



Monasterevin Social Infrastructure Audit

*Iniúchadh ar Bhonneagar Sóisialta
Mainistir Eimhín*

A supporting document of the Monasterevin Settlement Plan

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Comhairle Contae Chill Dara
Kildare County Council



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Glossary

BUA	Built-Up Area
CDP	County Development Plan
CSO	Central Statistics Office
DEY	Department of Education and Youth
EMRA	Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly
FIT	Fields In Trust
GAA	Gaelic Athletic Association
GFC	Gaelic Football Club
GP	General Practitioner
HSE	Health Service Executive
ICGP	Irish Council of General Practitioners
IMO	Irish Medical Organisation
KCC	Kildare County Council
LAP	Local Area Plan
LECP	Local Economic and Community Plan
MUGA	Multi-Use Games Area
NCSE	National Council for Special Education
NPF	National Planning Framework
RPO	Regional Policy Objective
RSES	Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy
SEN	Special Education Needs
SENO	Special Educational Needs Organiser
SIA	Social Infrastructure Audit
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
UK	United Kingdom

Disclaimer

As part of the Social Infrastructure Audit (SIA) an assessment of the existing social infrastructure has been undertaken within the study area. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information presented, there may be instances where some facilities or services have been inadvertently omitted, or new ones have been established since the audit was conducted between June 2025 and July 2026. The findings are based on the best available data at the time of the study.



1 Introduction

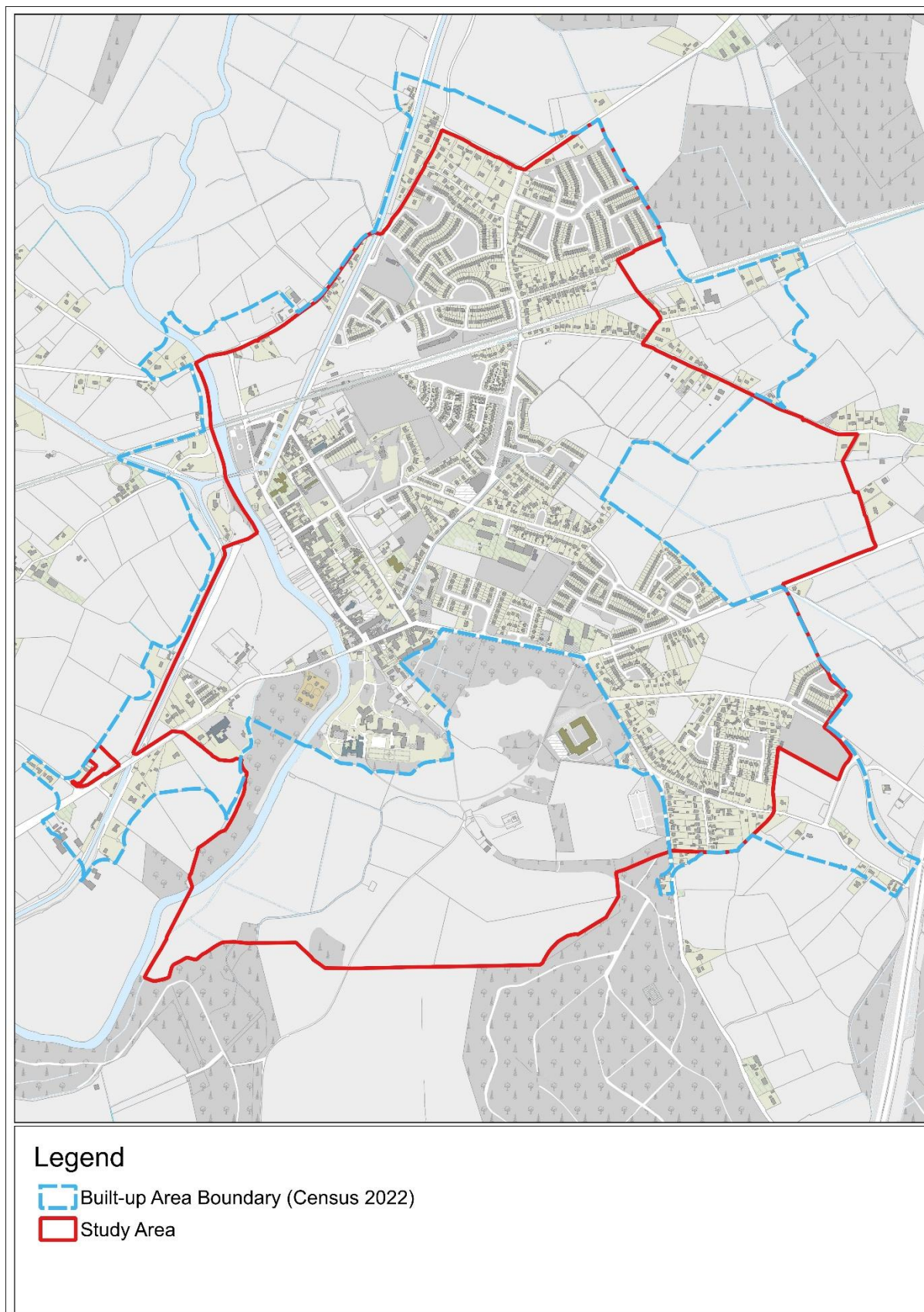
The following Social Infrastructure Audit (SIA) has been prepared by Kildare County Council (KCC) for the purposes of informing the Monasterevin Settlement Plan ('the Plan'). The function of the SIA is to examine and analyse the availability and capacity of existing social infrastructure facilities, identify current deficiencies to determine future requirements, and to make recommendations based on both existing gaps and anticipated population growth. This report represents 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 or town. Social infrastructure facilities cater for a broad range of services including educational and health services such as schools, doctor/general practitioner (GP) 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 many residents may rely upon for personal wellbeing. The provision of the requisite levels of social infrastructure within Monasterevin is therefore important and vital to support the existing and planned residential base having regard to the population's anticipated requirements for both physical facilities and social engagement.

The study area for examining the existing provision of social infrastructure in Monasterevin is illustrated by the red line boundary of Map 1 (overleaf). Note that the indicated red line boundary is that of the Monasterevin Local Area Plan (LAP) 2016-2022, which will be subject to change in the Monasterevin Settlement Plan. Furthermore, several of the social infrastructure providers identified which are located just beyond the red line boundary have been included in the audit. The provided demographic profile data relates to the area within the Central Statistics Office (CSO) Census 2022 Built-Up Area (BUA) boundary of Monasterevin outlined in blue on Map 1.¹

¹ Central Statistics Office (CSO), Census 2022, Built-Up Areas [Online] available from: <https://www.cso.ie/en/census/census2022/census2022urbanboundariesandbuiltupareas/> (Accessed: 30 March 2026)

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



1.1 Policy Context

The assessment of social infrastructure has been considered in the context of the existing social infrastructure facilities in the town of Monasterevin along with national, regional and local statutory policy documents to inform the spatial development objectives of the new Monasterevin Settlement Plan.

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. It recognises how future development in Ireland is planned will continue to be a significant determinant of people's quality of life. Of relevance to social infrastructure is National Strategic Outcome 10 which relates to access to quality childcare, education and health services and National Policy Objective 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”*.

In addition, the NPF recognises the strategic location of County Kildare, with its proximity to Dublin City and ongoing experience of high levels of population growth exceeding the national average rate over the intercensal period between 2016 to 2022. The NPF states that managing the challenges of future growth is critical to this region and that a more balanced and sustainable pattern of development with a greater focus on addressing employment creation, local social and community infrastructure needs, particularly education and amenity, and addressing the legacy of rapid growth must be prioritised.

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) 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 a wide range of service providers through the Local Economic and Community Plans (LECP) to effectively plan for social infrastructure needs.

At a local level, the Kildare Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2029 includes Sustainable Shared Community and Economic Development Objective 4.5: *“To utilise the social infrastructure audits carried out as part of KCC Local Area Planning to allocate existing resources and work with Government Departments and Agencies to identify funding opportunities to inform funding applications to support community and economic development across the county.”*

This Social Infrastructure Audit (SIA) is guided by the population and housing unit allocations for Monasterevin provided for by the Core Strategy of the Kildare County Development Plan (CDP) 2023-2029 (as varied). Table 1 (below) outlines these allocations up to the end of Quarter 4 of 2028.

