

## 3.2.2 Kenmare

### 3.2.2.1 Context

Kenmare Town is a picturesque Heritage Town situated on the scenic international tourist Ring of Kerry driving route. It is located c. 32km south of Killarney accessed via the N71 Moll's Gap Road or c. 42 km when travelling the N22 and the R569 roads via Kilgarvan. Kenmare has the benefit of being a nucleus of a community with numerous core facilities, services and amenities. It has a well-defined visual identity and the objective in future development is to respect this character.

Kenmare sits on the northern shore of Kenmare River, which is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The Finnihy River which forms part of the western town boundary is also part of this SAC up as far as Cromwell's Bridge. Kenmare has a wealth of mature trees, woodland areas, streams and rock outcrops which add immensely to the character of the town. The town's attractive setting, streetscape and building stock, its gourmet offering, and niche retail are the focus of its attractiveness as an international visitor destination. Kenmare pier is the focus of a variety of marine based activities which could be utilised more. There are some infrastructural constraints which clearly influence the direction of growth in the town. Some physical constraints also exist, and these are also the natural features that have contributed to its success and are found within and around the town including the woodlands and its scenic bay area which dominates the south & western boundaries of the town.

### 3.2.2.2 Vision and Strategy

The long-term vision for Kenmare is to enhance its position as a tourist destination and historic town that is competitive nationally and internationally in attracting investment, talent, enterprise and visitors. Kenmare's pathway to transition and regeneration will further build on its location on the Ring of Kerry/ Wild Atlantic way. Its scenic location along Kenmare Bay 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 an excellent quality environment, by means of strategic investment in public realm improvements, leisure and amenity areas and strengthening the town's sense of place and identity.

### 3.2.2.3 Planning Considerations and Proposal

Kenmare (along with Cahersiveen and Killorglin) will be the primary focus for development in the Kenmare MD area. This plan facilitates an increase in population appropriate to its status as a regional town. The consolidation of the town settlement and the retention and improvement of local services and facilities to serve the town and surrounding rural area is encouraged. Unused buildings and sites in the town provide opportunity for appropriate development which would assist in the further enhancement of the streetscape.

The Plan supports key pieces of infrastructure needed to facilitate Kenmare's growth to a Key Town in South Kerry. The Kenmare Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade includes works to accommodate recent and future growth in the catchment. Works are due to commence on site in Q3 2023 and be completed in Q2 2026.

One of the key constraints in Kenmare in recent years was the lack of wastewater capacity in the treatment system, however the upgrading will allow for much needed construction of residential units in the town. This was a critical, long standing infrastructural issue that has now been resolved which will allow the town to expand and achieve its potential.

It is a policy of this Plan to promote the development and enhancement of Kenmare as a major tourist centre in the south-west, focusing on the role of the town as an important accommodation and heritage centre with ready access to

numerous activities & outdoor based amenities. It is important that the natural and built heritage of the town and surrounding area must be safeguarded against inappropriate development.

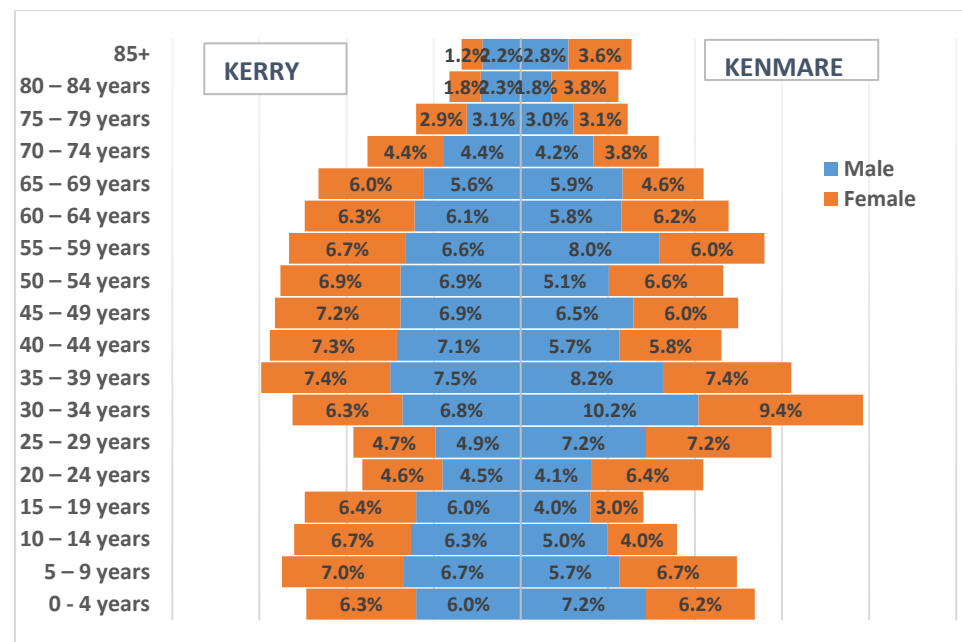
### 3.2.2.4 Population and Sustainable Land-Use Development

The population of Kenmare has seen a steady growth in the years from 2006-2022. The 2022 Census recorded a population of 2,566 persons in Kenmare. Central Statistics Office (CSO) figures from 2016 show that up to 30% of the make-up of the population is non-national compared to 11.6% figure nationally and a figure of 10.7% for Kerry. There are more older people in the age bracket of over 75 living in Kenmare, compared to the county figures indicating its popularity as a place to retire.

Geo-directory figures for the period 2012-2022 illustrate a growth in housing stock of 82 units for that 10-year period. There has been some return to activity in terms of permission being sought for residential development and tourist facilities within the town, although these have been constrained due to the absence of adequate wastewater treatment.

Census year	2006	2011	2016	2022
Kenmare	1,701	2,175	2,376	2,566

**Table 3.4: Kenmare Population Change 2006-2022**



**Figure 3.24: Kenmare Population Age Profile (2016)**

#### 3.2.2.4.1 Residential Development

Kenmare has been allocated a housing target of 204 units under the Core Strategy of the KCDP. Sufficient lands have been zoned at appropriate locations to meet the housing need. To accommodate the proposed population target growth the plan carries forward much of the previously existing zoned lands. The development of these lands is dependent on the upgrading of the wastewater treatment facilities for the town.

