

# Newbridge Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031

## Pre-draft Public Consultation Issues Paper



### Pre-draft Public Drop-in Event

Take the opportunity to meet the Planning Team preparing the Newbridge Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031.

Date: **9<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Time: 2.30pm – 6.30pm

Venue: Newbridge Town Hall,  
Main Street, Newbridge.

Closing date for submissions:  
4pm Tuesday  
28<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Have your  
say!



Kildare County Council  
Comhairle Contae Chill Dara

# What is the purpose of a Local Area Plan and why is one needed for Newbridge?

The purpose of a Local Area Plan (LAP) is to set out a land use strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the town over the life of the Plan. The LAP process for Newbridge provides an opportunity to take a fresh look at the key social, economic and environmental issues and to formulate a responsive development strategy for future growth and renewal.

Planning legislation requires that a local area plan be prepared for all towns with a population of over 5,000 people. Census 2022 recorded a population of 24,355 persons in the Built-Up Area of Newbridge, a 7% increase on that recorded in Census 2016. A Local Area Plan is therefore a mandatory requirement.

Consultation with the public is a key part of the plan making process. We are at the 'pre-draft' stage now and would like to hear from the people of Newbridge about their vision for the future, and, in particular, on issues relating to social infrastructure, economic development, housing and community, open space, amenity, climate action and movement.

The policies of the Draft Local Area Plan will be informed by the submissions received at this pre-draft stage, in addition to evidence based reports prepared for Newbridge such as inter alia a Social Infrastructure Audit and an Area Based Transport Assessment.

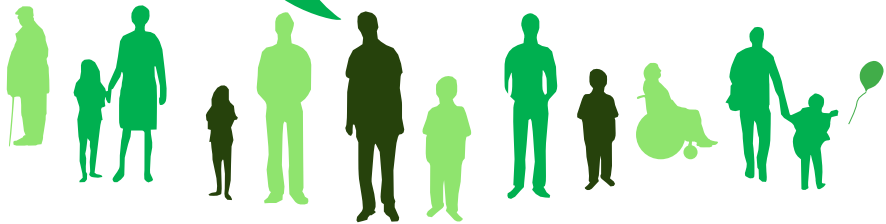
## Did you Know?

- Local Area Plans are a central implementation mechanism for key national policies in relation to planning for schools, smarter travel and urban design.
- Local Area Plans must comply with the Core Strategy of the County Development Plan.
- Local Area Plans must place particular emphasis on creating a low carbon environment which responds to both the climate and biodiversity emergencies through measures such as compact growth, green infrastructure and sustainable movement.
- Local Area Plans plays a key role in identifying and facilitating sustainable economic activity and employment growth.
- Local Area Plans sets out the principles for the future land use of a town.
- Local Area Plans provide support for separate funding streams such as the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund.
- Good quality Local Area Plans will focus on the needs of local communities which are obtained through a comprehensive consultation and engagement strategy.
- Once a Draft Local Area Plan is published, there is a 41 week statutory period before the plan is adopted, which includes further public consultation.

# Consultation and Engagement

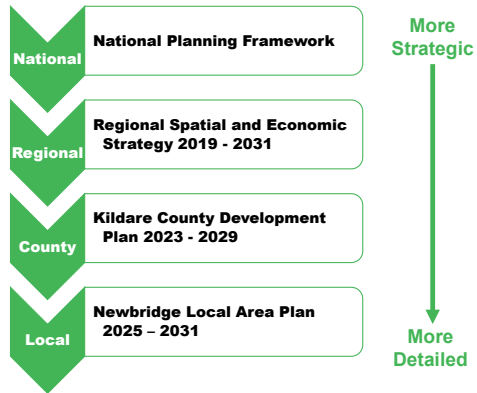
There are three key components to this pre-draft consultation and engagement process:

- An invitation to individuals, stakeholders and interest groups, including children, to make submissions,
- A public 'drop-in' event to be held in Newbridge Town Hall on Thursday 9th of November from 2:30pm to 6:30pm, and
- An art competition for primary and post-primary school pupils entitled 'Life in Newbridge' See Consult for further details.



