Population of Sallins	6,269
Add Estimated Population Growth of Sallins Q2-Q4 2022	92[5]
Estimated Population at commencement of Core Strategy of CDP 2023-2029	**6,361[6]**
Add Core Strategy population growth	479[7]

[4] Table 2.8 – Core Strategy Table of Kildare County Development Plan Volume 1 Chapter 2.
[5] CSO data records that 31 units were constructed within the built-up area (BUA) of Sallins in 2022 for Q2-Q4. Accordingly, 31 x 2.97 (average unit occupancy for Sallins in Census 2022) = 92 persons.
[6] This figure, which shows the population of the town at the start of the CDP, was calculated on the basis of the 2022 Census population of Sallins (6,269) and adding the increased population residing in new homes completed in the town between Q2 2022 and Q4 2022 (i.e., the period between the undertaking of the Census in April 2022 and Q1 2023 (the commencement of the Kildare CDP 2023-2029).
[7] 174 units x 2.75 occupancy rate = 479 persons

Add Estimated population attributed to Variation No.3 of 500 units	1,375[8]
Phased Population Growth on Zoned Land	1,738[9]
Estimated Projected Population of Sallins at expiration of the CDP 2023-2029 and beyond:	**9,953**

[8] 500 units x 2.75 = 1,375 persons.
[9] 632 units x 2.75 occupancy rate = 1,738 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 the 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 several 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 and childcare are mapped to illustrate catchment areas within an 800-metre walking distance, as per the 10-minute settlement concept, which is supported by the CDP.[10]

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. Social Infrastructure Recommendations

Recommendations for future social infrastructure provision will inform the preparation of the Sallins Settlement Plan. 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 concept.

[10] Objective UD O3 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied) 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’.*

2 Profile of Sallins

2.1 Demographic Profile

Census 2022 showed Sallins to have a population of 6,269 persons which represents a 7.2% (420 persons) increase in population from 2016 (5,849 persons).[11] Sallins represented 2.5% of County Kildare's entire population (247,774 persons) in 2022. According to Census 2022, the age profile of Sallins includes a high percentage of children, young people and those at work. The 0-24 age cohort makes up 37.7% of the population which is higher than the percentage recorded nationally 32.1%. The percentage of population in Sallins in the 25-64 age group (working age group) makes up 57.0% of the population which is higher than the national proportion of 52.7%. Of significance is the difference between the 65+ age group of Sallins and the state. Sallins recorded 5.3% in this age group compared to 15.1% nationally.

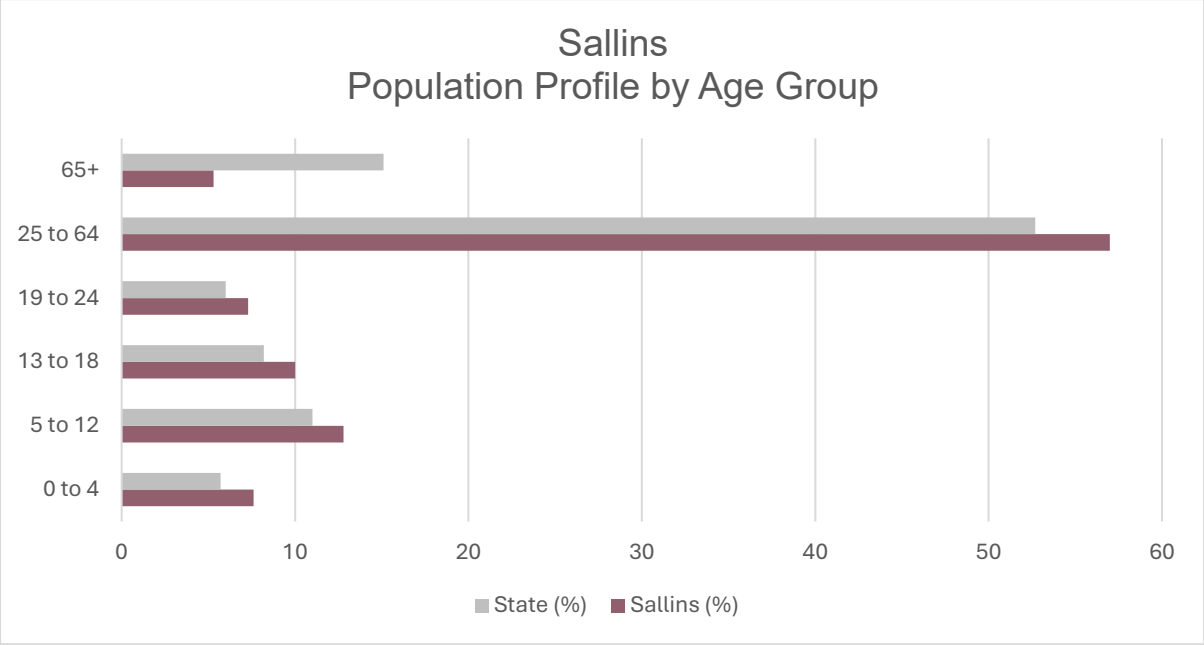
Table 2 below clearly shows the most significant difference between the 65+ age group of the state and Sallins. This is also illustrated in Figure 1 overleaf.

Table 2: Age profile, CSO 2022

Age Group	Population of Sallins	% of Total Population Sallins	National Proportion (%)
0-4	479	7.6%	5.7%
5-12	803	12.8%	11%
13-18	625	10%	9.4%
19-24	458	7.3%	6.0%
25-64	3574	57%	52.7%
65+	330	5.3%	15.1%

[11] The figure of 6,269 refers to the population living within the Built-Up Area (BUA) of Sallins as defined by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and is based on the results of Census 2022.

Figure 1: Population of Sallins by Age Group, CSO 2022



3 Existing Infrastructure and Future Demand Analysis

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

3.1 Education and Training

The study area is served by one mixed primary school, St. Laurence's National School (NS), which is operating at capacity. There are no post-primary schools or third level/further education and training centres within the study area. As a result, some primary age students and all post-primary age students' resident in Sallins are required to travel to schools outside the study area to access primary and post-primary education. 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 and Youth (DEY) having regard to available school capacity, demographic projections, an analysis of child benefit records, and local GIS travel pattern modelling.

To inform the demand analysis of the educational facilities, Kildare County Council conducted a survey between April and May 2025 to assess pupil enrolment, school capacities, and the availability of pupil places serving the study area.

3.1.1 Primary School

The number of students enrolled for the 2024/25 academic year, along with the capacity, operating levels and availability of student places in St. Laurence's NS is detailed in Table 3 below.

Special Education Needs (SEN) is facilitated in St. Laurence's NS with the support of Special Education Teachers (SETs) and the assistance of Special Needs Assistants (SNAs). Children are supported both in mainstream classes and in SEN resource rooms.[12]

[12] A telephone discussion with St. Laurence's National School indicated this information.

Table 3: St. Laurence's National School, Sallins

Map Ref.	School Name	Enrolled 2024/2025	Capacity	Operating Level	Places available
P1	St. Laurence's NS	660	660	100%	0
TOTAL		**660**			

Figure 2: St. Laurence's National School

3.1.2 Primary Schools within the wider Sallins area.

The location of primary schools in the wider Sallins area is illustrated on Map 2 and the capacity audit of each school is set out in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Capacity of Primary Schools that accommodates student's resident in Sallins

Map Ref.	School Name	Enrolled 2024/2025	Capacity	Students from Sallins	Operating Level	Places available
P2	Scoil Bhríde, Oldtown, Naas	622	594	17	105%	0
P3	Mercy Convent Primary School, Naas[13]	598	644	13	93%	2
P4	St. Corban's Boys NS, Naas[14]	495	504	14	98%	9[15]

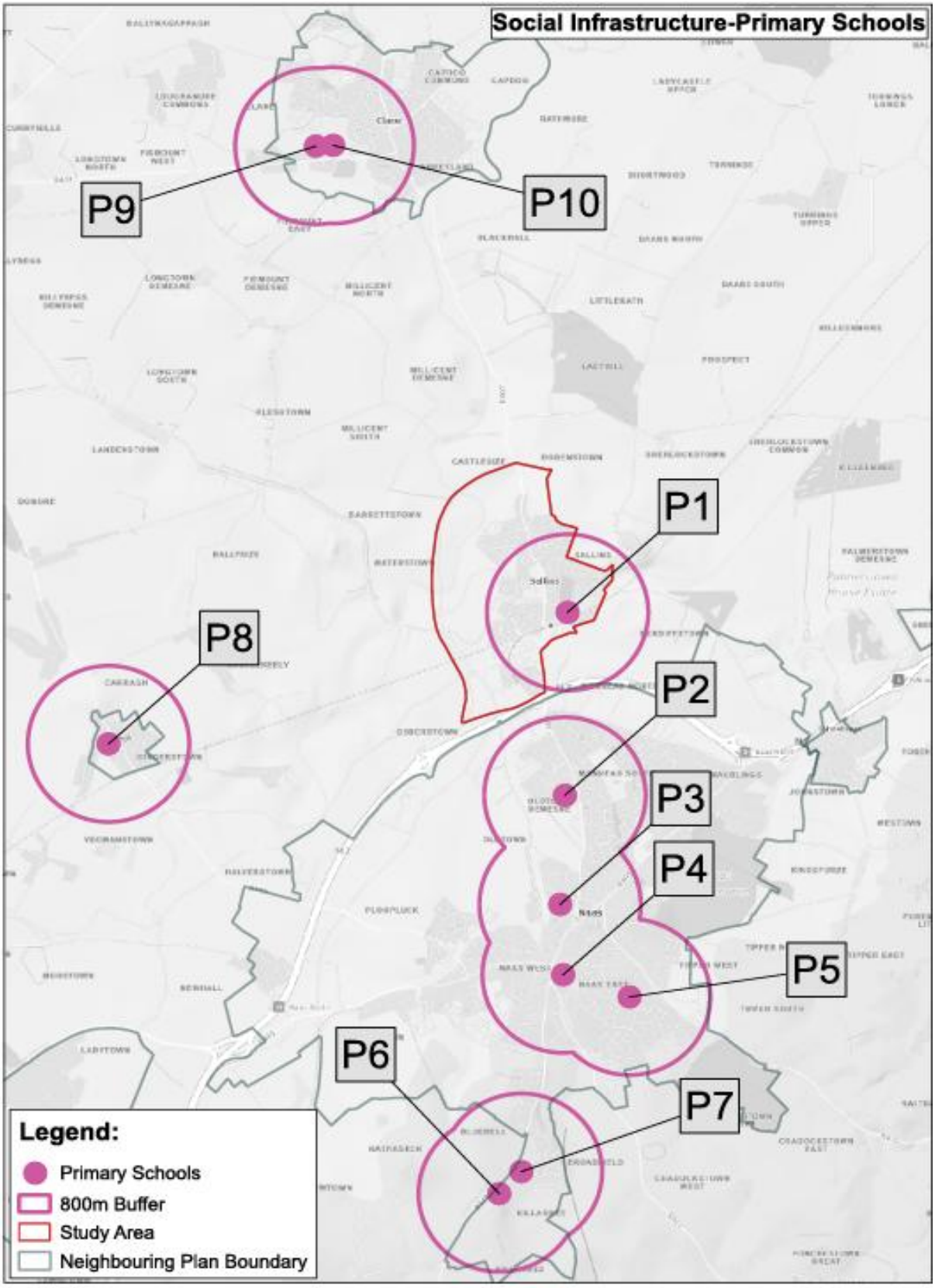
[13] Classes are moving to a new school in September 2025.
[14] DEY intends to reduce the number of classrooms from 21 no. to 16 no.
[15] In Junior Infants, First and Fifth Classes.