Settlement	Housing Target
Kenmare	204

**Table 3.5 Housing Target 2022-2028**

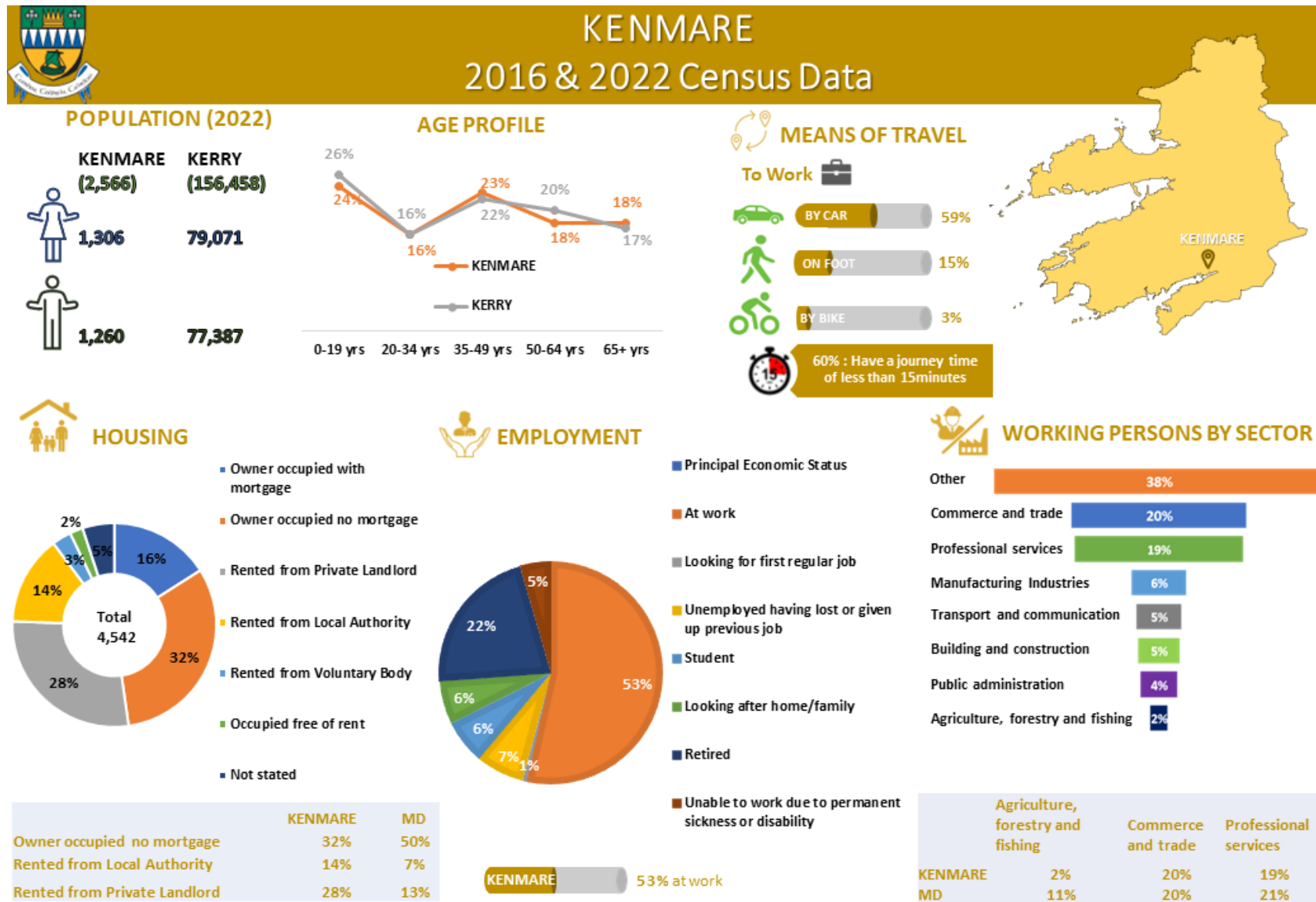


Figure 3.25: Kenmare MD – Key Statistics (Census 2016 & 2022)

There are several infill and vacant sites available for development within proximity of the town centre, to the south-west and south-east. These sites are also within walking distance to schools and the shopping centre with access off the inner relief road.

It is proposed to prioritise the development of residential units on vacant and infill sites within existing cluster developments. Priority will also be given to the promotion of renovation and use/reuse of existing residential property stock in the town first over greenfield development.

Kenmare and its environs (including Gortamullen) is the seventh-largest employment node in County Kerry. Kenmare's local economy is largely tourism based. The town has an international tourism reputation built around its streetscape, heritage and surrounding natural environment of mountains and sea with their associated recreation value, culinary offer and scenic characteristics. As is the case in other towns with a strong tourism base, the largest sector, in employment terms, is 'wholesale, retail trade, transportation, accommodation and food'. 'Education, human health and social work' occupations constitute the second-largest employment sector. Public service employment is relatively low (3%). Almost forty percent (38%) of the people who work in Kenmare are in the three-highest socio-economic groups, and non-manual employees represent the single largest cohort.

Specific employment lands are located to the north of the town in the Kilmurry business and technology park while Gortamullen Business Park is located over 3km to the north of the town. In this plan, other established employment areas are zoned M4 (Built Up Area). Some adjustments have been made to the zoning of lands previously zoned as mixed-use. Where appropriate, lands will be zoned as C5 Tourism and related which is considered more appropriate to the existing and potential land uses in specific areas such as those lands near the Kenmare Bay Hotel. A greater emphasis

is placed on developing infill and brownfield sites in this Plan which should improve the opportunity to provide for sustainable modes of travel. Future development will need to respect the historic town centre and the town's sensitive scenic and coastal setting.

#### **3.2.2.4.2 KCC Commuting Profile – Kenmare (February 2022)**

Kenmare and its environs (including Gortamullen) are the seventh-largest employment node in County Kerry. There are 1,188 jobs in this settlement, of which almost half (49%) are held by workers who reside locally (i.e. within the settlement). Under half (46%) of the jobs are held by workers who commute to Kenmare from other parts of Kerry, while the remainder (5%) are held by workers who commute to Kenmare from outside the county.

As the first of the two commuter-origin maps shows [Figure 3.28], the localities with the highest absolute numbers of persons commuting to Kenmare are from Killarney and the communities that immediately adjoin Kenmare, namely, Bonane, Dawros, Kilgarvan, Tousist and Templeoe. Sneem is also an important, but less significant, source of workers for Kenmare. The second of the commuter-origin maps shows [Figure 3.29] persons travelling to Kenmare as a proportion of the resident workforce (in all EDs). Figure 3.29 illustrates the significance of Kenmare as an employment node for communities on both sides of Kenmare Bay – from Blackwater Bridge to Lauragh; over 30% of the resident workforce in these communities' work in Kenmare. Proportions are similarly high in communities to the north and south of Kenmare – from Moll's Gap to Bonane. Values are lower outside of the aforementioned areas, although they are greater than 15% in Kilgarvan, Tahilla and rural areas to the south of Lauragh.

There are 1,078 resident workers living in Kenmare. Thus, the settlement has a surplus of jobs over workers (+110). Of Kenmare's resident workers, just over half (54%) are employed locally. Almost

10% of resident workers commute to rural parts of County Kerry; these include persons travelling to work in the primary sector and tourism.

Kenmare has a strong economic relationship with West Cork and commuting to Bantry and Castletownbere is more significant than commuting to other towns in County Kerry.

