

CHAPTER 6: SOCIAL STRATEGY



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6.1 Introduction

It is universally accepted that social infrastructure forms an indispensable element of quality development. The Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2004 – 2016 state; “The timely and adequate provision of educational, health care, retail and other community facilities is central to enhancing the quality of life for the citizens of the Greater Dublin Area.”

Trim Town Council and Meath County Council fully concur with the Regional Authorities viewpoint on this issue and recognise the vital role that community infrastructure plays in the life of every town. Chapter Two contains a summary of the type of community facilities currently available in Trim. The primary role of the Planning Authorities in terms of social infrastructure is in the reservation of sufficient lands to accommodate social, community and recreational facilities.

These facilities should be accessible where possible by sustainable modes of transport. The provision of multi-functional open / recreational spaces and community facilities is the approach recommended by the Planning Authorities as facilities in this manner can fulfil the various needs of different sectors of the population.

Section 10(2) of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2007, as amended, sets out a list of mandatory objectives to be included in a Development Plan. A number of these objectives deal with social infrastructure, either directly or indirectly. These include:

- The zoning of lands for the use solely or primarily of particular areas for particular purposes (including recreational and open space uses) where and to such an extent as the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, in the opinion of the Planning Authority, requires the uses to be indicated;
- The integration of the planning and sustainable development of the area with the social, community and cultural requirements of the area and its population;
- The preservation, improvement and extension of amenities and recreational amenities;
- The provision, or facilitation of the provision, of services for the community including, in particular, schools, crèches and other education and childcare facilities, and;
- The provision of accommodation for travellers, and the use of particular areas for that purpose.

The First Schedule of the Planning and Development Act 2000, lists purposes for which objectives ‘may’ be included in Development Plans. Part III of the First Schedule deals with community facilities and includes the following objectives:

Facilitating the provision and siting of services and facilities necessary for the community, including the following:

- Hospitals and other healthcare facilities;
- Centres for the social, economic, recreational, cultural, environmental, or general development of the community;
- Facilities for the elderly and for persons with disabilities;
- Places of public worship and meeting halls;
- Recreational facilities and open spaces, including caravan and camping parks, sports grounds and playgrounds;
- Shopping and banking facilities, and;
- Reserving land for burial grounds.

6.2 Educational Facilities

Educational infrastructure provision is primarily the responsibility of the Department of Education and Science. The role of the Planning Authorities in educational provision is to ensure that sufficient lands are reserved in the Development Plan to accommodate the development of new schools and the expansion of existing schools. Trim provides a wide range of education facilities, catering for

students attending primary, post primary and special education. Chapter 2 outlined how Trim's existing schools are finding it increasingly difficult to provide for the towns growing young population. With the existing and projected increases in population, pressure will continue to be placed on these educational facilities, most of which are already reaching capacity and have little room available for further development and expansion. Other problems raised included parking, access and egress and limited recreational and educational space. Having regard to the significant increases in population during the lifetime of the last Development Plan, the anticipated population increase envisaged during the lifetime of the Development Plan and the greater demands on the internal structure of the schools, it is clear that the need for additional educational facilities is as great as ever.

Trim does not currently have any third level provision but it is considered that it has potential to accommodate an outreach type premises.

Additional Primary Education Requirements

The analysis outlined in Chapter Two identified that many of the national schools in Trim are operating beyond capacity, with limited opportunity to expand. With the exception of the Gaelscoil, all the primary schools are located in the town centre in close proximity resulting in traffic congestion and parking problems at peak times, the morning and afternoon. Furthermore, the previous Development Plan failed to provide additional lands for education facilities in the suburbs of the town, in the large areas zoned for residential development. As a result there is no national schools in the environs of the town, resulting in many cross river trips which signifies unsustainable travel patterns which further contributes to traffic congestion at peak times.

