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CHAPTER

10

Social, Community, Recreation & Amenity



Social, Community, Recreation & Amenity

Aim: To ensure that Naas is an attractive place to live and work by fostering the development of strong inclusive communities that have a sense of place and belonging, with adequate provision of accessible community and recreational facilities to serve the needs of the town's growing population.

10.1 BACKGROUND

It is recognised that the provision of accessible social and community infrastructure contributes to the quality of life for all and it is important that such facilities also be provided in tandem with the development of new dwellings and neighbourhoods. The DoEHLG guidelines on '*Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas*' (2009) highlight the need to phase development in line with the availability of infrastructure such as schools, amenities and other facilities.

Social inclusion is a key objective at national and local level. It refers to the way in which all persons in a community are integrated in an equitable manner. In order to combat social exclusion, actions must be taken which focus on the most disadvantaged areas and the resources necessary for people to participate fully in economic, social, cultural life and enjoy a standard of living and well being that is considered normal in today's society.

At a national level "*Towards 2016*" proposes a "Lifecycle" approach to tackling poverty and social exclusion. The targets and interventions through which objectives are to be achieved are outlined in "*The National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007- 2016*".

10.2 STRATEGY

It is proposed to strengthen communities through the provision of attractive community facilities and recreational amenities that meet the needs of all sectors of the population of Naas. The Council will have regard to strategies and guidelines including the National Development Plan 2007-2013, the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007- 2016. The Provision of Schools and the Planning System, A Code of Practice for Planning Authorities (2008), Childcare Facility Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2001), Kildare Local Authorities Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013, the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (2009) and the Urban Design Manual, A Best Practice Guide (DoEHLG 2008).

The promotion of social inclusion and provision of community and recreational facilities through the planning process will be facilitated in accordance with the following provisions:

- Ensuring sufficient zoning of land to meet community infrastructure requirements over the life of the Plan,
- Facilitating the provision of facilities by reserving lands for community and education purposes,
- Facilitating the expansion of existing recreational and amenity areas,
- Using the Council's Development Contribution Scheme to provide infrastructure to the community including the provision of open space, recreational and community facilities,
- Requiring the provision of neighbourhood centres and community facilities within walking distance of and concurrent with new residential development while also promoting the use of shared facilities,
- Encouraging high quality layout and design in housing schemes and a mix of house types and sizes to cater for different housing needs,
- Promoting the development and access to public transport, safe pedestrian and cycle routes,
- Ensuring that relevant development proposals incorporate access to facilities for people with disabilities.

10.3 SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY

Community infrastructure includes buildings and other facilities which provide community, educational, social, health, childcare, cultural, religious, recreation and leisure facilities. Such facilities should be properly located to maximise and facilitate ease of access. The more difficult it is to reach these services, the less likely people are to use them, particularly the more vulnerable members of the community. They encompass facilities and services that are publicly provided and those which are privately funded and developed. Community infrastructure also includes traditional local services such as local shops which, in addition to a primary commercial function, can help maintain and nurture a sense of community at a local level.



The County Development Board Strategy for the *Social, Economic and Cultural Development of County Kildare, 2012* explores the policy mechanism for the delivery of community infrastructure and services at the local level. Naas town boasts a wide range of community and voluntary sector groups with approximately 32 community groups and 50 residents associations which are active across a range of areas including health, community development, environment, youth, education, sports and recreation, arts and music.

10.3.1 Community Facilities

Community facilities contribute to quality of life and help to develop a sense of community. Community facilities should be multi-functional, cohesive and multi-use. Naas is relatively well serviced by community facilities including educational, healthcare, a fire service, Garda station, various religious places of worship and a library service. It also contains significant recreational/ leisure and open space facilities.

10.4 GROUPS WITH SPECIFIC DESIGN/PLANNING NEEDS

There are a number of groups in society with specific design and planning needs including people with disabilities, ethnic minorities and the traveller community.

10.4.1 Young People and Children

The 2006 Census indicates that Naas town has a significant population in younger age groups with 36% being under the age of 25. This compares with similar towns such as Tullamore and Navan with 35% and 37% of their respective populations being under the age of 25.

It is acknowledged that the provision of youth facilities and services is important in the town. Kildare Youth Services is important in the provision of development, learning opportunities and services for the youth of the town. Naas has a dedicated youth facility operated by KYS and the Council will actively encourage the participation of KYS and other services in the development of any future youth facilities for the town.