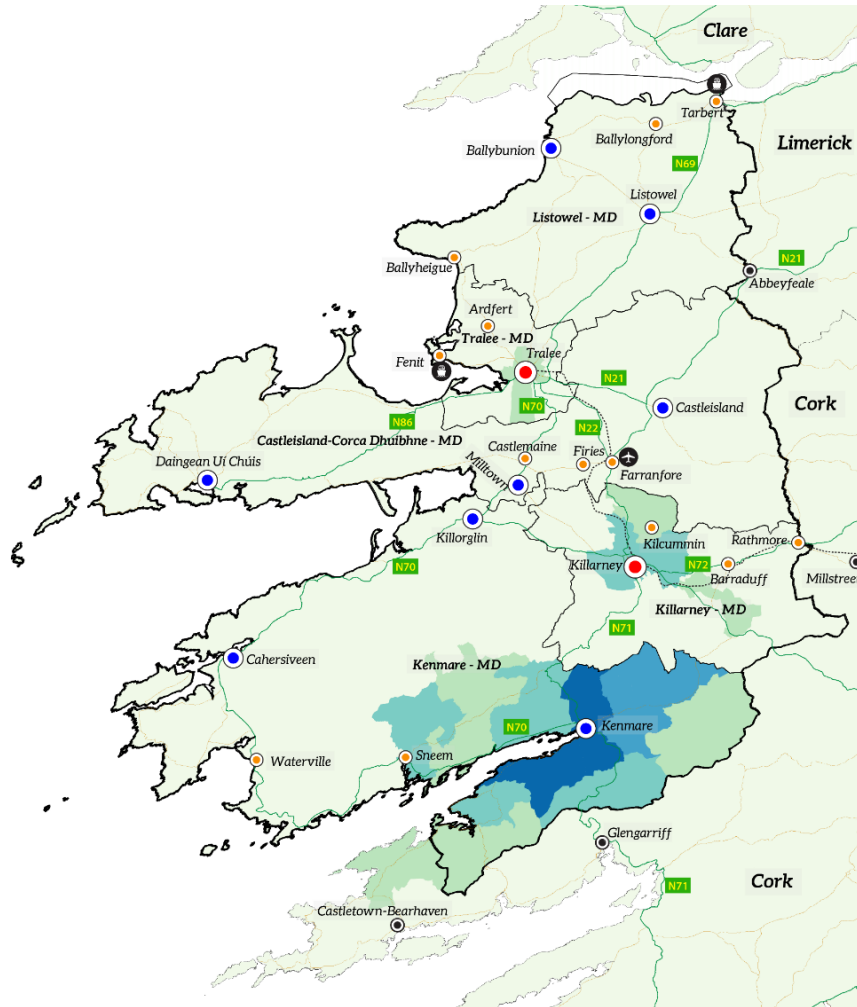
Among the 1,188 persons who work in Kenmare (locally resident workers and commuters), 42% are aged under forty, and just over half (52%) have a third-level qualification. While the majority (78%) use private modes of transport – mainly cars – to travel to work, the proportion who walk or cycle (13%) is above the median value for Kerry's towns.



**Figure 3.26: Henry Street, Kenmare**



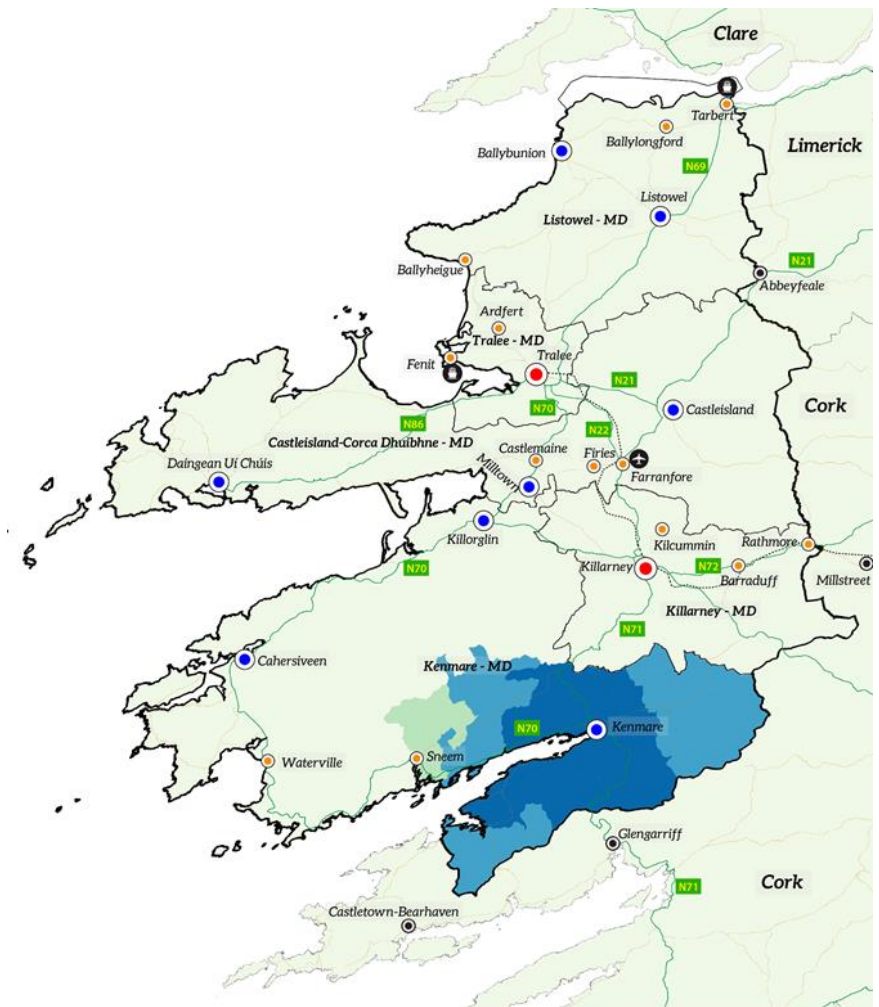
**Figure 3.27: Example of Rich Architectural Heritage, Kenmare**



Count Flows per ED - Kenmare Commuting

<b>Map Legend</b> # ED flows to: Kenmare < 5 5 to < 15 15 to < 30 30 to < 70 > 70	<b>Contextual Layers</b> Kerry County Council Municipal Districts (MDs) Motorway Primary Roads Other Roads Railway	<b>Settlement Hierarchy</b> Key Town Regional Town District Town External Town	 Comhairle Contae Chiarraí Kerry County Council  People & Place <small>Contains Irish Public Sector Data (Data.gov.ie) licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. Data Source: OpenStreetMap, ©2023 OpenStreetMap contributors</small>

Figure 3.28: Kenmare Commuter Patterns





% Resident Workforce - Kenmare Commuting

<b>Map Legend</b> % ED flows to: Kenmare < 5% 5% to < 10% 10% to < 15% 15% to < 30% > 30%	<b>Contextual Layers</b> Kerry County Council Municipal Districts (MDs) Motorway Primary Roads Other Roads Railway	<b>Settlement Hierarchy</b> Key Town Regional Town District Town External Town	 Comhairle Contae Chiarraí Kerry County Council  People & Place <small>Contains Irish Public Sector Data (Data.gov.ie) licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. Data Source: OpenStreetMap, ©2023 OpenStreetMap contributors</small>

Figure 3.29: Kenmare Commuter Patterns

### 3.2.2.5 Town Centre

Kenmare benefits from having a compact and vibrant town centre. To deliver the vision for Kenmare, to provide for additional employment & permanent residential development which reinforces the town's compact form, is responsive to its scenic setting and continues to support its special heritage and tourism functions, this Plan places a strong focus on strengthening the offering of the town centre and the connectivity and permeability of the area. The town centre caters for large numbers of tourists every year which creates a vibrant and active town centre, particularly during the summer months.

