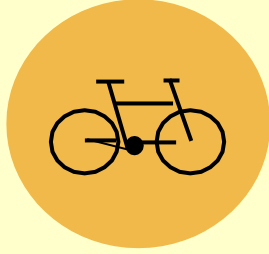
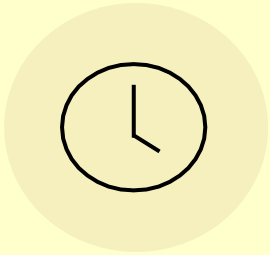


**Killarney MD
Local Area Plan
2023-2029**



Issues Paper





What will the future vision and plan for Killarney Municipal District's growing communities, places, housing, jobs, sustainable transport and the delivery of services be?

Making a Submission

This is YOUR opportunity to contribute towards the first steps in shaping and directing the future growth and development of the Killarney MD area. Key strategic issues have been outlined below which you can have your say on or raise other issues of concern in YOUR area.

Join the conversation and let us know your views for the next Killarney Municipal District Local Area Plan 2023-2029.

Please include your name, address, and where applicable, details of the organisation or group you represent. Further information on this process and updates are available on <https://consult.kerrycoco.ie/en>

Submissions/observations may be made via the following methods:



<https://consult.kerrycoco.ie/en>



Pre-Draft Killarney MD Local Area Plan,
Planning Policy Unit,
Kerry County Council,
County Buildings,
Rathass,
Tralee,
Co. Kerry.

All submissions should be signed and clearly headed '**Killarney MD LAP Pre-Draft**'.

Closing date for submissions/observations is the 10th of March 2023.

All written submissions/observations must be signed.

Submissions/observations received will be published online.

Introduction

A draft Local Area Plan (LAP) is being prepared for lands in the Killarney Municipal District in accordance with the requirements and provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. The purpose of the Plan is to set out a comprehensive local planning framework with clear policies and objectives including land-use zoning in the interest of the common good.

This new Plan will replace the existing Killarney Town Plan as contained in the Kerry County Development Plan (KCDP) 2022-2028 (Volume 2) and the Killarney Municipal District LAP 2018-2024. *Note: due to the reconfiguration of the Municipal Districts in 2019, certain settlements within the Killarney Municipal District LAP 2018-2024 will stay in effect until they are included within the Castleisland/Corca Dhuibhne MD LAP 2024-2030.*

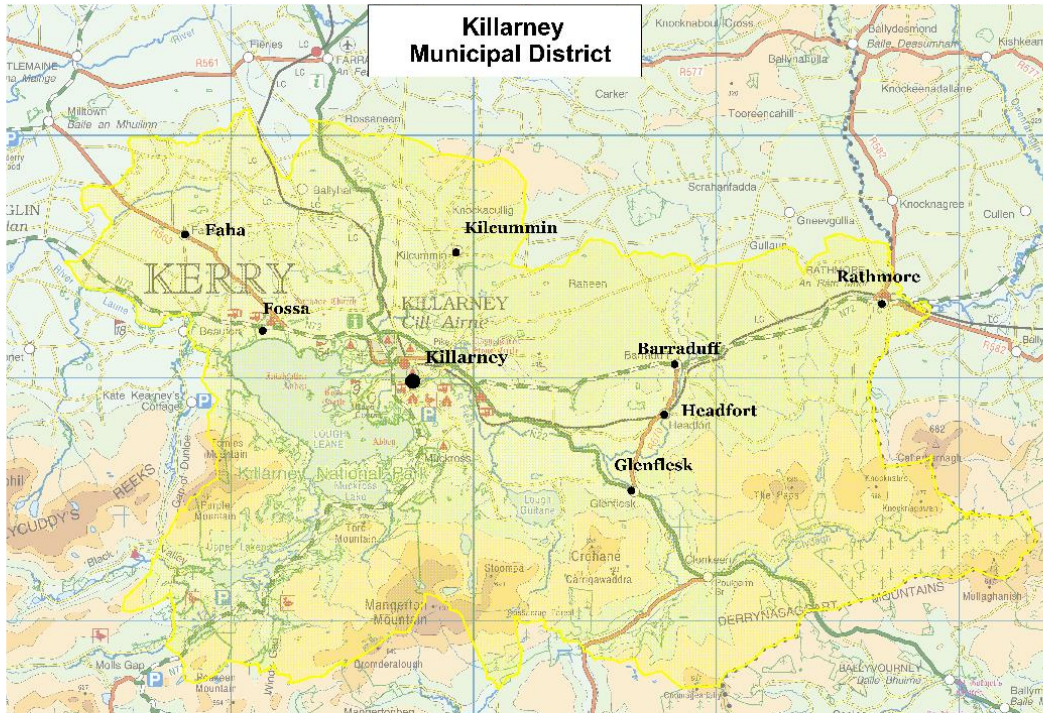


Figure 1: Killarney Municipal District Area and Settlements

What is a Local Area Plan (LAP)?

A Local Area Plan consists of a written statement and maps, which set out the local authority's objectives for the Plan area. The Plan provides the land use framework that will guide development in the area. It is valid for six years from the date of adoption by the Municipal District. Local Area Plans must be compatible with national and regional policy documents and the core strategy and policies of the KCDP 2022-2028. It must respond to opportunities and challenges presented by the current economic climate and promote continued economic and social development. The LAP must achieve balance between the needs and aspirations of the community with the requirements of the Planning Authority and the expectations of stakeholders.

A Municipal District (MD) Plan should:

- Provide a Framework for Sustainable Development
- Promote Local Economic Development & Employment Growth
- Integrate Environmental Considerations
- Deliver High Quality Urban Design
- Encourage Active Travel Patterns
- Improve People's Quality of Life & Focus on Community Needs
- Protect the Built, Natural and Linguistic/Cultural Heritage of the Area

Vision & Aims of the Plan

The first stage of the process includes undertaking pre-draft consultation (by publishing an issues paper) to explore current issues and inviting all stakeholders and interested parties to identify the issues that they feel need to be addressed in the plan, and how the area should be developed. The Local Area Plan will be underpinned by a strategic vision which is intended to guide the future development of the area in a sustainable manner, in a way that reflects the existing character and amenities of the area and improves quality of life for the existing and future population.

What is the purpose of the Issues Paper?

