



Trim



Development Plan

2008 – 2014



Progress Report



Planning Dept.,
Meath County Council
November 2010



comhairle bhaile atha thruim
trim town council



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

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Introduction

The Trim Development Plan was adopted on the 13th of November 2008. This six year plan sets out a template for the proper planning and sustainable development of the town and its environs. The Development Plan is a statutory document and required formal adoption by both Trim Town Council and Meath County Council elected members. All planning applications in Trim are assessed to ensure compliance with the adopted provisions of the Trim Development Plan.

Section 15(2) of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2010 requires that both Council members of a Planning Authority are presented with a report not more than two years after the making of a Development Plan on progress achieved in securing the objectives of the Development Plan. This report is presented to the Elected Members of Meath County Council at their meeting on the 6th of December 2010 and to the Elected Members of Trim Town Council at their meeting on the 14th of December.

The objectives of the Trim Development Plan 2008 - 2014 are contained in the following nine chapters which are set out as follows:

1. Policy Context
2. Trim in Context
3. Settlement Strategy & Housing
4. Economic Development Strategy
5. Built and Natural Heritage
6. Social Strategy
7. Infrastructure Strategy
8. Development Management Guidelines and Standards
9. Implementation and Monitoring

This report examines each chapter of the Plan in turn and more particularly the objectives contained therein and outlines what progress has been made to date in implementing the Plan. It is a key monitoring document in that it informs the elected members of the Planning Authority as to how their Development Plan is being implemented at this key point in the Plan's six year term.

The report has been prepared in consultation with in house technical staff from various departments within the council including Roads, Infrastructure, Tourism, Housing, Economic Development and Innovation. Meath County Council's Heritage Officer and Conservation Officer have also had a valuable input in the report. External consultation has also taken place with the Department of Education and Science and the Health Service Executive.

In considering this report it should be noted that the review period for the preparation of the Development Plan took place in the context of a more positive economic climate. However, the current economic downturn has resulted in a significant slowdown in the construction sector and increase in unemployment nationally. The economic downturn has therefore had a resultant impact on securing some of the objectives in the Development Plan.

Chapter 1 – Policy Context

Under the Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2010 as amended each Planning Authority is obliged to make a Development Plan every 6 years.

The review of the Trim Development Plan 2002-2008 commenced with the publication of an advertisement in the *Irish Independent* dated 2nd March, 2006, and the *Meath Chronicle* dated 11th March, 2006. In accordance with Section 11 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, the Planning Authority prepared a pre-draft consultation document 'Preparation of a new Trim

Development Plan – Strategic Issues Paper' which was placed on public display from the 13th March, 2006, – 12th May, 2006. In addition, letters to Prescribed Bodies and service providers were issued as part of the consultation process.

Preliminary consultations also took place with the main service providers (i.e. providers of energy, telecommunications, transport, education, etc.) to discuss objectives and policies which were likely to have a significant bearing on Development Plan policy. 45 submissions were received at pre-draft stage. The principle issues raised at pre-draft stage in the submissions included land use zoning, employment and economic development, infrastructure, built & natural heritage and community infrastructure. Of the 45 submissions received, 16 consisted of proposals seeking the zoning or rezoning of lands for residential purposes. These issues were summarised and addressed in the Managers Report prepared in respect of the pre draft consultation phase.

The Draft Trim Development Plan was placed on public display for 10 weeks from Friday the 21st of December to Friday the 29th of February 2008 in the Planning Department of Meath County Council and the Trim Area Office. 70 submissions were received during this time. Amendments to the Draft plan were placed on public display from 20th of August to the 17th September 2008. The issues raised in the submissions received were summarised and addressed in the relevant Manager's Reports.

The Development Plan review was guided at the time by the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, in particular Section 10 which set out a number of mandatory objectives that must be included in the Plan. These objectives were as follows;

- the zoning of land for particular purposes.
- the provision or facilitation of the provision of infrastructure.
- the conservation and protection of the environment.
- 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 of the character of the landscape.
- the protection of structures, or parts of structures, which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.
- the preservation of the character of architectural conservation areas.
- the development and renewal of areas in need of regeneration.
- the provision of accommodation for travellers.
- the preservation, improvement and extension of amenities and recreational amenities.
- reducing the risk, or limiting the consequences of a major accident.
- the facilitation of community services including education and childcare facilities.
- the protection of the linguistic and cultural heritage of the Gaeltacht.

The Planning and Development Amendment Bill was enacted into law on the 26th of July 2010. It is noteworthy that under Section 7 of the Amendment Act 2010 there are a number of amendments to Section 10 which provide for additional mandatory objectives including the requirement to prepare a core strategy, the encouragement of the habitats objective, the promotion of compliance with environment standards, the promotion of sustainable settlement and transportation strategies in urban and rural areas, reduce energy demand, landscape protection and objectives etc.

Chapter 2 – Trim in Context

This chapter introduces Trim town and environs and includes relevant background information in order to portray a clear overview of the present day context. It outlines Trim's historic heritage, current and past population trends, economic development, community facilities, infrastructure provisions and movement issues.

Chapter 3 – Settlement Strategy

This chapter outlines the settlement strategy and includes the housing strategy for Trim for the plan period. The Meath County Development Plan 2007 – 2013 contains the County Housing Strategy, the Trim Housing Strategy is compliant with this. Key housing principals and land use zoning objectives are outlined in this chapter, which are fundamental to the implementation of the Settlement Strategy. The housing market in Ireland has changed fundamentally over the two years since the adoption of the current Housing Strategy. Significant oversupply of housing coupled with a worldwide economic downturn has led to a major decrease in the value of residential property nationwide. This in turn has resulted in a major slowdown in construction activity in the country. The economic downturn has impacted upon the securing of some of the objectives in the Settlement Strategy. The progress achieved with regard to securing these objectives is outlined below:

Settlement Strategy OBJ 1 To provide sufficient and appropriately located lands for industrial and commercial development;

✓ Progress to Date,

This objective was secured in the adoption of the Trim Development Plan 2008-2014 whereby sufficient lands were zoned for both industrial and commercial development throughout the town at appropriate locations. (Zoning Objectives E1, E2, C1 refer). Provision for employment and enterprise have been made to the north, northeast, south and east of the town. Additional lands were zoned at Scurlockstown Business Park to the east to allow for its future expansion if required over the plan period. Lands were also identified off the Dunderry Road to provide for small and medium sized industries of a local nature (including entrepreneurial start up businesses) and to allow for the displacement of non compatible and industrial uses from the town centre and other locations. Adequate lands were available at Oaktree Business Park to serve future needs over the lifetime of the Plan.

The Planning Authority is satisfied that adequate lands currently remain available in Trim to serve future industrial and commercial needs over the lifetime of the Development Plan.

Settlement Strategy OBJ 2 To ensure the provision of adequate sanitary services and other urban infrastructure to cater for the growth in demand for such facilities;

✓ Progress to Date,

The Infrastructure Department of Meath County Council and Trim Town Council are responsible for the planning, delivery and maintenance of the Water Services infrastructure network in the County including Trim. The Infrastructure Department keeps the piped infrastructural needs of the County under constant review having regard to future land use plans for the County.

Trim's water and sewerage networks were upgraded to allow for future growth. The current water distribution input is 3,066m³/day. The scheme has capacity to supply 4,500m³/day to Trim and environs.