Table 1: Housing and Population Allocation to Monasterevin to End Q4 2028

Housing and Population Allocation to Monasterevin to 2029	
<u>Housing Units</u>	
Housing unit allocation Kildare County Development Plan (CDP) 2023-2029	488 units ²
Remaining CDP Core Strategy Housing Units under CDP 2023-2029	346 units ³
<u>Population</u>	
Census 2022 Population of Monasterevin	5,307 persons
Estimated Population Growth of Monasterevin Q2 - Q4 2022	202 persons ⁴
Estimated Total Population of Monasterevin Q1 2023	5,509 persons ⁵
Estimated Population of Monasterevin Q3 2026	5,876 persons ⁶
Estimated Projected Population of Monasterevin Q1 2029	6,827 persons ⁷

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

² This figure includes an additional 250 residential units allocated to Monasterevin by Variation No. 3 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied). The additional 250 units is based on increased housing allocation to County Kildare under the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, NPF Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements, Guidelines for Planning Authorities issued under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) – July 2025.

³ Residential planning applications in Monasterevin study area approved by Kildare County Council between Q1 2023 to date (Q3 2026) = 142 units. CDP Housing unit allocation (488 units) – approved residential applications between Q1 2023 to Q3 2026 (142 units) = 346 units remaining.

⁴ CSO data records that 71 units were constructed within the built-up area (BUA) of Monasterevin between Q2 and Q4 2022. Accordingly, 71 x 2.85 (average unit occupancy for Monasterevin in Census 2022) = 202 persons.

⁵ 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 Monasterevin (5,307) 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) i.e., 202 persons + 5,307 (Census 2022 population) = 5,509 persons.

⁶ Estimated population of Monasterevin Q3 2026: Housing completions Q1 2023 to Q2 2026 (123 units) x 2.75 persons (CDP unit occupancy target) = 338 persons. Estimated housing completions Q3 2026 (housing completions Q1 to Q4 2025 = 41 units / 4 quarters = 10.25 units) x 2.75 (CDP unit occupancy target) = 28 persons. Accordingly, 338 persons (estimated Q1 2023 to Q2 2026 population increase) + 28 persons (estimated Q3 2026 housing completions) = 367 persons. Therefore, 367 persons (estimated population increase by Q3 2026) + 5,509 persons (Q1 2023 estimated population of Monasterevin) = 5,876 persons.

⁷ Estimated projected population of Monasterevin Q1 2029: Estimated remaining CDP Core Strategy housing allocation = 346 units x 2.75 CDP unit occupancy target = 952 persons. 5,876 persons (estimated population Q3 2026) + 952 persons = 6,827 persons.

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

2. Future Demand Analysis

3. 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 several predefined themes including Education and Training, Childcare, Health, Sports and Recreation and Open Space, and Community Services. The location of schools, childcare and neighbourhood centres are mapped to illustrate catchment areas within a notional 800-metre walking distance), as per the 10-minute settlement concept, which is supported by the CDP.⁸

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 audit seeks to define 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 Monasterevin Settlement Plan. The spatial and demographic outputs will bring significant added value in the preparation of evidence-based spatial development objectives and provisions including implementing the 10-minute settlement concept. Reference is made throughout the document to the Report on Submissions Received at the Pre-Draft Consultation Stage of the Monasterevin Local Area Plan.⁹ This is an important source of information as the provision of social infrastructure was a significant issue raised by the key stakeholders including the residents of Monasterevin during the pre-draft public consultation stage.

⁸ This is also in keeping with National Strategic Outcome 1 (Compact Growth) of the National Planning Framework (2025).

⁹ Dated September 2024, available at: <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/ga/system/files/consultation-outcomes-reports/1.%20Combined%20Pre-Draft%20Consultaiton%20Report%20%2B%20Appendices.pdf>

Figure 1: River Barrow in Monasterevin



1.3 Demographic Profile

Census 2022 showed Monasterevin to have a population of 5,307 persons which represents a 25% (1,061 persons) increase in population from 2016 (4,246 persons).¹⁰ Monasterevin represented 2% of County Kildare's entire population (247,774 persons) in 2022.

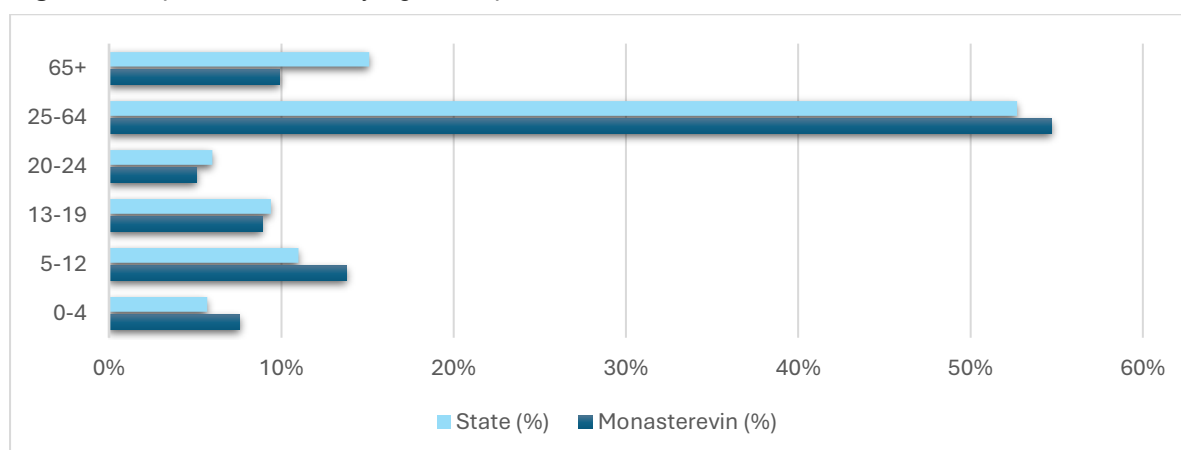
According to Census 2022, the age profile of Monasterevin includes a high percentage of children, young people and those at work. Table 2 below shows the 0-19 age cohort makes up 30.3% of the population which is higher than the percentage recorded nationally (26.1%), while the 20-64 age cohorts make up 59.8% of the population which is slightly higher than the national proportion of 58.7%. Also of significance is the difference between the 65+ age group of Monasterevin and the State. Monasterevin recorded almost 9.9% in this age group compared to 15.1% nationally.

Figure 2 below shows the most significant differences between the State age profile and the Monasterevin age profile, most notably being in the 65+ age group.

Table 2: Age Profile - Census 2022

Age Group	Population of Monasterevin	% of Total Population Monasterevin	National Proportion (%)
0-4	403	7.6%	5.7%
5-12	731	13.8%	11.0%
13-19	473	8.9%	9.4%
20-24	270	5.1%	6.0%
25-64	2,904	54.7%	52.7%
65+	526	9.9%	15.1%

Figure 2: Population Profile by Age Group – Census 2022



¹⁰ The figure of 5,307 comprises the population living within the Built-Up Area (BUA) of Monasterevin, as defined by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and is based on the results of Census 2022.

2 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
- Community
- Neighbourhood Centres

2.1 Education

The study area is served by three primary schools and one post-primary school.

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

Consultation took place with the DEY in relation to the projected need for primary and post-primary school places in Monasterevin up to the end of the Plan period. The DEY noted that the projected population increase in Monasterevin by Q4 2028 would require additional provision at both primary and post-primary education level.¹¹

To inform the demand analysis of the educational facilities, Kildare County Council conducted a survey in late 2025 to assess pupil enrolment, school capacities, and the availability of pupil places across all schools in the study area.

The enrolment figures for schools for the academic year 2025/2026 were also used to inform analysis.

2.1.1 Primary Schools and Post-Primary Schools

Primary Schools

The number of students enrolled for the 2025/26 academic year, along with the capacity, operating levels and availability of student places in Monasterevin primary schools are detailed in Table 3 overleaf. Map 2 illustrates the locations of these schools and shows the homes that fall within a notional 10-minute walking distance (800 metres) of each school.

¹¹ Department of Education and Youth (DEY) submission (dated 15 May 2024) to the Monasterevin Local Area Plan 2025-2031 Pre-draft Public Consultation Stage.

