

## Chapter 9 Social and Community Development

### 9.0 Introduction

National policy makes it clear that sustainability is not confined to the physical environment. Sustainability also includes the concept of stable, integrated communities and planning for such communities must embrace both tangible issues such as the timely provision of school places and community facilities and intangible issues such as people's perception as to what constitutes an attractive secure environment and how to create a sense of belonging.

There are a significant number of stakeholders involved in the provision of quality social, health and community facilities for the Town. Dungarvan Town Council, local development agencies, regional health and educational boards, and the Community Forum all provide a range of services for the Town. Such facilities include childcare facilities, health facilities, and community facilities such as arts centres, public libraries, exhibition centres, schools and playgrounds.

The Council acknowledges that some areas in the Town have a community infrastructure deficit and it is the aim of the Council that all residents of Dungarvan have access to social and community infrastructure. This can be achieved by ensuring residential development is balanced with social and community development and the Council may also in appropriate locations provide sites and support for community development.

#### **Policy CS 1**

It is a policy of Dungarvan Town Council to co-operate with all service providers in the provision of new health, social and community facilities through the re-use of existing institutional buildings and community facilities or where new buildings are required, that they would be suitable for multi-use.

#### **Policy CS 2**

It is the policy of the Council to utilise the Development Contribution Scheme to form a basis for the improvement of existing community and recreational facilities and the funding of new facilities.

### 9.1 Social Inclusion

The *National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016: Building an Inclusive Society*, complimented by the social inclusion elements of the *National Development Plan 2007-2013, Transforming Ireland – A Better Quality of Life for All* (2007), sets out how the social inclusion

strategy will be achieved over the period 2007-2016. The new strategy framework facilitates greater co-ordination and integration of structures and procedures across Government at National and local levels, as well as improved reporting and monitoring mechanisms.

Social and Community Development aims to create an inclusive society and the Town Development Plan has a vital role to play in broadening and developing the social and cultural landscape of Dungarvan. This is achieved by collaboration and co-operation of a number of stakeholders through common policies and objectives contained in the Development Plan. The Council, with the support of the County Development Board, and the Social Inclusion Forum contributes directly to combating social exclusion through a range of service and infrastructural provisions including housing, library services etc.



### **Policy CS 3**

It is the policy of the Council to support the Social Inclusion Forum, a subcommittee of the Community Forum and the Social Inclusion Measures Working Group, a subcommittee of the Waterford County Development Board to ensure that The National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016: Building an Inclusive Society and social inclusion elements of the National Development Plan 2007-2013, Transforming Ireland – A Better Quality of Life for All (2007) are achieved over the period 2007-2016 through greater co-ordination and integration of structures and procedures at local level, as well as improved reporting and monitoring mechanisms.

## **9.2 Health Care**

Responsibility for the provision of health-care facilities lies with a number of public, voluntary and private agencies. The Health Service Executive is the primary agency responsible for delivering health and personal social services. Day care centres, sheltered housing, family resource centres, health centres, youth work programmes, residential care centres for children and those with disabilities, along with other community services, require locations which are easily accessible and are integrated with new and existing communities.

The optimum location for nursing homes and health care facilities is within or immediately adjacent to designated settlements. This is to ensure that health care facilities can avail of the existing infrastructure, both social and physical within a town, and to ensure that such facilities are integrated into society.

**Policy CS 4**

It is the policy of the Council to co-operate with all relevant stakeholders in the provision of health care facilities throughout the Town.

**Policy CS 5**

The Planning Authority shall have regard to the “*National Quality Standards for Residential Care Settings for Older People in Ireland 2009*” in the assessment of planning applications.

**Policy CS 6**

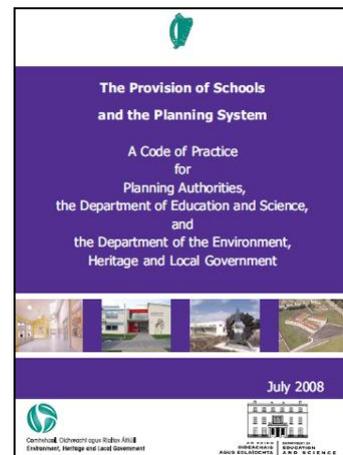
It is the policy of the Council to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities through the implementation of the Barcelona Declaration (1995) and the National Disability Strategy 2004 (or any amendment of same).

