



# Newbridge Social Infrastructure Audit

*Iniúchadh ar Bhonneagar Sóisialta  
Droichead Nua*

A supporting document of the Newbridge Settlement Plan

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Comhairle Contae Chill Dara  
Kildare County Council



Kildare County Council,  
Planning Department,  
Áras Chill Dara,  
Devoy Park, Naas,  
County Kildare, W91 X77F



## Table of Contents

1	Introduction .....	1
1.1	Policy Context.....	3
1.1.1	Population and Housing Figures Used by SIA.....	4
1.2	Methodology .....	6
2	Profile of Newbridge.....	7
2.1	Demographic Profile .....	7
3	Existing Infrastructure .....	8
3.1	Education and Training .....	8
3.1.1	Primary Schools .....	8
3.1.1.1	Demand Analysis .....	12
3.1.2	Post-Primary Schools .....	13
3.1.2.1	Demand Analysis .....	17
3.1.3	Special Education Needs (SEN).....	18
3.1.3.1	Demand Analysis .....	22
3.1.4	Further Education and Training Facilities .....	23
3.2	Childcare .....	26
3.2.1	Demand Analysis.....	38
3.3	Health .....	40
3.3.1	Demand Analysis.....	46
3.4	Public Open Spaces .....	49
3.4.1	Demand Analysis.....	62
3.5	Social and Community.....	68
3.5.1	Demand Analysis.....	70
3.6	Arts and Culture.....	71
3.6.1	Demand Analysis.....	71
3.7	Faith.....	73
3.7.1	Demand Analysis.....	75
3.8	Neighbourhood Centres.....	76
3.8.1	Demand Analysis.....	79
4	Conclusion .....	80

## Table of Tables

Table 1: Figures Used by the Social Infrastructure Audit (SIA).....	5
Table 2: Age Profile, CSO 2022.....	7
Table 3: Primary Schools.....	9
Table 4: Newbridge Primary Schools Catchment Areas .....	10
Table 5: Newbridge Post-Primary Schools .....	13
Table 6: Planned Post-Primary School Projects .....	13
Table 7: Newbridge Post-Primary Schools Catchment Areas.....	14
Table 8: Special Education Needs Schools .....	18
Table 9: Planned Special School Projects .....	19
Table 10: List of Special Education Needs Classes in Mainstream Schools (October 2024).....	19
Table 11: Further Education and Training Facilities .....	23
Table 12: Registered Childcare Facilities and Afterschool Facilities .....	27
Table 13: Extant Permissions for Childcare Facilities .....	35
Table 14: Planning Applications (Awaiting Decision) .....	36
Table 15: General Practitioners in Newbridge .....	40
Table 16: Health Centres.....	41
Table 17: Older Persons and Disabled Care .....	41
Table 18: Other Healthcare Services in Newbridge .....	43
Table 19: Overall Quantum of Public Open Space in Newbridge .....	49
Table 20: Urban Neighbourhood Parks in Newbridge.....	51
Table 21: Local Parks in Newbridge .....	51
Table 22: Small Parks in Newbridge.....	52
Table 23: Pocket Parks in Newbridge.....	52
Table 24: Audit of Existing Sports and Recreational Facilities .....	55
Table 25: Current school projects that include sports facilities .....	58
Table 26: Playgrounds/Play Areas in Newbridge .....	60
Table 27: Kildare County Development Plan Public Open Space Standards .....	62
Table 28: Fields in Trust Benchmark Guidance for Playing Areas .....	66
Table 29: Social and Community Services/Facilities .....	68
Table 30: Arts and Cultural Organisations/Facilities .....	71
Table 31: Faith Facilities/Infrastructure.....	73



Table 32: Neighbourhood Centres and Local Stores in Newbridge .....	76
Table 33: Extant Permission for Neighbourhood Centre.....	77
Table 34: Planning Application (Awaiting Decision) for a Neighbourhood Centre.....	77
Table 35: Summary of Findings of the Social Infrastructure Audit .....	80

## Table of Figures

Figure 1: Population Profile by Age Group, CSO 2022.....	7
Figure 2: Scoil na Naomh Uilig .....	10
Figure 3: Leinster Senior College .....	15
Figure 4: CGI of St Mark's Special School .....	20
Figure 5: Newbridge Further Education and Training Centre .....	24
Figure 6: Tir na nÓg Childcare Facility .....	26
Figure 7: Tots Crèche and Daycare Nursery Limited (Station Walk) .....	36
Figure 8: Newbridge Primary Care Centre .....	48
Figure 9: Dara Park .....	49
Figure 10: Pocket Park in Belin Woods .....	53
Figure 11: Newbridge Hotspurs F.C.....	58
Figure 12: Amenity Green Space at Curragh Farm .....	64
Figure 13: Liffey Linear Park Natural Playground.....	67
Figure 14: St Patrick's Church of Ireland Church .....	75
Figure 15: Curragh Grange Shopping Centre .....	77
Figure 16: Cross' Centra Roseberry Hill .....	79

## Table of Maps

Map 1: Newbridge SIA Study Area and Census 2022 Built-Up Area Boundary.....	2
Map 2: Locations of Primary Schools .....	11
Map 3: Locations of Post-Primary Schools.....	16
Map 4: Location of Special Education Needs Schools .....	21
Map 5: Location of Further Education and Training Facilities.....	25
Map 6: Location of Childcare Facilities.....	37
Map 7: Locations of Health Facilities.....	42
Map 8: Locations for Other Healthcare Facilities.....	45

Map 9: Public Open Spaces in Newbridge .....	50
Map 10: Public Parks in Newbridge.....	54
Map 11: Locations of Sports and Recreation Facilities .....	59
Map 12: Locations of Play Facilities or Play Areas .....	61
Map 13: Locations of Social and Community Services/Facilities.....	69
Map 14: Locations of Arts and Culture Facilities .....	72
Map 15: Faith Facilities .....	74
Map 16: Newbridge Neighbourhood Centres and Local Stores .....	78

## DISCLAIMER

This Social Infrastructure Audit (SIA) has been conducted to provide an overview of the available social infrastructure within the study area. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information, it is possible that some facilities, clubs, or organisations may have been inadvertently omitted or that new ones have been established since the audit was conducted between September and November 2024. Some further additional information was obtained in July 2025. The findings are based on the best available data at the time of the study.

Note: The Newbridge Settlement Plan (hereafter referred to as ‘the Plan’) will, when adopted, form part of Volume 2 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied).

# 1 Introduction

The following Social Infrastructure Audit (SIA) was prepared by Kildare County Council (KCC) for the purposes of informing the Newbridge Settlement Plan ('the Plan'). The function of the SIA is to examine and analyse the availability and capacity of existing social infrastructure facilities, to determine future requirements, and to make recommendations based on anticipated settlement growth. This report is a statement of the outcome of the SIA.

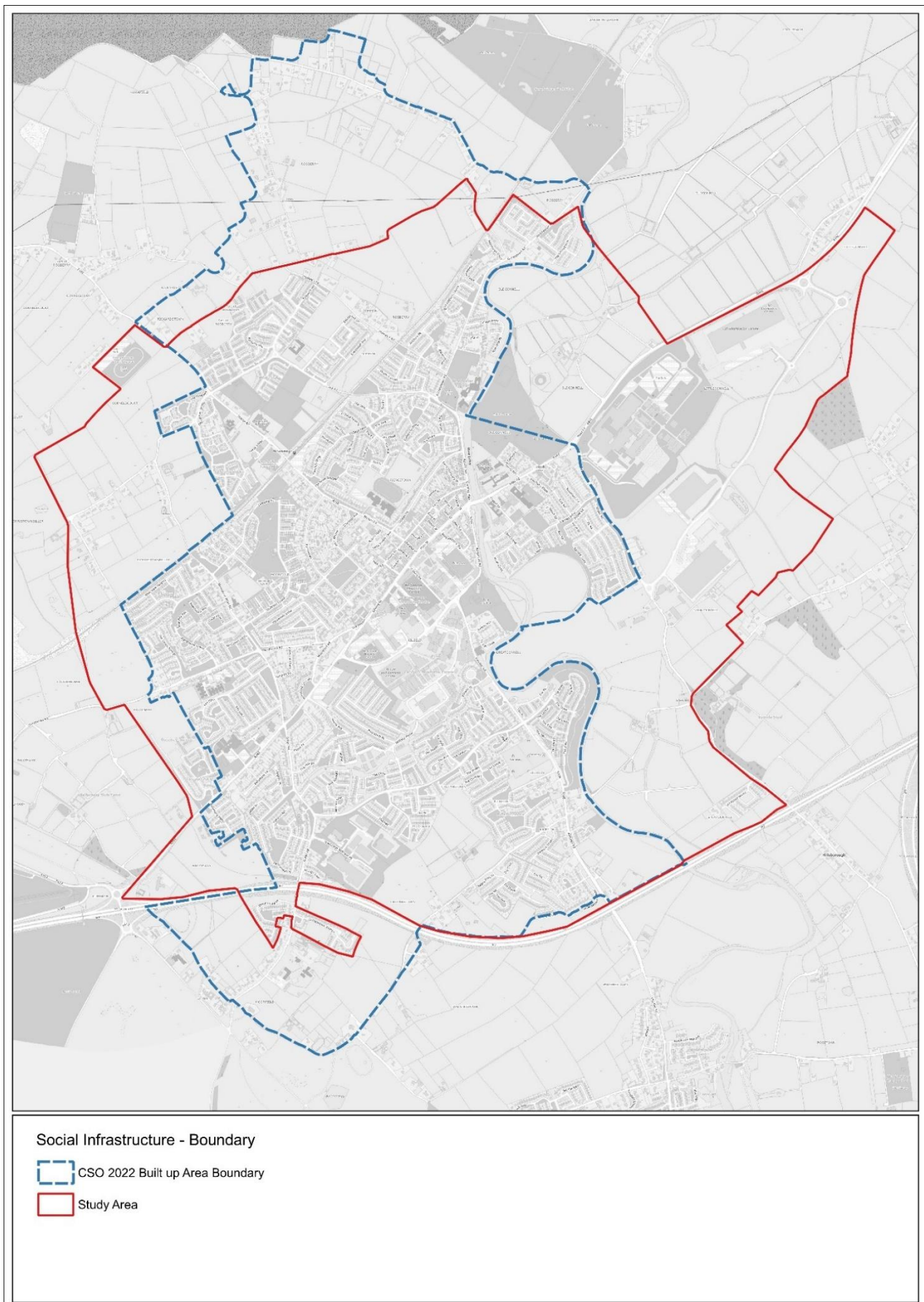
Social infrastructure relates to the provision of services and facilities which are essential for the health, wellbeing and social development of a settlement/town. Social infrastructure facilities cater for a broad range of services including educational and health services such as schools, doctors'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

The study area for examining the existing provision of social infrastructure in Newbridge is based on the boundary of the Newbridge Local Area Plan 2013-2019 (as amended and extended) and is illustrated by the red line boundary of Map 1 (overleaf). A number of social infrastructure providers identified just beyond the red-line boundary have been included in the Audit. The provided demographic profile data relates to the area within the Census 2022 Built-Up Area boundary (BUA) of Newbridge outlined in blue on Map 1 overleaf.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Central Statistics Office, Census 2022, Built-Up Areas [Online] available from: [https://www.cso.ie/en/census/census2022/census2022urbanboundariesandbuiltupareas/census2022urbanboundariesandbuiltupareasfaq/#:~:text=Built%20Up%20Areas%20\(BUAs\)%20are,group%20buildings%20together%20into%20BUAs](https://www.cso.ie/en/census/census2022/census2022urbanboundariesandbuiltupareas/census2022urbanboundariesandbuiltupareasfaq/#:~:text=Built%20Up%20Areas%20(BUAs)%20are,group%20buildings%20together%20into%20BUAs) (Accessed: 18 July 2025)

Map 1: Newbridge 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 spatial development objectives for the town of Newbridge, the parameters of which have been defined in statutory policy documents at national, regional and local level.

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 particular relevance is National Strategic Outcome No. 10 which relates to access to quality childcare, education and health services and National Policy Objective No. 43 which seeks to *"prioritise the provision of new homes at locations that can support sustainable development and at an appropriate scale of provision relative to location"*.

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

The County Kildare LECP Implementation Plan 2024-2026 identifies several actions related to the Newbridge Family Resource Centre and the related recovery café and community garden. Additionally, the LECP prioritises the completion of the Moorefield Park playground project, as well as the development of a new playground with exercise equipment in Dara Park.

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



### 1.1.1 Population and Housing Figures Used by SIA

Projected growth in housing and population, has a significant impact on the assessment of social infrastructure in a town. It is imperative that this Social Infrastructure Audit analyses the needs of the existing and future population of Newbridge with regards to the projected housing and population growth over the plan period and beyond.

Table 1 (overleaf) estimates the population of Newbridge at the start of Quarter 1 2023 to be 25,705 persons. This figure serves as a baseline for assessing current social infrastructure needs and represents an approximation of the starting population of the town at the commencement of the period covered by the Core Strategy of the Kildare County Development Plan (CDP) 2023-2029 (as varied).

In addition, Table 1 demonstrates the population growth in accordance with the housing allocation provided by the Core Strategy. It also includes projected population growth attributed to the live and pipeline residential planning applications arising from legacy residential land zonings which are at pre-assessment stage. These applications are expected, if granted, to contribute an additional 2,079 persons.

The NPF (2025) identifies the need to plan for approximately 50,000 additional households nationally per annum to 2040.<sup>2</sup> The recently published Section 28 Guidelines for Housing Growth Requirements mandate that development plans be updated to align with the NPF housing targets.<sup>3</sup> These Guidelines estimate a total national housing demand of circa 55,598 dwellings from 2025-2034 and require local authorities to address the scope for additional provision of up to 50% in excess of this baseline housing growth requirement<sup>4</sup>. In anticipation of revised housing requirements for Newbridge, as a result of a statutory variation to the Kildare CDP, this SIA also considers potential projected growth from 2025-2034, to ensure a robust and future-proofed approach to social infrastructure planning. This is reflected in the Phase 2 New Residential figures in Table 1, which are identified in the Settlement Plan to accommodate potential future growth.

For the purposes of this SIA, the projected (additional) population growth in Newbridge is 8,007 persons, resulting in an estimated total population of 32,373 persons. This population growth will support the strategic zoning of land for social infrastructure, ensuring adequate provision throughout the lifetime of the Plan and beyond.

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<sup>2</sup> NPO 42 of the NPF “To target the delivery of housing to accommodate approximately 50,000 additional homes per annum to 2040.”

<sup>3</sup> 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

<sup>4</sup> Approximately 55,598 dwellings per annum + 50% = circa 83,397 dwellings per annum to 2034.