Table 3: Primary Schools in Monasterevin

Map Ref.	School Name	Enrolled 2025/2026	Capacity	Operating Level	Availability
ED1	Scoil Eimhín Naofa	376	396	94.9%	20 ¹²
ED2	St Peter's National School	242	252	96.0%	10 ¹³
ED3	St John's National School	47	47	100%	0
	TOTAL:	665	695	95.7%	30 places

Table 4: Planned Primary School Projects in Monasterevin

Map Ref.	School Name	Planning Ref. No.	Current Status	Capacity
ED1	Monasterevin National School ¹⁴	17/497	Completed, amalgamated school due to open in September 2026 ¹⁵	24 no. classrooms, 732 pupils ¹⁶

Figure 3: Monasterevin National School


Source: St Evin's NS website: <https://sen.ie/our-new-school/>

¹²Availability in first class, second class and fifth class.

¹³Availability in first class and sixth class.

¹⁴ Amalgamation of Scoil Eimhín Naofa and St Peter's National School. As per correspondence with Scoil Eimhín Naofa and St Peter's National School it is anticipated the schools will amalgamate in September 2026 at the Scoil Eimhín Naofa location.

¹⁵ List of schools that had large-scale projects completed 2010 to date (31 March 2026):

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/services/major-projects/>

¹⁶ Mobility Management Plan submitted with Planning Ref. No. 17/497 states the proposed occupancy of the new school is approximately 43 staff and 732 pupils.

Post-Primary School

The number of students enrolled for the 2025/2026 school year, along with the capacity of the school, operating levels and the availability of mixed student places in St Paul's Secondary School are provided in Table 5 below. Map 2 illustrates the location of this school and shows homes that fall within a notional 10-minute walking distance (800 metres) of the school.

Table 5: Post-Primary School

Map Ref.	School Name	Enrolled 2025/2026	Capacity	Operating Level	Availability
ED4	St Paul's Secondary School	845 pupils	850	99.4%	5 places ¹⁷

Figure 4: St Paul's Secondary School



¹⁷ Availability in fifth year and sixth year.

Map 2: Primary and Post-Primary Schools in Monasterevin



2.1.2 Special Education Needs (SEN)

Special Education Needs (SEN) in Monasterevin are catered for by SEN classrooms in one mainstream primary school and one mainstream post-primary school. Map 2 shows the locations of these schools (ED1 and ED4) and highlights the parts of the town that fall within a notional 10-minute (800 metre) walking distance of each school. As illustrated, there are areas both to the north and the south of Monasterevin that are not located within a notional 10-minute walk of a school offering SEN education (see Map 2).

In the mainstream schools, SEN classes are supported by four full-time and three part-time dedicated teaching posts, which is an increased allocation since the academic year 2024/2025. In addition, the DEY have announced a new special education school for Monasterevin. It is envisaged that existing school buildings at St Peter's National School (ED2) will be repurposed to facilitate opening for the upcoming 2026/2027 school year. No pupil numbers for the proposed new school have been confirmed at this time.¹⁸

Table 6: List of Special Education Needs Classes in Mainstream Schools for 2025/2026 (May 2025)

Map Ref.	School Name	Type	Class Type	Teaching Posts
ED1	Scoil Eimhín Naofa	Primary	Autism / Autistic Spectrum	1
ED4	St Paul's Secondary School	Post-Primary	Autism / Autistic Spectrum	1.5 + 1.5 + 1.5
Total number of teaching posts:				5.5

Table 7: Planned Primary School Projects

Map Ref.	School Name	Planning Ref. No.	Current Status	Facility
ED1	Monasterevin National School ¹⁹	17/497	Completed, amalgamated school due to open in September 2026 ²⁰	SEN Unit

¹⁸ <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/press-releases/four-new-special-schools-announced-to-deliver-for-children-with-additional-needs/>

¹⁹ Amalgamation of Scoil Eimhín Naofa and St Peter's National School. As per correspondence with Scoil Eimhín Naofa and St Peter's National School it is anticipated the schools will amalgamate in September 2026 at the Scoil Eimhín Naofa location.

²⁰ List of schools that had Large-Scale projects completed 2010 to date (31 March 2026): <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/services/major-projects/>

2.1.3 Further Education and Training Facilities

There are no further education and training facilities in the study area.

2.1.4 Education Demand Analysis

Primary Schools

There is no guiding population benchmark for the provision of primary school facilities in Ireland. The Department of Education and Youth's (DEY) Circular 0025/2026 '*Staffing arrangements in Primary Schools for the 2026/27 school year*' outlines a primary staffing approach indicating a general average of one classroom teacher for every 23 pupils for the 2026/27 school year.

An analysis of the DEY's Primary School Enrolment Figures for the 2021/2022 school year (which coincided with Census 2022) notes that 643 pupils were attending primary school in the three Monasterevin primary schools. This figure represented 12.1% of the population of Monasterevin in 2022 (Census 2022). However, it is important to note that the primary school population (5-12 age group) represented 13.8% of Monasterevin's population, according to Census 2022 data and to acknowledge that these schools also serve a wider rural catchment area.

The total number of primary school students enrolled in these three primary schools for the 2025/2026 academic year amounts to 665 pupils, which is 22 more pupils than those enrolled in the 2021/2022 academic year, highlighting a small increase in this population age group attending primary education in Monasterevin.

The current population as of Q3 2026 is estimated at 5,876 persons. Applying the Census 2022 figure of 13.8% to the projected population growth in Monasterevin from Q3 2026 to 2029 (951 persons) indicates that an additional 131 pupil places would be required.²¹ The requirement of pupil places can be reduced to 101 pupil places when considering the available capacity in the existing primary schools (30 pupils) for the enrolment period 2025/2026.

As noted in Table 4 above, St Peter's Boys' National School is due to amalgamate with Scoil Eimhín Naofa in September 2026 to form Monasterevin National School.²² Scoil Eimhín Naofa is currently accommodated in Phase 1 of a newly constructed section of the school on a 3.9-hectare site. The amalgamated school will include 24 classrooms and a special needs (autism) unit.

The DEY's submission on the pre-draft consultation highlighted that the requirement for additional education provision at both primary and post-primary level may emerge over the lifetime of the Plan, including the development of new schools and the expansion or alteration of existing ones.

²¹ The projected population growth figure is calculated as the difference between Monasterevin's estimated population in Q3 2026 (5,876) and the estimated total population in Monasterevin at end of Q4 2028 (6,827) = 951 persons.

²² A telephone discussion with Scoil Eimhín Naofa on 5 June 2025 indicated that the envisaged date for St Peter's national school to fully amalgamate with Scoil Eimhín Naofa is September 2026.

Considering the anticipated population growth of Monasterevin over the Plan period, 101 additional primary school pupil spaces, or five classrooms comprising 23 students each will be needed. The DEY's Technical Guidance Document (TGD-025) states that 32 classrooms are considered as the maximum number of classrooms within a primary school. Whilst the future requirement in Monasterevin could be delivered with the expansion of existing facilities, it is deemed appropriate that sufficient land is also zoned for a new primary school for future population growth in Monasterevin beyond the lifetime of the Plan.

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

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan and beyond:

- Zone land for a new primary school. The location of any new primary school should have regard to the 10-minute settlement concept and the north-east of Monasterevin is lacking in this regard.
- Support and facilitate the future expansion or alteration of existing schools, where possible, to accommodate the future primary school needs of the settlement.

Post-Primary Schools

There is no guiding population benchmark for the provision of post-primary school facilities in Ireland. The DEY's Circulars 0026/2026 '*Staffing arrangements in Voluntary Secondary Schools for the 2026/27 school year*' and 0027/2026 '*Staffing arrangements in Community and Comprehensive Schools for the 2026/27 school year*' outlines an average ratio of 1 classroom teacher for every 19 students for the 2026/27 school year.

An analysis of the DEY's Post-Primary School Enrolment Figures for the 2021/2022 school year records that 623 students were attending St Paul's Secondary School. This figure represented 11.7% of the population of Monasterevin in 2022 (Census 2022). However, it is noted that the 13-19 years age group in Monasterevin recorded in Census 2022 represented 8.9% of the town's population, therefore, it should be acknowledged that this post-primary school serves a wider rural catchment.

It is important to note that in September 2023, St Paul's Secondary School relocated to a new 850-pupil capacity building on the grounds of Moore Abbey Demesne.²³ The total number of students enrolled at St Paul's Secondary School for the 2025/2026 academic year is 845. This represents an increase of an additional 222 students over the enrolment figures for the 2021/2022 academic year.