A waste water discharge licence was granted by the EPA on the 16th of December 2009 for the Trim Waste Water Treatment Works. The design capacity of the Waste Water Treatment Works is 12,000pe. The maximum projected load in 2015 is expected to be 9683pe. Subsequently, there is

adequate capacity in the Trim Wastewater Treatment Works to meet the projected wastewater needs of Trim for the current Trim Development Plan 2008-2014.

There are however some local network constraints e.g. a new pumping station replacement and upgrade is required at Newtown to facilitate further development on this side of Trim. In line with Council policy it will be a requirement that the provision of this infrastructure is developer driven.

Settlement Strategy OBJ 3 To promote the enhancement of an adequate and efficient transportation system;

✓ Progress to Date,

The securing of this objective is ongoing throughout the life of the Development Plan. The Councils have developed strong cooperative relationships with the various infrastructure stakeholders throughout the Country including the National Roads Authority, National Transport Agency, Iarnród Éireann and adjoining Local Authorities. The Councils continue to work with Iarnród Éireann on the planning of the Navan to Dublin railway line extension. Meath County Council is also working closely with the National Transport Authority's in the preparation of the 'Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area' which is due to be adopted in 2011. A number of objectives were put forward for inclusion in the strategy by Meath County Council, those which are of relevance to Trim include, the delivery of the Leinster Outer Orbital Route, the extension of the Navan Rail line and general pedestrian and cycle policies.

Settlement Strategy OBJ 4 To promote a more compact urban form.

✓ Progress to Date,

The zoning of land in the development plan and the specific policies adopted provides for a compact and sustainable urban development in accordance with the 'Development Plan-Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 2007'. This objective is further reinforced on an ongoing basis through the implementation of the Development Plan in the Development Management process.

Settlement Strategy OBJ 5 To protect the town's built and natural heritage including Protected Structures and the ACA's, by encouraging appropriate and sensitive new development;

✓ Progress to Date,

The securing of this objective is ongoing throughout the life of the Development Plan through the Development Management process. All applications which impact upon the town's Protected Structures or the two ACAs are referred to Meath County Council's Conservation Officer to ensure the protection of the town's built environment. The Conservation Officer also engages in extensive pre-planning consultation with regard to any future development proposals for Protected Structures. In accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2010, as amended, the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government are also consulted on applications which impact on the town's architectural and natural heritage, where appropriate.

Settlement Strategy OBJ 6 To ensure that adequate suitable land and services are reserved to cater for the establishment, improvement or expansion (where possible) of educational/social and community facilities;

✓ Progress to Date,

This objective was achieved in the preparation and adoption of Trim Development Plan whereby the Planning Authorities in consultation with the Department of Education made provision for educational needs, in the Development Plan including those of primary and secondary schools, in accordance with Section 10 of the Planning and Development Act, as amended.

To the north east of the town at Blackfriary FP 1, lands were 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 (12 acres). A site to the south east of the town off the Dublin Road, was 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 was also reserved for a primary school at Newtown as part of the Framework Plan requirements.

Settlement Strategy OBJ 7 To consolidate the existing Town Centre Development and area to the west of Emmet Street as the principal shopping area in the town;

✓ Progress to Date,

The Development Plan secures this objective by zoning the existing commercial core for B1 use and the lands to the west of Emmet Street for B2 use to allow for town centre expansion.

- B1 - To protect and enhance the special physical & social character of existing town and village centres and to provide for new and improved town centre facilities & uses.
- B2 - To provide for major new town centre activities in accordance with approved action area plans and subject to the provision of necessary physical infrastructure.

This objective is further reinforced through the Development Management Process.

Settlement Strategy OBJ 8 To develop the public realm and amenities of Trim so that quality of life for residents can be improved;

✓ Progress to Date,

A number of initiatives/developments have been developed in Trim since the adoption of the Development Plan to improve the public realm and amenities. Such initiatives include the new historic town trail, the extension of the river walk and the opening of two new streets- Finnegan's Way and Jonathan Swift Way which provide for linkages to the Town Centre. Trim Sports and Leisure Centre has also been opened since the adoption of the Development Plan.

In addition to this, Trim took part in the Liv Com Awards and finished third in its respective category for towns up to a population of 20,000. The LivCom Awards is the world's only Competition for local communities that focuses on environmental management and the creation of liveable communities. The objective of the awards is to encourage best practice, innovation and leadership in providing a vibrant, environmentally sustainable community that improves the quality of life. Involvement in The LivCom Awards result in increased international profile for Trim and an opportunity to become aware of international best practice in the management of the local environment. The six main criteria are as follows; 1. Enhancement of the Natural and Built Landscapes: 2. Arts, Culture and Heritage 3. Environmental Best Practices: 4. Community Participation and Empowerment 5. Healthy Lifestyle 6. Strategic Planning.

Furthermore, as part of the funding application to Failte Ireland which is currently being progressed for the Boyne Valley Region investment is being sought to carry out the following improvements to the public realm within the heritage towns of Trim, Kells, Navan, and Drogheda as key gateways:

- Redesign and upgrade of the Trim heritage Centre.
- Shop Front and Painting Scheme.
- Establishment a number of Visitor Trails throughout each Town.
- Development of Public Realm projects
- Implementation of 'Shop Facades' program.
- Development of themed experiences across the Boyne Valley telling its story with excellent visitor attractions at each stopping point.
- Development of the Cultural Tourism product 'agenda' – the set of events, themes and concepts using landscape, trails and built environment and integrate into Boyne Valley total visitor experience.

Settlement Strategy OBJ 9 To reserve land corridors, free from development, for the provision of the Dublin Outer Orbital Route and the Local Distributor Road;

✓ Progress to Date,

This is an adopted policy of Meath County Council and implementation occurs on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process.

Settlement Strategy OBJ 10 To promote the re-use of urban derelict land and derelict and vacant buildings;

✓ Progress to Date,

This is an adopted policy of Meath County Council and implementation occurs on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process.

Settlement Strategy OBJ 11 To promote the use of walking and cycling and reduce the reliance on the private car;

✓ Progress to Date,

This is an adopted policy of Trim Town Council and Meath County Council and implementation occurs on an ongoing basis. As previously mentioned the riverwalk has been extended and heritage trail developed. It is also proposed to erect a bicycle stand on Market Street in the near future which will promote the use of cycling in the town.

Settlement Strategy OBJ 12 To ensure the protection of flora, fauna, quality landscapes and the promotion of bio-diversity;

✓ Progress to Date,

In April 2010 Meath County Council adopted the County Meath Biodiversity Action Plan 2008-2010 which provides a framework for the conservation of biodiversity at local level and sets out actions under the following strategic themes: awareness and education; best practice in natural heritage conservation and management; baseline data and information; integrating biodiversity into the role of the Local Authority.

Settlement Strategy OBJ 13 To provide high quality public water supply and drainage systems;

✓ Progress to Date,

Water supply and drainage systems were upgraded in Trim as part of the streets reconstruction project. Trim's water supply is compliant with the Drinking Water Regulations 2007.