There is a wide variety of sporting facilities to choose from in and around the town. The Council is committed to enhancing the range and quality of sports facilities and to ensure that there is reasonable public access to sport and a network of facilities. A new area of land has been zoned open space and amenity adjacent to the Caragh Sports Centre to encourage the development of a town/regional sports facility at this location. It is necessary to retain such facilities in locations where they are of most value and are accessible to the community being served, especially younger people.

The Council recognises the importance of play areas for children. All play areas should be located where they can be overlooked by dwellings but will not cause unreasonable nuisance problems for residents. Play areas shall be designed specifically for children's play and include play equipment and safety surfacing which conforms to relevant safety standards.

Play can also be provided for in a less formal way. Children use their whole environment to play and it is possible through careful design and landscaping of the built environment to provide quality play areas.

10.4.2 People with Disabilities/Mobility Impaired

People with disabilities and the mobility impaired face particular physical barriers to access and movement. For people with mobility impairments, ensuring level/ramped access to buildings, dished kerbs and the provision of appropriate parking and toilet facilities are important. For people with visual impairments, tactile paving that can be felt underfoot and audible signals at pedestrian crossings are necessary. The new "K Leisure Centre" facility on the Caragh Road Sports Campus ensures accessibility to all in accordance with the objectives of 'Building for Everyone' and 'Access for the Disabled'.

10.4.3 Older People

The Census of 2006 recorded that 6.9% of the population of Naas was over 65 years of age which is well below the national figure of 11%. The CSO report (2008) *Regional Population Projections 2011-2026* projects a nationwide doubling in numbers of old persons (65 years and over) between 2006-2011, with the most marked increases likely to occur in the Mid-East region of over 164%.

Each local community must plan to provide a range of supports and services to enable its older people to maintain an optimum level of health, dignity and independence at all times. The Council is not a provider of residential care and nursing homes, nor is it responsible for the provision of health and social services. However, the Council is responsible for regulating the development and use of land in the public interest.

There is widespread recognition of the need to plan and design for housing, community and care facilities for the elderly. The NESC report *Well- Being Matters: A Social Report for Ireland* (2009) points to a number of ways where the quality of life of older people can be improved through planning and the built environment. These measures include:

- Availability of a mix of dwelling types (integrated housing and care services) of good design across all tenures;
- Preparation of Housing Action Plans to address special needs and specifically the role of the voluntary and co-operative housing sector;
- Inter-agency co-operation to cater for care needs in accommodation;
- Services to provide enhanced home security and energy conservation, including improved heating systems and insulation.

The 'National Quality Standards for Residential Care Settings for Older People in Ireland' published by the Health Information and Quality Authority (February 2009) set standards for the provision of care facilities for the elderly. These standards provide a baseline for those with the responsibility for providing nursing home facilities and include specific standards for the design and layout of the internal and external environment of care facilities.

Residential care facilities catering for older people should be located in close proximity to convenience shops, community facilities and public transport nodes.

10.4.4 Ethnic Minority Groups

Naas has a diverse population. Service provision /community facilities in the area should reflect the varying needs of the community. Review of the census data from 2002 and 2006 indicated that the largest group of foreign nationals residing in Naas were from Lithuania and Poland. The 2002 Census Data indicated that 3% of the population were from Eastern Europe while this percentage increased to 8% of the total population of Naas in 2006.

10.4.5 Traveller Community

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009- 2013, adopted by Kildare County Council in February 2009 assessed the needs of the traveller accommodation in Naas. It states that there was a need for a Group Housing Scheme for two families. As both families in question are also considering Standard Housing, the need for Traveller Specific Accommodation for Naas has not been included as a specific implementation measure in the Programme. Should a definite preference be expressed for Group Housing at a future point in time, a provision can be made in the Plan to include this requirement.

10.5 CHILDCARE

The provision of childcare facilities, in its various forms, is recognised as a key piece of social infrastructure, enabling people to participate more fully in society, particularly in accessing employment, education and social networks.

Naas Town Council is working with the Kildare Childcare Committee to improve the quality, provision and affordability of childcare in the county. *Kildare Childcare Committee Strategic Plan 2007-2010* sets out the following objectives with the aim of delivering quality childcare and educational services centred on the needs of the child:

- Identify training needs and to promote and facilitate professional development opportunities where appropriate;
- Liaise with all stakeholders in the County on the role of the County Childcare Committee in the provision of childcare facilities and any associated advice;
- Increase the supply and enhance the quality of childcare services;
- Provide training and capacity building of all staff involved in childcare provision;
- Enhance management and HR practices.

