



NEWCASTLE SMALL GROWTH TOWN II TOWN PLAN

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TOWN PLAN

1. PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN

The purpose of this Plan is to put in place a structure that will guide the future sustainable development of Newcastle. This Plan, in conjunction with the County Development Plan 2004-2010, will inform and manage the future development of the town. While Newcastle is a small settlement, its proximity to the N11 national route and Dublin, as well as its charm, beautiful setting and its small size, puts it under severe development pressure.

The aim of this Plan is to establish a framework for the planned, coordinated, and sustainable development of Newcastle, and to enhance and facilitate the balancing of economic, social and environmental infrastructure in the interests of the community. While this Plan, which is an integral part of the County Development Plan and will thus only be in place until 2010, it has been cast in the context of growth until 2016.

This Plan will ensure that residential development is located in a sustainable manner close to commercial development and amenities, that it will take place in tandem with physical, community and amenity infrastructure, and this Plan will designate land for such usage.

Town Plan Status

This plan has been prepared in accordance with Part II, Section 13 of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act 2000. The Town Plan will be adopted as a variation to the County Development Plan.

As this plan will be part of and form a subset of the County Development Plan it is not proposed to include a repetition of the policies, objectives or strategies as set out in the CDP. Where standards or objectives for a particular development are not included in this plan the provisions of the CDP shall apply. The plan will however seek to formulate appropriate Newcastle specific development objectives and guidance, compatible with those of the CDP, to assist the Development Management process in managing sustainable progress for the town.

2. LOCATION, POPULATION AND CONTEXT

Newcastle is situated in County Wicklow 2km to the east of the N11 route on the R761 Regional Road, approximately 4km south of Kilcoole, 4km from Newtownmountkennedy, approximately 12km north of Wicklow Town and south of Greystones/Delgany, and approximately 2km from the coast.

Newcastle is classified in the County Development plan as a 'Small Growth Town II' with a 2006 Census population of 837. The County Development Plan envisages a population of 1222 by 2010, rising to 1500 by 2016. Land use designation in this Plan will be based on a population of 1500.

Newcastle contains a Church of Ireland National school, Church of Ireland church, a public house, local convenience shop, a car sales outlet and motor repair shop, GAA facility, soccer pitch, playground, tennis courts, community hall, garden centre, and religious centre. The topography in Newcastle lower is predominately flat while the

gradient to the west of the main street in Newcastle middle is steeper and increases from the 20 m contour to the 40 m contour line.

There are several well-established, medium density housing estates in the town of Newcastle including a new 32-house scheme that has commenced construction and of which 12 are built.

Newcastle is split between two landscape zones as defined in the County Development Plan landscape categorisations. The area to the east of the R761 is classified, as an 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty' while the area west of the R 761 is a 'Corridor Area'.

Historical Context

The name of the village has its origins from the first castle that was built close to the village between the years of 1177 and 1184 by Hugh De Lacey then Governor of Ireland under Henry II. There were only two royal castles at that time, one in the city of Dublin and the other in Newcastle.

The Royal castle in Newcastle was known as Novum Castrum McKynegan. It was subsequently destroyed during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries and rebuilt as a gatehouse. The ruins are on the edge of a motte with an unusually large and flat summit some 69 m in diameter and 4.8 m high. In 1606 Wicklow became a County arising from decisions taken at Newcastle and recommended to the Privy Council at Dublin castle.

Urban Form

Over the past hundred and fifty years, the village has developed around two poles; one around the church, rectory, national school and the ruined castle, and the other around the junctions on regional route R761, sea road and the link road back to the church and school. This pole contains the shops, public house, and post office for the village. In the 1970s the first large housing estates were built immediately south of the latter area, followed by the community centre, GAA club, a religious institution, and by several other residential estate developments up to the present. These have all been sited to the southern side of the R761 pole, and larger houses have been constructed to the north of this pole.