Settlement Strategy OBJ 14 To promote waste prevention, reduction, re-use and recycling;

✓ Progress to Date,

Implementation of this objective is ongoing throughout the plan period. The Environment Department of Meath County Council is responsible for the delivery of waste management initiatives in the County. A Waste Management Plan for the North East is in place to guide such initiatives in Counties Louth, Meath, Monaghan and Cavan between 2005 – 2010.

Meath County Council's Civic Amenity site continues to successfully operate in Trim. The Environment Section of Meath County Council works with schools and community groups on environmental programmes and initiatives.

Meath County Council is committed to promoting and supporting the Green Schools programme throughout the County. St. Mary's N.S. in Trim is registered as a Green School (May 2010).

Meath County Council's Climate change strategy has also been recently adopted. The Climate Change Strategy is a corporate strategy and energy efficiency and management is now required to be incorporated into all the day to day operations of Meath Local Authorities and in particular under the following areas: Energy Usage, Planning & Development, Transport, Housing & Corporate Buildings, Procurement, Waste Management & Raising awareness.

Settlement Strategy OBJ 15 To promote active community involvement through the provision of information, public consultation and joint partnerships.

✓ Progress to Date,

Implementation of this objective is ongoing throughout the plan period. South Meath Community Forum was established by Meath County Council as part of the Integration of Local Government and Local Development. At present, there are 117 community and voluntary groups registered in the Trim Electoral Area. South Meath Community Forum has a committee that organises events on behalf of the Forum members in the Trim area. They promote active community involvement through the provision of information, public consultation and joint partnerships on an ongoing basis in the area.

Settlement Strategy OBJ 16: To prepare Framework Plans for lands designated FP1, FP 2, FP 3, FP4, FP5 and FP 6 (as detailed below), in co-operation with relevant stakeholders, and to actively secure the implementation of these plans and the achievement of the specific objectives indicated below. Development of these lands shall only proceed on the basis of an agreed overall Framework Plan, the availability of water and waste water services and associated infrastructure including the phased provision of these services and the timely provision of the relevant sections of the Local Distributor Road network, where applicable.

FP 1 relates to a large tract of land, north of the Navan Road, zoned for A1 and E3 use. This area extends to c.70ha in total and shall accommodate a range of uses, providing primarily residential and employment generating uses but shall also include ancillary uses....

✓ Progress to Date,

This objective remains outstanding. Draft proposals were submitted by Frank Ward & Associates in May 2010. These proposals were considered by the Planning Authority and detailed feedback was provided in respect of same. The developer has indicated that updated proposals will be submitted to the Planning Authority in late 2010.

FP 2 relates to a tract of land to the west of the proposed relief/distributor road (RT1) linking the Dublin Road to the Navan Road at Newtown. This area shall be for general development, providing primarily for executive style housing, community facilities, employment generating uses and public open space/amenity....

✓ Progress to Date,

This objective remains outstanding. A proposal was submitted by John Keegan of Keegan Quarries Ltd. with regard to his lands at Newtown, Trim. This report was submitted to the Planning Department of Meath County Council on the 20th of October 2010 for consideration. The proposal put forward a planning rationale to support the rezoning of lands at Newtown in order to facilitate the delivery of the proposed local distributor road, RT1 connecting the Navan road to the Dublin Road including the construction of a bridge over the River Boyne. The submission requested rezoning of the subject lands from E2 to residential and an increase in residential density of the A5 lands. On the basis of the considerably more restrictive residential regime of the adopted Regional Planning Guidelines 2010 which ordains a reduced population allocation for County Meath, additional residential development cannot be actively considered at this juncture. However, consideration can be given to beneficial ancillary community uses within the framework of the existing development plan.

FP 3 relates to a tract of land to the south east of the Development Plan boundary, south of the Dublin Road. The area is intended primarily for retail warehousing etc.

✓ Progress to Date,

Under PL .17.229337 Planning Permission was granted by An Bord Pleanála to Popintree Development Ltd. for Phase 1 of a mixed use development on an 11.83 hectare site off the Dublin Road (R154) for the construction of a retail warehouse park on the 9th of June 2009. As part of this application a Framework Plan was prepared by John Spain Associates, Moylan Consulting

Engineers and Project Managers and John Fleming Architects on behalf of the applicants for the subject lands. Development has yet to commence on site.

FP 4 relates to a tract of land to the west of the Summerhill Road formerly known locally as Potterton's Mart and sales yard. This area is to be designated for the purposes of a mix of commercial, community and residential uses...

✓ Progress to Date,

This objective remains outstanding. It is noteworthy however, that under Plan. Reg. Ref. TA/900170 planning permission was sought by Potterton Livestock Auctions Limited for the construction of 150 residential units, a sessional day-care crèche and 4 no. units which comprise of a children's play centre, an arts & craft centre, a community shop and a gym. Planning permission was refused by Meath County Council and this decision was upheld by An Bord Pleanala. A Framework Plan was submitted for the lands as part of the Planning Application. However, this was not approved by the Planning Authority as it did not accord with the policies and objectives of the adopted Trim Development Plan.

FP 5 relates to a tract of land off the Dublin Road comprising of 32 acres/12.94 ha. This area shall be for general development, providing primarily for community facilities, public open space (i.e. areas of active and passive public open space) and enabling residential development and shall provide for inter alia the following:

✓ Progress to Date,

This objective remains outstanding and no planning history is recorded on site as per Meath County Council's Planning Register.

FP 6 relates to a tract of land off the Dublin Road at Scurlockstown zoned for E2 use. This area shall provide for an extension to the existing Business Park and shall be accessed off the existing entrance off the Dublin Road and shall provide for inter alia the following:

✓ Progress to Date,

This objective remains outstanding. There is no planning activity recorded on site as per Meath County Council's Planning Register.

Settlement Strategy OBJ 17 Residential Development over the plan period shall take place in accordance with the Order of Priority for the Phased Release of Residentially Zoned lands as outlined in Map 2. The Order of Priority shall be subject to continuous monitoring by the Planning Department and shall be reviewed annually.

✓ Progress to Date,

This objective is the adopted policy of Meath County Council and Trim Town Council and implementation occurs on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process.

Residential SO 1 To develop brown-field sites before green-field land; to encourage compatible land uses to co-exist where appropriate, and to promote sustainable economic expansion.

✓ Progress to Date,

This objective is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process and in accordance with the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas-Guidelines to Planning Authorities, 2009.

Residential SO 2 To ensure a holistic approach is taken in the design and planning of new residential areas, which incorporates the provision of essential and appropriate facilities, amenities and services so that viable communities emerge and grow.

✓ Progress to Date,

This objective is an adopted policy of Meath County Council and Trim Town Council and implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process and in accordance with the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas-Guidelines to Planning Authorities, 2009 and the accompanying best practice design manual.

Residential SO 3 To achieve better and more appropriate mixes of dwelling size, type, tenure and accessibility in all new residential developments.

✓ Progress to Date,

This objective is an adopted policy of Meath County Council and Trim Town Council and is implemented on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process and in accordance with the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas-Guidelines to Planning Authorities, 2009 and the accompanying best practice design manual.

Housing Strategy OBJ 1 To continue to implement the —Meath Local Authorities Action Plan Social & Affordable Housing 2004 - 2008 and any subsequent Action Plan adopted during the life of this Development Plan.