Following consultation with the Department of Education and Science, the need for 1 no. post primary school, 2 no. primary schools and a site to facilitate the relocation of the Gaelscoil were identified. Subsequently, the Planning Authorities have made provision for educational needs, in the Development Plan including those of primary schools, to be located in the newly developing residential areas of Trim. To the north east of the town at Blackfriary FP 1, lands shall be reserved as part of the Framework Plan requirements, 16 acres in total, for the provision of an integrated multi school educational campus to accommodate a primary school (4 acres) and a secondary school (12acres). A site to the south east of the town off the Dublin Road, shall be reserved for a second multi school campus to accommodate a primary school and a site to facilitate the relocation of the Gaelscoil (FP 5). A 4 acre site shall also be reserved for a primary school at Newtown as part of the Framework Plan requirements.

Policies

In terms of education, it is the policy of Meath County Council and Trim Town Council:

ED POL 1 To facilitate the development of primary and post primary educational facilities to meet the needs of Trim, its environs and its catchment population.

ED POL 2 To facilitate the Department of Education and Science in the necessary provision of primary and post primary educational facilities throughout the town by reserving lands specifically for such uses. The Planning Authorities shall support the concept of multi-school campus.

ED POL 3 To facilitate the development, improvement and expansion of primary, post primary, third level, outreach, special, adult and further educational facilities to meet the needs of Trim.

ED POL 4 To ensure the provision of primary and secondary educational facilities in concert with the planning and development of residential areas in order to maximise opportunities for walking, cycling and the use of public transport.

ED POL 5 To encourage, support and develop opportunities to open up new and existing schools to wider community use.

ED POL 6 To encourage and support the development of further educational facilities and training programmes for children and adults with special needs.

ED POL 7 To encourage the integration of those with special needs into the education system of streamlined schools, where possible.

ED POL 8 To actively promote and encourage the provision of third level educational programmes in the town.

ED POL 9 To promote the development of outreach programmes between businesses and the third level institutions in adjoining Counties.

Objectives

In terms of education, it is an objective of Meath County Council and Trim Town Council:

ED OBJ 1 To zone sufficient lands at appropriate locations to cater for the needs of primary and post primary schools and educational facilities in Trim.

ED OBJ 2 To facilitate the Department of Education and Science on the provision of a multi school campus, (providing for a primary school and a Gaelscoil primary school) by making provision for such a site off the Dublin Road to be developed as part of a Framework Plan (FP 5).

ED OBJ 3 To facilitate the Department of Education and Science on the provision of a multi school campus, (providing for a primary school and secondary school) in the residential suburbs of Trim by making provision for such a site in the Blackfriary Framework Plan lands (FP 1).

ED OBJ 4 To facilitate the Department of Education and Science on the provision of a primary school in the residential suburbs of Trim by making provision for such a site in the Newtown Framework Plan lands (FP 2).

ED OBJ 5 To facilitate the development of sports, recreational and cultural facilities for schools in Trim.

ED OBJ 6 To promote, in consultation with the relevant school authorities and Boards of Management the development of sustainable means of transport for school going children, to include walking, cycling, bus and car pooling.

ED OBJ 7 To actively encourage links with third level institutions in adjoining Counties.

ED OBJ 8 To reserve lands off the Summerhill Road for the development of a primary school, in consultation with the relevant authorities.

6.3 Childcare Facilities

The provision of childcare facilities is recognised as key social infrastructure required to enable people to participate in accessing employment, education and social networks. As outlined in Chapter One, the Development Plan must contain objectives relating to the provision, or facilitation for the provision of services for the community. To assist Planning Authorities to this effect, the DoEHLG produced 'Planning Guidelines on Childcare Facilities' (2001) which sets out guidance on policies and objectives to be included in development plans.

According to the "Childcare Facilities – Guidelines for Planning Authorities", Childcare Facilities relate to full day care facilities, sessional facilities, pre-school facilities and after school services. The Planning Guidelines on Childcare Facilities identifies appropriate locations for childcare facilities

including in the vicinity of concentrations of work places, of schools, of neighbourhood, district and town centres and adjacent to public transport corridors, park and ride facilities, pedestrian routes and dedicated cycle ways.