Town Centre Objectives	
Objective No.	It is an objective of the Council to:
<b>KENMD-KE-1</b> 	Sustainably plan for and facilitate the continued regeneration and renewal of the Town Centre's streets, public realm spaces, including squares, parks, nodes, walkways and greenways in order to revitalise it as a prosperous, vibrant, attractive location in which to live, work, learn and visit.
<b>KENMD-KE-2</b> 	Facilitate town centre works and implement public realm enhancement works at appropriate locations.

### 3.2.2.5.1 Retail Development

Kenmare Town Centre, as a Regional Town, is the main location for local retail, specialised shopping and services and leisure, such as dining and entertainment, within the southern part of the Plan area. Within the town the north-eastern side of Railway Road linking with the relief road has developed as a neighbourhood centre whereby three large grocery retailers are located.

Kenmare contains a number of traditional shopfronts, which contribute to the distinctive character of the town. The Council will encourage, through its *Shopfront Design Guidelines* (February 2018), the preservation and refurbishment of existing traditional shopfronts and name plates, and where appropriate the development of new high-quality shopfronts in traditional design. Non-traditionally designed shopfronts will only be considered if their design is sympathetic to adjacent facades and enhances, rather than detracts from the visual amenity of the streetscape.

Casual trading had been problematic in Kenmare over recent years due to the absence of an unregulated market. However, much work has been done by the Council to resolve this issue and provisions for a regulated market within a designated area have been put in place which is of benefit to all interested parties.

Retail Objectives	
Objective No.	It is an objective of the Council to:
<b>KENMD-KE-3</b>	Ensure that retail development takes place within the town centre or that a sequential approach is applied.
<b>KENMD-KE-4</b>	Facilitate the further development of the Market Trading Area.

### 3.2.2.5.2 Opportunity Sites

Within the town, there are a number of small brownfield town centre sites available for redevelopment as well as the larger site set out below.

#### 1. South-eastern side of Market Street (former JR McCarthy site)

This site presents an opportunity to extend the streetscape and develop a greater sense of enclosure around the perimeter of the Fair Green. This site has an M2 (Town Centre) zoning and therefore a mix of uses can be considered. The preferred development on this site would be a courtyard style of development which would incorporate the former Lansdowne Estate office to the rear of the site, which is a protected structure. This site also provides an opportunity to increase permeability into adjoining lands.



Figure 3.30: Opportunity Site – Former JR McCarthy Site

#### 2. Bantry Road (The Shrubberies)/Peninsula Lands/ Reenagappal

It is the aim of the Plan to provide a new residential and commercial/tourism quarter that prioritises walking, cycling and permeability between this area and the Town centre and adjoining waterfront area. To fully realise the untapped potential for Kenmare of this uniquely located water-side asset.

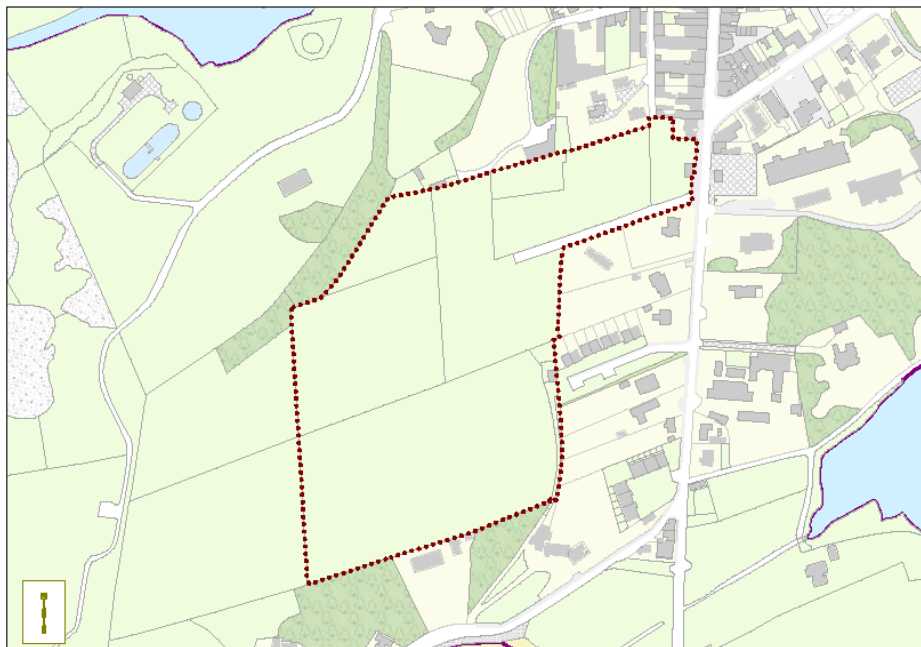
This is a large greenfield site located on the edge of the town centre. The Council will seek to facilitate the development of the peninsula area in a co-ordinated manner to provide a new residential and commercial/tourism quarter that prioritises permeability between area and the Town centre. The development of these lands provides a unique opportunity to maximise the potential of this edge of town centre site adjacent to the peninsula amenity area and associated walkways and to regenerate a large waterfront site close to the heart of the town. The size, location and configuration of the site will allow for the development of a new streetscape along the Bantry Road frontage. The proposed streetscape would be contemporary in design but would reflect a traditional Irish streetscape in scale and massing.

These lands are located within a core sustenance zone radius identified for lesser horseshoe bat (LHB) in the NPWS (2013) publication 'Conservation Objectives: Kenmare River SAC 002158. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht'. Development proposals on these lands should therefore ensure compatibility with the conservation objectives for the SAC. As part of this, NPWS should be consulted with and careful consideration should be given to proposed lighting and landscaping proposals to ensure that the development would not form a significant barrier to LHB movement through the landscape.



Any proposal shall be of high-quality design integrating with the waterfront location and contributing to the public domain. The land closest to the harbour front could facilitate tourist/commercial uses such as café/restaurants while respecting its daily use as a working fishing harbour.

