

Mr. Ken Kavanagh  
Town Clerk  
Naas Town Council  
Áras Chill Dara  
Devoy Park  
Naas  
Co.Kildare

9<sup>th</sup> July, 2009.

**Re: Naas Town Development Plan Review**

Dear Mr. Kavanagh,

Thank you for your recent correspondence in relation to the above . The Department of Education and Science wishes to make the following submission in relation to the proposed Naas Town Development Plan Review.

**Information used to calculate educational infrastructural requirements**

At the outset, it might be useful to outline how the Department calculates the extent of primary and post primary provision needed in an area:

- 12% of the population at any given time is of primary school going age.
- 8.5% of the population at any given time is of post primary school going age.
- At primary level, school accommodation is calculated on the basis of a Pupil Teacher Ratio of 24.1 meaning each individual classroom in a school will have 24 pupils.
- New primary school buildings are generally provided in multiples of 8 classrooms. This is because there are eight individual class groupings between junior infants and 6th class. A 16 classroom school would mean that there are 2 junior infants' classes, 2 senior infant classes etc. with a 24 classroom school having 3 junior infant classes etc.
- A new school ranging in size from 4 - 8 classrooms requires 0.77 hectares (1.9 acres)
- A new school ranging in size from 8 - 16 classrooms requires 1.14 hectares (2.8 acres)
- A new school ranging in size from 16 - 24 classrooms requires 1.6 hectares (4 acres)
- A new school ranging in size from 24 - 32 classrooms requires 2.2 hectares (5.47 acres)
- At post primary level, the Department refers to the size of a building by the number of pupils it will cater for because the number of pupils, together with the curriculum to be delivered (which is school specific), will dictate the range and extent of specialist facilities to be provided.

- Generally, the Department will not build a post primary school with greater than 1,000 places.
- 4.86 hectares (12 acres) are required for a new post primary school.

The Department would welcome the opportunity to comment on additional educational facilities required if information could be made available to us on the projected population for Naas.

Some other general points worth making at this stage are:

- The Department always requests site reservations to be made as close as possible to community facilities such as sports facilities, libraries etc. so that these can be shared between the school and the community.
- The Department is also open to the concept of multi-campus school arrangements e.g. 2/3 primaries side by side or a primary and a post primary school sharing a site.

Both of these approaches can have the affect of reducing the land take for school development.

#### **Site Suitability**

Please refer to our website [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie) and Technical Guidance Document - 025 – Identification and Suitability of Sites for Primary School.

Your attention is also drawn to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government guidelines titled “**Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas**” published in February 2008 which provides that no significant development should take place without an assessment on impact of school provision (refer to Chapter 4: Page 22). Please refer to Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government website [www.environ.ie](http://www.environ.ie).

In addition the Department of Education & Science draws your attention to the Code of Practice for Planning Authorities and the provision of schools; in particular Item 2 and the need for consulting with this Department regarding the assessment of specific sites. Again this document is available on both the Department of Education & Science and Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government websites.

I would appreciate if we could arrange a meeting prior to the finalisation of the Local Area Plan to discuss same with you.

If you have any queries in relation to the above or require any additional information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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