

## **CHAPTER 2: TRIM IN CONTEXT**



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## 2.0 Location & Physical Context

Trim town is located 14.5km south west of Navan. It is one of the largest urban centres serving the south west of the county. Several regional roads converge at Trim – R154 (Dublin –Athboy); R161 (Navan – Kinnegad); R158 (Summerhill – Trim); and the R160 (Longwood-Trim). Another notable physical characteristic of the town is the presence of the River Boyne, which flows directly through the town. The vestiges of Trim's history are clearly evident on the landscape, which provide a sublime context for a modern expanding town. The physical heritage is an important part of the town and surrounding landscape which has resulted in Trim's status as a Heritage Town. The quality and abundance of natural heritage provides a high amenity value serving as a marvellous setting for the town.

Trim is a main service centre, providing for the town's population and a large hinterland. There are a number of key land-use activities in Trim including the Courts Service which facilitates hearings of the District, Circuit and High Court. The Health Service Executive oversees the operation of St Josephs Hospital also located in the town. The headquarters of the Office of Public Works is another major land use located in Trim. In addition, other significant land uses include educational, recreational, commercial and residential uses.



Trim Courthouse

## 2.1 Historical Context

Trim has a huge wealth of history associated with it dating back to medieval times to which few towns in Ireland can compare. One of Ireland's Heritage Towns, Trim once had some the oldest and largest religious settlements in the country, with the site having been founded by the Normans on the banks of the River Boyne. The settlement has been continuously occupied since 500 AD. Trim was no ordinary medieval town due to the fact that as well as being a market town, it was also the centre of the large lordship of Meath, which included the present counties of Meath and Westmeath and parts of other adjoining counties. One of the largest and most impressive medieval castles in Ireland was thus built at Trim in the twelfth century BC. It was also an important ecclesiastical centre and both it and the nearby church at Newtown Trim served at different times as the cathedral of the diocese of Meath. A number of monuments are National Monuments in the care of the State. Though much of the medieval built heritage did not survive the passage of time, a number of structures are evident still in the town, the most notable include the following:

- Trim Castle, is the largest Norman Castle in Europe and is a prominent feature which defines the town. The castle was built by Hugh de Lacy in 1173, and fell into ruins by 1599. It was used again briefly, by Lord Fennick and the Cromwellites, but was never used again after the English civil war. It was renovated in the 1990's before being used as one of the filming locations for Mel Gibson's "Braveheart".
- St Patrick's Cathedral, a stone belfry tower and chancel is the surviving remnant of the medieval Parish Church of Trim.
- Talbot Castle or St. Mary's Abbey is the remains of an Augustinian monastery founded in the 12th century and later a focal point for pilgrimage. This structure was adapted to serve the Augustinian Priory and was later used in the eighteenth century as an exclusive Protestant school. It was here that the then Duke of Wellington Arthur Wellesley was educated. The castle can still be seen on the north bank of the Boyne, facing the Norman fortress.
- Nangle's Castle – is another fortified house which is thought to be part of the Augustinian abbey of St Mary's.
- On the opposite side of the river are the remains of the Sheep Gate which is the only remaining portion of the town walls consisting of a two storey tower.
- Nearby is the Yellow Steeple, a very tall but battered tower of the 14th century which formed part of the Augustinian Abbey of St. Mary's.
- The Newtown Monuments consists of a large medieval cathedral, two monasteries and small church which date from 1206. On the walls of the church one will find the late 16th century alter tomb with effigies of Sir Luke Dillon and his wife. The Friary of St. John the Baptist, is the remains of a 13th century Augustinian foundation, which was later converted to a hospital in the 18th century.

Famous historical figures associated with Trim include the author Sir Jonathan Swift who resided here during the early 1700's having been presented with the Vicarage of Laracor, Trim.



St. John's Castle

## 2.2 Present Day Context

Trim today demonstrates its many historical influences. Many 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries building influences, mostly Georgian in style are evident. Trim is a Heritage Town with a significant number of protected structures and archaeological sites. A portion of Trim town centre is also an identified Architectural Conservation Area (ACA), which is a statutory designation afforded to a place, area, group of structures or townscape, which is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest. The narrow winding streets, consistent with its medieval origins, contribute to the notable character of the town as it is today. In the late 20<sup>th</sup> and

early 21<sup>st</sup> century the development pattern has been mixed with substantial residential development in the environs of the town ensuring healthy population growth. This residential development has been complimented by significant commercial development including new discount retail space and the opening of two new hotels. A sizeable quantum of industrial land has also been developed at Oaktree Business Park to the north of the town and in the Scurlockstown area on the Dublin Road.