Funding has been secured to provide looped walks on the Peninsula Park, which would link up with existing walkways at Kenmare Pier, Reenagross and the town centre. See Figure 3.36.

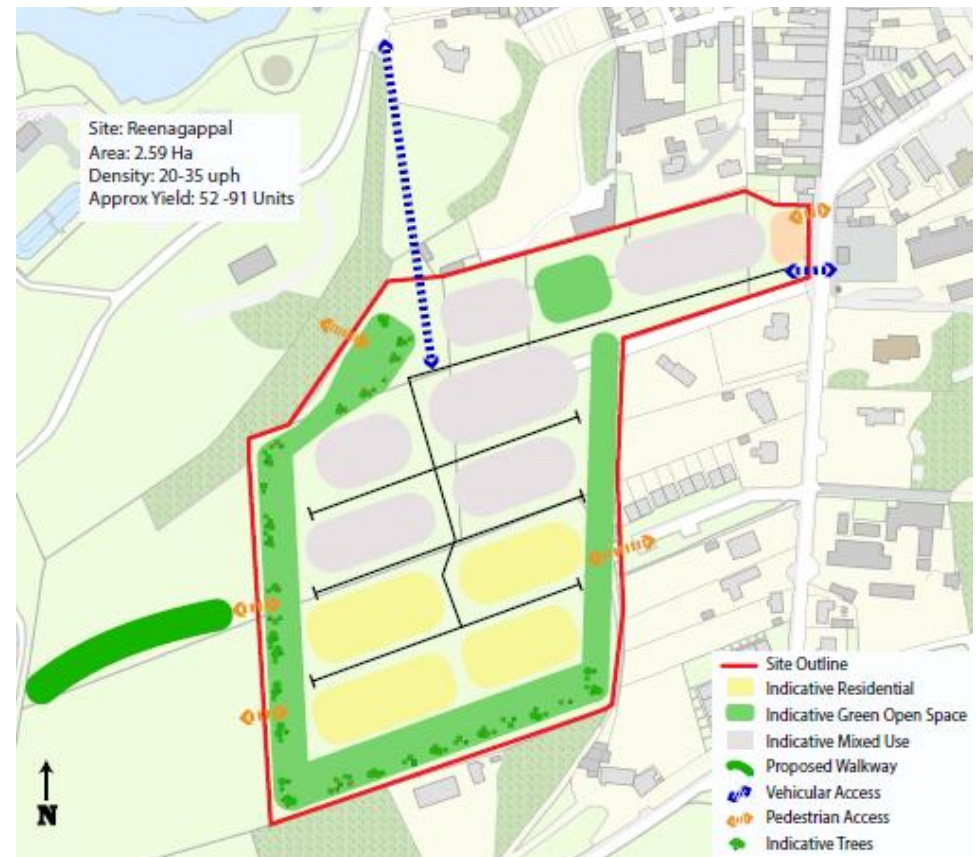


**Figure 3.31a: Opportunity Site**

**Design Brief**

A Design Brief has been prepared for this large undeveloped greenfield site. This design briefs seek to provide a development framework for the sustainable, phased and integrated development

of these residential and commercial use zoned lands. The Design Brief establishes the general development principles for the site. It sets out in broad terms the general distribution of land uses, circulation systems and key access points. Also see Section 3.2.2.9.3 which relates to the Peninsula Lands which are located to the southwest of the site.



**Figure 3.31b: Indicative Design Brief – Reenagappal**

Design Brief Objective	
Objective No.	It is an objective of the Council to:
<b>KENMD-KE-5</b>	Encourage and facilitate appropriate development on the site located at Reenagappal.

### 3.2.2.6 Sustainable Communities

#### 3.2.2.6.1 Community Facilities

Community facilities are located throughout the town including a Garda station, courthouse, fire station, library, community centre in the old schoolhouse and a playground. Kenmare Heritage Centre at Market Square is an important tourist facility. The Council supports the provision of additional community facilities in the town which could cater for a diversity of users and local arts groups. Kenmare Community Hospital is located on the northern periphery of the town, within a mature setting. The town also has a nursing home (St Joseph's) located on the Kilgarvan Road (R569) with a day care centre and retirement accommodation (Taobh Linn) on Railway Road. Kenmare is served by a co-educational national and secondary school; both are located on Railway Road. An adult learning centre on Bantry Road (N71) provides further life-long educational opportunities.

Community Facilities Objective	
Objective No.	It is an objective of the Council to:
<b>KENMD-KE-6</b>	Facilitate the sustainable development of community hub facilities at appropriate locations.

### 3.2.2.7 Heritage

#### 3.2.2.7.1 Built Environment & Heritage

The development strategy of the Plan is designed to reinforce the town's heritage status and its role as a prime tourist destination within the region. The Plan reaffirms the critical role of the town centre and implements positive measures for its continued vibrancy, using its attractive built form as a positive factor while acknowledging the strong level of protection for buildings and structures necessary to maintain its character.

The historic and architectural significance of Kenmare's streetscape together with its impressive stock are currently protected by a large ACA which covers the central core of the town comprising Main Street, Henry Street, Shelbourne Street, Market Square, Market Street and Old Bridge Street and by the designation of a high number of protected structures, some of which are of national importance.



Figure 3.32: View of Emmet Place, Market Street, Kenmare

The town was designated a Heritage Town by Fáilte Ireland in recognition of the number of very fine buildings of architectural merit in the county. The built heritage of Kenmare and its form and layout are an important and intrinsic element of the town's attractiveness and uniqueness. Kenmare's heritage status is dependent on the maintenance and up-keep of its built heritage. It is particularly important, therefore, that any additions to the built environment are of the highest architectural quality in terms of design and materials.

This Plan contains a number of built heritage policies and objectives to help retain the important and historical built fabric of the town so that its heritage value and character which have contributed immensely to its success as a tourist destination can be retained for future generations. There are several recorded monuments within town which will be protected from inappropriate development, these are indicated on Figure 3.34.



Figure 3.33: View of East Park Lane, Kenmare

Built Environment & Heritage Objectives	
Objective No.	It is an objective of the Council to:
<b>KENMD-KE-7</b>	Ensure that the design of properties or the refurbishment of existing properties in the town is sympathetic to existing development in the vicinity and is of a design composition that enhances the streetscape.
<b>KENMD-KE-8</b>	Promote the Historic Town designation of the town.
<b>KENMD-KE-9</b>	Encourage the preservation and refurbishment of existing traditional shopfronts and name plates in appropriate materials.
<b>KENMD-KE-10</b>	Protect important views to and from landmark buildings, historic buildings and associated prospects to ensure the character of these places is adequately protected.
<b>KENMD-KE-11</b>	Ensure the carrying out of the Kenmare Bridge Lighting project.