**9.3 Education**

The *Provision of Schools and the Planning System - A Code for Planning Authorities*, issued by the Department of Education and Science and the DoEHLG sets out best practice approaches that should be followed by Planning Authorities to ensure that the planning system plays its full part in facilitating the timely and cost effective roll out of school facilities in line with the principles of proper planning and sustainable development.

The Planning Authority will support the provision of schools in line with the development standards as per the Technical Guidance Document TGD 025 on the identification and Suitability Assessment of Sites for Primary School (September 2007).

In accordance with the *Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas, Guidelines for Planning Authorities*, issued by the DoEHLG, planning applications for 200 or more dwellings should be accompanied by a report identifying the demand for school places likely to be generated by the proposal and the capacity of existing schools in the vicinity to cater for such demand. In larger developments (800+) the development may need to be phased with the provision of new school facilities.



**Policy CS 7**

It is the policy of the Council to ensure that school and college sites are made available with the requirements of the relevant education authorities.

**Policy CS 8**

It is the policy of the Council to support and assist the Department of Education in ensuring the timely provision of school sites and to continue to co-ordinate with the Department in accordance with the Provision of Schools and the Planning System: A Code of Practice for Planning Authorities (2008)

**9.4 Childcare, Youth and Children's Needs**

Waterford County Childcare Committee (WCCC) was established in 2002 to ensure the provision of sustainable childcare facilities throughout the County . The vision of the Committee is “*to develop a quality childcare environment where all children in County Waterford have opportunities of holistic development*”. This vision is to be achieved in collaboration with key stakeholders including statutory, voluntary and community agencies and organisations with a remit in this area. Childcare is taken to mean access to full day care, seasonal and childminding services providing for the care and educational needs of early years and school age children.

The work of Waterford County Childcare Committee is guided by the 5 Core Objectives of the National Strategy 2011-2013 Early Childhood Care and Education Programmes defined as follows:

- Objective 1 – To develop comprehensive childcare supports, infrastructure and services where the holistic well-being of children and families are fundamental.
- Objective 2 – To enhance quality early childhood education and care and school-age provision.
- Objective 3 - To consolidate investment in the sector in order to support the continuing development of a stable, integrated and sustainable infrastructure.
- Objective 4 – Through ongoing professional development, to build on the capacity of the ECCE sector to enhance and develop quality services for children and their families.
- Objective 5 – To ensure effective and transparent collaboration, communication and consultation, and optimum use of resources by all stakeholders in early childhood care and education.

The Department of the Environment's guidelines on childcare facilities (DoEHLG 2001) emphasises the importance of local assessment of the need to provide such facilities at the development plan

stage, having regard to existing facilities in the area. The location of such facilities should be easily accessible by parents and the facility may be combined with other appropriate uses, such as places of employment.

The Council shall require that proposed developments assess the requirement and the need for childcare as part of the planning application and will require where possible the integration and sharing of facilities. For developments in excess of 74 dwellings, applicants are requested to consult with Waterford County Childcare Committee prior to lodging an application so as to ensure that the appropriate childcare facilities are provided in conjunction with residential development.

Childcare planning applicants are advised to refer to the Childcare (Pre-School Services) Regulations 2006 [www.dohc.ie/publications/](http://www.dohc.ie/publications/) and to “*We Like This Place - Guidelines for Best Practice in the Design of Childcare Facilities*” (NCNA & ADM 2002) [www.pobal.ie](http://www.pobal.ie/publications/childcare) (publications/childcare) in preparing applications. Planning applicants should also contact Waterford County Childcare Committee and the HSE Preschool Inspection Team for advice.

Appropriate locations for childcare facilities are:

- Appropriately zoned lands;
- Neighbourhood centres;
- Adjacent to community services such as schools;
- Adjacent to nodes of public transport; and
- Centres of employment.

#### **Policy CS 9**

It is the policy of the Council to ensure the provision of high quality and easily accessible childcare facilities in compliance with *Child Care (Pre-School Service) (No.2) (Amendment) Regulations 2006*, and local government guidelines for childcare— *Childcare Facilities Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2001* (DoEHLG) or any amendments thereto. It is the policy of the Council to support the National Strategy 2011-2013 Early Childhood Care and Education Programmes policy at local level.