P5	Holy Child NS, Ballycane, Naas	439	408	4	108%	0
P6	St. David's NS, Piper's Hill, Naas[16]	97	102	5	95%	5[17]
P7	Gaelscoil Nás Na Riogh, Piper's Hill, Naas	405	402	30	99%	0
P8	Caragh NS, Caragh[18]	458	460	25	100%	0
P9	Scoil Phádraig, Clane	474	476	6	100%	2
P10	Scoil Bhríde, Clane	492	528	4	93%	36
TOTAL		**3,675**	**3,716**	**118**	**99%**	**54**

Source: Data obtained directly from schools in April/May 2025

[16] Hopes to open a second ASD Class.
[17] In place in Senior Infants and 6th Class.
[18] Hopes to convert an existing classroom to facilitate an Autism room.

Map 2: Locations of Primary Schools within the study area and the wider Sallins area



Demand Analysis

There is no guiding population benchmark for the provision of primary school facilities in Ireland. The Department of Education and Youth's Circular 0011/2025 *'Staffing arrangements in Primary Schools for the 2025/26 school year*', outlines a primary staffing approach, indicating a general average of one classroom teacher for every 23 pupils for the 2025/26 school year.

Census 2022 records that 12.8% (803 persons) of the population living within the Built-Up Area (BUA) of Sallins is of primary school age (5 to 12 years inclusive). An analysis of the Department of Education's Primary School Enrolment Figures for the 2021/2022 school year notes that 669 pupils were attending primary school in Sallins. This represents 10.7% of the population (Census 2022).

Direct consultation with St. Laurence's NS in April 2025 confirmed that the school is operating at 100% capacity with an enrolment of 660 students, which equates to 82% of the 803 primary school age persons recorded as residents of Sallins in Census 2022. Direct consultation with primary schools within the Naas, Clane and Caragh settlement areas in 2025 indicate that circa 118 of their student population reside in Sallins (see Table 4). It should be acknowledged that students recorded as having a Sallins address may, in some cases, reside outside the Built-Up Area of the town.

Applying the figure of 10.7% to the projected population growth in Sallins (3,592) indicates that an additional 385 primary school pupil places would be required. However, applying the 12.8% to the projected population growth in Sallins (3,592) indicates that an additional 460 primary school pupil places would be required.

Therefore, based on the requirements of the Department of Education and Youth's Circular 0011/2025 *'Staffing arrangements in Primary Schools for the 2025/26 school year*', an additional 17 – 20 no. classrooms would be required in Sallins over the Plan period and beyond.

The Sallins Local Area Plan 2016-2022 identified a privately owned site comprising two hectares zoned 'E2: Community and Education' located adjacent to the St. Laurence NS site, for the long-term expansion of St. Laurence's NS. The Department of Education and Youth's submission under Variation No. 3 of the CDP states that it is the Department's preference to expand existing facilities (if possible) should there be a requirement for additional school places resulting from planned population increases. Given the deficit in school places and the Department of Education and Youth's preference, it is considered that the land adjacent to the school should be retained and protected for the future expansion of the school.

Regarding the location of St. Laurence's NS, there is a significant area on the northern periphery of the study area that is not within a notional 10-minute (800

metre) walk of the school (see Map 2). In that regard, accommodating a new primary school on lands having regard to the requirement of the 10-minute settlement concept at the northern periphery of the Sallins settlement area should be considered.

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan and beyond:

- Considering the anticipated population growth of Sallins over the Plan period and beyond, an additional 385 – 460 primary school pupil places, or 17 - 20 no. additional classrooms with 23 students each will be needed. The Department of Education Technical Guidance Document (TGD-025) provide for a maximum classroom size of 32 in primary schools on a site size of 2.2 hectares. The future requirement in Sallins could be accommodated in one new primary school or by extending the existing St. Laurence's NS.
- The location of any new primary school should have regard to the 10-minute settlement concept, which the northern periphery of the Sallins settlement area is lacking in this regard.

3.1.3 Post-Primary Schools

Census 2022 showed that 625 persons are of a post-primary age (13-18 years inclusive) cohort resident in Sallins. In the absence of a post-primary school in Sallins, pupils are required to travel to schools in towns such as Naas, Clane, Newbridge and Kilcullen.[19] Map 3 illustrates the location of each school.

Direct consultation with each school confirmed the number of students enrolled for the 2024/25 academic year, along with the capacity, operating levels and availability of student places in each school and this information is presented in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Post-Primary Schools outside Sallins

Map Ref.	School Name	Enrolled 2024/2025	Capacity	Students from Sallins	Operating Level	Places available
Private Post Primary Schools						
PP1	Newbridge College	919	900	29	102%	0
PP2	Leinster Senior College[20]	122	130	1	93.8%	0
Post-Primary Schools						
PP3	Naas Community College	908	1000	300	90.8	0

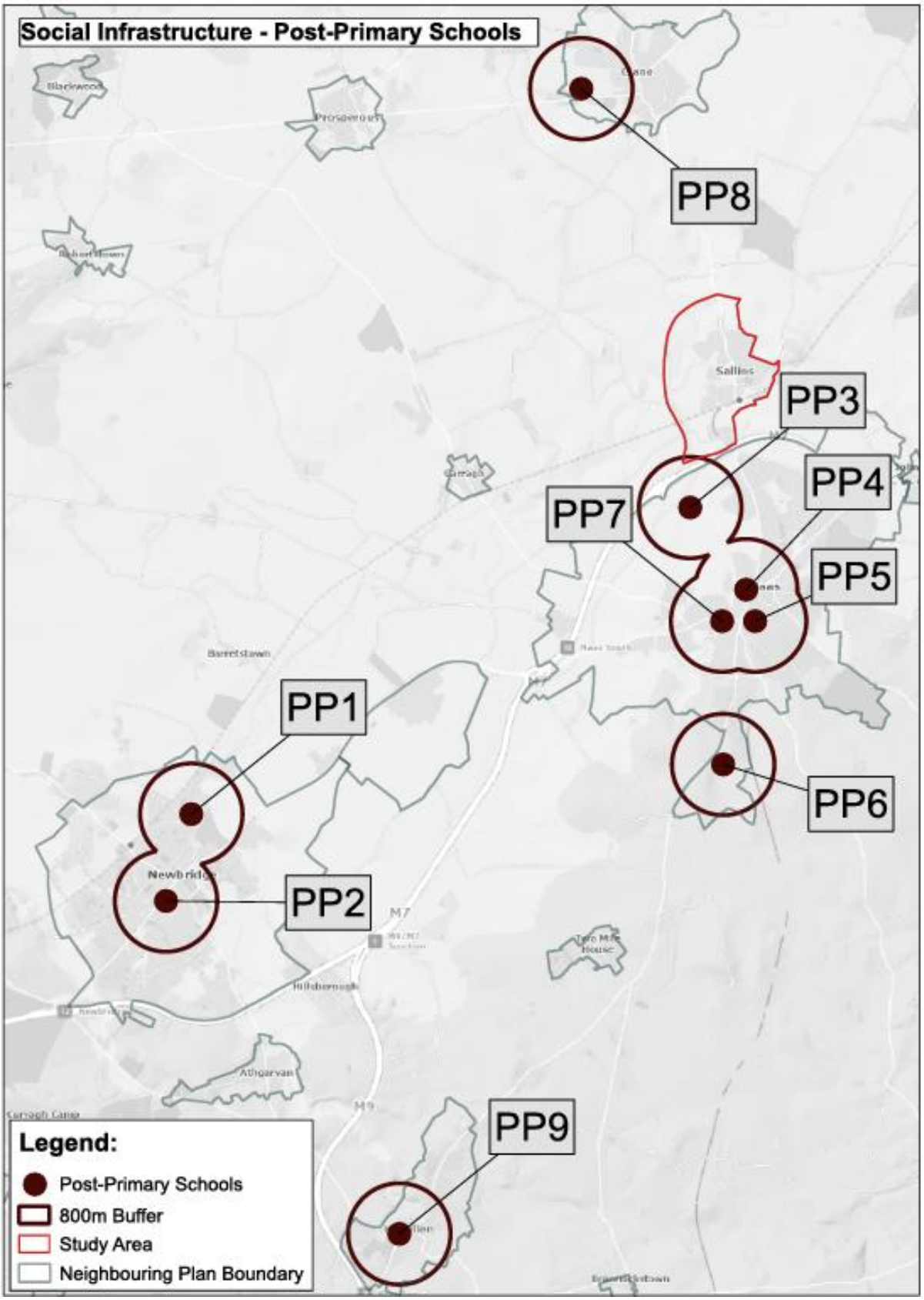
[19] As indicated in Census 2022.
[20] Leinster Senior College caters for full-time fifth and sixth years and Repeat Leaving Certificate students.