The challenge for Trim in the future is to achieve a balanced approach towards development, encouraging appropriate and sensitive new development in accordance with regional guidance which respects the town's built and natural heritage while at the same time creating a dynamic and successful town. The designation of part of Trim town centre as an identified Architectural Conservation Area (ACA), will help the planning authority meet this challenge. The heritage value of the town and environs is an important element in the further enhancement of the tourism product in Trim and is also of high recreational, cultural, social and environmental importance. High quality architecture and urban design is a key component for successful new development in Trim Heritage Town. Therefore it is the intention of the Planning Authorities that all new development will compliment and respect the character of the town and its surrounding area.

### **2.3 Urban Form**

Trim enjoys a relatively compact urban structure. The town straddles both sides of the River Boyne, with development generally well balanced on both sides. The south eastern portion of the town has experienced the most notable amount of new development since the adoption of the Trim Development Plan 2002-2008, in particular the area within the current development boundary at Effernock. The scale of the built environment is generally low, predominantly two storey structures, though the areas along Market Street and surrounding the castle and historic buildings demonstrate a higher scale. More recent developments in the town have resulted in the introduction of modern architectural urban elements into the built landscape, which complements the established charm and character of the town. The most notable new structures include the new Courthouse building and Trim Castle Hotel on Castle Street. A number of major developments should also be delivered during the life of this Development Plan including the development of a new town centre to the west of the existing centre and the arrival through the Government's decentralisation programme of the Headquarters of the Office of Public Works. Such initiatives will bring a taller scale and contemporary architectural elements into the town's built environment.

### **2.4 Population Context**

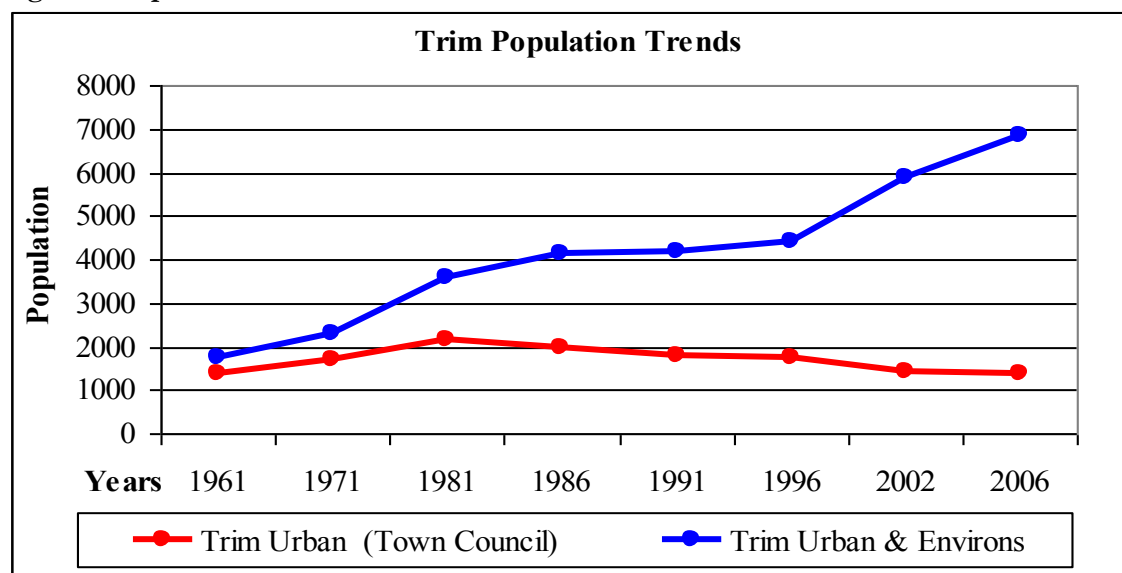
The standard source for population statistics is the census information published every 5 years by the Central Statistics Office (CSO). Trim maintained steady growth at each census from 1961 to 2006. During this period there was an increase in the town's population of over 296% from 1,734 to 6,870 persons. According to the 2006 Census figures published by the Central Statistics Office in April 2007, the population of Trim and immediate environs was 6,870 persons. The population of the legally defined town council area was recorded as 1,375 persons. An Post Geodirectory data would indicate that the current population of Trim is c.8201 persons (28/05/07).

**Table 1; Population Trends in Trim from 1961 – 2006**

CSO, Census of Population Statistics 1961 – 2006, for Trim, Co. Meath				
Year	Trim Urban Population (i.e. Town Council)	% Increase or Decrease	Overall Trim Population (incl. Environs)	% Increase or Decrease
1961	1378	N/A	1734	N/A
1971	1700	+23.4%	2297	+32.5%
1981	2144	+26.1%	3599	+56.7%
1986	1967	-8.3%	4124	+14.6%
1991	1784	-9.3%	4185	+14.8%
1996	1740	-2.5%	4405	+5.3%
2002	1447	-16.8%	5894	+33.8%
2006	1375	-5%	6870	+16.6%
Town Council Growth 1961-2006 = -0.2%			Overall Town Growth 1961-2006=+296.2%	

(Source: Central Statistics Office)

The environs of Trim have experienced consistent and significant population growth over the above 45 year period. For the first half of this same time period the Trim urban area also experienced sustained growth but over the last 25 years this trend has reversed, with the urban population of the town in decline since 1981, with a significant decline noted between 1996 and 2002. Going forward the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2004 – 2016 allow for a maximum population of 15,000 by 2016.

