



# Greystones-Delgany & Kilcoole Local Area Plan Submission - Report

<b>Who are you:</b>	Group
<b>Name:</b>	Eire Oa Grevstones GAA
<b>Email Address:</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Reference:</b>	GDKLAP-162816
<b>Submission Made</b>	January 26, 2024 4:38 PM

## File

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23 January 2024

**Re: Local area planning submission.**

A Chara,

At this stage of the local area planning process where the focus is on zoning and growth, we are asking you to advocate for retention of community spaces and that further community green spaces and facilities are not only included but prioritised.

Our organisation known as Éire Óg Greystones GAA, Ladies Football and Camogie Club, finds its roots in the community dating back to the early 1900's. The club has evolved over the years to provide recreational and developmental supports for all generations with a particular focus on young people.

The GAA club has the following sections within its administration:

- Adult male and female football;
- Camogie;
- Hurling;
- An extensive juvenile sector catering for academies from Under 6's up to Under 17's in football, hurling and camogie for all;
- Gaelic for Mothers and others;
- Gaelic for Dad's and Lads;
- Caman and Chat;
- Our All-stars team catering for those members with additional needs.
- Scór. This creates a platform to promote Irish culture, language, drama, singing and dancing for all age groups.
- Youth projects. The Dermot Earley programme for transition year students is run exclusively by the club with the opportunity for this age group to attain a third level qualification in leadership.

The club draws its membership from a rapidly growing population in Greystones, Delgany, Charlesland and Killincarrig. These areas all come within the Greystones Municipal District. This catchment area falls within the 15 – 30,000 population bracket. A demographic study carried out by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) reveals that in the period 2016-2022 the area of Greystones and Delgany had 4<sup>th</sup> biggest percentage increase countrywide in towns with a population of greater than 10,000. It is projected that by the year 2030 the population in this area will exceed that of Kilkenny City.

The eight primary schools in the area are as follows:

- Delgany National School;
- St. Lawrences;
- St. Kevins;
- St. Brigid's;
- St. Patricks;
- Greystones Community School (Junior);
- Educate together;
- Gaelscoil.

There are three secondary schools as follows:

- St. Davids;
- Templecarrig;
- Greystones Community College.

All of these 11 schools depend on the GAA club for field-based activities at various times in the year. None of them have adequate sporting or recreational space. In recent years due to the increase in student numbers some of the space that was available, within the school environs has now been built upon quite extensively. They now depend on the GAA club facilities for their sports days and school games. The GAA club embraces the sporting and cultural philosophies of the schools and encourages inclusivity. Through the GAA 'healthy club' initiative, Éire Óg Greystones has supported young people in times of crisis and were recipients of a bronze award in 2023 in recognition of our efforts.

The GAA clubhouse is a focal point within the community and is available to outside organisations. Various projects such as music workshops, dance classes and exercise classes for elderly persons are conducted there. There are very few facilities in the area that cater for groups such as these that do not incur a prohibitive monetary outlay. It is also a smoke free and non-alcoholic environment.

The current membership of Éire Óg Greystones is 1700 people with 1,500 of those players. This number has grown exponentially since the year 2000 with green space at a premium. The club functions within 10 acres which includes the clubhouse. This includes two pitches. The minimum space needed to cater for the current playing membership is double that at present. The comparative figure is the increase in club numbers, and requirements, are directly proportionate, to the population increases. The projections for the future are that new membership will be curbed due to the constraint that is now being encountered due to the demand from all of the above. The club will need between 20-25 acres to grow and thrive.

The club had humble beginnings within the small fishing village of Greystones when they achieved their first success with a junior championship in 1920. It has come through a lengthy growth period being known variously as St. Killian's, Greystones Gaels, the Wolfe Tones and the Cherry Pickers. It has endured as a fundamental fabric in the history of the community. It is not stand alone. It stands proudly with the community in all its endeavours.

In conclusion, as an organisation, we are asking that community space is made a priority both for the associated benefits of field-based sports and the continued progress being made by the club within any developmental intentions that are being prepared in the local area planning for the period 2022 -2028. This will enable us to remain embedded within the heart of the community. By doing so, we will be able to provide sporting, recreational, cultural, educational and civic support for our neighbourhoods.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Howard', written in a cursive style.

Larry Howard

Chairperson  
Éire Óg Greystones GAA