The purpose of this Issues Paper is intended to get you thinking about the type of land-use issues that might be addressed in the new Killarney MD Local Area Plan, and to encourage you to make a submission on these issues, or any other planning issues that you think are important and provides an important opportunity for people living in Killarney MD area to get involved in the plan preparation process. Whether you are a younger or an older person, an individual or a community/sports group, a business, a resident, an entrepreneur or a voluntary organisation, your opinion matters.

Public participation (including the interests of children) is an essential element in the planning process, and in particular in the formation of planning policies which will shape the future development of the Killarney Municipal District.

Planning Context

The Killarney MD LAP must be consistent with the objectives of the higher order plans, including the Kerry County Development Plan (KCDP) 2022-2028, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Southern Region and the National Planning Framework (NPF). Local Area Plans are located at the lower end of the hierarchy of national, regional and county level plans. In terms of the Local Area Plan process see below timescales in relation to the preparation and adoption of the Local Area Plan, including public consultation periods.

The Local Area Plan Process Timeline			
Stage	Stage Description	Process Timeframe	
1	Pre-Draft Stage	Pre-draft Public Consultation Issues Paper – 9 th February to 10 th March 2023	
2	Draft Plan Stage	Public Display of Draft LAP (6 Weeks)	
		Chief Executive’s Report on Submissions Received (6 Weeks)	
		Council Members Consider the Chief Executive’s Report (6 Weeks)	
3	Amendments to Draft Plan	Adopt or Amend LAP (3 weeks)	
		Amendments SEA/AA Screening of amendments commences	
		Public Notice of Material Alterations and Screening Report, Full Environmental Report if Deemed Necessary and Available Subject to Section 20(3) (G) (3 Weeks)	
		Public Display (4 Weeks)	
		Preparation of Chief Executive’s Report (4 Weeks)	
		Chief Executive’s Report (6 Weeks)	
		Council Members Decision (6 Weeks)	
5	Adopted Plan	Adoption of Local Area Plan (This comes into effect 4 weeks from the date of adoption)	

Note: Exact dates may change over the course of the process

Table 1: The Local Area Plan Process Timeline

ISSUES PAPER TOPICS	Page
1. Killarney MD Settlements	6
2. Climate Change & Achieving a Sustainable Future 2.1 Energy & Energy Conservation	7-9
3. Core & Settlement Strategy	9
4. Settlements and Sustainable Compact Growth 4.1 Key Town – Killarney 4.2 District Towns – Barraduff, Kilcummin and Rathmore 4.3 Villages and Small Village Settlements – Fossa, Faha, Glenflesk and Headford	9-15
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1. Killarney MD Settlements

The main settlements within the Municipal District are listed in Table 2 and shown on Figure 1. The Killarney Municipal District contains a key town, three district towns and several villages as identified in the Settlement Hierarchy, Chapter 3 – Core & Settlement Strategy of the Kerry County Development Plan (KCDP) 2022-2028.

Settlements within Killarney Municipal District	
Key Town	Killarney
District Towns	Barraduff, Kilcummin, Rathmore
Villages	Fossa
Small Village Settlements	Faha, Glenflesk, Headford

Table 2: Settlements within Killarney Municipal District

Emphasis will be on the growth of the Key Town of Killarney, and to a lesser extent within Barraduff, Kilcummin and Rathmore, as the principal locations for future investment in housing, employment, infrastructure, social and community facilities.

Key challenges for all these settlements and areas include wastewater infrastructure, population growth, regeneration of town and village centres, digital connectivity, provision of community and social facilities, local infrastructure, active travel linkages and sustainable tourism.

1. KILLARNEY MD SETTLEMENTS

- What policies or objectives should be included and prioritised in the Plan for the development of the overall Killarney MD area?
- What are the key strengths, opportunities and challenges of the Killarney MD area?
- How do you think the Local Area Plan can promote the sustainable development of the Killarney Municipal District to serve the needs of the local community and drive economic development?
- What are the key strengths, opportunities and challenges within your settlement?

2. Climate Change & Achieving a Sustainable Future

The effects of climate change pose a serious threat to quality of life, communities, businesses, the environment and biodiversity. Kerry County Council has a Climate Change Adaption Strategy 2019-2024 addressing adaption (to minimise the effects of climate change, such as extreme weather events, greenhouse gas emissions) and mitigation (to seek ways to prevent climate change such as innovative green construction methods and materials). It will be necessary to make choices about how the Killarney MD balances growth with more sustainable approaches to development and land use and to examine how planning policy can help shape infrastructural decisions.

Spatial planning is a key player in climate change action - particularly mitigation where more compact, less energy-intensive forms of urban development are crucial to reduce CO2 emissions specifically at a local level. These principles must inform the preparation of the LAP and help secure the implementation of the climate change objectives and policies as set out in the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028. The LAP must also recognise the growing importance of biodiversity and nature conservation as a means to both mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The principals of Smarter Travel, Active Travel and Sustainable Mobility are a main tenet of the County Development Plan. Green options for travel, transport and movement are critical to achieving national climate targets, healthier lifestyles, and for progressive economic development. Active Travel is travelling with a purpose (excluding leisure purposes) using your own energy including walking (including all users of footpaths) or cycling as part of a journey to school, to the shop or a commute to work. The location of residential communities and workspaces along with supporting transport infrastructure including roads, footpaths and cycleways, is fundamental for sustainable communities, climate action and quality of life considerations. It is essential that the new LAP promotes an integrated transport system in line with national transport policy to encourage a modal shift to more sustainable modes of transport such as walking, cycling and public transport.

