

CHAPTER 6: SOCIAL STRATEGY



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6.0 Introduction

The Planning Authority recognises the important role social infrastructure plays when forming sustainable communities. Social, community and cultural facilities are fundamental elements to achieve social inclusion, personal enhancement and a good sense of community. The Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2004-2016 reiterate this fact: “The timely and adequate provision of educational, health care, retail and other community facilities are central to enhancing the quality of life for the citizens of the Greater Dublin Area”. The chief function of the Planning Authority in terms of social infrastructure is in the reservation of sufficient lands to accommodate social, community and recreational facilities. Sustainable transport links to and from these facilities is also a vital detail to be taken into consideration. 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 a variety of 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 land 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 for 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;

- Hospital and other childcare facilities;
- Centres for 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.

6.1 Educational Facilities

The Planning Authority recognises the important role that schools play in developing sustainable communities. School facilities along with other community facilities are fundamental to the well being of a thriving community and help to maintain and nurture a sense of community at both local and countrywide level. Taking into account the current economic downturn, it is fundamental that we incorporate the necessary measures to ensure that we can develop a skilled workforce and educated population in the interest of boosting the economic and social vitality of the county. Le Chéile-An Integrated Strategy for Meath to 2012 prepared by Meath County Development Board states that “Education and training are fundamentally important to achieving the full potential of the people of Meath, the County’s most important resource”.

Educational infrastructure provision is primarily the responsibility of the Department of Education and Science. The role of the Planning Authority in education 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. Navan provides a wide range of educational facilities at primary, post primary and special education levels. Having regard to the significant increases in population in recent years and the greater demands on the internal structure of the schools with the additional curricular activities such as computers, special needs etc., the need for educational facilities is as great as ever.

6.1.1 Primary Education

There are twelve Primary Schools in Navan and its environs (see Table 7) With the existing and projected increases of population, pressure will continue to be placed on these education facilities.

Table 7; Enrolment Figures for Navan Primary Schools

Name	Location	Approx. no. of Students 1996*	Approx. no. of Students 2002	Approx. no. of Students 2008
St. Oliver Plunkett's	Blackcastle	580	695	552
St. Paul's	Rathaldron Rd.	570	510	588
St. Anne's	Fairgreen	290	296	322
St. Joseph's	Railway St.	380	331	459
Scoil Mhuire	Abbey Rd.	350	150	304
Scoil Eanna	Abbey Rd.	240	143	208
Flowerfield N.S.	Trim Road	60	60	59
St. Ultan's Special School	Flowerhill	120	110	103
St. Stephen's Special School (270)	Athlumney	N.A.	66	270
St. Mary's Special	Johnstown	N.A.	N.A.	67

School				
Educate Together	Academy St.	N.A.	40	62
Scoil Naomh Eoin	Clonmagadden	N.A.	N.A.	322
Total		2,590	2,401	3,316

*1996 & 2002 Figures taken from Navan Development Plan 2003-2009

The majority of the above schools are operating beyond capacity, with limited opportunity to expand. Three of the schools (Scoil Naomh Eoin, Educate Together Primary School and St. Stephen's Primary School) are in temporary accommodation having only been established in recent years. Below is a brief synopsis of each of the primary schools and current capacities:

St Oliver Plunkett's National School

St Oliver Plunkett's national school located in the north of Navan at Blackcastle, serves the education needs of a total of 552 children. St. Oliver Plunkett's serves a wide catchment area, primarily suburban estates in close proximity, such as Blackcastle, Clusker Park, Troytown Heights, Tara Court and Tara Glen but also for pupils from other sectors of the town. St. Oliver Plunkett's School is operating over capacity and there is inadequate room for expansion on the site.

St. Paul's National School

St. Paul's national school is located to the north west of Navan at the junction of Phase 2A of the Navan Inner Relief Road with the Rathaldron Road. St Paul's is a two-streamed school and accommodates a total of 528 students. The school is currently operating at capacity and have forwarded an application to the Department of Education and Science for an extension to the school. Similar to St. Oliver Plunkett's, St. Paul's serves a wide catchment area accommodating children not only from the Abbeylands area but from all over the town.

St. Anne's National School

St. Anne's girl's national school is located at the Fairgreen and caters for 322 pupils from all over the town but primarily from the estates and the developing suburbs of Bailis/Athlumney/Johnstown. The school is currently operating at capacity and there is not room for extension on the site.

St Joseph's National School

St Joseph's is located on Railway Street. There are a total of 459 students currently attending the school. This school is also functioning at full capacity. St. Joseph's national school primarily serves many of the estates within the town council boundary as well as the new estates such as Canterbrook, Beechmount Vale and Balreask Manor on the Trim Road. It also accommodates children from Bailis Downs, Johnstown Wood and Boyne View in Johnstown especially in the junior classes.



St. Joseph's National School

Scoil Mhuire National School

Scoil Mhuire located at Abbey Road is the only boy's primary school in the town. There has been a significant increase in the number of students attending the school over the past number of years with a current enrolment figure of 304. As a result there is no spare capacity in the school, however the current site is large enough for future extension. Scoil Mhuire serves children primarily from the housing estates located in close proximity to the school.

Flowerfield National School

Flowerfield National School, located on the Trim Road, is the only primary school of a Church of Ireland ethos within the town and has a stable population of 59 pupils. Although the school has reached its full capacity levels, there remains adequate room for extension.

Scoil Eanna

Scoil Eanna is located on the Trim Road to a site adjoining Beaufort College. This school has also experienced major increases in pupil numbers over the past number of years with a current enrolment figure of 208 pupils. The school is currently operating at capacity in most classes. It has a wide catchment area attracting pupils from all over the town and its environs. It has sufficient land for expansion if required to meet the needs of the school over the lifetime of this plan.



Scoil Eanna, National School

St. Ultan's Special School

St. Ultan's Special School, located on Flowerhill currently caters for children with special needs. This school has a much wider catchment area than the aforementioned schools accommodating children not only from Navan but also from all over County Meath. The majority of the students travel by bus to and from the school. St. Ultan's has currently 103 pupils attending and has limited spare capacity and no room for expansion.

Educate Together

Educate Together is a relatively newly formed initiative in Navan. It is a non-denominational school and caters for both boys and girls from Navan and beyond. Currently there are 62 students attending the school. Educate Together are currently in temporary accommodation at the Old Dan Shaw Centre. They are currently operating at full capacity and the lease expires on the current site in May 2009. They are currently seeking a permanent site to further develop and expand their National School.