**Figure 1; Population Trends in Trim from 1961 - 2006**

Source: Central Statistics Office

## 2.5 Household & Household Formation

Census 2006 found that the national average household size was 2.8 persons. The 2006 Census states that County Meath has 53,938 private households, with an average size of 3.0 persons, slightly above the state average.

The Meath County Development Plan 2007-2013 has provided a settlement strategy which will affect household formations in Trim up to 2013. The strategy sets out a household and population distribution framework for each settlement centre (Table 6). Table 6 of the County Development

Plan provides details on the number of households permissible in each urban centre over the period up to the end of 2013.

As per Table 6 of the Meath County Development Plan 2007-2013, there is a total of 1,395 committed units, which are currently under construction or yet to be constructed. Applying an average household occupancy of 2.9 for that period, it is predicted that the population of Trim would be in the region of c. 11,500 people once all permitted developments in the town are constructed and occupied.

Excluding the zoned lands with extant planning permissions, the Planning Department estimate that c.84 hectares of land suitable for residential development remains available in Trim. The Residential Density Guidelines for Planning Authorities encourage densities of between 35-50 dwellings per hectare (14-20 per acre) on outer suburban/greenfield sites. Applying a density of 50 residential units per hectare and an average occupancy rate of 2.9, available zoned land in Trim has the potential to accommodate in the region of c.12,180 additional persons. Taking a density of 35 dwellings per hectare equates to c.8,526 persons. Applying a lower density of 25 dwellings per hectare as indicated in the County Development Plan, equates to 6,090 persons. Trim has therefore potential to accommodate in the region of c. 6,090- 12,180 additional persons on existing available zoned lands. It is evident that Trim could potentially grow to a population in the region of c.17,000- 23,000 persons by building on lands currently zoned. On this basis, the future population for Trim, as provided for under the Regional Planning Guidelines (15,000 people), can virtually be met without the need to zone additional land.

Having regard to the extent of committed residential development and estimated household targets the Planning Authority will undertake detailed phasing and prioritisation of the release of the remaining residential zoned land bank. Also, policies with regard to the release of subsequent phases of residential lands in Trim will be included in this Development Plan, which will meet agreed targets in relation to development and occupation of the substantial industrial and employment generating land banks identified in the Development Plan.

## **2.6 Employment Context**

Over the period of the Trim Development Plan 2002-2008, a considerable number of jobs were created in Trim particularly in the tertiary sector, with the opening of two new four star hotels and the development of a major discount retail unit. A motor park has also been developed along the Navan Road on the outskirts of Trim which includes a filling station and related motor industry developments. Oaktree Business Park to the north of the town and Scurlockstown Business Park on the Dublin Road continue to develop with an increasing uptake of units. The 2006 Census recorded 3,422 persons in Trim in the "Total at work and unemployed" bracket. Only 200 of these were actually unemployed which represents an unemployment rate of 5.8%. In addition to this a further 43 persons were seeking their first regular job. The 2006 Census recorded that the majority of people in Trim worked in Clerical, Management or Government jobs followed by positions in the Professional, Technical and Health sectors. Manufacturing was the third biggest employment category. Significant numbers were also employed in Sales and Construction. It is recognised by the Planning Authorities that many people depend for their livelihood on industries which are susceptible to the negative effects of any down turn in the global or domestic economy. It is considered that major public investment programmes such as the development of a broadband municipal area network under the National Development Plan in five Meath towns including Trim, will make Trim a more attractive location in which to do business.

## **2.7 Tourism Context**

Tourism plays an important role in the local economy in Trim. A designated heritage town and three times winner of the Tidy Towns Competition, Trim located on the banks of the Boyne, is home to the renowned Trim Castle, one the finest examples of a Norman Castle in Europe. The castle is



open daily from Easter to October and weekends for the remainder of the year. Guided tours are provided by the Office of Public Works. Located nearby is the town's tourist office which is open all year round. Multimedia exhibitions are shown daily which exhibit Trim's celebrated past coincided with the early period of Norman power in Ireland. The exhibitions demonstrate how the ruins of Trim Castle and the surrounding Abbeys act as a testament to a great bygone era in Royal County Meath. The town also has its own designated heritage trail.

Accommodation options for tourists, business people and visitors alike in Trim are varied and of an exceptional quality. The Castle Arch Hotel, Trim Castle Hotel and Knightsbrook Hotel and Golf Resort and various B&Bs offer a wide variety of quality accommodation options to prospective visitors while also providing the business community with a healthy choice when it comes to holding conferences or exhibitions. The general appearance of the town continues to be significantly improved with major investment in footpaths and street furniture ongoing. However an impediment to the growth of the town as a tourist centre continues to be the limited retail offer which affects the town's attractiveness as a tourist destination. This problem should be addressed with the planned expansion of the Town Centre further west to allow the town to meet its full commercial potential. This should be done without damaging the vitality and vibrancy of the existing retail community or impinging upon the integrity of the heritage sites in the town.