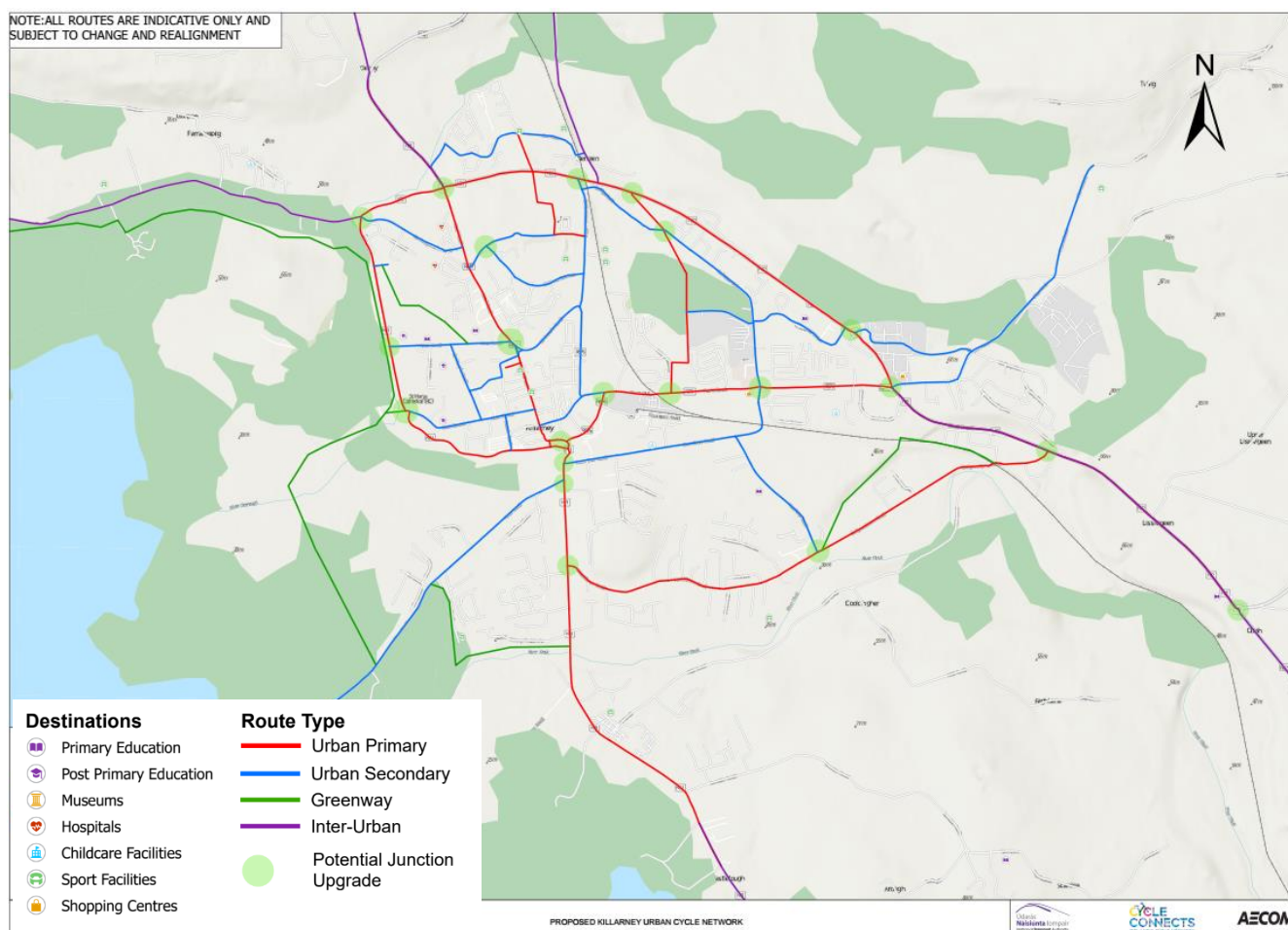


Figure 2: Draft Cycle Connects Strategy for Killarney Town (TII)

Local Transport Plans (LTPs) will be prepared by the Council for the key towns of Tralee and Killarney, based on the Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) guidance produced by the NTA and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). These plans aim to create an integrated network of cycle ways in our settlement centres, to ensure permeability within and between residential areas, linking to town/village centres, schools and places of work. This Plan will support sustainable mobility as part of the National Mitigation Plan 2017 and the Climate Action Plan 2021 and support the use of electric vehicles and smarter travel initiatives in the county. Greener infrastructure needs to be provided/upgraded in order to achieve sustainable goals of reducing dependency on the car. Figure 2 is an extract from the Draft Cycle Connects Strategy (TII 2022).

2.1 Energy & Energy Conservation

Kerry County Council uses an Energy Management System to monitor usage and to improve energy performance (including energy efficiency & consumption). To date, Kerry County Council has reported 41% energy efficiency and is well on track to reach the 2030 target of 50% energy savings. One of the aims of the County Development Plan is to focus on alternative energy sources (renewable) and energy conservation. The Council has taken a proactive approach in this regard with several schemes in place and others forthcoming including the use of renewable energy to cater for housing needs. The Council will also facilitate the National Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP) which involves the retrofit of all public lights in the County with energy efficient LED lanterns commencing in Q1 2023.

2. CLIMATE CHANGE & ACHIEVING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

- a) How can the Plan support our transition to a low carbon climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy? How can we increase awareness of climate change in the Plan area?
- b) What methods should be encouraged to maximise renewable energy provision for commercial/industrial and residential developments?
- c) How can the concepts of Active Travel & Smarter Travel be incorporated into the Plan?
- d) How do we best accommodate a shift toward Active Travel modes of transport and reduce car dependency?
- e) Have you any specific suggestions to encourage the use of public transport, cycling and walking?
- f) How do you think the Plan can provide for good connectivity for recreational walking and cycling purposes?
- g) Are there areas where new or improved footpaths, cycle ways, parking, roadways and links to public transport services should be provided?
- h) How do we reallocate road space to be prioritised for active travel users?
- i) How can rural transport and accessibility be improved?
- j) How can the Plan improve transport and connectivity for older and less-abled people and children?
- k) How can transport and accessibility be improved outside of urban areas?
- l) How can greater emphasis be put on emerging technology solutions, e.g., electric vehicles?
- m) What are the key movement and active travel issues affecting residents, workers, and visitors?
- n) How do we establish pedestrian and cyclist connectivity between existing and new residential areas?
- o) How can the Plan promote renewable energy while protecting the landscape, residential amenity & ecology of the area?
- p) How do we encourage and promote energy conservation and minimise usage?
- q) How can we further expand our energy efficient low carbon initiatives in Killarney MD?



3. Core & Settlement Strategy

The Core Strategy of the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 provides for a population allocation of 9,363 persons for over the 6-year plan period, which equates to approximately 7,000 new houses. Kerry County Council are required to identify and reserve an appropriate amount of land in suitable locations to meet housing and population targets. The table below indicates the housing unit target for the main settlements over a 6-year period.

	2016 Population	Housing Unit Targets
Kerry	147,707	7,000
Killarney	14,504	1,277
Barraduff	170	45
Kilcummin	435	31
Rathmore	790	57

Table 3: Housing Unit Targets as per the KCDP

Future housing supply in the Killarney MD Area must be provided in a sustainable manner and demonstrate consistency with the policies and objectives, including the Core Strategy, of the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028. Development should be within the footprint of existing settlements maximising the use of brownfield sites, infill sites and re-use of existing housing stock/vacant buildings.