PP4	St. Mary's College, Naas[21]	1084	1000	180	108%	0
PP5	Naas CBS, Naas	1014	1014	circa 100	100%	0
PP6	Piper's Hill College, Naas[22]	1030	1000	115	103%	Yes[23]
PP7	Gaelcholaiste Chill Dara, Naas	402	450	17	89.3%	Yes
PP8	Scoil Mhuire Community College, Clane[24]	1184	1200	10	98.6%	Yes[25]
PP9	Cross and Passion College, Kilcullen[26]	840	840	2	100%	Not stated
TOTAL		7,503	7,534	754	98%	

Source: Data obtained directly from schools in April/May 2025

[21] Construction of new school commencing in Q3 on sports pitch – will take three years to build.
[22] Constructing a new ASD Unit.
[23] For 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Classes.
[24] School is seeking an extension to facilitate 5 mainstream classrooms, 4 ASD classrooms and 2 science labs.
[25] For 1st and 6th Classes.
[26] New classrooms to expand capacity to 1000 no. students.

Map 3: Locations of Post-Primary Schools within the surrounding Settlement



Demand Analysis

In Ireland, there is no guiding population benchmark for the provision of post-primary facilities.

As there are no post-primary schools located within Sallins, an assessment based on the Department of Education's Post-Primary School Enrolment Figures for the 2021/2022 academic year would not provide meaningful insights, as no enrolment data exists for the settlement.

However, Census 2022 offers useful demographic information that can help indicate the scale of post-primary educational demand in the area. According to Census 2022, approximately 10% of the population residing within the Sallins Built-Up Area (BUA), equating to 625 individuals, falls within the post-primary school-age cohort (13 to 18 years inclusive). This figure provides an evidence-based estimate of the number of students who likely travel to neighbouring towns for post-primary education and highlights the demographic significance of this age group within the local population.

Direct consultation with post-primary schools in Naas, Newbridge, Kilcullen and Clane, during the months of April and May 2025, indicates that 754 of their student population are residents of Sallins. As illustrated in Table 5 above, this figure exceeds the number of post-primary age students recorded in the study area in Census 2022 by 129 persons. However, part of this increase could relate to population growth in Sallins since Census 2022 and students with a Sallins address that reside outside the Built-Up Area of the town.

To accommodate the projected population growth of 3,592 persons in Sallins over the lifetime of the Plan and beyond (9,953 persons) and applying the Census 2022 figure of 10% for the post-primary age group (13-18 years inclusive) in Census 2022 suggests that there will be 996 persons of post-primary age living in Sallins during the lifetime of the Plan and beyond.

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan and beyond:

- 996 persons of post-primary pupil age living in Sallins by the end of the Plan period and beyond.
- Seek to zone lands as 'E: Community and Education' to provide for a new post-primary school to accommodate the future needs of the Sallins Settlement Plan area having regard to the 10-minute settlement concept.

3.1.4 Further Education and Training Facilities

The analysis of Census 2022 data indicates that 21% of the population of Sallins aged 15 years and over have attained a technical/vocational, apprenticeship or certificate level of education and training. There are no further education and training facilities in the study area. Therefore, persons seeking such facilities are obliged to travel to locations in Naas, Kildare, Newbridge and Clane. However, a range of further education and training opportunities are available in nearby key towns such as Naas, offering accessible options for residents of the study area.

3.2 Childcare

Childcare in Sallins is supported by seven existing childcare facilities. Most of these facilities are located close to or within existing residential developments, providing convenient access for families. There is one extant permission for childcare with capacity to accommodate 35 no. children (Table 7 refers).

Map 4 illustrates the location of each childcare facility, as well as the location of the one extant permission for a childcare facility. The distribution of these facilities ensures that most residential areas have access to childcare facilities within a notional 10-minute walk (800 metres) of their homes. However, there are some areas in the northern periphery of Sallins that are lacking in this regard. The capacity audit of each childcare provider is set out in Table 6.

Figure 3: Cocoon Childcare

Table 6: Capacity of Childcare Facilities

Map Ref.	Name	Total Enrolled 2024/2025	Total Capacity	Childcare Service Provision	Nursery/Pre-School Services Availability	Afterschool Services
C1	Magic Years Ltd	38 + 12 (school age childcare)	42 children	**Full Day Education and Childcare** • 4 months to 5 years	• None	**Current Enrolment** • 12 children **Availability** • No available spaces. **Waiting List** • A waiting list is in operation.
C2	Cocoon Childcare	84	90 children	**Full Day Childcare** • 1 to 6 years	• None • Waiting list for all ages but depends on the month.	• No after school service. • No plans for expansion.
C3	The Children's House			Only provides ECCE Sessional service[27]		**No Response**
C4	Circle of Friends	39 (am) 40 (pm)	40 children	**Full Day and Sessional Childcare** • 2 years 8 months to 12 years	• Availability in 3 years age group. • Waiting List for ECCE age 2 years 8 months up to 4 years for September 2025	**Capacity** • 24 children. **Current Enrolment** • 30 children. **Waiting List** • A waiting list is in operation.
C5	Acorn Montessori	124	75 children	**Full Day and Sessional** • 1 year to 6 years **Waiting List** • 50 children.	• None.	**Capacity** • 20 children. **Current Enrolment** • 20 children. **Availability** • No spaces available.

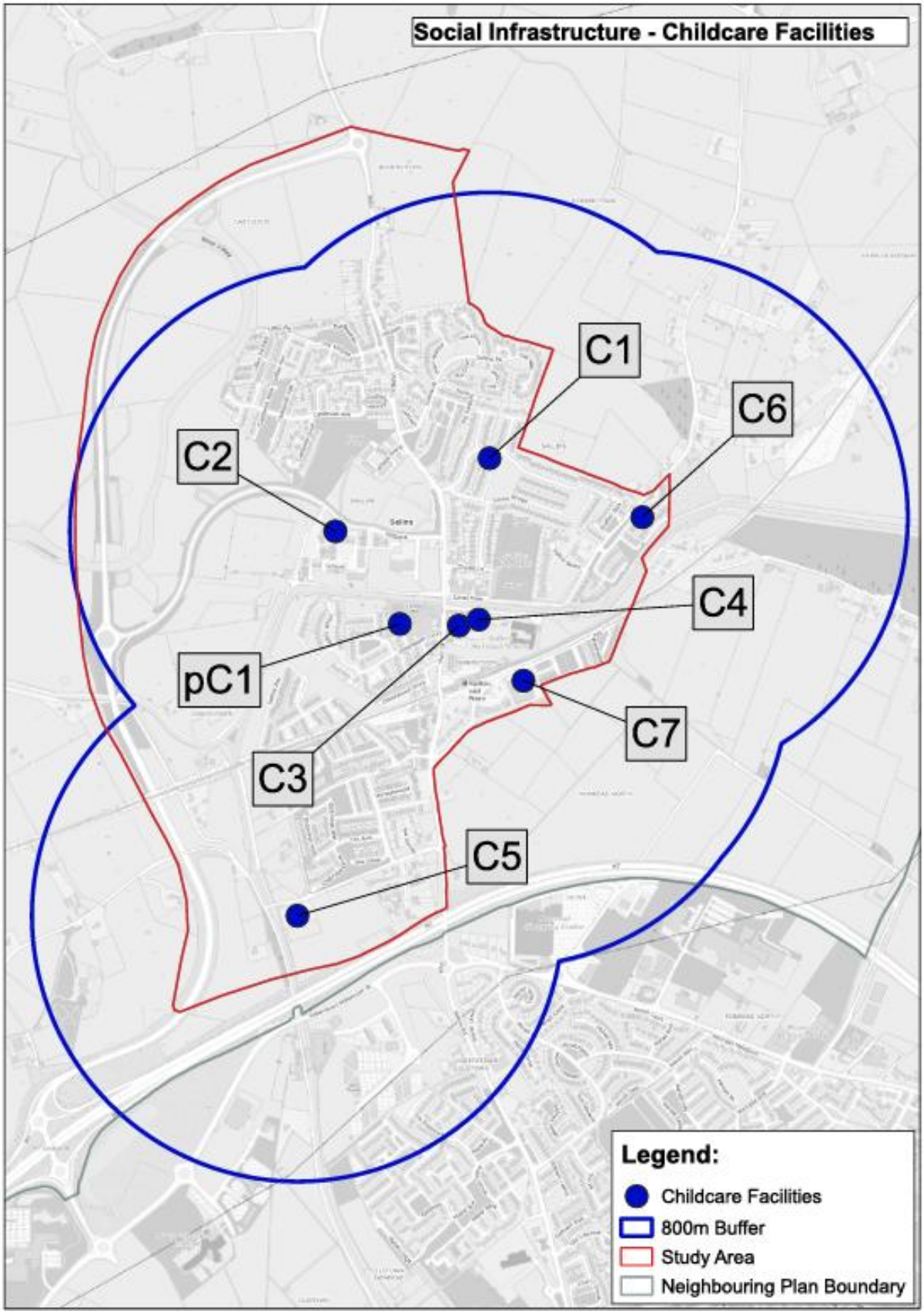
[27] Early Childhood Care and Education.

						Waiting List • 35 children.
C6	The Learning Tree	33	33 children	**Full Day Childcare** • 20 months old. **Preschool Childcare** • Two rooms for children aged 2 years 8 months to 6 years.	• None	**Does not provide an Afterschool Service.**
C7	Tots Crèche and Daycare Nursery	89	90 children	**Full Day Childcare** • 6 months to 12 years.	• None •	**Capacity** • 17 **Availability** • No spaces available. **Waiting List** • Very long waiting list.
TOTAL		**459**	**370**			**73**

Table 7: Extant permission for Childcare Facilities

Map Ref.	Location	Planning Ref. No.	Capacity
pC1	The Old Odlums Mill Site, Main Street, Sallins	22110	Crèche with capacity for 35 no. children.