Naas town currently has thirty-two pre-school facilities / providers in the town area. The number of providers is likely to increase with the introduction of a free pre-school year of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) for all children between the ages of 3 years 3 months and 4 years 6 months. The Council will have regard to the criteria regarding the provision and location of such facilities set out in the Childcare Facilities Guidelines for Planning Authorities published by the DoEHLG in 2001.

The Council seeks to encourage the development of childcare facilities in the following locations:

- Business Parks and major employment centres;
- Neighbourhood and district retail centres;
- Large scale retail developments;
- In, or in the vicinity of, schools and major educational facilities;
- In, or adjacent to, community centres and facilities;
- Adjacent to public transport nodes;
- Within new and existing residential developments.

10.6 EDUCATION

The Department of Education and Science is responsible for the delivery of educational facilities and services.

The Provision of Schools and the Planning System, a Code of Practice for Planning Authorities, published jointly by the Department of Education and Science and the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government sets out the best practice approach that should be followed by planning authorities in facilitating the timely and cost effective provision of school facilities by the Department of Education and Science in line with the principles of proper planning and sustainable development.

Currently five primary schools and three post primary schools serve Naas and its environs. There are 56 hectares of land zoned for community and education use in Naas, of this approximately 23 hectares remains undeveloped. These lands are located within the Northwest Quadrant area, on the Craddockstown Road, the Kilcullen Road and along the South Ring Road. It is considered that there are sufficient lands zoned to cater for the projected demands over the period of this Plan.

Table 10.1 Numbers of Children attending Schools in Naas (2009)

School	No. of Pupils (approx)
St David's National School	94
Scoil Chorbáin	641
Holy Child National School	597
Mercy Convent National School	899
Scoil Bhríde National School	320
Gaeilsccoil Nás na Ríogh	90
Coláiste Naomh Mhuire	891
Meanscoil Iognáid Rís	813

10.7 HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Responsibility for the provision of Health Care Facilities in Naas lies with the Health Service Executive (HSE). The Council will facilitate and encourage the provision of improved health care facilities in appropriate locations. There is a growing trend for the provision of local health care services in Primary Health Care Centres, where a range of health services, including GP's and related services are grouped together in one location. The preference will be for these to be located in Neighbourhood Centres, where they can link in with other local services, including pharmacies, shops and services, in order to reduce the need to travel.

Naas is served by established healthcare facilities, including Naas General Hospital. The HSE is in the process of refurbishing the former Kildare Council offices at St Mary's in Craddockstown. In addition to the hospital, the Vista Primary Care Campus opened on the Ballymore Road in 2008 and is in close proximity to Naas General Hospital.



10.8 ARTS AND CULTURAL FACILITIES

Arts and Cultural facilities are wide ranging and include halls for meetings, community arts centres, theatres and music venues. Such facilities contribute towards the intellectual, artistic and social quality of life.

The Arts Plan, '*Making Inroads: Kildare County Council Arts Development Plan 2006-2011*' outlines the Art Strategy for County Kildare. It identifies strategic objectives and how it proposes to achieve them. The plan has been developed having regard to national policy, including the Arts Council 'Partnership for the Arts 2006-2010' and '*Kildare: 2012, An Economic, Social and Cultural Strategy for Kildare*'.

The Arts create opportunities for the cultural development of all the community. In addition they offer all the community - young, old and minority groups, a creative outlet and an alternative to sport and active recreation. The Council will facilitate, encourage and support cultural activities.

The Moat Theatre located west of the Main Street represents a significant cultural feature for the town. The building in its current form was extended, renovated and re-opened in April 2003. It includes a 200 seat auditorium and stage, a foyer/coffee shop and bar area. The theatre attracts major comedy, musical and drama acts and presents regular performances by local drama societies.

Naas library, located in the harbour area is another important cultural focal point and provides vital community, information, cultural and outreach roles within the town.

There is an audio-visual section, information technology facilities and first floor exhibition/function area available to local groups for exhibitions, recitals and readings.

10.9 RECREATION AND AMENITY

Quality recreation, leisure and amenity facilities have a fundamental impact on the quality of life in a town and on its social integration and cohesiveness. The provision of amenities which can cater for the demands of an increasing population and which will be accessible for all sectors and age groups is a central element in the delivery of sustainable communities.