²³ St Paul's school currently comprises 31 classrooms and 18 specialist classrooms as part of a special educational needs unit.

To accommodate projected population growth during the Plan period to 2029 (with an estimated increase of 951 persons) applying the Census 2022 percentage figure of 11.7% suggests a need for 111 additional student places. The requirement of student places can be reduced to 106 places when considering the available capacity in the existing post-primary school (5 students) for the enrolment period 2025/2026. This equates to 6 additional classrooms based on the DEY's student to teacher ratio of 19:1.

In response to the DEY's request to recognise potential unforeseen circumstances which may place pressure on school places and availability. Given that St Paul's Secondary School has the capacity to expand it is considered appropriate its future expansion is supported by the Settlement Plan.

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan and beyond:

- Support and facilitate the expansion of St Paul's Secondary School to accommodate the future post-primary school needs of the settlement.

Special Education Needs

As of July 2026, there is no dedicated special education needs school in Monasterevin. The Monasterevin Special Educational Needs Organiser (SENO) of the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) is responsible for planning, coordinating, and reviewing the provision of special education needs schools. SENO has highlighted a waiting list of five children at primary school level in Monasterevin awaiting placement for the 2025/2026 school year.²⁴ There are no children on the waiting list at post-primary level for the same academic year.

At primary school level, a new special educational needs (SEN) unit is due to open in September 2026 at the newly amalgamated Monasterevin National School. At post-primary school level, St Paul's Secondary School has 18 specialist classrooms as part of an SEN unit.

In addition, the DEY has confirmed in April 2026 that a new special education school comprising of three classrooms is due to open in September 2026 at the former St Peter's National School. This special education school (Ros Glas Special Education School) will cater for children and young adults from 4-18 years of age with autism and/or complex learning needs.

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan and beyond:

- Support and facilitate the development of a new special education school at the former St Peter's National School and facilitate the provision of SEN facilities at appropriate sites in the town.

²⁴ Date of communication: 17 June 2025.

Further Education and Training Facilities

There are no further education and training facilities in the study area at present. However, the former Bank of Ireland at Market Square, Monasterevin has an approved Part 8 planning application for its redevelopment to a Fashion and Textile Design Hub. The hub is currently under construction. Upon completion, it aims to be a social initiative to support newly graduated designers, established designers and small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in the fashion and textile industry in Kildare and the mid-east of Ireland to support training and upskilling of new entrants for employment in this sector. The hub further aims to work with local schools, colleges and the wider community in partnership with Kildare County Council and local business owners. It is anticipated that the hub will officially open in September 2026.

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan and beyond:

- Support and facilitate the development of the Fashion and Textile Design Hub.

Figure 5: Fashion and Textile Design Hub (under construction) at former Bank of Ireland, Market Square



2.2 Childcare

Childcare in Monasterevin is supported by four existing registered childcare facilities. Most of these facilities are located close to or within existing residential developments, providing convenient access for families. One additional facility located at Ferns Walk is currently under construction as part of the residential development (Table 9 refers).

The location 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, small sections within the south-east area of Monasterevin are lacking in this regard. A capacity audit for each childcare provider is set out in Table 8 overleaf.

Figure 6: Early Scholars Preschool, Drogheda Street



Figure 7: Whizz Kids Childcare, Togher Road



Table 8: Registered Childcare Facilities

Registered Childcare Facilities						
Map Ref.	School Name	Enrolled 2025/ 2026	Total Capacity ²⁵	Nursery / Pre-school Availability	Nursery / Pre-school Services	Afterschool Services
C1	Whizz Kids Creche and Montessori	44 children	44 children	None	Full day 2½ - 4 years Waiting list Waiting lists are in operation for all age groups ²⁶	Age-group: 4 - 10 years Current Enrolment 22 pupils Availability - No available spaces Waiting list - A waiting list is in operation²⁷
C2	Early Scholars Montessori and Day Care	22 children	22 children	None	Part-time and sessional 2½ – 4 years Waiting list Waiting lists are in operation for all age groups	Age-group: 4 - 12 years Current Enrolment 22 pupils Availability - No available spaces Waiting list - A waiting list is in operation

²⁵ The maximum number of children the facility can accommodate at any one time.

²⁶ There are eight children on the waiting list for ECCE (Early Childhood Care and Education programme).

²⁷ There are seven children on the waiting list for the afterschool service.

Registered Childcare Facilities						
Map Ref.	School Name	Enrolled 2025/ 2026	Total Capacity ²⁵	Nursery / Pre-school Availability	Nursery / Pre-school Services	Afterschool Services
C3	Bright Eyes Childcare	90 children	110 children	None, due to a shortage of staff	Full day 2 - 6 years Waiting list Waiting lists are in operation for the 2-3 year age group ²⁸	Age-group: 4 - 12 years Current Enrolment 44 pupils Availability - No available spaces Waiting list - There is no waiting list in operation
C4	Tiggerz Den Pre-School	31 children ²⁹	60 children ³⁰	12 sessional (morning) and 17 sessional (afternoon) spaces	Sessional: 2½ - 5 years	No afterschool services

Table 9: Planned Childcare Facilities

Map Ref:	Location	Planning Ref. No.	Capacity	Status
pC1	Ferns Walk, Monasterevin	211729	The permitted crèche caters for 163 no. childcare spaces.	Under construction

²⁸ The facility noted there are staff shortages for full-time positions.

²⁹ Enrolled: 18 in morning session and 13 in afternoon session.

³⁰ Capacity: 30 pupils per session. 30 in morning session and 30 in afternoon session.

Map 3: Childcare Facilities in Monasterevin



Social Infrastructure - Childcare Facilities

- Childcare Facilities with 800m notional distance
- Proposed Childcare Facility (under construction)

2.2.1 Childcare Demand Analysis

Census 2022 recorded that Monasterevin had one of the highest percentages of population in County Kildare within the 0-12 years age cohort. The percentage of population in the 0-4 years age group was 7.6% and 13.8% in the 5-12 years age group. These are both higher when compared to the percentages for the same age cohorts at the national level of 5.7% and 11% respectively.

To evaluate the current and projected demand for childcare in Monasterevin, detailed information was gathered from local childcare providers on enrolment, capacity, and availability for the 2025/2026 year. The findings of the key data collected are summarised in Table 9.

Overview of Current Demand and Capacity

Feedback from the childcare providers varies regarding available capacity. Two childcare providers are operating at full capacity with no available spaces, and the other two facilities have availability in full-day and sessional spaces. None of the facilities take children under two years old and afterschool services remain in high demand with waiting lists in operation across the facilities who provide this service.

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 four registered childcare facilities, a total of 187 children are currently enrolled in childcare services across Monasterevin. There are 29 sessional and 20 full-time places available. However, it is important to note that the childcare provider with full-time spaces available stated that staff shortages for full-time employment meant they could not fill the places that were theoretically available.

Demand for full-time pre-school childcare remains high with many providers operating at full capacity and maintaining waiting lists.

Infant care is particularly limited with none of the four childcare providers accepting children aged 0-2 years. One childcare provider stated they receive daily queries regarding the provision of infant care, however, due to insurance costs and the required staff ratio, it is currently not feasible for the facility to do so.

Afterschool care accounts for 88 of the 187 children (47%) currently enrolled in childcare services. Of the three 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. This guidance serves as a benchmark, though specific local conditions may affect the precise requirement. It is noted that these guidelines are currently under review, however, there is currently no timeline for publication of new or revised childcare guidelines. Given the anticipated development of 346 additional residential units in Monasterevin over the lifetime of the Plan, an estimated 92 childcare places will be required to meet the needs of the growing population.

Planned Childcare Facilities

It is noted that a new childcare facility is currently under construction at Ferns Walk (Table 10 refers). This facility has capacity for approximately 163 childcare places and, if delivered, could address the future unmet childcare demand in Monasterevin. Provision of appropriately located and purpose-built early learning and childcare facilities will be required to meet the pro-rata childcare needs of housing development during the Plan period and beyond.

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

It is noted that the proposed crèche within Brocan Wood has not been built as part of the permitted residential scheme and that permission has now expired.

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan and beyond:

- The development of 346 additional residential units in Monasterevin over the Plan period will require an additional 92 childcare places, of which all could be addressed with the childcare facility under construction at Ferns Walk.