Scoil Naomh Eoin

Scoil Naomh Eoin opened in 2003. This school caters for 179 females and 143 males, 322 students in total. The school is currently in temporary accommodation comprising of prefabricated structures. Scoil Naomh Eoin however, has obtained a site to the north of Navan Town at Clonmagadden with the view to providing a permanent school at this location.

St. Stephen's Primary School

St. Stephen's Primary School is currently located in temporary accommodation at St. Martha's College to the east of the Navan town. This area has been identified to accommodate one or more schools. In the Navan Development Plan 2003-2009 a site was identified in this location to facilitate the provision of a permanent school building for St. Stephen's NS. Meath County Council is currently engaging in consultations with the Department of Education and Science and the landowner to provide for the release of these lands. Following consultation with the Department it is evident that there is a requirement for a site of 5 acres for the permanent location of St. Stephen's Primary School to cater for a 32 classroom facility.

St. Mary's Special School

St. Mary's Special School is located in Johnstown. It caters for children with special needs from all over the county. There are currently 67 pupils attending, this total also accounts for the full capacity that the school can cater for. Lands were identified in the Navan Development Plan 2003-2009 for an education campus in the vicinity of St. Martha's College. Negotiations are currently ongoing between the Dept. of Education, Meath County Council and the landowner to provide for the release of these lands to accommodate St. Stephen's and St. Mary's Special School.

6.1.2 Additional Primary Educational Requirements

The above analysis has illustrated that many of the national schools in Navan are operating beyond capacity, with limited opportunity to expand. As identified in the Navan Development Plan 2003-2009, it is proposed to make adequate provision for educational needs, by reserving sites for schools throughout the town in the newly developing residential areas of Navan. To the north of the town, a site has been identified at Clonmagadden for community facilities to include a National School whilst the Clonmagadden Strategic Development Zone Planning Scheme also makes provision for a 3 acre National School Site. To the east of the town, a 23 acre site has been identified to accommodate an integrated educational campus at St. Martha's College to include two National Schools.

The provision of a site for a Primary School for the area of land boarded by the Trim Rd, the line of the former Navan-Dublin railway and the southern boundary of the Development Plan envelope has also been reserved. Two further sites for primary schools are also reserved, one is located in the south west of the town centre, the area located between the Trim Road and the Commons Road as part of LAP 3 and the other site is located to the east of the town centre as part of LAP 4. Having regard to the aforementioned and following consultation with the Department of Education, it is considered that adequate lands are identified and reserved in Navan to cater for existing and future educational needs over the lifetime of this plan.

6.1.3 Post Primary Schools

There are 4 post primary schools in Navan. They serve a wide catchment area, accommodating students not only Navan but from a 10 – 15 mile radius.

Table 8; Enrolment Figures for Navan Post Primary Schools.

Name	Location	Approx. no. of Students 1996*	Approx. no. of Students 2002	Approx. no. of Students 2008
St. Patrick's Classical School	Athboy Rd.	800	810	840
St. Michael's Loreto Convent	Athlumney	770	730	782
Beaufort Community College	Trim Road	490	390	457
St. Joseph's Convent	Railway St.	660	512	519
Total		2,720	2,442	2,598

* Figures taken from 1997 Navan Environs Development Plan

St. Patrick's Classical School

St. Patrick's Classical School located on the Athboy Road is the only boy's post primary school in the town, accommodating 840 students. It attracts students from all over the town and its environs. St. Pat's is currently at capacity, there is inadequate provision of playing pitches and sufficient space does not exist for future expansion on site.

St. Michael's Loreto Convent

St. Michael's Loreto Convent is located at Athlumney. It has a wide catchment area catering for 783 girls from all over Navan and various other parts of County Meath. It has large grounds surrounding the school and a number of sports pitches and facilities.

St. Joseph's

St. Joseph's secondary school is located at Railway Street adjoining the site of the primary school. It caters for 519 girls from all parts of Navan and beyond. There is adequate room for expansion and the provision of additional facilities, if required, over the lifetime of this plan.

Beaufort Community College

Beaufort Community College is located on the Trim Road and is the only vocational college in the town. It caters for 457 boys and girls primarily from the town and its environs. It has a large site with modern technical and sporting facilities designed to cater for a school population of approximately, 1,000 pupils. Thus, there is sufficient capacity in the school to meet the needs of the school for the lifetime of the plan.



Beaufort Community College

6.1.4 Additional Post-Primary Educational Requirements

Currently there is adequate provision of post-primary facilities in the town. However, many of the existing post primary facilities have inadequate provision of sports facilities and little room for expansion to meet the needs and demands of the current student population, most notably St. Patrick's Classical School. There is also a longer lead in time for the existing pressures experienced in national schools' enrolment extending to post primary schools. There are currently no definite proposals or plans for additional secondary school provision in Navan. Nonetheless, having regard to the projected and potential population of Navan in 2015, the Planning Authorities have made provision for an integrated educational campus to the east of Navan south of St. Martha's College and to the north of the town at Clonmagadden, adjoining the Swimming Pool site. The adequacy of the existing Post Primary Schools to cater for the increases in population will be monitored on an ongoing basis.

6.1.5 Dual Use of School Buildings

School and other educational premises represent a valuable resource in terms of land and building, which generally are only used on a partial basis. The dual use of educational facilities, where it does not conflict with the delivery of the education service (i.e. outside school hours and during school holidays) can contribute to meeting the wider needs of the community, by helping to satisfy demand for a variety of activities. The DoEHLG Guidelines on Childcare Facilities recommend the use of school premises to cater for after school care and school authorities are encouraged to examine how they can help address the demand for such activities.

Where lands and buildings can be beneficially used by the community, the Councils will promote such uses subject to available resources. Where new schools are proposed and indeed other community facilities, opportunities will be sought to ensure that they are designated in such a way as to facilitate dual use from the onset.

Policies

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

ED POL 1	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 2	To encourage, support and develop opportunities to open up new and existing schools to wider community use.
ED POL 3	To encourage and support the development of further educational facilities and training programmes for children and adults with special needs.
ED POL 4	To encourage the integration of those with special needs into the education system of streamlined schools, where possible.
ED POL 5	To ensure that adequate land and services are reserved to cater for the establishment, improvement or expansion (where possible) of primary and post primary educational facilities.
ED POL 6	To encourage, support and develop opportunities to open up new and existing schools to wider community use.