Sporting, recreation and leisure activities are of primary importance to the quality of life enjoyed by the people of Naas. The town is relatively well served by such facilities with a wide variety of clubs and organisations operating within the town. Some of these facilities include, Naas GAA, Naas Rugby, Naas Tennis Club, Naas Athletic club, the Soccer club, hockey club at the Caragh Sports Centre and the new Swimming Pool adjacent to the Caragh sports centre. Furthermore there are also a number of privately owned sports facilities including the Osprey Hotel, Naas Health and Fitness and Kilashee House Hotel & Villa Spa. The schools also facilitate local sports clubs through the use of their facilities after school hours. Kildare Sports Partnership was launched in 2001 and adopted a strategic plan for physical recreation. Kildare Sports Partnership is working with the County Development Board to complete the strategic plan to provide all residents in the County with an opportunity to participate in some form of sport regardless of age, ability, gender, social or economic circumstances.

Other important recreational amenities the town has to offer include the Corbally branch of the Grand Canal which is used for walks and has potential for boating tourism, the lakes off the Ballymore Road which are part of a linked passive recreation area and are located in proximity to the town centre and the Monread Park and playground which offer an important facility for the residents of the Monread area. Furthermore, Naas was chosen by Fáilte Ireland under the National Development Plan 2007-2013 as a priority for funding in developing historic town trails. The trail was launched in September 2009 with 32 signs erected facilitating the exploration of the town's historic features.

10.9.1 Children's Play Facilities

The Council acknowledges the overarching role of the National Play Policy 'Ready, Steady, Play', as published by the Department of Health and Children, 2004.

The objectives of Ready, Steady, Play include:

- To improve the quality and safety of playgrounds and play areas;
- To ensure that children's play needs are met through the development of a child-friendly environment;
- To give children a voice in the design and implementation of play policies and facilities;
- To maximise the range of public play opportunities available to all children, particularly children who are marginalised, disadvantaged or who have a disability.

The Town Council will be guided by the County Kildare Play Policy which will be developed over the period of the plan.

10.9.2 Parks and Public Open Spaces

Open spaces are a vital part of the urban environment. Open space amenities create benefits for the enhancement of the quality of life of residential areas and also provide opportunities for recreational activities, ecological, environmental preservation and education. Furthermore, open space fosters a sense of place. The Council is responsible for the maintenance and management of a number of open spaces and amenity areas in Naas. The planning process plays a vital role in ensuring that existing parks and open spaces are protected and enhanced. In addition it is key to the provision of appropriate, high quality parks and open spaces to cater for increased demand as new residential areas are created and the population increases.

In December 2008, an Open Space Strategy was prepared for County Kildare. The strategy identified a hierarchy of open space for the county, provided an audit of open space based on this hierarchy and assessed current and future open space needs within the county. The strategy noted that there is a diversity of public open space throughout Naas, including local and neighbourhood parks, open space in private ownership and large tracts of zoned open space.



The land use zoning objectives (Map 14.1 Refers) outlines the areas designated for open space and amenity in Naas. These open spaces include lands which are in public and private ownership and consist of sports centres, Naas Racecourse, Craddockstown Golf Club, the lakes off the Ballymore Road, Monread and Ballycane Parks, in addition to approximately 142 hectares of land zoned for open space and amenity purposes throughout Naas.

Of the overall open space zoned in the town, an area of approximately 80 hectares is zoned specifically for a future park /greenbelt. This area bounds the Canal on both sides, running from Osberstown Bridge via Tandy's Bridge to the Canal Harbour area in close proximity to Naas town centre. The parkland includes Oldtown Demesne and associated gardens. (Map 10.2 Future Park/Green Belt Refers)

10.9.3 Strategic Provision of Public Open Spaces

The Council seeks to establish a hierarchy of open space for various categories of the population and provide a situation whereby every resident in the town lives within a comfortable walking distance, e.g. 10 minutes of a range of open space types such as formal parks and children's play areas.

The Department of the Environment '*A Park's Policy for Local Authorities*' (DoE 1987) recommends that amenity areas be provided in a 'Hierarchy of Parks' based on population units of 10,000. This policy recommends a neighbourhood park of about 16 ha or 40 acres and two local parks within a specified distance of the population to be served.

The Guidelines on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (DoEHLG 2009) recognise that assessing open space on a population basis can be difficult due, inter alia, to the unpredictability of occupancy rates. Town centre

development will be unable to achieve the same public open space provision as suburban sites. These factors will be taken into account when planning open space provision. Large areas of open space should be located adjacent to existing or proposed neighbourhood centres, community facilities and educational campuses in order to facilitate multi-purpose use, to meet a variety of needs and thus be able to fulfil a range of functions.