Table 1: Figures Used by the Social Infrastructure Audit (SIA)

Projected Population Growth in Newbridge to 2029	
Census 2022 Population of Newbridge	24,366 persons
Estimated Population of Newbridge Q2 / Q3 / Q4 2022	25,705 persons <sup>5</sup>
Kildare CDP 2023 - Q4 2028 Population Increase Target	2,917 persons
Population Projection Q1 2029	28,622 persons <sup>6</sup>
Increase on Census 2022 population to 2029	4,256 persons <sup>7</sup>
Surplus Population Growth on Legacy Zoned Land	2,079 persons <sup>8</sup>
<b>Total Projected Population Growth in Newbridge to 2029</b>	<b>6,335 persons<sup>9</sup></b>

Phase 2 New Residential Development Projected Housing Growth Requirements 2025 - 2034	
<b>Phase 2 Population Growth 2025 - 2034</b>	1,672 persons <sup>10</sup>

Summary of Projected Population Growth in Newbridge	
<b>Estimated Population Growth</b>	8,007 persons <sup>11</sup>
<b>Estimated Total Projected Population</b>	32,373 persons <sup>12</sup>

<sup>5</sup> This figure was calculated on the basis of the 2022 Census population of Newbridge (24,366), in addition to 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). CSO data records that 457 units were constructed within the built-up area (BUA) of Newbridge between Q2 and Q4 2022. Accordingly,  $457 \times 2.93$  (average unit occupancy for Newbridge in 2022) = 1,339 persons + 24,366 (Census 2022 population) = an estimated population for Q1 2023 of 25,705 persons.

<sup>6</sup> Estimated population by start of Q1 2023 (25,705) + CDP population increase (2,917) = 28,622.

<sup>7</sup> Projected population to 2029 (28,622) – Census 2022 population (24,366) = 4,256.

<sup>8</sup> 756 on legacy zoned land  $\times$  2.75 CDP Occupancy Rate = 2,079.

<sup>9</sup> 4,256 population growth to 2029 + 2,079 surplus population growth = 6,335 persons.

<sup>10</sup> Phase 2 new residential units  $608 \times 2.75$  CDP Occupancy Rate = 1,672. Only to be released by a statutory variation to the Core Strategy (2023-2029) on a phased plan-led approach.

<sup>11</sup> Population growth to 2029 (6,335) + Phase 2 population growth (1,672) = 8,007 persons

<sup>12</sup> Census 2022 population 24,366 + projected population growth 8,007 = 32,373 persons

## 1.2 Methodology

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



### 1. Existing Infrastructure Provision

The ‘baseline’ assessment was derived from a desktop-based examination of available information and the use of digital mapping techniques to identify spatial relationships between community infrastructure and population catchment in conjunction with several site visits for verification purposes. This assessment included the identification, cataloguing and mapping of existing community infrastructure features (including where relevant, their capacity) under a number of predefined themes including Education and Training, Childcare, Health, Sports and Recreation and Open Space, Social and Community Services, Arts and Culture, Faith and other features. The location of schools, childcare and neighbourhood centres are mapped to illustrate catchment areas within an 800-metre walking distance, as per the 10-minute settlement concept, which is supported by the CDP.<sup>13</sup>

### 2. Future Demands Analysis

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

### 3. Social Infrastructure Recommendations

Recommendations for future social infrastructure provision will inform the preparation of the Newbridge Settlement Plan. The spatial and demographic outputs will bring significant added value in the preparation of evidence-based spatial development objectives and to address the 10-minute settlement concept. Reference is made throughout the document to the Chief Executive’s Report on Submissions Received on the Pre-Draft Consultation Stage of the Newbridge Local Area Plan (dated 20 March 2024). This is an important source of information as social infrastructure was a significant issue raised by the residents of Newbridge during the public consultation stage.

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<sup>13</sup> This is also in keeping with National Strategic Outcome 1 (Compact Growth) of the National Planning Framework (2025)

## 2 Profile of Newbridge

### 2.1 Demographic Profile

Census 2022 showed Newbridge to have a population of 24,366 persons<sup>14</sup> which represents a 7.1% (1,624 persons) increase in population from 2016 (22,742 persons). Newbridge represented almost 10% of County Kildare's entire population (247,774 persons) in 2022.

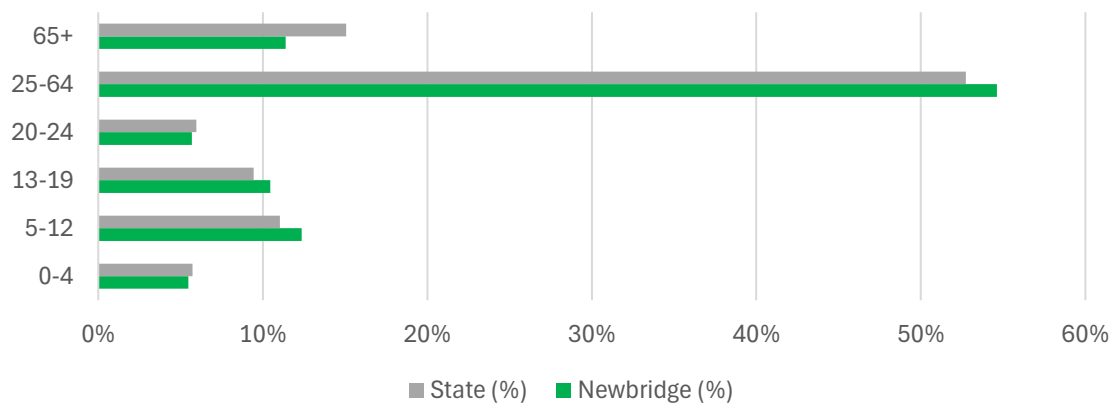
According to Census 2022, the age profile of Newbridge includes a high percentage of children, young people and those at work. Table 2 below shows the 0-19 age cohort makes up 28.4% of the population which is higher than the percentage recorded nationally (26.1%), while the 20-64 age cohorts make up 60.3% of the population which is also higher than the national proportion of 58.7%. Also of significance is the difference between the 65+ age group of Newbridge and the state. Newbridge recorded 11.4% in this age group compared to 15.1% nationally.

Figure 1 below clearly shows the most significant difference between the 65+ age group of the state and Newbridge.

Table 2: Age Profile, CSO 2022

Age Group	Population of Newbridge	% of Total Population Newbridge	National Proportion (%)
0-4	1,335	5.5%	5.7%
5-12	3,012	12.4%	11.0%
13-19	2,550	10.5%	9.4%
20-24	1,385	5.7%	6.0%
25-64	13,310	54.6%	52.7%
65+	2,774	11.4%	15.1%

Figure 1: Population Profile by Age Group, CSO 2022



<sup>14</sup> The figure of 24,366 refers to the population living within the Built-Up Area (BUA) of Newbridge as defined by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and is based on the results of Census 2022.

## 3 Existing Infrastructure

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

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

### 3.1 Education and Training

The study area is served by nine primary schools, four post-primary schools, two special education schools, and three third level / further education and training centres.

There is no national 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 (DoE) having regard to available school capacity, demographic projections, an analysis of child benefit records, and local GIS travel pattern modelling.

During the pre-draft consultation stage of the Plan, the DoE, in their submission highlighted the need to consider potential unforeseen circumstances such as the Ukrainian crisis that could put undue pressure on school capacities. The DoE emphasised that such circumstances might necessitate reassessments of school place provision from time to time. Additionally, the DoE also noted that additional Special Education Needs (SEN) provision at both primary and post-primary levels will be required in the future throughout the country and this may result in schools requiring additional accommodation to meet this growing need.<sup>15</sup>

To inform the demand analysis of the educational facilities, Kildare County Council conducted a survey between September and November 2024 to assess pupil enrolment, school capacities, and the availability of pupil places across all schools in the study area.

Furthermore, the Department of Education (DoE) enrolment figures for schools from 2021/2022, to coincide with Census 2022, were also used to inform analysis.

#### 3.1.1 Primary Schools

The number of students enrolled for the 2024/25 school year, along with the capacity, operating levels and availability of student places in Newbridge primary schools are detailed in Table 3 below. Map 2 illustrates the locations of these schools and shows the homes that fall within a notional 10-minute walking distance (800

<sup>15</sup> Department of Education (DoE) submission (dated 30 June 2024) to the Newbridge Local Area Plan 2025-2031 Pre-draft Public Consultation.



metres) of each school. As shown on the map, two of these primary schools are located just south of the study area.

Table 3: Primary Schools

Map Ref.	School Name	Enrolled 2024/2025	Capacity	Operating Level	Availability
<b>P1</b>	Scoil na Naomh Uilig	591 <sup>16</sup>	595	99.3%	4 places <sup>17</sup>
<b>P2</b>	St Conleth's Infants School	300	370	81.1%	70 places <sup>18</sup>
<b>P3</b>	St Conleth's and St Mary's National School	350	365	95.9%	15 places
<b>P4</b>	Patrician Primary School	305	325	93.8%	20 places
<b>P5</b>	St Patrick's Church of Ireland National School	209	214	97.7%	5 places <sup>19</sup>
<b>P6</b>	Scoil Mhuire Junior School	359 <sup>20</sup>	384	93.5%	25 places <sup>21</sup>
<b>P7</b>	Scoil Mhuire Senior School	390	411	94.9%	None
<b>P8</b>	Newbridge Educate Together	415	415	100.0%	None
<b>P9</b>	Gaelscoil Chill Dara	304	400	76.0%	96 places <sup>22</sup>
<b>TOTAL:</b>		3,233	3,468	92.5%	235 places

As part of Census 2022 all resident workers and students are geo-coded to their place of work or school/college which is known as the Place of Work, School, College or Childcare - Census of Anonymised Records (POWSCCAR) data. Table 4 overleaf shows that in 2022 most trips to primary schools in Newbridge originated within the town itself (81.83%) or in the 'Kildare Rural' area (7.72%).

The largest single concentration of pupil origins outside of Newbridge is found in Kildare Town, from which there were 146 pupils travelling to primary schools in Newbridge.

<sup>16</sup> At the time of communication, the school was awaiting the arrival of three pupils. The figure (591) includes the three pupils.

<sup>17</sup> Availability in the Severe and Profound Learning Disabilities Class.

<sup>18</sup> Availability in junior infants, senior infants and first class.

<sup>19</sup> Availability in first class and second class.

<sup>20</sup> At the time of communication, the school was awaiting the arrival of eight pupils. The figure (359) includes the eight pupils.

<sup>21</sup> Availability in junior infants, senior infants and second class.

<sup>22</sup> Availability in all classes.

Table 4: Newbridge Primary Schools Catchment Areas

Origin Town	No. Trips	Percentages
Newbridge	2,522	81.83%
Kildare Rural	238	7.72%
Kildare	146	4.74%
Kilcullen	32	1.04%
Athgarvan	29	0.94%
Rathangan	21	0.68%
Monasterevin	20	0.65%
Suncroft	18	0.58%
Naas	17	0.55%
Brownstown	15	0.49%
Calverstown	13	0.42%
Laois Rural	11	0.36%
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>3,082</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Source:** Central Statistics Office, Census 2022 (POWSCCAR data)

Figure 2: Scoil na Naomh Uilig





Map 2: Locations of Primary Schools





### 3.1.1.1 Demand Analysis

There is no guiding population benchmark for the provision of primary school facilities in Ireland. The Department of Education's Circular 0011/2024 'Staffing arrangements in Primary Schools for the 2024/25 school year', outlines a primary staffing approach, indicating a general average of one classroom teacher for every 23 pupils for the 2024/25 school year.

Census 2022 records that 12.4% (3,012 persons) of the population living within the Built-Up Area (BUA) of Newbridge is of primary school age (5 to 12 years inclusive). An analysis of the Department of Education's Primary School Enrolment Figures for the 2021/2022 school year notes that 3,337 pupils were attending primary school in Newbridge. This represents 13.7% of the population (Census 2022). This figure highlights that primary schools in Newbridge are catering for populations beyond the defined Built-Up Area boundary, as shown in Table 4, which outlines the primary school catchment areas.

The total number of primary school students enrolled in the nine Newbridge schools for the 2024/2025 school year amounts to 3,233 pupils, which is 221 pupils more than those within the primary school age bracket (Census 2022). This highlights a steady incline in this population age group attending primary education in Newbridge.

Applying the Census 2022 figure of 13.7% (to take account of the wider catchment) to the projected population growth in Newbridge (8,007 persons) indicates that an additional 1,097 pupil places would be required. The requirement of pupil places can be reduced to 862 pupil places when considering the available capacity in the existing primary schools (235 pupils), for the enrolment period 2024/2025.

Regarding the locations of the primary schools, there is a significant area in the south-east and a smaller area within the north of Newbridge 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:**

- Considering the anticipated population growth of Newbridge over the Plan period and beyond, 862 additional primary school pupil places, or 38 classrooms comprising 23 students each will be needed. The Department of Education Technical Guidance Document (TGD-025) provide for a maximum classroom size of 32 in primary schools. The future requirement in Newbridge could be delivered in one school and with the expansion of existing facilities.
- The location of any new primary school should have regard to the 10-minute settlement concept, the south-east and north of Newbridge are lacking in this regard.
- Zone land to provide for the future expansion of existing schools, where possible.

### 3.1.2 Post-Primary Schools

The number of students enrolled for the 2024/25 school year, along with the capacity, operating levels and availability of student places in the Newbridge post-primary schools are detailed in Table 5 below. Map 3 illustrates the locations of these schools and shows the homes that fall within a notional 10-minute walking distance (800 metres) of each school.

Table 5: Newbridge Post-Primary Schools

Map Ref.	School Name	Enrolled 2024/2025	Capacity	Operating Level	Availability
<b>Private Post Primary Schools</b>					
<b>PP1</b>	Newbridge College	919	900	102.1%	None
<b>PP2</b>	Leinster Senior College <sup>23</sup>	122	130	93.8%	Availability in sixth year.
<b>Post-Primary Schools</b>					
<b>PP3</b>	St Conleth's Community College	751	750	100.1%	Availability in fifth year.
<b>PP4</b>	Patrician Secondary School	918	918	100.0%	None
<b>PP5</b>	Holy Family Secondary School	777	600	129.5% <sup>24</sup>	None
<b>TOTAL:</b>		3,487	3,298	105.1%	Availability in fifth and sixth years.

The Department of Education is in the process of extending all three post-primary schools to cater for 1,000 students per school, which will increase the overall capacity of these schools in Newbridge by 732 student places. The status of these extensions is set out in Table 6 below.

Table 6: Planned Post-Primary School Projects

Map Ref.	School Name	Planning Ref No.	Current Status	Capacity
<b>PP3</b>	St Conleth's Community College	-	The Department of Education has started the process of extending the school to 1,000 pupils.	The development will increase the student capacity by 250 places.

<sup>23</sup> Leinster Senior College caters for full-time fifth and sixth years and Repeat Leaving Certificate students.

<sup>24</sup> The front hall of the school has been converted into three classrooms to accommodate additional students.



Map Ref.	School Name	Planning Ref No.	Current Status	Capacity
PP4	Patrician Secondary School	22/968	Stage 3 (tender stage), <sup>25</sup> construction envisaged to start 2025. Building schedule of approx. 3 years.	The development will increase the student capacity by 82 places.
PP5	Holy Family Secondary School	-	A Design Team has been appointed and is working towards Stage 1 (preliminary design) of the project.	The development will increase the student capacity by 400 places.