This is clearly the dominant development area of Newcastle, and the future land use designations will accordingly be concentrated around this development pole. Furthermore, Town Centre facilities will be centred around the bridge to reinforce and consolidate the existing commercial facilities. All other zonings are based on enabling access to these facilities by walking and cycling. The dominant physical attribute of Newcastle is the open spacious character of Main St, a rarity in terms of the spatial organisation of villages. This Plan will seek to reinforce this relaxed organic form.

Map 1 defines the development boundary in orange. Map 2 defines the wider hinterland/ agricultural greenbelt, and identifies the location of all protected structures, while Map 3 shows the town and environs environmental designations and Archaeological Monuments. Both Map 2 and 3 show the environs boundary in green. The wider boundary encompasses assets and amenities that are particular to Newcastle, such as the immediate rural landscape, the beach at Sea Road, railway, the Kilcoole Marshes Special Protection Area and the BirdWatch Ireland reserve. It extends northwards to the junction of the R761 and Leabeg Lane, south to the junction of the R761 and Five Mile Point Road, westwards towards the N11, eastwards to the sea, and incorporates the townlands of Newcastle Lower, Middle, and Upper, Leamore Lower, and Upper, Blackditch, and part of Tiglin.

3. SETTLEMENT FUNCTION AND ROLE

The Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area (RPGs) put in place a broad planning framework for the development of the Greater Dublin Area of which Wicklow forms a part. The Guidelines are informed by and flow from the National Spatial Strategy 2002 – 2020. The RPG's provide an overall strategic context for the Development Plans of each Local Authority.

The RPG's make a distinction between the existing built up area and its environs where the built up area is the Metropolitan and the remainder the Hinterland with a range of settlement sizes that have the potential to attain an enhanced level of sustainability. Northeast Wicklow including Bray and Greystones/Delgany, and their environs, are within the Metropolitan area while the remainder of the County is Hinterland.

The County Development Plan (CDP) settlement strategy seeks to locate population growth and channel development in line with the principles of the RPGs. It promotes a hierarchy of settlements in recognition that the settlement role and function is a product of scale and spatial distribution and designates Newcastle a 'Small Growth Town II'.

The CDP defines 'Small Growth Towns' as *"the settlements in this level represent the more rural small towns in the County, which provide a range of employment, retail and social/community services to a mainly rural hinterland"*.

However, unlike most of the other towns in this category, Newcastle does not have a large hinterland and is very close to the settlements of Newtownmountkennedy and Kilcoole, that both have a higher designation in the CDP as 'Moderate Growth Town' and 'Small Growth Town I' respectively. In addition it is within 12km of both Wicklow Town and Greystones/Delgany that have even higher designations again.

To fulfil its remit this plan shall not make provision for development of a scale that is commensurate with and appropriate for higher order settlements. Rather Newcastle's role is to sustain the local community and those of the town's environs through crafted land use policies and objectives scaled to meet the needs of the settlement.

4. TRANSPORTATION, TRAFFIC AND PARKING INFRASTRUCTURE

Newcastle, as defined within the development boundary of Map I is principally situated around the pole defined by Regional Road R761 and Local Road L5050 that runs towards St Francis Primary School and Sea Road. Apart from a pinch point just north of the Town Centre, the R761 is reasonably aligned, though it lacks footpaths and public lighting to the north of the town centre and south of the community centre. The L5050 is very narrow in places and lacks pedestrian links between the Town Centre and St Francis School. While the construction of a footpath linking the school with the Town Centre has commenced, final land acquisition is not yet complete.

Sea Road is very narrow in places, especially at its junction with the R761, and requires footpaths for most of the distance to the GAA club. Further development along Sea Road will not be permitted until these shortcomings have been addressed.

Parking to accommodate new developments shall be resolved through the Development Management process. Public transport frequency has improved in recent years and there are 15 buses per day serving the village connecting to Kilcoole, Greystones, Bray and Dublin. There is potential for a rail halt adjoining the beach at the end of Sea Road, similar to that at Kilcoole. There is a need to develop the permeability of the existing and emerging settlement by the provision of pedestrian and cycling links throughout the Town, and in particular a pedestrian link between the town centre and St Francis Primary School.