✓ Progress to Date,

This is implemented on an ongoing basis by the Housing Department of Meath County Council. Between 2008 – 2010 Meath County Council have delivered 43 affordable units in the Trim Area and 24 social units under Part V. Financial contributions have also been received.

Housing Strategy OBJ 2 To incorporate the County Housing Strategy annually and, if required, to review the reservation policy outlined in this Strategy inclusive of the breakdown of social and affordable housing units.

✓ Progress to Date,

This is an adopted policy of Meath County Council and Trim Town Council and is achieved on an ongoing basis.

Housing Strategy OBJ 3 The social housing provision figures contained in the Development Plan shall be amended following the adoption of subsequent Meath Local Authorities Action Plan for Social & Affordable Housing.

✓ Progress to Date,

This objective remains outstanding.

Chapter 4 – Economic Development

The primary role of the Planning Authority in terms of economic development is to ensure that sufficient serviced land is made available in suitable locations for economic activity throughout the plan period. Meath County Council and Trim Town Council sought to promote the economic development of Trim through the Development Plan in order to maximize opportunities presented by the identification of Trim as part of a primary dynamic cluster. The Trim Development Plan includes a progressive suite of objectives to increase the economic performance of Trim. However the economic downturn has impacted negatively upon the delivery of same. The progress achieved in securing these objectives is outlined below.

ECON DEV OBJ 1: To zone suitable lands to facilitate employment generation and to facilitate the development of employment creating land uses at these identified locations in accordance with the principles of proper planning.

✓ Progress to Date,

One of the key economic aims of the Trim Development Plan 2008-2014 is to ensure sufficient lands are available to cater for employment generating uses. Additional lands for employment generating uses were identified in the Trim Development Plan in order to address the employment requirements of the town and to ensure that the growth of the settlement centre was sustainable. In addition new land use zoning typologies were proposed i.e. E3.

Employment and enterprise uses are provided for within a number of strategically located sites within the context of balanced development of Trim. Provision for employment and enterprise have been made to the north, northeast, south and east of the town. Scurlockstown Business Park has been a relative success over the lifetime of the previous Development plan and the

Development Plan extended this industrial zone to the east to allow for future expansion if required.

Lands were also identified off the Dunderry Road to provide for small and medium sized industries of a local nature (including entrepreneurial start up businesses) and to allow for the displacement of non compatible and industrial uses from the town centre and other locations.

Adequate zoned lands remain available to accommodate further economic development over the lifetime of the Development Plan.

ECON DEV OBJ 2: To provide sites for the relocation of non compatible town centre commercial uses on a site zoned for E3 Industrial Use (See Zoning Objectives Maps);

✓ Progress to Date,

Lands were identified off the Dunderry Road to provide for small and medium sized industries of a local nature (including entrepreneurial start up businesses) and to allow for the displacement of non compatible and industrial uses from the town centre and other locations. These lands remain undeveloped however, planning permission was acquired on part of the subject lands as noted below.

ECON DEV OBJ 3: To provide for small and medium sized industries of a local type nature to develop on a site zoned for E3 Industrial Use (See Zoning Objectives Maps).

✓ Progress to Date,

Lands were zoned off the Dunderry Road for E3 use 'to provide for small and medium sized industries of a local type nature.' Under Planning Reference no. 17.225883 planning permission was granted to Shannon Homes Newtown Ltd on part of the subject lands for the construction of 8 no. enterprise units in a two storey building (total gross floor area 2,638sq.m), 2 no. car sales units with associated forecourts and car service areas (total gross floor area 1060sq.m), new vehicular access onto the Dunderry Road, pedestrian access onto Athboy Road, new junction onto Athboy Road (R154) and construction of part of the new distributor road. Development has not commenced on site.

ECON DEV OBJ 4: To protect, enhance and provide for uses of these lands for motor trade related uses and to facilitate the development of complimentary and/or compatible small and medium sized retail warehouse units, with associated motor trade, garden centres, D.I.Y, electrical, furniture and homeware uses only, subject to high quality design and finish. Retail warehousing where it is not related directly to the motor trade shall be facilitated only where it:

Results in the removal/relocation of non-compatible town centre uses,

No adverse impact on retailing in the town centre occurs,

Complies with the Retail Planning Guidelines in particular with sequential testing,

Complies with normal proper planning and sustainable development criteria.

✓ Progress to Date,

Lands were zoned for E1 use subject to ECON DEV OBJ 4 at Newtown off the Navan Road. These lands form part of FP2 and remain undeveloped.

Tourism

TOU OBJ 1: To promote a tourist signage strategy for Trim in conjunction with Meath Tourism.

✓ Progress to Date,

A steering committee was set up lead by Failte Ireland which included Meath and Louth Local Authorities and the OPW to place a funding application with Failte Ireland for the development of a new Boyne Valley Driving Route. The route is a broadly circular 230 km driving route and encompasses signage into Trim town and Trim Castle while also providing orientation maps of the route. This application is currently being progressed.

TOU OBJ 2: To promote the development of a heritage trail in the historic core of Trim with links to the Porchfield area in conjunction with Meath Tourism.

✓ Progress to Date,

The Trim Historic Trail was developed and launched in 2009. The trail is a self guided tour of 22 historic points around Trim Town. It commences at the Trim Visitor Centre at the castle whereby maps are available and follows a series of plaques, panels and directional posts around each of the main historic sites in the town. This trail was developed through the Failte Ireland Historic Trail fund and match funded by Trim Town Council.

The Trim Castle River Walk was developed in 2008 through the Failte Ireland National Development Plan Infrastructure Fund and match funded by Meath County Council. The development of the River Walk involved a project to enhance the popular walkway as a tourist attraction and highlight the flora, fauna and history of Trim, the Porchfields and Newtown through a series of 6 interpretive panels, sculpture style seating areas, planted areas and new pathways.

Both walks are linked to each other through the main map panel located at the Castle and Visitor Centre and through a printed map available through tourism providers.

TOU OBJ 3: To facilitate the improvement of existing sign posted walking/cycling routes within the town and environs and where possible develop new ones.

✓ Progress to Date,

This has been completed through tourism objective 2 referred to above.

TOU OBJ 4: To promote the development of high quality tourist accommodation and ancillary facilities, especially those facilities which provide conference and leisure facilities.

✓ Progress to Date,

Trim now has 3 hotels, two of which were built in the last 5 years and are of high quality four star standard. Both new hotels have excellent conference facilities and one hotel also has high standard spa and leisure facilities in addition to an 18 hole championship golf course. Hotel bedroom capacity has increased by 283 while conference capacity has now increased by 1,650 delegates, which has enabled Trim to attract large scale conferences and events.

TOU OBJ 5: To encourage and promote festivals and other appropriate cultural events.

✓ Progress to Date,

Meath Tourism promotes and assists festivals and events through marketing support by promoting via the 'Calendar of Events' on the Meath Tourism website and through Meath Local Authority run tourist offices. One of the more successful events promoted by Meath Tourism is the Trim Swift Festival. The Trim Swift festival was founded in 2008 and is an annual satirical, political, academic and cultural event celebrating the life, works and legacy of Jonathan Swift. Events include a round table political discussion, academic symposium, comedy night, family day and open air Tannoy debate and a satirical writing competition, Meath County Council and Trim Town Council support the festival and in 2010 commissioned and published a booklet entitled *Swift's Trim* to highlight Swift's association with Trim and its environs. Meath Tourism also developed the Spirits of Meath Halloween Festival which included a market and festival in Trim amongst other events run by Trim Chamber of Commerce and Trim Hotels.