Objectives

In terms of education, it is the objective of Meath County Council and Navan 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 Navan.
ED OBJ 2	To reserve lands at Johnstown (LAP 1) and at Clonmagadden (FP 2) for the development of integrated primary and post primary educational campuses, in consultation with the relevant educational authorities.

ED OBJ 3	To facilitate the Department of Education and Science and reserve a site for the provision of a primary school in Blackcastle (as part of the Clonmagadden Strategic Development Zone).
ED OBJ 4	To facilitate the Department of Education and Science and reserve a site for the provision of a primary school in the area of land bordered by the Trim Rd., the line of the former Navan-Dublin railway and the southern boundary of the Development Plan envelope. (FP 7)
ED OBJ 5	To facilitate the Department of Education and Science and reserve a site for the provision of a primary school in lands located between the Trim Rd. and the Commons Road (as part of LAP 3).
ED OBJ 6	To facilitate the Department of Education and Science and reserve a site for the provision of a primary school in land located to the east of Navan Town Centre (as part of LAP 4).
ED OBJ 7	To facilitate the development of sports, recreational and cultural facilities for schools in Navan.
ED OBJ 8	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 9	To actively encourage links with third level institutions in adjoining Counties.

6.1.6 Third Level Facilities/Adult Education

There is currently no Third Level Education facility in Navan. However, great effort has been made on the part of the joint Councils and various other organisations within the town to develop third level educational initiatives. The development of a new designated third-level hub facility for Navan is critical to the achievement of the objectives of the strategy in the longer term. Analysis indicated that three sites were considered suitable in this regard and required further investigation, namely the development of a hub on a green field site in Navan, the Navan Business Park or in the Navan Enterprise Centre. In considering these options a number of key issues will arise for further examination including the possibility of the purpose-building of Phase 3 of the Enterprise Centre, proximity to proposed rail and road access, availability of suitable sites and proximity to planned industrial development. The identification of a suitable site for a third level education facility warrants further investigation and consideration during the time period of this plan.

Policies

In terms of Third Level Education it is the policy of Meath County Council and Navan Town Council:

ED POL 7	To actively promote and encourage the provision of third level educational programmes in the town.
ED POL 8	To promote the development of outreach programmes between businesses and the third level institutions in adjoining Counties.

Objectives

In terms of Third Level Education it is the policy of Meath County Council and Navan Town Council:

ED OBJ 10	To actively encourage the development of links with third level institutions in adjoining Counties.
ED OBJ 11	To investigate and reserve the provision of a suitable site for a third level educational facility in Navan.
ED OBJ 12	To co-operate with the County Development Board in the preparation of an integrated county strategy for education and training provision.

In terms of adult education courses, there are 134 adult education courses available in Navan, these range from WOW (Wider Opportunities for Women), language courses, interior design, fitness courses, photography, etc. There are also alternative adult education mechanisms available in Navan, these include: Navan Education Centre, Youthreach Progression/Hi-way Navan, Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme, Traveller Education Centre, Back to Education Initiative, Adult Literacy and Meath Adult Education Guidance Service.

6.2 Community & Resource Centres

Having regard to the existing and intended population of Navan, Community & Resource Centres are required within the residential areas of Navan to serve the wider needs of residents across many services and activities. The combining of the Community & Resource Centres with another use such as a school or a crèche is generally a more economical means of providing such facilities or they could be provided as part of a Neighbourhood Centre alongside the retail provision. Provision is made for community & resource centres as part of the Local Area Plans adopted at Duffslane and Ferganstown/Ballymacon namely LAP 3, LAP 4 respectively and at Blackcastle as part of the Clonmagadden SDZ Planning Scheme. However, to facilitate the development of community facilities to meet the needs of Navan, its environs and its catchment population there is a requirement for additional community centres to be provided at (1) Clonmagadden, north of the Leisure Link Leisure Centre as part of FP 2 (2) Johnstown south of St. Martha's College as part of LAP 1, (3) Balreask Old as part of FP 7, (4) Carriage Road Area as part of FP 1 and (5) in the Windtown Area as part of FP 4.

Objectives

In terms of Community & Resource Centres, it is an objective of Meath County Council and Navan Town Council:

ED OBJ 13	To assist in the provision of community and resource centres and to encourage and promote the shared use of such facilities between clubs, social groups etc, by the identification and reservation of suitably located sites including sites within the landbanks of the Local Authorities, by assisting in the provision of finance for their development through the provisions of the Planning & Development Act 2000.
ED OBJ 14	To reserve lands in the vicinity of Clonmagadden (FP 2), Windtown (FP 4), Carriage Road (FP 1), Trim Road (FP 7) and Johnstown (LAP 1) to facilitate the provision of community resource centres in the residential suburbs of Navan.

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 in relation to 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, seasonal facilities, pre-school facilities and after school services. The Planning Guidelines on Childcare Facilities also recommends appropriate locations for childcare facilities.

Childcare facilities have developed considerably during the timeframe of the previous Navan Development Plan 2003-2009. There are currently 10 full day care facilities in the Navan Urban Area. These facilities combined cater for 604 childcare places. However, with profound demographic and social changes occurring in Navan, childcare is a prevalent issue for many families and there is a need for continuing childcare development in the town and environs. The Planning Authorities recognise the importance of the provision of an adequate level of childcare facilities in Navan.

A County Childcare Committee has been developed to advance childcare at local level to support the development of quality childcare services within the county for all children aged 0-14. 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. According to MCCC’s Strategic Plan 2007-2010 funding under the National Childcare Investment Programme 2006-2010 (NCIP) should be prioritised for baby places, school aged childcare and full day care facilities, this is also in line with recently conducted mapping research.

Navan Town Council and Meath County Council will continue to be proactive in encouraging an increase in the number of childcare places available locally and will endeavour to improve the quality of childcare services for the community. The joint Councils will consider the “Meath County Childcare Strategic Plan” in the provision of childcare facilities in Navan 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 Navan 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”.

Policies

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

SOC POL 1	<p>To encourage and promote the provision of childcare facilities in Navan 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -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	<p>To seek to realise the objectives of the “Meath County Childcare Committee Strategic Plan 2007-2010” as pertinent to Navan, to ensure the balanced provision of quality childcare facilities throughout the town.</p>

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 relates to properties which have been designed and built as dwellings, and are surrounded by other houses, a significant residential element should be retained.