### 3.2.2.7.2 Architectural Conservation Area (ACA)

The central core area of the town has been designated an ACA as indicated on Figure 4.9. ACAs are designed to conserve streetscapes. The area comprises Main Street, Henry Street, Shelbourne Street, Market Square, Market Street and Old Bridge Street.

Elements of Kenmare's streetscape display an architectural harmony which is not only visually attractive but forms an intrinsic part of the urban character of the town. There are some landmark buildings within the ACA such as the Lansdowne Arms, the old Market House and terraces such as Emmet Place and Parnell Place. The town has 28 protected structures, many within the town centre itself and some located on the periphery.

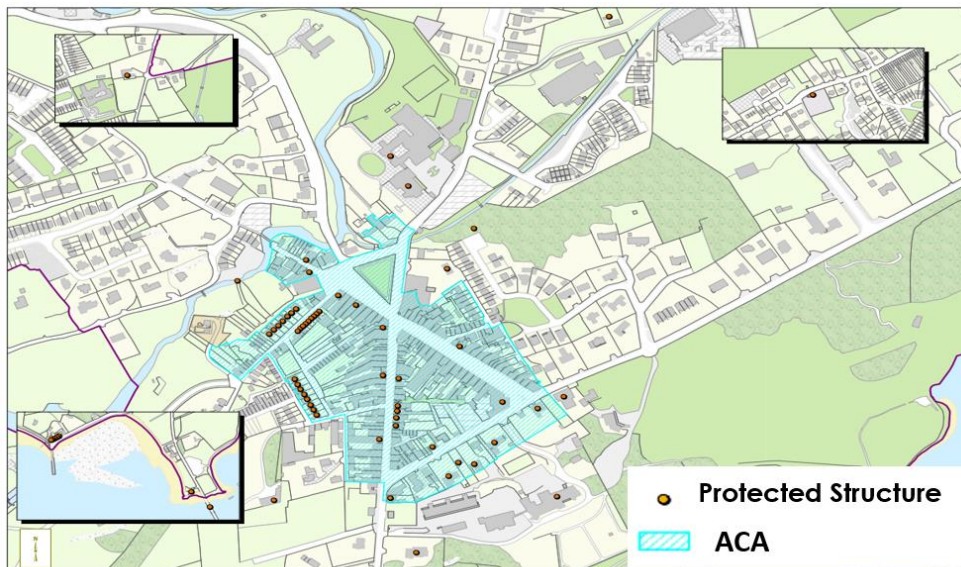


Figure 3.34: ACA & Protected Structures within Kenmare

Architectural Conservation Area Objectives	
Objective No.	It is an objective of the Council to:
<b>KENMD-KE-12</b>	Prepare an Architectural Conservation Area Management Plan to protect the character of the designated ACA that is of special importance to the architectural, historical, cultural or social character of the town.
<b>KENMD-KE-13</b>	Liaise with key stakeholders to identify measures to implement improvements relating to the special character of the ACA .
<b>KENMD-KE-14</b>	Preserve the town's architectural heritage and encourage development that is designed in a manner that is in keeping with the scale, character and pattern of the existing built fabric and urban form. New developments must be designed to a high architectural standard and must take cognisance of local design features and materials.

### 3.2.2.7.3 Natural Heritage

Kenmare's prime natural assets are its setting overlooking Kenmare Bay with mountain ranges to its backdrop. The town sits on the northern shore of the Kenmare River, which is designated as a SAC. The Finnihy River which forms part of the western town boundary is also part of this SAC up as far as Cromwell's Bridge.

Species listed for protection in the Kenmare River SAC include Otter and Lesser Horseshoe Bat. Development proposals should have regard to the ecological requirements of these species, as appropriate. In addition, the Roughty Estuary is designated as a proposed natural Heritage Area (pNHA).

Kenmare has a wealth of mature trees, woodland areas, streams and rock outcrops which add immensely to the character of the town. Some lands adjoining the Plan area to the west and south-west have been designated a *Visually Sensitive Area* in the KCDP. This designation recognises areas of outstanding landscapes in the county. Within the Plan area some lands have been identified as green spaces which require conservation & protection where they adjoin sensitive designated lands.

Natural Heritage Objective	
Objective No.	It is an objective of the Council to:
<b>KENMD-KE-15</b>	Ensure that development proposals would not have a significant adverse impact on the SAC and Amenity Areas in and around the town.

### 3.2.2.8 Economic Development

Kenmare and its environs (including Gortamullen) are the seventh-largest employment node in County Kerry. Kenmare's local economy is largely tourism based. The town has an international tourism reputation built around its streetscape, heritage and surrounding natural environment of mountains and sea with their associated recreation value, culinary offer and scenic characteristics. As is the case in other towns with a strong tourism base, the largest sector, in employment terms, is 'wholesale, retail trade, transportation, accommodation and food'. 'Education, human health and social work' occupations constitute the second-largest employment sector. Public service employment is relatively low (3%). Almost forty percent (38%) of the people who work in Kenmare are in the three-highest socio-economic groups, and non-manual employees represent the single largest cohort.

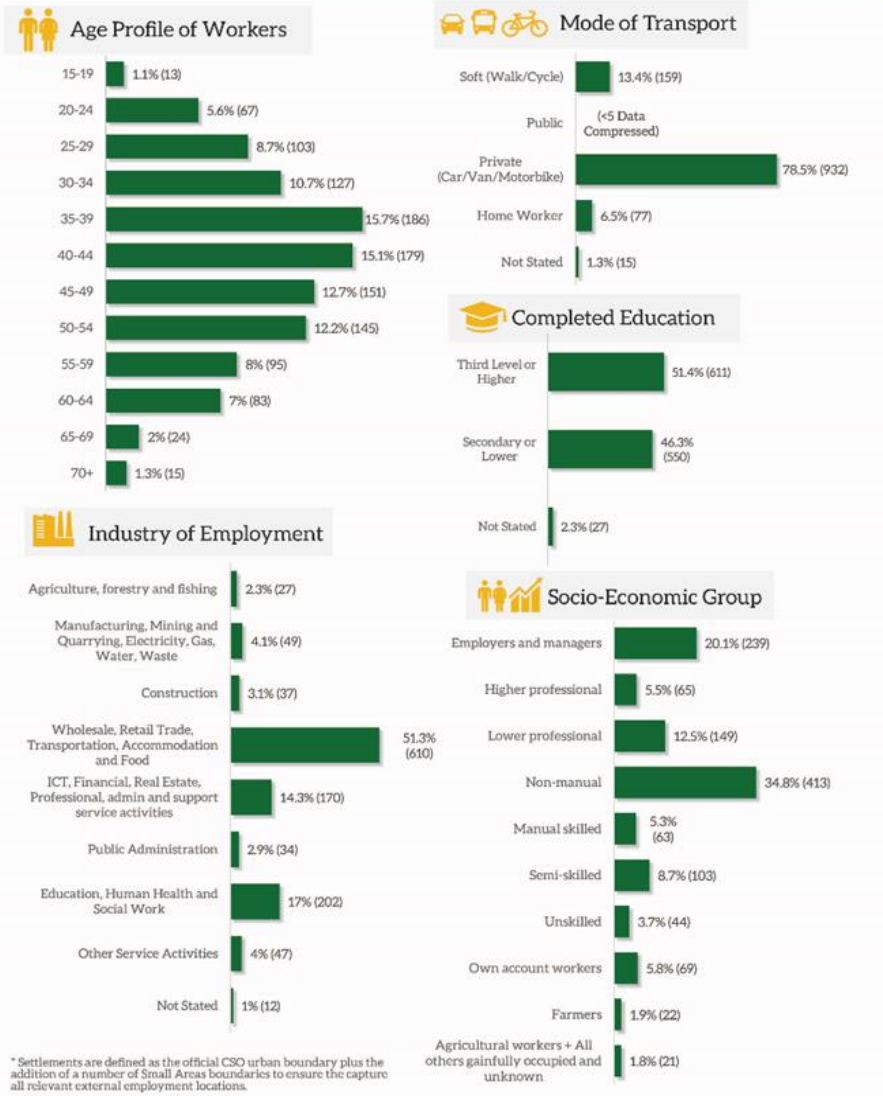
Specific employment lands are located to the north of the town in the Kilmurry Business and Technology Park while Gortamullen Business Park is located over 3km to the north of the town. In this Plan, other established employment areas are zoned M4 (Built Up Area). Some adjustments have been made to the zoning of lands previously zoned as mixed-use. Where appropriate, lands will be zoned as C5 (Tourism and related) which is considered more appropriate to the existing and potential land uses in specific areas such as those lands near the Kenmare Bay Hotel. A greater emphasis on developing infill and brownfield sites is placed in this Plan which should improve the opportunity to provide for sustainable modes of travel. Future development will need to respect the historic town centre and the town's sensitive scenic and coastal setting.