Examining the POWSCCAR data (Table 7), it is evident that post-primary schools in Newbridge serve a dispersed catchment area, with just over half of pupils (53.38%) coming from Newbridge itself in 2022. Additionally, 22.81% of pupils attending post-primary school in Newbridge originate from the 'Kildare Rural' area. The largest concentrations of pupil origins from other defined settlements (excluding Newbridge) are Athgarvan (3.73%), Naas (3.15%), Kildare Town (1.88%) and Clane (1.50%). This highlights a tendency for students to travel further for post-primary education often due to necessity or, in some cases, family preference.

Table 7: Newbridge Post-Primary Schools Catchment Areas

Origin Town	No. Trips	Percentages
Newbridge	1,390	53.38%
Kildare Rural	594	22.81%
Athgarvan	97	3.73%
Naas	82	3.15%
Kildare Town	49	1.88%
Clane	39	1.50%
Ladytown	34	1.31%
Sallins	31	1.19%
Ballysax	30	1.15%
Caragh	26	1.00%
Johnstown	25	0.96%

<sup>25</sup> Source: Current Status of Large-Scale Projects under the School Capital Programme (31 December 2024).

Origin Town	No. Trips	Percentages
Wicklow Rural	24	0.92%
Kilcullen	20	0.77%
Suncroft	20	0.77%
Calverstown	20	0.77%
Kill	18	0.69%
Laois Rural	18	0.69%
Brownstown	17	0.65%
Milltown	16	0.61%
Kilmeague	16	0.61%
Monasterevin	14	0.54%
Rathangan	12	0.46%
Offaly Rural	12	0.46%
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>2,604</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Source:** POWSCCAR, 2022

Figure 3: Leinster Senior College





Map 3: Locations of Post-Primary Schools





### **3.1.2.1 Demand Analysis**

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

According to Census 2022 figures, 10.5% (2,550 pupils) of the population within the Built-Up Area (BUA) boundary of Newbridge is of post-primary school age (13 to 19 years inclusive). An analysis of the Department of Education's Post-Primary School Enrolment Figures for the 2021/2022 school year notes that 3,234 pupils were attending post-primary school in Newbridge. This represents 13.3% of the population (Census 2022). This figure highlights that post-primary schools in Newbridge are serving a significant number of students from the surrounding rural hinterland and further afield, as shown in Table 7, which details the catchment areas.

The total number of primary school students enrolled in the nine Newbridge schools for the 2024/2025 school year amounts to 3,487 pupils, which is 253 pupils more than the enrolment figures of 2021/2022. This highlights a steady incline in this population age group attending post-primary education in Newbridge.

To accommodate projected population growth during the Plan period and beyond (with an estimated increase of 8,007 persons), applying the Census 2022 figure of 13.3% for the wider catchment area suggests a need for 1,065 additional pupil places. Planned extensions to post-primary schools are expected to increase capacity by 732 pupil places. However, these schools are currently operating at overcapacity, with 197 more students than their current capacity allows. After accounting for this overcapacity, the remaining requirement would be 530 pupil places.

In correspondence with the Department of Education, it noted the need to recognise potential unforeseen circumstances, such as the ongoing Ukrainian crisis, which may place additional pressure on school place availability. Furthermore, the planned expansion of the three post-primary schools may limit the viability of future extensions at these schools, due to space constraints.

In light of these factors, it is considered appropriate to reserve a site for post-primary school provision in Newbridge for post-primary school development. This will ensure sufficient capacity to accommodate the growing population of Newbridge, both during and beyond the lifetime of the Plan. Additionally, it will provide for potential unforeseen circumstances, as highlighted in Section 3.1.

Regarding the locations of the post-primary schools, there are significant areas towards the north, north-west, south-west, south and south-east of Newbridge that are not serviced with a post-primary school within a notional 10-minute (800 metre) walk (see Map 3)

**Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan:**

- Facilitate the extensions of the three post-primary schools in Newbridge.
- Reserve a site for a new post-primary school having regard to the 10-minute settlement concept and the areas in Newbridge lacking in this regard.

**3.1.3 Special Education Needs (SEN)**

Special Education Needs (SEN) in Newbridge are catered for by two dedicated SEN schools and by SEN classrooms in seven mainstream primary schools and one mainstream post-primary school. Map 4 shows the locations of these schools and highlights the homes that fall within a notional 10-minute (800 metre) walking distance of each school. As illustrated, there is a significant area within the south-east and a smaller area in the north of Newbridge that are not serviced with a school offering SEN education within a notional 10-minute walk (see Map 4).

**Special Education Needs Schools**

The two SEN schools in Newbridge cater to pupils aged 4 to 18 years. Table 8 below outlines the current enrolment figures for the 2024/25 school year, along with the schools' respective capacities.

Table 8: Special Education Needs Schools

Map Ref.	School Name	Enrolled 2024/2025	Capacity	Operating Level	Availability
SE1	St Mark's Special School	95	95	100%	None
SE2	St Anne's Special School	73	Unknown <sup>26</sup>	100%	None
<b>TOTAL:</b>		168	Approx. 168	100%	None

To accommodate growing demand, the Department of Education is advancing projects to expand both schools, which will result in the addition of five new classrooms. The progress and status of these expansion projects are detailed in Table 9 overleaf.

<sup>26</sup> The school includes 13 classes. Class sizes vary depending on pupil designation.



Table 9: Planned Special School Projects

Map Ref.	School Name	Planning Ref No.	Current Status	Capacity
SE1	St Mark's Special School	21/424	<b>Under Construction</b> <sup>27</sup> The school will be expanded from 12 classrooms to 14 classrooms.	Student-teacher ratios are specified according to categories of disability. A special school for students with a moderate general learning disability for example, has one teacher for every eight students. <sup>28</sup>
SE2	St Anne's Special School	21/1748	<b>Stage 2b (Detailed Design)</b> <sup>29</sup> The school will be expanded from 13 classrooms to maximum 16 classrooms.	

### Special Classes in Mainstream Schools

In mainstream schools, special classes are supported by 16 dedicated teaching posts across eight primary schools (See Table 10 below). This includes:

- thirteen teachers for pupils with autism or autistic spectrum conditions'
- two teachers for pupils with severe and profound general learning disabilities; and
- one teacher dedicated to early intervention for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

Table 10: List of Special Education Needs Classes in Mainstream Schools (October 2024)

Map Ref.	School Name	Type	Class Type	Teaching Posts
SE3	Scoil na Naomh Uilig	Primary	Autism/Autistic Spectrum	3
	Scoil na Naomh Uilig	Primary	Severe/Profound General	2
SE4	St Conleth's Community College	Post-Primary	Autism/Autistic Spectrum	1.5 + 1.5
SE5	St Conleth's Infants School	Primary	ASD Early Intervention	1
	St Conleth's Infants School	Primary	Autism/Autistic Spectrum	1
SE6	St Patrick's Church of Ireland National School	Primary	Autism/Autistic Spectrum	1

<sup>27</sup> Current Status of Large-Scale Projects under the School Capital Programme (31 December 2024).

<sup>28</sup> National Council for Special Education (2019). Information Booklet for Parents of Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs (Page 17).

<sup>29</sup> Current Status of Large-Scale Projects under the School Capital Programme (31 December 2024).

<b>SE7</b>	Scoil Mhuire Junior School	Primary	Autism/Autistic Spectrum	1
<b>SE8</b>	Scoil Mhuire Senior School	Primary	Autism/Autistic Spectrum	1
<b>SE9</b>	Gaelscoil Chill Dara	Primary	Autism/Autistic Spectrum	1
<b>SE10</b>	St Conleth's and St Mary's National School	Primary	Autism/Autistic Spectrum	2
<b>Total number of teaching posts</b>				<b>16</b>

Currently, a 204 square metre extension is under construction at St Patrick's Church of Ireland National School.<sup>30</sup> This project will add one SEN classroom and two Special Education Teacher (SET) rooms to the existing school.

It is important to note, however, that this extension will only serve the current students and will not increase the school's overall capacity.<sup>31</sup>

Figure 4: CGI of St Mark's Special School



Source: Extract from Architectural Design Statement, SJK Architects. Planning Ref. 21/424

<sup>30</sup> Kildare County Council Planning reference number: 20/1359.

<sup>31</sup> Date of communication with the school: 26 September 2024.



Map 4: Location of Special Education Needs Schools





### 3.1.3.1 Demand Analysis

The Newbridge Special Educational Needs Organiser (SENO) of the National Council for Special Education (NCSE), responsible for planning, coordinating, and reviewing the provision of special education needs schools, has highlighted a significant shortage of special education facilities at both primary and post-primary levels.

The SENO reported that a list currently exists of ten children at the primary school level in Newbridge awaiting placement for the 2025/2026 school year.<sup>32</sup> At the post-primary level, eight children are on the waiting list for the same school year, with an additional child seeking placement for the current 2024/2025 school year who remains at home due to the lack of availability. Additionally, several children in Kildare Town and the Curragh area which falls within the catchment area of Newbridge are also awaiting placements for the 2025/2026 school year.

Given the significant shortage of placements for students with special education needs and the potential variability in teacher-student ratios, it is deemed essential to make additional provisions for special education needs. According to the NCSE, special education schools catering to students with moderate general learning disabilities maintain a standard teacher-student ratio of 1:8, with lower ratios applied to certain disability categories. Based on these guidelines, it is estimated that the five new classrooms planned as part of the special education school projects (detailed in Table 9) will enable the schools to accommodate up to 40 additional students once these projects are completed. These schools serve pupils aged 4 to 18 years.

Additionally, Sections 3.1.1.1 and 3.1.2.1 above propose reserving sites for new mainstream primary and post-primary schools in Newbridge where additional provision could also be made for Special Education Needs classes.

The Department of Education, in its submission to the pre-draft consultation stage of the Plan (dated 22 November 2023), stated its anticipation that additional special education needs provision at both primary and post-primary level will be required in the future and may result in schools requiring additional accommodation to meet this growing need. The Department will continue to consult with Kildare County Council on an ongoing basis with regard to future requirements for additional special education needs accommodation.

#### **Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan:**

- Facilitate the extensions of the two Special Education Needs schools in Newbridge as outlined in Table 9, which will result in five additional classrooms.

<sup>32</sup> Date of communication: 4 December 2024.

### 3.1.4 Further Education and Training Facilities

There are three further education and training facilities in the study area with courses available from Level 2 to Level 6 of the Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI).

Table 11 outlines the level and type of courses available, and Map 5 shows the locations of these facilities.

Table 11: Further Education and Training Facilities

Map Ref.	School Name	Description of Courses	Level attainment
FE1	Newbridge Youth Training and Development Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Learning;</li> <li>• Hair and Beauty;</li> <li>• Craft Skills / Engineering; Professional Development;</li> <li>• Health and Fitness;</li> <li>• IT; and</li> <li>• Office Skills.</li> </ul>	QQI Levels 3 and 4.
FE2	Newbridge Further Education and Training Centre	<p><b>Full-time courses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special Needs Assisting;</li> <li>• Health Services Skills;</li> <li>• Office Skills;</li> <li>• Creative Media;</li> <li>• Business Studies (Bookkeeping and Accounting); and</li> <li>• Business and Supervisory Management.</li> </ul> <p><b>Part-time courses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help with reading, writing, spelling, numeracy;</li> <li>• Computers for beginners/improvers;</li> <li>• General learning;</li> <li>• Mathematics;</li> <li>• Information and communication technology;</li> <li>• Healthcare support; and</li> <li>• English for speakers of other languages.</li> </ul>	QQI Levels 2, 3, 5 and 6.
FE3	<p>St Conleth's Community College - Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) courses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enrolled: 200 students</li> <li>• Capacity: 240 students</li> </ul>	<p><b>Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) courses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art, Craft and Design Portfolio Preparation;</li> <li>• Animal Care;</li> <li>• Beauty Therapy;</li> <li>• Business and Digital Marketing;</li> <li>• Computer Science with Games Development / Advanced Certificate in Computer Science;</li> </ul>	NFQ Levels 5 and 6.



Map Ref.	School Name	Description of Courses	Level attainment
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Learning and Care - Stage 1; Advanced Early Learning and Care - Stage 2;</li> <li>• Equine Breeding; General Learning Preparation for Level 5;</li> <li>• Horsemanship;</li> <li>• Nursing Studies;</li> <li>• Security, Criminology, and Legal Studies;</li> <li>• Social and Community Care;</li> <li>• Sport, Recreation and Exercise; and Wider Options.</li> </ul>	

Analysis of Census 2022 data shows that 24% (3,611) of those aged 15 and over in Newbridge had not completed their Leaving Certificate when they ceased education. While 8% (1,377) have not completed the Junior Certificate. It should be noted a further 5% (756) did not state the level of education completed.

Figure 5: Newbridge Further Education and Training Centre





Map 5: Location of Further Education and Training Facilities





### 3.2 Childcare

Childcare in Newbridge is supported by 17 existing 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 Station Walk), which has not yet officially opened, is expected to become operational in the near future. Additionally, there are three extant permissions for childcare facilities (Table 13 refers) and one planning application currently awaiting decision (Table 14 refers).

Map 6 illustrates the location of each childcare facility, as well as the locations of the extant permissions for childcare facilities. The distribution of these facilities ensures that most residential areas have access to childcare facilities within a notional 10-minute walk (800 metres) of their homes. However, some small areas within the north and south-east of Newbridge are lacking in this regard. A capacity audit for each childcare provider is set out in Table 12.

Figure 6: Tir na nÓg Childcare Facility



Table 12: Registered Childcare Facilities and Afterschool Facilities

Registered Childcare Facilities						
Map Ref.	School Name	Total Enrolled 2024/2025	Total Capacity <sup>33</sup>	Nursery / Pre-School Services Availability	Nursery / Pre-School Services	Afterschool Services
<b>C1</b>	Tots Crèche and Daycare Nursery (Roseberry Hill)	124 children	100 children	None	<b>Full-day, part-time and sessional</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0 to 6 years</li> </ul> <b>Waiting list</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waiting lists are in operation for all age groups</li> </ul>	<b>Current Enrolment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>24 pupils</li> </ul> <b>Availability</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No available spaces</li> </ul> <b>Waiting list</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A waiting list is in operation</li> </ul>
<b>C2</b>	Tots Crèche and Daycare Nursery Limited (Station Walk)	Due to open.	146 children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>76 full-time places</li> <li>34 sessional places</li> <li>36 afterschool places</li> </ul>	<b>Full-day and sessional.</b> 0 to 5 years 6 months	Due to open <sup>34</sup> .

<sup>33</sup> The maximum number of children the facility can accommodate at any one time.