With profound demographic and social changes occurring in Trim, childcare is a prevalent issue for many families. Chapter Two highlighted the need for continuing childcare development in Trim particularly full day care. Trim Town Council and Meath County Council recognise the importance of the provision of an adequate level of childcare facilities. Generally childcare facilities benefit users of the facilities, their parents, employers and the community generally.

County Childcare Committees have been developed to advance childcare at a local level. Meath County Childcare Committee support the development of quality childcare services within the county by working in partnership with parents, providers, the broader community, local, regional and national agencies to provide a coordinated approach to the delivery of childcare for all children aged 0-14 through development and support. Meath County Childcare Committee has developed a strategy 'Meath County Childcare Committee Strategic Plan 2007-2010' to ensure the balanced provision of quality childcare facilities throughout the County. Their strategy covers services for children and school going children out of school hours, including services offering care, education and socialisation opportunities for children to the benefit of children, parents, employers and the wider community.

Trim Town Council and Meath County Council will continue to be positive and proactive in encouraging an increase in the number of childcare places available and improve the quality of childcare services for the community. The joint Councils will consider the 'Meath County Childcare Strategic Plan' in the future provision of childcare facilities in Trim and also have regard to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Governments planning guidelines. The planning authorities will endeavour to increase childcare provision in Trim over the Development Plan period.

Guidelines on the provision of childcare facilities in residential developments are set out in Chapter 8 of this Development Plan 'Development Management Guidelines and Standards'.



A recently constructed Childcare Facility in Trim

Policies

In terms of childcare, it is the policy of Meath County Council and Trim Town Council:

SOC POL 1 To encourage and promote the provision of childcare facilities in Trim in accordance with national policy and the DoEHLG Planning Guidelines on Childcare Facilities. Such provision will be required at an appropriate scale and in appropriate locations which include:

- On appropriately located sites in existing and new residential areas;
- Industrial estates/ business parks/ retail warehousing developments and other locations where there are significant numbers working;
- In the vicinity of schools;
- Neighbourhood centres and;
- Adjacent to public transport routes.

SOC POL 2 To seek to realise the objectives of the 'Meath County Childcare Committee Strategic Plan 2007-2010' - as pertinent to Trim, to ensure the balanced provision of quality childcare facilities throughout the town.

SOC POL 3 To consider childcare needs in future framework plans and all residential planning applications.

SOC POL 4 To permit childcare facilities in existing residential areas provided that they do not have a significant impact on the character or amenities of an area, particularly with regard to car parking, traffic generation and noise disturbance. Where proposed facilities relate to properties which have been designed and built as dwellings, and are surrounded by other houses, a significant residential element should be retained.

Objectives

In terms of childcare, it is an objective of Meath County Council and Trim Town Council:

SOC OBJ 1 To encourage the provision of additional full day care childcare places, drop in facilities and work place crèches.

SOC OBJ 2 To encourage the provision of childcare facilities in tandem with proposals for new residential developments. Generally, one childcare facility with places for 20 children shall be provided for each 75 family dwellings. The Planning Authorities will encourage developers of new residential developments to provide purpose built facilities and to consult with the Meath County Childcare Committee on how best to meet the childcare needs of that area.

6.4 Healthcare Facilities

Healthcare facilities provision in Trim is primarily the responsibility of the Health Service Executive - North Eastern Area, though a number of healthcare services are provided by the voluntary and private sectors. The role of the Planning Authorities in healthcare provision is to ensure that sufficient lands are reserved in the Development Plan to accommodate the development of adequate healthcare facilities to serve the residential population of an area. The Planning Authority also aids public health by endeavouring to deliver a quality built and natural environment through spatial planning policies which result in the delivery of quality, useable recreational areas, improved pedestrian and cycle facilities, and the safeguarding of our water courses from pollution which could threaten public health.