**Kenmare**  
Local Jobs Profile  
Census 2016

Local Jobs in Settlement\*: **1,188**  
See profile graphics below

Resident Workers in Settlement\*: **1,078**

Net Flow of Jobs **+ 110**  
+ is an importer of workers  
- is an exporter of workers



**Figure 3.35: Kenmare Local Jobs Profile**

**3.2.2.9 Tourism & Outdoor Recreation**

**3.2.2.9.1 Tourism in Kenmare**

Kenmare's historic and attractive streetscape and surrounding natural offering are the foundations of the town's tourism market. The area's landscape and scenery should be viewed as a key economic asset and as such it is vital that the quality of this asset is protected.

The town's location on the WAW and the Ring of Kerry routes provides further opportunities to expand its attractiveness to both the overseas and domestic holiday market. The town is well served by high-quality hotels, holiday homes and guesthouse accommodation. The LAP supports the further expansion of hotel, guesthouse and other overnight visitor facilities where they contribute positively to the historic environment and respect the sensitive setting in which they are located. This type of holiday accommodation is favoured over second homes because of the potential to provide a greater contribution to the local economy. The aim of this Plan is to further enhance the existing tourism product to ensure it develops in a sustainable manner and benefits not only the visitor but also the indigenous population. To ensure Kenmare continues to optimise its niche tourism market, investment in key pieces of infrastructure is required. This Plan provides protection to some key pieces of tourism infrastructure, including support for the upgraded wastewater treatment facilities, completion of the inner relief road, provision of enhanced car & bus parking facilities and provision of enhanced recreational areas at the Peninsula lands for the benefit of the town. The absence of parking and facilities in the town for camper vans and motorhomes has resulted in the Pier Road becoming congested with such vehicles in recent years. A code of conduct for camper vans and motorhomes is to be introduced in the county to address this issue. The Council also fully supports the provision of suitable parking facilities for such vehicles at an appropriate location in the town.

Tourism Objectives	
Objective No.	It is an objective of the Council to:
<b>KENMD-KE-16</b>	Promote Kenmare as a destination with unique history and architectural heritage set amidst a rugged marine and mountain landscape.
<b>KENMD-KE-17</b>	Facilitate the sustainable development of high-quality visitor accommodation within the town at appropriate locations.
<b>KENMD-KE-18</b>	Facilitate the sustainable extension and diversification of tourist facilities within the town boundary and the surrounding hinterland including improved signage and access to the waterfront at appropriate locations and in an ecologically sensitive manner.
<b>KENMD-KE-19</b>	Support the provision of an architectural heritage trail.
<b>KENMD-KE-20</b>	Facilitate the provision of additional public toilets at an appropriate location.
<b>KENMD-KE-21</b>	Support and facilitate the provision of camping/glamping & motor home/mobile homes facilities at appropriate locations.

### 3.2.2.9.2 Natural Environment & Recreational Amenity

Kenmare has a good supply of active and passive open space, including a soccer pitch at Dromnevane, GAA grounds at Fr. Breen Park, adjacent to Kenmare golf course, which offers panoramic views of the mountains and coastal scenery. Kenmare rowing club also has an active presence in the town. A community playground is located on Railway Road adjoining the shopping centre and

across from the national school. A coastal walk is found down by Kenmare Harbour along the Peninsula lands. In addition, Reenagross woods are located on the N71, Bantry Road, just a few minutes stroll from the town centre, provides several walking trails and a diversity of habitats to experience and enjoy. It is proposed that a walk from Reenagross Woods could be extended southwards along the shoreline of the Sound crossing the N71 just north of the suspension bridge, before continuing along the shoreline to the pier and beyond to the mouth of the Finnihy. The town is served by a central green space, The Fair Green, which is enclosed by decorative railings and provides a pleasant opportunity to sit, relax and picnic.

### 3.2.2.9.3 Peninsula Park



The Local Authority acquired lands known as the Peninsula Lands to the south-west of Pier Road, which span 13.7 acres. They are well situated being bounded to the south-west by the Finnihy River and to the south by Kenmare Bay. A masterplan was prepared to inform and guide its development as a public amenity space. Funding has been granted to develop an eco-trail (first phase of development) to provide improved recreational opportunities for the benefit of locals & visitors to the town – see Figure 3.36.



Figure 3.36: Proposed Amenity looped paths at Peninsula Park

### 3.2.2.9.4 Kenmare Harbour

Kenmare Harbour, located on the edge of the town boundary, is an integral part of the town's tourism and marine based economy. The KCDP supports the sustainable development and enhancement of marine infrastructure facilities.



Recreation & Amenities Objectives	
Objective No.	It is an objective of the Council to:
<b>KENMD-KE-22</b> 	Sustainably develop the Peninsula Lands as a public amenity and recreation space in line with the Peninsula Lands Masterplan subject to the environment assessment of actions proposed.
<b>KENMD-KE-23</b> 	Establish a sustainable network of interlinked green areas / parks with interlinking cycle / walkways.
<b>KENMD-KE-24</b>	Facilitate the sustainable development of a public convenience at a suitable location in the vicinity of the pier, subject to feasibility and environmental assessment.