Where development is proposed on lands adjoining the Canal, an area immediately adjacent the waterway should be retained as a linear park or walkway, which links into the wider open space network (e.g. parks and other open space) and is accessible to the general public. The development of a green network for the town is important in developing a hierarchy of open space areas. Green networks function as long distance walking and cycling routes as well as ecological corridors. This Plan seeks to create greater linkages between the existing and future green infrastructure generally in accordance with Map 10.1 Open Space and Green Network.

10.9.4 Allotments

An emerging new form of land use has been the development of allotments. Allotment gardens allow a number of people to cultivate their own vegetables in individual plots/land parcels on lands owned by another private individual or body. The individual size of a plot/parcel ranges between 200-400sqm and often the plots include a shed for tools and shelter. The individual gardeners are usually organised in an allotment association which leases the land from the owner which may be a public, private or ecclesiastical entity. Allotments can have a number of benefits including the promotion of healthy lifestyles, biodiversity and providing a cheaper, local and sustainable source of food.

10.10 SOCIAL AND AMENITY POLICIES

10.10.1 Social

It is the policy of the Council:

- SC1:** To promote equality of access to services and facilities and assist in the removal of barriers to full participation in society.
- SC2:** To work with other relevant organisations, including the County Development Board, to facilitate the provision of public and social services.
- SC3:** To promote the delivery of services by means of supporting IT kiosks and information points in libraries, schools and local shops/post offices.
- SC4:** To support and encourage the establishment of consultation structures, particularly those associated with the County Development Board, which enhance and enable communities to engage in policy making in the Town Council area.

10.10.2 Community

It is the policy of the Council:

- C1:** To actively promote the provision of community, educational, social and recreational facilities in tandem with future housing development.
- C2:** To encourage the shared use of community facilities so as to maximise the sustainable use of such infrastructure and promote community cohesion.
- C3:** To continue to support the provision and the management of Community Centres, Neighbourhood Centres, Youth Cafes and other facilities which provide a range of social, cultural and educational facilities to communities and to ensure they are accessible to people of all needs.
- C4:** To co-operate with Kildare County Council in expanding or re-locating the library during the period of the Plan to cater for the increased demand due to an expanding population.

10.10.3 Education Facilities

It is the policy of the Council:

- ED1:** To co-operate with the Department of Education & Science, the Vocational Educational Committee for County Kildare and School Management Boards in the provision of school places.
- ED2:** To promote, in conjunction with the relevant authorities, the provision of a third level facility within the town.
- ED3:** To develop opportunities for career development and retraining and develop links between the employment and educational sectors.
- ED4:** To support and facilitate research and development initiatives.
- ED5:** To facilitate the provision of adequate, quality infrastructure for education and training, accessible for all members of the community.

10.10.4 Childcare Facilities

It is the policy of the Council:

- CF1:** To facilitate provision of childcare facilities in accordance with the '*Childcare Facilities: Guidelines for Planning Authorities*' (DoEHLG) and the '*Child Care (Pre-School Services) Regulations 1996 & 1997*', '*Ready, Steady, Play! A National Play Policy*' (2004) and any other relevant statutory guidelines which may issue during the life of this Plan.
- CF2:** To facilitate and encourage the provision of childcare facilities of an appropriate type and scale at appropriate locations throughout Naas, including possible colocation with other community facilities.

10.10.5 Healthcare Facilities

It is the policy of the Council:

- HCF1:** To support and co-operate with promoters or operators of public and private health care facilities by facilitating and encouraging the provision of improved health care facilities in appropriate locations.

10.10.6 Cultural Facilities

It is the policy of the Council:

- CLF1:** To encourage and assist in the development of the arts and to support the ongoing development of cultural infrastructure.
- CLF2:** To ensure that all arts and cultural facilities in the ownership and management of the Council are accessible to the wider community and to promote the role of these facilities as focal points for the community.

10.10.7 Older People

It is the policy of the Council:

- OP1:** To facilitate the provision of continuing care facilities for the elderly such as:
- a) Own homes (designed to meet the needs of elderly people)
 - b) Sheltered housing
 - c) Day-care facilities
 - d) Nursing homes
 - e) Specialised care units.
- OP2:** To cater for the diversity of older people's needs by promoting adaptability and flexibility in the design of homes and the promotion of appropriate commercial and community facilities in population centres with higher proportions of older people.
- OP3:** To site residential care facilities for the elderly in accordance with the following:

Facilities should be:

- a) Located close to community and social facilities required by occupants (e.g. shops, post office, community centres, etc) thereby ensuring that older people can remain part of existing communities.
- b) Easily accessible for residents, employees, visitors and service providers. In this regard there is a presumption against this type of development in the open countryside for reasons relating to sustainability, poor accessibility, lack of public transport, social exclusion and isolation. A Mobility Strategy shall be provided detailing connections to town and neighbourhood centres for residents, employees and visitors.