Map 4: Location of existing and proposed childcare facilities



Demand Analysis

To evaluate the current and projected demand for childcare in Sallins, detailed information was gathered from local childcare providers on enrolment, capacity and availability for the 2024/2025 year. Only six of the seven childcare facilities were forthcoming with information at the time of writing this report. They are summarised in Table 6, which outlines the key data collected.

Overview of Current Demand and Capacity

Feedback from the childcare providers highlights a significant shortage of afterschool childcare places. Demand for part-time or sessional care is high, with only one provider reporting available slots. Full-day care and afterschool services remain in high demand, with waiting lists across facilities.

Childcare

As per the Childcare Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2001), “childcare” encompasses full day-care, sessional facilities, services for pre-school children and school-going children outside school hours. This includes services such as pre-schools, naíonraí (Irish language playgroups), crèches, playgroups, and afterschool groups.

Among the childcare facilities that were forthcoming with information, a total of 459 children are currently enrolled in nursery and pre-school services across Sallins. However, some of these children are catered for either during the morning or afternoon as two facilities operate a split service – a morning and an afternoon service. One of the facilities stated that it had availability in the 3 years age group sessional (Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme). The one facility that did not respond only operates an ECCE sessional service. However, demand for full-time preschool childcare remains high, with many providers operating at full capacity and maintaining waiting lists.

Infant care is particularly limited, with only two of the six childcare facilities that responded accepting children under one years of age.

Afterschool care accounts for 73 of the 459 children currently enrolled in childcare services. Of the four facilities offering afterschool care, all are operating at full capacity and managing waiting lists.

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, with each facility providing a minimum of 20 places. The Guidelines also state that Planning Authorities could consider requiring the provision of larger units catering for up to 30/40 children in areas of major residential development on that basis that such a large facility might be able to offer a variety of services –

sessional/drop-in/after-school. This guidance serves as a benchmark, though specific local conditions may affect the precise requirement.

Given the anticipated development of 1,306 additional residential units in Sallins, an estimated 349 childcare places will be required to meet the needs of the growing population.[28] There is one extant planning permission for a new childcare facility in the Odlum's Mill residential/commercial development, which will cater for 35 children, (Table 7 refers), reducing the projected shortfall to 314 places.

Permitted Childcare Facilities

There is one extant planning permission for a new childcare facility in the Odlum's Mill residential/commercial development, which will cater for 35 children, which has been taken into consideration in this analysis (Table 7 refers)

Objective SC O79 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied) requires that 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.

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan and beyond:

- The development of 1,306 additional residential units in Sallins will require an additional 349 childcare places, of which 35 will be addressed by the extant planning permission, leaving a remaining deficit of at least 314 childcare places.

[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 Plan and beyond is 1,306 units. Therefore, 349 [(1,306/75) x20] new childcare places are required.

3.3 Health

This section focuses on existing health facilities including general practitioners (GPs), dentists and other related facilities, as illustrated in Tables 8 to Table 10 and Map 5 overleaf. The older persons care homes as illustrated in Table 10 are outside the study area and have been included given the proximity to Naas.

Table 8: General Practitioners in Sallins

Map Ref.	Name	Medical Services	No. Practitioners	Availability
GP1	Sallins Medical Centre, Clane Road	Medical card and private patients	2 Full-time General Practitioners and 4 Nurses	• Number of persons on waiting list not stated.
GP2	Waterways Medical Centre	Medical card and private patients	1 GP only	• Currently not accepting new patients.

Table 9: Other Healthcare Services in Sallins

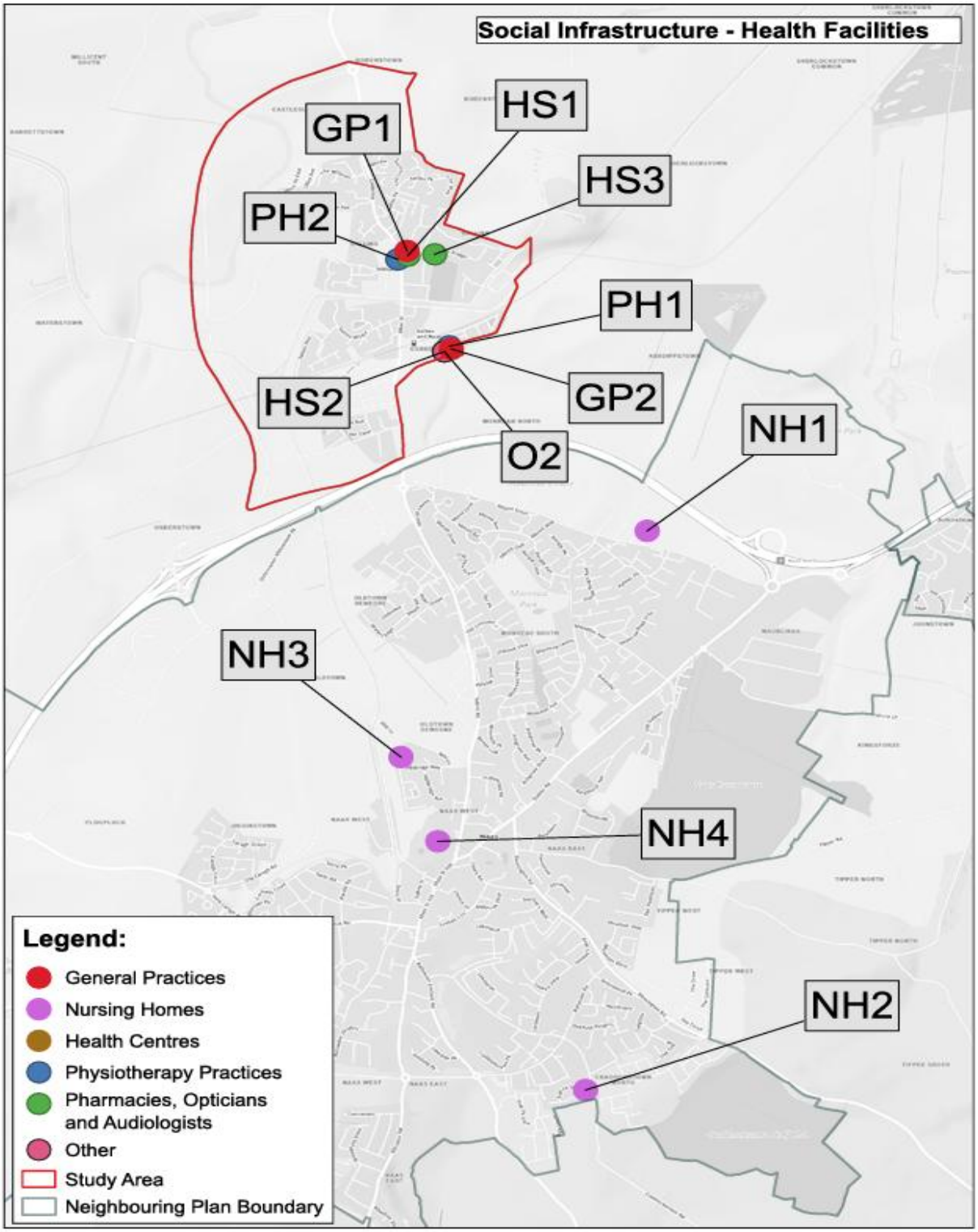
Map Ref.	Name
Pharmacies	
HS1	Sallins Pharmacy
HS2	Mangan's Pharmacy
Opticians and Audiologists	
HS3	Mobile Eyes Opticians
Physiotherapists	
PH1	Finesse Movement – Pain and Sports Rehabilitation
PH2	Kilcullen Chiropractice, Sallins
Other	
O2	Kusile Centre – Cancer Support Group

Table 10: Older Persons Care

Map Ref.	Name	Bed Spaces (Capacity)
NH1	Larchfield Park Nursing Home	70

NH2	Craddock House Nursing Home	89
NH3	Mill Lane Manor Nursing Home	70
NH4	McAuley Place – Residential Independent Living	53 self-contained one-bedroom apartments
TOTAL:		282

Map 5: Locations of Health Facilities and Other Healthcare Facilities



Demand Analysis

A total of eight no. health facilities were identified in Sallins comprising, two GP practices, two pharmacies, one optician, two physiotherapists and one cancer support group. From the GP practices identified there are a total of three GPs working from these locations.

General Practitioners (GPs)

Currently, Sallins is served by three full-time GPs in two surgeries. 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 Sallins is 5 per 10,000 population.[29] While this is less than the ICGP and IMO recommendation, it is noted that the current average national ratio for Ireland is 7 GPs per 10,000 population.[30] However, if the population grows by the anticipated 3,592 persons and there is no increase in the number of GPs serving Sallins, the ratio of existing doctors per population will reduce to 3.01 per 10,000 population.[31] Therefore, to achieve the recommended doctor-to-patient ratio, while considering the anticipated population growth, an additional 9 GPs will be needed in Sallins by the end of the Plan period and beyond.[32]

Residential Care Settings for Older People

There are no nursing home or respite centre in Sallins. However, there are four nursing homes within Naas. Table 10 above shows the capacity of each facility.

The number of persons aged 65 and older recorded as living within the boundary of the Built-Up Area of Sallins in Census 2022 is 330 (5.3%), which is notably lower than the national average, where individuals aged 65 and over comprised 15.1% of Ireland's population.