Trim Castle Hotel

## 2.8 Social and Community Context

### 2.8.1 Education

The Meath County Development Board stress the importance of education and training to society in “Le Chéile – An Integrated Strategy for Meath to 2012” where they state “Meath’s future success depends on all elements of the educational system from pre-school through to Primary and Second Level to Third Level and continuing education. The upskilling of the County’s workforce will be vital to economic success.” Meath County Council and Trim Town Council fully concur with this sentiment. However it should be noted that the physical delivery of educational facilities falls outside the remit of the Planning Authority. This is the responsibility of central government and the Department of Education and Science in particular. Notwithstanding this, the Planning Authorities will endeavour to facilitate the provision and enhancement of educational facilities in Trim.

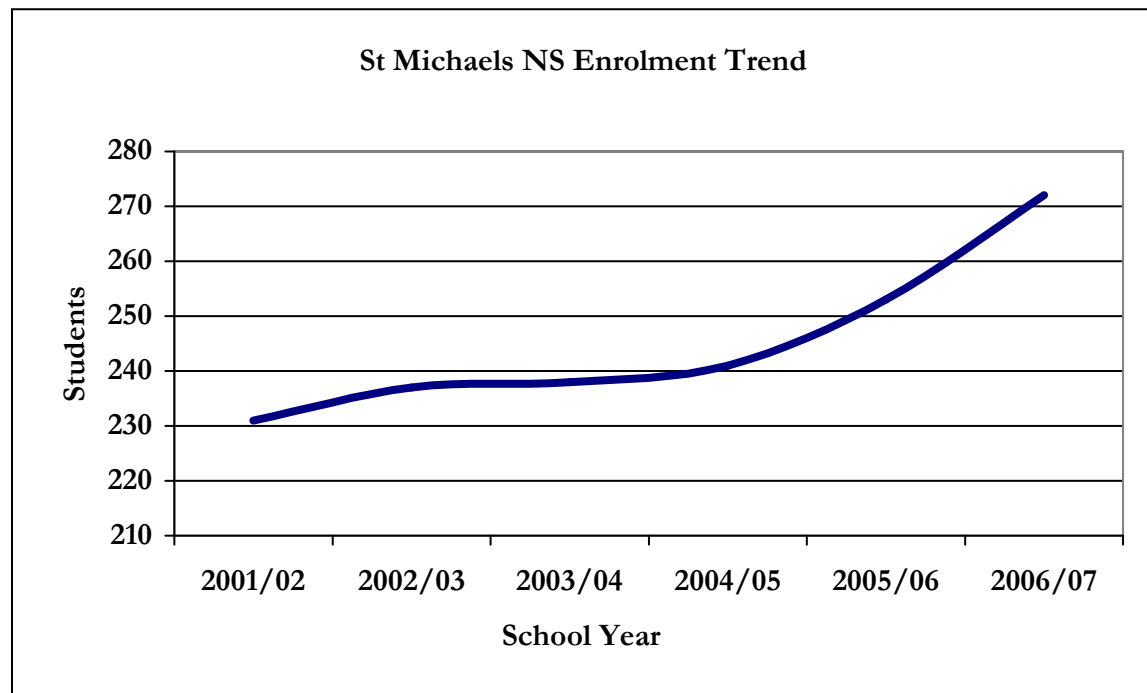
**Primary Schools**

St. Mary's Convent National School

There are currently 4 primary schools located in the Trim Development Plan area. St Patrick's National School, (Church of Ireland) St Loman's Street: This school has recently moved to a new building in the town and educates approximately 31 students.