There are a number of private Medical Practitioners located throughout the town. However, there are no health care units. As noted in Chapter Two, having regard to the existing and projected future population there is a growing need for new and expanded health care facilities, particularly primary health care services in Trim. Furthermore, the HSE's 'Primary Health Care Strategy' promotes the provision of a health care unit for at least every 7,000 people. Thus, a minimum of two medical centres are required to ensure the provision of an efficient health service to the existing and future population of the town. To provide for this demand, it is the intention of the HSE to establish a Network Building in Trim to accommodate a number of primary care services including GPs, Public Health Nurse Services, and therapy's including speech and language, physiotherapy, occupational and dietetics etc. and all secondary services including disability services, elderly services, childcare services and mental health services. The HSE are currently in advanced negotiations with developers in relation to the location of same. A number of buildings approx. 30,000 sq. ft. in area are currently being explored by the HSE including a building the Town Centre Expansion area and a building off the Longwood Road. A 1 ½ acre site will also be required to be reserved for the purposes of a health centre in the Blackfriary Framework Plan lands to cater for the projected demands. The HSE also has a three acre site adjacent to the Fire Station in their ownership.

It is considered that the HSE, have adequate lands available in their ownership at St. Joseph's Hospital Site to cater for expansion, if required during the lifetime of this plan. The Planning Authorities also 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, through the specific policies and objectives detailed below.

Policies

In terms of healthcare, it the policy of Meath County Council and Trim Town Council:

SOC POL 5 To co-operate with the Health Service Executive (North East) and other statutory and voluntary agencies in the provision of appropriate health care facilities covering the full spectrum of such care from hospitals to the provision of community based care facilities subject to the principles of proper planning and sustainable development.

SOC POL 6 To ensure that adequate lands and services are available for the improvement, establishment and expansion of health services.

SOC POL 7 To promote the improvement and expansion of health services in Trim.

SOC POL 8 To co-operate with the Health Service Executive in the implementation of their 'Primary Care Strategy'.

SOC POL 9 To encourage the integration of healthcare facilities within new and existing communities and to discourage proposals that would cause unnecessary isolation or other access difficulties, particularly for people with a disability, the elderly or children.

SOC POL 10 To consider change of use applications from residential to health care facilities / surgeries only where the privacy and amenity of adjacent occupiers can be preserved and the proposal does not have a detrimental effect on local amenity by way of a substantial increase in traffic, car parking or noise. The full conversion of semi-detached or terraced type dwellings will not be permitted.

SOC POL 11 To ensure that high standards of design and layout are achieved in new healthcare facilities and in the change of use of existing premises to health care facilities.

SOC POL 12 To encourage, support and facilitate the provision of a range of health services for the aged population.

Objectives

In terms of healthcare, it is an objective of Meath County Council and Trim Town Council:

SOC OBJ 3 To facilitate the Health Service Executive in the provision of a health centre in the residential suburbs of Trim by making provision for such a site in the Blackfriary Framework Plan lands.

Policing

Trim Garda Station is located on Castle St. General safety and crime prevention is a concern for the Garda Síochána, given the projected population growth of the town and its environs.

Policies

In terms of policing, it is the policy of Meath County Council and Trim Town Council:

SOC POL 13 To assist in improving and maintaining general safety within the town centre and its environs.

SOC POL 14 To promote the installation of CCTV cameras along the main streets in the town centre.

SOC POL 15 To promote the formation of neighbourhood watch groups in newly developing and existing neighbourhoods.

SOC POL 16 To maintain a high level of safety in new residential and commercial development through appropriate urban design provisions.