<sup>34</sup> Telephone conversation with Tots Creche head office confirmed snag list completed at facility but no open date confirmed for facility at time of writing. 28 July 2025

Registered Childcare Facilities						
Map Ref.	School Name	Total Enrolled 2024/2025	Total Capacity <sup>33</sup>	Nursery / Pre-School Services Availability	Nursery / Pre-School Services	Afterschool Services
<b>C3</b>	Play and Learn Childcare (White Oaks)	81 children	35 children	Four sessional or part-time places	<b>Part-time and sessional</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.5 to 6 years</li> </ul> <b>Waiting list</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No waiting list for sessional or part-time places</li> </ul>	<b>Current Enrolment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50 pupils</li> </ul> <b>Availability</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No available spaces</li> </ul> <b>Waiting list</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A waiting list is in operation</li> </ul>
<b>C4</b>	Play and Learn Childcare (The Paddocks)	69 children	70 children	One sessional place	<b>Full-day and sessional</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 to 6 years</li> </ul> <b>Waiting list</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waiting lists are in operation for the full-day wobbler (1-2 years) and toddler rooms (2-3 years)</li> </ul>	<b>No afterschool services</b>
<b>C5</b>	Tots Crèche and Daycare Nursery Limited (Great Southern)	65 children	50 children	None* * Rooms are too small to operate at maximum capacity	<b>Full-day, part-time and sessional</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0 to 6 years</li> </ul> <b>Waiting list</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waiting lists are in operation for all age groups</li> </ul>	<b>Current Enrolment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15 pupils</li> </ul> <b>Availability</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No available spaces</li> </ul> <b>Waiting list</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A waiting list is in operation</li> </ul>



Registered Childcare Facilities						
Map Ref.	School Name	Total Enrolled 2024/2025	Total Capacity <sup>35</sup>	Nursery / Pre-School Services Availability	Nursery / Pre-School Services	Afterschool Services
					<b>Note:</b> Planning permission granted to construct two classrooms. <sup>35</sup> This expansion will enable the facility to accommodate a total of 66 children in the morning and 62 children in the afternoon.	<b>Note:</b> Planning permission granted to construct two additional classrooms. This will enable the facility to accommodate a total of 66 children in the morning and 62 children in the afternoon, including provision for 24 afterschool places.
C6	Klever Kidz Preschool	37 children	22 children	Seven sessional (afternoon) places	<b>Sessional</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 years to 5 years 6 months</li> </ul> <b>Waiting list</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No waiting list in operation for sessional places</li> </ul> <b>Note:</b> The facility has reported a high demand for full-day services in Newbridge. While the facility wishes to expand its offerings to include full-day services, a previous attempt to	<b>No afterschool services</b> <b>Note:</b> The facility has reported a high demand for afterschool services in Newbridge. While the facility wishes to expand its offerings to include afterschool services, a previous attempt to secure planning permission for expansion was refused.

<sup>35</sup> Planning reference number: PL 24/61168, Final Grant Issued with Conditions (dated 19 February 2025).

Registered Childcare Facilities						
Map Ref.	School Name	Total Enrolled 2024/2025	Total Capacity <sup>33</sup>	Nursery / Pre-School Services Availability	Nursery / Pre-School Services	Afterschool Services
					secure planning permission for expansion was refused. <sup>36</sup>	
<b>C7</b>	Tír na Nóg	178 children	120 children	One sessional (morning) place	<b>Full-day and sessional</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 to 5 years</li> </ul> <b>Waiting list</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waiting lists are in operation for full-day services</li> </ul>	<b>Current Enrolment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>63 pupils</li> </ul> <b>Availability</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No available spaces</li> </ul> <b>Waiting list</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A waiting list is in operation</li> </ul>
<b>C8</b>	Judy's Playschool <sup>37</sup>		11 children <sup>38</sup>			<b>No afterschool services</b>

<sup>36</sup> Planning reference number: PL 21/1478 – Refusal reasons: **1)** The extent of the structure to be converted to childcare services and the subsequent first floor remaining as a secondary residential use, combined with the lack of private open space and own door access for the residential unit does not comply with the development standards of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023. **2)** The lack of car parking and mobility management measures for the proposed intensified childcare facility, together with the likely noise impact, would negatively impact residential amenity.

<sup>37</sup> The childcare provider supplied limited information.

<sup>38</sup> Tusla, Register of Early Years Services (dated November 2024).

Registered Childcare Facilities						
Map Ref.	School Name	Total Enrolled 2024/2025	Total Capacity <sup>33</sup>	Nursery / Pre-School Services Availability	Nursery / Pre-School Services	Afterschool Services
<b>C9</b>	Newbridge Family Resource Centre (Childcare)	70 children	70 children	None	<b>Sessional</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.5 years to 5 years</li> </ul> <b>Waiting list</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A waiting list is in operation for sessional places</li> </ul>	<b>No afterschool services</b>
<b>C10</b>	Amanda's Play School	10 children	11 children	One sessional (morning) place	<b>Sessional</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.5 years to 5 years</li> </ul> <b>Waiting list</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No waiting list in operation for sessional places</li> </ul>	<b>No afterschool services</b>
<b>C11</b>	Tots Crèche and Daycare Nursery Limited (The Bungalow)	150 children	90 children	Two sessional places	<b>Full-day and sessional</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0 to 6 years</li> </ul> <b>Waiting list</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waiting lists are in operation for full-day services</li> </ul>	<b>Current Enrolment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>40 pupils</li> </ul> <b>Availability</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No available space</li> </ul> <b>Waiting list</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A waiting list is in operation</li> </ul>

Registered Childcare Facilities						
Map Ref.	School Name	Total Enrolled 2024/2025	Total Capacity <sup>33</sup>	Nursery / Pre-School Services Availability	Nursery / Pre-School Services	Afterschool Services
C12	Little Harvard Childcare	102 children	164 children	27 sessional or part-time places	<p><b>Full-day and sessional</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 to 6 years</li> </ul> <p><b>Waiting list</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A waiting list is in operation for the 1-year-old age group</li> </ul>	<p><b>Current Enrolment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 pupils</li> </ul> <p><b>Availability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>35 available spaces</li> </ul> <p><b>Waiting list</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No waiting list in operation</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> The facility only provides afterschool services to pupils from Newbridge Educate Together and Gaelscoil Chill Dara.</p>
C13	Stepping Stones Montessori	72 children	45 children	None	<p><b>Full-day, part-time and sessional</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 to 6 years</li> </ul> <p><b>Waiting list</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waiting lists are in operation for all age groups</li> </ul>	<p><b>Current Enrolment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30 pupils</li> </ul> <p><b>Availability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No available spaces</li> </ul> <p><b>Waiting list</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A waiting list is in operation</li> </ul>

Registered Childcare Facilities						
Map Ref.	School Name	Total Enrolled 2024/2025	Total Capacity <sup>33</sup>	Nursery / Pre-School Services Availability	Nursery / Pre-School Services	Afterschool Services
<b>C14</b>	Child's Play Early Education and Afterschool	145 children	80 children	12 sessional places	<p><b>Full-day and sessional</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 months to 6 years</li> </ul> <p><b>Waiting list</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waiting lists are in operation for all full-time age groups</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> The facility indicated that the demand for sessional services is much lower than in previous years.</p>	<p><b>Current Enrolment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50 pupils</li> </ul> <p><b>Availability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No available spaces</li> </ul> <p><b>Waiting list</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A waiting list is in operation</li> </ul>
<b>C15</b>	Giggles Playschool	18 children	20 children	Two sessional (morning) places	<p><b>Sessional</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.5 to 5 years</li> </ul> <p><b>Waiting list</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No waiting list in operation for sessional places</li> </ul>	<b>No afterschool services.</b>



Registered Childcare Facilities						
Map Ref.	School Name	Total Enrolled 2024/2025	Total Capacity <sup>33</sup>	Nursery / Pre-School Services Availability	Nursery / Pre-School Services	Afterschool Services
<b>C16</b>	Gatelodge Childcare	100 children	45 children	None, due to a shortage of staff	<b>Full-day and sessional</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 to 5 years</li> </ul> <b>Waiting list</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waiting lists are in operation for all age groups</li> </ul> <b>Note:</b> The facility recently closed two rooms due to a shortage of staff.	<b>Current Enrolment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>40 pupils</li> </ul> <b>Availability</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No available spaces</li> </ul> <b>Waiting list</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No waiting list in operation</li> </ul>
<b>C17</b>	KARE Pre-School	16 children	16 children	None	<b>Sessional</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 years 8 months to 5 years</li> </ul> <b>Waiting list</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waiting lists are in operation for all age groups</li> </ul>	<b>No afterschool services</b>
<b>C18</b>	Naíonra Bhóin Dé Teoranta	22 children	22 children	None	<b>Sessional</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 years 8 months to 5 years</li> </ul> <b>Waiting list</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waiting lists are in operation for all age groups<sup>39</sup></li> </ul>	<b>No afterschool services</b>

<sup>39</sup> Approximately five children on the waiting list.

Afterschool Facilities						
Map Ref.	School Name	Total Enrolled 2024/2025	Total Capacity <sup>40</sup>	Nursery / Pre-School Services Availability	Nursery / Pre-School Services	Afterschool Services
<b>C19</b>	Club Iarscoile (Afterschool Club): Juniors and Seniors of Gaelscoil Chill Dara 1:40pm – 2:40pm	18 children	18 children	None	None	<b>Current Enrolment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18 pupils</li> </ul> <b>Availability</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No available spaces.</li> </ul> <b>Waiting list</b> A waiting list is in operation

Table 13: Extant Permissions for Childcare Facilities

Map Ref.	Estate Name	Location	Planning Ref. No.	Circa Capacity
<b>pC1</b>	Cnoc na Sí	Ballymany, Newbridge	21/311040	54 places <sup>41</sup>
<b>pC2</b>	Curragh Farm	Ballymany, Newbridge	22/312704	102 places <sup>42</sup>
<b>pC3</b>	To be confirmed <sup>43</sup>	Old Connell, Newbridge	24/60412	60 places <sup>44</sup>

<sup>40</sup> The maximum number of children the facility can accommodate at any one time.

<sup>41</sup> This figure represents the number of children the facility can accommodate at any one time. If the facility offers both morning and afternoon sessions, it would be able to provide additional childcare places overall.

<sup>42</sup> This figure represents the number of children the facility can accommodate at any one time. If the facility offers both morning and afternoon sessions, it would be able to provide additional childcare places overall.

<sup>43</sup> At time of writing, name for residential development has not been decided.

<sup>44</sup> This figure represents the number of children the facility can accommodate at any one time. If the facility offers both morning and afternoon sessions, it would be able to provide additional childcare places overall.

Table 14: Planning Applications (Awaiting Decision)

Map Ref.	Location	Planning Ref. No.	Application Status	Circa Capacity
<b>Not Mapped</b>	Great Connell, Newbridge	22/313306	Part of a Strategic Housing Development, due to be decided by An Coimisiún Pleanála.	Proposed new childcare facility: 154 places <sup>45</sup>

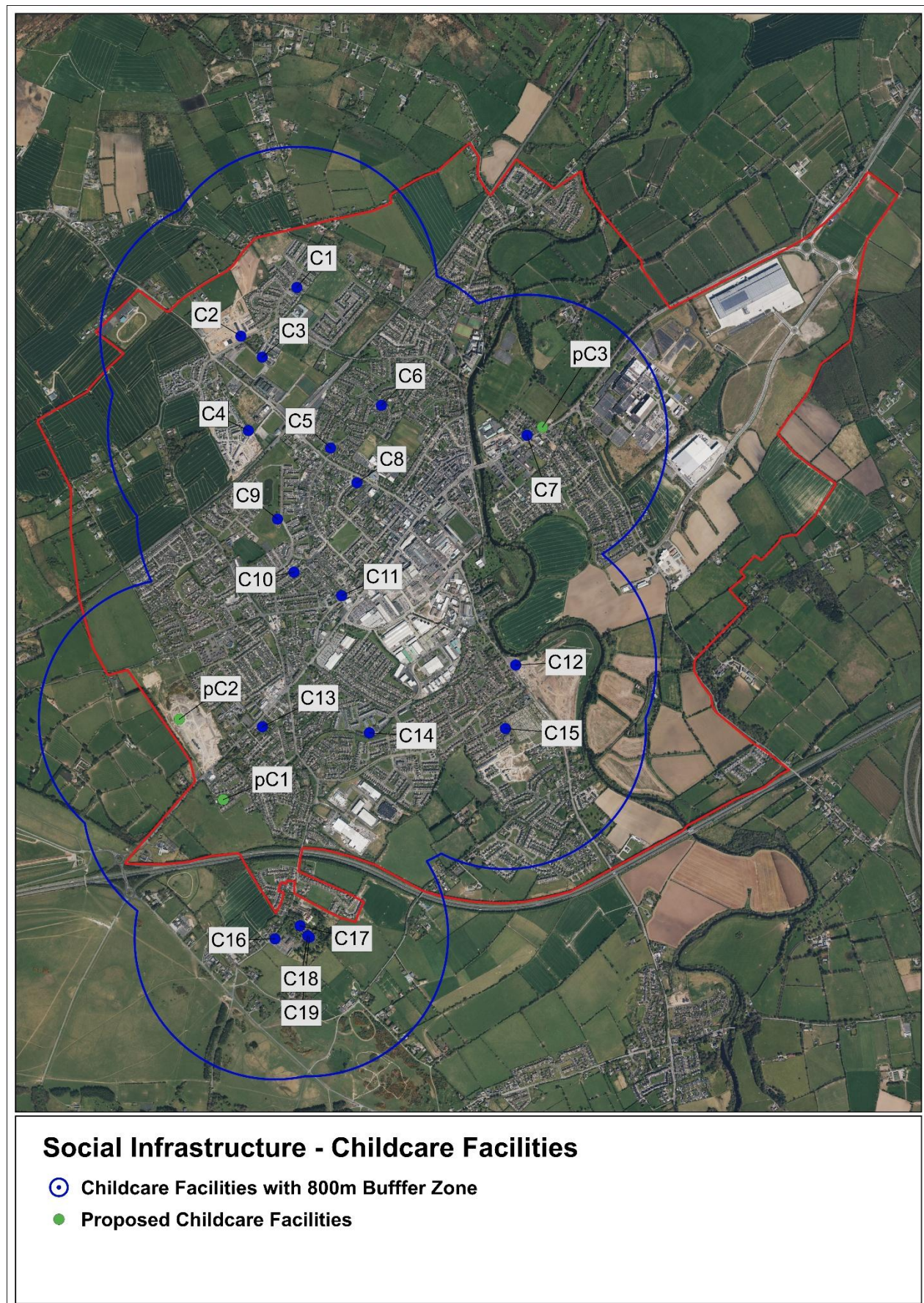
Figure 7: Tots Crèche and Daycare Nursery Limited (Station Walk)



<sup>45</sup> This figure represents the number of children the facility can accommodate at any one time. If the facility offers both morning and afternoon sessions, it would be able to provide additional childcare places overall.



Map 6: Location of Childcare Facilities





### 3.2.1 Demand Analysis

To evaluate the current and projected demand for childcare in Newbridge, detailed information was gathered from local childcare providers on enrolment, capacity, and availability for the 2024/2025 year. The findings are summarised in Table 12, which outlines the key data collected.

