

CHAPTER 8 - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

8.1 Introduction

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides a stronger and clearer role for local government in economic and community development. One of the main means of achieving this is set out in the 'Action Programme for Effective Local Government – Putting People First', which sets out a clear focus on the importance of local government:

"Local government will be the main vehicle of governance and public service at local level, leading economic, social and community development."

This process will be driven by the provision of **Local Economic and Community Plans (LECP)** which aim to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of each local authority, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders. The LECP guidelines for local authorities (DoECLG 2015) set out four broad phases for the delivery of the plan – 1) preparation, 2) public consultation, 3) the development of objectives and actions and 4) finalisation of the plan, with a fifth phase for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the plan.

In spite of the absence of the yet to be commenced Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy¹ for the Dublin and Mid East region, the Wicklow Local Economic and Community Plan has been prepared. The plan includes objectives and actions promoting and supporting (a) economic development and (b) the local and community development of the County. The two elements are integrated for the socio-economic framework and for the actions to increase employment and quality of life opportunities in the County.

The community element of the LECP was developed by the Local Community Development Committee and the Community, Cultural and Social Development Directorate of the Council. The vision for the LECP is as follows:

"Our vision is for a county which provides a high quality of life and well-being for all; values socially inclusive urban and rural communities; is driven by a dynamic and innovative economy; promotes and prioritises sustainable development and protects and enhances the County's unique and rich natural and cultural heritage."

In this regard the LECP sets out the following 10 overarching goals for economic and community development within County Wicklow:

- Goal 1** Develop community capacity in disadvantaged communities and engage in urban regeneration and rural development.
- Goal 2** Promote active citizenship and public participation to improve governance, transparency and enrich decision making.
- Goal 3** Develop high quality integrated services available to all communities, in particular, disadvantaged communities and vulnerable groups.
- Goal 4** Develop a vibrant and innovative Community and Social Enterprise Section

¹ The Regional Planning Guidelines are to be replaced by new Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies.

- Goal 5** Address access to education and training to increase life opportunities for all
- Goal 6** Develop infrastructure and measures that are positive and supportive to investment, enterprise, innovation and knowledge creation in strategic locations
- Goal 7** Sustain existing enterprise and develop quality employment and income opportunities for the wide range of employment needs in the County, with possibilities for reversing commuting patterns
- Goal 8** Capitalise on Wicklow's unique attributes and proximity to the Dublin market, excellent quality of life, human capital, tourism, landscape, marine, agricultural and forestry resources
- Goal 9** Support a shift towards low carbon and climate change resilient economic activity, reducing energy dependence, promoting the sustainable use of resources and leading in the Smart Green Economy
- Goal 10** Harness efficiently the full resources of the County and promote interagency collaboration

The LECP addresses a wide range of community issues, including:

- education, training and skills development;
- developing infrastructure to address social exclusion, poverty and disadvantage, reverse social and economic decline and to realise growth potential and the sustainability of communities;
- synergies with supports for children and young people;
- enhancing the capacity of communities to improve their well-being; and
- enhancing support for local volunteering, citizen engagement and active citizenship.

The strategies and objectives in this chapter are not intended to duplicate those of the LECP (which has a much wider remit in the area of community development), but rather to provide the land-use framework that will support the achievements of these goals.

8.2 Community Development and Land Use Planning

The term "community development" refers to a complex and broad range of actions and measures involving a wide range of practitioners and bodies with the common aim of improving various aspects of local communities. There are however two key strands to the development of 'sustainable communities':

- Facilitating communities in developing the skills, capacities and projects needed to enable them to have a greater say in the management of their own futures; and
- facilitating access to the goods, services and powers structures within society for all, and particularly for those that are marginalised and powerless ('social inclusion').

A wide range of actors and agencies will be required to deliver the LECP goals. It will be the role of the LCDC to coordinate the various organisations and actions required to fulfil the goals of the LECP. The County Development Plan plays the following roles in delivering these goals:

1. Facilitating the delivery of community infrastructure through:
 - the reservation of land for the development of new or enhanced social and community infrastructure in County and local development plans;
 - managing the expansion of residential development commensurate with the community infrastructure available;
 - requiring the delivery of new community infrastructure as part of development proposals; and

- cooperating with other services providers in the delivery of new infrastructure.
2. Facilitating improved physical access to community infrastructure and services through:
 - coordinating easily accessible by public transport, cycle or foot;
 - requiring all new facilities to be accessible and useable by those with special needs, including mobility or other impairments; and
 - facilitating enhancement of communications infrastructure.
 3. Facilitating the maintenance, restoration and upgrading of cultural and natural heritage of communities, environmental upgrading and general actions to enhance the environmental, amenity and physical attributes of communities.