6.5 Open Space & Recreation

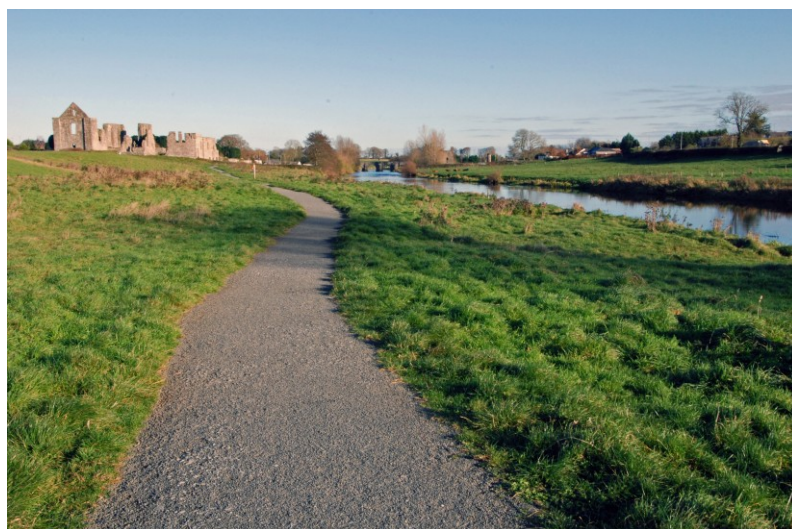
Recreation, leisure and sport are important components of a good quality of life and have major land use and transportation implications. Thus, adequate and accessible provision of open space, sports and recreational facilities is an important consideration in assessing the quality of life in a town or area.



Golf Course adjoining the Knightsbrook Hotel

As noted in Chapter Two, 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 projected population growth. New sporting facilities and amenities should be located in areas that are accessible by pedestrians/cyclists to reduce car-borne trips and in such a manner that can accommodate all necessary requirements of the various clubs/organisations in a multi purpose arrangement where possible.

Trim is also 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.



Boyne Walking Route

Policies

In terms of recreation, it is the policy of Meath County Council and Trim Town Council:

SOC POL 17 To ensure that high quality open space is provided to serve the active and passive recreational needs of the population of Trim.

SOC POL 18 To support and encourage local sports and community groups in the provision, expansion and development of outdoor and indoor community facilities and where appropriate encourage the input of a third party.

SOC POL 19 To resist the loss of existing public open space, unless alternative recreational facilities are provided in a sustainable location.

SOC POL 20 To encourage the development of children's playgrounds in proximity to existing and proposed residential areas.

Objectives

In terms of recreation, it an objective of Meath County Council and Trim Town Council:

SOC OBJ 4 To investigate existing public open spaces and amenity areas and carry out improvements where necessary to increase their usefulness as recreational spaces.

SOC OBJ 5 To develop and implement, subject to the availability of the necessary financial resources, a strategy for the provision of children's playgrounds throughout Trim.

SOC OBJ 6 To provide for passive and active recreational spaces around the Porch Fields and the River Boyne.

6.5.1 Public Open Space in Residential Areas

Accessible, useable, dedicated open spaces and recreational facilities to meet both passive and active recreational needs are vital for residential and recreational amenity. Open spaces should be practical in size and layout and attractive in design through carefully planned landscaping. These spaces should be suitable for accommodating casual sporting and leisure activity particularly that carried out by children and young people. Vast uninviting, unduly sloping, irregularly shaped or uneven green spaces are not acceptable. Equally, open spaces which are impractically landscaped and which hinder recreation, or are isolated and not appropriately overlooked will not be used by residents and so should be avoided by developers to avoid these areas becoming havens for antisocial behaviour.

In new residential areas public open spaces should be delivered in an effective and timely manner with a greater emphasis placed on the following:

- Quality of the space;
- Use of existing natural features within the site;
- Accessibility;
- Gradient, and;
- Degree to which the space can contribute to a network of spaces for creation of ecological corridors.

A hierarchical system of open space should be distributed throughout housing areas and neighbourhoods, ranging from small areas where children can play in view of their homes to larger areas where older children can partake in casual ball games and other play activities. It is desirable that large areas of public open space be located adjacent to existing or proposed neighbourhood centres, community facilities and educational campuses in order to facilitate multi-purpose use.

In certain circumstances, where these standards cannot be met and more intensive recreational facilities may be desirable, the provision of such facilities in lieu will be considered or contributions may be levied towards the provision of public facilities, as provided for in Part III, Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000. As per SOC POL 19, it is a specific policy of Meath County Council and Trim Town Council to resist the loss of existing public open spaces (This is also applicable to public open spaces within existing residential areas).