Objectives

- Improve the road and provide a footpath, along the L5050 between the village centre and St. Francis School;
- Improve the road and provide a footpath and cycleway adjoining the beech hedge, along the R761, at the south of the village at the Watchtower Centre;
- Improve the road where required and provide a footpath and cycleway, along the of the R761 from the L5050 to the north of the village;
- Improve the road and provide a footpath, along the L5550 (Sea Road), from Hunters Leap to the R761;
- Realign the junction of Sea Road/R761, in conjunction with the redevelopment of the adjacent site;
- Provide pedestrian and cycling linkages within and between existing and new housing/mixed use development throughout the village;
- Require any development taking place at Oaklawn to provide a linear park, cycleway and footpath, properly lit, along the Newcastle River to facilitate a link to the L5550. The link point shall make provision for a vehicular access from zoned low density housing land adjoining to the south;
- Make land use provision for a rail halt at the end of Sea Road as shown on map No. 2 within the agriculture/greenbelt;
- Complete the public lighting shortfall throughout the town in conjunction with the development of zoned land;

5. WATER SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURE

Water Supply

Newcastle is currently supplied by the Vartry Scheme via a Reservoir to the west of Newcastle, which has capacity of approx 90 m³. It is intended to upgrade this reservoir to 450m³ as part of the Newtownmountkennedy Regional Water Scheme, and upgrade distribution mains accordingly. These works are expected to be completed by 2010. The existing supply is capable of servicing new development until the new scheme is commissioned.

Waste Water

Newcastle is currently served by a Waste Water Treatment Plant located on Sea Road. The current capacity of the treatment plant is 1000 population equivalents (PE). However, while there are plans to carry out a limited upgrade of this plant, development will be constrained here until the new regional wastewater treatment plant proposed for Newcastle, Kilcoole, Kilpedder, Kilquade and

Newtownmountkennedy at Leamore, Newcastle is commissioned. This is not expected to be in place before 2011. **No new significant development can take place until this infrastructure is in place.**

6. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Community infrastructure must be progressed in tandem with residential development, and the latter will only be permitted on the basis of satisfactory provision of land for the former.

Sport/Play/Community

For a village the size of Newcastle, there are relatively good community facilities including a community centre (multipurpose hall, meeting room, crèche), playground, tennis courts, GAA facility and an informal soccer pitch. However, to cater for the planned increased population of 663 further facilities will be required and at least 1.6 ha will be designated for such uses, half of which should be in the form of formal active playing areas for youths and adults, and a minimum of a third for children's play. A further 0.2ha will be apportioned for community use. Such lands will be bundled with newly apportioned residential lands in small action areas requiring provision of both land uses in tandem.

Objectives

- An area of at least 0.9 ha shall be levelled, drained and developed for active play within Action Area 2 and shown on map No. 2;
- 0.2 ha shall be provided for children's play as part of the development of Action Area 3 land;
- The area adjoining and to the east of the tennis courts shall be developed as an all weather play area. The tennis courts area shall be upgraded;
- An area of 0.8 ha shall be set out for community/recreational use as part of the land zoned for employment use to the east of Watchtower House.

Education

The current primary school site may not be capable of servicing the 2016 population of the village. In line with Department of Education requirements, 2ha is designated for educational use at a location proximate to residential and amenity lands. To enable the usage of the school to be as sustainable as possible, land will be designated for this use to the north of the town centre in the midst of newly zoned residential lands to enable the majority of the children to walk to school. The zoning of these lands provide an option in accommodating primary school needs in the event that the existing St Francis School is unable to do so.

Parks, Open Space & Green Amenity

Land is designated for a town park, leading to a linear park along the southern bank of the river and upstream of the bridge. The park shall provide a pedestrian link between Regional Route 761 and Local Road 5050 alongside the stream.

This town park shall adjoin the R761 and be in the form of a ‘Village Green’, in the order of 0.25 ha, overlooked by the projected town centre development, and continue as a linear park incorporating a safe lit footpath between the town centre and the school for pedestrians. That portion of the linear park linking the village green to local road 5050 shall also make provision for cyclists. Residential development adjoining the linear park shall be designed to give maximum passive surveillance.