Community Facilities Hierarchy Model

The community facilities hierarchy model, as shown in Table 8.1 below, is a list of social and community facilities that are considered necessary in settlements, according to their population range. It is the role of the development plan to support and facilitate the delivery of such social / community infrastructure; however the actual delivery of such infrastructure is the responsibility of a wide range of agencies (including the Local Authority) as well as private developers as part of a development proposal.

Where a new significant residential or mixed used development is proposed, the Planning Authority may require certain social and community facilities to be provided as part of the proposed development and/or may require a special financial contribution to be made to contribute to the development of such facilities.

Through the development management process, the Planning Authority will identify whether there is a need for a social or community facility by either:

- a) considering the particular social infrastructure needs and deficiencies of each location and the appropriateness of the particular proposed development as to whether the deficiency needs to be rectified as part of that development proposal; or
- b) requiring a 'social infrastructure audit' to be carried out by the developer, to determine if facilities in the area are sufficient to provide for the needs of the future residents and where deficiencies are identified, proposals will be required to either rectify the deficiency, or suitably restrict or phase the development in accordance with the capacity of existing or planned services.

Where facilities are deemed to be required, the type of facility required shall be determined by the Planning Authority through the development management process.

Table 8.1 Community Facilities Hierarchy Model

COMMUNITY FACILITIES HIERARCHY MODEL	
LEVEL 1 – SETTLEMENTS WITH POPULATION RANGE 15,000 – 30,000	
Multi-purpose Community Resource Centre Regional and Local Indoor Sports and Recreation Facilities Swimming Pool/Leisure Centre Youth Centre Athletics Track and Field Facilities Arts and Cultural Centre Local Multi-Purpose Community Space/Meeting rooms	Outdoor Water Sports Facilities (where applicable) Neighbourhood Parks and Local Parks Outdoor (full size) Multi-Use Games Areas – Synthetic/ Hardcourt Playground(s) Playing Pitches Alternative/Minority Sports Facilities Open Space/Urban Woodlands/Nature Areas Library
<i>Acceptable rural catchment commuting time by car: 30 min</i>	
LEVEL 2 – SETTLEMENTS WITH POPULATION RANGE 7,000 – 15,000	
Multi-purpose Community Resource Centre Sport & Recreation Centre Swimming Pool/Leisure Centre Youth Resource Centre Local Multi-Purpose Community Space/Meeting Rooms Outdoor Water Sports Facilities (where applicable) Neighbourhood and Local Parks	Outdoor Multi-Use Games Areas – Synthetic/ Hardcourt Playground(s) Playing Pitches Alternative/Minority Sports Facilities Open Space/Urban Woodlands/Nature Areas Library
<i>Acceptable rural catchment time by car: 15 mins</i>	
LEVEL 3 – SETTLEMENTS WITH POPULATION RANGE 2,000 – 7,000	
Community/Parish Hall Multi-purpose Community Space/Meeting Rooms Local /Town Park (s) and Open Spaces/Nature Areas Outdoor Multi-Use Games Area – Synthetic/ Hardcourt	Playgrounds Playing Pitches Library
<i>Acceptable rural catchment commuting time by car: 10-15 mins</i>	
LEVEL 4 – SETTLEMENTS WITH POPULATION RANGE < 2,000	
Community/Parish Hall Open Spaces/Play Areas	Outdoor Multi-Use Games Area – Synthetic/ Hardcourt Playing Pitches
<i>Acceptable rural catchment commuting time by car: 5-10 mins</i>	

Community Development Objectives

- CD1** To consult and engage with prescribed bodies, local community interest groups and individuals during the local plan making process for towns and villages to determine community / social infrastructure deficiencies and needs in accordance with the provisions of the Planning and Development Act.
- CD2** During the local plan making process for towns and villages, to seek to facilitate community development and socially inclusive communities, through proper land use zoning and transportation planning, phasing and the setting out of high standards of design in both streets and buildings.

- CD3** To facilitate the delivery of community facilities in accordance with the 'Hierarchy Model of Community Facilities' prepared under the Development Levy Scheme (under Section 48 of the Planning and Development Acts) (as set out on Table 8.1 of this chapter).
- CD4** To recognise the needs of those with disabilities throughout the County and to acknowledge their right to lead as enriching, fulfilling and independent lives as possible. In support of this, all policies, objectives and development standards of this plan have been proofed to ensure that not only do they not impede on the lives of people with disabilities but that they proactively assist and enable them.
- CD5** Where specified by the Planning Authority, new significant residential or mixed use development² proposals, may be required to provide a social and community facility/facilities as part of the proposed development or the developer may be required to carry out a social infrastructure audit, to determine if social and community facilities in the area are sufficient to provide for the needs of the future residents. Where deficiencies are identified, proposals will be required to either rectify the deficiency, or suitably restrict or phase the development in accordance with the capacity of existing or planned services.