2.3 Health

This section focuses on existing health facilities including general practitioners (GPs), health centres and older and disabled persons care, as illustrated in Tables 11-13 below and Map 4 overleaf.

Table 10: General Practitioners in Monasterevin

Map Ref.	Name	No. Practitioners	Availability
GP1	Watermills Family Practice	Three GPs and two Nurses • GPs work full-time • Nurses work full-time	• Accepting new patients • Both medical cards and private patients

Table 11: Health Centre in Monasterevin

Map Ref.	Name	Services
PC1	Monasterevin Health Centre	Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Developmental Screening, Nursing and Child, School Immunisations, Family Support

Table 12: Older Persons and Disabled Care in Monasterevin

Map Ref.	Name	Bed Spaces / Capacity	Number of Residents / Service Users
Not mapped	Oghill Nursing Home ³¹	34	34 ³²
O1	Day Care Centre (HSE)	26	26 ³³
O2	Muiríosa Day Services	10	10 ³⁴
O3	Island House	6	6 ³⁵

³¹ Located approximately 5 km outside the study area boundary.

³² Email correspondence dated 06 June 2025.

³³ Email correspondence dated 25 November 2025 – 26 users is maximum capacity – spread out over three days (Mondays, Wednesday, Thursday). Availability on Wednesdays only.

³⁴ Email correspondence dated 20 June 2025 – indicated that the service is looking for a new location and would hopefully have the capacity for another 15-20 people to avail of the day services.

³⁵ HIQA Report of an inspection of a Designated Centre for Disabilities (Adults) Date of inspection: 25 January 2024. Available at: <https://www.hiqa.ie/areas-we-work/find-a-centre/island-house>

Map 4: Health Facilities in Monasterevin



Social Infrastructure - Health Facilities

- General Practices
- Health Centres
- Older Persons and/or Disabled Care

2.3.1 Health Demand Analysis

Primary Care Centre / Health Centre

The Department of Health states that a typical primary care team serves around 7,000 to 10,000 people.³⁶ Currently, there is one health centre in Monasterevin.

Considering the Monasterevin population target of 6,827 persons by 2029, the current facility is sufficient to meet the community's healthcare needs during the lifetime of the Plan. In addition, primary care services recently relocated to the newly refurbished Day Care Centre on Drogheda Street will provide services five days per week.³⁷

General Practitioners (GPs)

Currently, Monasterevin is served by three full-time GPs at one surgery at the Watermills Family Practice.

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.³⁸ With the estimated population of Monasterevin in Q3 2026 as 5,876 persons, Monasterevin has a GP-to-population ratio of five GPs per 10,000 population.³⁹ This is below the ICGP / IMO recommendation and 2023 county ratio of seven GPs per 10,000 population.⁴⁰ If the population grows by the additional anticipated 951 persons by 2029, this ratio will fall to four GPs per 10,000 population, significantly below the recommended ratio.⁴¹ This is assuming no increase or decrease in GP numbers takes place during that period.

To meet the recommended GP-to-patient ratio, while considering the anticipated population growth to 2029, an additional five GPs will be needed in Monasterevin by the end of the Plan period.⁴²

This shortage of GPs in Monasterevin may not be directly related to a lack of available premises but is likely connected to the widely reported nationwide shortage of GPs in certain parts of the country, including in County Kildare.

In their pre-draft consultation submission, the HSE Community Healthcare Organisation requested Kildare County Council to consider sufficient health related zoning as part of the plan for Monasterevin. This approach would support future

³⁶ Department of Health. Primary Care [online] available from: <https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/831bfc-primary-care/> Accessed: 30 March 2026.

³⁷ Parliamentary Questions – Care Services - Wednesday 22 January 2025. <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2025-01-22/1690/>

³⁸ RTÉ News, New measures put in place to tackle shortage of GPs: <https://www.rte.ie/news/health/2024/0313/1437573-gp-recruitment/> Date: Wednesday 13 March 2024.

³⁹ There are currently 3 full-time GPs in Monasterevin. [3 GP/ 5,876 population *10,000 = 5 GPs]

⁴⁰ Irish College of General Practitioners, Press Release on GP Workforce [online] available from: <https://www.irishcollegeofgps.ie/News/press-release-gp-workforce>. Date: 23 August 2024.

⁴¹ [3 GP/ 6,827 population *10,000 = 4 GPs]

⁴² Estimated population growth 6,827 / 10,000*12 = 8 - 3 GPs currently in Monasterevin = 5 GPs

proofing of healthcare services and aligning with the 10-minute settlement concept, ensuring greater accessibility to essential healthcare services in the town.

Older Persons and Disabled Care

There is currently one nursing home located approximately 5 km outside the study area boundary in the townland of Oghil. There is a Day Care Centre in Monasterevin for elderly adults, which was recently refurbished by the Health Service Executive (HSE). It is licensed by Older Persons services to the Monasterevin Day Care Committee. The centre operates Monday, Wednesday and Thursday with twenty-six service users spread out over the operating days. The Muiríosa Foundation operates on the grounds of Moore Abbey Demesne and provides day services for persons with intellectual disabilities and autism. The service is at capacity but is looking for a new location and hopes to have the capacity for another 15-20 people to avail of its day services. In addition, Island House is a HIQA registered designated residential centre for adults who present with autism and/or intellectual disabilities, which can facilitate up to 6 adults on a full-time basis.

The total number of older persons residing in the Oghill nursing home outlined in Table 12 is 34 persons. The nursing home is at 100% capacity, with no available bed spaces, and a waiting list of 4 people.⁴³

Census 2022 revealed that 9.9% (526 persons) of the population living within the Built-Up Area (BUA) boundary of Monasterevin was aged 65 and older. According to the HSE, approximately 5% of all older people need residential or nursing home care.⁴⁴ The population of Monasterevin aged 65 and older comprised 9.9% of the population in 2022 which represents a slight increase from 9.8% in 2016. Projecting this level of increase forward and applying it to the 2029 estimated population projection (6,827) it would indicate there could be 681 people aged 65+ years in 2029.⁴⁵ When using the 5% indicated by the HSE, it would indicate that a total of 34 bed spaces would be required by the end of the Plan period. It is noted that the Oghill nursing home provides 34 bed spaces, but it serves a wider catchment area and is operating a waiting list which demonstrates there is increased demand for the services of the facility.

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan and beyond:

- Up to five additional GPs may be required to meet the recommended GP-to-patient ratio of the ICGP and IMO.
- Support the delivery of nursing home / care facilities on appropriately zoned land within the settlement.

⁴³ Email correspondence dated 06 June 2025 – Oghill Nursing Home.

⁴⁴ Health Service Executive, About Nursing Homes [online] available from:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/olderpeople/residentialcare/>. Date of Access: 02 December 2024

⁴⁵ The projected population of people aged 65+ years in Monasterevin in 2029 is 681 (or 9.98% of a total projected population of 6,827).

Figure 8: Monasterevin Daycare Centre and Health Centre



2.4 Open Space, Sports, Recreation and Play

2.4.1 Public Open Spaces

The public open space in Monasterevin includes a public park and a playground in addition to amenity green space and outdoor sports areas. There are approximately 25.48 hectares of existing public open space within the study area, as illustrated in Table 13 below. The location and spatial distribution of public open spaces in Monasterevin are shown on Map 5 overleaf.

Table 13: Overall Quantum of Public Open Space in Monasterevin

Typology	Area in Hectares
Public parks	0.78 ha
Amenity green space	14.25 ha
Outdoor sports	10.21 ha
Playground / play areas	0.24 ha
TOTAL:	25.48 hectares

Figure 9: Riverside Park



Map 5: Open Space, Sports, Recreation and Play Locations in Monasterevin



Public Parks

The Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy in Appendix 3 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied) sets out a hierarchy of parks at settlement level, as detailed in Tables 14 to 17. The status of Monasterevin in relation to the hierarchy is also outlined in these tables. Within Monasterevin, one small park has been identified, covering approximately 0.78 hectares.