Objectives

- To provide for an agricultural/greenbelt zone, as shown on Map 2, to accommodate agriculture and amenity uses in a manner that protects the physical and visual amenity of the area.
- To provide green buffer zones at least 5m deep between all new developments and the nearer edge of adjoining public roads.
- To ensure that all buffer zones shall be landscaped/tree planted and be kept free from development.
- To ensure that tree planted grass verges are included in the layout design of all developments including adjoining all public roads.

7. RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

To cater for the 2016 population of 1500, to allow for the anticipated decrease in household sizes, provide for circa 30% ‘headroom’, and adopting an ‘excess factor’ of 6%, a total of circa 26.75ha of land has been designated for residential development, in a mixture of low and medium densities. The Town Centre lands adjoining the River can accommodate 30 further residential units while an additional 2.75ha of low density land shall be provided adjoining and to the North of AA2 lands.

Large-scale developments will not be permitted, and the maximum size of any one development will be limited to 40 units in the interests of legibility and, reflecting the scale of the village. Similarly the renovation or redevelopment of vacant or derelict buildings, as well as new build, must recognise the character of the village.

Objectives

- No development that will result in raising the population of Newcastle beyond 1222 can be commenced before 2010, and conditions requiring this shall be attached to any planning permissions granted before that year;
- The maximum size of any one development will be limited to 40 units;
- Housing development shall be phased to ensure that infrastructure, and in particular land for community infrastructure, is provided to match the needs of new residents.
- 3 ha of land for low density, second phase residential development shall be provided adjoining and to the south of the GAA facility
- Provision shall be made for sheltered housing as part of AA1 lands and detailed in the Action Area 1 zoning objectives

Second phase residential shall be interpreted as being available for development when the majority of residential lands forming part of the Action Areas have been developed.

8. EMPLOYMENT

As the key role of Newcastle is to sustain the local community there is a need to provide for more local employment and service facilities in Newcastle. Having regard to its location, settlement function, socio-economic structure and environmental character, a total of 3.25ha is designated for mixed use employment at 2.45ha and 0.8ha for Community and Recreation use, at the at the southern end of the Town adjoining and the east of Watchtower House. This will be for service type employment with a limited portion for local enterprise.

Local service type uses could include workshops and small incubator units for enterprise. Such land should be developed at a low plot ratio, to a high level of design quality, and incorporate extensive landscaping.

Future development should also seek to expand the amenity and leisure potential of the settlement. Employment opportunities will be enhanced by providing and expanding retailing, tourism and other services within the settlement.

Objectives

- The zoning of 3.25ha mixed use development where 2.45ha is for employment purposes and 0.8 community and Recreation use;
- Development shall have a maximum plot ratio of 0.3;
- A minimum of 0.8 ha shall be for local enterprise development;
- An overall plan for the entire employment land shall be submitted. This plan shall at least include:
 - Development to a high level of architectural design having an overall theme to ensure the development is visually cohesive
 - Detailed landscaping and tree planting proposals including overall, screen planting proposals and site boundary treatment.

9. COMMERCIAL/ TOWN CENTRE

It is important that town centres are inhabited and provide a mix of uses and exhibit a high standard of urban design to ensure vitality and viability, and accordingly the concept of “Living over the Shop” will be encouraged generally, and required in new developments.

The retail profile of Newcastle needs to be enhanced and strengthened. The most appropriate location is close to the bridge on the R761 so that the existing commercial centre can be supported and enhanced, and land is designated here for ‘Town Centre’ purposes

The Council will promote the development of vital village shops providing an immediate convenience to local rural residents. Major retail development is not considered appropriate for a settlement the size of Newcastle.

New development, including the refurbishment of buildings, shall be cognisant of existing character and streetscape in terms of massing, rhythm, materials and finishes. The new town centre development shall be laid out having consideration for the Parks and Open Spaces objectives above.