8.3 Social Infrastructure

The provision of 'social infrastructure', in the form of buildings, facilities, clubs and the means of accessing and using services, is necessary for the development of sustainable communities. The purpose of such infrastructure is both to provide a service and also to promote community cohesion and community identity and in doing so combat social isolation and alienation. A wide variety of facilities are required in order to have a functioning and developing society, and one's use of facilities will be dependent on a range of factors including age, family structure and physical ability. Essentially there are four broad categories of facilities:

1. Those providing education and development, including primary, secondary and third level schools and colleges and vocational or training centres (Montessoris and pre-schools are addressed under 'childcare').
2. Those providing physical and mental care and development, such as health services, nursing homes, childcare / pre-schools, facilities for those with special needs etc.
3. Leisure and recreational facilities including community / youth centres, indoor halls, dance / gymnastic studios, playing pitches, courts etc.
4. Cultural facilities, such as arts centres, theatres, libraries and places of public worship and burial grounds etc.

8.3.1 Education and Development

Education and training have a key role to play in all three dimensions of 'sustainable development' - environmental, economic and social. It is widely recognised as a key component of a competitive economy and a vibrant society.

The Council seeks to create an environment in which everyone can develop to their full potential to enable them to participate in and contribute to all aspects of social, economic and cultural life. The Planning Authority will endeavour to facilitate the provision of the best possible educational facilities at pre-school, primary, secondary and adult levels, on suitable zoned lands, in conjunction with the Department of Education & Skills, the Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation, the Department of Health and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

² This is determined to be any proposed development in: (a) settlement levels 1 to 4 of 150+ residential units, (b) settlement level 5 of 75+ residential units and (c) settlement level 6 of 30+ residential units.

Education and Development Objectives

- CD6** To facilitate the provision of schools by zoning suitable lands in local plans capable of meeting the demands of the projected populations. Prior to the identification of lands for primary and secondary school provision the Planning Authority shall consult with the Forward Planning and Site Acquisition and Management sections of the Department of Education.
- CD7** Where lands are zoned for educational use, to facilitate the development of facilities that provide for linkages between schools types. For example, particular encouragement will be given to primary and secondary school campuses, the linking of pre-school services with primary schools and the linking of secondary schools with vocational training facilities.
- CD8** Where lands are zoned for employment use, to facilitate the development of employment training facilities (privately and/or publicly funded).
- CD9** Where practicable, education, community, recreational and open space facilities shall be clustered. However schools shall continue to make provision for their own recreational facilities as appropriate.
- CD10** To facilitate the development of third level facilities within the County, in particular the further development of the Wicklow County Campus at Clermont, Rathnew including the development of full time tertiary vocational and academic courses on campus.
- CD11** To seek the provision of dedicated facilities for adult and community education in recognition of the growing demand for life-long learning opportunities.
- CD12** To facilitate and promote the use of education facilities after school hours / weekends for other community and non-school purposes, where possible.
- CD13** To facilitate and promote the continuation and expansion of rural/village primary schools.

8.3.2 Health, Care and Development

Health

A number of public, voluntary and private agencies are responsible for the provision of healthcare facilities within the County, with the Health Service Executive being the primary agency responsible for delivering health and personal social services.

Health and Care Objectives

- CD14** To facilitate the development of healthcare uses at suitable locations, in liaison with the appropriate health authorities. Health facilities will be considered at all locations and in all zones provided that:
- the location is readily accessible to those availing of the service, with a particular presumption for facilities in towns and villages and in areas of significant residential development. Isolated rural locations will not generally be considered except where it can be shown that the nature of the facility is such that demands such a location;
 - the location is generally accessible by means other private car, in particular by public transport services, or by walking / cycling; and
 - the location is accessible to those with disabilities.

- CD15** To facilitate the establishment of new or expansion of existing hospitals, nursing homes, centres of medical excellence, hospices, respite care facilities or facilities for those with long term illness.
- CD16** To allow for the change of use of all or part of an existing dwelling in a residential zone to health care usage, subject to normal planning considerations, paying particular regard to car parking availability, impacts on traffic flow and obstruction and impacts on residential amenities.
- CD17** To provide for new or extended residential care facilities for the elderly at the following locations as shown on maps 8.01-8.02:
- Ballinahinch Lower, Newtownmountkennedy (c. 8ha as shown on Map 8.01)
 - Killickabawn, Kilpedder (c. 6ha as shown on Map 8.02)

Residential and Day Care

Having regard to the 'ageing' of the Irish population, in addition to health care facilities, there is a growing need for the provision of specific residential and day care facilities for the elderly. The Council recognises that the provision of residential / day care and nursing homes is an essential community requirement and that this area is underdeveloped in this County.