- c) Located within an environment that is suitable for their stated purpose, integrating within the wider community while providing a safe environment for residents.
- d) Located in an area which can benefit from the creation of strong links between the care for the elderly facilities and the local community including activities linked to other community groups.

- OP4:** To require the design and layout of residential care facilities for the elderly to comply with all relevant standards set out in the '*National Quality Standards for Residential Care Settings for Older People in Ireland*' published by the Health Information and Quality Authority (February 2009) or the relevant standards for any subsequent national guidelines. Relevant standards are contained in Chapter 13 Development Management.

10.10.8 People with Disabilities

It is the policy of the Council:

- PD1:** To ensure that all buildings, public open spaces, recreational and amenity areas are accessible for people with disabilities, having regard to the Building Regulations 2000, the objectives of 'Building for Everyone' (National Disability Authority) and 'Access for the Disabled' (Nos. 1 to 3 National Rehabilitation Board).
- PD2:** To ensure that parking spaces provided for people with disabilities are appropriately indicated and are located in a manner which has regard to dismounting, safety and cohesiveness of drivers and passengers.
- PD3:** To ensure that all footpaths and public areas are accessible and safe for people with disabilities and/or reduced mobility by way of dishing of footpaths, location of crossings etc.

10.10.9 Traveller Community

It is the policy of the Council:

- TC1:** To implement measures in accordance with the Kildare Local Authorities Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013.



10.11 RECREATION POLICIES

It is the policy of the Council:

- R1: To encourage the provision, improvement and expansion of more varied social, cultural, recreational and sporting facilities to serve the needs of the town.
- R2: To support and facilitate the development of indoor and outdoor recreational facilities to cater for all age groups on suitable sites and to ensure that these facilities are accessible to people with disabilities.
- R3: To encourage recreational /amenity/community facilities in Naas to be multi-functional and not used exclusively by any one group.
- R4: To encourage and promote the provision of pedestrian, cycle routes and networks linking parks and open spaces to residential developments so as to facilitate recreation and amenity activity, where feasible.
- R5: To safeguard existing leisure, recreational facilities in Naas town and encourage the provision of new facilities for community use in new areas, or in areas where an identified shortage of such facilities exists.
- R6: To cater for all age-groups and abilities in the population of the town through the facilitation of both active and passive recreational activities.
- R7: To promote and encourage the development of additional sports and recreation/leisure facilities at the Caragh Road sports complex, including investigating the development of a regional sports facility.

- R8: To seek to develop in conjunction with Kildare County Council, a county play and recreational and amenity strategy.
- R9: To support Kildare Sports Partnership and encourage participation in sport and recreation amongst people in Naas through strategic placement, planning, refurbishment and management of new and existing facilities.
- R10: To encourage and support the development of water safety awareness initiatives in association with Kildare Water Safety.

10.11.1 Amenity

It is the policy of the Council:

- A1: To develop Oldtown Demesne as a future amenity area/park for the town and to prepare a conservation plan for these lands.
- A2: To promote an increased awareness of Naas walking routes and historic trails and features as attractive and unique recreational and educational amenities.
- A3: To protect and improve all existing rights-of-way and to create further rights-of-way where necessary and appropriate.
- A4: To facilitate, where practical, the provision of cycle-ways or walkways along the extent of the canal, in co-operation with landowners, Waterways Ireland and the DoEHLG or other relevant Government Departments.
- A5: To protect the setting, character and environmental quality of areas of high natural beauty and safeguard their amenity.