Objective

In terms of childcare, it is an objective of Meath County Council and Navan 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 and medical facilities in Navan are primarily the responsibility of the Health Service Executive-Dublin North East, though a number of healthcare services are also provided by the voluntary and private sectors. The role of the Planning Authority 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 through the safeguarding of our water courses from pollution which could threaten public health.

There is a range of health services provided by the HSE within the Navan Area. Our Lady's Hospital located on the Athboy Road in Navan is an acute Regional Orthopedic Hospital for the North-Eastern Region. Services at Our Lady's Hospital, Athboy Road include medical, surgical, orthopedic, intensive care, out patients, casualty, maternity out reach clinic, ophthalmics, orthodontic and dental services, diagnostic services (radiology, pathology) and psychiatric.

Community clinics available within the grounds of Our Lady's hospital include speech and therapy language, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, psychology, public health nursing, area medical service, nutrition/dietetics and social work. It is hoped to develop a Primary Care team in this unit. An afterhours 'Doctor on Call' service is also based within the Athboy Road Campus. An efficient and effective ambulance service, covering the County of Meath, is also based at Our Lady's Hospital.



Ambulance Service HQ

Further medical health services are also provided at the Tain Day Centre at the County Infirmary, located at the Fair Green, and at Clonard House, Market Square, which offers outpatient psychiatric services, family therapy, alcohol counselling and behavioural therapy. The process of building the replacement County Infirmary in the grounds of our Lady's Hospital on the Athboy Road is due to commence in 2009. It is anticipated that this will be operational by 2011.

Medical health services for persons with a disability include a respite unit at Commons Road for people with physical disabilities, a residential unit at Commons Road for people with learning disabilities, a special child care unit at Athlumney, an adult day centre at Commons Road. The HSE is also currently leasing a property in Johnstown village as a community based health centre, it is anticipated that this service will relocate on a permanent site in Johnstown, subject to a site becoming available.



Our Lady's Hospital

Health services for the elderly available within the Navan area include respite and convalescent services at the County Infirmary, a day centre for the elderly and an Alzheimer day centre at Liscarton, Kells Road. The HSE have acquired two sites directly adjacent to the north and south of the existing hospital site from Meath County Council to allow for future expansion and amalgamation of other services within the existing campus facility. It is considered that the HSE have

adequate lands available in their ownership to cater for expansion of the hospital, if required, during the lifetime of this plan.

There are also a number of private Medical Practitioners (approx. 10) located throughout the town. However, there are only two main private health care units, one at Abbey House and the other at Church Hill. The Primary Care Health Strategy produced by the HSE promotes the provision of a health care unit for at least every 7,000 people. Provision is made for medical centres as part of the Local Area Plans adopted at Duffslane and Ferganstown/Ballymacon namely LAP 3, LAP 4 respectively and at Blackcastle as part of the Clonmagadden SDZ Planning Scheme. However, to facilitate the development of health services to meet the needs of Navan, its environs and its catchment population and to ensure compliance with the Primary Health Care Strategy, there is a requirement for three additional centres in Navan on sites of approximately three-quarters of an acre or integrated within a Neighbourhood Centre to ensure the provision of an efficient health service to the existing and future population of the town. Sites are required in the Johnstown area, the Trim Road area and the Windtown Road area of the town.

6.4.1 Regional Hospital

Navan has been recently selected for the location of the New Regional Hospital for the North East Region. The Health Partnership Report published in 2008 identified Navan as the optimum location for the development of a regional hospital for the North East region. Navan's selection was based on a number of key assets; its demographic and infrastructural attributes and also its favourable planning and development environment. Meath County Council and Navan Town Council appointed RPS Planning and Environmental Consultants to examine potentially suitable sites throughout the town and identify the optimum location to accommodate the proposed Regional Hospital. Following screening, evaluating and rating of potentially suitable sites the preferred site options are listed in order of rank as a result of the weighting exercise, which is detailed below:

1. Site No. 22 (Nevinstown)
2. Site No. 11 (Balreask Old & Limekilnhill (part))
3. Site No. 10 (Limekilnhill)

Should such further investigation by the HSE identify particular difficulties with site No. 22, i.e. Nevinstown, then sites No. 11 (Balreask Old & Limekilnhill (part)) and No. 10 (Limekilnhill) will be similarly evaluated on a sequential basis until the most appropriate balance of all factors is achieved. It noteworthy that this attention priority selection as per the RPS Report does not take into account critical technical, financial and implementation matters, both known and unknown and accordingly the order of ranking listed above may change as such technical, financial and implementation matters are further explored and evaluated by HSE.

Meath County Council and Navan Town Council are committed to facilitating and assisting the HSE in the provision of Regional Hospital in Navan.

A Strategic Land Reserve (WL) has also been identified in the Development Plan with a specific objective to ensure the consolidation of the future development of Navan and to provide for supporting employment, community and recreational development in association with the Regional Hospital, on a phased basis within the plan period.

Policies

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

SOC POL 5	To facilitate the Health Service Executive-Dublin North East in the provision of a new Regional Hospital in Navan.
SOC POL 6	To co-operate with the Health Service Executive-Dublin North East and other statutory and voluntary agencies in the provision of appropriate health care facilities covering the 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 7	To ensure that adequate lands and services are available for the improvement, establishment and expansion of health services.
SOC POL 8	To promote the improvement and expansion of health services in Navan.
SOC POL 9	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 10	To facilitate the appropriate provision of private medical facilities.
SOC POL 11	To co-operate with the Health Service Executive-Dublin North East in the implementation of their 'Primary Care Strategy'.
SOC POL 12	To encourage, support and facilitate the provision of a range of services for the aged population.
SOC POL 13	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 14	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.

Objectives

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

SOC OBJ 3	To investigate and reserve in consultation with the Health Service Executive - Dublin North East a suitable site for a Regional Hospital in Navan (possible suitable locations include Nevinstown, Limekilnhill and Balreask Old & Limekilnhill (part)).
SOC OBJ 4	To facilitate the Health Service Executive – Dublin North East in the provision of health centres in the expanding residential suburbs of Navan by making provision for such sites in the Johnstown area, the Blackcastle/Batterstown area (Clonmagadden SDZ lands), the Trim Road area, and the Windtown Road area of the town.

6.5 Policing

Navan Garda Station is located on Abbey Road and is the Divisional Headquarters with responsibility for the Division of Meath. General safety and crime prevention is a priority for the Garda Siochana, given the existing and projected population levels of the town and its environs.