Table 14: Urban Neighbourhood Parks in Monasterevin

Urban Neighbourhood Parks		
Definition	Map Ref.	Status
Urban neighbourhood 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.	n/a	No urban neighbourhood park in Monasterevin

Table 15: Local Parks in Monasterevin

Local Parks		
Definition	Map Ref.	Status
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.	n/a	No local park in Monasterevin

Table 16: Small Parks in Monasterevin

Small Parks				
Definition	Map Ref.	Name	Type of Facility	Size (ha)
Small parks range in size between 0.2 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.	LP1	Riverside Park	Along the River Barrow, to the north of Monasterevin Aqueduct	0.78 ha

Table 17: Pocket Parks in Monasterevin

Pocket Parks		
Definition	Map Ref.	Status
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.	n/a	There are no pocket parks with play elements in Monasterevin

In addition to the public parks outlined in the tables above, Moore Abbey Woods is located directly adjacent to the study boundary, which borders the Moore Abbey Demesne lands and comprises approximately 89 hectares of woodland which is open to the public and is managed by Coillte.

2.4.2 Outdoor Sports, Recreation and Play Facilities

Outdoor Sports

There are approximately eight outdoor sports facilities in Monasterevin, as outlined in Table 18 and shown on Map 5. An audit of these facilities revealed that some primary schools have their own dedicated facilities and St Paul's Secondary School share their facilities with local clubs outside of school hours. Independent indoor sporting facilities/gyms were not reviewed as part of this audit. The amalgamated primary school at Monasterevin National School includes plans for new sports facilities. In addition, there is also a permitted development for a water sports hub at Moore's Locke. Both new proposed facilities are outlined in Table 19.

Table 18: Audit of Existing Outdoor Sports and Recreational Facilities

Map Ref.	Name	Type of Facility	Size (ha) outdoors
Sports Clubs			
SR1	Monasterevin GFC	Gaelic football pitches and clubhouse	3.99 ha
SR2	Monasterevin AFC	Soccer pitch and clubhouse	0.86 ha
SR3	Ros Glas GAA Club	Hurling pitches and clubhouse	2.56 ha
SR4	Monasterevin Sports Hub	Clubhouse for storing water sports equipment	0.01 ha
n/a	Ballykelly GFC Club	Gaelic football pitches and clubhouse	Not within the study area boundary
Sports Facilities of Educational Facilities			
SR5	Scoil Eimhín Naofa	One small playing pitch No facilities used by local groups or clubs outside of school hours.	0.60 ha
SR6	St Peter's National School	One small playing pitch. No facilities used by local groups or clubs outside of school hours.	0.24
SR7	St Paul's Secondary School	- One Sports Hall - Four MUGA courts⁴⁶ Facilities are used by local clubs outside of school hours. ⁴⁷	0.24

⁴⁶ MUGA: Multi-Use Games Area

⁴⁷ Monasterevin Athletic Football Club and Ros Glas Hurling Club.

Not mapped	St John's National School	One playground No facilities used by local groups or clubs outside of school hours.	N/A
Additional Sport Facilities			
SR8	Barrett Park	One playing pitch	1.71 ha

Table 19: Permitted Projects that include Sport Facilities

Map Ref.	Location	Planning Ref No.	Current Status	Sports Facilities
SR5	Monasterevin National School (former Scoil Eimhín Naofa site)	17/497	Completed ⁴⁸	Sports hall, pitch and ballcourts ⁴⁹
Not mapped ⁵⁰	Monasterevin Sports and Water Hub at Moore's Locke	23/60116	Planning permission granted	A single storey building with classroom, office, changing rooms / toilets, kitchenette, drying room, workshop and external storage

Figure 10: Proposed Sports and Water Hub in Monasterevin



Source: Architect's Report for Planning Application 23/60116

Recreation

Linear parks follow a defined corridor such as the riparian corridor of a river, canal and/or disused rail line. Monasterevin has the River Barrow and the Barrow Line canal branch of the Grand Canal, with the Barrow Blueway walking and cycling route running along existing towpaths from Robertstown, through Monasterevin, onto Athy.

⁴⁸ Status of Large-Scale Projects under the School Capital Programme (6 July 2026).

⁴⁹ Sports hall, playing pitch and ballcourts as part of construction of the amalgamated new school facility at Scoil Eimhín Naofa.

⁵⁰ Not within the study area boundary.

In addition, Kildare County Council in co-operation with Laois County Council and Offaly County Council have undertaken a feasibility study to examine the potential for the development of a greenway between Monasterevin and Portarlinton. Six potential routes have been identified, and public consultation has taken place to help shape the project as it progresses towards the selection of a preferred route option.⁵¹

Playgrounds / Play Areas

Currently, Monasterevin has one playground, and numerous open spaces within residential developments. The playground / play area covers a total area of approximately 0.24 hectares, as detailed in Table 20 below and shown on Map 5. The open space play areas in housing estates have not been quantified as they do not have specific play facilities for young children. Map 5 shows these areas as amenity green space.

Table 20: Playgrounds and Play Areas in Monasterevin

Map Ref.	Type	Location	Size
PP1	Playground	To the south of Monasterevin Aqueduct	0.24 ha

2.4.3 Open Space, Sports, Recreation and Play 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), as varied, and the Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy (Appendix 3 of the CDP) include public open space minimum standards as outlined in Table 21 overleaf.

⁵¹ Monasterevin to Portarlinton Greenway - Feasibility Study – public consultation closed on 19 December 2025.

Table 21: Public Open Space Standards

Public Open Space Minimum Standards	
Overall Standard 2.5 hectares 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 CDP open space standards (Table 21 refers) to the estimated population of Monasterevin in Q3 2026 (5,876 persons), indicates that currently there are 4.33 hectares of public open space per 1,000 residents, which exceeds the minimum standard set out in Table 21.⁵²

Over the Plan period, this population is planned to rise to 6,827 persons by 2029. If no further public open spaces were to be provided, there would be 3.73 hectares of open space per 1,000 residents, which also exceeds the quantitative standard set out in Table 21.⁵³

If Moore Abbey Woods is included in the Public Open Space figure (i.e. the Coille owned public woodlands comprising approximately 89 hectares located just outside of, but directly adjacent to the study area boundary), then the overall provision per 1,000 persons improves significantly to 19.5 hectares per 1,000 persons for the Q3 2026 estimated population and 16.8 hectares per 1,000 persons for the projected population to the end of this Plan period.

For comparison, the United Kingdom's (UK) Fields in Trust (FIT) Standards, outlined in *Creating Great Spaces for All* (2024), recommend a minimum provision of 5.35 hectares of total overall public open space per 1,000 population.

In addition, Kildare County Council are, at the time of writing, in the process of acquiring Moore Abbey Demesne and associated lands. Following the successful purchase of the lands, the Council will engage in a process of consultation for the preparation of a masterplan for the future use of the estate and grounds for the benefit of the community, with potential for amenity, sports and recreation uses within the grounds.⁵⁴

⁵² (25.48 hectare / 5,876 population) * 1,000 = 4.33 ha per 1,000 population.

⁵³ (25.48 hectare / 6,827 population) * 1,000 = 3.73 ha per 1,000 population.

⁵⁴ Kildare County Council Press Release dated 9th April 2026:

https://kildarecoco.ie/News/Kildare_County_Council_in_Final_Stages_of_Acquiring_Moore_Abbey_Monasterevin.html#:~:text=Kildare%20County%20Council%20is%20in,Charity%20of%20Jesus%20and%20Mary.

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan and beyond:

- Improve access to multi-functional public open spaces within walking distance of homes.

Public Parks

In the absence of national standards for public parks and amenity green space at the settlement level, the UK's 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 the purposes of making recommendations within the SIA.

Applying this standard to Monasterevin's Q3 2026 population of 5,876 persons indicates that the town currently provides 0.13 hectares of public parks per 1,000 population, which falls far short of the FIT standards.⁵⁵

Over the Plan period, Monasterevin's population is expected to increase to 6,827 persons by 2029. If no further public parks were to be provided, the provision in Monasterevin would fall to 0.11 hectares of public parks per 1,000 population.⁵⁶ In order to meet the FIT standard by 2029, Monasterevin would require a total of 5.46 hectares of public parks, consequently an increase in 4.68 hectares.⁵⁷

In terms of the hierarchy of public parks as outlined in Tables 14-18, Monasterevin is not well served by public parks. It is considered necessary that the expansion of the existing small park at Riverside Park to the north, if feasible, is explored, or as an alternative, an additional local park is developed to meet the needs of the current and future population of the town.

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan and beyond:

- Investigate the feasibility of expanding the existing Riverside Park to the north and investigate the feasibility of developing a new local park in Monasterevin (minimum 2 hectares in area). 4.68 hectares of public parks are required to meet the needs of the population over the Plan period and beyond.