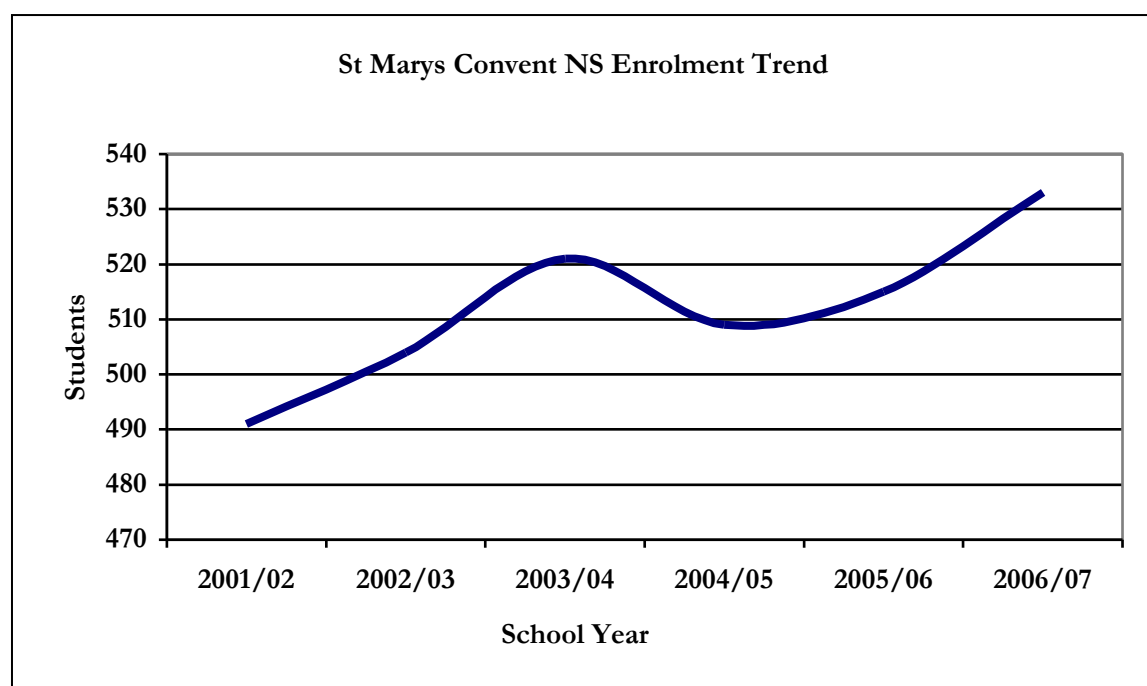
Gaelscoil na Bóinne, Dublin Road, Trim, an 8 classroom Gaelscoil which enrolled 222 students for the 2006/07 school year. There was excess demand for places. Open space and classroom size is limited given the fact that the school is operating in a built up residential area from an isolated, old industrial unit. This arrangement also makes traffic and parking a pressing issue as it means extra traffic flow on the distributor road serving the estate which poses a traffic hazard. The availability of both parking and set down space for staff and parents is extremely limited. Likewise recreational open space for students is also limited. The Planning Authority will aim to address these issues.





**Figure 2; Recent Enrolment Trends in St Michaels NS**

St Michael's National School, Patrick Street, Trim: The school enrolled 272 students for the 2006/07 school year and is operating above capacity. The school also has a significant number of pupils with special educational needs. There are 24 pupils with autism and two of these classes are being housed in a prefab which is taking up limited space to the rear of the school.



**Figure 3; Recent Enrolment Trends in St Marys Convent NS**

St Mary's Convent National School, Patrick's Street, Trim, provides both mainstream and special needs education to the children of Trim. It has 29 classrooms in total and enrolled 533 students for the 2006/07 school year. This is the highest figure in recent years and as a result the school has not been able to accommodate all applicants. The Planning Authority is aware that it will be necessary for the school to expand in the medium term and it is understood that this will be likely to bring additional pressures with extra demand placed on existing open space and increased demand for limited parking space. The Planning Authority will aim to work with the school authorities to overcome these issues.

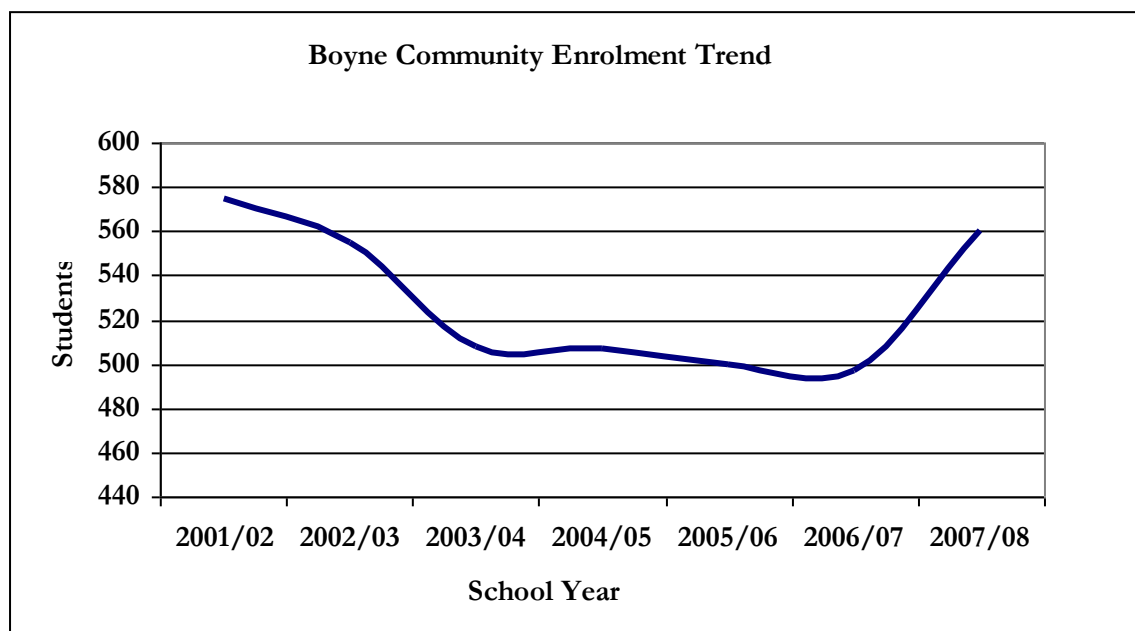
### **Post Primary Schools**



Boyne Community School

There are currently two post primary schools in the Trim Development Plan area. Boyne Community School, Dublin Road, Trim, is a 47 classroom school with an enrolment of 497 students in the school year 2006/07. This was expected to increase by more than 12% to approximately 560 for the school year 2007/08.