3.CORE & SETTLEMENT STRATEGY

- a) How can we encourage efficient use of zoned and serviced land and where are the key opportunity sites in your area that are suitable for (re)development?
- b) Given the amount of undeveloped residential zoned land, how do you think development can be reconciled and managed having regard to the target population?
- c) What do you think are the priorities for housing in terms of size & type of housing? Are more town centre apartments needed, family housing or specialist housing (for example for older people)?

4. Settlements and Sustainable Compact Growth

The towns and villages in the Killarney MD area all have their own strengths and characteristics from a social, cultural, heritage and economic perspective. Towns and villages play a critical role in the overall socio-economic, environmental, cultural development and quality of life of citizens and visitors alike. The policies of the Local Area Plan must consider the cumulative impacts of regeneration and redevelopment of major sites and ensure that appropriate social, community and cultural facilities are provided to both facilitate and address projected population growth. Housing delivery in our towns, villages and rural areas needs to be carefully balanced so as not to undermine the long-term viability of the individual towns and villages ensuring in particular that key local community facilities are retained and continue to be viable. If development outside of existing settlements continues it will weaken the attractiveness of towns and villages to inward investment, future jobs and services.

The Planning Authority recognises that towns and villages have faced considerable challenges in recent years and town centre/village renewal is key to ensuring the long-term sustainability of many of the settlements in terms of sustainable jobs growth, the retention of services and retail offering. Conversely unsustainable patterns of high rates of development in rural areas can result in excessive car based commuting patterns in order to access employment, retail and other services and places greater demands on uneconomical infrastructure development and the need for other services outside of the main settlement areas. In addition, this settlement pattern is at odds with climate action policy which seeks to reduce car dependency, journey frequency and seeks to encourage active modes of transport (walking & cycling).

Typical housing patterns seen in recent times in many Irish towns have consisted of individual housing areas which has often led to poor connectivity between these residential areas and key community facilities such as schools, shops, leisure, and healthcare facilities and with an overreliance on private vehicles, with little attention paid to pedestrian and cycle accessibility, or access to the public transport network.

It is a policy of the Council to promote active travel and the 10 Minute Town Concept. The 10 Minute Town Concept seeks to have all community facilities and services accessible within a 10-minute walk or cycle from homes or are accessible by public transport services connecting people to larger scaled settlements.

A high-quality public realm enhances the character of any place, urban design in towns and villages is an important element which contributes to placemaking (buildings, uses, streets, footpaths, open spaces) and ensures that those elements create an attractive and distinct environment for people to enjoy.

The Council seeks to provide new or improved footpaths, cycle ways and links to public transport services where needed. The Council will seek to promote Killarney as an “Accessible Town”, making it cycling/pedestrian friendly, thereby increasing connectivity for everyone including children, older and less-abled people and improve accessibility throughout settlements in the Killarney MD.

4. SETTLEMENTS AND SUSTAINABLE COMPACT GROWTH

- a) How can we increase residential living in the settlement core?
- b) How can we encourage the reuse of vacant properties and address dereliction to revitalise village/town centres so that they are vibrant, welcoming, attractive places to live and work in, visit and shop?
- c) How can alternative options to rural housing be provided within smaller towns and villages?
- d) What public realm and town/village regeneration projects are needed to enhance the overall vibrancy in your town or village?
- e) How can we provide better infrastructure to incentivise compact growth and Access for All?
- f) What needs to be implemented in order to achieve the 10 minute town concept?

4.1 Key Town - Killarney

Killarney is designated as a Key Town in the settlement hierarchy of the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028. It is the main administrative, retail, health, education and service centre for central Kerry and provides a large portion of the county’s recreational facilities, culture, archaeological and architectural heritage.

The long-term vision for Killarney is to enhance its position as a regional economic driver and a ‘**Destination Town**’ that is competitive nationally and internationally in attracting investment, talent, enterprise and visitors. Killarney’s pathway to transition and regeneration will enhance its competitiveness in attracting new residents, visitors and national and international investment. This will be achieved through increased high-quality employment spaces, residential opportunities and the development of a very high quality environment, by means of strategic investment in office development, public realm improvements, leisure and amenity areas and strengthening Killarney’s sense of place and identity.



Kerry County Council has been very pro-active in developing and advancing a number of projects and plans for Killarney. These include:

- Killarney Public Realm Strategy
- Áras Phádraig Regeneration Site
- Sara Lee regeneration site

Over €21m in funding has been secured by KCC under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) for projects including the regeneration of the Áras Phádraig Site with a new Primary Care facility, a town centre quarter and cultural heritage experience and public realm upgrades.

The further development of Killarney Town as a **world class tourist destination** includes developing new visitor experiences by enhancing and extending the “Authentic” Killarney offer while also expanding and diversifying the Town Core’s offering, through creating an accessible tourist experience aligned with the Principal of Universal Access.

Building on and extending the existing culture and heritage of the town through the creation of Cultural and Art/Craft Quarters, creating and defining linkages between areas of historic and cultural significance and sensitively merging the National Park as part of the Town Core experience will all add to achieving the vision for Killarney. Other elements which must be addressed include improved connectivity throughout the town and with the National Park and tackling traffic congestion by transitioning to Low Carbon and sustainable modes of transport (walking & cycling).





ANAM Arts and Cultural Centre

The KCC ANAM centre underwent a complete refurbishment which has transformed the building for use as a flexible, adaptable and contemporary space, both internally and externally, which can host arts and cultural performances. The refurbished venue has an indoor seating capacity of 67 seats to cater for small events and can be re-arranged, utilising the auditorium as a stage area with outdoor seating of 131 seats for outdoor entertainment in the summer months.

Opportunity Sites [Brownfield / Regeneration]

There are a number of existing brownfield and infill sites which present development opportunities of a residential/mixed use nature which would reinvigorate the town core area and there are incentives in place to assist in the development of these sites including reduced development contributions. These sites include St. Finan’s, Áras Phádraig, Sara Lee and other smaller sites within the town boundary.



St. Finan’s Site

The redevelopment of the St. Finan’s site [13.8ha] offers a significant opportunity for regeneration. It has the potential to accommodate significant mixed-use development, including a cultural/tourist use. Development on the site should incorporate a strong social and community element which reflects the historic use of the site. There is also potential for residential use. The Council will require the preparation of a masterplan/design brief prior to the redevelopment of the lands.



Áras Phádraig Site

Plans for this 1ha site are currently being developed including a new primary care unit and cultural/heritage/community use with associated car parking provisions. It is ideally located within close proximity of the town core.