Amenity Green Space

In the absence of national Irish standards for amenity green space at the settlement level, the UK's 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.

⁵⁵ Small Park 0.78 hectares. $(0.78 \text{ hectare} / 5,876 \text{ population}) * 1,000 = 0.13 \text{ ha per } 1,000 \text{ population}$.

⁵⁶ $(0.78 \text{ hectare} / 6,827 \text{ population}) * 1,000 = 0.11 \text{ ha per } 1,000 \text{ population}$.

⁵⁷ $6,827 \text{ persons} / 1,000 * 0.8 \text{ hectares} = 5.46 \text{ ha}$. $5.46 \text{ hectares} - 0.78 \text{ hectares current} = 4.68 \text{ hectares}$

Applying this standard to Monasterevin's Q3 2026 population of 5,876 persons indicates that the town currently provides 2.43 hectares of amenity green space per 1,000 population.⁵⁸ This provision significantly exceeds the FIT standard of 0.6 hectares per 1,000 population.

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 at 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. In line with these Guidelines, the additional amenity green space will be required to be provided in tandem with new residential development.

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 Facilities

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

Within the study area, there are approximately 10.21 hectares of outdoor sports areas available as detailed in Table 13. This equates to 1.74 hectares per 1,000 population which exceeds the FIT benchmark guidance.⁵⁹ If the quantum of such lands remains unchanged, this rate is projected to decrease to 1.5 hectares per 1,000 population due to the anticipated population growth in Monasterevin.⁶⁰

To maintain alignment with the FIT benchmark, an additional 1.67 hectares of outdoor sports areas will be required.⁶¹ This calculation includes 1.08 hectares of outdoor sports areas within educational facilities that have limited public access. Excluding these areas, the shortfall increases to 2.75 hectares of additional outdoor sports areas.

The need for additional sports facilities is further emphasised in the Chief Executive's Report on Submissions Received on the Pre-Draft Consultation Stage of the Plan (dated September 2024). Monasterevin AFC highlighted the need for more outdoor space to accommodate the growing needs of the club. Many submissions mentioned

⁵⁸ (14.25 ha / 5,876 population) * 1,000 = 2.43 ha per 1,000 population.

⁵⁹ (10.21 ha / 5,876 population) * 1,000 = 1.74 ha per 1,000 population.

⁶⁰ (10.21 ha / 6,827 population) * 1,000 = 1.5 ha per 1,000 population.

⁶¹ (1.74 ha / 1,000 population) * 6,827 population = 11.88 ha (11.88 ha – 10.21 ha = 1.67 ha required)

the desire for the development of a sports hub within Moore Abbey Demesne and the progression of the permitted Sports and Water Hub facility at Moore's Locke.

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan:

- To meet the projected demand during the lifetime of the plan, it is necessary to identify sites totalling approximately 2.75 hectares for the delivery of sports facilities in Monasterevin.

Playgrounds / Play Facilities

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, as varied, and Section 4.4 of the Planning Design Standards for Apartments Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 2025.

At the settlement level, the UK's FIT Standards, outlined in *Creating Great Spaces for All* (2024), are considered as a reference point. This document recommends a minimum provision of 0.25 hectares of amenity green space per 1,000 population for a range of play areas as illustrated in Table 22 overleaf. While this standard is not a policy of Kildare County Council, it serves as a useful benchmark for discussion purposes within this SIA.

A key issue which was raised in the submissions received during the pre-draft consultation stage was that Monasterevin should have more play spaces for children and teens. A skatepark was specifically requested for consideration in the submissions. The Parks and Open Spaces Section of Kildare County Council have plans to develop a skatepark in Monasterevin as part of the Municipal District works programme, however, this project has not commenced as a preferred location has not yet been identified. Similarly, the section has outlined future plans to redesign the Riverside Park to provide for more recreational uses.⁶²

⁶² Email correspondence with Parks and Open Space Department dated 29 June 2025 and meeting dated 11 March 2026.

Table 22: 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	100 metres
Locally Equipped Areas for Play (LEAPs) for young and independent children	0.25	400 metres
Neighbourhood Equipped Areas for Play (NEAPs) for older more independent children	0.25	1 km

Currently, there is one local authority owned and managed playground in Monasterevin, as detailed in Table 20, which amounts to approximately 0.24 hectares. According to the UK's FIT standards, 0.25 hectares of play space per 1,000 people is recommended. With a projected population of 6,827 persons by 2029, a total of 1.70 hectares is required for the planned population by 2029.⁶³ Consequently, an additional 1.46 ha of playground space will be required over the Plan period to meet FIT guidance.

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan and beyond:

- Provision of play facilities within new residential developments, in accordance with Sections 15.6.5 and 15.6.6 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied) and Section 4.4 of the Planning Design Standards for Apartments Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 2025 or any succeeding National Planning Statement on Apartment Design Standards.
- An additional 1.46 ha of playground space is required.

⁶³ (0.25 hectare / 1,000) * 6,827 population = 1.70 hectares

2.5 Community Facilities

Community facilities are varied in nature and can include general civic services and services targeted at specific sections of the community. There are seven community services identified within the study area (see Table 23 below), which includes facilities such as the fire station, garda station and library.

Table 23: Community Facilities in Monasterevin

Map Ref.	Name
CF1	Monasterevin Library
CF2	Monasterevin Community Centre
CF3	Monasterevin Council Hall
CF4	Monasterevin Fire Station
CF5	Monasterevin Garda Station
CF6	Monasterevin Youth Action
CF7	Monasterevin Cemetery

Figure 11: Monasterevin Community Centre



2.5.1 Cemeteries and Columbarium Walls

Monasterevin Cemetery is the only cemetery in Monasterevin and is managed by Kildare County Council. The remaining capacity of the cemetery as of Q4 2025 is approximately 240 plots. Two Columbarium walls have recently been completed at the cemetery with capacity for 80 urns.

Map 6: Community Facilities in Monasterevin



Social Infrastructure - Social and Community Services

- Social and Community Services

2.5.2 Community Facilities Demand Analysis

There are no national Irish standards for the provision of social or community services. However, it is noted that good neighbourhood planning can be achieved by following the recommendation of 0.3 community facilities per 1,000 population.⁶⁴ This standard is considered to be relatively crude as it does not differentiate between different types of facilities, it only quantifies them. Nevertheless, applying this benchmark indicates that Monasterevin currently maintains a ratio of 0.68 facilities per 1,000 population (based on four facilities, excluding the garda station, cemetery and fire station).⁶⁵ This provision is projected to decrease to a rate of 0.59 per 1,000 population by the end of the Plan period (assuming the number of services remains constant), which still falls within an acceptable range.⁶⁶

Applying the current figure of 0.68 facilities per 1,000 population to the projected population growth (951 persons) indicates a requirement of 1 additional social/community facility/service.⁶⁷ This audit recommends an additional community facility may be required in Monasterevin.

The range of social infrastructure needs referred to in the written submissions received at pre-draft consultation stage includes community centres/halls, youth facilities, community gardens and allotments as well as requests to support the development of existing facilities.

Cemetery and Columbarium Walls

According to correspondence with Kildare County Council's Environment Section,⁶⁸ the capacity of the cemetery is projected to suffice until 2029. It is noted that there are plans to extend the cemetery by approximately 0.81 hectares to facilitate approximately 1,278 plots.

In addition, two Columbarium walls have recently been completed. Each Columbarium wall has 20 niches, and each niche can hold up to two urns, providing space for a total of 80 urns across the two Columbarium walls.

Library

The Libraries Department of Kildare County Council have indicated that population growth and the need for improved services means that the existing library facility has outgrown its current rented property (circa 166 sq. m).⁶⁹ According to the Public Library Standards and Benchmarks 2026, a medium branch library (projected population catchment of 4,500 to 10,000 persons) with indicative size of 501-800 sq.

⁶⁴ Barton et al. (2010). Shaping Neighbourhoods: For Local Health and Global Sustainability 2nd Edition. London: Routledge.