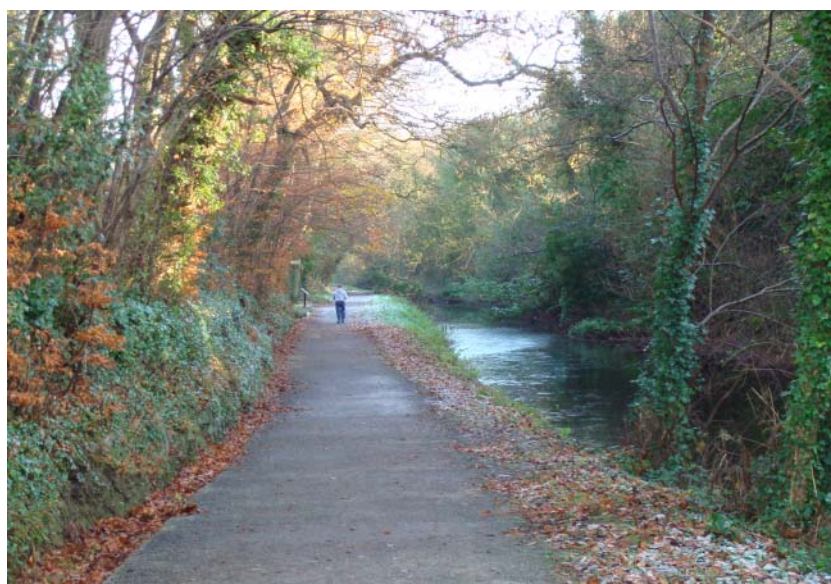
Policies

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

SOC POL 15	To assist in improving and maintaining general safety within the town centre and its environs.
SOC POL 16	To promote the installation and usage of CCTV cameras along the main streets and other areas where perceived as necessary.
SOC POL 17	To promote the formation of neighbourhood watch groups in newly developing and existing neighbourhoods.
SOC POL 18	To maintain a high level of safety in new residential and commercial development, through appropriate urban design provisions.

6.6 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 open space, sporting and recreational facilities are an important consideration in assessing the quality of life in a town or area. This section will consider the various types of recreation and amenity areas/activities in Navan, their functions, current standards and level of provision. Future requirements will also be set out.



The Boyne Navigational Canal (The Ramparts)

6.6.1 Public Open Space

The Planning Authorities recognise the importance of an adequate provision of attractive and conveniently located open space throughout the town and environs. Public open space has an important function and serves a variety of purposes set out below:

- Active recreation, such as football pitches, tennis courts, athletics, etc,
- Passive recreation, such as walking, cycling, strolling, picnic areas etc,
- Provides a visual break within the built up urban environment, such as important landscape views,
- Environmental/wildlife function and habitat.

Open space in Navan is made up of these elements, which are important in the consideration of the overall open space strategy for the area.

6.6.2 Playgrounds

Play and recreational opportunities are essential for children. The opportunity to play in a safe but social and stimulating environment is a key determinant of well-being. Children's need for play remains constant across time and territories but the opportunities to fulfil that need changes according to many contexts. Whilst children spontaneously and naturally engage in play, we are all familiar with the factors that are changing and, in many cases, constraining opportunities for children to engage in active play. In recognition of many of these factors and the changing nature of Irish society, the government adopted a National Play Policy called, Ready, Steady Play in 2004 and has asked all local authorities to adopt a similar policy for their own area. Meath Local Authorities recognize the need to promote, prioritise and formalize the provision of play opportunities and wishes to work in partnership with children and other agencies to achieve this end. The Meath Local Authorities Play Policy 2008-2012 was adopted on the 12th December 2008 in order to help create an environment in Meath where children can play freely and in safety. In accordance with Objective 3 of Meath Local Authorities Play Policy 2008-2012 "To ensure that children's play needs are met through the development of a child friendly environment" and associated action, the Planning Authority will ensure that appropriate play provision is provided in future developments, that the play and recreation needs of children and young people are taking into consideration in policy formation and planning assessments.

In recent years significant initiatives has been taken by Meath County Council and Navan Town Council to improve the provision of amenity facilities and public open space in the town. Several new amenity facilities have been developed as set out below.

Development of Playgrounds	
Boreen Keel Park & Playground	Landscaping & provision of playground

Development of Kennedy Rd. Civic Space	
Civic Space Kennedy Rd.	Provision of element of car parking, high quality Civic Space, Landscaped Area, seating, street furniture, public lighting

Development of Poolboy View	
Poolboy View (1& 2)	High quality paving, artistic feature, decorative railing, landscaped open space area at the convergence of the Rivers Boyne & Blackwater

Clogherboy Project	
Clogherboy Project	Development of an open space area to include all weather multi use games area

Leighsbrook Lane & Commons Road	
Leighsbrook Lane	Landscape & Development of Small Open Space Area
Commons Road Area	Landscape & Development of Small Open Space Area

Despite such initiatives, there is currently a lack of public open space/public parks in the town and no area exists that can be classified as a major open space. However, the Council's have made significant progress in acquiring lands in Navan, that when developed, will provide accessible open space for the population of Navan.

6.6.3 Navan Town Park

In response to the lack of public open space in the town, land comprising 68 acres in extent, on the northern bank of the River Blackwater has been purchased. A scheme has been designed by Ferguson McAlveen Landscape Architects for the Park and in May 2005 An Bord Pleanála approved an Environmental Impact Statement. The proposed Navan Town Park will be connected to the town centre via pedestrian and cycle links. The proposed Public Park benefits from impressive views of the Blackwater River itself, of the weir adjoining Balmoral Industrial Estate and of Spicer's Mill, which is a reminder of Navan's proud industrial heritage.

It is envisaged that the proposed Public Park will be used as actively as possible and accommodate a variety of different experiences, both passive, active, ecological and providing a visual break in the urban form, in order to ensure a perception of safety to users. The accommodation of an element of sports grounds and playground facilities would be a suitable way to develop an active recreational element. The development of a series of walkways and cycle paths through the Park would provide both active and passive recreation. The development of an arboretum and wildflower meadows would represent the development of environmental ecosystems. The Park would also allow the holding of concerts and development of attractors, such as a tea room or café, which would represent a socio economic function. The internal cycle and pedestrian network layout will allow trips through the Park as well as alternative routing within it. The Park should also be well integrated with the surrounding residential areas and be used as a route to the town centre for cyclists. It is estimated that the development of this park will cost in the region of €17m. An application had been made to the Department of Arts, Sports & Tourism for funding under the Sports Capital Grant Scheme and a grant of €750,000 approved. Meath County Council is currently examining ways in which to maximise funding, i.e. through Development Contributions (amenity) or any other funding mechanism available.

