

Chapter 7 Community & Social Development

7.0 Introduction

This Chapter sets out the aims and objectives relating to Community and Social development in Lismore over the Plan period. Building strong, inclusive communities is a key element in achieving sustainable development. Sustainable communities not only require economic development but also social and community development. Communities need opportunities to meet socially, interact and form bonds, and these are essential prerequisites to the development of a sense of place and a feeling of belonging.

This Chapter also examines the requirement for social and community infrastructure necessary to make Lismore a sustainable and attractive place to live for all of its citizens.

7.1 Community Facilities & Services

Community facilities are an important element in the urban fabric of a town and should form part of an integrated network of resources available to local people. They serve the basic needs of the town and provide a place where people can meet and create a sense of town spirit and pride in their community. Community facilities also play an important role in the coming together and integration of marginalised sectors of the local population who can use such facilities as meeting places.



Millennium Park

There is a strong sense of community in Lismore which is evident from the successes in the Tidy Towns Competition and the Entente Florale Competition. The Lismore Mochuda Development Company Ltd was founded in 1996 to promote the development of tourism and employment in the Town. To date their most ambitious project has been the development of the Millennium Park. They also undertook an economic survey on the Town in 2011.

7.2 Civic & Community Services

The former Christian Brothers Monastery accommodates the Lismore Area Office and is a full time Council facility servicing Lismore and the surrounding area. The County Council

Library Headquarters is also located to the rear of this building. The Lismore Branch Library is located in the newly renovated Carnegie Library on West Street which re-opened in 2011.



Lismore Area Office



Lismore Branch Library

The HSE Clinic is located on Parks Road and provides a comprehensive range of services which include general medical, public nursing, psychiatric, dental and speech therapy services. A day centre facility is also provided for at this location, whilst the community welfare service has relocated to the Social Welfare Office on Main Street.

The GAA Community Hall and two tennis courts are located at Gallows Hill on West Street. The hall provides a venue for the playing of badminton, indoor soccer and basketball, whilst the soccer, cricket and GAA pitches are located at Castlelands to the west of the Town.

7.3 Burial Grounds and Places of Public Worship

The local Churches include St. Carthages Cathedral (Church of Ireland) and St Carthages Parish Church (Catholic). The Methodist Church has recently been renovated and accommodates community uses. The Roman Catholic Cemetery is located to the east of Chapel Street, occupying an area of 2.6 ha. There is considerable capacity for future burial needs. The Church of Ireland Cemetery is located adjacent to St Carthages Cathedral



7.4 Fire Station, Garda Station & Emergency Services

The Lismore fire station is currently located off Chapel Street. However there are plans to relocate the fire station to the outskirts of the Town. (See Concept Map) This land has been the subject to a Compulsory Purchase Order for the purpose of accommodating the fire station.

The local Garda station is located on West Street in the Town Centre and has scheduled opening hours.

7.5 Public Open Space

The Millennium Park, playground, public toilets, and free public car park are located to the west of Lismore House Hotel and in a central location within the Town. The playground was officially opened on Easter Sunday 2007 and together with the adjacent facilities it provides an excellent public amenity area for residents of the Town and its hinterland as well as visitors to Lismore. It is a well managed and heavily utilised public open space area.



Lismore Playground

Objective CS1

To continue to maintain and develop areas of active and passive public space within the Town.

7.6 Education

There are 2 mixed primary schools in Lismore. They are as follows:

- Bun Scoil Bothar Na Naomh
- Lismore Mochuda National School

Post primary education is provided by Blackwater Community School in the west of the Town. Lismore is the main post primary education centre in the Cappoquin, Lismore and Tallow area and therefore it is necessary to ensure that adequate social and recreational facilities are provided for within the Town to cater for the school going population of this hinterland. The VEC also hold a



number of courses in the Town including information and communication technology skills, information processing, early childhood care and education, retail skills and a skills and education refresher programme.

Policy CS 1

To review the educational needs of the Town and its hinterland in light of future population increases and Department of Education and Skills policies.

7.7 Neighbourhood Centres

To co-ordinate the provision of community services and facilities in an efficient and sustainable manner, it is proposed to establish a neighbourhood centre into which basic facilities would be channeled. This would ensure that all areas in the Town would have equal access to facilities and that the facilities would be grouped to minimise journeys. It is proposed to locate a neighbourhood centre to the south east of the Town.