TOU OBJ 6: To encourage the removal of unsightly elements at historically sensitive locations within the town such as inappropriate advertising, poles, wires and antennae.

✓ Progress to Date,

This is an adopted policy of Meath County Council and Trim Town Council and is implemented on an ongoing basis.

Retail

RET DEV OBJ 1: To investigate the preparation of heritage and interpretation strategies that embrace signage, linkages and interpretation.

✓ Progress to Date,

Please refer to TOU OBJ Above. Furthermore a funding application is currently in progress to Failte Ireland under the Boyne Valley Region which includes projects which apply to Trim within the region.

To develop Boyne Valley Drive as a Heritage and cultural tourism landmark destination on the international stage (with heritage towns of Trim, Kells, Navan, and Drogheda as key gateways) investment is being sought for the following attractions:

- Redesign and upgrade of the Trim heritage Centre.
- Establishment a number of Visitor Trails throughout each Town.
- Development of Public Realm projects.
- Implementation of ‘Shop Facades’ program.
- Development of themed experiences across the Boyne Valley telling its story with excellent visitor attractions at each stopping point.
- Development of the Cultural Tourism product ‘agenda’ – the set of events, themes and concepts using landscape, trails and built environment and integrate into Boyne Valley total visitor experience.

RET DEV OBJ 2: To examine alternative options for the provision of car parking other than surface car-parking and to ensure provision is made for cycle parking in major retail developments.

✓ Progress to Date,

This is an adopted policy of Meath County Council and Trim Town Council and implementation occurs on an ongoing basis through Development Management.

RET DEV OBJ 3: To seek the removal of inappropriate and unauthorised advertising signs, sandwich boards, satellite dishes and shop front shutters from buildings within the town centre.

✓ Progress to Date,

This is an adopted policy of Meath County Council and Trim Town Council and implementation occurs on an ongoing basis through the Enforcement Section of Meath County Council.

RET DEV OBJ 4: To seek the removal of all unauthorised advertising/satellite dishes from the approach roads and central area streets in order to improve the appearance of Trim.

✓ Progress to Date,

This is an adopted policy of Meath County Council and Trim Town Council and implementation occurs on an ongoing basis through the Enforcement Section of Meath County Council.

RET DEV OBJ 5: To initiate enforcement proceedings where an unauthorised use or unauthorised development occurs.

✓ Progress to Date,

This is an adopted policy of Meath County Council and Trim Town Council and implementation occurs on an ongoing basis through the Enforcement Section of Meath County Council.

RET DEV OBJ 6: To ensure that sufficient lands are identified to meet the needs for retail warehousing floor space in Trim.

✓ Progress to Date,

This was achieved in the adoption of the Development Plan whereby lands 17.55ha in area, were identified off the Dublin Road, for retail warehousing in order to provide choice and limit monopolies. It was a requirement of the Planning Authority that a Framework Plan be prepared for the development of these lands. (FP 3) Under PL .17.229337 P/P was granted by An Bord Pleanala to Popintree Development Ltd. for Phase 1 of mixed use development on an 11.83

hectare site off the Dublin Road (R154) total gross floor area of 34,904sqm, for the construction of a retail warehouse park on the 9th of June 2009.

RET DEV OBJ 7: To identify within major residential areas, locations for neighbourhood and district centres to enable convenience needs to be better met locally and therefore reduce the need to travel; to the town centre for basic convenience requirements.

✓ Progress to Date,

This objective was adhered to in the identification of suitable lands in the Development Plan. It is a requirement of the Framework Plans (residential) that local shopping facilities be provided. It is a specific requirement of the plan however, that the provision of local shopping facilities should be appropriate in scale so as not to unduly interfere with the residential land use.

RET DEV OBJ 8: To facilitate the re-location of the existing Texaco garage on Haggard Street to a more appropriate site zoned for such use.

✓ Progress to Date,

This objective remains outstanding. The garage is still operational in its current location on Haggard St.

ADV OBJ 1: To develop an advertising signage strategy for Trim.

This objective remains outstanding.

Chapter 5 - Built and Natural Heritage

Trim is of historical, architectural, cultural and archaeological importance and is a designated heritage town. Conservation is a complex issue in Trim due to the need to achieve balance between conservation and development. This chapter outlines policies and objectives in respect of architectural and natural heritage. It also deals with such matters as the conservation and protection of the environment, the protection of structures, the preservation of the character of architectural conservation areas and the preservation of the character of the landscape. This chapter includes the following objectives;

HER OBJ 1: To achieve the preservation of the special character of places, areas, groups of structures and townscapes within the town and environs by:

- **Setting out Architectural Conservation Areas of appropriate extent within the town and its environs.**
- **Encouraging local initiatives which promote the preservation of the special character of**
- **Architectural Conservation Areas.**

✓ Progress to Date,

Two Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) were designated in the Trim Development Plan 2002 1) the historic core, and 2) the porch field. The boundaries of the ACAs were adjusted in 2007. The amended boundaries were incorporated into the Trim Development Plan 2008.

Conservation grants have been given for repair works to eight buildings in the historic core ACA. Grants have been obtained from the Irish Walled Towns network fund in 2009 and 2010 to carry out repairs to the town wall.

HER OBJ 2: To preserve the character of the following Architectural Conservation Areas in Trim -Historic Core, Trim Porch Field.

✓ Progress to Date,

This is the adopted policy of the Planning Authority and it is implemented as part of the Development Management process on an ongoing basis through preplanning consultations and in the assessment of planning applications. The Conservation Officer of Meath County Council plays an important role in the assessment of such applications.

HER OBJ 3: It is the intention of the planning authorities by the designation of this Architectural Conservation Area:

- To preserve, protect and enhance the architectural heritage of Trim for future generations.
- To preserve the historic street pattern within the core of the town.
- To require that all new developments shall observe the existing scale of the town.
- To protect the character of the existing streetscape by giving consideration to the suitability of style, construction materials, colour and decoration to be used in any proposals for development taking place within this area.
- To encourage appropriate new uses for empty and under-utilised buildings.
- To avoid the destruction of minor historic elements whose cumulative loss would severely erode the cumulative cultural significance of the town.

✓ Progress to Date,

This is the adopted policy of the Planning Authority and it is implemented as part of the Development Management process on an ongoing basis through preplanning consultations and in the assessment of planning applications.

HER OBJ 4: It is the intention of the planning authorities in the designation of this ACA to ensure that any proposed developments shall recognise the particular role of this area in the protection of the unique setting of the town and its heritage buildings, shall harmonise with its distinct open landscape character and respect views and prospects along the river valley.

✓ Progress to Date,

This is the adopted policy of the Planning Authority and it is implemented as part of the Development Management process on an ongoing basis through preplanning consultations and in the assessment of planning applications.