10. HERITAGE

The wider Newcastle area is rich in natural and built heritage assets. The coastal area that forms part of The Murrough Wetlands candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC), Kilcoole Marshes proposed Special Protection Area (pSPA) and the Murrough proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA) is of national importance. The nucleus of the old town focused upon the church, graveyard and old castle is designated as an area of historical archaeological interest. In addition the town has 16 protected structures while a number of Recorded Monuments are located within the town and its greenbelt. These protected structures and recorded monuments are included for protection in the County Development Plan and are shown on attached Maps 2 & 3, and listed below. A CDP listed group of trees to be considered for the preservation are located near St Francis N. S.

It is an objective to:

1. Protect Newcastle's protected structures and recorded monuments located within the town development boundary and its agricultural/greenbelt zone.
2. Protect the environmental designations of the
 - Murrough Wetlands cSAC
 - Kilcoole Marshes pSPA
 - Murrough pNHA
3. Ensure that all proposals for development within the historic core of Newcastle and in the vicinity of recorded monuments shall submit an archaeological impact assessment as part of their application for development;
4. All development shall have regard to the Eastern Regional Fisheries Board 'Requirements for the Protection of Fisheries Habitat during Construction and Development Works at River Sites';
5. Protect trees, hedgerows, wooded area, watercourses and other features of the natural landscape that contribute to the biodiversity of Newcastle;
6. To apply to the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government to fund a study to determine the resident Leislars bat habitat and formulate measures to ensure their protection.

Schedule 10.15 Protected Structures			
CDP ref.	Structure	Td	Description
13-23	The Rookery Country House	Newcastle Lr	Simple 3-bay 2-storey house with rendered walls and hipped roof.
13-25	Millbrook House	Newcastle Middle	Early 19C house of 3 bays and 2 stories with a round-headed Doric door case and sash windows with Georgian glazing.
13-26	Hand pump,	Main St	A hand pump in the main street now surrounded by flowerbeds.
13-27	McDaid's Shop and House	Main St	Three-bay, two-storey, gable-ended house with rendered and painted walls, architraved,

			segmental-headed windows, decorative raised quoins and a traditional, timber shop front built out from the façade.
13-28	Rectory Cottage	Newcastle Middle	Potable Water Fountain.
13-29	Two petrol pumps and filling station building behind	Main St	Small kiosk with rendered walls and pyramidal roof with two, circa 1950 petrol pumps standing outside.
13-30	Newcastle Castle	Newcastle Middle	L-plan house dating from the early 17 th Century with an asymmetrical façade, stone walls and brick dressings.
13-31	Church of Ireland	Newcastle Middle	T-plan, church, dated 1790, built of coursed-rubble stone with pointed windows with Y tracery and a west tower with pinnacles. The west door is of artistic importance having decorative copper panels.
13-32	Cottage beside the Church	Newcastle Middle	Small, three-bay cottage of circa 1830, with a tall, pointed door case, diamond panels in the windows, high-pitched roof and central gable with pierced barge-boarding.
13-33	Oaklawn House	Newcastle Middle	A four-bay, two-storey, early-19 th Century house with windows spaced far apart and a later, glazed porch, smooth-rendered walls and hipped roof.
13-34	Old Rectory	Newcastle Middle	An early-19 th Century glebe house of the simplest type having a two-bay façade on a square plan, an addition on the right-hand side, painted, rendered walls and sash windows with Georgian glazing.
13-35	Bloomfield House	Newcastle Upper	Three-bay, two-storey, early-19 th Century house with painted, roughcast walls, porch hiding door case, hipped roof and natural slates.
13-36	Hand pump	Leabeg Lane	Hand pump.
13-37	Packhorse Bridge	Newcastle Upper	Small, narrow, two-arch foot bridge of uncertain date.
13-38	Newcastle station	Blackditch	Small, two-storey building with painted, stone walls and low-pitched, gable-ended roof with wide eaves.
19-09	Hand Pump	Blackditch	Hand pump.
Recorded Monuments			
W1019-005	Historic Core:	Newcastle Middle/Upper	Burial mound (WI 19:03) Schedule 10.13 The deserted Anglo Norman Borough, which forms the historic core of Newcastle. Sites here include, Church, Graveyard, Castle, Motte, Millrace and Mill.
W1019-003	Burial mound	Newcastle Upper	Circular mound (54m dia), which contained a bronze age burial in a rectangular cist.