#### Overview of Current Demand and Capacity

Feedback from most childcare providers highlights a significant shortage of full-day care spaces, particularly for children aged 0-2 years, as well as for afterschool care. While demand for part-time or sessional care is lower, with several providers reporting available slots, full-day care and afterschool services remain in high demand, with waiting lists across facilities.

#### Childcare

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

Among the childcare facilities that were forthcoming with information, a total of 1,270<sup>46</sup> children are currently enrolled in childcare services across Newbridge, with an additional 18 children registered in an Afterschool Club at Gaelscoil Chill Dara. There are 57 sessional (Early Childhood Care and Education Programme) or part-time places available. However, demand for full-time preschool childcare remains high, with many providers operating at full capacity and maintaining waiting lists.

Infant care is particularly limited, with only four of the 17 childcare providers accepting children aged 0-1 years. This shortfall is expected to ease with the opening of a new facility at Station Walk, which will cater to this age group.

Afterschool care accounts for 339 of the 1,288 children currently enrolled in childcare services and afterschool services. Of the ten facilities offering afterschool care, seven are operating at full capacity and managing waiting lists. One recently opened facility has 35 available spaces, while a new facility is due to open soon and it will provide an additional 36 spaces to help address the current demand.

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.

Given the anticipated development of 2,912 additional residential units in Newbridge, an estimated 777 childcare places will be required to meet the needs of the growing

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<sup>46</sup> Assuming full capacity (11 children) at Judy's Playschool.

population.<sup>47</sup> A new childcare facility scheduled to open in the near future will provide 146 childcare places (Table 12 refers), reducing the projected shortfall to 631 places. This would comply with the quantitative standard contained within the Childcare Guidelines for Planning Authorities.

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

### **Planned Childcare Facilities**

It is noted that there are three extant planning permissions (Map 6 and Table 13 refer) for new childcare facilities in new residential areas, which could collectively provide approximately 216 places if delivered. Additionally, one planning application is currently awaiting decision (Table 14 refers) and includes proposals for new facilities, which could provide a further 154 places if approved. 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. In this regard extant permissions should be zoned for the provision of a childcare facility in line with approved developments.

#### **Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan:**

- The development of 2,912 additional residential units in Newbridge will require an additional 777 childcare places, of which 146 will be addressed by the opening of a new facility in the near future, leaving a remaining deficit of at least 631 childcare places.
- Where childcare facilities have not been built as part of a permitted residential scheme (see Table 13) these lands should be zoned specifically for childcare.

<sup>47</sup> Appendix 2 of the Childcare Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2001) establishes an indicative standard of one childcare facility per 75 dwellings in new housing areas. The additional housing unit growth envisaged over the lifetime of the Settlement Plan is 2,912 units (Estimated population growth = 8,007 / CDP Occupancy rate of 2.75). Therefore, 777 [(2912/75) x20] new childcare places are required.

### 3.3 Health

This section focuses on existing health facilities including general practitioners (GPs), health centres, dentists and other related facilities, as illustrated in Tables 15 to 18 and Map 7 and Map 8 below.

Table 15: General Practitioners in Newbridge

Map Ref.	Name	No. Practitioners	Availability
<b>GP1</b>	Roseberry Clinic	<b>One GP and one nurse</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GP works full-time</li> <li>Nurse works full-time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not currently accepting new patients</li> </ul>
<b>GP2</b>	MYDOCS Newbridge branch	<b>One GP</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GP works full-time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walk-in Service</li> </ul>
<b>GP3</b>	Newbridge Medical Centric Health	<b>Six GPs, four nurses and three primary care assistants (PCA)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All GPs work full-time</li> <li>All nurses work full-time</li> <li>PCA's work full-time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not currently accepting new patients.</li> </ul>
<b>GP4</b>	Doctor 365	<b>One GP</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walk-in Service</li> </ul>
<b>GP5</b>	Moorefield Medical Clinic	<b>Two GPs and two nurses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both GPs work full-time</li> <li>Both nurses work 4 days a week</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accepting new patients</li> <li>Both medical cards and private patients</li> </ul>
<b>GP6</b>	Newbridge Family Practice, Centric Health	<b>Four GPs and two nurses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One GP works full-time</li> <li>One GP works 2.5 days per week</li> <li>Two GPs work 1.25 days per week</li> <li>Nurses work full-time</li> <li>PCA's work full-time</li> <li>Two nurses work part-time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not currently accepting new patients</li> </ul>
<b>GP7</b>	The Bridge Medical Centre	<b>Three GPs, one registrar, one phlebotomist and two nurses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three GPs work full-time</li> <li>One registrar works full-time</li> <li>Two nurses work four mornings and one full day per week</li> <li>One phlebotomist works when the nurses are off duty</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not currently accepting new patients</li> </ul>

Map Ref.	Name	No. Practitioners	Availability
<b>GP8</b>	OurGP Clinic	<b>One GP<sup>48</sup></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GP works full-time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walk-in Service</li> </ul>
<b>GP9</b>	Curragh Grange Family Practice	<b>Four GPs and two nurses.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One GP works full-time</li> <li>Two GPs work 2.5 days per week</li> <li>One GP works 4 days per week</li> <li>Two nurses work 2.5 days per week</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accepting new patients</li> <li>Both medical cards and private patients</li> </ul>

Table 16: Health Centres

Map Ref.	Name	Services
<b>PC1</b>	Newbridge Primary Care Centre	Psychology Service, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Nursing and Child Optical Scheme
<b>PC2</b>	Health Centre <sup>49</sup>	Dental Services (under 16s) and Addiction Services

Table 17: Older Persons and Disabled Care

Map Ref.	Name	Bed Spaces (Capacity)	Number of Residents
<b>C1</b>	Willowbrook Nursing Home	47	45
<b>C2</b>	Newbridge Respite Centre	5 <sup>50</sup>	3 <sup>51</sup>

<sup>48</sup> A telephone discussion with OurGP Clinic on 18 October 2024 indicated that an additional GP and nurse are expected to join the practice by the end of the year.

<sup>49</sup> Listed as a primary care centre on the HSE website. <https://www2.hse.ie/services/primary-care-centres/>

<sup>50</sup> Report of a HIQA (Health Information and Quality Authority) inspection of a Designated Centre for Disabilities (Adults). Date of Inspection: 15 June 2022

<sup>51</sup> At the time of inspection.



Map 7: Locations of Health Facilities



Table 18: Other Healthcare Services in Newbridge

Map Ref.	Name
<b><u>Pharmacies</u></b>	
<b>P1</b>	Your Local Pharmacy
<b>P2</b>	Mangan's Pharmacy
<b>P3</b>	Young's Life Pharmacy Newbridge
<b>P4</b>	Cosgrove's Pharmacy
<b>P5</b>	Soilse Pharmacy
<b>P6</b>	Bergin's Pharmacy
<b>P7</b>	Boots Pharmacy
<b>P8</b>	McCormack's Pharmacy Newbridge
<b>P9</b>	Pharmacy O'Regan Moorefield
<b>P10</b>	Canning's Pharmacy
<b>P11</b>	McGreal's Pharmacy
<b><u>Dental Services</u></b>	
<b>DS1</b>	Orthodontics by Jackie
<b>DS2</b>	Biodent
<b>DS3</b>	Shackleton Clinic Newbridge
<b>DS4</b>	The Clinic Newbridge Excellence in Dentistry
<b>DS5</b>	Newbridge Dental Corner
<b>DS6</b>	Pembroke Dental and Orthodontics
<b>DS7</b>	Whitewater Dental Clinic
<b>DS8</b>	Pearl Dental and Facial Aesthetics Clinic
<b>DS9</b>	Moorfield Dental Surgery

Map Ref.	Name
<b><u>Opticians and Audiologists</u></b>	
<b>OA1</b>	Bonavox Hearing Specialists
<b>OA2</b>	Specsavers Opticians and Audiologists
<b>OA3</b>	Crowley's Opticians
<b>OA4</b>	Optical Express
<b>OA5</b>	Hidden Hearing
<b>OA6</b>	G. Canty Opticians
<b><u>Physiotherapists</u></b>	
<b>PH1</b>	Able Bodies Physiotherapy
<b>PH2</b>	McCabe Physiotherapy
<b>PH3</b>	Kehoe Physio
<b><u>Podiatry</u></b>	
<b>PO1</b>	Spectrum Foot Clinics - Chiropody and Podiatry
<b>PO2</b>	Podiatry Clinic
<b>PO3</b>	Foot Solutions
<b><u>Other</u></b>	
<b>O1</b>	Salt Therapy
<b>O2</b>	Inner Path Play Therapy
<b>O3</b>	Gerard Loftus Acupuncturist and Sports Therapist
<b>O4</b>	Newbridge Women's Health Clinic
<b>O5</b>	Headway Ireland – Brian Injury Service and Support



## Map 8: Locations for Other Healthcare Facilities





### 3.3.1 Demand Analysis

#### Primary Care Centres

The Department of Health (DoH) states that a typical primary care team serves around 7,000 to 10,000 people.<sup>52</sup> Currently, there is one primary care centre and one health centre in Newbridge<sup>53</sup>. Considering the anticipated population growth of Newbridge to 32,373 persons, it could exceed the number of people that a typical primary care centre can serve by 12,373 people. Therefore, an additional primary care centre will be needed to meet the community's healthcare needs during the lifetime of the Plan.

#### General Practitioners (GP)

Currently, Newbridge is served by 17 full-time and 6 part-time GPs across nine surgeries.

The Irish College of General Practitioners (ICGP) and Irish Medical Organisation (IMO) recommend a minimum of 12 GPs per 10,000 population to ensure a safe and effective healthcare service. At present, Newbridge has a GP-to-population ratio of eight GPs per 10,000 population.<sup>54</sup> While this is below the ICGP and IMO recommendation, it is slightly higher than the 2023 county ratio of seven GPs per 10,000 population.<sup>55</sup> However, if the population grows by the anticipated 8,007 persons, this ratio will fall to six GPs per 10,000 population, significantly below the recommended ratio. This is assuming no increase or decrease in GP numbers takes place during that period.

Out of the six GP practices (excluding the three walk-in clinics), only two are currently accepting new patients.

To meet the recommended GP-to-patient ratio, while considering the anticipated population growth, an additional 19 GPs will be needed in Newbridge by the end of the Plan period and beyond.<sup>56</sup>

This shortage of GPs in Newbridge may not be directly related to a lack of available premises but is likely connected to the widely reported nationwide shortage of GPs in Ireland. However, the inclusion of an objective in the Plan to require a feasibility study for GP services to be submitted alongside all applications for planning permissions for new neighbourhood centre developments, should be considered.

<sup>52</sup> Department of Health. Primary Care [online] available from: <https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/831bfc-primary-care/> (Accessed: 18 July 2025)

<sup>53</sup> Health Centre at Henry Street is listed as a primary care centre on the HSE website. <https://www2.hse.ie/services/primary-care-centres/>

<sup>54</sup> There are currently 17 full-time GPs and six part-time GPs in Newbridge. For accuracy in calculating the GP-to-population ratio, the part-time hours have been combined, resulting in an equivalent of 20 full-time GPs. [20 GPs/ 24,366 population \* 10,000 = 8 GPs]

<sup>55</sup> Irish College of General Practitioners, Press Release on GP Workforce [online] available from: <https://www.irishcollegeofgps.ie/News/press-release-gp-workforce> (Accessed: 18 July 2025)

<sup>56</sup> Estimated population growth  $32,373/10,000 \times 12 = 38.8$  – 20 GPS current in Newbridge = 19 GPs

This approach would support futureproofing and align with the 10-minute settlement concept, ensuring greater accessibility to essential healthcare services in the town.

Additionally, there is an extant planning permission for a neighbourhood centre along Station Road, which includes provisions for a local-scale medical unit.<sup>57</sup>

### **Older Persons and Disabled Care**

There is currently one nursing home located just outside the study area in Morristown Upper. Additionally, the Liffey Lodge in Newbridge owned by Kildare County Council is included in the Kildare County Council Action Plan 2022-2026 to be redeveloped into Age-Friendly Housing, a move that is expected to offer valuable right-sizing opportunities for older residents in the Newbridge area.

Moreover, there is a Respite Centre in Newbridge for adults with primarily physical disabilities (Map Ref. 7). The centre can accommodate respite opportunities for up to five adults at a time.

Census 2022 revealed that 11.4% (2,774 persons) of the population living within the Built-Up Area (BUA) boundary of Newbridge is aged 65 and older. The total number of older persons residing in the Willowbrook nursing home outlined in Table 17 is 45 persons (or 1.6% of the population aged 65+ years in 2022). The nursing home is at 95.7% capacity, with a total of two available bed spaces.

According to the Health Service Executive (HSE), approximately 5% of all older people need residential or nursing home care.<sup>58</sup> The population of Newbridge aged 65 and older comprised 11.4% of the population in 2022 up from 9.4% in 2016. Projecting this level of increase forward and applying it to the anticipated population (32,373) would indicate the population would consist of 4,986 people aged 65+ years.<sup>59</sup> When using the 5% HSE benchmark, it would indicate that a total of 250 bed spaces will be required or 203 bed spaces when taking into account the existing Willowbrook nursing home.<sup>60</sup>

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

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<sup>57</sup> Kildare County Council Planning Reference Number: 22/1003

<sup>58</sup> 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

<sup>59</sup> Yearly increase (%) of 65+ age group between Census 2016 and 2022 = 0.33%. Projected increase (%) between 2022-2034 is 3.96% (0.33\*12 (years) = 3.96%). = 15.4%.

<sup>60</sup> The projected population of people aged 65+ years in Newbridge is 4,986 (or 15.4% of a total projected population of 32,373). Currently, there are 47 beds available in Willowbrook nursing home, meaning there will be a shortfall of 203 bed spaces by 203 (i.e., 250 total bed spaces required - 47 existing bed spaces = 203 new bed spaces required)

### Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan:

- Considering the anticipated population growth of Newbridge over the Plan period and beyond, the population of Newbridge will exceed the number of people a typical primary care centre can serve. An additional primary care centre may be required in Newbridge.
- Up to 19 additional GPs may be required to meet the recommended GP-to-patient ratio of the ICGP and IMO. Consider including an objective in the Plan to require a feasibility study for GP services to be submitted with all new neighbourhood centre developments.
- Support the redevelopment of the Liffey Lodge in Newbridge into Age-Friendly Housing.
- An additional 203 bed spaces may be required for residential or nursing home care in Newbridge over the lifetime of the Plan and beyond.

Figure 8: Newbridge Primary Care Centre





### 3.4 Public Open Spaces

The public open space in Newbridge includes public parks, playgrounds, amenity green space and outdoor sports areas. There are approximately 124.09 hectares of existing public open space within the study area as illustrated in Map 9 and Table 19 below.