Sara Lee/Pretty Polly site

There are plans for a new 3rd level campus in partnership with the Kerry ETB as a training facility for graduates to work in the tourism and hospitality sector. This 3ha brownfield site currently contains a derelict factory building and has been vacant since 2009.

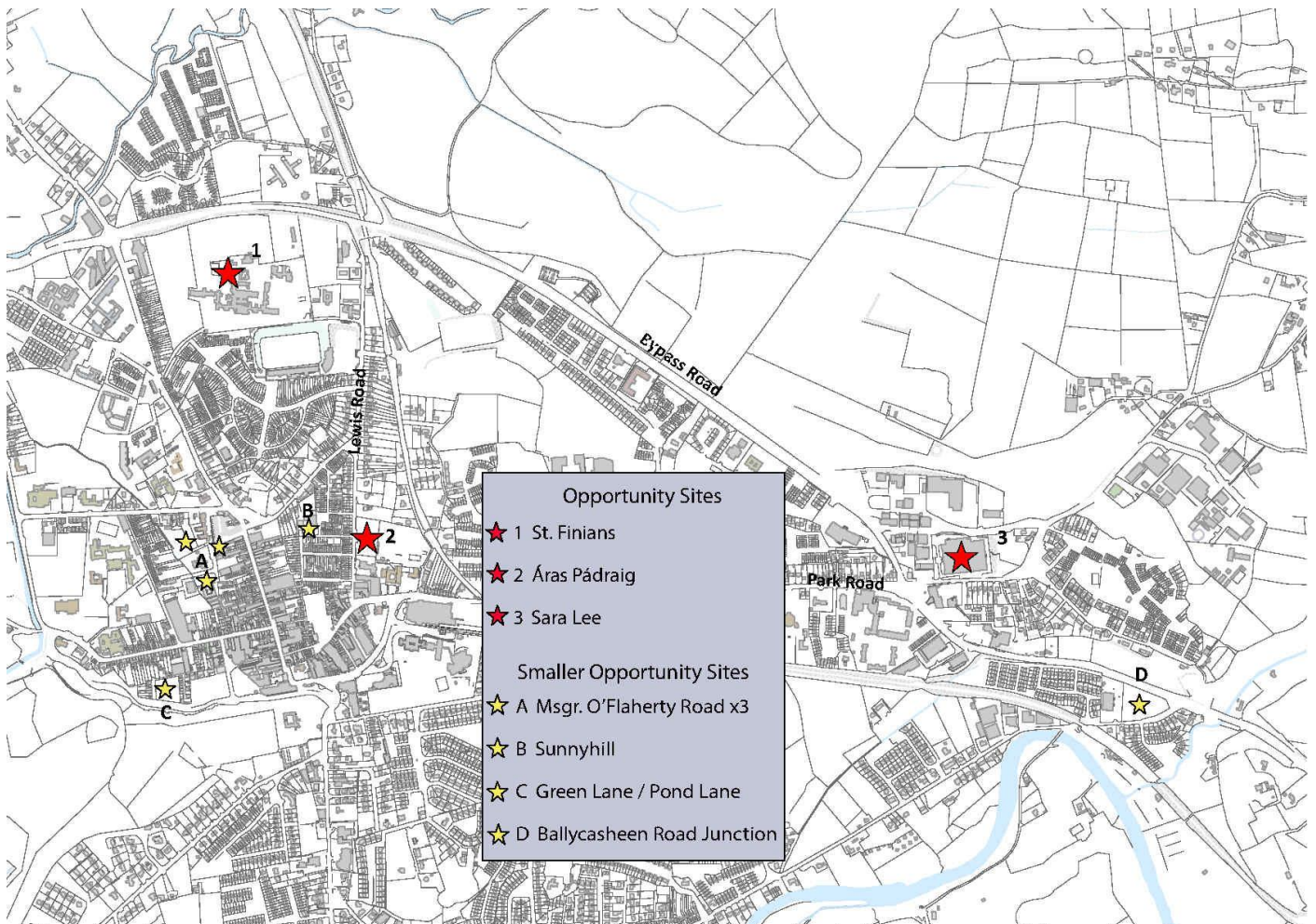


Figure 4: Opportunity Sites within Killarney Town

4.1 KEY TOWN – KILLARNEY

- a) How can we build upon its designation as a Key Town?
- b) How can the URDF funding secured for Killarney's 'Destination Town' Project and the Strategic Regeneration of Killarney Town be maximised?
- c) Where should new retail/commercial developments be located?
- d) How can we facilitate and promote "living over the shop" and other town centre residential initiatives?
- e) How do we increase residential living in the town centre & what facilities are required to encourage people to live in the town?
- f) How do you envisage the opportunity sites outlined in Figure 4 being sustainably developed?
- g) What infrastructure is required to further town enhancement and economic development?
- h) How can we facilitate compact growth patterns and interconnectivity within the town?
- i) What public realm and town regeneration projects are needed to enhance the overall vibrancy in the town?
- j) How can the Plan improve promote Killarney as an "Accessible Town", thereby increasing connectivity for older and less-abled people and children?

4.2 District Towns

The District Towns of the Killarney Municipal District are identified as **Rathmore, Barraduff and Kilcummin**. It is a strategic aim of the settlement strategy to support the sustainable development and growth of these settlements to meet population targets as set out in the County Development Plan at a scale, layout and design that reflects the character of each town, so they can act as adequate service and employment centres for the surrounding hinterlands. While it is anticipated that these settlements will continue to play a vital role in providing accommodation for a proportion of the Municipal's District's existing population and in supporting rural communities; it is essential that these settlements harness and maximise their economic potential through broadening their commercial bases beyond a primarily residential function.

Rathmore

The District Town of Rathmore is a strong, active and vibrant town. It provides a wide range of facilities including educational, health facilities, and many other diverse community services. It was allocated funding for Town & Village Enhancement Works and recent upgrades have improved the quality of the public realm in the town. A new 20-unit social housing development has been constructed in the town which bring much needed housing as well as vibrancy and vitality to the town. Under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, by the Department of Social Protection and Rural Affairs, €100,000 of funding was allocated in 2021 for undergrounding ESB wires.