W1019-004	Unprotected inhumation site	Newcastle Upper	A number of unenclosed human burials.
W1019-006	Ringfort	Newcastle Lr	Oval platform (57mx42m) with earthen bank and external fosse surviving around part of the site perimeter.
W1019-007	Enclosure	Newcastle Lr	Circular enclosure 20m dia, defined by a fosse, visible on aerial photographs.
W1019-008	Cist site	Blackditch	Bronze age crouched inhumation in a rectangular cist.
W1019-010	Enclosure	Blackditch	Circular enclosure 20m dia, defined by a fosse, visible on aerial photographs.
W1019-037	Horizontal Water Mill	Newcastle Upr	Leat fed mill pool and assoc. timbers and posts from the wheelhouse of an 8C mill.
Schedule 10.11 Trees to be Preserved			
Large Beech, Oak, and Horse Chestnut trees near St Francis NS.			
Schedule 10.2 Candidate Special Conservation Area: The Murrough Wetlands			
Schedule 10.3 Special Protection Area: Kilcoole Marshes.			
Schedule 10.4 Proposed Natural Heritage Area: The Murrough			

1. ZONING

The purpose of zoning is to indicate the land use objectives for the lands within the town boundary and agricultural greenbelt. Zoning aspires to promoting the orderly development of the town by eliminating potential conflicts between incompatible land uses, and to establishing an efficient basis for investment in public infrastructure and facilities.

The basis for the zoning in this Plan is to develop the town in a compact form so that housing and facilities are within easy reach of each other, encouraging sustainable forms of transport such as walking and cycling. All medium density residential, retail, and community infrastructure zonings are within 400m of the bridge around which most existing commercial facilities are sited.

In this Plan nearly all land use proposals are included in areas that are subject to Action Area Plans. The Action Area Plans will contain performance criteria and designate precise areas for different land uses within their boundaries. These sub areas will be shown on the map, but will be indicative only, and the designer/developer has the option of laying out the overall area differently, provided such a layout being consistent with sustainable planning, and subject to the agreement of the Planning Authority. Grouping of the various land uses within these Action Area Plans ensures that each land use will be delivered, and that any developer providing for housing must provide for the other land uses in an integrated manner.

A supporting Vision has been included in support of each Zoning Objective. Only those uses that enhance, complement, are ancillary or neutral to the Zone Objective/Vision are acceptable. Uses that would be not normally permitted will be assessed in terms of their contribution towards the achievement of the Zoning Objective and Vision.

Residential

Objective: To provide for residential development to provide new communities and to protect and improve residential amenity.

Vision: To ensure that any new development conforms to County Development Plan standards and that development in existing areas (e.g. extensions, additional houses in side gardens, childcare facility etc) reflects the prevailing density and character of its immediate surroundings, and shall have a minimal impact on existing residential amenity.

Such residential uses include houses, open space, community facilities, home based economic activity, utility installations and ancillary development and other residential uses in accordance with the County Development Plan.

Town Centre

Objective: To protect the special character of the town, concentrate commercial and cultural facilities, and to protect, provide for and/or improve the town centre facilities.

Vision: This rural town is located in an agricultural rural area, providing local services and limited employment opportunities to the surrounding rural areas, and also has a role as a dormitory town. There is also a strong built and natural heritage background in the town. This zoning objective seeks to consolidate the existing Town centre. The aim is to further develop the centre by extension of the area and provision of open space, parking, appropriate commercial and residential developments ensuring an opportunity mix of commercial, recreational, civic, cultural, leisure, residential uses, and urban streets, while delivering a quality rural town environment which will enhance the quality of life of resident, visitor and workers alike. The zone will strengthen retail provision, emphasise urban conservation, ensure priority for pedestrians and cyclists, and enhance and develop the existing town fabric.