Table 19: Overall Quantum of Public Open Space in Newbridge

Typology	Area in Hectares
Public parks (local parks and small parks) <sup>61</sup>	13.70
Amenity green space (Including pocket parks)	71.09
Outdoor sports <sup>62</sup>	39.21
Playground / play areas <sup>63</sup>	0.09
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>124.09</b>

Figure 9: Dara Park



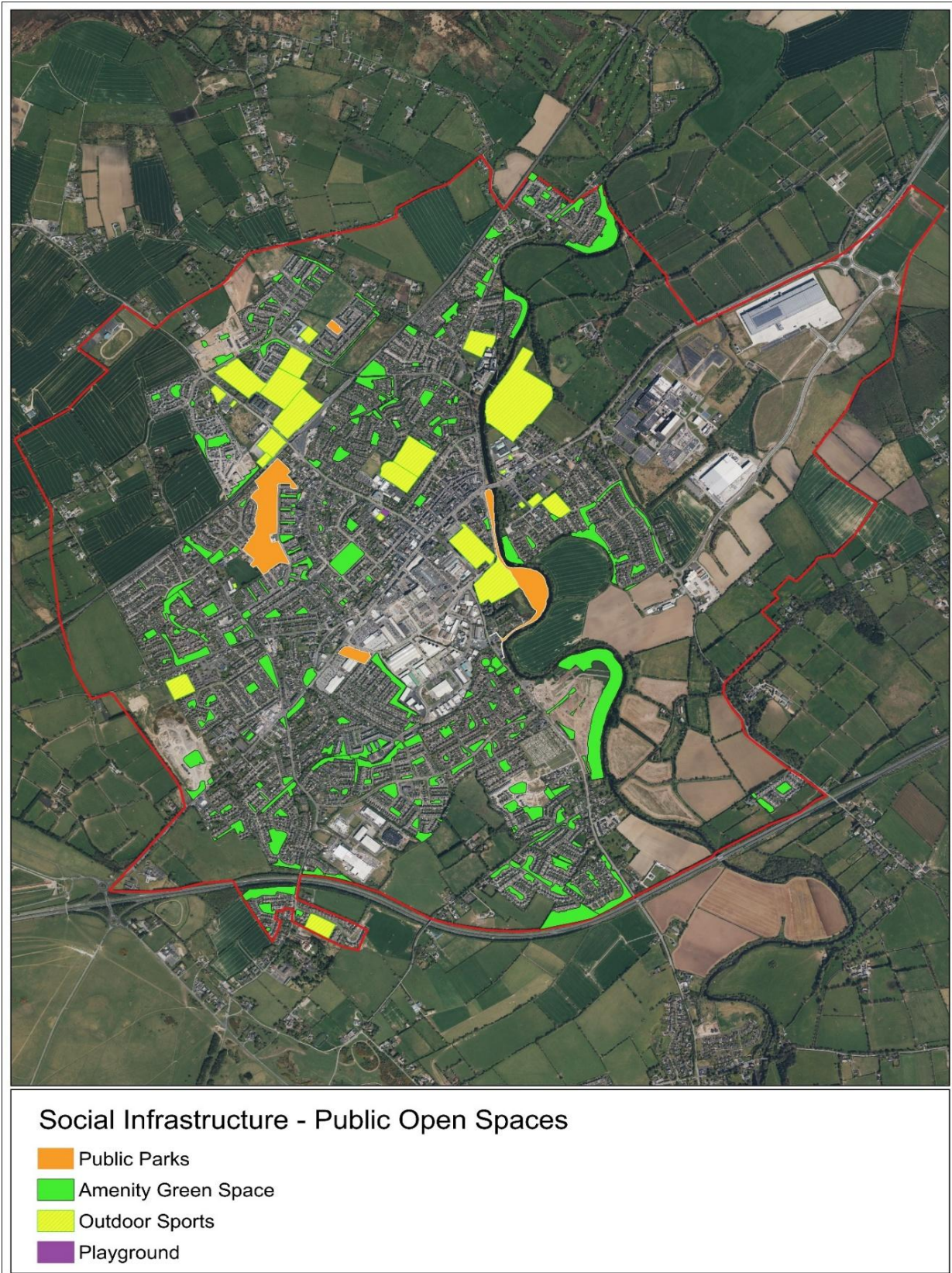
<sup>61</sup> Excluding the 0.74 ha pocket parks captured as part of the amenity green space.

<sup>62</sup> Excluding the 0.02 ha outdoor gym facility captured as part of the public parks (i.e., local park).

<sup>63</sup> Excluding the 3.53 ha of playgrounds/play facilities captured as part of the public parks (i.e., local parks and small parks) and amenity green space (i.e., pocket parks).



Map 9: Public Open Spaces in Newbridge<sup>64</sup>



<sup>64</sup> Public Parks - Excluding the pocket parks captured as part of the amenity green space. Outdoor Sports - Excluding the outdoor gym facility captured as part of the public parks. Playground / Play Areas - Excluding the playground / play areas captured as part of the public parks and amenity green space (i.e. pocket parks).

## Public Parks

The Open Space and Outdoor Recreation Strategy (Appendix 3 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029, as varied) sets out the following hierarchy of parks at settlement level, as detailed in Tables 20 to 23. The status of Newbridge in relation to the hierarchy is also outlined in these tables. Within Newbridge, two local parks, two small parks, and 16 pocket parks have been identified, collectively covering approximately 14.44 hectares.

The spatial distribution and locations of these public parks are shown on Map 10 in the following pages.

Table 20: Urban Neighbourhood Parks in Newbridge

Urban Neighbourhood Parks		
Definition	Map Ref.	Status
Urban neighbourhood parks range in size between <b>16 and 50 hectares</b> and are located within settlements for local use to contain facilities for active recreation and a wide variety of facilities and uses, to be accessible by pedestrians and cyclists and provides linkages between settlements; biodiversity areas can also be retained, enhanced, and accommodated.	Not mapped	Currently, there is no urban neighbourhood park in Newbridge.

Table 21: Local Parks in Newbridge

Local Parks				
Definition	Map Ref.	Name	Type of Facility	Size (ha)
Local Parks range in size between <b>2 and 16 hectares</b> and are located within settlements for local use for passive recreation, playing fields, organised sports, biodiversity, play facilities.	LP1	Liffey Linear Park	The Liffey Linear Park is an open space along the River Liffey. The park connects St Conleth's Bridge to the Athgarvan Road. The park includes 1.5 km of paths, an outdoor gym, a natural play area and a fairy trail.	4.28 ha

Local Parks				
Definition	Map Ref.	Name	Type of Facility	Size (ha)
	LP2	Dara Park	Dara Park is an open space adjacent to Dara Park, Lakeside Park and Highfield Estate. The park includes a lake, looped walk, benches and hardcourts.	8.16 ha

Table 22: Small Parks in Newbridge

Small Parks				
Definition	Map Ref.	Name	Type of Facility	Size (ha)
Small parks range in size between <b>0.2 ha and 2 hectares</b> and can accommodate play facilities, kick-about areas and passive recreation. Small parks should be generally within 400m walking and cycling distance of homes and centrally located within new developments.	SP1	Moorefield Park	Moorefield Park is located between Moorefield Road, Athgarvan Road, Moorefield Estate and Woodies Retail Outlet. The park includes a skatepark.	0.96 ha
	SP2	Rosconnell	A small park in the centre of Rosconnell.	0.33 ha

Table 23: Pocket Parks in Newbridge

Pocket Parks				
Definition	Map Ref.	Name	Type of Facilities	Size (ha)
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.	PP1	Belin Woods	Pocket parks including play facilities for smaller children.	0.04 ha
	PP2			0.04 ha
	PP3			0.04 ha
	PP4			0.07 ha
	PP5			0.07 ha
	PP6	Station Walk		0.10 ha
	PP7	White Oaks		0.11 ha



Pocket Parks				
Definition	Map Ref.	Name	Type of Facilities	Size (ha)
Each home should be within 500m walking distance (5-minute walk) to a pocket park and centrally located within all new developments.	PP8	The Paddocks		0.04 ha
	PP9			0.02 ha
	PP10			0.03 ha
	PP11			0.03 ha
	PP12			0.02 ha
	PP13			0.01 ha
	PP14	Curragh Farm		0.02 ha
	PP15			0.09 ha
	PP16	Rosconnell		0.01 ha

In addition to the public park outlined in the tables above, the Parks and Open Spaces Section of Kildare County Council has indicated plans to develop a masterplan for the amenity green space of Pairc Mhuire. Once developed, this 1.72-hectare amenity green space will be classified as a small park within the public parks hierarchy.

Furthermore, the Parks and Open Spaces Section has the following four projects on their work programme:

- To put in place safety measures along the towpath in Liffey Linear Park from The Strand to The Gables and upgrade the wooden boardwalk
- To develop a playground in Moorefield Park (Map 10, Map Ref. SP 1)
- To develop a masterplan for Dara Park (Map 10, Map Ref. LP2)
- To develop a masterplan for the amenity green space of Pairc Mhuire (once developed, this 1.72 hectare amenity green space will be classified as a small park within the public park's hierarchy.)

Figure 10: Pocket Park in Belin Woods





Map 10: Public Parks in Newbridge



## Sports and Recreational Facilities

There are approximately 32 sports and recreational facilities in Newbridge, as outlined in Table 24 and shown on Map 11. An audit of these facilities revealed that nine clubs have their own dedicated facilities, many of which are shared with local schools. The town also includes one GAA stadium, three leisure clubs (one of which at the time of assessment was closed to the public), and seven sports and fitness classes or schools. It is likely there are additional facilities that were not identified during the audit. It is noted that 11 educational institutions have sports facilities, most of which are shared with sports clubs outside of school hours. Furthermore, an outdoor gym is available in the Liffey Linear Park. Two ongoing school development projects also include plans for new sports facilities (see Table 25).

Table 24: Audit of Existing Sports and Recreational Facilities

Map Ref.	Name	Type of Facility	Size (ha) outdoors
<b>Sports Clubs/Stadiums</b>			
<b>SR1</b>	Hawkfield GAA/Manguard Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GAA club</li> </ul>	Not within the study area boundary
<b>SR2</b>	Sarsfields GAA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three pitches</li> </ul>	2.69 ha
<b>SR3</b>	Newbridge Hotspurs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three pitches</li> </ul>	1.69 ha
<b>SR4</b>	Newbridge Greyhound Stadium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greyhound stadium</li> </ul>	5.10 ha
<b>SR5</b>	Newbridge Town FC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Four pitches</li> </ul>	6.38 ha
<b>SR6</b>	Newbridge CYMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Snooker club</li> </ul>	Indoors
<b>SR7</b>	St. Conleth's GAA Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GAA stadium</li> </ul>	3.37 ha
<b>SR8</b>	Ryston Sports and Social Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indoor bowls</li> <li>Pitch and putt club</li> <li>Boxing club</li> <li>Pigeon club</li> <li>Badminton club</li> </ul>	3.57 ha
<b>SR9</b>	Moorefield GAA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GAA club</li> </ul>	Not within the study area boundary
<b>SR10</b>	Newbridge Rugby Football Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Football club</li> </ul>	Not within the study area boundary



Map Ref.	Name	Type of Facility	Size (ha) outdoors
<b>Leisure Clubs/Centres</b>			
<b>SR11</b>	KLeisure <sup>65</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gym</li> <li>Aerobic studio</li> <li>Astro pitches</li> <li>Sports hall with badminton and table tennis</li> </ul>	0.31 ha
<b>SR12</b>	The Keadeen Hotel (The Club)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gym, pool and leisure</li> </ul>	Indoors
<b>SR13</b>	Gables Guest House and Leisure Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gym, pool and leisure<sup>66</sup></li> </ul>	Indoors
<b>Sports and Fitness Classes/Schools</b>			
<b>SR14</b>	Industrial Fitness Newbridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gym</li> </ul>	Indoors
<b>SR15</b>	DynamAcro Gymnastics Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gymnastics Academy</li> </ul>	Indoors
<b>SR16</b>	Evolve Strength and Fitness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fitness Classes</li> </ul>	Indoors
<b>SR17</b>	Fuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gym</li> </ul>	Indoors
<b>SR18</b>	The Gym Newbridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gym</li> </ul>	Indoors
<b>SR19</b>	Balanced Bodies Holistic Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yoga and Pilates classes</li> </ul>	Indoors
<b>SR20</b>	Louise Nolan Fitness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal Trainer</li> </ul>	Indoors
<b>Sports Facilities of Educational Facilities</b>			
<b>SR21</b>	Scoil na Naomh Uilig	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One sports hall/gymnasium</li> <li>One astro shared with sports clubs</li> <li>Four hardcourts</li> </ul>	0.47 ha
<b>SR22</b>	St Conleth's and St Mary's National School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One hardcourt</li> </ul>	0.04 ha

<sup>65</sup> Facilities also used by the Newbridge Shotokan Karate Club.

<sup>66</sup> Not currently open to the public.

Map Ref.	Name	Type of Facility	Size (ha) outdoors
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One sports hall used by local clubs outside school hours</li> </ul>	
SR23	Patrician Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two playing pitches</li> <li>Two basketball courts</li> </ul>	1.60 ha
SR24	St Patrick's Church of Ireland National School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One basketball court</li> <li>One sports hall used by local clubs outside school hours</li> </ul>	0.05 ha
SR25	Scoil Mhuire Junior and Senior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two sports halls used by local clubs outside school hours</li> <li>One pitch which is shared between the two schools</li> </ul>	1.27 ha
SR26	Gaelscoil Chill Dara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One pitch</li> <li>One sports hall used by local clubs outside school hours</li> </ul>	1.20 ha
SR27	Newbridge College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Five rugby pitches</li> <li>Two hockey pitches</li> <li>One training pitch</li> <li>One sports hall used by local clubs outside school hours<sup>67</sup></li> </ul>	6.06 ha
SR28	St Conleth's Community College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two-thirds of a pitch</li> <li>Athletics track</li> <li>One sports hall used by local clubs outside school hours<sup>68</sup></li> </ul>	2.16 ha
SR29	Patrician Secondary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One GAA pitch</li> <li>One soccer pitch</li> <li>One sports gym used by local clubs outside school hours</li> </ul>	2.71 ha
SR30	St Conleth's Infant School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One sports hall used by local clubs outside school hours</li> </ul>	Indoors

<sup>67</sup> Newbridge Hockey Club, Crusaders (Newbridge-American) football team, Newbridge Rugby Club, Gliders Basketball Club and GAA winter training.

<sup>68</sup> Gliders Basketball Club and Newbridge Athletics Club.



Map Ref.	Name	Type of Facility	Size (ha) outdoors
SR31	Holy Family Secondary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One gym used by local clubs outside school hours<sup>69</sup></li> <li>Grassy area – not suitable for matches</li> </ul>	0.54 ha
<b>Outdoor Sports Area included in a Public Park</b>			
SR32	Liffey Linear Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outdoor gym facilities</li> </ul>	0.02 ha

Table 25: Current school projects that include sports facilities

School Name	Planning Ref No.	Current Status	Sport Facilities
Patrician Secondary School	22/968	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently at tender stage. Building schedule of approximately three years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The construction of a single-storey multi-use sports hall and four multi-use hardball courts</li> </ul>
St Mark's Special School	21/424	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under construction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two hardcourt play courts and a sports hall<sup>70</sup></li> </ul>

Figure 11: Newbridge Hotspurs F.C



<sup>69</sup> Newbridge Volleyball Club, Gliders Basketball Club and Newbridge Town FC.