6.6.4 The Ramparts

The area of the Ramparts along the River Boyne represents an important amenity for the town of Navan. While the Ramparts is the actual walkway along the towpath of the Boyne Navigation Canal, locally it refers to the area which incorporates the River Boyne and the Boyne Navigation Canal

leading out of Navan. The Navigation Canal represents an historical spine linking the major heritage attractions between Navan and Drogheda while the Canal and River combine as one of the most evocative and beautiful landscapes in Ireland. The environmental quality of this area is extremely high, the principal contributor being the natural woodland on both sides of the canal along the towpath. The Ramparts provides an opportunity to access a rural environment removed from road traffic and the built up area of the town. The pedestrian way extends from Ruxton's Lock in Navan eastwards along the Boyne to Stackallen lock at Broadboyne Bridge, a distance of some 7.5 km. However, this picturesque area is currently under utilised as few residents or visitors make full use of the amenity.

The amenity value of the Ramparts was recognised by the Planning Authorities who carried out a number of works in the area and commissioned Newman Mulligan and Associates to prepare a strategy for the restoration of the Boyne Navigation Canal. The strategy concluded that The Ramparts offer much potential which could be maximised through the enhancement of attraction points, such as viewing points, boat hire, kiosks and fishing facilities as well as through the upgrading of the towpath. Meath County Council has included proposed improvements to the Ramparts Area in the context of the Urban & Village Renewal Programme 2000 – 2006. The improvements will be implemented on a phased basis. To date, preliminary works have been carried out under this scheme including the upgrading of walkways, the resurfacing of footpaths, the upgrading of the bridge from the car park into the Rampart and landscaping works. Signage was also erected during 2008 following receipt of funding from Fáilte Ireland.



Ruxton Bridge, The Boyne Navigational Canal (The Ramparts)

6.6.5 Riverside Parks

There are a number of riverside areas in Navan, which have the potential to become attractive amenity areas. The Mollies, along the northern banks of the Blackwater is another riverside area, which if further developed would represent a valuable amenity resource. As part of Navan Action Area Plan 1 (The Mollies) detailed landscape proposals were included for the linear parks north and south of the river. It is a requirement that the provision of the linear park shall be development driven and either provided as part of development proposals in this area or by way of a special financial contribution pursuant to Section 49 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000.

6.6.6 Fair Green

The Fair Green is recognised as an historic public space important to the civic amenity of Navan. The Fair Green presently provides an important facility in terms of car parking for retail and general commercial activity in Navan. Located on the southern periphery of the town centre, it provides a key gateway to the centre from the direction of both Dublin and Trim and provides a balance to the

more extensive car-parking facilities available on the northern side of the town centre. The Fair Green is also the historic location of the weekly market. Although this market has changed in character from the livestock trade at the start of this century to the present activity of licensed traders with dry goods stalls, the market remains an important and vibrant element of the town's tradition.

Excluding the existing green area along St. Finian's Terrace the general area surrounding and including the Fair Green currently presents a bleak streetscape against a background of some of the town's most notable buildings. Against such a background detailed proposals were advanced for this area for the development of a new town square, underground car park, garden and commercial development. As part of these proposals the Fair Green Area will become a more important civic space joining the existing town centre with the new development surrounding the proposed rail and bus station.

Policies

With regard to the Fair Green, it is the policy of Meath County Council and Navan Town Council:

SOC POL 19 To promote and facilitate the redevelopment of the Fair Green as a new civic amenity and gateway to the town centre in accordance with the Integrated Development Framework Plan.

SOC POL 20 To ensure pedestrian permeability to allow optimum usage of the area by pedestrian movements between the existing town centre and the proposed area of town centre expansion around the rail and bus station.

6.6.7 Kennedy Road Plaza

The Civic Space at Kennedy Road has been developed and is open to the public. The civic space gives priority to pedestrians accessing the shops, offices and other businesses, surrounding this area. 110 no. car parking spaces have been provided and the access for deliveries and collections is improved by providing designating loading areas at each end of the parking area. Most of the parking is provided for in the central area and priority is given to pedestrians in the surrounding areas. Access for the disabled is improved considerably, with easy access to designated parking spaces and ramps at a number of key locations. New lighting, seating and drainage are also included. The overall design enhances this area as a central meeting point for visitors and shoppers alike. This area has great potential to be used as a civic space for public events and performances.

6.6.8 Integration with Historical Features

Navan has several attractive historical features within close proximity to the town that are largely hidden from the public eye, which could be integrated with green space areas and linkages. They include:

- The Motte located to the west of the town, off the Athboy Road, that should be developed with public access. It has an attractive and important viewing point over the whole town and environs;
- Athlumney Castle is located to the south-west of the town with a view of Navan overlooking the river valley of the Boyne. It is an important relic of the past and is surrounded by a largely green and rural setting, despite being a short distance from Navan town centre. The Castle could be made more accessible to the public and incorporated into a potential heritage tour of Navan;
- A Motte located within 70m of Athlumney Castle, overlooking the Boyne and the centre of Navan;

- The old railway line is an important link between east and west Navan. This Railway Viaduct, which is currently under-utilised, could provide a pedestrian/cycle/bus link that would improve considerably the accessibility of the eastern areas of Navan;
- Donaghmore church and the 10th century Round Tower are situated approximately 1 km from Navan on the Slane Road;
- The Swan River forms a natural boundary at the south of Navan and sections of this tributary of the Boyne could be developed as an attractive link for pedestrians and cyclists between the Trim Road and Dublin Road.



Athlumney Castle

6.6.9 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 22, it is a specific policy of Meath County Council and Navan Town Council to resist the loss of existing public open spaces (This is also applicable to public open spaces within existing residential areas).

6.7 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 9; 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.