Such town centre uses include retail, shops, health, restaurants, sufficient residential development to ensure the passive security of the zone, commercial, office, community, some tourism and recreational uses, community, including provision for Religious use as shown on Map 1, utility installations and ancillary developments for town centre uses in accordance with the County Development Plan.

Employment

Objective: To facilitate opportunities for general employment and enterprise related development.

Vision: Employment areas are intended to create, preserve, and enhance areas containing a range of employment uses within a well-designed and attractive setting that would supply employment opportunities for the settlement and its hinterland. It is also envisaged that indigenous and local enterprise is facilitated in this zoning.

Such employment uses include general and light industry, office uses, recycling centre, enterprise units, appropriate warehousing, utility installations and ancillary developments for employment and industry uses in accordance with the County Development Plan.

Community, Educational and Social Infrastructure

Objective: To facilitate and provide community, educational, recreational, institutional and related land uses.

Vision: The zoning objective seeks to provide and enhance the existing social infrastructure for the town.

Such community, educational and institutional uses include burial grounds, places of worship, schools, training facilities, community hall, sports and recreational facilities, utility installations and ancillary developments for community, educational and institutional uses in accordance with the County Development Plan.

Open Space

Objective: To preserve and provide for open space and recreational amenities.

Vision: This zoning objective seeks to provide recreational and amenity resources for urban and rural populations subject to strict development controls. Only community facilities and other recreational uses will be considered and encouraged by the Planning Authority.

Such open space uses include tourism and recreational uses, community facilities, open space, sports grounds, utility installations and ancillary developments for open space uses in accordance with the County Development Plan.

Agricultural/Greenbelt

Objective: To protect and provide for an agricultural greenbelt to demarcate the urban and rural area and provide for agriculture and amenity in a manner that protects the physical and visual amenity of the area.

Vision: The zoning objective seeks to create a rural/urban fringe that is attractive, accessible, diverse and multi-functional. It will serve the needs of both urban and rural communities, strengthen the links between town and country and contribute fully towards sustainable development. The role of the agricultural greenbelt is to retain the open and rural character of lands between and adjacent to urban areas, and an area of step down control from the town development boundary to the greater rural hinterland. Social housing will be permitted provided it is located in accordance with firm planning principles especially with respect to proximity to services and connectivity to the town. Development within this zoning is controlled under the policies and objectives of the County Development Plan. Residential development shall be subject to the provisions of policy SS9 of The County Development Plan.

Action Area Plans

Action Areas have a list of objectives, as well as areas for each type of development. Any planning application prepared for these lands, while respecting all relevant development control standards and Plan objectives, must provide for the phased and integrated delivery of each of these objectives. It will not be permissible to carry out only selective elements of the list of objectives.

Action Areas are identified in Map 1 and outlined in blue. The precise location of each land use zone within each Action Area is illustrative only, and the different land uses may be located within other Action Areas if justified on planning grounds provided the same areas are provided for each land use. Before any planning application is made on any lands within an Action Area, an Action Area Plan must be carried out for the entire Action Area, showing how the landowners propose to comply with the objectives of the relevant Action Area Plan. The Action Area Plan shall be agreed and signed by each landowner, and development thereafter must be in accordance that Plan once the proposed Action Area Plan has been approved by the Planning Authority. In the event of agreement not being reached by all the landowners, an Action Area Plan for a limited part of the area may be acceptable

provided a broad and representative selection of the objectives can be achieved. Community infrastructure objectives shall be provided for in all such cases.

Objectives

- Green buffer zones of at least 6m deep shall be provided between Action Areas 2 and 3, adjoining public roads including the private road that runs in a North East direction between sea road and the R761. Only parapet walls shall separate the area of green buffer and the development lands.
- All Action Area plans shall include traffic calming measures that shall underpin the design of plans.

Action Area 1

This Action Area is located immediately south of the stream and west of Regional Route R761. It shall comprise 1 ha of Town Centre having a Town Park/passive Open Space across the whole frontage of the development. The park shall be at least 18m deep set back from the nearer edge of the R761. It shall have a maximum of 30 residential units. The Town Park shall be provided net of the 15% open space required within housing areas. Within the generality of the above the following shall be provided.