Barraduff

Barraduff is located between Killarney and Rathmore and functions as local driver for its surrounding area through its well-established social function. It plays an educational role with the provision of a national primary school as well as a GAA club, convenience shops and service stations. It supports clusters of services and has a significant share of homes, including the delivery of new social housing with over 50 residential units constructed in the settlement over the past number of years. Under the Community Centres Investment Fund Barraduff Community Field Organisation has been allocated over €15,000 in funding to improve its facilities.

Kilcummin

This District Town is a strong settlement located in close proximity to Killarney Town. Further residential development within the settlement can be accommodate, particularly given the recent upgrade of the wastewater treatment plant. Kilcummin provides local services and amenities for both its residents and its hinterland including a national primary school, church, community centre, GAA club, convenience shop with post office. Kilcummin Looking Good was recently awarded a grant through the Communities Activity Fund 2021, from Kerry County Council and Department of Rural & Community Development. The group have also attained a separate grant of €1300 under the Community Support Fund through the Killarney Municipal District / Kerry County Council.

4.3 Villages and Small Village Settlements

The Killarney Municipal District Area is generally characterised by both **rural areas under significant urban influence** and **rural areas under urban influence**. The environs and rural areas surrounding Killarney are under significant urban influence. The current level and pattern of development in these rural areas is unsustainable resulting in a reduction in its value as a regional asset by damaging the landscape, water quality, biodiversity interests and increasing car dependency and high energy usage.

The balance between housing delivery in our towns, villages and rural areas needs to be carefully managed so as not to undermine the long-term viability of the individual towns and villages ensuring in particular that key local community facilities are retained and continue to be viable. This pattern of development outside of existing settlements will continue to weaken the attractiveness of these towns and villages to inward investment, future jobs and services.

Fossa

Fossa village with its scenic lakeland/woodland setting overlooking Lough Leane and the MacGillycuddy Reeks, is an attractive and popular residential location within easy commuting distance of Killarney and Killorglin. Its proximity to these economic centres, its landscape and its setting makes it a very desirable location and creates pressure for new “urban generated” residential development within and around Fossa. It is important that the individual character and identity of Fossa is retained and strengthened. In terms of infrastructure, a major road safety project including traffic calming measures and enhanced pedestrian and cycling facilities along the N72 is progressing for Fossa.

Faha, Glenflesk and Headford are small village settlements that serve smaller rural catchments and provide local services with some small-scale rural enterprises. The settlements are predominately residential in character, and it is anticipated that their existing character and function will remain primarily as residential with new clusters of housing.

Faha

Faha is a small village settlement located in close proximity to Killarney Town. It contains a national primary school and GAA Club which also serve the wider hinterland. Under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2022 funding has been allocated to Faha, Cloghane to develop a plan for the Mount Brandon base.

Glenflesk

Glenflesk is a small village settlement located to the south-west of Killarney Town, on the main Cork to Tralee road (N22). It provides a church, GAA club and service station for the local community. In recent years funding has been obtained for flood relief works in the Glenflesk area.

Headford

Headford is a small village settlement located to the west of Killarney Town with no defined centre to the village. Knockanes National School is located within the settlement and recently (late 2022) received funding from the Department of Education for an extension to its existing facilities.

Cluster Developments

As an alternative to one off housing, and to consolidate the existing pattern of development around focal points and to utilise existing services in an area, clusters of housing served by individual wastewater treatment systems where there is no wastewater infrastructure or no plans for such infrastructure can now be considered (**Faha, Glenflesk, Headford**). Provision of housing in these areas will revitalise small settlements and support existing or encourage new services and facilities.

4.2 AND 4.3 DEVELOPMENT OF DISTRICT TOWNS, VILLAGES AND SMALL VILLAGE SETTLEMENTS

- a) How do we promote appropriate development, a sense of place and still retain the unique identity of your settlement?
- b) How do we increase residential living in villages and what facilities are required to encourage people to live in villages?
- c) Is there adequate provision of street furniture in the villages/settlements? e.g. public seating, planters?
- d) What public realm and town/village regeneration projects are needed to enhance the overall vibrancy in your settlement?
- e) How can cluster developments provide alternative options to rural housing smaller towns and villages?

5.Sustainable Communities

Community infrastructure plays a vital role in contributing to the quality of life for all. The physical environment should develop in such a way that it facilitates the healthy functioning of sustainable community and cultural life. Services and amenities including crèches, schools, amenities, recreation and other community facilities should be provided in tandem with residential development. The provision of an adequate level and distribution of community facilities and amenities that meet the current and future needs of the local community will be a priority.

5.SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

- a) What type of community facilities and local services are currently needed in your area and in new residential communities?
- b) How can the Plan utilise and enhance existing amenity areas in the towns and villages and provide for adequate open space and recreational facilities for both passive and active recreation?
- c) What community infrastructure, childcare services and sports facilities are lacking and where should these be located?
- d) Are there enough facilities in your area for younger and older residents and people with a disability?
- e) What natural features/routes can be developed as interconnecting walking routes and cycleways?



6. Housing & Active Land Management

The KCDP provides for the implementation of the objectives of Housing for All – A New Housing Plan for Ireland. It seeks to deliver on the vision of both the NPF and RSES in relation to compact growth, and the implementation of active land management measures.

The KCDP 2022-2028 and the forthcoming LAP seek to deliver a new approach to active land management. The achievement of compact growth targets and regeneration will be supported through the implementation of active land management measures which promote the development of infill and brownfield lands, and strategically located serviced greenfield sites that support the principles of consolidated growth.

The programme of active land management to tackle dereliction, vacancy and underutilisation of lands will be implemented through a series of initiatives including compulsory acquisitions and the emerging Residential Zoned Land Tax. Killarney is facing major constraints with regards to the availability of land for housing developments. The aim of the Residential Zoned Land Tax is to activate and bring forward the development of housing on lands that are suitably zoned and serviced, by encouraging activation of existing planning permissions on lands and to incentivise suitable lands without planning permission to commence the process of engagement with planning authorities.

Furthermore, KCC assists people in the provision of suitable accommodation for those who are unable to provide their own by utilising the various social housing options and facilitating the development of sustainable communities. Given the current conflict in Eastern Europe, KCC is playing an active role in supporting and hosting families who require our assistance in securing accommodation and getting access to other supports.

6. HOUSING & ACTIVE LAND MANAGEMENT

- a) How can we encourage efficient use of zoned and serviced land?
- b) How can we best meet the housing needs of all sectors of our community?
- c) Would you like to see a more varied type/mix of housing in the settlements?
- d) How can we assist in the hosting and integration of displaced families into our communities?