Public Open Space Standards

Public open space in residential developments shall be provided at a minimum rate of 15% of the total site area. A variety of types and sizes of open spaces should be provided to cater for the active and passive recreational needs of children and adults of all ages. The minimum requirements per 1,000 population (in excess of 350 conventional housing units) for the different types of open space is set out below. It is the intention of the Planning Authorities that, where practical, additional open space shall be provided at a minimum rate of 3.2 hectares (8.0 acres) per 1000 population. Discretion is required to take account of the composition of different housing units and the different demographic characteristics which may result from same. The preferred make up of this open space is outlined below:

Proposed Use	Minimum Standard
Children's Play Area	0.4 hectares
Urban Parks	1.2 hectares
Playing Fields	1.6 hectares
Total Requirement	3.2 hectares

Table 7 Public Open Space Requirements

The general amenity space / urban parks is in addition to the provision of playing fields and is for more informal play than the playing fields which may also be used for local sports organisations, as considered appropriate. A minimum of 4000 sq.m. of children's play area is required for a development of 40 dwellings or more (based on average occupancy of 2.9 persons per house). No account will be taken of incidental open space such as grass margins, left over areas, nor any area due to its nature (e.g. marshy) or topography (slope) which is deemed unsuitable.

The location, siting and design of the open space will have regard to the following:

- Be well designed and of a high visual standard so that it is functional and accessible to all;
- Provide for the retention of existing natural features;
- Include proposals for drainage and landscaping of the public open space;
- Houses shall not be permitted to back onto open spaces;
- Provide high levels of natural surveillance and overlooking by as many houses as possible;
- Be provided with a boundary fence / wall where such open space is adjacent to a main access road or Local Distributor Road.

6.6 Library Facilities

The existing library facility in Trim as outlined in Chapter Two is a modern well equipped Library which provides a valuable service to the people of Trim. The Planning Authority recognises the important role of the Trim branch library.

Policy

In terms of library facilities, it an objective of Meath County Council and Trim Town Council:

SOC POL 21 To recognise the important role that the library service plays in the community and to facilitate the library service in enhancing its service delivery to the public, subject to the principles of proper planning and sustainable development.

6.7 Arts and Culture

Through the appointment of a County Arts Officer and the development of an Arts Development Plan, Meath County Council and Trim Town Council have affirmed their belief in the importance of arts, and its provision as an important aspect of Local Government service to the Community. Meath County Council prepared a County Arts Development Plan 2005-2007 which sets out measures to further formalise support structures and create opportunities for the arts both within the local authority and the county. The Planning Authorities recognize the importance of the arts in the areas of personal development, community development, employment and tourism.

In terms of public art in Trim, current features include 'King and Queen' by Ronan Halpin (1992), Trim Branch Library, 'Cross Sundial' by Michael Verdon 1988, Fire Station 'Bell' by Vivienne Roche 1989. Meath County Council and Trim Town Council will identify and assess the suitability of private development projects with regard to the provision of an art feature as part of the overall development. This provision will form part of the overall planning conditions for private development projects.



Festival Insignia

A number of local organised arts festivals also take place in Trim, the most notably being the Trim Festival of Masks. The six-day theatre and arts festival takes place in Trim around Halloween and brings the town to life with music, street theatre, outdoor movies, mask-making workshops and a lavish masked ball. The Trim Festival of Masks set is an Arts and Tourism initiative which sets forth a framework for an annual festival for Trim town and its environs.

This boutique arts festival has the potential to become a national event and a fantastic opportunity to place Trim's cultural heritage central stage in a contemporary way. The festival logo incorporates the historically Yellow Steeple into a theatrical mask. At another level the logo references the hidden and sometimes forgotten faces and treasures of this rich cultural Meath landscape. One key event during the festival involves devising contemporary comic theatre which is performed on the streets and historic landscapes of Trim. The festival received grant aid from Fáilte Ireland and is supported by Meath County Council and Trim Town Council.