A number of agencies are active in County Wicklow providing residential and day care services to those with physical or intellectual disabilities. The Council recognises the special services providers by these bodies and aims to facilitate them wherever possible.

As those in residential or day care facilities will have different needs and abilities depending on health and ability, it is important to ensure that such facilities are well integrated into society and afford residents full access to goods and services outside of the facility.

Residential and day care facilities can take many forms, ranging from day time activities / services to care / nursing homes, to assisted living units to independent (but supervised) living units and it is not therefore always possible to craft policies that will address all development types. All applications for development will be considered on their merits with particular regard to their location and the type of service being provided.

Residential and Day Care Objectives

- CD18** To facilitate the development and improvement of new and existing residential and day care facilities throughout the County.
- CD19** Residential and day care facilities shall in general be required to locate in existing towns or villages and shall be located close to shops and other community facilities required by the occupants and shall be easily accessible to visitors, staff and servicing traffic; locations outside of delineated settlement boundaries shall only be considered where:
- the site is located in close proximity to a settlement and would not comprise an isolated development;
 - there are excellent existing or potential to provide new vehicular and pedestrian linkages to settlement services; and
 - the design and scale of the facility is reflective of the semi rural location.
- CD20** 'Retirement villages', made up of a number of independent housing units, with limited / no on site care facilities will be required to locate on residentially zoned land in settlements (or where no local area plan exists, within the defined boundary of the settlement).

- CD21** Clinically managed / supervised dwelling units, such as 'step down' (i.e. post acute care) accommodation or semi-independent housing provided as part of a medical facility, nursing home or other care related facility, will be considered strictly only on the following basis:
- The units are associated with an already developed and established medical facility, nursing home or other care related facility; the units are held in single ownership with the overall medical / nursing home / care facility; no provision is made for future sale or subdivision; and a strict management agreement is put into place limiting the use of such structures to those deemed in need of medical supervision or care;
 - The number of such units on any such site shall be limited to 10% of the total number of hospital/ nursing/care home bedrooms unless a strong case, supported by evidence, can be made for additional units;
 - Such units shall be modest in scale and limited to single bedroom units only and independent facilities such as car parking and gardens shall not be provided to each unit (in order to ensure such units are not rendered suitable for standalone use as private dwellings).

Childcare and Preschool

The provision of childcare and preschool facilities is recognised by Wicklow County Council as a key piece of social infrastructure enabling people to play a more active role in society, particularly in accessing employment and education. Childcare services range from childminding a small number of children in a private home, to pre-schools and crèches. A large number of childcare facilities now provide a full range of services from caring for newborns to pre-school and Montessori type education. The growth in population and housing in Wicklow over the last number of years has not been matched with the necessary growth in childcare services, notwithstanding the implementation of the DoECLG Childcare Facilities Guidelines, which require the provision of 20 childcare places for every new 75 housing units granted permission.

There is also a growing demand for rural childcare services, as the proportion of the County's population living in rural areas continues to grow.

Childcare and Preschool Objectives

- CD22** To facilitate the provision of childcare in a manner which is compatible with land-use and transportation policies and adheres to the principles of sustainable development.
- CD23** To facilitate the provision of a network of childcare facilities that reflects the distribution of the residential population in the County, in order to minimise travel distance and maximise opportunities for disadvantaged communities.
- CD24** Where considered necessary by the Planning Authority, to require the provision of childcare facilities in all residential developments comprising 75 houses or more (including local authority and social housing schemes). In accordance with Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government guidelines, childcare places shall be provided at a ratio of 20 places per 75 residential units, having regard to cumulative effects of permitted development, (unless it can be demonstrated that having regard to the existing geographic distribution of childcare facilities and the emerging demographic profile of the area that this level of childcare facilities is not required). Without substantial cause, it is the policy of the Planning Authority not to allow a change of use of these premises within five years.
- CD25** While the Planning Authority does not encourage the provision of childcare facilities in rural areas consideration may be given subject to the following strict criteria:
- existing infrastructural services (water supply, wastewater disposal, entrance and car parking arrangements) are adequate or can be upgraded to a standard suitable to meet the needs of the facility; and

- the scale of the facility (i.e. the number of children attending) shall be modest and appropriate to the rural location and will be required to be justified on the basis of the catchment of the facility, the proximity to other childcare facilities and the proximity to an existing towns or village, where land is zoned or available for childcare development.