#### **Policy CS 10**

It is the policy of the Council to support the Children’s Services Committee to achieve the key goals of public policy in relation to children’s health and social services guided by *The Agenda for Children’s Services: A Policy Handbook*. (Office of the Minister for Children, Department of Health and Children, December 2007 [www.omc.gov.ie](http://www.omc.gov.ie))

**Policy CS 11**

It is the policy of the Council to support the provisions of the Waterford County Play Policy and “*Ready Steady Play*” –A National Play Policy.

**9.5 Access for Persons with Disabilities and the Mobility Impaired**

The Barcelona Declaration Project is a movement, which helps local authorities to use their powers to remove barriers that cause intimidation and prevent individuals from participating in normal life. The Barcelona Declaration Project was adopted by Waterford County Council (including Dunagravan Town Council) in May 2002. In February 2005, it was agreed to the adoption of the policy for implementation of the Barcelona Declaration.

**9.5.1 Universal Accessibility**

The World Health Organisation’s International Classification of Functioning Disability of Health which was adopted on 22nd May 2001 defines Accessibility as “*The ease of independent approach, entry and/or use of a building and its services and facilities, by all of the buildings potential users – with an assurance of individual health, safety and welfare during the course of those activities*”.

**9.5.2 Universal Design**

The Disability Act 2005 defines Universal Design as “*the design and composition of an environment so that it can be accessed, understood and used to the greatest extent by all people, regardless of their age, size or disability*”. It is on this basis that the National Disability Association established the Irish Centre for Excellence in Universal Design in Dublin in January 2007. The Centre is dedicated to the principle of Universal Access, enabling people in Ireland to participate in a society that takes account of human difference and to interact with their environment to the best of their ability.

**Policy CS 12**

It is a policy of the Council to promote the principle of Universal Access.

## 9.6 Sports and Recreational Facilities and Activities

Sports and recreational facilities are a vital community resource, and enhance the well-being and quality of life of the residents in Dungarvan. One of the key aims of the Development Plan is to promote an excellent quality of life. The Council is committed to ensuring the provision of sporting and recreational facilities in line with new residential developments. Furthermore, the Council is committed to ensuring that the marginalised sectors of society are able to avail of sport and recreational facilities and are not excluded or further marginalised by any policies or objectives of this Plan.



The Council is committed to working with Waterford Sports Partnership (WSP) which commenced operation in 2002 with the key aim of increasing participation in sport and physical activity among target groups and to ensure that local resources are put to their best possible use. The WSP Strategic Plan 2007-2011 '*Everyone Active*' outlines the key aims and objectives of WSP and the approach to be taken in ensuring the delivery of a quality service to targeted groups.

### Policy CS 13

It is the policy of the Council to promote and support the provision of shared and multi-use sport and recreational facilities to meet the requirements of all residents in the County especially target groups and those marginalised from society.

### Policy CS 14

It is the policy of the Council to support the implementation of the Waterford Sports Partnership Strategy and their work to increase participation in sport and physical activity.

### Objective CS 1: Playgrounds

It is the objective of the Council to:

- (a) Promote the increase of public, high quality, and safe play opportunities available to children;
- (b) Ensure that surfaces and play equipment provided in public playgrounds or publicly funded playgrounds conform to the Irish standards for play equipment and surfacing;
- (c) Continue to promote the objectives of the County Waterford Play Policy;
- (d) Seek the provision and suitable management of safe surfaced children's play areas in new housing developments, and to implement measures to find suitable sites for their provision in existing residential areas;

- (e) Engage with the community to assist and support them in the provision of playground activities; and
- (f) Support playground and related development from the Development Contributions Scheme.

## 9.7 Arts and Culture

Dungarvan has a rich and varied living cultural heritage expressed through the medium of language and the arts. The County Waterford (including the Town) Arts Plan provides the overview necessary to support the Council's Arts Office in moving forward to create improved opportunities for the public and practitioners to engage in the developing arts environment.

Public Art under the DoEHLG '*Per Cent for Arts Scheme*' is catered for under the remit of the Arts Office, and encourages the Local Authority to commission artists to create work for coinciding with new capital or infrastructure projects.

Significant private development shall be required to contribute to the public realm which may include the provision of artistic features.

### Policy CS 15

It is the policy of the Council to support the Arts Plan and to support the development of arts and culture in the Town.

### Policy CS 16

It is the policy of the Council to utilise the "*Per Cent for Arts Scheme*" on all public capital projects.