HER OBJ 5: The following views shall be protected, as illustrated on associated Map 3:

- From Dublin Road at St Johns, toward the river valley, Trim Castle, Newtown Abbey and Newtown Bridge.
- Newtown Bridge towards the river valley, Newtown Abbey and St. John's Friary
- Trim Castle to the river valley, St. Mary's Abbey and Newtown Abbey.
- Watergate Bridge towards the river valley to the west and towards the town centre to the east
- Castle Street to Talbot Castle and St. Mary's Abbey.
- Towards Trim Castle and the Porch field from St. Mary's Abbey.
- Westwards from Newtown Abbey to the Porch field.
- West and south-westwards from the ring road to St. Mary's Abbey and Trim Castle.
- Eastwards from Oldbridge in High Street.
- View of St. John's Friary from the adjoining Dublin Road.
- Views of the Wellington Monument from Patrick's St., Emmet St., and the Summerhill Road.

✓ Progress to Date,

This is the adopted policy of the Planning Authority and it is implemented as part of the Development Management process on an ongoing basis through preplanning consultations and in the assessment of planning applications.

HER OBJ 6: The Council, in consultation with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government will prepare a map indicating the extent of the buffer zone to the town wall where new development will be prohibited.

✓ Progress to Date,

The National Monuments section of the DoEHLG provided a map when they issued the Preservation Order on the Emmet Street to Castle Street section of the wall. The National Monuments response to planning applications in Emmet Street has indicated areas where they recommended development should not occur.

A conservation and management Plan was prepared for Trim Town walls, a national monument, and adopted into the town plan by the councils in 2008. The conservation and management plan gives detailed policy and guidance on the conservation of the monument. However, no comprehensive map has been provided to date which indicates a buffer zone where development would be prohibited.

HER OBJ 7: When considering development in the vicinity of archaeological monuments, the planning authority shall aim to achieve a satisfactory buffer area between the development and the monument in order to ensure the preservation and enhancement of the amenity associated with the monument. This shall be achieved in consultation with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Buffer areas shall not be included within the required open space area of any development but should be in addition to such requirements.

✓ Progress to Date,

This is the adopted policy of the Planning Authority and it is implemented as part of the Development Management process on an ongoing basis through preplanning consultations and in the assessment of planning applications.

HER OBJ 8: To encourage and promote the appropriate management and enhancement of Trim's biodiversity.

✓ Progress to Date

In 2009 Meath Heritage Office delivered a programme of Biodiversity Training for Local Authority Staff including general services supervisors and overseers. Training of particular relevance to Trim included:

- Habitats Directive / Protected Sites
- Habitats Directive Assessment for Projects (Appropriate Assessment)
- Flooding
- Biodiversity and Sustainable Urban Draining Schemes (SUDS)
- River Basin Management Plans/Water Framework Directive
- Guidance for compliance with Regulations 21 and 23 of the 1997 Habitats Regulations.
- Management of Invasive Species
- Management of hedgerows and grassland verges
- Management of noxious weeds
- Management of Local Authority land banks
- Management of open spaces/housing estates
- Minimising biodiversity impacts during operations

Trim Town Council and Meath County Council supports the Pride of Place Initiatives in Trim which aims to work in partnership with communities, to encourage best practice, innovation and leadership in providing vibrant sustainable communities that improve the quality of life for all. Participants are encouraged and rewarded for enhancing the natural heritage of their surroundings in competitions such as the Royal Bloom, Meath Harvest Walk, Waterways Award, Derelict Site Improvements Projects, Church Floral Competition and Housing Estates Competitions. Trim Tidy Towns have performed very well in these competitions.

A Pride of Place for schools competition which is undertaken by Meath County Council supports pupils, teachers/school gardeners in bringing nature, wildlife, plants and colour into the school garden/grounds.

Trim Tidy Towns have undertaken a number of natural heritage surveys in the town to inform best practice in their participation in the National Tidy Towns competition.

HER OBJ 9: To promote an awareness and appreciation of the natural heritage of Trim in conjunction with the County Meath Heritage Forum and through the implementation of the County Meath Heritage Plan 2007-2011 and County Meath Biodiversity Action Plan 2008-2012

✓ Progress to Date,

In April 2010 Meath County Council adopted the County Meath Biodiversity Action Plan 2008-2010 which provides a framework for the conservation of biodiversity at local level and sets out actions under the following strategic themes: awareness and education; best practice in natural heritage conservation and management; baseline data and information; integrating biodiversity into the role of the Local Authority.

In December 2009 Meath County Council in partnership with Monaghan and Laois county councils published *Wild Things at School* a book to help primary teachers to teach children how to identify common plants and animals in the natural environment that surrounds them, in an accessible format, in line with the *Living Things* strand of the *Science Curriculum*. A copy of the publication was made available for each class teacher in Trim. In 2010 worksheets for students were also published.

In 2009 a public information seminar was held to raise awareness of invasive species and give advice on their prevention, containment and control.

'Medieval Plants of Trim: a walk along the Porchfield trail' by Lorraine Foley was recently published by Trim Tidy Towns and Meath Heritage Centre, 2010 to promote and raise awareness of the flora of the porch fields in Trim.

HER OBJ 10: To promote the sustainable usage of the River Boyne and the lands in State ownership at the Porch Field for amenity/recreational use including the creation of an urban habitat.

✓ Progress to Date,

A lease has been granted to Trim Town FC for part use of the porch fields as a Juvenile Football pitch. Furthermore, as noted above, 'Medieval Plants of Trim: a walk along the Porchfield trail' by Lorraine Foley was recently published by Trim Tidy Towns and Meath Heritage Centre, 2010 to promote and raise awareness of the flora of the porch fields in Trim.

Chapter 6 – Social Strategy

The provision of community, health, recreational and educational facilities, including such facilities as schools, hospitals, post offices, garda stations, sports facilities and libraries are indispensable to the proper planning and ongoing sustainable development of urban areas. The Social Strategy of the Trim Development Plan 2008 – 2014 puts in place the strategic framework necessary to enable and facilitate the sustainable social development of Trim. The primary role of the Planning Authority in terms of social infrastructure is to ensure the reservation of sufficient lands to accommodate community and recreational facilities. The progress achieved with regard to securing these objectives is outlined below.

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.

✓ Progress to Date,

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 in the Development Plan. Subsequently, the Planning Authorities made provision for educational needs, by zoning sufficient lands at appropriate location for the needs of primary and post primary facilities in Trim. To the north east of the town at Blackfriary FP 1, lands were 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 (12 acres). A site to the south east of the town off the Dublin Road, was 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 was also reserved for a primary school at Newtown as part of the Framework Plan requirements.

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).

✓ Progress to Date,

The Site Acquisition and Property Management Section of the Department of Education and Science has not to date progressed any of the site options identified by Meath County Council and Trim Town Council in the Trim Development Plan 2008-2014 to date. They have indicated however that they are due to commence sourcing a site for a 16 classroom school for Gaelscoil na Boinne in the near future and will consider the various site options.

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).

✓ Progress to Date,

As per ED OBJ 2 above.

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).

✓ Progress to Date,

As per ED OBJ 2 above.

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

✓ Progress to Date,

The Trim Sports Leisure Centre was completed and opened since the adoption of the Development Plan. St Mary's school completed the construction of a gym in 2009.

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.

✓ Progress to Date,

Trim Town Council is currently working with St Mary's school on developing walk to school initiatives.

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

✓ Progress to Date,

The Economic Development & Innovation Unit established M.I.L.L. (Meath Initiative for Lifelong Learning) and facilitated the delivery of business related 3rd level course in Meath (in partnership with 3rd level institutions such as NUIM, Dundalk I.T., Blanchardstown I.T. etc.