8.3.3 Leisure and Recreation

The types of leisure and recreational facilities provided/required vary greatly from area to area and from person to person ranging from active to passive activities. The Council recognises this fact and aims to provide for adequate leisure and recreational facilities throughout the County, which are capable of meeting the requirements of the resident population.

Children's Play

In addition to childcare facilities, pre-schools and after school services (dealt with previously) children also require opportunities to socialise, play and exercise. Wicklow County Council has responded to this need by preparing a Play Policy for County Wicklow. The purpose of the Play Policy is to change the culture of thinking on play and provide more opportunities for children to play. This play policy reflects the importance that Wicklow County Council places on the value of play in childhood and the importance of children in our society. It also recognises that changes in today's society are having an impact on children's opportunities to play. The policy makes a clear commitment to play as a right and to ensuring that children and their needs are considered when it comes to policy making and that provision is made to meet their needs.

Play is not just about the provision of facilities. It is also about creating the conditions that facilitate children's play, not only in playgrounds but in the wider environment. In addition, facilities for children's play do not always have to consist solely of the traditional playground equipment – they can be an interesting and natural environment with features such as a sensory garden, bushes, or an interestingly placed tree trunk. Research has shown that for children, a playground is their base for play, somewhere from which to safely explore their neighbourhood. This places an emphasis on safe, enjoyable and attractive play environments. However, neighbourhood spaces, estates, parks, streets, libraries, community centres and gardens are as important as dedicated playgrounds.

Teenagers and Young Adults

Many teenagers and young adults feel disenfranchised in society, particularly with regard to the lack of facilities provided specifically to meet their needs. These youths are too old for playgrounds and while many are active in sports clubs, there is still a lack of facilities for socialising and relaxation. Depending on the age, there are a number of facilities that are considered attractive to teenagers and young adults including Mixed Use Games Areas (MUGAs), which would typically provide a hard surfaced area allowing for basketball and other hard court sports, skate parks, youth clubs and Internet cafes.

Sport

In addition to the Play Policy, Wicklow County Council has also developed a Sports & Recreation Policy. This policy recognises the importance that sport and recreation contributes to the quality of life of individuals, communities and the County as a whole. It will be the overarching policy document that provides a strategic approach, which includes the identification of deficiencies, needs and priorities and the inclusion of underpinning principles of social inclusion and sustainable development framework. Its implementation will be carried out in partnership and co-operation, to enable all residents of the County to have equal access to sport and recreation facilities and opportunities for participating in the sport or recreation of their choice.

Community Centres

Community centres provide an important function for all groups in society, by providing for an indoor space for active recreation and for meetings / club use. While many 'outdoor' sports clubs also have indoor spaces, these many not be suitable for non-sport activities such as support group meetings, bridge clubs, mother-and-baby groups etc. In Ireland there is a particular dependence on the use of function rooms in hotels and public houses for club or meeting use, which are similarly often not ideal in design or size.

Leisure and Recreation Objectives

- CD26** To facilitate opportunities for play and support the implementation of the Wicklow County Council Play Policy and its objectives, including the collection of development levies.
- CD27** In all new residential development in excess of 50 units, where considered necessary by the Planning Authority, the developer shall provide, in the residential public open space area, a dedicated children's play area, of a type and with such features to be determined following consultation with Community, Cultural & Social Development Office of Wicklow County Council. The location of any such proposal shall be situated within a centrally located area capable of being passively supervised by surrounding developments.
- CD28** All new estates, streets, open spaces/parks and community facilities shall be designed with the needs and safety of children as a priority.
- CD29** Subject to safety considerations, natural features (trees, streams etc) shall be retained in new developments.
- CD30** In accordance with Objective CD5, where a deficiency in facilities for teenagers/young adults and/or indoor community space is identified in an area, the developer of any significant new residential estate may be required to address the deficiency.
- CD31** All new neighbourhood parks or active open space zones shall include a 'mixed use games area' (MUGA) of an appropriate size and nature to be determined in, pre-consultation with the Community, Cultural & Social Development Office of Wicklow County Council.
- CD32** New community buildings / facilities shall be designed to facilitate a wide range of uses including active uses (e.g. basketball, badminton, gymnastics / dance, martial arts etc), meeting / club use and the operation of youth clubs and youth services.
- CD33** To provide for the development of facilities that contribute to the improvement of the health and well being of the inhabitants of County Wicklow and facilitate participation in sport and recreation.
- CD34** Through the local plan and Action Area Plan process to identify the need and designate suitable active open space for the provision and expansion of sport and recreation opportunities, commensurate with its needs and existing facilities, in accordance with the provisions of the Wicklow County Council Play, Sport & Recreation and Active Open Space policies.
- CD35** Facilities for sports shall normally be located close to towns or villages, on designated Active Open Space land. All efforts will be required to be made to locate new sports facilities close to existing community facilities, schools or areas of dense residential development. The Council may consider providing sites for these purposes or may be prepared to make financial or other assistance available, subject to reasonable access being made available to the public and to reasonable safeguards for the continued use of the land as open space.