## 9.8 Library Service

Waterford County Council's library service is responsible for providing and promoting an active public library service. A wide range of services are available such as internet access, premium reference services and heritage resources online. In addition, branches host extensive programmes which vary from branch to branch and include such events as book launches, exhibitions, storytelling, author visits and book promotions. The County Library Service participates annually in National events such as Seachtain na Gaeilge, Bealtaine Festival, the Children's Book Festival and the World Book Day and Heritage week.

**Policy CS 17**

It is the policy of the Town Council to support and promote the library services in the Town and ensure that everyone has equal opportunity to access a high quality library and information service that is responsive to the changing needs of the community.

**Policy CS 18**

It is a policy of the Council to support the programme for Library development and the strategic aims contained within.

**9.9 An Ghaeilge & An Gaeltacht**

Is é Dún Garbhán an lárionad uirbeach is cóngaraí do Gaeltacht na Rinne agus an tSean Phobail. Tá an Gaeltacht mar chuid an-tábhachtach de thraidisiún teangeolaíochta, sóisialta agus chultúrtha Chontae Phort Láirge agus is mór an tionchar atá ag an nGaeltacht agus baile Dhún Garbhán ar a chéile. Mar sin, tá Comhairle Baile Dhún Garbhán tiomanta tacú leis an timpeallacht teangeolaíoch agus chultúrtha ar leith seo.

Tá bearta in áit cheana féin chun úsáid na Gaeilge a chur chun cinn agus a fhorbairt i nDún Garbhán, tríd an scéim **“Gnó & Gaeilge”**, a reachtáileann Oifigeach Gaeilge na nÚdaráis Áitiúla, i gcomhar le Comhlacht Forbartha na nDéise. Tríd an scéim seo, tugtar tacaíocht agus spreagadh do ghnóthaí sa bhaile seirbhísí trí Ghaeilge a chur ar fáil do chustaiméirí le Gaeilge. Tugann Cumann Tráchtála Iarthar Phort Láirge tacaíocht don scéim seo chomh maith, a chuireann béim ar chomharthaíocht trí Ghaeilge i ngnóthaí an bhaile. Leanfaidh Comhairle Baile Dhún Garbhán ar aghaidh ag tabhairt tacaíochta don scéim seo chun cur le hiomhá chultúrtha Ghaelach Dhún Garbhán i slí dearfach, trí chomharthaíocht Gaeilge agus dátheangach a chur in airde.

Dungarvan is the nearest urban centre to the Gaeltacht area of An Rinn and An Sean Phobal, which constitutes an important part of the linguistic, social and cultural tradition of County Waterford. The influence of both of these areas on each other is significant, and Dungarvan Town Council is committed to supporting the unique linguistic and cultural environment of the Gaeltacht.

Measures are already in place to promote and develop the use of the Irish language in Dungarvan, through the scheme **“Gnó & Gaeilge”**, which is administered by the local authorities’ Irish Officer, in conjunction with Gaeltacht development company Comhlacht Forbartha na nDéise. Through this scheme, businesses in the town are encouraged and supported in the provision of Irish language

services to Irish speakers. This scheme, which is actively supported by the West Waterford Chamber of Commerce, also promotes the erection of Irish language signage in business premises in the town. The Town Council will continue to support this scheme and positively contribute to the Irish cultural image of Dungarvan through the provision of Irish and bilingual signage.

**Polasaí CS 19**

Tá sé mar pholasaí ag an gComhairle:

- Oidhreacht chultúrtha agus teangeolaíochta Dhún Garbhán a chosaint agus a chothabháil.

**Policy CS 19**

It is the policy of the Council to:

- Protect and sustain the linguistic and cultural heritage of Dungarvan;

Le linn tréimhse an Phlean, beidh an Chomhairle i dteagmháil le hOifigeach Gaeilge Údaráis Áitiúla Phort Láirge agus le grúpaí Gaeltachta agus Gaeilge, mar is cuí, ar mhaithe le cur chun cinn na Gaeilge agus ar mhaithe le tacaíocht a thabhairt don teanga agus don gcultúr Ghaelach.

During the Plan period, the Council will liaise with the Irish Officer of Waterford Local Authorities and Gaeltacht and Irish Language representative groups, where applicable for the promotion and support of the Irish language and culture.