According to the Health Service Executive (HSE), approximately 5% of all older people need residential or nursing home care.[33] The population of Sallins aged 65 and older comprised 5.3% of the population in 2022 up from 3.8% in 2016. Projecting this level of increase forward and applying it to the anticipated population (9,953) would indicate 677 people aged 65+ years. When using the 5%, it would indicate that a total of 34 bed spaces may be required to accommodate people needing residential or nursing home care.[34]

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[29] (3/6,361 population) * 10,000 = 5 GPs per 10,000 population.
[30] https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/debate/dail/2024-02-21
[31] (3/9,953 population) * 10,000 = 3.01 GPs per 10,000 population.
[32] (9,953 population/10,000) * 12 = 11.94 GPs i.e. 12 GPs. Therefore, 12 GPs – 3 current GPs in Sallins= 9 GPs
[33] Health Service Executive, About Nursing Homes [online] available from: https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/olderpeople/residentialcare/. Date of Access: 05 May 2025.
[34] Yearly increase (%) of 65+ age group between Census 2016 and 2022 = 0.25%. Projected increase (%) between 2022-2028 is 1.5% (0.25*6 (years) = 1.5%). = 6.8%. 9,953×0.068 = 676.8 (677). 677 x 5%= 34

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan and beyond:

- Up to 9 no. additional GPs may be required to meet the recommended GP-to-patient ratio of the ICGP and IMO.
- A total of 34 no. bed spaces may be required to accommodate people needing residential or nursing home care in Sallins over the lifetime of the Plan and beyond.

3.4 Public Open Spaces

3.4.1. Overall Public Open Space Provision

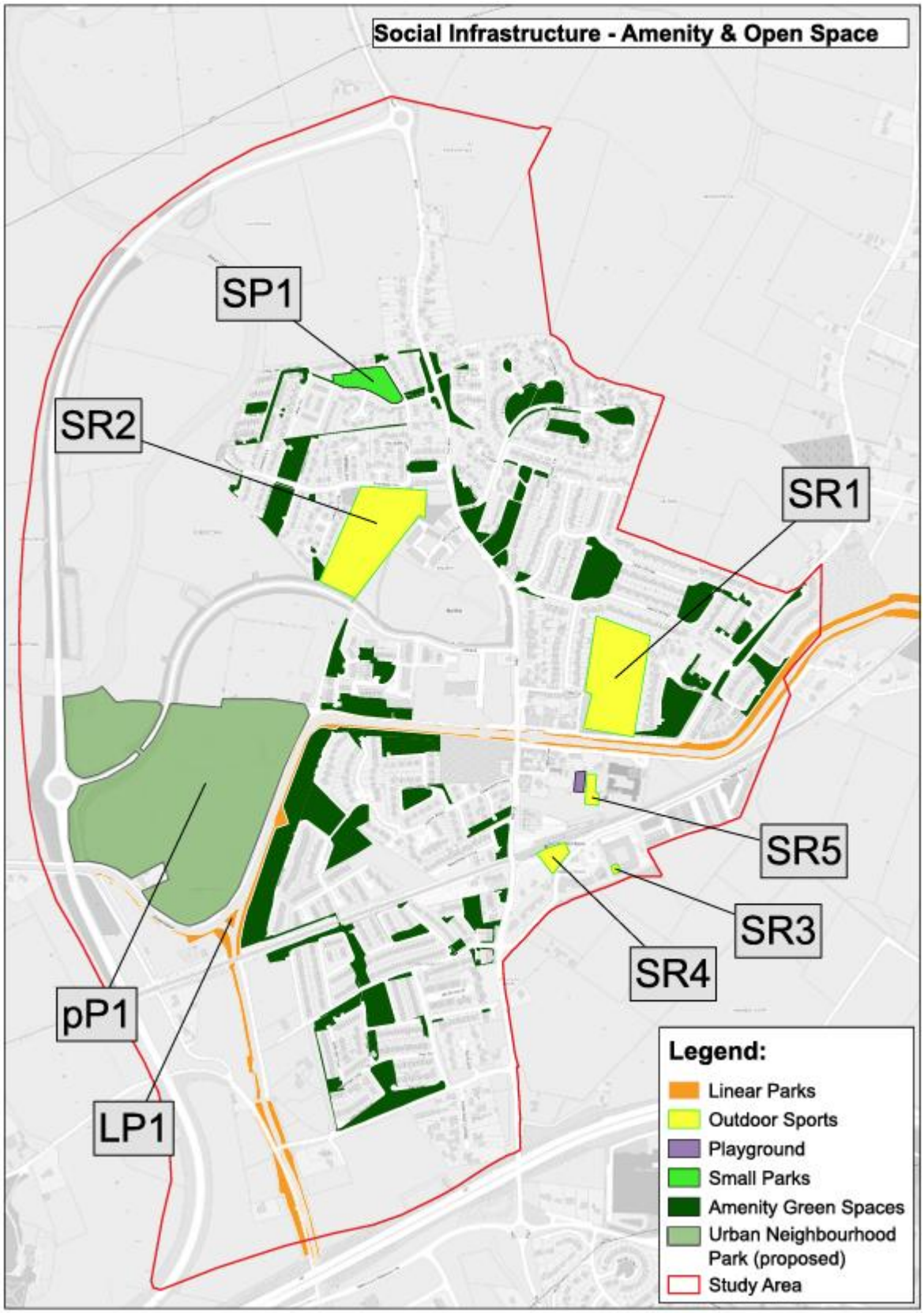
Public open space in Sallins includes public parks, a playground, amenity green space and outdoor sports areas. There are approximately 17.37 hectares of existing public open space within the study area as illustrated in Map 6 and Table 11 below.

Table 11: Overall Audit of Open Space in Sallins

Typology	Area in Hectares
Public Parks (linear parks and small parks)[35]	3.3
Amenity Green Space	8.23
Outdoor Sports	5.76
Playground/play areas[36]	0.08
TOTAL:	**17.37**

[35] Excluding the proposed Urban Neighbourhood Park (Sallins Amenity Park) and the Community Playground.
[36] This category does not include playgrounds or play spaces that are already counted within amenity green spaces (such as small parks). It only refers to stand-alone playgrounds that exist independently of these parks.

Map 6: Public open spaces in Sallins



Public Parks

The Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy (Appendix 3 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029) set out the following hierarchy of parks at settlement level, as detailed in Tables 12 to 14 below. The status of Sallins in relation to the hierarchy is also outlined in these tables. Within Sallins, one local linear park and one small park have been identified, collectively covering approximately 3.3 hectares.

Table 12: Proposed Urban Neighbourhood Parks in and adjacent to Sallins

Urban Neighbourhood Park				
Definition	**Map Ref.**	**Name**	**Description**	**Size**
Urban neighbourhood parks range in size between 16 and 50 hectares and are located within settlements of local use to contain facilities for active recreation and a wide variety of facilities and uses, to be accessible by pedestrians and cyclists and provide linkages between settlements; biodiversity areas can also be retained, enhanced, and accommodated.	**pP1**	Proposed Sallins Amenity Park	The proposed Sallins Amenity Park is listed in the Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy. The Park is planned in two phases. **Phase 1** focuses on constructing 5 playing pitches, a playground, wetland areas, a car park, perimeter paths and entrances. **Phase 2** aims to add a skatepark, additional pathways, allotments and an astro pitch. Phase 2 will facilitate access to the River Liffey. The project has secured €3m from the Government's Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund, supplementing the €2m previously allocated by Kildare County Council to develop Phase 1 of the project.	16.6 ha.

Table 13: Local Linear Parks in Sallins

Local Linear Park				
Definition	**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.	**LP1**	Grand Canal Greenway	The Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 notes Greenways as an	± 2.63 ha

			example of Local Linear Parks. A 2.63 km portion of the Greenway is located within the study area.	
Total				**2.63 ha**

Table 14: Small Parks in Sallins

Small Parks				
Definition	**Map Ref.**	**Name**	**Type of Facility**	**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.	**SP1**	Castlefen Park	Small Park incorporating basketball court, facilities for smaller children, an outdoor gym and community garden.	±0.67 ha
Total				**0.67 ha**

Outdoor sports

There are five sports and recreational facilities in Sallins, as outlined in Table 15 and shown on Map 6 above.

Table 15: Audit of Existing Sports and Recreational Facilities

Map Ref.	Name	Type of Facility	Size (ha) outdoors
Sports Clubs/Stadiums			
SR1	Sallins GAA[37] - Camogie - Hurling - Football	GAA Clubhouse 1 pitch, 1 all-weather astroturf pitch which can be split to facilitate two five-a-side pitches and is shared with St. Laurence's NS. Club Gym	2.61 ha
SR2	Sallins Celtic Soccer[38]	Soccer Club including 1 natural grass pitch and parking facilities.	3.12 ha
Sports and Fitness Classes/Schools			
SR3	Finesse Movement Sallins	Gym	Indoors

[37] Facilities also used by St. Laurence's National School.
[38] Temporary site for the Sallins Celtic Soccer club.

SR4	Sallins Running Club[39]	Fitness	Outdoors
Sports Facilities of Educational Facilities			
SR5	St. Laurence's NS	One hardcourt One all-weather pitch	0.03 ha
Total			**5.76 ha**

Figure 4: Sallins GAA Club

Playground/Play Areas

There is one playground in Sallins and there are play facilities available in open green spaces which includes play areas for young children. This section only refers to stand-alone playgrounds that exist independently of play spaces that are already counted within amenity green spaces (such as small parks). Table 16 details the playground/play areas and the location are shown on Map 6 above.

[39] This is a public meeting space for the run club.

Table 16: Playground/Play Areas in Sallins

Type	Map Ref.	Location	Size (hectares)
Playground	PG1	Sallins Community Playground - Adjacent to church car park	0.08 ha
Total			**0.08 ha**

In addition to the Sallins Community Playground outlined in Table 16 above, the Parks and Open Space Section of Kildare County Council have indicated that a playground will be included in the proposed Sallins Amenity Park.

Demand Analysis

Overall Public Open Space Provision

The Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DHLGH, 2024) state that while there is no set standard of public open space provision per settlement in Ireland, it is recommended that opportunities to enhance the overall quantum of public open space are harnessed where opportunities arise. It further states that ideally, all residents within a settlement should have access to a multi-functional public open space within walking distance of their home.

Section 15.6 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (CDP) and the Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy (Appendix 3 of the Kildare CDP) include public open space minimum standards as outlined in Table 17 below.