10.11.2 Open Space

It is the policy of the Council:

- OS1:** To develop and facilitate the provision of public open space generally in accordance with "Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas-Guidelines for Planning Authorities" (DoEHLG, 2009) and with the Open Space Strategy for County Kildare.
- OS2:** To facilitate and encourage a series of high quality open spaces throughout the town, preferably as part of a larger linked network that is available to all ages and accessible to everyone, including people with mobility impairments.
- OS3:** To retain open space lands with established recreational uses.
- OS4:** To preserve, manage and maintain to a high standard the existing parks and open spaces in the town.
- OS5:** To encourage the provision of open space for both passive and active recreation to serve the needs of the town's existing and future population concurrent with new residential development.
- OS6:** To facilitate the development of allotments of an appropriate scale which meet the following criteria:
 - a) The lands are situated within or immediately adjacent to the edge of the town;
 - b) The lands are easily accessible to the residents of the town;
 - c) Adequate water supply and adequate parking facilities can be provided.

10.12 SOCIAL, COMMUNITY, RECREATION AND AMENITY OBJECTIVES

10.12.1 Social and Community Objectives

It is an objective of the Council:

- SCO1:** To encourage and promote the development of community and recreational facilities in Naas at appropriate locations and to encourage the multi-use of all facilities.
- SCO2:** To facilitate the provision of new education facilities within the existing plan area through the reservation of land for school extensions and new schools,
- SCO3:** To facilitate the provision of childcare facilities at appropriate locations
- SCO4:** To facilitate the continuing improvement of public service infrastructure and facilities
- SCO5:** To ensure that facilities where possible are accessible by public as well as private transport.

10.12.2 Recreation and Amenity Objectives

It is an objective of the Council:

- RAO1:** To investigate the feasibility of providing pedestrian paths through the recreational grounds at the Caragh Road to cater for passive use of those amenity lands.
- RAO2:** To investigate the feasibility of developing a walkway/cycling route along the old railway line which runs between the Kilcullen Road and the Ballymore Road and linking this route to the existing lakes amenity area and railwalk.
- RAO3:** To develop walkways and cycleways along the Grand Canal from the Harbour via the Corbally line to the Caragh Sports Centre and Corbally Harbour in cooperation with relevant statutory and voluntary bodies. The development of such should be considered in conjunction with policy NH8 in Chapter 11.
- RAO4:** To develop a linear park along the Grand Canal. The development of such should be considered in conjunction with policy NH8 in Chapter 11.
- RAO5:** To develop a public park on land in the Council's ownership at Millbrook and connect this with the strip of open space running east along Friary Road to join with the proposed pedestrian access to Sundays Well housing estate at the road bridge across the disused railway line.

- RAO6: To seek to develop a playground in the Jigginstown/ Caragh Road area.
- RAO7: To continue landscaping and maintaining amenity areas.
- RAO8: To facilitate the completion of the public open space area at Lakelands/Sundays Well/Lacken View/ Cleevaun (including the former railway line).
- RAO9: To continue landscaping and maintaining the amenity at the Naas Workhouse Memorial Park on the Craddockstown Road.
- RAO10: To continue to enhance and maintain the public park in Monread to cater for active and passive recreation.
- RAO11: To further develop the amenity provided by Naas Racecourse to provide recreational facilities for Naas such as walking and jogging routes in conjunction with the Racecourse owners.
- RAO12: To investigate the re-opening of the pedestrian link between Roselawn and the Dublin Road.
- RAO13: To co-operate with Waterways Ireland to repair and restore Jigginstown Bridge and make it safe for pedestrians.
- RAO14: To co-operate with Waterways Ireland in investigating the possibility of re-opening the canal from Jigginstown Bridge to Corbally Harbour
- RAO15: To seek to create a safe boating amenity area on the canal between Jigginstown Bridge and the Newbridge Road.
- RAO16: To seek to improve and extend in cooperation with statutory and voluntary bodies, the sporting facilities at the Caragh Road including investigating the development of a regional sports facility.

10.12.3 Open Space Objectives

It is an objective of the Council:

- OSO1:** To protect lands zoned Open Space and Amenity and Future Park/ Green Belt and to keep these lands free from inappropriate development, to provide for public access for recreational purposes, and to facilitate nature conservation in these areas.
- OSO2:** To provide and develop walking and cycling routes throughout the town, particularly ones linking various areas of public open spaces and amenity in accordance with Map 10.1.
- OSO3:** To provide a pedestrian link from the zoned amenity area on the Ballymore Road to the open space area serving Craddockstown Way to connect with the lakelands area.
- OSO4:** To continue to maintain existing open space areas within housing developments which have been taken in charge by the Council.
- OSO5:** To implement the recommendations of the County Open Space Strategy as appropriate.