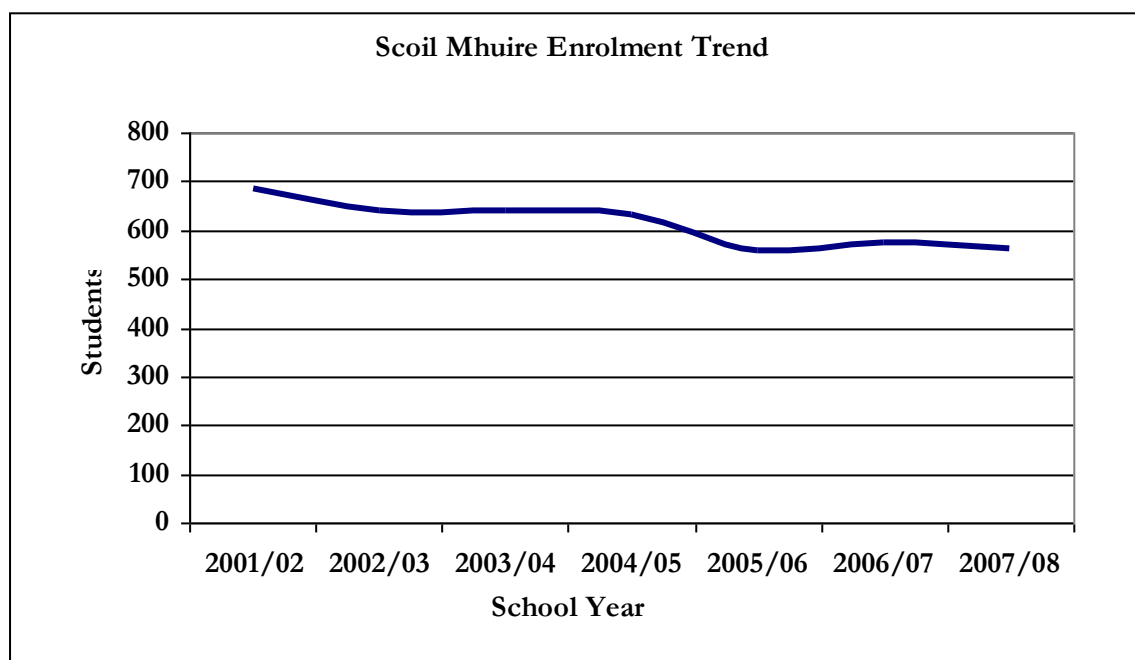
The Planning Authorities recognise that access and egress is a major concern for the school management and that the current single access point from the R154 Dublin Road is not sustainable from a transport or road safety point of view. The Planning Authorities will aim to investigate the possibility of providing an alternative rear access to the school from the R158 Ring Road during the life of the plan. The Planning Authorities are also aware of the schools intention to extend its facilities in the near future to accommodate students with autism. The Planning Authorities will aim to facilitate this development subject to the principles of proper planning.



**Figure 4; Recent Enrolment Trends in Boyne Community School**

Scoil Mhuire, Patrick's Street, Trim, has 18 mainstream classrooms providing for 575 students. While the number of students enrolling with the school has fallen slightly in recent years, the school continues to operate at a level over and above its capacity. This places extra strain on the school in a number of ways including increased traffic congestion at peak times as well as extra demand for limited parking space.

The main issue of concern for the school management is road safety. The Planning Authorities shall aim to facilitate all reasonable measures aimed at addressing these issues subject to the principles of proper planning.



**Figure 5; Recent Enrolment Trends in Scoil Mhuire**



### 2.8.2 Health Care



Health Facilities in Trim

Acute hospital services for Trim are currently provided at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda and Our Lady's Hospital, Navan. Patients are also referred to specialist services in the various Dublin hospitals. St Josephs Hospital Complex located in Trim provides a Day Hospital, Respite Care, Slow-Stream Rehabilitation, Palliative / Terminal Care and Extended Care Service. There is a local health centre located on Patrick's Street. There is also a number ancillary medical and care services operating in the town, including dentists, physiotherapists as well as a nursing home on the Dublin Road.