Scurlogstown Olympiad is another important cultural group which is active in Trim. This group is attempting to revive the past times, sports and way of life of the Irish people. Over the years the Olympiad has delivered its message through the promotion of the Irish language, song, dance, music and way of life. They produce numerous pageants, fairs and Aeriochts on the streets of Trim. In more recent times the group has developed Ireland's only National Haymaking festival.

There are also number of local performing groups in Trim including Trim Drama Group and Trim Musical Society.

Meath County Council's Arts Office works with many festival committees in the development of arts programmes and in the provision of specific events. Meath County Council and Trim Town Council acknowledge the valuable work undertaken by local arts groups in the town and their contribution to arts activities to date. In recognition of this, Trim Town Council and Meath County Council will continue to support the efforts of local groups and endeavour to provide a balanced cultural provision to Trim, with regard to music, film, theatre, dance, visual arts, literature and opera through the policies outlined below.

Policies

In terms of arts and culture, it is the policy of Meath County Council and Trim Town Council:

SOC POL 22 To support the development and provision of arts, cultural facilities and events in Trim.

SOC POL 23 To liaise with the County Arts Officer on any development proposal that is likely to have a significant impact on the arts.

SOC POL 24 To promote the provision of public art, including temporary art and sculpture, through such mechanisms as the government supported Percent for Art Scheme and the development management process.

SOC POL 25 To require major new commercial and private residential developments to incorporate works of public art into such schemes.

6.8 Burial Grounds

Local Authorities have a responsibility to provide for Burial Grounds. There are a number of burial grounds in Trim. The largest, St. Loman's Cemetery off the Kinnegad Road is nearing capacity and has little room for expansion. The Planning Authority recognises the need to identify and reserve an appropriate site for the purposes of a burial ground. The following policies shall guide the development, expansion and conservation of burial grounds.

In terms of burial grounds, it the policy of Meath County Council and Trim Town Council:

SOC POL 26 To facilitate the provision of new (non-denominational) burial grounds and the extension of existing burial grounds as appropriate to cater for the needs of the Trim.

SOC POL 27 To protect the cultural heritage of historical burial grounds within Meath and encourage their management and maintenance in accordance with conservation principles.

SOC POL 28 To encourage local community groups to develop, manage and maintain new burial facilities.

In terms of burial grounds, it is an objective of Meath County Council and Trim Town Council:

SOC OBJ 7 To reserve a site off the Summerhill Road for the purposes of a burial ground. (Please refer to Zoning Map).

6.9 Fire Service

An overview of the role of the Local Authority in providing a Fire Service is outlined in Chapter Two. The Planning Authorities shall aim to facilitate the Fire Service, an emergency service provider, in the delivery of a first class fire service having regard to the following policies.



Trim Fire Station

Policies

In terms of fire services, it is the policy of Meath County Council and Trim Town Council:

SOC POL 29 To continue to provide a modern and effective fire service for Trim and to facilitate the accommodation of fire service facilities in locations that allow ease of access and safe functioning with respect to the road network.

SOC POL 30 To facilitate the expansion of the Fire Service as the needs arise subject to proper planning and development.

6.10 Community Centres

There is a growing need in Trim and residential areas in particular for multi purpose type buildings which can be used by community groups / residents associations etc. This can be accommodated in a multifunctional manner sharing a building with perhaps a childcare facility.

Policies

In terms of community centres, it is the policy of Meath County Council and Trim Town Council:

SOC POL 31 To encourage and support the work of community groups in Trim.

SOC POL 32 To ensure that provision is made for such community facilities as is deemed appropriate in consultation with local interested parties and to assist in the provision of community and resource centres by identification and reservation of suitable sites including land banks within Local Authority ownership.

Objective

In terms of community centres, it is an objective of Meath County Council and Trim Town Council:

SOC OBJ 8 To facilitate the provision of a multi-functional community hall / theatre in a, prominent, central and accessible location.