7.8 Childcare Facilities

Childcare facilities include full day-care and session facilities, services for pre-school children and after-school care for school-going children. It covers services involving the care, education and social integration of children. The current facilities in Lismore comprises of 1 full time childcare facility and a parent and toddler group. At the 2002 Barcelona European Council, Member States agreed by 2010 to provide full-day places in formal childcare arrangements to at least 90% of children aged between three and compulsory school age and to at least 33% of children under 3. The table below shows the current number and percentage of places available against the population (CSO 2011):

	<1	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 6	7 to 12
Facility Capacity	0	12	30	2	18
Population Rural	15	38	39	39	117
Urban	11	17	14	9	57
	26	55	53	48	174
DED Pop Coverage	0%	22%	57%	4%	10%

Childcare facilities: *Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (DoEHLG, June 2001), National Children's Strategy, *'Our Children – Their Lives'* (Dept. of Health and Children, 2000) and the Waterford County Childcare Committee report, *'County Childcare Strategy, 2002 – 2006'*, deal with the needs of children. It is noted that the National Children's Strategy is currently under review. Also the Waterford City and County Committees are in a merger process and will form one entity by January 2014. Childcare strategies that maybe formulated during the Plan period will be informed by the new National Children's Strategy. The Council shall liaise with the Waterford County Childcare Committee (and the proposed merged Committee) on the provision of future childcare services. The Planning Authority will direct future childcare facilities into the neighbourhood centres rather than their provision on a piece meal basis in individual housing estates.

7.9 Social Integration

The Local Authority has an important role to play in counteracting social imbalances and inequities, through the provision and improvement of social and community services. The implementation of Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) with regard to Social and Affordable Housing will assist in creating a more balanced socio-economic profile in residential developments and will support the further integration of public and private housing.

The principle of '*accessibility for all*' will be at the core of the provision of all community, education and childcare facilities.

Policy CS 2

To promote recreational and cultural facilities and activities that encourage inclusion of specific groups that may experience social exclusion due to social status, race, religion or any other factor that may lead to social marginalisation.

Policy CS 3

To promote a high quality living environment through the provision of community facilities in line with, and supporting new residential development.

Policy CS 4

To provide for the health care needs of the Town's population as it grows and to provide for a mix of community related healthcare facilities for people with various healthcare needs such as nursing homes and health centres.

7.10 Sports and Recreation

As stated previously a number of sporting activities are provided for within Lismore. In addition salmon and trout fishing are available on the River Blackwater and coarse fishing is available at Dromana Lake and Cappoquin. There is a need for an indoor swimming facility in West Waterford and this could form part of an overall complex in conjunction with a high quality hotel and associated gym.

The Council is committed to working with Waterford Sports Partnership (WSP) which has the key aim of increasing participation in sport and physical activity among target groups and to ensure that local resources are put to their best possible use.

Policy CS 5

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

Objective CS 2

To promote sporting and recreational activities in appropriate areas of the Town and to encourage the provision of indoor and outdoor facilities such as a skateboard park and/or an outdoor gym for local clubs, organisations and different social groups within the Town.

7.11 Amenity Paths and Networks

“Waterford County: a Monument for the future-Waterford County Strategy for Economic Social and Cultural Development” sets out the following objective:

“To enable Waterford to become the Walking Capital of Ireland”

Lismore offers many walks around the Town such as the Towers Walk, Lady Louise's Walk, the Town Walk and St Declan's Way. There is a need to ensure that these walkways are well maintained and sign posted in order for Lismore to have a significant role in achieving the Overall County aim in relation to walking.



Local Pedestrian Signage

7.12 Need for Additional Facilities

Given the population increases in Lismore over the past number of years it is necessary that certain additional community and social facilities be developed in line with future housing developments. The Council may require prospective developers of larger housing estate developments to submit a Community Impact Assessment to ascertain the capacity of the existing community facilities to absorb the proposed development and the possible need for additional facilities to accommodate the population increase. The report may include a needs assessment of the following (amongst others):

- Childcare facilities.
- Community buildings.
- Recreational/ sporting areas.
- Additional educational facilities.
- Elderly housing units.

7.13 Culture and the Arts

Lismore is renowned for its artistic expression and the Dramatic Society which is housed in the Courthouse Theatre has an active membership. A number of events are held in Lismore each year including the Lismore Music Festival, the Immrama Festival of travelling writers and the Robert Boyle Summer School. Lismore Caste Arts exhibition space in Saint Carthages Hall is a significant asset to the Town as it hosts exhibitions of international significance alongside a series of smaller exhibitions, projects and events as well as a comprehensive education programme.



7.14 Public Art

Public art has an important role to play within a Town context as it can create a sense of identity and can define particular areas within the Townscape. The Millennium Park and the grounds of St Carthage's Cathedral host many fine examples of public art that have been sensitively constructed and represent characteristics of the locality.



Public Art in Millennium Park