Table 17: Public Open Space Standards

Public Open Space Standards (minimum)
Overall Standard 2.5 Ha per 1,000 population to comprise of formal and informal public open space areas as follows: **Formal** • Active Open Space (outdoor sports, pitches, courts) • Neighbourhood/local park • Play areas. **Informal** • Parks and Gardens • Amenity Green Space • Natural and Semi-natural

Applying the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied) open space standards (Table 17 refers) to the estimated 2023 population (6,361 persons)

indicates that currently in Sallins there are 2.73 hectares of open space per 1,000 residents, which exceeds the minimum standard set out in Table 17.[40]

Over the Plan period and beyond, the population of Sallins is expected to rise to 9,953. If no further public open spaces were to be provided, there would be 1.75 hectares of open space per 1,000 residents, which falls below the minimum quantitative standard set out in Table 17.[41] Consequently, an additional 7.51 hectares of public open space will be required over the plan period and beyond to meet the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied) open space standards.[42]

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan and beyond:

- An additional 7.51 hectares of public open space will be required.
- Support the delivery of the Sallins Amenity Park.
- Improve access to multi-functional public open spaces within walking distance of homes.
- Improve permeability in existing residential areas to facilitate active travel routes to the existing and proposed public open spaces.

Public Parks

In the absence of national standards for public parks at the settlement level, the United Kingdom's Fields in Trust (FIT) Standards, outlined in *Creating Great Spaces for All* (2024), will be considered as a reference. This document recommends a minimum provision of 0.8 hectares of parks and gardens per 1,000 population. While this standard is not a policy of Kildare County Council, it serves as a useful benchmark for discussion purposes within this SIA.

Applying this standard to the estimated 2023 population of 6,361 persons indicates that the town currently provides 0.52 hectares of public parks per 1,000 population, which falls below the FIT standards.[43]

Over the Plan period and beyond, the population of Sallins is expected to increase to 9,953 persons. If no further parks were to be provided, the provision in Sallins would fall to 0.33 hectares of public parks per 1,000 population, which falls below the FIT standards.[44]

To maintain alignment with the FIT benchmark, an additional 4.66 hectares public parks areas will be required.[45] However, it is expected that the 16.6 hectares Sallins Amenity Park will address the shortfall.

[40] (17.37 hectares / 6,361 population) * 1,000 = 2.73 ha per 1,000 population.
[41] (17.37 hectares / 9,953 population) * 1,000 = 1.75 ha per 1,000 population.
[42] (2.5 hectares / 1,000) * 9,953 population = 24.88 – 17.37 hectares = 7.51 ha required
[43] (3.3 hectares / 6,361 population) * 1,000 = 0.52 ha per 1,000 population.
[44] (3.3 hectares / 9,953 population) * 1,000 = 0.33 ha per 1,000 population.
[45] (0.8 hectares / 1,000) * 9,953 population = 7.96 – 3.3 hectares = 4.66 ha required

In terms of the hierarchy of public parks as outlined in Table 12 to Table 14, Sallins is served by local parks including a local linear park and small park. There is a proposal to develop the 16.6-hectare Sallins Amenity Park as an urban neighbourhood park (Part 8 proposal Ref. P82022.01). When developed, Phase One of the Sallins Amenity Park will facilitate recreational, sporting and amenity facilities, which will include pitches, a playground, pathways and wetland areas.

The Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied) includes an Action (LR A21) to progress plans for the delivery of recreational and amenity facilities on the Sallins Amenity lands.

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan and beyond:

- An additional 4.66 hectares of public parks will be required.
- Support the development of the Urban Neighbourhood Park on the Sallins Amenity lands.

Amenity Green Space

In the absence of national Irish standards for amenity green space at the settlement level, the United Kingdom's Fields in Trust (FIT) Standards, outlined in *Creating Great Spaces for All (2024)*, will be considered as a reference. This document recommends a minimum provision of 0.6 hectares of amenity green space per 1,000 population. While this standard is not a policy of Kildare County Council, it serves as a useful benchmark for discussion purposes within this SIA.

Applying this standard to the estimated 2023 population of 6,361 persons indicates that the town currently provides 1.29 hectares of amenity green space per 1,000 population.[46] This provision significantly exceeds the FIT standard of 0.6 hectares per 1,000 population.

Over the Plan period and beyond, the population of Sallins is expected to increase to 9,953 persons. If no amenity green spaces were to be provided, the provision in Sallins would fall to 0.83 hectares of amenity green space per 1,000 population, which still exceeds the FIT standards.[47]

According to FIT guidelines, 0.6 hectares of amenity green space per 1,000 people is recommended. With a projected population of 9,953, a total of 5.97 hectares is required.[48] However, there are already 8.23 hectares of amenity green space identified within the study area to accord with the FIT guidelines and therefore there is no deficit.

[46] (8.23 hectares / 6,361 population) * 1,000 = 1.29 ha per 1,000 population.
[47] (8.23 hectares / 9,953 population) * 1,000 = 0.83 ha per 1,000 population.
[48] (0.6 hectares / 1,000) * 9,953 population = 5.97 hectares.

Policy and Objective 5.1 of the Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DHLGH, 2024), sets out requirements for the provision of public open space in new residential developments. The requirement shall be for public open space provision of not less than a minimum of 10% of net site area and not more than a minimum of 15% of net site area save in exceptional circumstances. Different minimum requirements (within the 10-15% range) may be set for different areas. In line with these Guidelines, the provision of amenity green space is expected to increase over the Plan period as development progresses.

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan and beyond:

- Ensure regard is given to Policy and Objective 5.1 of the Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DHLGH, 2024).

Outdoor Sports

Currently, there are no Irish standards for sports and recreational facilities at the settlement level. For comparison, the United Kingdom's Fields in Trust (FIT) Standards, outlined in Creating Great Spaces for All (2024), recommends providing 1.6 hectares of outdoor sports areas per 1,000 population.

An audit of the public open space facilities indicates that only one of the sports clubs, Sallins GAA, has its own dedicated facilities, which it shares with St. Laurence's National School. The Sallins Celtic Soccer Club currently has temporary use of private lands on the Sallins Link Road, which is zoned "C: New Residential' in the Sallins LAP 2016-2022. The proposed amenity lands will include playing pitches. There are no leisure clubs, or swimming pool located in the study area. It is noted that there are two small ball courts and a small all-weather pitch located on the grounds of St. Laurence's NS, which are for the use of the school only. Also, there are outdoor gyms available in some of the amenity green spaces.

Within the study area, there are approximately 5.76 hectares of outdoor sports areas available, as detailed in Table 15. This equates to 0.91 hectares per 1,000 population which falls short of the FIT benchmark guidance.[49] If the quantity of facilities remains unchanged, this rate is projected to decrease to 0.58 hectares per 1,000 population due to the anticipated population growth.[50]

To maintain alignment with the FIT benchmark, an additional 10.16 hectares of outdoor sports areas will be required.[51] However, it is expected that the 16.6 hectares Sallins Amenity Park will address the shortfall.

[49] (5.76 hectares / 6,361 population) * 1,000 = 0.91 ha per 1,000 population.
[50] (5.76 hectares / 9,953 population) * 1,000 = 0.58 ha per 1,000 population.
[51] (1.6 hectares / 1,000) * 9,953 population = 15.92 – 5.76 hectares = 10.16 ha required

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan and beyond:

- An additional 10.16 hectares of outdoor sports area will be required.
- To meet the projected demand during the lifetime of the plan and beyond, it is essential that the development of the Sallins Amenity Park is progressed to completion.

Figure 5: Sallins Celtic Soccer grounds on Link Road

Playgrounds/Play Areas

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 Sections 15.6.5 and 15.6.6 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 and Sections 4.13 and 4.14 of the Design Standards for New Apartment Guidelines (DHLGH, July 2023).

At the settlement level, the United Kingdom's Fields in Trust (FIT) Standards, outlined in *Creating Great Spaces for All* (2024), are considered as reference point. This document recommends a minimum provision of 0.25 hectares of Playgrounds/Play Areas per 1,000 population for a range of play areas as illustrated in Table 18 below.

While this standard is not a policy of Kildare County Council, it serves as a useful benchmark for discussion purposes within this SIA.

Table 18: Fields in Trust Benchmark Guidance for Playing Areas

Typology	Hectares per 1,000 population	Walking distance from the dwelling
Equipped / Designated Play Areas:		
Local Areas for Play (LAPs) for very young children	**0.25**	**100m**
Locally Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) for young and independent children	**0.25**	**400m**
Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs) for older more independent children	**0.25**	**1,000m**

Currently, the play areas in Sallins as detailed in Table 16, amount to approximately 0.08 ha. According to FIT guidelines, 0.25 hectares of playground space per 1,000 people is recommended. With a projected population of 9,953, a total of 2.5 hectares is required.[52] Consequently, an additional 2.42 hectares of playing space will be required over the plan period and beyond to meet FIT guidance.

It is noted that the proposed Sallins Amenity Park will include a children's play area and a teen space. Therefore, the space allocated to play areas in Sallins will achieve the FIT guidance when the proposed Sallins Amenity Park will be completed.

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan and beyond:

- An additional 2.42 hectares of playing space will be required.
- To support the development of a play area and teen space in the Sallins Amenity Park.
- Provision of play facilities within new residential developments in accordance with Sections 15.6.5 and 16.6.6 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 and Sections 4.13 and 4.14 of the Design Standards for New Apartment Guidelines (DHLGH, July 2023).

[52] (0.25 hectares / 1,000) * 9,953 population = 2.5 hectares – 0.08 = 2.42 required.