Policies

In terms of open space, it is the policy of Meath County Council and Navan Town Council:

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| SOC POL 21 | To encourage a balance in the location and types of open space provided within the town and environs and to ensure the development of high quality open space areas, for both active and passive use, and formal and informal activities of the population of Navan. |
| SOC POL 22 | To resist the loss of existing public open space, unless alternative recreational facilities are provided in a suitable location. |
| SOC POL 23 | To develop an integrated green structure for the town, linking open spaces along the riverbanks of the Boyne & Blackwater with the town centre and its environs and historical features, in such a manner so as not to significantly negatively impact on the cSAC either alone or in combination with other objectives in this or other plans. |
| SOC POL 24 | To encourage local community involvement in the upgrading and improvement of open spaces. |
| SOC POL 25 | To facilitate the development of children's playgrounds in proximity to existing and proposed neighbourhood centres, where feasible. |
| SOC POL 26 | No residential development shall be permitted on lands that are subject of a deed of dedication or identified in a planning application as open space to ensure the availability of community and recreational facilities for the residents of the area. |

Objectives

In terms of open space, it is an objective of Meath County Council and Navan Town Council:

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| SOC OBJ 5 | To develop the lands as identified at Abbeylands (between Silverlawns and the River Blackwater) for the purpose of providing a major public park. |
| SOC OBJ 6 | To provide and encourage the further improvement of the Ramparts, in conjunction with An Taisce, and the promotion of waterbased activities. |
| SOC OBJ 7 | To develop a system of linear parks and waterfront amenity areas with walkways and cycleways, subject to the availability of resources, along the Banks of the Boyne and Blackwater Rivers, in such a manner so as not to significantly negatively impact on the cSAC either alone or in combination with other objectives in this or other plans. |
| SOC OBJ 8 | To promote the provision of pedestrian and cycle links across rivers to ensure full accessibility, integration and usage of public open space in such a manner so as not to significantly negatively impact on the cSAC either alone or in combination with other objectives in this or other plans. |
| SOC OBJ 9 | To ensure pedestrian and cycle permeability through all new open space developments. |
| SOC OBJ 10 | To investigate existing public open spaces and carry out improvements where necessary to increase their usefulness as recreational spaces. |
| SOC OBJ 11 | To investigate the possibility of developing the site of the two Anglo Norman Mottes as a viewing point and heritage areas for the town. |

SOC OBJ 12	To develop open space and recreational programmes for the lands zoned for public open space at Duffslane, Clonmagadden and Bailis / Alexander Reid.
SOC OBJ 13	To provide for appropriate play provision in accordance with the Meath Local Authorities Play Policy 2008-2012.
SOC OBJ 14	To provide a playground to serve the needs of the Johnstown and Athlumney areas over the lifetime of the Development Plan

6.8 Sports and Recreational Facilities

Meath County Council and Navan Town Council recognise the importance of sporting, recreation and leisure activities to the quality of life enjoyed by the people of Navan. The provision of, and access to appropriate recreational, leisure and sporting facilities is considered essential to Navan's future development.

Navan is generally served well with sporting, recreational and leisure facilities, there is a wide variety of clubs and organisations which are scattered throughout the town and the surrounding area. The main facilities within the town are:

- Pairc Tailteann (County G.A.A. Grounds)
- Navan Athletic Club, Claremount
- Pitch and Putt Grounds
- Navan O'Mahony's G.A.A Club
- Simonstown Gaels G.A.A Club
- Leisure Link
- Navan Tennis Club
- Navan Rugby Club
- Jackie Skelly Leisure Centre



Páirc Tailteann GAA Grounds

There are also a number of additional sports/recreation facilities located outside the development area of Navan. These include:

- Navan Racecourse
- Golf Club & Driving Range
- Moorepark Golf Club
- Royal Tara Golf Course
- Walterstown GAA Club
- Bective GAA Club
- Meath and District League Soccer Grounds
- Trim Road and Knockharley Cricket Grounds



Navan Race Course



Leisure Link Swimming Pool

Meath County Council have acquired 48 acres of land close to Liscarton, on the Navan – Kells Road which are zoned as part of this Plan for F1 ‘Public Open Space’. It is envisaged that part of these lands could be developed for a mix of active sporting and amenity uses, to include the provision of additional playing pitches over the lifetime of the Development Plan.

Policies

In terms of Sport and Recreational Facilities it is the policy of Meath County Council and Navan Town Council:

SOC POL 27	To encourage the provision of indoor sporting/community facilities in co-operation with local community groups.
SOC POL 28	To support local sports and community groups in the development of facilities through the reservation of suitable land and the provision of funding where available and appropriate.
SOC POL 29	To facilitate the greater use of existing school sporting facilities by the public and of existing private sporting facilities by school children. The construction and maintenance of community and sporting facilities can be both costly and demand a lot of resources. The Local Authorities will promote a partnership approach between clubs, social groups and the school boards to facilitate such initiatives.
SOC POL 30	To support Public Private Partnership initiatives to enable the financing of various recreational programmes.
SOC POL 31	To work with disability groups to ensure that recreational and sporting facilities provided are user friendly.
SOC POL 32	To cater for the sporting and recreational needs of all sectors and ages of the community and promote the integration of those with special needs into the sporting and recreational environment.
SOC POL 33	To ensure that developers make provisions for sport and recreational infrastructure commensurate with the needs of the development as an integral element of their proposals.

SOC POL 34	The loss of existing public or private recreational open space will normally be resisted by the Planning Authorities unless alternative recreational facilities are provided in a suitable location, or it can be demonstrated that there is no longer sufficient demand to sustain the facility.
SOC POL 35	The Councils will investigate ways of improving the quality and capacity of existing sporting and recreational facilities through initiatives in both the public and private sector. Sources of funding will be investigated to achieve this at government level through the Lottery, with the governing bodies of the Sports and through private development proposals.

In terms of Sport and Recreational Facilities it is an objective of Meath County Council and Navan Town Council:

SOC OBJ 15	To develop a recreational programme for the lands zoned for public open space at Liscarton, off the Kells Road.
SOC OBJ 16	To reserve 5.5 acres for the purposes of soccer playing pitches to serve the needs of the Johnstown and Athlumney areas over the lifetime of the Development Plan.

6.9 Library Facilities

It is recognised by Navan Town Council and Meath County Council that the library service plays a vital role in underpinning many cultural activities. The Navan Branch Library and County Library Headquarters, located at Railway Street offer a wide and varied range of services to the public. In addition to the adult and children's library, there is an audio-visual section, information technology facilities and an entrance exhibition area available to local groups for exhibitions, recitals and readings. The building also houses a local studies section, which includes books, maps photographs, manuscripts etc. It functions as a source of local and historical information and in many instances supports and underpins the local authorities archive service.