## Strategic Planning Context

The Newbridge Local Area Plan will sit within a hierarchy of plans and takes its guidance from those above. While the Local Area Plan is required to align with relevant provisions contained in national, regional and county plans, it will also provide for locally tailored and site-specific objectives and actions, in response to a town's unique development needs and characteristics.



The Kildare County Development Plan 2023 - 2031 (CDP) designates Newbridge as a Self-Sustaining Growth Town as it contains a moderate level of jobs and services and good transport links. This designation reflects Newbridge's strategic location on the Dublin to Kildare Town railway line, its proximity to the M9 and M7 motorways, its setting on the River Liffey and its exceptional retail and employment offering that is significant to County Kildare.

A key objective of the CDP requires Local Area Plans to incorporate policies and objectives that support and promote compact growth such as the '10-Minute Settlement' concept (see overleaf).

Your Vision for the Future of Newbridge

# What should the Strategy for the Future Development of Newbridge be?

Significant development has occurred in Newbridge since the previous Local Area Plan was adopted, particularly in the areas of residential and employment development.

As a designated Self-Sustaining Growth Town, where should new development be facilitated, and new infrastructure provided in Newbridge during the next plan period?

What are the key opportunities and constraints?

## What is an 'ABTA'?

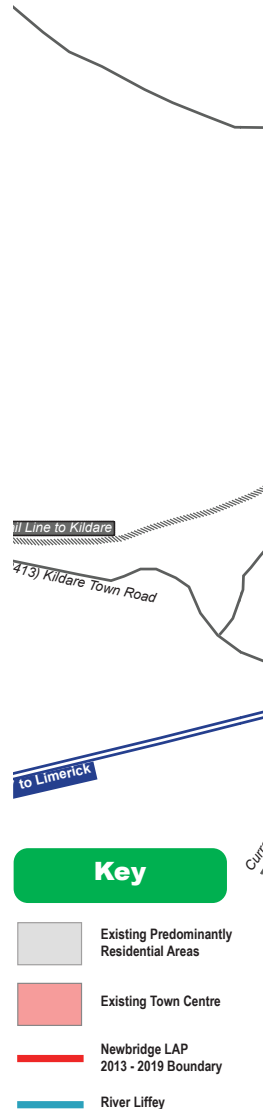
An Area Based Transport Assessment, or ABTA, is currently being prepared for the town of Newbridge. The ABTA will look at how Newbridge moves and will determine what measures are required to achieve sustainable travel and to improve conditions for walking, cycling, public transport and vehicles. The ABTA will inform the transport measures in the Local Area Plan. To stay informed about the ABTA process, and public consultation associated with it, please register with CONSULT!