⁶⁵ $(4 \text{ facilities} / 5,876 \text{ population}) * 1000 = 0.68 \text{ per } 1,000 \text{ population}$

⁶⁶ $(4 \text{ facilities} / 6,827 \text{ population}) * 1000 = 0.59 \text{ per } 1,000 \text{ population}$

⁶⁷ $(0.68 / 1,000) * 951 \text{ population growth} = 1 (0.65) \text{ facilities}$

⁶⁸ Email correspondence dated 25 November 2025 and 3 June 2026

⁶⁹ Email correspondence dated 15 April 2026

metres would be required for Monasterevin which has a projected population catchment area of 6,827 persons for the duration of the Plan period.

Fire Station

A Government funding allocation of €3 million has recently been announced for the development of a new purpose-built fire station in Monasterevin.⁷⁰ The proposed location for the new fire station is stated as being on the grounds of Moore Abbey Demesne, which is currently in the process of being acquired by Kildare County Council.

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan and beyond:

- One additional community facility may be required over the Plan period and beyond and regard should be given to the needs identified during the pre-draft consultation stage.
- A new purpose-built library at a central and universally accessible location within the town.
- A new purpose-built fire station at an appropriate location within the plan area.
- Investigate the possibility of community gardens and allotments as part of appropriate land use zonings in Monasterevin.
- Facilitate the expansion of Monasterevin Cemetery.

Figure 12: Monasterevin Fire Station



⁷⁰ Kildare Nationalist, New €3m fire station coming to Monasterevin (Date: 8 April 2026). Available at: https://www.kildare-nationalist.ie/news/updated-new-3m-fire-station-coming-to-monasterevin_arid-93835.html

2.6 Neighbourhood Centres

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

In Monasterevin, there is one definable neighbourhood centre in the town (Table 24 and Map 9 refers). Additionally, there are a number of convenience stores throughout the town which serve a local retail function. However, these would not fall within the definition of a neighbourhood centre. These are also listed in Table 24 below and Map 9 overleaf.

A spatial catchment of the neighbourhood centres as defined by a notional 10-minute walk (800 metres radius) has been reviewed. This catchment reflects the general and accepted threshold for walking distances to local services and facilities, though it does not fully account for specific routes within an urban context and existing permeability links.

Table 24: Neighbourhood Centre and Local Shops in Monasterevin

Map Ref.	Name	Services
NC1	Mill Stream Shopping Centre	McConville's SuperValu, O'Rourke's Allcare Pharmacy, Post Office, The Master Barber Shop, Connell Lynas LLP Solicitors, Cova Beauty Salon, Co.B's Coffee Shop, Wash Me Laundry Self-Service.
CR1	Frawley's	Local Store
CR2	Circle K Express	Local Store
CR3	Texaco – Fitzpatrick's	Local Store

Figure 13: Neighbourhood Centre (McConville's SuperValu, Cowpasture Cross)



Map 7: Neighbourhood Centre and Local Stores in Monasterevin



2.6.1 Neighbourhood Centre Demand Analysis

There is no national Irish 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. Neighbourhood centre 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 land use plans to designate land as a neighbourhood centre within a town. The aim of providing such shopping facilities locally is to serve residential catchment areas within approximately 800 metres (10-minute walk) to reduce the necessity to travel by car to avail of basic services and thereby ensure reduced traffic congestion and improved sustainability within the settlement area.

Monasterevin is well served by its current neighbourhood centre at Cowpasture Cross and with local shops dotted around the settlement within an 800-metre walking distance. Map 7 highlights the lack of shopping facilities within a 10-minute walk within northern areas of Monasterevin. However, as this area is generally within a 1km (10-15 minute) walking distance of the existing convenience retail and other retail services, it is considered that this area is also reasonably well-served. Additionally, it is noted that opportunities exist on appropriately located sites in the town to accommodate the development of new retail facilities. Such facilities, if developed, could potentially serve areas within the north of the town which are not currently located within 800 metres of a local store.

Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan and beyond:

- Support the provision of retail and retail services in the town centre and at the existing neighbourhood centre at Cowpasture Cross.

3 Conclusion

The provision of appropriate levels of social and community infrastructure is considered an essential prerequisite in securing the long-term development of sustainable communities. In essence, the provision of social infrastructure in an area is fundamentally about making the most of and developing a sustainable network of local assets, be they facilities, services or the programmes that bring this together. This study was commissioned to examine the current context with respect to social infrastructure facilities in Monasterevin and to determine future requirements based on projected population growth. A summary of the findings of this study is provided in Table 25 below. While this audit highlights the presence of some excellent social infrastructure facilities in the area, it also identifies an absence or inadequate provision of some others. The study will function as an important evidence base for the Monasterevin Settlement Plan where the principal task is to provide a framework to guide and manage the social, economic and environmental development of the town.

Table 25: Summary of Findings and Recommendations of the Monasterevin Social Infrastructure Audit

Type of Infrastructure	Existing Infrastructure	Social Infrastructure Recommendations Over the Plan Period and Beyond
Education		
Primary schools	Three primary schools	101 additional primary school pupil places (five classrooms at 23 pupils each). - Reserve a site for a new primary school to cater for population growth beyond the lifetime of the Plan. In terms of the 10-minute settlement concept, the north-east of Monasterevin is lacking in this regard. - Zone land for the future expansion of existing schools, where possible.
Post-primary schools	One post-primary school	106 additional post-primary school places (6 classrooms at 19 students per class). - The Plan should include an objective to support and facilitate the expansion of St Paul's Secondary School to accommodate the future post-primary school needs of the settlement.

Type of Infrastructure	Existing Infrastructure	Social Infrastructure Recommendations Over the Plan Period and Beyond
Special Needs Education at mainstream schools	- Primary school - SEN unit due to open in September 2026 - Post Primary School - 18 specialist classrooms in SEN unit	The Plan should include an objective to support the development of a new Special Education school at the former St Peter's National School and to facilitate the provision of SEN facilities as required at existing schools over the Plan period and beyond.
Further education and training	None	The Plan should include an objective to support the development of the Fashion and Textile Design Hub at the former Bank of Ireland at Market Square, Monasterevin.
Childcare		
Childcare facilities	Four existing childcare facilities	The Plan should include an objective to support and facilitate the provision of an additional 92 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		
Primary care centre	One health centre	No specific requirements over the Plan period.
General Practitioners (GPs)	Three full-time GPs	- Up to five additional GPs required. - The emphasis should be placed on the town centre and neighbourhood centre as the preferred location in this regard.
Residential care settings for older people	34 bed spaces at Oghill Nursing Home	Additional residential care facilities may be required over the Plan period and beyond.
Public Open Space		
Public open space	25.48 hectares (overall total)	Improve access to multi-functional public open spaces within walking distance of homes.

Type of Infrastructure	Existing Infrastructure	Social Infrastructure Recommendations Over the Plan Period and Beyond
		Improve permeability in existing residential areas to facilitate active travel routes to the existing and proposed public open spaces.
Public parks	0.78 hectares	4.68 hectares of public parks are required to meet the needs of the population over the Plan period and beyond. - Investigate the feasibility of improving and extending the existing Riverside Park to the north, and/or developing a new local park in Monasterevin (between 2 and 16 hectares in area).
Amenity green space	14.25 hectares	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 areas	10.21 hectares	2.75 hectares required for the delivery of sports facilities in Monasterevin.
Playgrounds / Play areas	0.24 hectares	1.46 hectares of play space required. - Support the development of a teen space in Monasterevin. - Provision of play facilities within new residential developments in accordance with Sections 15.6.5 and 15.6.6 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied) and Section 4.4 of the Planning Design Standards for Apartments Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 2025 or any subsequent National Planning Statement on Apartment Design Standards.

Type of Infrastructure	Existing Infrastructure	Social Infrastructure Recommendations Over the Plan Period and Beyond
Community Facilities		
Community facilities	Seven community facilities	- New purpose-built medium branch library facility (501-802 sq. m). - New purpose-built fire station. - Additional community facilities may be required over the Plan period and beyond. Regard should be given to the needs raised during the pre-draft public consultation stage, including the need for community centre/hall, youth facilities, community gardens and allotments.
Cemetery	One cemetery	Maintain community zoning of land beside Monasterevin Cemetery to allow for future expansion as needed, approximately 0.81 ha to facilitate 1,278 plots.
Columbarium Wall	Two Columbarium walls providing space for a total of 80 urns	No additional requirement over the Plan period.
Neighbourhood Centre		
Neighbourhood centre	One existing neighbourhood centre	Support the provision of retail and retail services in the town centre and at the existing neighbourhood centre at Cowpasture Cross.