The demands on the library services exceed present resources, and it is proposed to upgrade the county library and investigate the provision of a new branch library in the developing neighbourhoods of Navan. In April 2005, Meath County Council approved the Five Year Development Plan 2005-2009 which sets out a number of measures to be implemented by 2009, one of which being an upgrade of the Navan library.

Policy

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

SOC POL 36	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.
SOC POL 37	To continue to expand the library service to meet the needs of the community, subject to the availability of finance.

SOC POL 38	To expand and improve the library service in line with the objectives and priorities outlined in the Meath County Council Library 'Development Plan 2005-2009'.
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Objective

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

SOC OBJ 17	To enhance library facilities in Navan and to retain its function as library Headquarters for the county.
SOC OBJ 18	To provide for additional library services, including new branch libraries and services, where appropriate, in the newly developing neighbourhoods of the town.

6.10 Arts & Culture

The arts sector has experienced significant development in Navan during the timeframe of the previous Navan Development Plan 2003-2009. During this time the Council adopted an Arts Development Strategy (2005-2007), the principal aim of this strategy was to support the development of the arts countywide and to encourage artists and arts organizations to live and work in County Meath.

In addition to this and the most notable achievement in terms of the arts, has been the development of the state of the art architecturally designed "Solstice" Arts Centre on Railway St. This was opened in April 2006 and illustrated the local authorities belief in the importance of a living, expressive and diverse culture that enriches the lives of the people of Meath. Solstice is the first major cultural centre provided in the county and is already being recognized as the finest centre outside Dublin. It maintains a diverse range of high quality programmes of particular local interest delivered to international standards. This centre has been delivered at a cost of €13.5m which has been funded by a grant of €2.9m from the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism, some local contributions and the significant balance from Meath County Council and Navan Town Council.

The Arts Office has also initiated a number of successful residencies and projects which have taken place across a wide variety of arts disciplines. Meath County Council and Navan Town Council also acknowledge the valuable work undertaken by local arts groups in the town and their contribution to arts activities to date. In recognition of this, Navan Town Council and Meath County Council will continue to support the efforts of local groups and endeavour to provide a balanced cultural provision to Navan, with regard to music, film, theatre, dance, visual arts, literature and opera.



Solstice Arts Centre, Railway Street.

Policies

In terms of the Arts it is the policy of Navan Town Council and Meath County Council:

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| SOC POL 39 | To continue to enhance the range and quality of arts provision in Navan town and its environs. |
| SOC POL 40 | To endeavour to create increased opportunity for arts activities in Navan and an environment in which they can develop. |
| SOC POL 41 | To endeavour to ensure that all sectors of the community have access to and can participate in, as wide a range of art forms and events as possible. |
| SOC POL 42 | To liaise with the County Arts Officer on any development proposal that is likely to have a significant impact on the arts. |
| SOC POL 43 | 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 44 | To require major new commercial and private residential developments to incorporate works of public art into such schemes. |

Objectives

In terms of arts and culture, it is an objective of Meath County Council and Navan Town Council:

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| SOC OBJ 19 | To provide practical advice and assistance to persons in Navan, who wish to carry out or initiate arts activities. |
| SOC OBJ 20 | To assist with the strategic planning for the development and expansion of professional arts in Navan whilst at the same time recognising, and supporting amateur arts in the Town. |

6.11 Places of Worship & Burial Grounds

There are four main churches of two denominations serving the population of Navan

i) Roman Catholic Churches:

- St. Mary's Church
This church situated off Trimgate Street dates from 1836 and has a seating capacity for approximately 1400 people.
- St. Oliver's Church
This church situated in the neighbourhood of Blackcastle, to the north of the town, was opened in 1977 and has a seating capacity for approximately 700 people. It also provides rooms for meetings, classes etc.
- The Church of the Nativity of Our Lady, Johnstown
This church located in Johnstown Village to the east of the town dates from 1837 and has a seating capacity for approximately 350 people. It is renowned for its stained glass windows.

ii) Church of Ireland:

- St. Mary's Church
This is an early 19th Century building located at Church Hill.

The above provision of religious facilities is considered adequate to meet the needs of existing and future population.



St Mary's Church

Local Authorities have a statutory responsibility to provide for burial facilities, although the majority of facilities in Meath are provided by religious bodies. There are a number of burial grounds in Navan. The largest, St. Mary's which is located on the Boyne Road is at capacity. An additional second burial ground facility was introduced into Navan in recent years, St. Finian's cemetery which is a multi-denominational facility located on the Athboy Road. This cemetery, unlike St. Mary's cemetery, is owned and maintained by Meath County Council and is considered adequate to cater for the needs of Navan during the lifetime of this Development Plan. The Planning Authority recognizes the need to protect the heritage value of the existing graveyards. The following policies shall guide the development, expansion and conservation of burial grounds in the town:

Policy

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

SOC POL 45	To continue to monitor the adequacy of St. Finian's Cemetery to cater for the needs of Navan and to ensure that lands are reserved free from development to allow for the sequential expansion of the facility.
SOC POL 46	To encourage local community groups to develop, manage and maintain new burial facilities.
SOC POL 47	To protect the cultural heritage of historical burial grounds in Navan and encourage their management and maintenance in accordance with conservation principles.

6.12 Fire Service

Navan Fire Station, Abbey Road

Fire fighting is an important safety service provided by the local authority. The fire service also has a responsibility in relation to fire safety standards in the design of new and improved buildings, changes of use and also in relation to the fire service aspects of the daily use of buildings which are accessed by the public.

A seven bay Fire Station is located off the Inner Relief Road in Navan. There are currently 13 part-time fire fighters employed by Meath County Council, as well as a Chief Fire Officer, two Assistant Chief Fire Officers, one full time station officer and clerical support staff. The current fire station is considered adequate to cater for present and future needs of Navan. The Planning Authority supports the Fire Service, in the delivery of a first class fire service. In addition to this, it is noteworthy that Meath County Council is preparing a plan for the development and expansion of emergency services in the County in line with best practice and the Fire Service Change Programme.

Policy

In terms of the Fire Service, it is the policy of Meath County Council and Navan Town Council:

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| SOC POL 48 | To continue to provide a modern and effective fire service for Navan and to facilitate the accommodation of fire service facilities in locations that allow ease of access and safe functioning with the respect to the road network. |
| SOC POL 49 | To facilitate the expansion of the Fire Service as the needs arise subject to proper planning and development. |