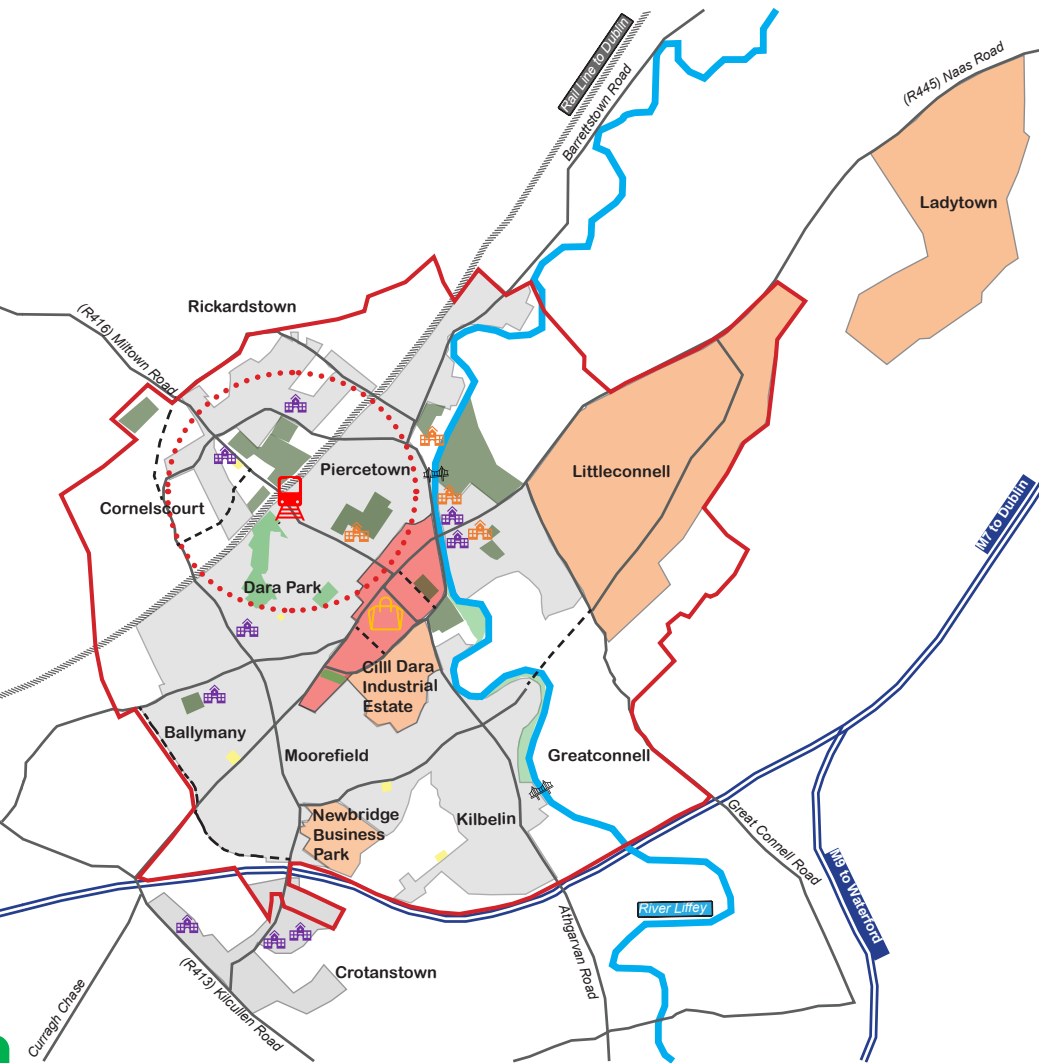
## What is a '10-Minute Settlement'?

This concept seeks to have all community facilities and services accessible within a 10-minute walk or cycle from homes or to ensure that they are accessible by public transport services that connect to larger scaled settlements. A 10-minute walking environment equates approximately to 800 metres in distance.

## What is an 'SIA'?

An SIA or Social Infrastructure Audit will be undertaken as part of the Local Area Plan process. Social infrastructure relates to the provision of services and facilities which are essential for health, well-being and social development of a town such as schools, childcare, health services, community services and open space. The function of an SIA is to examine and analyse the availability and capacity of existing social infrastructure facilities, to determine future requirements, and make recommendations based on anticipated settlement growth.





- |  |                                 |   |   |   |  |   |                             |
|--|---------------------------------|---|---|---|--|---|-----------------------------|
|  | Existing Major Employment Areas |  | Existing Sports Facilities                    |  | 800 metre or 10-minute walking distance from the Train Station |  | Whitewater Shopping Centre  |
|  | Existing Amenity Green Space    |  | Existing Areas Zoned for Neighbourhood Centre |  | Primary Schools  |  | Proposed Roads              |
|  | M7 and M9 Motorways             |  | Rail Line                                     |  | Post-Primary Schools   |  | Proposed Pedestrian Bridges |
|  | Main Roads                      |  | Newbridge Train Station                       |   |  |   |                             |

Your Vision for the Future of Newbridge

# Key Questions for Consideration

## Vision

- What makes Newbridge a great place to live in and how can the LAP protect and nurture this?
- What is your vision for Newbridge and what could the LAP specifically target to help achieve this vision?
- What do you think are the key challenges facing Newbridge and how can they be addressed through a land use plan?
- How can this plan facilitate consolidated growth within the existing footprint of the town with a focus on regeneration of vacant buildings and strategic sites?



