

Chapter 10: Community Infrastructure and Creative Places

10.6 Community Services and Facilities

- We suggest inserting the following in the introduction:

The provision of adequate and suitably located community, leisure and cultural facilities are critical infrastructure to support our towns and villages. These services significantly enhance the quality of life of the citizens of Kildare and enhances the attractiveness of Kildare as a place to visit. While Kildare has a wide range of community services and facilities, the county's young and growing population is placing considerable pressure on these services in many areas. The Kildare Age Friendly Strategy 2019-2021 reports that the ageing of the population from this point onwards will represent one of the most significant demographic and societal developments and challenges that Ireland has encountered. It is anticipated that by 2031, 16% of the population of County Kildare will be over the age of 65 years, with this rate increasing to 21% by 2040 (see Chapter 3). Therefore, the aging population of Kildare presents an additional pressure on these services in many areas.

- In light of above report, we suggest inserting the following in **SC O6**:

SC O6 - Support and encourage the clustering of community facilities such as community centres, sports and leisure facilities, schools, childcare facilities, resources for the elderly, and open spaces to create multi-purpose community hubs.

We particularly welcome some of these objectives here, and note **SC O14**, **SC O15**, **SC O16** and would like to suggest an additional objective:

- **Additional objective** - Support and encourage community involvement in the rehabilitation and restoration of Bord na Mona peatlands and in the planning for the National Peatlands Park, which has the potential to become an important recreational and educational amenity in the County.

We feel that a similar actionable commitment as HO O42 (Chapter 3) and SC A16 (this chapter) should be made to interrogate the **Property Interest Register** and **Land Development Agency (LDA) maps**, and to work in partnership with the LDA to identify state owned sites to facilitate community-led social initiatives in their localities.

And we would like to suggest additional actions, as follows:

- Additional action - To compile an up-to-date, publicly accessible Property Interest Register during the course of this Development plan to inform and facilitate community-led social initiatives on suitable state-owned sites.

- **Additional action** - Actively target and engage with owners of Vacant and Derelict sites to incentivise the provision of social infrastructure during the preparation of Local Area Plans.
- **Additional action** - Actively support the establishment of a National Peatlands Park and the implementation of the objectives identified in the West Kildare Just Transition Plan 2022 by bringing all relevant stakeholders together to progress same before the end of 2023.

10.8.1 Children and Young People

We welcome an audit of leisure facilities across the County (especially given the experiences of many during Covid-19). We would like to humbly point out however that actions need to be time-bound if they are to reflect SMART goals. We would like to suggest insertion of the following in **SC A5**.

- **SC A5** - Carry out an audit of leisure facilities across the County including Kildare County Council facilities to provide standards on the basic level of social infrastructure provision based on population thresholds and reasonable travel times to services and put in place provisions for additional facilities where deficiencies are identified. [This audit will be completed by the end of 2024.](#)

We feel that a similar actionable commitment as HO O42 (Chapter 3) and SCA16 (this chapter) should be made to interrogate the Property Interest Register and Land Development Agency (LDA) maps, and to work in partnership with the LDA to identify state owned sites to facilitate community-led initiatives for children and young people in their localities.

We therefore suggest insertion of additional actions, as follows:

- **Additional action** - To compile an up-to-date, publicly accessible Property Interest Register during the course of this Development plan to inform and facilitate community-led initiatives for children and young people on suitable state-owned sites.
- **Additional action** - Actively target and engage with owners of Vacant Sites to incentivise the provision of centrally located youth cafes.
 - <https://www.foroige.ie/our-work/projects-services-and-programmes/youth-cafes>

We particularly commend the Council on all objectives **SC033- SC039**

However, we feel that a similar actionable commitment as HO O42 (Chapter 3) and SC A16 (this chapter) should be made to interrogate the Property Interest Register and Land Development Agency (LDA) maps, and to work in partnership with the LDA to identify state

owned sites in urban centres to provide elderly care and support facilities within walking distance of shops and services and public transport along the lines of McAuley Place, Naas.

And suggest the addition of the following actions:

- **Additional Action** - To compile an up-to-date, publicly accessible Property Interest Register, in partnership with the Land Development Agency (LDA) during the course of this Development plan to inform and facilitate identification of state-owned sites to provide for elderly care and support facilities
- **Additional Action** - Actively target and engage with owners of Vacant sites as part of the review of Local Area Plans to identify and incentivise elderly care and support facilities.

10.16 Places of Worship/Burial Grounds

It is important that there is clarity in attempting to achieve SMART goals, we therefore suggest insertion of the following in **SC A22**:

SC A22 - To undertake an audit of all burial facilities within the county within the lifetime of this plan in order to.

- Determine the available remaining capacity of all burial facilities.
- Identify where extensions to existing burial facilities could be accommodated where facilities are at or close to capacity, having regard to any site restrictions.
- Actively pursue lands to accommodate additional burial facilities whether by way of extension or new sites, subject to appropriate environmental assessments and considerations, and
- Please note that the third bullet point in this list is incomplete