NAAS TOWN COUNCIL

Naas Town Development Plan
2011 - 2017

LEGEND

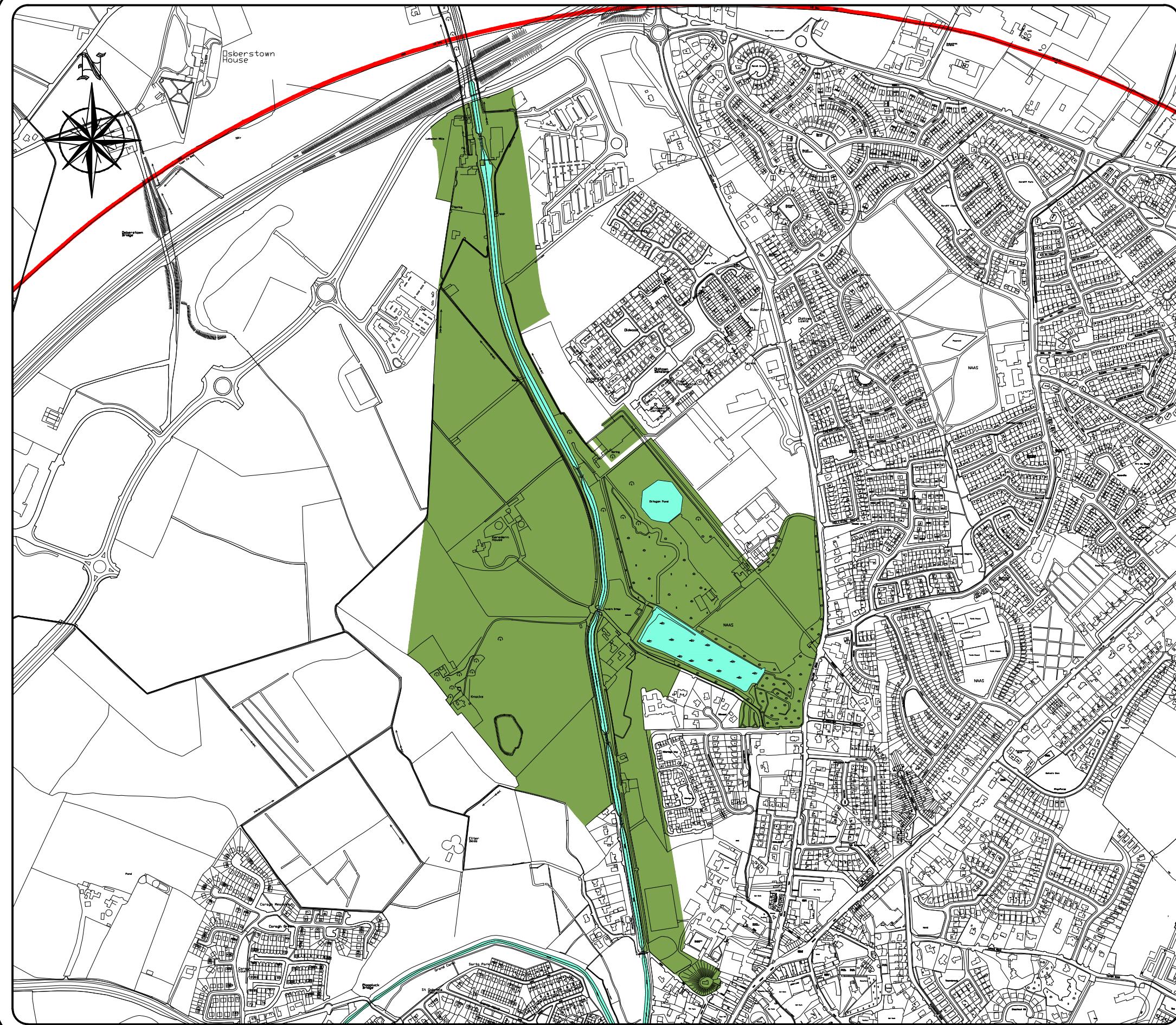
- Open Space & Amenity
- Future Park / Green Belt
- Indicative Walking / Cycling Routes
- Canal / Ponds
- Naas Town Council Boundary

Open Space & Green Network

Scale: N.T.S.	Map Ref: 10.1
Date: 6 th June 2011	Drawing No: 200/11/531
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NAAS TOWN COUNCIL

Naas Town Development Plan
2011 - 2017

LEGEND

- Future Park / Green Belt
- Canal / Ponds
- Naas Town Council Boundary

Future Park / Green Belt

Scale: N.T.S.	Map Ref: 10.2
Date: 6 th June 2011	Drawing No: 200/11/532
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