<sup>70</sup> Sarsfield GAA will have some use of the new sports hall.



Map 11: Locations of Sports and Recreation Facilities



## Playgrounds / Play Areas

Currently, Newbridge has one skatepark, two playgrounds and 17 open spaces within housing estates, which are equipped with play facilities for very young children. These playgrounds/play areas cover a total area of approximately 3.62 hectares. Table 26 details these facilities and their locations are shown on Map 12 overleaf.

Table 26: Playgrounds/Play Areas in Newbridge

Type	Map Ref.	Location	Size
Five open spaces with play facilities	<b>PP1-5</b>	Belin Woods	0.26 ha
One open space with play facility <sup>71</sup>	<b>PP6</b>	Station Walk	0.10 ha
One open space with play facility	<b>PP7</b>	White Oaks	0.11 ha
Six open spaces with play facilities	<b>PP8-13</b>	The Paddocks	0.15 ha
Two open spaces with play facilities <sup>72</sup>	<b>PP14-15</b>	Curragh Farm	0.11 ha
Two open spaces with play facilities	<b>PP16-17</b>	Rosconnell	0.34 ha
Playground	<b>PP18</b>	KLeisure	0.09 ha
Skate Park	<b>PP19</b>	Moorefield Park	0.96 ha
Natural play playground and outdoor gym	<b>PP20</b>	Liffey Linear Park	1.50 ha
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>3.62 ha</b>

In addition to the playgrounds and play area outlined in Table 26 above, the Parks and Open Spaces Section of Kildare County Council has plans to develop a masterplan for Dara Park and the amenity green space of Pairc Mhuire. These masterplans will provide for playgrounds in both Dara Park and Pairc Mhuire. Additionally, the plans are being advanced to add a playground to Moorefield Park, adjacent to the skatepark.

<sup>71</sup> More play facilities due to be provided as part of the overall development of Station Walk.

<sup>72</sup> More play facilities due to be provided as part of the overall development of Curragh Farm.



Map 12: Locations of Play Facilities or Play Areas



### Social Infrastructure - Playground / Play Areas

- Playground / Play Areas



### 3.4.1 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 national standard for public open space provision within settlements, it is recommended that opportunities to enhance the overall quantum of public open space are harnessed whenever such circumstances 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 Kildare CDP) include public open space minimum standards as outlined in Table 27 below.

Table 27: Kildare County Development Plan Public Open Space Standards

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

Applying the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 (as varied) open space standards (Table 27 refers) to the Census 2022 population (24,366 persons) indicates that currently in Newbridge there are 5.1 hectares of public open space per 1,000 residents, which exceeds the minimum standard set out in Table 27.<sup>73</sup>

This population is anticipated to rise to 32,373 persons. If no further public open spaces were to be provided, there would still be 3.8 hectares of open space per 1,000 residents, which exceeds the minimum quantitative standard set out in Table 27.<sup>74</sup>

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

#### **Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan:**

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

<sup>73</sup> (124.09 hectare / 24,366 population) \* 1,000 = 5.1 ha per 1,000 population.

<sup>74</sup> (124.09 hectare / 32,373 population) \* 1,000 = 3.8 ha per 1,000 population.

## Public Parks

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

Applying this standard to Newbridge's Census 2022 population of 24,366 persons indicates that the town currently provides 0.56 hectares<sup>75</sup> of public parks per 1,000 population, which falls short of the FIT standards.<sup>76</sup>

Over the Plan period and beyond, Newbridge's population is expected to increase to 32,373 persons. If no further public parks were to be provided, the provision in Newbridge would fall to 0.42 hectares of public parks per 1,000 population.<sup>77</sup> In order to meet the standard for the anticipated population, Newbridge would require a total of 25.9 hectares of public parks, consequently an increase in 12.2 hectares.

In terms of the hierarchy of public parks as outlined in Tables 21-23, Newbridge is well served by local parks, small parks and pocket parks. However, currently, there is no urban neighbourhood park in Newbridge. Given that Newbridge is the second most populated town in County Kildare it is considered necessary that an urban neighbourhood park is developed.

The Kildare County Development Plan 2023–2029, as varied, includes an objective (LR 094) to identify potential sites for regional-type parks in the Naas–Newbridge–Allenwood areas. Additionally, the Newbridge Local Area Plan 2013–2019 (as amended and extended) contains an objective (OS 4) to extend and develop a linear park along both sides of the River Liffey, from Tankardsgarden to the M7 Motorway. It is therefore considered appropriate to pursue the development of a park on the opposite side of the river from the Liffey Linear Park, where a suitably located quantum of land is available for such a project.

In addition to the public parks outlined in Tables 21-23, the Parks and Open Spaces Section of Kildare County Council has indicated plans to develop a masterplan for the amenity green space of Pairc Mhuire. Once developed, this 1.72 hectare park will be classified as a small park within the public park's hierarchy.

<sup>75</sup> (13.70 hectare / 24,366 population) \* 1,000 = 0.56 ha per 1,000 population.

<sup>76</sup> Including the local parks and small parks and excluding the pocket parks (see Tables 21-23).

<sup>77</sup> (13.70 hectare / 32,373 population) \* 1,000 = 0.42 ha per 1,000 population.



**Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan:**

- Support the preparation and implementation of masterplans for Dara Park and Pairc Mhuire.
- Develop an urban neighbourhood park in Newbridge (urban neighbourhood parks range in size between **16 and 50 hectares**).

**Amenity Green Space**

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

Applying this standard to Newbridge's Census 2022 population of 24,366 persons indicates that the town currently provides 2.92 hectares<sup>78</sup> of amenity green space per 1,000 population.<sup>79</sup> 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. In line with these Guidelines, the provision of amenity green space is expected to increase over the Plan period as development progresses.

**Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan:**

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

Figure 12: Amenity Green Space at Curragh Farm



<sup>78</sup> (71.09 hectare / 24,366 population) \* 1,000 = 2.92 ha per 1,000 population.

<sup>79</sup> Amenity green space, excluding pocket parks.

## Outdoor Sports Areas

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

Within the study area, there are approximately 39.21 hectares of outdoor sports areas available, as detailed in Table 19. This equates to 1.61 hectares per 1,000 population which meets the FIT benchmark guidance<sup>80</sup>. However, if the quantum of such lands remain unchanged, this rate is projected to decrease to 1.21 hectares per 1,000 population due to the anticipated population growth.<sup>81</sup>

To maintain alignment with the FIT benchmark, an additional 12.91 hectares of outdoor sports areas will be required.<sup>82</sup> This calculation includes 16.10 hectares of outdoor sports areas within educational facilities that have limited public access. Excluding these areas, the shortfall increases significantly to 29.01 hectares of additional outdoor sports areas.<sup>83</sup>

It is also important to note that Newbridge, as the second most populous town in County Kildare, serves a wider catchment area beyond its immediate population. Furthermore, key sports clubs that cater to Newbridge residents (Hawkfield GAA - 8.89 hectares, Moorefield GAA - 7.62 hectares and Newbridge Rugby Football Club - 3.87 hectares) are located outside the study area boundary and were therefore excluded from the calculations.

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 20 March 2024). Both the Sarsfields GAA Club and Newbridge Athletics Club have highlighted challenges in accommodating growing membership due to space constraints. Members of the public, local councillors, and various sports clubs have also called for the development of a multi-purpose sports hub in Newbridge to cater to a variety of activities in one location. Suggested locations in the submissions, for such a hub include Ballymany, near the River Liffey at Great Connell, and on Milltown Road outside Newbridge.

Additionally, several submissions proposed extending the Liffey Linear Park, both southwards towards Athgarvan and northwards towards Newbridge College, to provide better access for water-based sports along the river.

### Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan:

- To meet the projected demand during the lifetime of the plan, it is essential to identify sites totalling approximately 29 hectares for the delivery of sports facilities in Newbridge.

<sup>80</sup> (39.21 hectare / 24,366 population) \* 1,000 = 1.61 ha per 1,000 population.

<sup>81</sup> (39.21 hectare / 32,373 population) \* 1,000 = 1.21 ha per 1,000 population

<sup>82</sup> (1.61 hectare / 1,000) \* 32,373 population = 52.12 ha [52.12 ha – 39.21 ha = 12.91 ha required]

<sup>83</sup> (23.11 hectare / 24,366 population) \* 1,000 = 1.36 ha per 1,000 population.

### 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 (DHLGH, July 2025).

At the settlement level, the United Kingdom's Fields in Trust (FIT) Standards, outlined in *Creating Great Spaces for All* (2024), are considered as reference point. This document recommends a minimum provision of 0.25 hectares of amenity green space per 1,000 population for a range of play areas as illustrated in Table 28 overleaf.

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

Table 28: Fields in Trust Benchmark Guidance for Playing Areas

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

Currently, the combined play areas in Newbridge as detailed in Table 26, amount to approximately 3.62 hectares. According to FIT guidelines, 0.25 hectares of play space per 1,000 people is recommended. With a projected population of 32,373, a total of 8.1 hectares is required.<sup>84</sup> Consequently, an additional 4.5 ha of playing space will be required over the plan period to meet FIT guidance.

<sup>84</sup> (0.25 hectare / 1,000) \* 32,373 (projected population) = 8.09 hectares



**Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan:**

- To support the development of playgrounds at Moorefield Park, Dara Park and Pairc Mhuire.
- 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 (DHLGH, July 2025).
- An additional 4.5 ha of playing space is required.

Figure 13: Liffey Linear Park Natural Playground



### 3.5 Social and Community

Social and community facilities/services are varied in nature and can include general civic services and services targeted at specific sections of the community. There are 13 social/community services identified within the study area (Table 29 refers), which includes facilities such as the fire station, garda station and library. The locations of these facilities are indicated on Map 13 overleaf.

Table 29: Social and Community Services/Facilities

Map Ref.	Name	Type of Facility
SC1	Rosconnell Community Centre	• Community centre
SC2	Newbridge Community Library	• Library
SC3	Newbridge Garda Station	• Garda station
SC4	Newbridge Town Hall	• Town hall
SC5	In Sync Youth and Family Services	• Youth and family services
SC6	Newbridge Family Resource Centre, Recovery Café and Community Garden	• Community development and family support programmes
SC7	Newbridge Intreo Centre	• Community Welfare Services
SC8	Kare	• Community-based support to children and adults with intellectual disabilities
SC9	Newbridge Fire Station	• Fire station
SC10	Post Office	• Post office
SC11	Newbridge Day Care Centre and Meals on Wheels Service	• Day care centre and meals on wheels
SC12	Information and Opportunity Resource Centre	• Information and opportunity resource centre for the unemployed
SC13	Kildare Newbridge Scouts	• Scouts



Map 13: Locations of Social and Community Services/Facilities



### Social Infrastructure - Social and Community Services

- Social and Community Services



### 3.5.1 Demand Analysis

National standards for the provision of social or community services do not exist. However, it is noted that good neighbourhood planning can be achieved by following the recommendation of 0.3 community facilities per 1,000 population.<sup>85</sup> However, this standard is relatively crude as it does not differentiate between different types of facilities; it only quantifies them. Nevertheless, applying this benchmark indicates that Newbridge currently maintains a ratio of 0.45 facilities per 1,000 population (based on eleven facilities, excluding the garda station and fire station).<sup>86</sup> This provision is projected to decrease to a rate of 0.34 per 1,000 population (assuming the number of services remains constant), with the anticipated population growth, which still falls within an acceptable range.<sup>87</sup>

Applying the current figure of 0.45 facilities per 1,000 population (to take account the wider catchment) to the projected population growth (8,007 persons) indicates a requirement of 3.6 additional social/community facilities/services.<sup>88</sup> This Audit recommends that three additional community facilities may be required.

It is important to note that Newbridge, as a service town, serves a broader catchment area. Even if the quantity of services doesn't increase, there may be a need for a bigger variety of services, regardless of the benchmark guidance. It was widely portrayed in the written submissions received during the pre-draft consultation stage and views shared at the pre-draft consultation public 'drop-in' event held in the Town Hall that Newbridge has an existing deficit in social and community facilities.

The range of social infrastructure needs referred to in the submissions is wide ranging and includes community centres/halls, youth hubs/centres/café's and family resource centres. Many submissions sought the delivery of a multi-purpose community centre or resource centre where many groups and clubs could share spaces (e.g., Irish dancing, theatre).

#### **Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan:**

- Three additional community facilities may be required over the plan period and beyond and regard should be given to the needs identified during the pre-draft public consultation stage.

<sup>85</sup> Barton et al. (2010). Shaping Neighbourhoods: For Local Health and Global Sustainability 2nd Edition. London: Routledge.

<sup>86</sup>  $(11 \text{ facilities} / 24,366 \text{ population}) * 1000 = 0.45 \text{ per } 1,000 \text{ population}$

<sup>87</sup>  $(11 \text{ facilities} / 32,373 \text{ population}) * 1000 = 0.34 \text{ per } 1,000 \text{ population}$

<sup>88</sup>  $(0.45 / 1,000) * 8,007 \text{ population growth} = 3.6 \text{ facilities}$

### 3.6 Arts and Culture

Newbridge has 12 organisations/facilities dedicated to arts and culture, offering music lessons, drama and spaces for art. Map 14 (overleaf) shows the locations of these facilities which are mostly located in the centre of Newbridge. Table 30 below provides further details on each facility.