In May 2009, three classes graduated through the Meath Initiative for Learning project:

1. Certificate in Economics and Finance – NUI Maynooth
2. Certificate in English Language for Academic and Work Purposes – Institute of Technology Blanchardstown
3. Local Tour Guide Training Programme - Failte Ireland.

In May 2010, two more classes graduated:

1. Certificate in English Language for Academic and Work Purposes Level 1
2. Introduction to Human Resource Management – Dundalk Institute of Technology

A 'Celebration of Learning' event is hosted by the office each May to acknowledge and promote the work of the office throughout the academic year. The event also acts as the graduation for students who have completed courses through MILL and a networking opportunity for education personnel.

The NUIM Online Irish Language Programme was set up by the EDI Unit in 2009 and it won the e-government award for best Online Irish Language Initiative. The management and promotion of the Online Irish Language programme available throughout the library branches of Meath.

The NUIM Online Maths Support Programme was set up by the EdI Unit in 2010 and is based on MS Windows Media as an audio and visual learning tool for the leaving certificate learner.

The Meath Education and Training Database www.metd.ie is a central database of further and higher education and training offered throughout Meath. It is the first point of reference for the people of Meath in reviewing the opportunities for learning on a local basis. Each course provider has an individual login so that they may manage their own course information. The website acts as a means of linking the education opportunities within the county together and identifying opportunities for progression.

The Meath Education and Training Forum were set up by the Meath County Development Board to undertake research and other initiatives on training and education provision in the county. To advance the work of the forum a working group on Further and Higher Education was established with the mission being to "widen opportunities for learning within county Meath". The group consists of membership from the Institutes of Technology, Universities, VEC and County Enterprise Board. They meet four times a year.

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

✓ Progress to Date,
As per ED OBJ 2 above.

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

✓ Progress to Date,
Meath County Council and Trim Town Council work closely with Meath County Childcare Committee in encouraging 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.

✓ Progress to Date,

This is an adopted policy of Meath County Council and implementation occurs on an ongoing basis through Development Management and in accordance with the 'Childcare Facilities' Guidelines for Planning Authorities' 2001.

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.

✓ Progress to Date,

This objective has not been achieved. However, following recent consultation with the HSE they have indicated that they no longer have a requirement for a health facility in Trim and that their current needs are fully satisfied with the accommodation which they recently acquired through a long lease on the Knightsbridge campus located on the Longwood Road. However, it should be noted that Meath County Council and Trim Town Council remain committed to ongoing discussions with the HSE regarding healthcare matters in Trim over the lifetime of the Development Plan.

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.

✓ Progress to Date,

As noted above, the river walk has been extended and the historical town trail has been developed. The town council are exploring the extension of the linear park along the river to St Patrick's well (subject to funding).

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.

✓ Progress to Date,

A site has been identified for a playground off the Athboy Road. The necessary financial resources have yet to be put in place for the provision of same.

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

✓ Progress to Date,

A lease has been granted to Trim Town FC for part use of the Porch Fields as a Juvenile Football pitch.

SOC OBJ 7 To reserve a site off the Summerhill Road for the purposes of a burial ground.

✓ Progress to Date,

Lands were zoned for G1 use off the Summerhill Road and reserved for the purposes of a burial ground in the Development Plan. No development has taken place to date on site.

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

✓ Progress to Date,

This objective remains outstanding.

Chapter 7 - Infrastructure

The provision of an adequate network of infrastructure and the ongoing maintenance of same over time, is the key determinant in the securing of the Settlement and Economic Development Strategies contained in the Development Plan. Trim Town Council and Meath County Council are directly responsible for the improvement and maintenance of the water services and road

networks in Trim. They also have a role with regard to waste management planning and regulation. In other areas such as energy, telecommunications & information technology the council supports the provision of such infrastructure through the Development Plan.

INF OBJ 1 To preserve and secure from further development a corridor for the provision of a distributor link road which includes the following routes:

RT 1 Construction of the local distributor road link between the Dublin Road at Effernock and the Navan Road at the Motor Park, including a new bridge over the Boyne River. This shall be provided as part of Framework Plan no. 2.

RT 2 Completion of the local distributor road link between the Navan Road and the Athboy Road via the Blackfriary lands. This shall be provided as part of Framework Plan no. 1.

RT 3 Construction of a local distributor road link connecting the Athboy Road to the local distributor road west of the Town Centre Expansion area, including a new bridge over the Boyne.

RT 4 Construction of the local distributor road link west of the Town Centre Expansion area connecting to the Kinnegad Road. This shall be provided in tandem with the residential development immediately to the east. No residential development shall be provided on the lands immediately to the east until such time as that this section of the distributor road is completed.

RT 5 Construction of the local distributor road link between the Kinnegad Road and the Longwood Road. This shall be provided as part of Framework Plan no. 4.

RT 6 Construction of local distributor road link between the Longwood Road and the Summerhill Road. This shall be provided in tandem with the industrial lands immediately to the north.

RT 7 Construction of the local distributor road link between the Summerhill Road and the Dublin Road.

RT 8 Construction of the local distributor road link between the Dublin Road at Loganstown to the Navan Road at Rathnally (long term objective).

✓ Progress to Date,

This objective is outstanding. The majority of the RTs are to be developer driven. It is a requirement of the Development Plan that they are provided as part of Framework Plans to ensure the delivery of necessary physical infrastructure in tandem with residential /economic development.

INF OBJ 2 To examine roads and streets and to devise a phased program for the improvement of those of poor quality. Such improvements may incorporate realignment, paving works, new parking arrangements, and street furniture installation.

✓ Progress to Date,

These works are ongoing under the roads/streets reconstruction program. The streets remaining include Watergate, Summerhill Road and New Haggard Road.

INF OBJ 3 Completion of a new link road connecting Castle Street through Emmett Street to an area north of St. Patrick's Park in accordance with the Trim Town Centre Local Area Plan.

✓ Progress to Date,

This objective has been partially delivered. The road is in place from Castle street to Emmett St and is named 'Finnegans Way'. However, it is not completed north of Patrick's Park. There is a pedestrian link to the side of Trim Hardware which connects Emmett Street to the OPW offices.

INF OBJ 4 To construct a new access road serving the town centre expansion area and the OPW offices. This shall connect with Watergate Street, south of Watergate Bridge and shall open up the town centre expansion area, run parallel to the river and link up with the distributor road RT.

✓ Progress to Date,

This objective is delivered. The road is constructed and named 'Jonathan Swift' street.

INF OBJ 5 To construct the grid of streets in the town centre expansion area as shown on the Zoning Map in accordance with the Trim Town Centre Local Area Plan 2004. This shall include the area enclosed by St. Patrick's Park, St. Loman's Park and the rear of Emmet Street (western side).

✓ Progress to Date,

This objective is partially delivered with the construction of Jonathan Swift St. The remaining links are yet to be provided.

INF OBJ 6 To construct a local road linking the roundabout at the Retirement Village to the distributor road link which connects the Longwood Road to the Kinnegad Road.

✓ Progress to Date,

This objective is outstanding.

INF OBJ 7 Construction of a new access road to facilitate access to the G1 zoned lands to the east of the Boyne Community School off the Dublin Road.