Figure 6: Sallins Community Playground

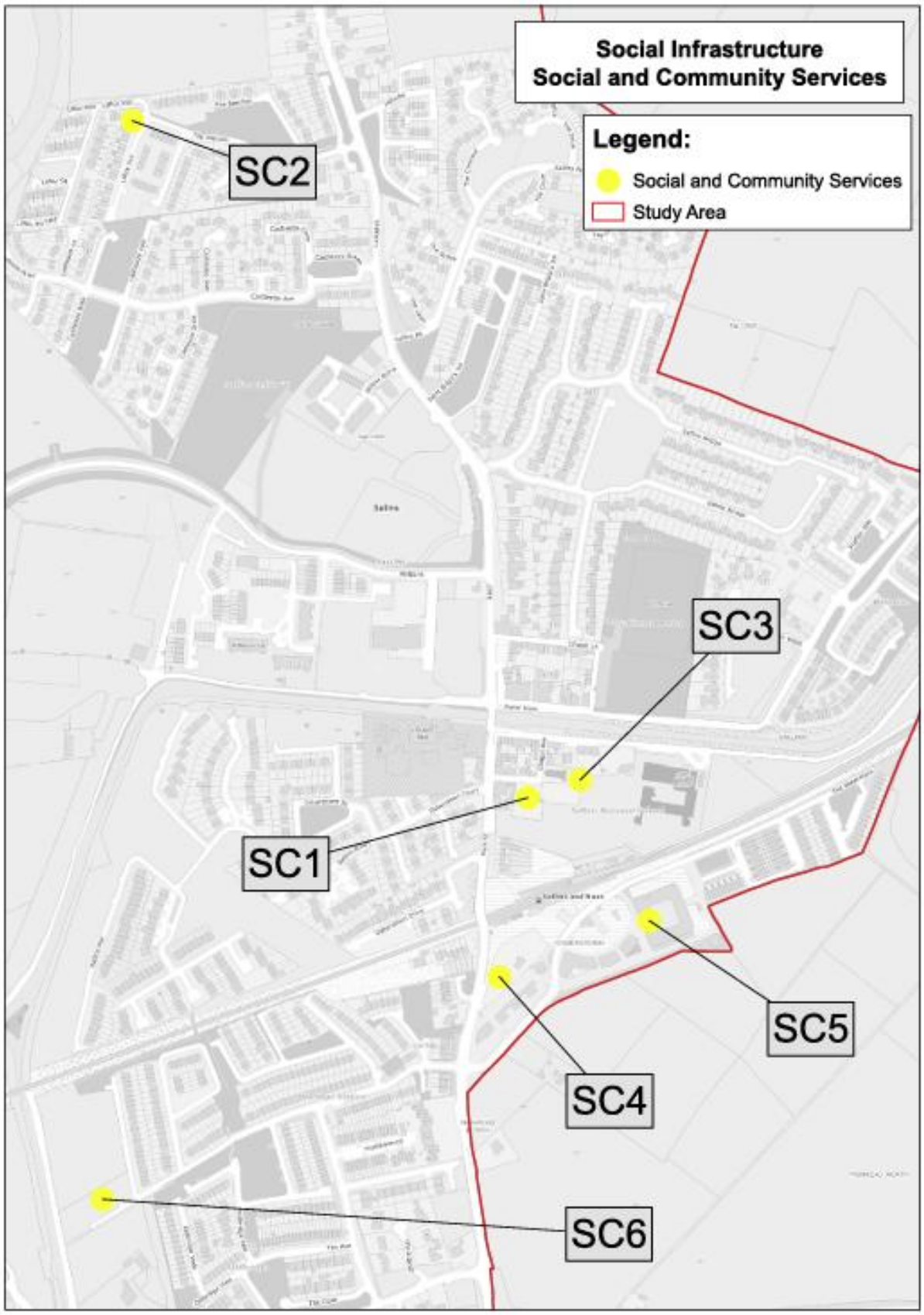
3.5 Social and Community

Social and community facilities/services are varied in nature and can include general civic services and services targeted at specific sections of the community. There are 6 social/community services identified within the study area (Table 19 refers). The locations of these facilities are indicated on Map 7 below.

Table 19: Social and Community Services/Facilities

Map Ref.	Name	Type of Facility
SC1	Sallins Community Centre	• Community Centre facilitating: - Community Council - Sallins Youth Club - Sallins Dramatic Society - Sallins Whist - Sallins Festival Committee - Sallins Sunshine Group - Irish Countrywomen's Association - Sallins Tidy Towns - Alcoholics Anonymous - St. Vincent de Paul Society - Mother and Toddler Group
SC2	Castlefen Community Centre	• Community Centre facilitating: – Sallins Women's Shed – Castlefen Residents Association – African Women's Sewing Group – Pink Ladies – Local Women's Group
SC3	An Garraí Beag	• Community Garden (Kildare Branch of Downs Syndrome Ireland)
SC4	Sallins Men's Shed	• Social Facility/Service
SC5	Post Office	• Post Office
SC6	Kildare Sallins Scouts	• Scouts Den

Map 7: Social and Community Services/Facilities



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 population.

Applying this benchmark indicates that Sallins currently maintains a ratio of 0.94 per 1,000 population.[53] This provision is projected to decrease to a rate of 0.60 per 1,000 population, assuming the number of services remains constant, which still falls within an acceptable range. [54]

As stated above, good neighbourhood planning can be achieved by following the recommendation of 0.3 community facilities per 1,000 population. With a projected population of 9,953, a total of 3 community facilities would be required.[55] However, there are already 6 existing social/community services identified within the study area to meet this demand and therefore there is no deficit.

It is noted that space in the Sallins Community Centre/Parish Hall is limited and requires some remedial work. It has a portable stage and in order to save space, the stage must be dismantled at the end of each stage production. In addition, the hall is not deemed suitable for indoor sports. It is noted that this year, the Sallins Sunshine Club received €97,000 in funding from the Community Centre Investment Fund, which is operated by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht. This funding will be used to refurbish the Community Centre.

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan and beyond:

- Support the refurbishment and extension of the Sallins Community Centre.
- The Plan should include objectives to support additional facilities where appropriate.

[53] (6 facilities / 6,361 population) * 1,000 = 0.94 per 1,000 population.
[54] (6 facilities/ 9,953 population) * 1,000 = 0.60 per 1,000 population.
[55] (0.3 facilities / 1,000) * 9,953 population = 3 facilities.

Figure 7: Castlefen Community Centre

Figure 8: Scouts Den, Sallins

3.6 Arts and Culture

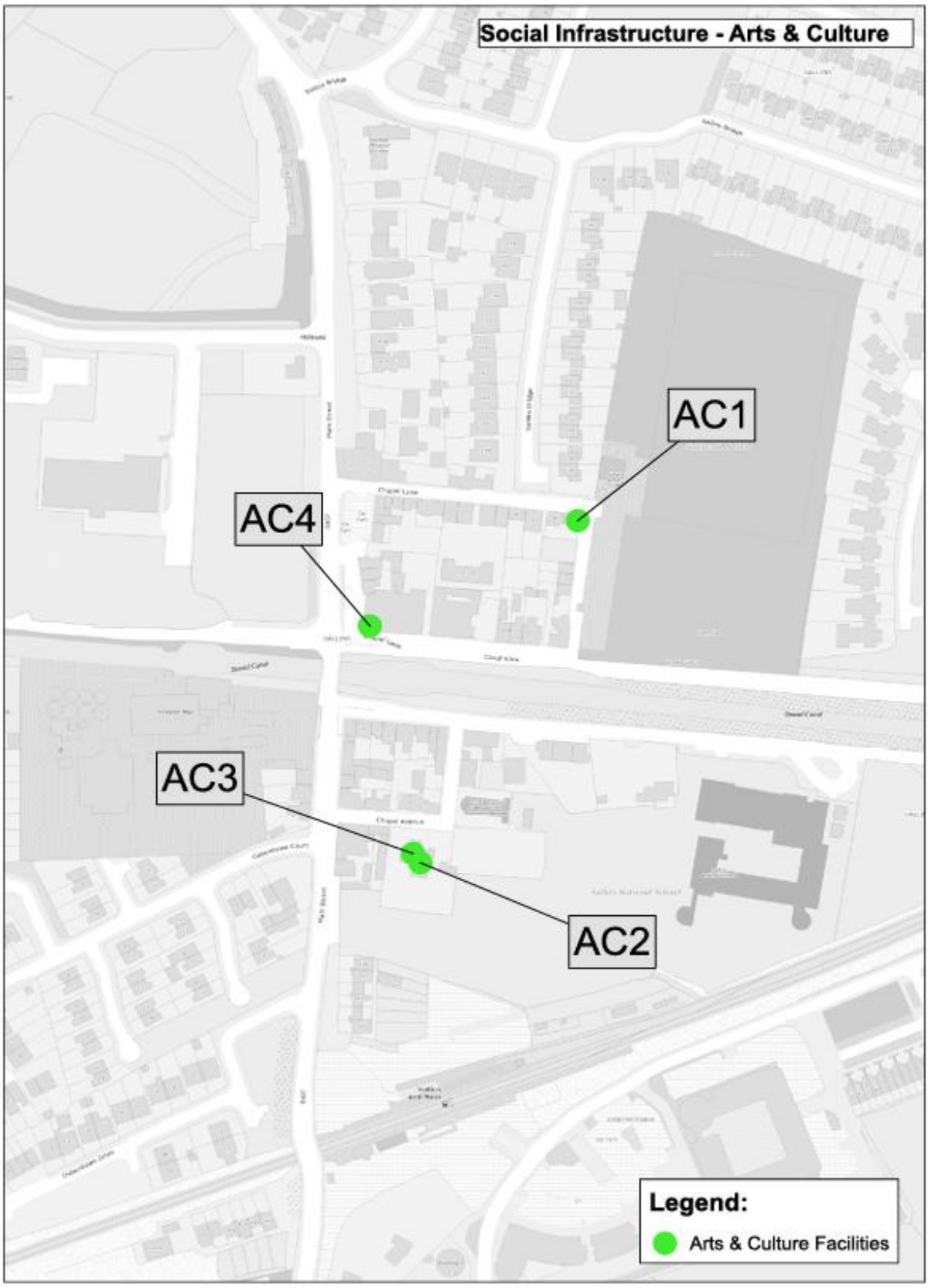
Sallins has four organisations/facilities dedicated to arts and culture, offering music lessons, drama and creative film. Map 8 shows the locations of these facilities which are mostly located in the centre of Sallins. Table 20 below provides further details on each facility.

Table 20: Arts and Cultural Organisations/Facilities

Map Ref.	Name	Type of Facility
AC1	Frame it Productions	Produces creative and innovative corporate films and specialise in promo film, e-learning, web content and broadcast productions.
AC2	Sult na Sollán	Sult na Sollán is a community group set up to promote Irish music, culture and the Irish language in Sallins located in the Sallins Community Centre. Four traditional groups play regularly in Sallins – Sult, Spraoi, Fonn Nua and a youth group, Sult Óg. The group hosts the Féile na Sollán (Sallins Tradfest) every October and organise workshops and special events throughout the year. They are intergenerational and provide classes for all ages.
AC3	Sallins Dramatic Society	Sallins Community Centre
AC4	Ceola Academy of Music	Music education institution dedicated to providing high-quality music instruction to students of all ages and skill levels.