- CD36** The redevelopment for alternative uses of open space and recreational lands whether owned by private recreational clubs or publicly owned, will normally be resisted by the Planning Authority unless suitable and improved alternative recreational facilities can be provided in a convenient location.
- CD37** The development of new sports or active open space zones shall be accompanied by appropriate infrastructure including car parking and changing rooms.

8.3.4 Culture

Cultural facilities are places for the creation, production and dissemination of culture and include buildings and cultural sites.

Arts

The Arts create opportunities for the cultural development of all the community. In addition it offers all the community, young, old and minority groups, a creative outlet and an alternative to sport and active recreation.

In order to provide for the existing and future development of the Arts in County Wicklow the Council has developed the Wicklow County Arts Plan. A number of objectives and actions have been identified in the Arts Development Plan and these will be reflected in increased resources and support to the arts community from Wicklow County Council, Statutory Agencies, Local Development Agencies, the private sector and the wider community.

Libraries

The purpose of the public library is to support the community's needs for education, information, recreation, arts and culture. The public library is a publicly funded resource providing a cost-effective means to equity of access. With thirteen branches throughout County Wicklow each providing free internet access, the Council regards the library service as an important resource in promoting its policy on social inclusion and in providing public access to the Information Society. The library is a means to ensure support for literacy, independent learning and distance education.

Places of Worship and Burial

In many communities, churches, burial grounds and other places of worship form a focal point for the local population and often provide not only a religious service, but also meeting places and other cultural services.

Culture Objectives

- CD38** To facilitate opportunities for the provision and development of Arts projects.
- CD39** To facilitate the creation and display of works of art at appropriate public locations, including appropriate locations within the streetscape, provided no unacceptable environmental, amenity, traffic or other problems are created.
- CD40** To facilitate the development of the library service within the County.
- CD41** To facilitate the development of new, improved or expanded places of worship and burial grounds at appropriate locations in the County, where the demand for the facility has been demonstrated.

8.3.5 Open Space

The delivery of new sports and other outdoor community facilities and spaces is dependent on adequate 'open space' being reserved and developed. 'Open space' can take many forms but for the purpose of this plan is generally considered to be space designated for such use in Local Area Plans, Town Plans or Action Area Plans or land reserved or set out for active and passive uses and visual amenity purposes as part of new development of housing or commercial development. Open space can take a number of forms, with some use types overlapping:

1. Private open space – open space owned and / or dedicated to use of single individuals or small groups for example private gardens, terraces, yards, balconies or shared private spaces in apartment developments;
2. Residential Open Space - the open space generally provided in housing developments that is public in the sense that there are no barriers to access, but its function is to provide for use principally by the residents of that development. For land use zoning purposes, as such spaces form an integral part of any residential zone, such space will normally be zoned 'RE – Existing Residential'.
3. (Active) Open Space³ – space provided or designated for uses such as sports grounds, playing fields, hard surfaced courts, parks and walkways, playgrounds etc; (for the purpose of land use zoning, two forms of such open space is designated - 'active open space' which is that space used / proposed for organised sports such as playing fields, courts etc whereas 'open space' is used to denote those existing / planned spaces that are intended for more casual usage such as parks and playgrounds)
4. Passive Open Space – these are lands that are not designated for 'active' use and generally are undeveloped natural areas such as flood plains, buffers zones along rivers, areas of natural biodiversity, where the general objective is to maintain the lands in their current undisturbed state;
5. An emerging new form of open space is the use of land for 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 who may be a public, private or ecclesiastical entity, provided that it is only used for gardening (i.e. growing vegetables, fruits and flowers), but not for residential purposes.

