

Observations or Submissions on the
Kildare County Council Draft County Development Plan 2023-2029

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Prepared on Behalf of Kilcullen Community Association

Date 23rd May 2022

Kilcullen Community Association have recently been involved with a number of initiatives to improve the future development of Kilcullen. This includes a steering group to focus on the centre of the town through the redevelopment of market square, which has just completed its part 8. Also the KCA have tendered for preparation of a design statement involving community workshops which sought community opinion on all aspects of the economic and social development with a strong emphasis on what is sustainable for the town particularly measures post Pandemic. There was a recognition in the survey that there is a limited public transport and connectivity to Naas and Newbridge and particularly for cycling and pedestrian links for those without cars, which impacts on teenagers and those without cars.

This map extract taken from the Irish Wetlands survey, has extrapolated a route proposed for future consideration, indicated from the Corbally Canal Basin through, or skirting the Kilsaran quarry (in orange) to try to connect through to Kilcullen as much as possible off road. This submission seeks to support any measures within the development plan that help the establishment of an enhanced connectivity of pedestrian or ideally an off road cycle routes. These routes particularly outside or between the Local Area Plans of Naas and Kilcullen need to be considered at a countywide level. A future of increasing transport fuel costs makes the installation of pedestrian routes and cycle paths to access or increase the connectivity, a given. Access to the green infrastructure for towns like Kilcullen sustains rural towns and when connected to their hinterland can attract visitors to the region improving their economic position and adding to the attractions of the town. It is imperative that any opportunity to brown land sites that may need licensing or extending of operations including quarries and recycling centers that provision could be made to incorporate walkways or greenways. This is needed to be sustainable for rural living and maintains connections to the hinterland of Kilcullen. In particular we strongly support any measures to seek walkways/ cycle routes from Kilcullen to Naas or the Curragh by some form of route that can be pedestrianized.

Prepared by Laura Bowen Architect on behalf of KCA