Having regard to the existing and projected future population and having regard to the limited health services currently available in Trim, there is a growing need for new and expanded health care facilities, particularly primary health care services in Trim. The Planning Authorities acknowledge that the HSE is progressing plans for a major new regional hospital in the North East. The Planning Authorities will co-operate with the HSE and other agencies in facilitating the provision of health care services, and to this end, a number of specific objectives will be included in this Development Plan with regard to new and expanded health care facilities.

### 2.8.3 Recreational, Sport and Leisure Facilities and Open Space



Norman Pratt Memorial Park

Access to recreational facilities is essential to maintain a healthy lifestyle and enjoy a good quality of life. Trim is relatively well provided for in terms of outdoor recreational facilities. However increased investment will be required over time with regard to indoor recreational facilities provision given the growing population. At the time of writing the town had golf as well as pitch and putt facilities, modern GAA facilities and football and tennis grounds. Trim also has a designated walking route and children's playground.

While the important role of such infrastructure is not disputed, one should not overlook the important role that public and private open space in residential areas plays in people's everyday lives. Private open space usually provides a safe, enclosed area for the resident's personal enjoyment and relaxation, but it can also act as recreational and living space for children and pets respectively. Trim is particularly well provided for in terms of public open space. Norman Pratt Memorial Park, the Porch Field and the Boyne Walking route are excellent amenities in this regard.

#### 2.8.4 Library Facilities



Trim Library



It is recognised by the Planning Authorities that the library service plays a vital role in underpinning many cultural and educational activities in Trim. The state of the art Trim branch library located on High Street offers a wide range of services to the public of both an educational, cultural and entertaining nature. The library can be accessed by community groups and members of the public free of charge. Facilities and services include an exhibition and display area, a study area, a kids zone, audio/visual facilities, internet access and a children's garden. The library recognises the importance of accessibility for all and so a range of books are available in large print and audio format.

#### 2.8.5 Childcare Facilities

The Planning Authorities acknowledge the important role that childcare facilities play in enabling people to participate fully in society and their important contribution towards tackling social disadvantage. The availability of childcare facilities can enable people to access employment, education and social networks. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government published Childcare Facilities, Guidelines for Planning Authorities in June 2001. The Planning Authority is obliged to have regard to these guidelines in the performance of its functions including the development management process.

In the Trim Electoral Area there are a total of 54 providers (5 full day care, 28 sessional, 7 school age in services and 24 childminders). 22 of which are private providers and 8 are community childcare services. A full day care community services centre opened in Trim off the Distributor road adjacent to St. Martin's halting site in September of this year offering full day care.

According to Meath County Childcare Committee's policy document 'Embracing the evolving role of Childcare Meath County Childcare Committee Strategic Plan 2007-2010' Meath County Childcare there are currently 943 childcare places in Trim Electoral Area, indicating that 16% of the projected child population (2006) in this locality have access to a childcare place. There are substantially more sessional places than full day care places. Funding for full day care places will be a priority of the National Childcare Investment Programme. There is still a need for continuing childcare development. The planning authorities will endeavour to increase childcare provision in Trim over the Development Plan period.

### 2.8.6 Fire Service

Meath County Council is the Fire Authority for the administrative area of County Meath, including the Trim Town Council area. The central fire station is based at Abbey Road, Navan. There are six other fire stations located throughout the county at Ashbourne, Dunshaughlin, Kells, Nobber, Oldcastle and Trim. During 2004, Meath County Council and Dublin City Council entered into an agreement whereby the Computer Aided Mobilization Project (CAMP) service will provide arrangements for the mobilization of Meath fire brigades. Deployment of Fire appliances is therefore on a regional basis. The Fire Service is an important life saving emergency service provided by Meath County Council. According to a recent grading of all stations, Trim Fire Station has the full range of facilities that are deemed to be necessary. The fire service also has a responsibility in relation to fire safety standards in the design of new and improved buildings, changes of use and also in relation to the fire safety aspects of the daily use of buildings which are accessed by the public. Under the Building Regulations, separate applications are sent to the Fire Authority to obtain a Fire Safety Certificate and this is obtained prior to construction. The role and functions of the Fire Authority are intertwined with other core services of Meath County Council such as planning, housing, water services and roads;

- planning decisions can have a major effect on the risk level in a particular area;
- good housing maintenance practices can impact significantly on the level of chimney fires;
- the fire service's water supply requirements need to be taken into account in designing water supply systems, and;
- the quality of roads and traffic management systems can affect fire brigade incident response times.

It is important, therefore, for the benefit of the community, that there are effective working relationships and co-operation between the Fire Authority and the other Local Authority services on a continuous basis.

## 2.9 Heritage Context

There were 63 structures considered to be of architectural, artistic and historic interest, protected in the Trim Development Plan 2002 - 2008. All Planning Authorities in accordance with Part II, Section 10 (f) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 are required to include in a Development Plan objectives for the protection of structures, or parts of structures, which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest. These buildings and structures are compiled on a register known as the Record of Protected Structures (RPS). The review of the Trim Development Plan will update the Trim Development Plan RPS having regard to:

- The DoEHLG National Inventory of Architectural Heritage for County Meath (NIAH) which surveyed County Meath and has recommended that all structures deemed of regional, national and international importance should be included as Protected Structures in the RPS.
- Architectural Heritage Protection – Guidelines for Planning Authorities.