Table 30: Arts and Cultural Organisations/Facilities

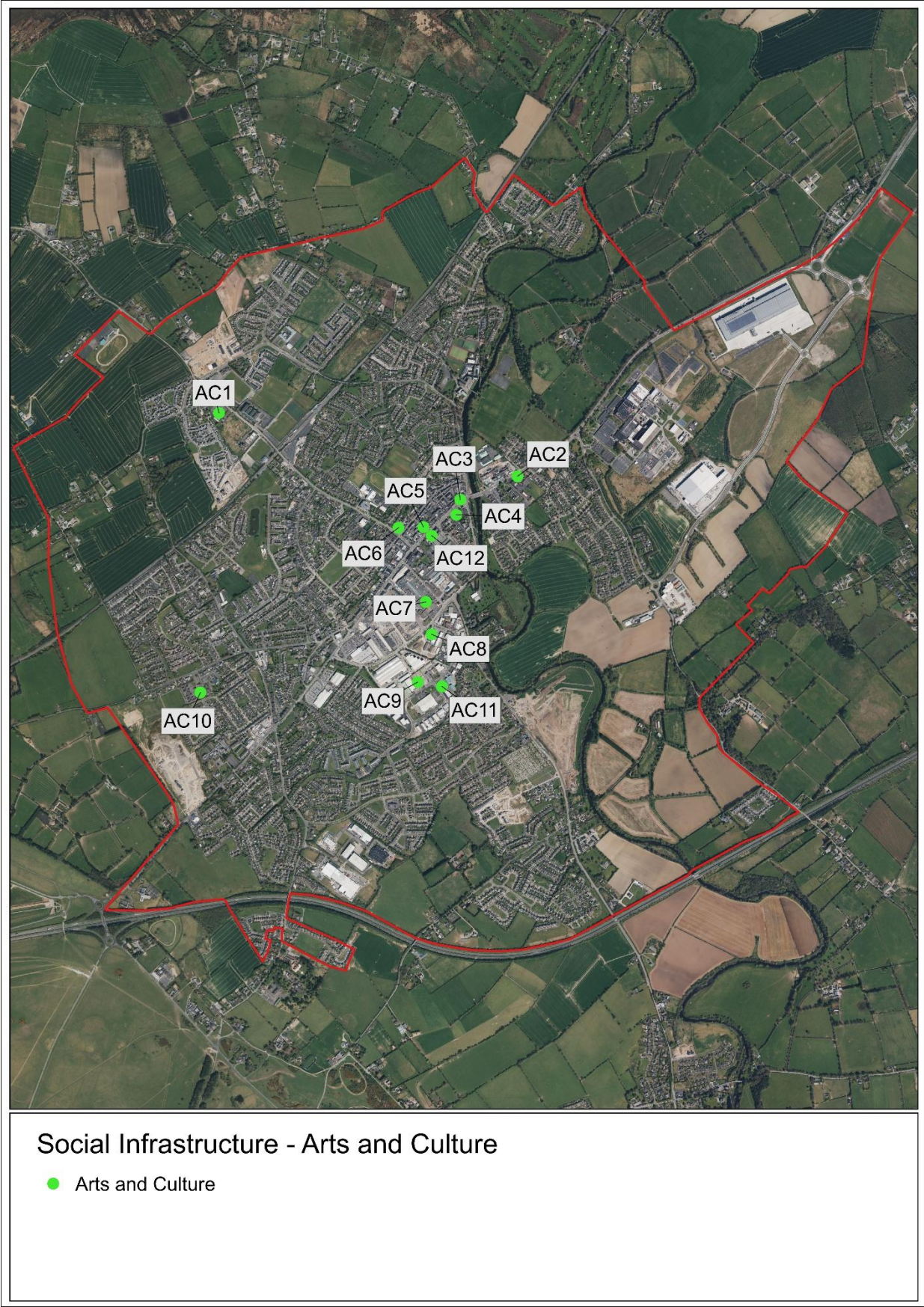
Map Ref.	Name	Type of Facility
AC1	Newbridge Shotokan Karate Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Martial art</li> </ul>
AC2	Newbridge School of Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Music school</li> </ul>
AC3	Jam Music School Newbridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Music school</li> </ul>
AC4	Riverbank Arts Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A multi-disciplinary arts centre containing a theatre, an auditorium and gallery space</li> </ul>
AC5	Crooked House Theatre Company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theatre and arts organisation working with young artists, actors, and non-actors in a range of settings</li> </ul>
AC6	Newbridge Drama Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drama Group</li> </ul>
AC7	ODEON Newbridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cinema</li> </ul>
AC8	Newbridge Silverware	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design company's visitor centre with a homeware and jewellery store, a restaurant and a fashion museum</li> </ul>
AC9	Newbridge Kenpo Karate Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Martial art</li> </ul>
AC10	Anne Maher School of Ballet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dance School</li> </ul>
AC11	KNC Performing Arts Company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Music / Speech / Drama Schools</li> </ul>
AC12	Doodlebox	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art school for children</li> </ul>

#### 3.6.1 Demand Analysis

Typical benchmarking standards for arts and cultural facilities relate to the spend per capita in a given area, as opposed to the provision of physical infrastructure. There is no record of such spending patterns in Newbridge. However, Newbridge is considered well-served by arts and cultural facilities, primarily through the Riverbank Arts Centre, which offers regular music, theatre, comedy, family events and workshops.



Map 14: Locations of Arts and Culture Facilities





### 3.7 Faith

A total of ten places of worship, one cemetery and one columbarium wall were identified in Newbridge. Table 31 provides a list of these facilities and Map 15 (overleaf) illustrates their locations.

Table 31: Faith Facilities/Infrastructure

Map Ref.	Name	Type of Facility
<b>Places of Worship</b>		
<b>F1</b>	Newbridge Bible Fellowship Church	Non-denominational
<b>F2</b>	Church of St Eustace's	Dominican Church
<b>F3</b>	St Conleth's Roman Catholic Church	Roman Catholic Church
<b>F4</b>	Newbridge Parish Centre	Parish Centre
<b>F5</b>	St Patrick's Church of Ireland Church	Anglican Church
<b>F6</b>	Cill Mhuire Catholic Church	Roman Catholic Church
<b>F7</b>	RCCG - Desire of All Nations Community Church	Community Church
<b>F8</b>	Open Arms Church	Christian Church
<b>F9</b>	Newbridge Masjid	Masjid
<b>F10</b>	The Power House International Outreach	Community Church
<b>Cemetery and Columbarium Wall</b>		
<b>F11</b>	St Conleth's Cemetery	
<b>F12</b>	Columbarium Wall (St Conleth's Cemetery)	

Map 15: Faith Facilities





### 3.7.1 Demand Analysis

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

#### Places of Worship

In the study area of Newbridge, according to the Census 2022, 69% of the population identified as Catholic, with one Catholic church serving the town. Additionally, 11% of the population follows other religions, with seven places of worship for other religions present in Newbridge. Furthermore, 14% of the population indicated that they have no religious affiliation, while 5% did not state their religion.

#### Cemetery and Columbarium Wall

St Conleth's Cemetery is the only cemetery in Newbridge managed by Kildare County Council. According to correspondence with Kildare County Council's Environment Section (dated 15 October 2024) approximately 710 plots are currently available, which are projected to suffice until 2029 and beyond, assuming no significant increases in demand over this period. It has been advised that an additional 0.69 hectares of undeveloped land at the rear of St Conleth's cemetery can be used as cemetery plots if ground conditions allow.

Moreover, three columbarium walls are currently under construction at St Conleth's Cemetery. Each wall will have 20 niches, and each niche can hold up to two urns, providing potential space for a total of 120 urns across all three walls.

#### Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan:

- Zone the undeveloped land, of 0.69 hectares, at the rear of St Conleth's cemetery to allow for future expansion.

Figure 14: St Patrick's Church of Ireland Church





### 3.8 Neighbourhood Centres

Neighbourhood centres, as defined in the Section 28 Guidelines for Planning Authorities – Retail Planning (DoECLG,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 Newbridge, there are four definable neighbourhood centres in the town (Table 32 and Map 16 refers). Additionally, there are a number of convenience stores within the study area which serve a local retail function; however, they do not fall within the definition of a neighbourhood centre. They are also depicted on Map 16 and listed in Table 32 below.

A spatial catchment of the centres as defined by a notional 10-minute walk (800 metres radius), is also indicated on Map 16. 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 and potential permeability issues within the urban environment.

Table 32: Neighbourhood Centres and Local Stores in Newbridge

Map Ref.	Name	Services
<b>NC1</b>	Cross' Roseberry Hill	Centra, Roches Barbershop, Aviary Beauty and Hair, Launderette
<b>NC2</b>	Spar Moorefield	Spar, Soilse Pharmacy, Raaw Coffee
<b>NC3</b>	Ballymany Shopping Centre	Spar, Elegant Lighting, Central Grill, The Paint Studio, Cove & Co., Canning's Pharmacy
<b>NC4</b>	Curragh Grange Shopping Centre	Centra, McGreal's Pharmacy, Woman's Health & Family Planning Clinic, Lush Hair and Beauty Salon, Curragh Grange Family Practice
<b>CR1</b>	Roseberry Stores	Local Store
<b>CR2</b>	Shop Express	Local Store
<b>CR3</b>	Duffy's Your Stop	Local Store
<b>CR4</b>	Maxol	Local Store
<b>CR5</b>	Mace	Local Store

In addition to the four existing neighbourhood centres, permission for a neighbourhood centre was permitted under Kildare County Council Plan Ref. 22/1003 as outlined in Table 33 overleaf and the location is indicated on Map 16.

Table 33: Extant Permission for Neighbourhood Centre

Map Ref.	Planning Ref. No.	Services
<b>pNC7</b>	22/1003	Neighbourhood centre development consisting out of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 no. large neighbourhood shop</li> <li>• 4 no. local scale retail, medical and takeaway</li> </ul>

Additionally, there is a planning application currently under review by An Coimisiún Pleanála for a new neighbourhood centre (see Table 34).

Table 34: Planning Application (Awaiting Decision) for a Neighbourhood Centre

Map Ref.	Planning Ref. No.	Services
<b>Not Mapped</b>	22/313306 (Strategic Housing Development – ACP Decision)	Neighbourhood centre consisting out of 11 no. units (gross floor area 2,141 metres <sup>2</sup> )

Figure 15: Curragh Grange Shopping Centre





Map 16: Newbridge Neighbourhood Centres and Local Stores





### 3.8.1 Demand Analysis

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

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

Map 16 highlights the lack of shopping facilities within a 10-minute walk within north-eastern, eastern and south-eastern areas of Newbridge.

#### **Requirements during the lifetime of the Plan:**

- Provision should be made for a neighbourhood centre/s to provide access to shopping facilities for the north-eastern, eastern and south-eastern parts of Newbridge. These areas currently lack accessible shopping facilities within a short walking distance of some residential areas, as shown on Map 16.
- Provision should be made for new neighbourhood centres where significant residential development is proposed having regard to the 10-minute settlement concept.

Figure 16: Cross' Centra Roseberry Hill



## 4 Conclusion

Social and community infrastructure is essential in achieving a balanced approach to the sustainable development of local communities and it is of critical importance to the economic as well as the social development of a town such as Newbridge. This study was commissioned to examine the current context with respect to social infrastructure facilities in Newbridge and to determine future requirements based on projected population growth. A summary of the recommended requirements for the town based on the findings of this Audit is provided in Table 35 below. While this audit highlights the presence of some excellent social infrastructure facilities in the area, it also identifies an absence of others. The study will function as an important part of the overall evidence base for the Settlement Plan for Newbridge, where the principal task is to plan for the future delivery of Newbridge's social and economic development potential. In essence, the provision of social infrastructure in an area is fundamentally about making the most of and developing the local network of assets, be they facilities, services or the programmes that bring this together.

Table 35: Summary of Findings of the Social Infrastructure Audit

Type of Infrastructure	Existing Infrastructure	Social Infrastructure Requirements over the Plan Period and beyond
<b>Education and Training</b>		
Primary schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nine primary schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>862 additional primary school pupil places (circa 38 classrooms @ 23 pupils each).</li> <li>Reserve a site for one new primary school building. In terms of the 10-minute settlement concept, the south-east and north of Newbridge are lacking in this regard.</li> <li>Zone land for the future expansion of existing schools, where possible.</li> </ul>
Post-primary schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Four post-primary schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>530 additional post primary school pupil places.</li> <li>Facilitate the proposed extensions of the three post-primary schools.</li> <li>Reserve a site for a new post-primary school, having regard to the 10-minute settlement concept and the areas in Newbridge lacking in this regard.</li> </ul>
Special Needs Education schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two special needs education schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate the extensions of the two Special Education Needs schools.</li> </ul>

Type of Infrastructure	Existing Infrastructure	Social Infrastructure Requirements over the Plan Period and beyond
Further education and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three further education and training facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The requirement for additional facilities is unknown, however, the plan should include objectives to support additional facilities where appropriate.</li> </ul>
<b>Childcare</b>		
Childcare facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>17 existing childcare facilities and an additional one due to open soon.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An additional 631 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).</li> <li>Zone lands specifically for childcare, where childcare facilities have not been built as part of a permitted residential scheme (see Table 13).</li> </ul>
<b>Health</b>		
Primary care centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two health centres</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reserve a site for one additional primary care centre. (approximately 1 hectare).</li> </ul>
General practitioners (GPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seventeen full-time GPs and six part-time GPs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 19 additional GPs required.</li> <li>The emphasis should be placed on the town centre and neighbourhood centres as the preferred location in this regard.</li> </ul>
Residential care settings for older people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>47 bed spaces in Willowbrook Nursing Home</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the redevelopment of the Liffey Lodge in Newbridge into Age-Friendly Housing.</li> <li>An additional 203 bed spaces may be required for residential or nursing home care in Newbridge over the lifetime of the Plan and beyond.</li> </ul>
<b>Sports, Recreation and Open Space</b>		
Public open space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>124.09 hectares (overall total)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve access to multi-functional public open spaces within walking distance of homes</li> </ul>



Type of Infrastructure	Existing Infrastructure	Social Infrastructure Requirements over the Plan Period and beyond
Public parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13.70 hectares</li> </ul>	<p>Identified need for additional 12.2 ha:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the preparation of masterplans for Dara Park and Pairc Mhuire</li> <li>Consider investigating the feasibility of developing an urban neighbourhood park in Newbridge</li> </ul>
Amenity Green Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>71.09 hectares</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure regard is given to Policy and Objective 5.1 of the Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2024)</li> </ul>
Playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0.09 hectares</li> </ul>	<p>Identified need for 4.5 ha:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To support the development of playgrounds at Moorefield Park, Dara Park and Pairc Mhuire</li> <li>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 (DHLGH, July 2025)</li> </ul>
Outdoor sports areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>39.21 hectares</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identified need for 29 hectares for the delivery of sports facilities in Newbridge.</li> </ul>
<b>Social and Community</b>		
Social and community facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11 social and community facilities/services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three 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 centres/halls, youth hubs/centres/café's and multi-purpose family resource centres.</li> </ul>

Type of Infrastructure	Existing Infrastructure	Social Infrastructure Requirements over the Plan Period and beyond
<b>Arts and Culture</b>		
Arts and cultural facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11 arts and cultural facilities/services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The requirement for additional facilities is unknown, however, the plan should include objectives to support additional facilities where appropriate</li> </ul>
<b>Faith</b>		
Places of worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 places of worship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The requirement for additional places of worship is unknown</li> </ul>
Cemeteries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One cemetery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appropriately zone the undeveloped land at the rear of St Conleth's cemetery to allow for future expansion as needed</li> </ul>
Columbarium Wall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three columbarium walls (currently under construction), providing space for a total of 120 urns.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No requirements over the Plan period</li> </ul>
<b>Neighbourhood Centres</b>		
Neighbourhood centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Four existing neighbourhood centres</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision should be made for a neighbourhood centre/s to provide access to shopping facilities for the north-eastern, eastern and south-eastern parts of Newbridge (these areas currently lack accessible shopping facilities within a short walking distance of some residential areas, as shown on Map 16)</li> <li>Provision should be made for new neighbourhood centres in any new Key Development Area or where significant residential development is proposed having regard to the 10-minute settlement concept</li> </ul>



Kildare County Council,  
Planning Department,  
Áras Chill Dara,  
Devoy Park, Naas,  
County Kildare, W91 X77F