### 3.2.2.10 Water & Wastewater Management

The Kenmare Public Water Supply sources raw water from the Carrig East Stream which originates from Eirk Lough. This source has been in use for the Kenmare supply since the 1970s. The supply serves a population of 2,858 (based on volume) within the town of Kenmare and its environs, including areas west of Kenmare to Templenoe. The newly constructed drinking water treatment plant located over 2.5 km north of Kenmare town, has all the necessary infrastructure in place to produce drinking water to a high standard and in compliance with Drinking Water Regulations. However, there is

limited potential capacity available and an upgrade to the water supply is therefore required. It is the policy of KCC to support and facilitate Uisce Éireann in making such improvements as are required to meet the future water supply needs of Kenmare.

The wastewater treatment plant is located adjacent to the Finniyh River to the west of the town centre. The Kenmare Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade has recently been granted permission. The works which are currently underway will accommodate recent and future growth in the catchment area. In addition, the proposed Pier Road Wastewater Pumping Station Upgrade will ensure sufficient

Water & Wastewater Management Objectives	
Objective No.	It is an objective of the Council to:
<b>KENMD-KE-25</b> 	Support the timely provision of adequate water supply and wastewater treatment facilities to ensure that the town can achieve its potential and realise its aims and objectives over the lifetime of this Plan.
<b>KENMD-KE-26</b> 	Facilitate Uisce Éireann Investment in capital projects, subject to environmental assessment.





capacity to cater for existing loads and future growth.

### 3.2.2.11 Flood Risk Management

A Flood Relief Scheme (FRS) is proposed for Kenmare and is currently at design stage. The objective of the Kenmare FRS is the identification, design and submission (for planning consent/confirmation) of a Flood Relief Scheme, that is technically, socially, environmentally and economically acceptable, to alleviate the risk of flooding to the community of Kenmare.



A SFRA has been carried out for this Plan and has informed the land use zonings – see Figure 3.42. New developments within the town should have regard to the use and function of sustainable urban drainage systems, i.e. through the introduction of storm-water attenuation on site and/or integrated into proposed linear parks along river and stream corridors (creating a system of 'ponds in a park'). This is particularly important in Kenmare given the flooding incidents which has occurred in the town. Proposed development shall also have regard to Section 2.9.2 of this Plan - Flood Risk Assessment & Management.

Flood Risk Management Objectives	
Objective No:	It is an objective of the Council to:
<b>KENMD-KE-27</b> 	Ensure that no additional surface waters will be allowed to discharge to foul sewers or combined sewers and surface water from new developments will be designed in accordance with the principles of attenuation and controlled discharges (SuDS). Where feasible nature-based solutions shall be utilised.
<b>KENMD-KE-28</b> 	Support the development of a Kenmare Flood Relief Scheme, subject to project level environmental assessment.
<b>KENMD-KE-29</b> 	Protect the town's existing floodplains and wetlands from inappropriate development in recognition of their function as attenuators and conveyors of flood water.
<b>KENMD-KE-30</b> 	Ensure that all development complies with the Objectives contained in Section 2.9.2

### 3.2.2.12 Connectivity

Kenmare's tourism function attracts large numbers of visitors on a seasonal basis, and this can increase overall volumes significantly during peak summer months. Kenmare is one of the principal towns on the Ring of Kerry and WAW tourist routes. This, when combined with the town's streetscape which is narrow in parts, such as along Henry Street and along the N71 (Bantry Road), can make access and movement to and through the town challenging, at times. Addressing traffic congestion is a key issue to retain the town's competitive advantage as a tourist destination and as an attractive location for housing and business. Some short and medium-term measures have already been introduced, such as one-way traffic system along the green area, with revised on-street parking provision and improved parking management. Other medium-term issues relate to the provision of off-street parking, particularly for coaches.

The Plan area incorporates the northern element of the proposed relief road as a long-term measure to aid traffic circulation and to facilitate the development of zoned lands in an orderly way. The south-eastern link was completed after the adoption of the last LAP and is working well to link the Killowen Road with Railway Road and provide access to the neighbourhood centre and schools located in the vicinity.

The implementation of improved traffic management measures, together with targeted public realm upgrades, will strengthen pedestrian links within the town centre and help improve the conditions for the flow of cars but particularly for buses within the town. These improvements, which also includes a proposed new out of town centre carpark at the former Convent site, will deliver a safer pedestrian/cyclist environment. The development of the convent site car park is subject to environmental assessment and required to take into consideration the requirements of the Departmental Flood Risk Management guidelines and Inland Fisheries Ireland's planning guidelines on urban watercourses.

The compact form, for the most part, and permeable nature of the town promotes opportunities for walking and cycling. There are opportunities, however, to further improve links between residential areas and schools implementation of traffic calming measures at key locations and provision of improved pedestrian and cycling infrastructure are required. Kenmare has one of the lowest walking/cycling levels (12.2%, CSO) out of the eight main towns surveyed in Kerry of a means to travel to work. The Plan seeks to build on the opportunity to increase the level of green modes for school/local shopping trips. This can help contribute to easing congestion at peak times and promote a healthier lifestyle for the population.

Public transport to and from the town is provided by Bus Éireann, connecting to Killarney with 3 services a day, with a reduced service at weekends. Local Link Kerry provides a weekly bus service linking smaller villages such as Sneem, Bonane and Glengarrif with Kenmare. An additional bus service serves the Ring of Kerry tourist route during the summer months only. Currently, bus set down and pick up arrangements take place on the north-eastern side of Main Street, with a dedicated bus parking stop. However, additional facilities are required to provide adequate set down and parking facilities for private operators in the town.

The Plan has identified the need for additional car parking facilities to serve the increasing numbers of visitors attracted to the town, especially during the peak tourist season. This Plan carries forward policy objectives to establish a network of car parks at strategic entry points. It is noted that permission was approved in 2019 for 59 parking spaces off New Road, which will add to the supply in the town. Furthermore, this Plan specifically zones lands for car parking purposes on the Bantry road within walking distance of the town centre, Reenagross woodland park, Kenmare pier and the peninsula park. Japanese knotweed is currently located within these lands and therefore their development would be contingent on the

preparation and implementation of an invasive species management plan for the site.

<b>Connectivity Objectives</b>	
<b>Objective No.</b>	<b>It is an objective of the Council to:</b>
<b>KENMD-KE-31</b>	Facilitate the sustainable development of sites indicated on the zoning map for additional parking facilities.
<b>KENMD-KE-32</b>	Promote a more pedestrian and cycling friendly environment, to improve movement and access throughout the town, through the provision and improvement of pedestrian and cycling infrastructure and traffic calming measures, subject to environmental assessments.
<b>KENMD-KE-33</b>	Support the sustainable completion of the inner relief road to facilitate improved movement within and around the town.