## Social Infrastructure

- What and where are the deficiencies in community facilities to cater for the existing and future residents of Newbridge?
- Where should land be identified for a new secondary school in Newbridge?
- Given the young population profile of the town, what facilities are needed for children and teenagers?
- What types of additional sporting and recreational facilities are required and where would these be best located?

## Housing and Community

- What is the best way to accommodate the future housing needs of Newbridge, to ensure that different groups of people, i.e. elderly, mobility impaired, first-time buyers, families and single people can be adequately catered for?
- What additional uses (such as neighbourhood centres) do you think are required to facilitate a 10-minute settlement?
- What types of community spaces or centres are required and where should they be located?
- How do we create more walkable and cyclable neighbourhoods that are well connected to the town centre, schools and public transport?



## Town Centre

- What areas of the town centre could be regenerated and how can these places be made more attractive and vibrant? Are there key opportunity sites?
- Are there ways of making the town centre more liveable and age-friendly?
- How can the strong and diverse retail provision in Newbridge be protected and enhanced?

## Open Space and Amenity

- Where should new parks/open spaces and recreational areas be located?
- How can the LAP utilise and enhance existing amenity areas, such as the River Liffey, to provide for both passive and active recreation?
- How can the plan help to create an integrated Green Infrastructure network within the town that will support increased levels of biodiversity and carbon sequestration?



## Climate Action and Movement

- How do you suggest we transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society? What new infrastructure is required to facilitate a low carbon future?
- How can we best co-ordinate and integrate land use and transport in order to reduce the demand for travel and dependence on private car transport while increasing sustainable mobility such as cycling, walking and public transport?
- What method should be encouraged to maximise renewable energy provision?
- What are the infrastructural constraints affecting the town?

## Economic Development

- What can this plan do to attract further economic investment and foster local economic development and entrepreneurship?
- How can this plan facilitate people to live and work in Newbridge, in order to reduce the need to commute?
- What type of industry/employment opportunities should be encouraged in Newbridge and where should they be located?
- Is there demand for hubs / co-working spaces to serve the town and its environs?



# Your Vision for the Future of Newbridge

# How to make your submission:

Pre-draft submissions on the Newbridge Local Area Plan can be submitted online or sent by post during the consultation period.

**Note:** There will be a further opportunity to make submissions on the Draft Local Area Plan and any subsequent material alterations as the plan-making process progresses. Public notices will be published as these consultation stages arise.

All submissions  
must be made  
no later than  
4pm Tuesday  
28<sup>th</sup> November 2023  
in order to be  
considered.

Please make your submission **online** on the Local Area Plan's dedicated public consultation portal:

<https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/browse>

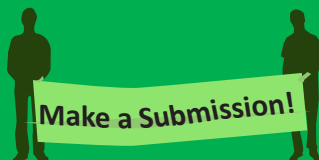
Or if you wish to **post** your submission please do so to the following address:

Pre-draft Consultation Newbridge  
LAP 2025 - 2031  
c/o Senior Executive Officer  
Planning Department,  
Kildare County Council  
Áras Chill Dara,  
Naas, Co. Kildare  
W91 X77F

Closing date for submissions: 4pm Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

All submissions received by will be reviewed the Planning Department of Kildare County Council.

Please make your submission by one medium only i.e. online or in hardcopy. Email or faxed submissions will not be accepted.



Comhairle Contae Chill Dara  
Kildare County Council

Your Vision for the Future of Newbridge