Open Space Objectives

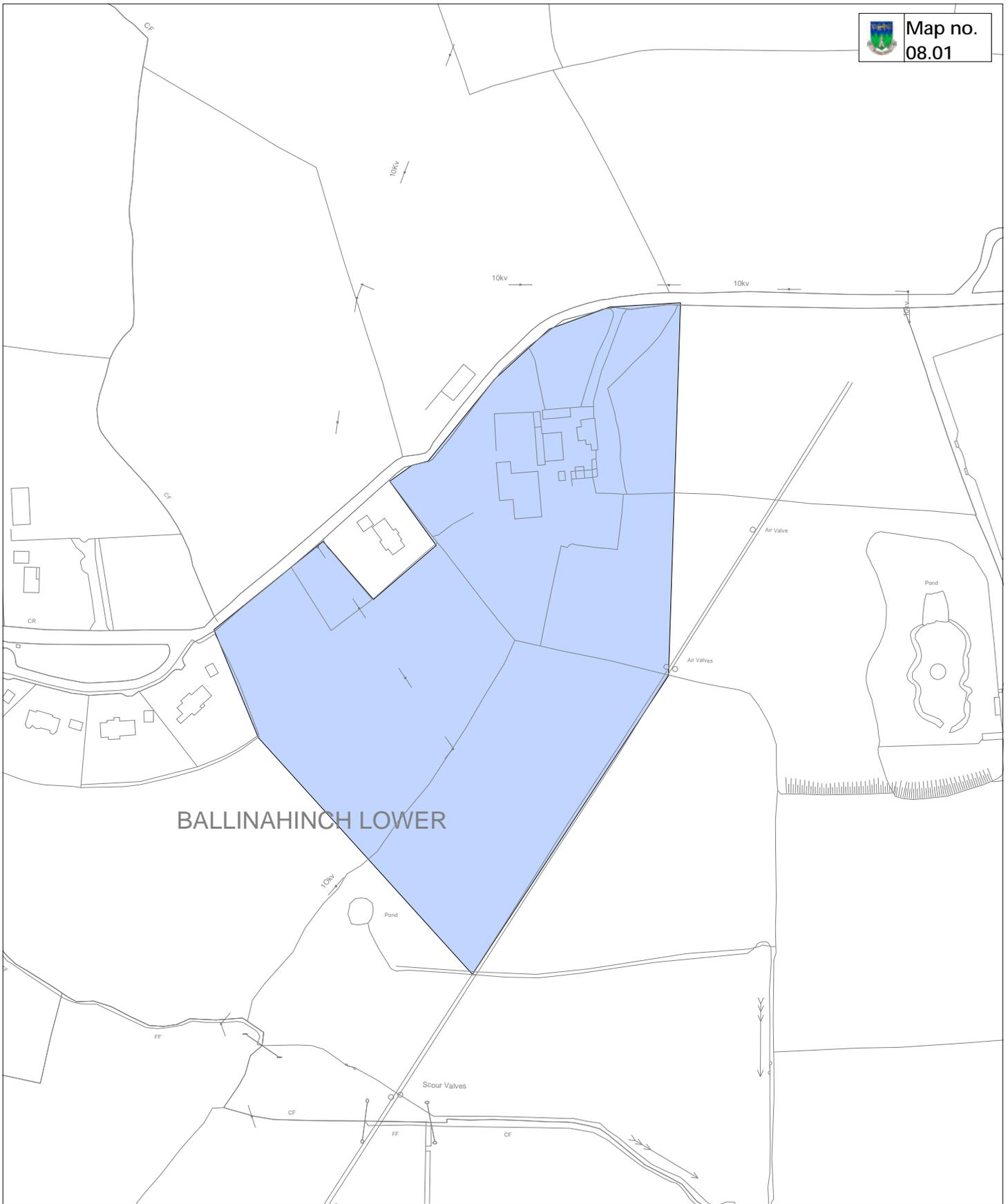
- CD42** Through the local plan process to designate suitable open space in all settlements, commensurate with its needs and existing facilities, in accordance with the provisions of the Wicklow County Council Play, Sport & Recreation and Active Open Space policies.
- CD43** To require open space to be provided in tandem with new residential development (in accordance with the standards set out in the Development & Design Standards Appendix)
- CD44** In existing residential areas, the areas of open space permitted, designated or dedicated solely to the use of the residents will normally be zoned 'RE' as they form an intrinsic part of the overall residential development. Non-community uses on such lands will not normally be permitted.

³ For the definitions of 'Active Open Space' 'Open Space' and Passive Open Space' in each individual town / local area plan refer to the individual plan.

CD45 To facilitate the development of allotments of an appropriate scale on lands which meet the following criteria:

- Lands situated within or immediately adjacent to the edge of towns/villages;
- lands that are easily accessible to the residents of a particular town or village;
- where an adequate water supply can be provided;
- where adequate road infrastructure and access exists/can be provided; and
- where adequate parking facilities can be provided.