7. Culture & Heritage

The Plan area has a vibrant living culture that is engrained in local communities, including a wealth of heritage and traditional arts, design & crafts as well as contemporary arts practice. The Plan area continues to attract creative people as a place to live and create work and enriches the experience for those visiting the Killarney MD area in terms of heritage, culture and local enterprise offerings.

It is important that the natural and built heritage of the towns and villages and surrounding areas are safeguarded against inappropriate development. The built heritage of the plan area refers to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) and special aspects of a settlement's-built heritage will be highlighted

in the LAP. There are a number of ACAs in the Killarney MD area which are located in Killarney Town and are listed in Volume 3 of the KCDP 2022-2028.

7. CULTURE & HERITAGE

- a) What aspects of the built and natural heritage do you consider important and should be protected from inappropriate development?
- b) How can the landscape and built heritage be suitably protected, conserved and enhanced while accommodating the development needs of the area?
- c) How can the LAP encourage the reuse, integration and regeneration of protected structures and older vacant structures located in town and village centre areas?
- d) How can public realm projects help to enhance the heritage of the Killarney MD area?
- e) How do we conserve and animate Killarney MD's Rich Heritage?

8. Economic Development

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region and the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 has recognised the Kerry Hub and Knowledge Triangle as having potential of 'Economic Development of Regional Significance' due to the existing level of population, employment, education and research facilities and potential due to its location as part of a wider regional economic zone. The Kerry Hub and Knowledge Triangle is recognised as an innovative economic hub within the established network of Killarney, Tralee, Killorglin and the Atlantic Economic Corridor. The RSES recognises the important economic role of this network and its strong association with third level institutions.

Economic development provides the backbone for progress and sustainability for many settlements in the Killarney MD area. A key focus of the new Local Area Plan will be to ensure that the conditions for the creation of enterprise and innovation are embraced and developed and to encourage and facilitate a diversity of employment opportunities and promote inward investment. While many residents will continue to commute to other centres for employment, it is important that all towns and small villages retain and further develop their social and economic infrastructure to function as sustainable communities.



8. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- a) How do you think the Plan can promote the development of the MD to drive economic development?
- b) What development should happen in your area to attract further investment, create local jobs and foster local economic development and entrepreneurship?
- c) What supports/services are required to sustain and grow employment and employment potential?
- d) How can we promote new and existing micro enterprises?
- e) How can the Plan best support new and evolving work patterns?
- f) How can a range of employment opportunities be provided locally so as to reduce unemployment and reduce dependency on the private car?
- g) How can the Plan enhance the appeal of the area to prospective investors and employees/talent?
- h) How can we compete nationally & internationally for investment and skilled workers?

9. Education

The development of the **Munster Technological University (MTU)** has the potential to deliver significant economic benefits to students in the county and wider region, and to the broader local economy and society. The creation of MTUs multi-campus technological university with six campuses across the South-West region in Cork and Kerry and a student body of 18,000 brings greater social and economic benefits to the region through a strengthened role in research and innovation and the delivery of a broad range of high-quality education and training in each of their campuses.



Kerry ETB

Kerry ETB delivers its Education and Training Programmes from 37 Schools/Centres and over 100 Outreach centres across the county. The ETB has an annual budget of circa €52 million employing over 1,000 staff with approximately 15,000 students/learners annually. The ETB has committed to developing a new facility at the Sara Lee site in Killarney. Kerry County Council recognises the important role played by the ETB in the county and supports its further development and main aims which are creating and promoting the development of a lifelong learning society in Kerry, so that all who live there have access to the education and training required to fulfil their potential and meet their personal, social, cultural, economic and civic needs.



9. EDUCATION

- a) How can the MTU and Kerry ETB be further strengthened and enhanced within the county?
- b) Is there a need to zone additional lands for educational purposes within your town/village?

10. Tourism & Outdoor Recreation

Killarney occupies a very significant place in Irish tourism. It has evolved from its historical association as one of Ireland's original tourism destinations to become an internationally recognised tourism hub. Killarney's location in the Killarney National Park, which is a UNESCO Biosphere reserve, is significantly important and the growth of the town must be managed to ensure that future tourism developments do not compromise the future of this National Park Reserve.



The wider Killarney MD LAP area has attractive towns and village settlements, a fantastic natural environment including the internationally renowned Lakes of Killarney. There are also superb activity amenities, and the internationally renowned championship Killarney golf course is a huge draw for international golfers. Continued investments over recent years in infrastructure and attractions have added to the competitiveness of the region internationally for tourists. Future major infrastructural projects committed to by the Local Authority include the development of the Killarney 10minute town, Fossa way to Gap of Dunloe Greenway and the development of the old Castleisland - Gortalea - Fieries railway line as a greenway.

The Failte Ireland destination Plan entitled '**Killarney Destination and Experience Development Plan**', aims to create a sustainable tourism destination by extending the tourism season and spreading business across all parts of the region over the next five years. The forthcoming LAP will set out to build upon this with a sustainable tourism future that maximises and diversifies the tourism product to the highest standard and to extend the tourist season taking particular care of the natural and built environment.

10. TOURISM & OUTDOOR RECREATION

- a) In addition to current provision, what are the opportunities for developing additional sustainable tourism and recreational assets in your area?
- b) Are there areas that have the potential to be developed for tourism and recreational purposes?

- c) Are there specific areas of tourism that should be targeted e.g. heritage, leisure, activity tourism, and how can the Local Area Plan facilitate these?
- d) How can the development of cycleways help to maximise economic opportunities along the route?
- e) What additional facilities, amenities or improvements would enhance the appeal and value of our public open spaces and/or our other amenities?
- f) What additional supporting infrastructure/enhancements should be provided to maximise the potential of our existing amenities?
- g) How do you think the Plan can provide for good connectivity for recreational walking and cycling purposes? Is there any specific location that you feel this Plan can address?

11. Environment

The Killarney MD LAP area has many designated nature conservation sites with International, European and National protection status.

High-quality open spaces and amenity areas are essential for a good quality of life including nature conservation areas, parks, open space, rivers, floodplains, wetlands, woodlands, farmland and greenways which support and improve environmental conditions in a way that facilitates environmental, economic and societal benefits.

Flood risk is a key consideration in preparing a Local Area Plan. The Council seeks to avoid flood risk, substitute less vulnerable uses, when avoidance is not possible, and mitigate/manage the risk where avoidance and substitution are not possible. There are some flood risk areas within the Killarney MD which will be highlighted in the LAP.