At this draft stage in the preparation of the plan the town itself currently boasts the following built and natural heritage features.

- 52 protected structures, 29 proposed protected structures
- 2 architectural conservation areas
- 11 preserved views and prospects
- 1 candidate Special Area of Conservation
- 10 areas where trees have been identified to be preserved
- 7 national monuments and accompanying zones of archaeological potential
- a designated Heritage Town

## **2.10 Piped Infrastructure**

### **2.10.1 Water Supply**

The capacity of the existing Trim Water Supply is 3,500 m<sup>3</sup>. This will be upgraded to 6,000m<sup>3</sup> in 2008 by the ongoing Trim Water Supply Augmentation Scheme to cater for water supply requirements in the short term. The Water Services Investment Programme Assessment of Needs 2007 – 2013 has included the Trim / Summerhill / Rathmolyon Water Supply Scheme, albeit nineteenth. It is planned to link these towns to the proposed new major water treatment plant and supply at Dowdstown, near Navan to cater for long term supply needs.

### **2.10.2 Wastewater**

The waste water treatment plant in Trim has been recently upgraded to cater for 12,000 P.E. The Water Services Investment Programme Assessment of Needs 2007 – 2013 includes the sewer network improvement scheme for Trim ranked tenth. This will remove the threat of pollution from the River Boyne by replacing the Newtown Pumping Station and by upgrading/rehabilitating the associated sewers and rising main and increase capacity in the local sewerage network.

### **2.10.3 Surface Water Drainage**

The First Schedule of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 indicates that Development Plans could include objectives regulating, restricting or controlling development in areas at risk of flooding (whether inland or coastal), erosion and other natural hazards. The Planning Authority has in the recent past required that all large-scale developments incorporate ‘Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems’ (SuDS) as part of the development proposals. SuDS are effective technologies which aim to reduce flood risk, improve water quality and enhance biodiversity and amenity. It is proposed to continue this policy of requiring SuDS proposals to accompany all large scale developments in Trim.

## **2.11 Movement**



Watergate Bridge spanning the River Boyne

Trim is located at the junction of several regional roads, namely the R154, R158, R160 and the R161. The town experiences high levels of through traffic as a result. Trim can be accessed from Dublin via the N3 or M4 national routes and so the town will benefit from the construction of the M3 Clonee to North of Kells Motorway Scheme which will provide a new link road from the M3 Dunshaughlin Interchange to the R154 Trim – Dublin Road. The proposed future development of an Outer Orbital Motorway from Drogheda to Navan to Trim, finishing near Naas will also significantly improve road access to Trim in the longer term.

During the term of the 2002 – 2008 Development Plan period, environmental improvements were carried out on many streets in Trim. Many of the footpaths in Trim have been upgraded with quality new cobblelock paving. Road access has been improved with the development of new road and bridge schemes. Pay parking has also been introduced to discourage all day commuter parking and to encourage more people to travel to Trim for short stay retail and leisure visits.

Public transport in Trim is limited to the Bus Eireann route 111 service which links Trim to Dublin and Athboy and the Flexibus rural transport service which links Trim to Navan, Longwood, Dunsany and Kilmessan. It is envisaged increased bus stop provision will be necessary in the town centre expansion areas as these areas develop. Trim is not served by an operational rail link, and Transport 21 does not provide for a spur to Trim from the Navan railway line project currently being planned. However it is possible that a station will be provided not too far from Trim, perhaps in Kilmessan on the new rail line. This is the subject of a current rail alignment study. If provided it will be a substantial improvement on the current situation. Access to the proposed rail terminus at Navan will also be viable with the realigned R161 Trim - Navan Road.

Pedestrian permeability in Trim is currently considered to be quite good. There is a Slí Na Sláinte walking route from Trim Castle which runs through the Porch Field, returning via the Dublin Road. However the situation is quite different for cyclists. The street pattern of the town makes the retro fitting of dedicated cycle ways difficult. In addition the current volumes of traffic do not contribute to a positive experience for cyclists in the town.

Transport 21 includes the following provisions which are of some relevance in the context of transport in Trim:

- Provision for upgrading regional and local bus services. €9 Million per annum will be devoted to the Rural Transport Initiative (RTI);
- Completion of the M3 Motorway by 2010;
- A new rail service will serve Navan by 2015. Phase 1 will comprise of a spur off the Maynooth line to Dunboyne (2010). The second phase is an extension of this line to Navan;
- Planning studies are ongoing as to the feasibility of an Outer Orbital Motorway from Drogheda – Navan – Trim – Kilcock – Naas, linking the M1, N2, M3, M4 and M7.