CD46 All open spaces shall be provided with environmentally friendly lighting in order to ensure their safe usage after day light hours (refer to 'Light pollution' section of Chapter 9 of this plan).



**Zoning to provide for
new or extended
residential care
facility for the
elderly**

**WICKLOW COUNTY
DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2016-2022**



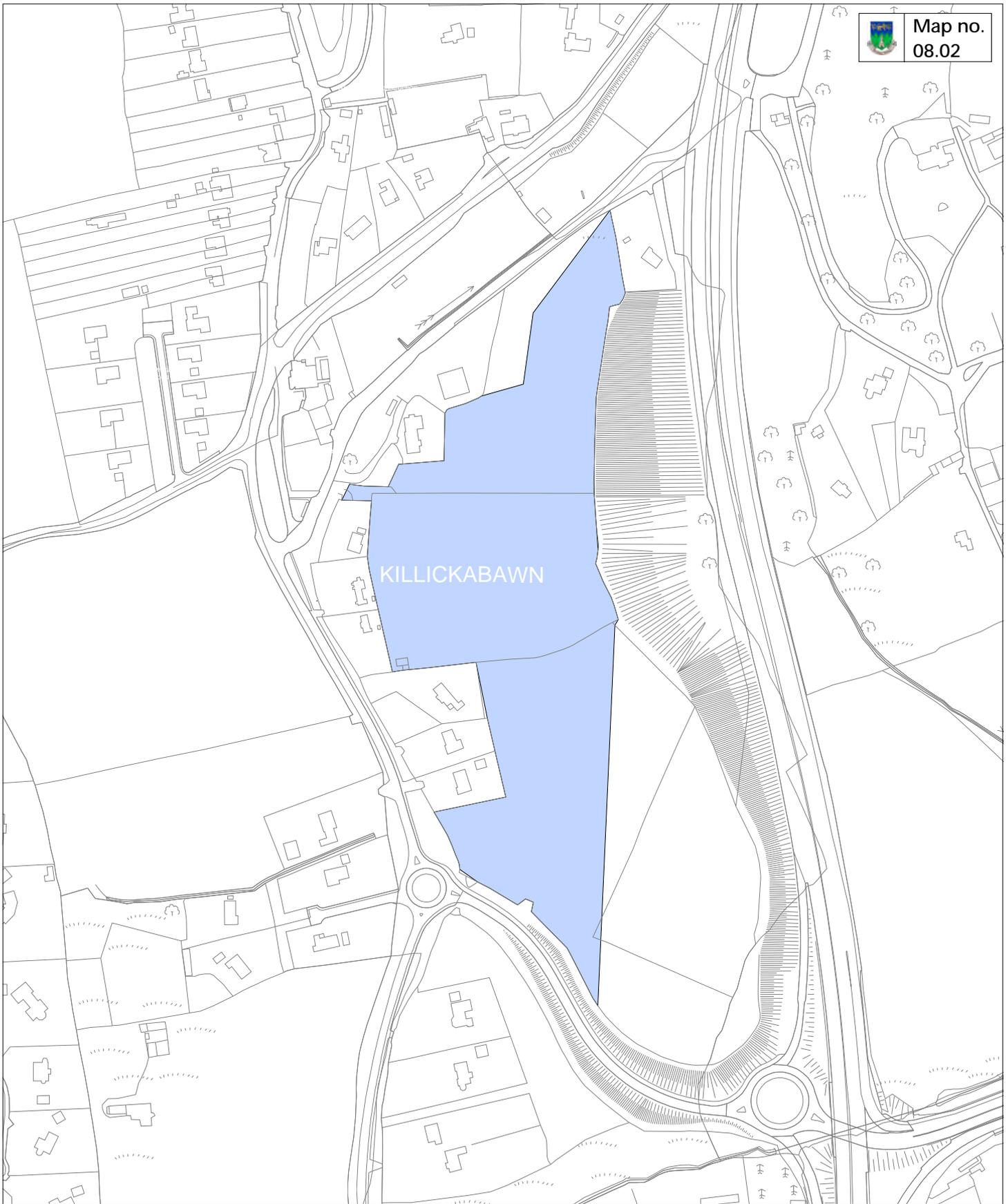
Ballinahinch Lower, Newtownmounkenny



**Wicklow County Council
Planning Department**

Maps Not To Scale

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**Zoning to provide for
new or extended
residential care
facility for the
elderly**

**WICKLOW COUNTY
DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2016-2022**

 **Killickabawn, Kilpedder**



**Wicklow County Council
Planning Department**

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