Figure 9: Sallins Community Centre/Parish Hall

Map 8: Location of Arts and Culture Facilities



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 Sallins.

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan and beyond:

- The requirement for additional facilities is unknown. However, the CDP contains numerous objectives supporting the provision of arts and culture infrastructure.

3.7 Faith

There are three faith facilities identified in Sallins, namely, The Church of our Lady and the Guardian Angels Catholic Church and Bodenstown Graveyard, which is best known as the burial place of the Irish patriot Wolfe Tone (1763-1798).[56]

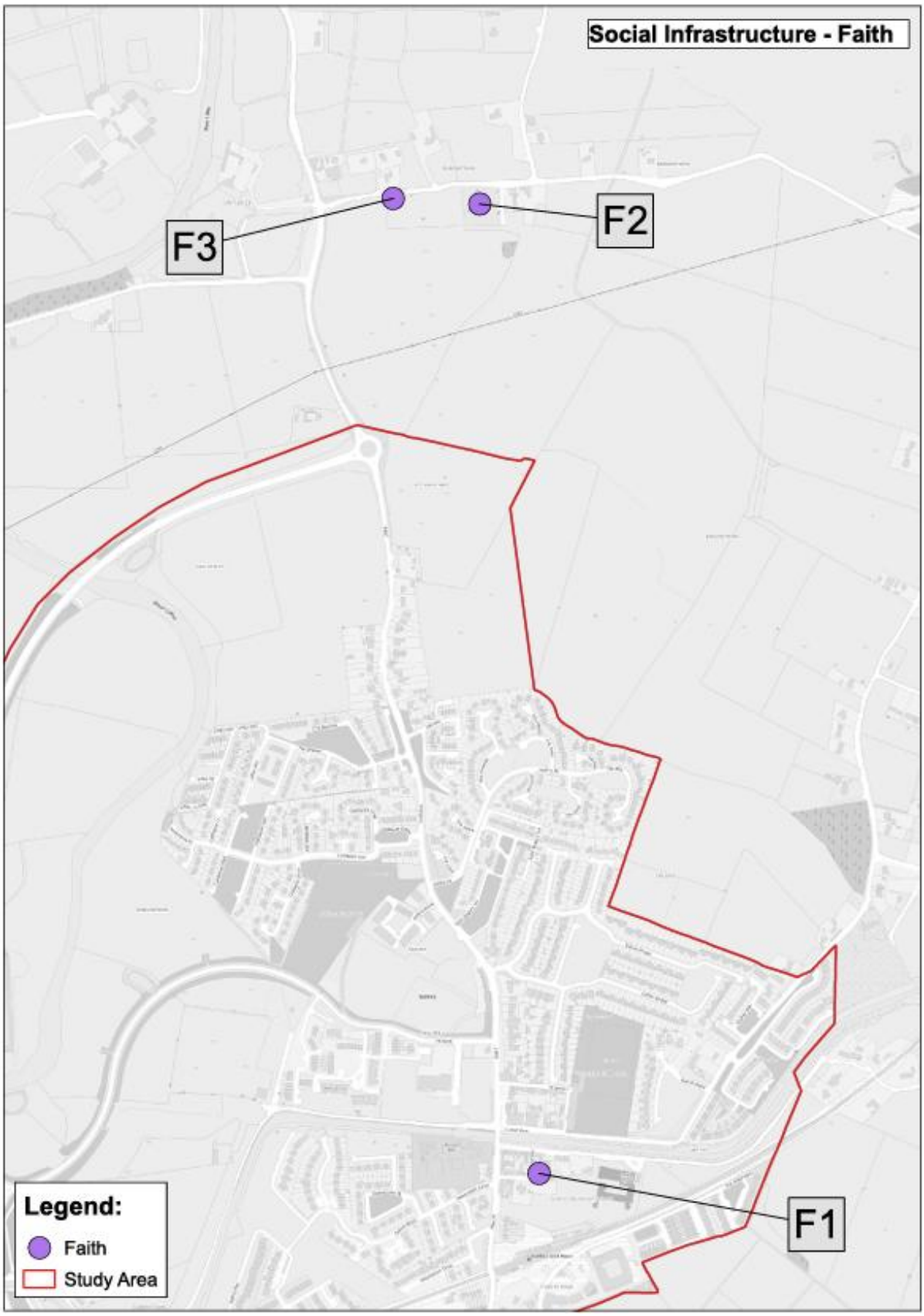
There is also a recently developed private cemetery located on a site adjoining Bodenstown Graveyard and Grave of Wolfe Tone. The private cemetery is called the Wolfe Tone Private Lawn Cemetery.[57] They are both located on the L2010 and are accessed from Bodenstown Cross on the R407 (Clane Road), at circa 500m north of the study area. Table 21 provides a list of these facilities and Map 9 illustrates their locations.

Table 21: Faith Facilities/Infrastructure

Map Ref.	Name	Type of Facility
F1	The Church of Our Lady and The Guardian Angels	Roman Catholic Church
F2	Bodenstown Graveyard and Grave of Wolfe Tone	Kildare County Council
F3	Wolfe Tone Private Lawn Cemetery[58]	Private lawn cemetery and caters for all denominations.

[56] Bodenstown Graveyard and Grave of Wolfe Tone is located outside of the study area.
[57] https://wolfetonecemetery.ie/
[58] Wolfe Tone Cemetery is located outside of the study area.

Map 9: Location of Faith Facilities



Demand Analysis

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

Places of Worship

Census 2022 records that 68% of the population of Sallins identify as Roman Catholics. One Roman Catholic church, The Church of Our Lady and The Guardian Angels, serves the town. Additionally, 11% of the population follows 'other religions' but there are no other places of worship in Sallins. Furthermore, 4% of the population did not state their religious beliefs and 19% indicated that they had no religion.

Graveyard

Bodenstown Graveyard serving the population of Sallins is managed by Kildare County Council. According to correspondence with Kildare County Council's Environment Section (dated 14 April 2025) there is no further capacity in the graveyard except for internments in existing plots and there is no land available to extend the graveyard. The Graveyard does not have a columbarium wall.

A private cemetery, Wolfe Tone Cemetery, adjacent to the Bodenstown Cemetery, is a lawn cemetery, will cater for all denominations, with circa1400 available plots, and offer traditional burial plots. It will provide for the burial and cremation requirements for individuals and their families. Each plot will cater for 103 burials (or four urns) for family members.

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan and beyond:

- The requirement for additional places of worship is unknown. However, the CDP contains numerous objectives supporting the provision of places of worship.

Figure 10: The Church of Our Lady and The Guardian Angels

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 Sallins. This study was commissioned to examine the current context with respect to social infrastructure facilities in Sallins and to determine future requirements based on future population growth. A summary of the findings of this study is provided in Table 22 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 Sallins Settlement Plan, where the principal task is to provide a framework for the sustainable development of Sallins. 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 22: Summary of Findings of the Social Infrastructure Audit

Type of Infrastructure	Existing Infrastructure	Social Infrastructure Requirements over the Plan period and beyond
Education		
Primary School	1 primary school	• An additional 385 – 460 primary school pupil places (circa 17 – 20 no. classrooms with 23 students each). • Reserve a site for the future expansion of St. Laurence's National School. • Reserve a site for an additional primary school. • The location of any new primary school should have regard to the 10-minute settlement concept, which the northern periphery of the Sallins settlement area is lacking in this regard.
Post-primary School	None	• 996 persons of post-primary pupil places. • Reserve a site for a post-primary school. • Reserve lands to provide for a new post-primary school having regard to the 10-minute settlement concept.
Childcare		
Childcare facilities	7 childcare facilities	• An additional 314 childcare places, 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 (as varied).

Health		
General Practitioners (GPs)	3 full-time GPs	• Up to 9 additional GPs may be required to meet the recommended GP-to-patient ratio of the ICGP and IMO.
Residential Care settings for older people	None	• A total of 34 no. bed spaces may be required to accommodate people needing residential or nursing home care in Sallins over the lifetime of the Plan and beyond.
Sports, Recreation and Open Space		
Public Open Space	17.37 ha (overall total)	• An additional 7.51 hectares of public open space area will be required. • Support the delivery of the Sallins Amenity Park. • Improve access to multi-functional public open spaces within walking distance of homes. • Improve permeability in existing residential areas to facilitate active travel routes to the existing and proposed public open spaces.
Public Parks	3.3 ha	• An additional 4.66 hectares of public parks will be required. • Support the development of the Urban Neighbourhood Park on the Sallins Amenity lands.
Amenity Green Space	8.23 ha	• Ensure regard is given to Policy and Objective 5.1 of the Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DHLGH, 2024).
Playgrounds/Play Areas	0.08 ha	• An additional 2.42 hectares of playing space will be required. • To support the development of a play area and teen space in the Sallins Amenity Park. • Provision of play facilities within new residential developments in accordance with Sections 15.6.5 and 16.6.6 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 and Sections 4.13 and 4.14 of the Design Standards for New Apartment Guidelines (DHLGH, July 2023).

Outdoor sports	5.76 ha	• An additional 10.16 hectares will be required. • To meet the projected demand during the lifetime of the plan and beyond, it is essential that the development of the Sallins Amenity Park is progressed to completion.
Social and Community		
Social and Community Facilities	6 facilities	• Support the refurbishment and extension of the Sallins Community Centre. • Additional community facilities may be required over the plan period and beyond.
Arts and Culture		
Arts and Cultural facilities	4 facilities	• The requirement for additional facilities is unknown. However, the CDP contains numerous objectives supporting the provision of arts and culture infrastructure.
Faith		
Place of Worship	3 Facilities	• The requirement for additional places of worship is unknown. However, the CDP contains numerous objectives supporting the provision of places of worship.

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