- Residential development within the residential and Town Centre parcels;
- Protection of established trees in the grounds of Oaklawn house and along the Newcastle River in the interest of visual amenity;
- Provision of a Village Green adjoining the R761 overlooked by a mixed use development including living over the shop retail units, and connected to a linear park adjoining the stream to link to Local Road L5050;
- Provision of a pedestrian and cycle link from R761 to the L5050 along the linear park;
- Carrying out of road improvements and provision of a footpath along the road frontage and residential development access point on the L5050;
- Provision of footpath on R761 along frontage of R761.
- Provision of sheltered housing located immediately adjoining the Town Centre zoned lands shall consist of 10 residential units. The density may be at the higher end of the density scale as permitted by the County Development Plan.

Action Area 2

This Action Area is located north of Sea Road and east of Regional Route R761. It comprises 0.9 ha of active Open Space (net of the 15% open space required within housing areas), 2.0 ha of Community and Social, and circa 5.8ha of Low Density Residential and 5.5ha of Medium Density Residential Greenfield Land. Within the generality of the above the following shall be provided:

- Residential development;
- Provision of team sports field;
- Provision of a Primary School site;
- Provision of a road, pedestrian and cycleway linking R761 to Sea Road for the purpose of serving all the lands within the Action Area in a manner that enables the land to be developed while restricting the size of any one housing development served from this road to less than 40 units;

- Provision of a footpath from the entrance of the Action Area access road to the bridge.

Action Area 3

This Action Area is located north of Local Road L5050 and West of Route R761. It comprises 0.2 ha Open Space (net of the 15% open space required within housing areas), 1.58 ha of Low Density Residential, and 1.99 ha of Medium Density Residential.

Within the generality of the above the following shall be provided:

- Residential development;
- Provision of active play area;
- Provision of footpath from access road to the Action Area to the bridge.

12. IMPLEMENTATION

The Council is obliged to monitor the operation and implementation of the Plan. The successful implementation of the provisions of this Plan will require the combined involvement of the community, local business, statutory service providers as well as Wicklow County Council.

The achievement of the objectives of the Plan will be dependent on the availability of appropriate levels of finance. The Council will actively and innovatively strive to identify and secure resources from both public and private sectors, to implement the provisions of this plan and facilitate private investment in the town, in accordance with this Town Plan.

To facilitate the implementation of Roads and Transportation, Water and Drainage and Community Facilities Infrastructure the Council will require contributions from benefiting developers. Contributions shall be made in accordance with Wicklow County Council's Development Contribution Scheme, adopted in 2007, and crafted by virtue of its powers under Section 48 (1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000.

In addition Wicklow County Council will continue the practice of granting Planning Permission with the inclusion of conditions requiring levies and bonds to be paid, or works undertaken, to facilitate developments in the interests of the common good.

13. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The EU Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (Strategic Environmental Assessment) – (SEA) are given effect by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (Statutory Instrument Number (SI No. 435 of 2004) and by the Planning & Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004).

The SEA Directive requires that an environmental assessment must be carried out for all plans and programmes that fall within the parameters as set out in the Directive. As the Newcastle Town Plan is being prepared under part II, Section 13 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Act, 2000 the Town Plan will be adopted as a

Variation to the CDP. As the plan will be a variation to the County Plan screening of the exercise is required in accordance with the SEA Directive.

The key in deciding if SEA will apply is whether the variation would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. As advised by the Regulations, a screening exercise was undertaken having regard to the criteria set out in Schedule 2A of the SEA Regulations 2004, and subsequently notice was given to the three Environmental Authorities¹. Of the three the Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources responded while no submissions or observations were received from either the DoEHLG or the EPA

The conclusion of the County Council's consideration of the criteria set out in Schedule 2A of the Planning & Development SEA Regulations is that, the policies and objectives contained within the variation, and the development that will result there from, are unlikely to give rise to any significant effects on the environment. It is concluded therefore that an SEA is not required for this Plan.

¹ The Environmental Protection Agency. The Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources.