5. Dunlavin Town Plan

5.1 Context

Dunlavin is located in west Wicklow, almost equidistant between the larger settlements of Blessington and Baltinglass, which are c. 18km north and south of the town respectively. The town is located c. 6km west of the N81, close to the border with Kildare. The town services a relatively large rural hinterland.

The town was established in the 18th century as a planned estate town, laid out in a T-shape, with wide streets, grand buildings and a prominent Market House located in the middle of 'Market Square'. The centre of the town still retains its original form, many of the original buildings and is predominantly characterised by one and two storey terraced properties.

The town contains a significant amount of natural, archaeological and built heritage. The entire town core is designated as an area of 'archaeological potential or significance' and as an 'Architectural Conservation Area', while the disused rail line is an important man made landscape feature of cultural and amenity value, with features such as granite bridges, railway mounds and cuttings, and the former station and platform still remaining. These rich and historic heritage features make a significant contribution to the town's distinct character.

Outside of this core area, the town changed very little until the second half of the 20th century, when housing began to develop principally along Church Road and to the south of Stephen Street. Newer housing development has mainly occurred along Sparrow Road to the east of the old town. In a number of locations, these new housing areas are not contiguous to the original town and as a result there are significant 'infill' sites. In designating land for new development the plan has aimed to consolidate the existing built pattern in Dunlavin maximising the potential of these 'infill' sites, encouraging the densification of large town centre sites, while also designating sufficient lands to meet the projected population targets as set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan.

5.2 Overall Vision and Development Strategy

A key aim of a Town Plan is to set out the vision and overall strategy for the future development of a settlement and from this vision, all policies and objectives can be developed and implemented with the overall aim of achieving this vision.

The vision for Dunlavin is to:

- To improve the quality of life for existing residents by identifying deficiencies in services and infrastructure in the town and making provision through zoning and development objectives to address these issue.
- To provide a framework for the growth of the town, in order to provide housing for current and future generations, to revitalise the economy of the town and to allow for the development of new social and cultural facilities.
- Sustain a revitalised town core with commercial, residential and community developments centred around civic and open spaces.
- Promote and foster economic development and linkages to surrounding larger settlements within and outside the County.
- Develop the tourism potential of the area as a visitor/tourist destination in itself and in its role as a 'gateway' linking Kildare to the west of the County and the Wicklow Mountains.
- Protect the built and natural heritage of the area.

This will be achieved by:

- Planning for and encouraging the provision of high quality housing and employment, social and community facilities, and a range of recreational options, in a quality environment.
- Facilitating the provision of new and improved infrastructure to meet the demands of the existing population and future residents.
- Reinforcing and improving the visual appearance of the central area of the town and encouraging development that will enhance the town's vitality and vibrancy.
- Improving linkages between the town core and peripheral housing areas.
- Creating functional public spaces linked to new development.
- Ensuring the protection and enhancement of natural habitats, cultural heritage, ecological resources and biodiversity.

5.3 Residential Development

This plan provides for sufficient zoned land and residential development objectives in order to achieve the population and housing objectives set out in the 'Core Strategy' of this County Development Plan and as detailed in Part 1 of this plan 'Introduction to Level 5 Town Plans'.

Table 5.1 below sets out the land proposed to be zoned for residential development in this plan.

Table 5.1 Residential zoning provisions

Location/Description	Zoning	Potential No. of units
Dunlavin Upper and Lower	R20	234
Dunlavin Lower	R15	34
Milltown Road	R20	56
Sparrow Road – SLO 1	R20	50
Action Area 2	R20	115
Action Area 2	R15	24
Action Area 3	R20	85
East of R756 north of AA2	R15	15
Lands at Pound Road	R20	23
Existing soccer field at Dunlavin Upper	R20	23
Lands at Church Road (SLO1)	R20	99
Lands at Chapel View	R20	24
Town Centre/infill lands	TC/RE	58
Total		840 Units

Residential Development Objectives

DUN1 The design and layout of all new housing developments in Dunlavin shall take due cognisance of the location of the site and its surroundings, with a particular emphasis on maintaining and enhancing the historic core of Dunlavin and its surroundings.

5.4 Economic Development and Employment

As set out in the 'Introduction to Level 5 Plans', it is an objective of the County Development Plan to increase the jobs ratio in Dunlavin by 50% by 2028. The strategy of this plan is to take advantage of the existing economic assets in order to stimulate employment within the area. The key assets the plan area has to offer are:

- a large hinterland population offering a market for goods and services and a wide variety of skills;
- An attractive and accessible town centre, with numerous properties suitable for retail and commercial
 uses;
- the natural and built assets and the strategic location to become a major tourism hub in the west of the County;
- local Authority owned lands earmarked for employment and enterprise;
- a strong agricultural sector;
- modern wastewater infrastructure (currently under construction); and
- accessibility to National Primary (M/N9) and National Secondary (N81) road networks.

Given the town's location, situated to the extreme west of the County and the lack of existing employment opportunities it is unlikely that the town can act as an attractor for a large employer to locate over the lifetime of the plan. Therefore it is considered likely that most new employment creation will be generated by smaller and medium sized local enterprises / service providers. Opportunities particularly exist to develop 'product based¹' intensive industries given the town's proximity to the national primary and secondary routes while the proximity of the town to the primary dynamic cluster in Co. Kildare of Newbridge (c. 20km), Kilcullen (c. 12km) and Naas (20km) offers further opportunities to foster employment linkages and spin off industries from these large employment centres.

With respect to tourism, the proximity of Dunlavin to the western ends of both the Sally Gap and Wicklow Gap roads and Kilcullen – Naas - Newbridge and the M9 to the west mean that Dunlavin could provide a tourism 'gateway' role between the Wicklow Mountains and visitors coming from / going to Kildare / the west of Ireland (for example visitors to the national stud and Japanese gardens in Kildare which are less than 20km from Dunlavin). Dunlavin is also the nearest town to the nationally renowned Rathsallagh Country House and Golf Club, and there is significant overspill benefits resulting from this proximity, including use of the local Church, public houses and restaurants, and guesthouses / B&Bs.

This plan will therefore make provision for lands to be reserved which will be capable of accommodating both local service employment in the form of light industry / small start up units and heavier industry types / a large stand alone employment development alongside the provision of a number of specific employment / tourism objectives aimed at maximising the potential of this industry in Dunlavin. Section 5.5 to follow addresses the development strategy for the town centre and retail.

Economic Development and Employment Objectives

DUN2 To facilitate and support the growth of the Town Centre of Dunlavin in accordance with the provisions set out in Section 5.5 of this town plan and to encourage the development of new retail / retail services and business support services (such as solicitors, accountants, architects etc) within the TC zone.

DUN3 To facilitate and support the development of the tourism industry in Dunlavin and maximise the town's location as a gateway between the tourism assets within Co. Wicklow and Co. Kildare.

¹ The development of this type of industry by reason of the product based nature of the traded commodity, is dependent on ease of access to the main transportation networks

DUN4 To promote the development of the undeveloped zoned employment lands at Dunlavin Lower in the following manner:

- Land zoned E1(a) shall be designated specifically for light industry and small start up units. The specific uses of these lands shall be particularly sensitive to existing / planned residential areas along the northern boundary of the zone.
- Lands zoned E1(b) shall be reserved for heavier industry types or alternatively as a location for a large stand alone employment development.
- Access to and within these lands shall be subject to an initial overall design proposal and shall facilitate a through access road in accordance with objective DUN8 as set out in Section 5.7 of this plan.

DUN5 To improve, as funding allows, the principal access routes and junctions linking Dunlavin town centre to surrounding tourist attractions and strategic transport corridors.

DUN6 To support and facilitate in co-operation with relevant bodies and landowners, the provision of amenity routes around the town including the development of the old railway line²

5.5 Town Centre and Retail

The town of Dunlavin is principally made up of two streets - Kilcullen Street / Main Street and Stephen Street, where residential, commercial and community functions take place side by side. These two streets provide for a traditional, generally 2-storey, town centre and include a number of protected structures, with the core area designated as an architectural conservation area (ACA) and a zone of archaeological potential.

The existing retailing services within the town currently fall below what is envisaged by the County Plan for an area of Dunlavin's size, with the majority of buildings within the town centre being in residential use. The plan must put in place a framework that allows for the shortfall to be addressed and be capable of facilitating the future retailing needs of the projected population.

In accordance with the above, this plan identifies two key opportunity sites, which alongside the objectives for town centres as set out in the 'Introduction to Level 5 Plans' and in the County Plan, shall facilitate the overall strategy for the development of Dunlavin town centre.

Level 5 Town Plans | Dunlavin

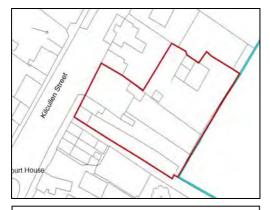
² The development of this small length of the former railway line as a walking / cycling route may be a catalyst to the further development of this route as a 'greenway' all the way to Baltinglass, taking in the historic village of Grangecon.

Opportunity Sites

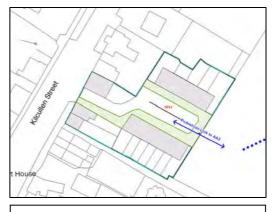
OP1 Lands to the east of Kilcullen Street

This site measures approximately 0.25ha and provides an opportunity to link lands within Action Area 3 directly to Kilcullen Street and the remainder of the town centre.









Indicative Block Layout

Objectives

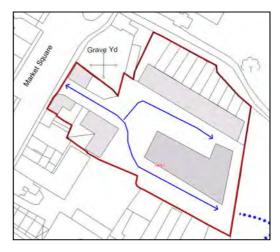
- To facilitate the redevelopment of these backlands off Kilcullen Street, providing for town centre uses, with hard and soft landscaping throughout the site.
- The development of the site should facilitate and passively supervise pedestrian access between Action Area 2 and Kilcullen Street and be of a design/finish capable of attracting pedestrians through this area.
- The design of any proposed development should be a maximum of 2 storeys in height and be of a design and finish in keeping with the surrounding developments fronting onto Kilcullen Street.
- A portion of the site fronting onto Kilcullen Street shall accommodate vehicular access to development to the rear of this site only, with the remaining lands being used for the development of a new two storey, street fronting, building.

OP2 Lands to the east of Market Square and north of Stephen Street

This site measures c. 0.7ha and provides an opportunity to link lands within Action Area 3 directly to Kilcullen Street and the remainder of the town centre, while also facilitating the development of existing backlands along Stephen Street. This is the largest backland site in the town centre with a sufficiently wide access that would allow for a larger scale development and therefore has the potential to deliver a major boost to retail floor space in the town centre.







Existing Site Layout

Indicative Block Layout

Objectives

- Opportunity Site 2 shall be developed as a mixed use development at a maximum of 2 ½ storeys.
- The main access to the site shall be provided by a new vehicular access roadway from Market Square with
 accompanying cycle and pedestrian paths. The overall layout shall facilitate the potential development of
 backland sites along the southern boundary of the opportunity site.
- The layout and design of the proposed development shall ensure passive supervision of the proposed public park (SLO1) on lands along the eastern boundary of this opportunity site, while also providing for pedestrian connectivity between the opportunity site uses and the public park.
- The overall development of the site shall prioritise pedestrians and provide for a detailed landscaping plan that includes both hard and soft landscaping throughout the site.
- Car parking shall be provided within the opportunity site commensurate with the level of development proposed.
- Any development proposals shall have regard to the setting and curtilage of structures and sites of heritage value, in particular the graveyard, and habitats of biodiversity value and appropriate buffer zone / mitigating measures shall be provided as required.

5.6 Social and Community Development

In order to meet the needs of the existing and future residents of Dunlavin and its hinterland, there is a need to enhance community facilities in the town. In particular, this plan must make provision for the growth of existing schools and sports / recreational facilities and also to provide for more indoor community space.

In this regard, the plan makes the following zoning provisions:

Table 5.2 Provision of Community and Recreation Infrastructure

Use Group	Specific use	Zoning	Location	Area
Education	Education Primary Education CE Adjoining Scoil Nicolas Naofa		Adjoining Scoil Nicolas Naofa	0.7
	Secondary Education	CE	Adjoining St. Kevin's Community College	2.3
Community	Community Building	CE	Action Area 1	0.7
Open space	Active Open Space	AOS	Dunlavin Upper	4.0
		AOS	Action Area 2	3
		AOS	Milltown Road	2
	Equipped Play Spaces	CE	Action Area 1	
		AOS	Action Area 2	1
		CE	Action Area 3	0.34
	Casual Play Space	OS	Former Dunlavin Rail Line	3.3
		OS	OS off Stephen Street	0.55
		OS	Fair Green	0.5

Community Infrastructure / Open Space Objectives

DUN7 To designate lands for the development of a comprehensive sporting complex (capable of accommodating a variety of uses) to the north of the plan area (adjacent to the existing GAA grounds) in accordance with the criteria set out for Action Area 2 as detailed in Section 5.9 of this plan.

5.7 Service Infrastructure

To ensure that Dunlavin can fulfil its role within the Wicklow Core Strategy, the adequate provision of services infrastructure is essential in order for the town to grow.

Water Services

Wastewater: The plan area is currently deficient in wastewater services with the existing wastewater treatment plant at capacity. The proposed new WWTP (under construction) will have a PE of 2,400 (although it is to be of a modular design for eventual expansion up to 3,600). This plant will be capable of meeting the requirements of the planned population up to 2022.

Water Supply: The plan area is currently deficient in water supply with the existing supply sourced from a well to the south of the town centre operating at capacity, with limited headroom to accommodate future development. As part of the Wicklow Water Supply Scheme plans had been developed to extend the Ballymore Eustace Supply Scheme to Dunlavin via a new reservoir; however funding for this scheme was not included in the most recent Water Services Investment Programme. Increased water supply is required in order to facilitate the future expansion of Dunlavin.

Transportation and Movement

Public transport: Given Dunlavin's small size and rural location, there are no public transport facilities within the town. The closest Bus Eireann services run along the N81 to the east of the town and from the town of Kilcullen to the west. There is rural community bus service which links Dunlavin to a number of small towns and onto Naas but there is only one departure daily, in the morning - this service would not be suitable for those trying to access these locations quickly, or for work / school.

Walking and cycling: While the majority of the main routes in the town have footpaths, these are in need of enhancement to width and overall quality. A number of peripheral locations do not have a complete footpath route to the town centre. The vast majority of the town's roads are dedicated to the needs of motorists, in terms of width dedicated to the road carriageway and car parking. Therefore there is scope to carry out footpath widening and to provide cycleways in some locations. There are no pedestrian or cycle links to the closest public transport location, that is, Annalecky Cross on the N81.

Vehicular movement: The roads in Dunlavin are generally of good quality and reasonably wide, with no significant 'bottlenecks', thereby allowing vehicular traffic to move easily through the town. Speeds are generally low in the town centre due to road alignments but measures to further reduce speeds in the core area to make the area more attractive to pedestrians and cyclists will be promoted.

The main issue with respect to vehicular movement is the connectivity of the town to the national primary and secondary road network with existing links to the east (to the N81) and to the west (to the N9) generally being poor in width and alignment.

Service Infrastructure Objectives

DUN8 To facilitate the realignment of the Milltown Road and provide for a new link road to the L-4309 through the employment lands at Tornant Lower.

DUN9 To provide a continuous footpath from the town centre to the GAA club grounds along Sparrow Road and to restrict parking along this road in close proximity to the church grounds.

DUN10 To improve / provide new footpaths, cycleways and traffic calming on existing roads where required and to require the provision of new link roads, footpaths and cycleways as specified in this plan in 'Action Areas' and 'Specific Local Objective' areas.

5.8 Built and Natural Heritage

The town of Dunlavin is of historical and archaeological interest. The 18th century building stock of the town centre is identified as an 'Architectural Conservation Area' (ACA) (see Section 5.10 of this Town Plan), while the ancient historic town core is identified as an 'Area of Archaeological Interest' and protected under the provisions of the National Monuments Acts. The disused Great Southern and Western Railway line, constructed in 1883 and officially closed in 1959, played a significant role in the development of the town. The reservation for the line and the former station house and associated built features are of historical interest and contribute greatly to the character of the local area.

With respect to natural heritage, there are limited areas of European or national importance in terms of habitat and species in and around Dunlavin (such as SACs, SPAs, NHAs etc), with the Dunlavin Marshes being the only such site (a pNHA) in proximity to the town (outside the town boundaries to the north-west).

In formulating additional policies for the protection of natural heritage in the Dunlavin plan area, the Council will be required to give consideration to the potential impacts of development on all such sites, and the plan is accompanied by the required environmental assessments as separate documents.

The protection and enhancement of heritage assets through the plan will help to safeguard the local character and distinctiveness of Dunlavin and its surroundings, providing local economic, social and environmental benefits.

Heritage Objectives

DUN11 In the interests of the protection and enhancement of biodiversity in Dunlavin, it is an objective of this plan to:

- protect trees, hedgerows and wooded areas (particularly those containing indigenous species), watercourses and other features of the natural landscape - development that requires the felling of mature trees of conservation and/or amenity value, even though they may not be listed in the Development Plan, will be discouraged; and
- require the planting of indigenous plant and tree species in new developments and along new vehicular and pedestrian routes.

DUN12 The Council shall seek to protect and enhance, where opportunities arise, the former Great Southern and Western Railway line and its related structures i.e. bridges, mounds, cuttings, old platforms and station buildings and facilitate the use of the former railway line in accordance with the provisions of objectives DUN10 and AA1 of this plan.

DUN13 In order to preserve the character of the Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) in accordance with the details set out at Section 5.10 of this plan, all development proposals within the designated ACA, including any change of use to existing buildings will be controlled. The repair and refurbishment of existing buildings within the ACA will be favoured over demolition/new build in so far as practicable.

5.9 Action Area Plans and Specific Local Objectives

Action Area 1

This action area is located on the north-west side of the town, to the west of Kilcullen Street and Market square and has connections to the Logatryna Road, Kilcullen Street and Stephen Street. It is bounded to the north-west by the disused railway line. This area measures c. 11.6 ha, as shown on Figure 5.1.

This action area shall be developed as a residential and community zone in accordance with the following criteria:

- A minimum area of 0.7ha shall be reserved for community facilities, to be provided by the developer and
 made available for public use, as part of the phased roll out of the development. At a minimum a new
 community centre building and a range of playing pitches / Mixed Use Games Areas / playgrounds shall
 be provided. The size, design, location and future management structure of these facilities shall be agreed
 with Wicklow County Council.
- A maximum of 9.2ha may be developed for residential use, including all services, open spaces, childcare facilities etc required for that quantum of development, separate from the 0.7ha to be reserved for community use.
- The development shall include the provision of an amenity walkway along the disused railway line and unless shown to be not feasible at any particularly location, shall follow the line of the old track.

- Vehicular access from the Logatryna Road (L-8403) shall be realigned through the site to form a new junction at Kilcullen Road, with the existing junction being decommissioned. No residential development shall commence in advance of the completion of these works.
- Pedestrian access shall be provided from Stephen Street which shall include a distinctive, suitably hard and soft landscaped civic space along the street, transitioning into the new development and linking the new community facilities to the town centre.
- The development shall be delivered in phases as follows:
 - **Phase 1** The first phase of development shall include the required works to the Logatryna Road, and not more than 25% of the residential units
 - **Phase 2** A further 50% of the total residential units may commence subject to commencement of works on the agreed community centre, playing pitches etc but no more 50% of these units may be occupied until the community facilities are complete.
 - **Phase 3** The remainder of the residential units
- The walkway along the disused railway line shall be provided in conjunction with each phase of development.
- The design and layout of the overall Action Area, in particular the residential element, shall address and provide for passive supervision of the proposed through road, railway walk and open space areas. At no point should the design or layout allow for housing backing onto the road network or community areas.
- The road layout of the southern part of the action area shall include an access road skirting along the rear boundaries of the existing properties to the south-east and south-west of the action area. This road shall be so designed so as to facilitate potential future development of the adjacent properties.
- Any development proposals shall have regard to the setting and curtilage of structures and sites of heritage value, and habitats of biodiversity value and appropriate buffer zone/mitigating measures shall be provided as required.

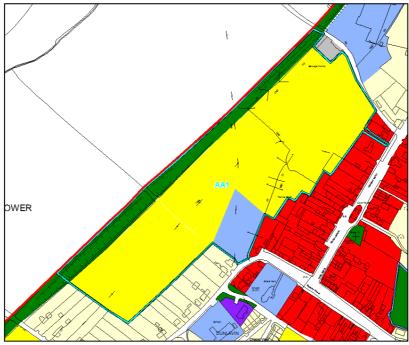


Figure 5.1 Action Area 1

Action Area 2

This action area measures c. 11.5ha and is situated to the east of Stephen Street and north of Sparrow Road. The subject lands adjoin the demesne setting of the former rectory building and comprises c. 0.2ha of open space adjoining the former rectory building, 5.7ha for new residential development, c. 1.6 ha for new medium density residential development and c. 4ha for new Open Space.

- A minimum area of 4ha shall be reserved for active open space use, to be provided by the developer and made available for sports use, as part of the phased roll out of the development. The size, layout and future management structure of these facilities shall be agreed with Wicklow County Council.
- A maximum of 7.3ha may be developed for residential use, including all services, open spaces, childcare
 facilities etc required for that quantum of development, separate from the 4ha to be reserved for active
 open space use.
- The design and layout of the Action Area shall address and provide for passive supervision of the proposed Active Open Space areas.
- Pedestrian routes within the Action Area shall provide for ease of connectivity to adjoining lands and in particular shall provide for pedestrian accessibility to OP1 and lands within SLO1 as indicated in Figure 5.2 below
- Any development proposals shall have regard to the setting and curtilage of structures and sites of heritage value, and habitats of biodiversity value and appropriate buffer zone/mitigating measures shall be provided as required.
- The Action Area shall be developed in 3 phases as follows:
 - Phase 1 This phase of development shall provide for a new spine road off Kilcullen Street (Route 1 see map below) alongside the delivery of 2.5ha of residential lands (c.50 units). The new spine road shall also provide direct access to the AOS lands to the east, with c. 1.5ha of these lands being laid out in a manner suitable for sporting activities. No development within Phase 2 can commence until the AOS lands have been developed to the satisfaction of Wicklow County Council.
 - Phase 2 This phase shall be accessed via Phase 1 and provide for a further 2ha of residential lands (c. 40 units), alongside the delivery of c. 1.5ha of AOS lands, to be laid out in a manner suitable for sporting activities. A pedestrian route shall be provided linking the site directly to Opportunity Site 1. No development within Phase 3 can commence until the AOS lands have been completed to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority.
 - Phase 3 This phase shall provide for the remaining residential element of the action area comprising of 1.2ha of residential lands (c. 24 units) and 1.6ha of low density residential lands (c. 24 units), alongside the delivery of a further 1ha of AOS lands. The active open space element of this phase shall be completed prior to the first occupation of any dwelling within this phase.
- Vehicular access to Phase 3 shall preferably be provided via 'Specific Local Objective 1' (SLO1) (Route 2 see map below) with only pedestrian access linking Phases 2 and 3 together. In the event that access via SLO1 is not achievable the R20 lands of this phase may be accessed via Phase 2, while the R15 lands to the east may be accessed via the existing entrance to the GAA lands or an alternative route to be agreed with the Planning Authority.

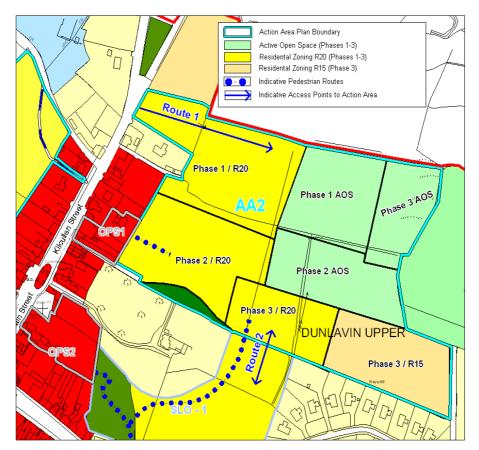


Figure 5.2 Action Area 2

Action Area 3

This action area measures c. 7ha and is situated to the south of 'Fair Green' adjoining the existing primary school Scoil Nioclais Naofa. The action area shall be developed as a residential and community zone in accordance with the following criteria:

- A minimum area of 0.4ha immediately south of Cow Green shall be reserved for community facilities, in the form of a park, playgrounds and Mixed Use Games Areas and a small car and bus park, with associated vehicle turning facilities, to be provided by the developer and made available for public use, as part of the phased roll out of the development. The size, design, location and future management structure of these facilities shall be agreed in advance of any development with Wicklow County Council.
- A further 2.4ha of land, adjoining the boundaries of Scoil Nioclais and St. Kevin's Community College, shall be reserved for community use, in particular for possible future expansion of the schools
- A maximum of 4.25ha may be developed for residential use, including all services, open spaces, childcare
 facilities etc required for that quantum of development, separate from the 0.4ha to be reserved for
 community use.
- The development shall be delivered in phases as follows:
 - **Phase 1** The first phase of development shall include the construction of the access road serving the action area through 'Cow Green', the delivery of the required park / playground / MUGA and associated car parking and not more than 60 residential units.
 - **Phase 2** The remainder of the residential units may only be developed once the specified community facilities to be developed in Phase 1 are complete and open to the public.

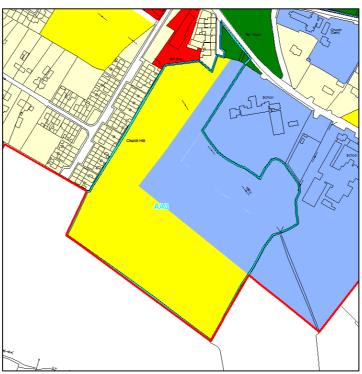


Figure 5.3 Action Area 3

Specific Local Objectives

SLO1 Lands to the north of Sparrow Road

The development of R20 lands zoned on Sparrow Road shall be contingent on the setting out and devotion to the public of a park on the adjoining lands zoned OS. The layout and future management structure of the park shall be agreed in advance of any development with Wicklow County Council. Any residential development on the R20 lands shall provide for through access to Phase 3 of AA2.

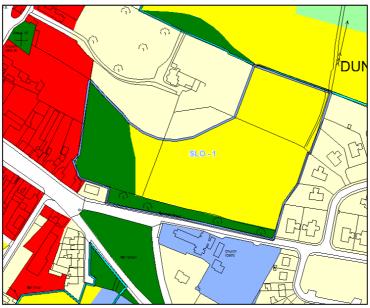


Figure 5.4 Specific Local Objective 1

SLO2 Lands to the east of the Milltown Road

The development of R20 lands zoned on the Milltown Road shall be contingent on the setting out, levelling and draining of the lands zoned AOS adjoining, such that the lands are rendered suitable for sports use. The layout and future management structure of the facilities shall be agreed in advance of any development with Wicklow County Council.

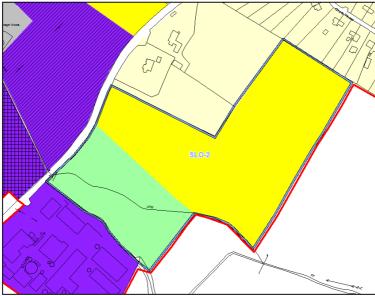


Figure 5.5 Specific Local Objective 2

5.10 Dunlavin Architectural Conservation Area (ACA)

Dunlavin was designed as an estate town, laid out by the Tynte family in the 18th century in a distinctive and spacious T shaped plan. The impressive stone domed Market house, designed by Richard Cassels dominates the centre of the town, and marks the juncture of Kilcullen Street and Main Street. There is a widening of the street at this area which was the original Market Square. The cross piece of the T is formed by Stephen Street running roughly in an east west alignment, with the Roman Catholic and the Church of Ireland churches situated at either end.

The form of the town centre architectural conservation area is compact and well contained. This is defined by the Fair green at one end of Stephens street and a two storey house on the corner at the other end, and to the north approach of the town at the junction of the R412 and R756.

The buildings in the ACA represent an eclectic mixture of styles, sizes and uses which greatly add to the town's architectural heritage interest.

Generally there are single storey houses at the edges of the ACA and terraces of two storey houses in between, with some three storey buildings at the corner of Main Street. The character of the town is strengthened by its strong plan form and adherence to a uniform building line.

The presence of mature street trees, in particular along Kilcullen Street, contributes positively to the local character. Open spaces of note include the 'Bun Ditch', a small landscaped area which forms a gateway on the northern approach to the town, the town park which is the site of a former graveyard across from the Market House, and the Fair Green in front of St. Nicholas of Myra RC church. This latter site is of high local heritage significance as the site of massacre of 36 people in 1798. The restored village pump at the centre of Stephen Street adds historical interest.

The condition of the built heritage fabric is generally good with some fine examples of 18th and 19th century houses surviving with many original features intact. In particular there are many fine examples of 19th century doorways and fanlights. The replacement of traditional timber sash windows and cast iron rainwater goods with modern uPVC where it has occurred detracts from the streetscape, as does the removal of traditional lime render from the front exteriors.

The ACA is characterised by:

- Spacious T shaped layout with road fronted houses;
- Single and two storey terraced houses with traditional rendered finishes, timber sash windows and slate roofs;
- Timber panelled doorways, some with decorative fanlights and sidelights.

Protected Structures: There are 9 protected structures included in the Architectural Conservation Area.

15- 06	15	Dunlavin Shopfront Teac de Gras	House and Shopfro nt	Dunlavin Td	Simple shopfront on a four-bay, two- storey, mid-19 th Century house of coursed-rubble stone with brick dressings and an elliptical-headed doorcase.	
15- 08	15	Dunlavin St. Nicholas' Church of Ireland Church	Church	Dunlavin Td	First Fruits Church with three-stage, west tower with crenellations and pinnacles. The church is built of coursed-rubble stone with pointed window.	

15- 13	15	Dunlavin, Kilcullen Street.	Dwelling House	Dunlavin Td	Richard Castle. Four-bay, single-storey cottage with rendered walls, drip-labels over a simple door and drip-labels over small windows	TIP T
	15	Kilcullen	and the second second		Four-bay, single-storey cottage with rendered walls, drip-labels over a simple	TO THE REAL PROPERTY.
15- 14	15	Dunlavin, Former Bank Building, Market Square	Bank	Dunlavin Td	Large, four-bay, two-storey, gable- ended, commercial building of circa 1890 with painted, rendered walls, arched, ground-floor windows and doorcase, a band for the name and sash	
		Square			windows on the first floor, bracketed eaves with steep-pitched roof and two dormer windows. On the left-hand side is a crenellated wall with carriage arch	
15- 15	15	Dunlavin, Kilcullen Road House	House	Dunlavin Td	with carriage arch Three-bay, two-storey, gable- ended, semi-detached house dating from the early 19 th Century with lime- rendered walls, small windows on the first floor (ground floor windows covered up) and natural slates on the roof.	
15- 17	15	Dunlavin	Hydrant	Dunlavin Upper Td	Hydrant on Kilcullen Street.	