✓ Progress to Date,

This objective is outstanding.

INF OBJ 8 To carry out road/street improvement works along High St., Navangate St., Loman St., Watergate St., Whitehall, Mill St., Summerhill and Kinnegad Roads.

✓ Progress to Date,

This objective is partially delivered and works are ongoing. Road/street improvement works were carried out on Loman Street, Mill Street and High Street.

INF OBJ 9 To facilitate the construction of the Dublin Outer Orbital Route (DOOR) providing for the development of a National Primary Route to facilitate growth in the primary and secondary development centres (as designated in the Regional Planning Guidelines) and provide for a strategic by pass of Dublin.

✓ Progress to Date,

The reservation of the land corridors, free from development, is provided for on an ongoing basis through the Development Management process. The provision of this strategic route is a matter for the National Transport Authority and the National Roads Authority.

Litter Management

INF OBJ 10 To implement the Meath County Council, Litter Management Plan 2006 – 2009.

✓ Progress to Date,

The Litter Management Plan is implemented on an ongoing basis by the Environment Section of Meath County Council. Meath County Council undertakes a wide range of anti-litter activities throughout the county. The production and dissemination of anti-litter materials is an ongoing tool used in awareness raising.

Trim has performed well in the IBAL Litter League initiative in recent years and moved up the ranking to 6th place in 2010. The town was ranked in 6th place out of 53 towns and maintained its litter free status.

Trim Tidy Towns are also very active in the town and have undertaken a number of natural heritage surveys in the town to inform best practice in their participation in the National Tidy Towns competition.

Water**INF OBJ 11 To implement the Water Services Investment Programme 2007-2009.**

✓ Progress to Date,

The Meath County Council Infrastructure Department and Trim Town Council is responsible for the planning, delivery and maintenance of the Water Services infrastructure network in the County including Trim. The Department keeps the piped infrastructural needs of the County under constant review having regard to future land use plans for the town. The required water services infrastructure is then developed by Meath County Council with the aid of central government funding. Meath County Council and Trim Town Council have progressed the delivery of a number of water services projects through the ongoing implementation of the DoEHLG Water Services Investment Programme. The Water Services Investment Programme 2007-2009 has been superseded by the Water Services Investment Programme 2010-2012

INF OBJ 12 To continue the upgrading and rehabilitation of water main networks.

✓ Progress to Date,

Meath County Council and Trim Town Council endeavours to meet and where possible exceed all legal requirements governing its functions. Works are ongoing to improve deficient water facilities to meet such legal requirements. Watermains upgrades were carried out on the following streets which were reconstructed under the street refurbishment works: Haggard St, High St, Mill St, Loman St, Kells Road and Athboy Gate.

INF OBJ 13 To reduce leakage and wastage from the water supply system wherever possible in the interest of achieving efficiency and sustainability.

✓ Progress to Date,

In 2006 Meath Co. Co. expanded its water conservation programme to a county wide basis which consisted of three stages: Stage 1: Implementation of Water Management Systems, Stage 2 Active Leakage Control and Stage 3 Rehabilitation. Since January 2006 almost 5000 thousand leaks have been found and repaired in the county. Since the adoption of the Trim Development Plan 2008 - 2014 the UFW (unaccounted for water) has been reduced from 41% to a current 38%.

INF OBJ 14 To apply Water Pricing to the existing and future non-domestic development in accordance with the Polluter Pays Principle.

✓ Progress to Date,

At present Meath County Council are implementing the Water Pricing Policy. All non-domestic users in Trim, as with all other areas of the County, are required to pay for water /wastewater services provided on the basis of metered usage.

INF OBJ 15 To replace the cast iron water mains in Trim.

✓ Progress to Date,

Cast Iron watermains in Trim were replaced in the streets that were reconstructed under the street refurbishment works, namely Haggard St, High St, Mill St, Loman St, Kells Road and Athboy Gate. Further cast iron mains will be replaced under future phases of the countywide 'Watermains Rehabilitation Strategy'.

Waste Water**INF OBJ 16 To prepare plans for increasing the capacity of the Trim Waste Water Treatment Plant at Newtown to cater for the growth in demand from the residential, commercial and industrial sectors over the lifetime of the plan.**

✓ Progress to Date,

The design capacity of the Trim Waste Water Treatment Works is 12,000pe. The maximum projected load in 2015 is expected to be 9683pe. There is adequate capacity in the Waste Water Treatment Works to meet the projected wastewater needs of Trim for the current Trim

Development Plan 2008-2014. There are no proposals to upgrade or expand the capacity of the plant as there is adequate capacity for the period of the Plan. However, there is a requirement to replace and upsize the Newton Pumping Station. In line with Council policy this required infrastructure will be developer driven.

Telecommunications

INF OBJ 17 To have regard to the following in considering proposals for the development of telecommunications masts, antennae and ancillary equipment:

- a) **The visual impact of the proposed equipment on the natural, built and historic environment.**
- b) **The removal or modification of features of architectural importance.**
- c) **The impact any such development may have on protected structures or their setting.**
- d) **The potential for co-location of equipment on existing masts.**
- e) **The Department of the Environment and Local Government —Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (July 1996).**

✓ Progress to Date,

This is an adopted policy of Meath County Council and Trim Town Council and is implemented on an ongoing basis through Development Management.

Broadband Provision,

INF OBJ 18 To implement the broadband strategy for Meath County Council as it relates to Trim by supporting the roll out of broadband infrastructure in Trim to serve the needs of business and residents.

✓ Progress to Date,

The Metropolitan Area Network infrastructure enables 93 towns across the country with an advanced technology platform capable of delivering cutting-edge communications and information services. The MANs are networks of ducting, sub-ducting and high capacity fibre optic cable, typically laid in urban areas. The MANs operate on an open-access basis meaning that all authorised operators can have access. Trim was included within Phase II of the programme rollout.

The Department of Communications Marine and Natural Resources funded 90% of the capital cost of laying fibre optic cable with the balance of 10% funded by the local authority. When the fibre cable is laid and "lit", the space is rented by interested telecommunication companies whose business it is to deliver broadband internet access to the customers at a competitive price. The infrastructure will continue to be owned by Meath County Council. The Trim MAN extends as far as the EU Veterinary Centre in Grange. The fibre cable is not currently "lit" in Trim similar to Kells and Dunshaughlin and there is presently no "backhaul" facility in place which provide inter connectivity from the Trim MAN to the wider telecommunications or data network. The provision of backhaul connectivity will essentially be driven by demand from a real live end customer.

Chapter 8 – Development Management Guidelines & Standards

This chapter outlines development guidelines and standards. Guidance is provided on the following matters in this chapter of the development plan. Implementation of this chapter is through the Development Management process.

Chapter 9 – Implementation and Monitoring

This section of the Plan notes that the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended provides under Section 15 (1) that it shall be the duty of a Planning Authority to take steps within its powers as may be necessary for securing the objectives of the Development Plan, and under Section 15 (2) that the Manager of the Planning Authority on the progress achieved in securing the objectives referred to in subsection (1).

Meath County Council and Trim Town Council is committed to securing the Development Strategy presented for Trim in the Development Plan, in addition to the mandatory requirements for reviewing the success of implementation of the Development Plan, as contained in the Planning and Development Act.