Killarney National Park and Kerry UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

Killarney National Park contains the most extensive covering of native forest remaining in Ireland covering 10,236 hectares (26,000 acres). This is of high ecological value because of the quality, diversity, and extensiveness of many of its habitats and the wide variety of species that it accommodates. The park was designated an UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve in 1981 and in 2017 the area of the Biosphere Reserve was extended to include areas outside the National Park and the name changed to the Kerry Biosphere Reserve that we know today. While it is home to both the oak and yew woodland, it is also Ireland’s only known breeding ground for the native herd of Red Deer.

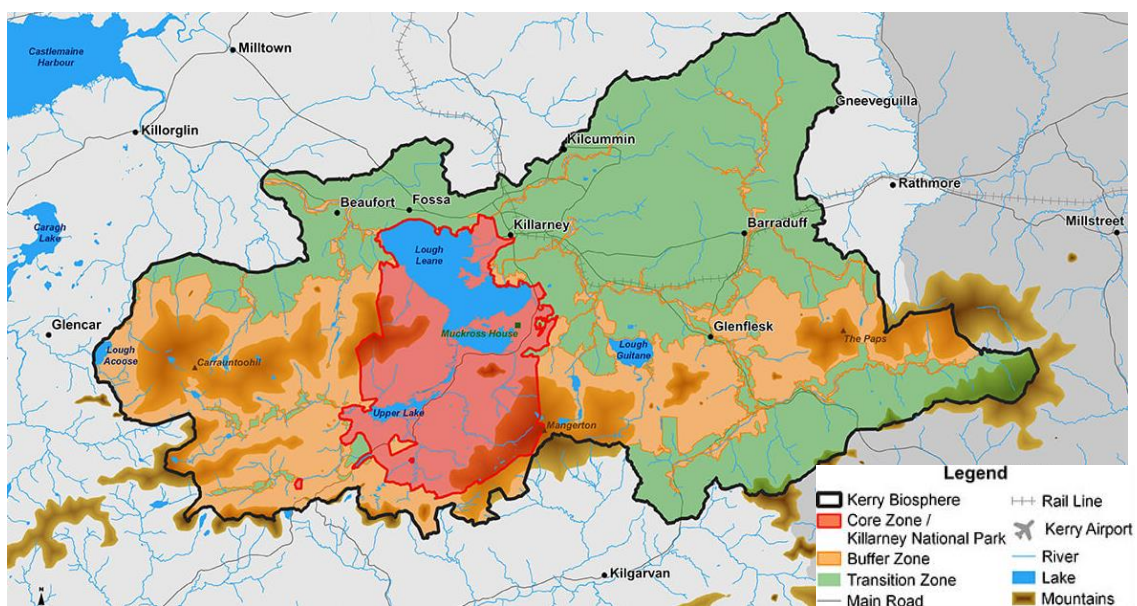


Figure 3: Kerry Biosphere Reserve

The National Park and Wildlife Services (NPWS) in conjunction with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government are responsible for the Management of Killarney National Park. The Kerry Biosphere Reserve is managed in partnership between the NPWS, Kerry County Council and South Kerry Development Partnership.

11. ENVIRONMENT

- a) What do you think are the big environmental issues facing the Plan area?
- b) How best can we integrate a Green Infrastructure approach to the area incorporating the themes of open space, biodiversity, landscape, water and archaeology?
- c) Are there local parks or green areas which you feel could benefit from enhancement or works to improve their biodiversity?
- d) How can the Plan encourage the protection and enhancement of species and habitats?
- e) How can the Plan address flood risk and build resilience to better cope with the increasing frequency of extreme weather events?
- f) How can we better promote and designate biodiversity and pollinator areas?

12. Water & Waste Management

The provision and maintenance of high-quality service infrastructure is vital to attracting and retaining economic development and improving the quality of life for those who live in the area. These include water supply and drainage, waste management, pollution management, utility supply, broadband/ telecommunications services and roads. There is a need to plan for all of these infrastructural elements to ensure the future sustainable development of the Plan area. Investment in new or additional capacity in water services will be informed by national, regional and local planning policy and addressed through Irish Water's Capital Investment Plans. Population growth has been identified in areas with public services and facilities and close collaboration with Irish Water in relation to the investment and upkeep of these facilities. It is a key priority for KCC to facilitate the upgrade of wastewater infrastructure in order to enable the settlements to grow in a sustainable manner. Irish Water has secured planning permission for the upgrade to the existing sewerage network in Kilcummin as the existing foul and surface water sewer system is at capacity.

There is a drainage plan being carried out for Tralee, Killarney and Listowel which will map the storm and drains network. The plan will address current issues and set out a coherent drainage plan for each of the settlements.

12. WATER & WASTE MANAGEMENT

- a) What measures can be introduced to protect & safeguard the quality of our rivers and groundwater?
- b) Are there any concerns with regard to water and sewerage or other infrastructural matters, which you feel the Plan could address?
- c) Are there adequate recycling facilities in your area and if not, where should they be located?

13. Digital Connectivity

KCC recognises the importance of a modern and efficient telecommunications sector for the future development of the Killarney MD area. The Council will seek to ensure that improvements in transportation and digital infrastructure services support the strategic development and settlement strategy for the Killarney MD area as set out in the KCDP 2022-2028 and provide an appropriate level of accessibility to urban and rural facilities, services and opportunities.

It recognises that high speed broadband is essential in a knowledge-based economy and that the IT sector has huge potential for employment creation in the Killarney MD area. It is an objective of the Planning Authority as set out in the KCDP to facilitate and support community innovation hubs, digital hubs, food hubs, start-ups and centres of excellence (with particular opportunities for innovation in agri-food, agri-tech, marine research, creative industries, knowledge economy etc.) as local drivers for growth.

The KCDP also supports a more integrated approach to settlement growth and promotes the location of employment, including digital hubs, close to residential areas and services such as schools and shops.

Kerry County Council has been proactively involved in supporting the growth of smart towns and villages and the provision of digital hubs in the county. The forthcoming Digital Strategy for the county will drive and support 'live-work' communities and promote social cohesion to create a healthy digital society.

13. DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY

- a) How can the plan support the provision of telecommunications & broadband network?
- b) How can the plan support the creation of 'live-work' communities?

CONTACT

LOCATION SOCIAL MEDIA

Kerry County Council
County Buildings
Rathass
Tralee
County Kerry
(066) 7183500

 @kerrycountycouncil
 @countykerry
 kerrycountycouncil