

Review of Castlecomer Local Area Plan



ISSUES PAPER 2016

1. Introduction & Background

The Castlecomer Local Area Plan (LAP) was adopted by Kilkenny Council in 2009 to provide comprehensive planning guidance for the future development of the area. Under the Planning and Development Acts there is a legal requirement to make, amend or revoke an existing plan, at least every six years.

As part of the review and analysis of the existing local area plan we would like to hear your views on the changes you think should be made.

The issues that you raise will be used to inform the type of amendments that should be made to the Local Area Plan.

The proposed draft LAP will be put on public display for a six week period and you will again be invited to make written submissions and observations on those draft amendments to the Plan. Those submissions and observations will be reviewed by the Planning Authority and provided in a report by the Chief Executive to the Elected Members for their consideration and decision on the exact amendments to be made to the LAP.

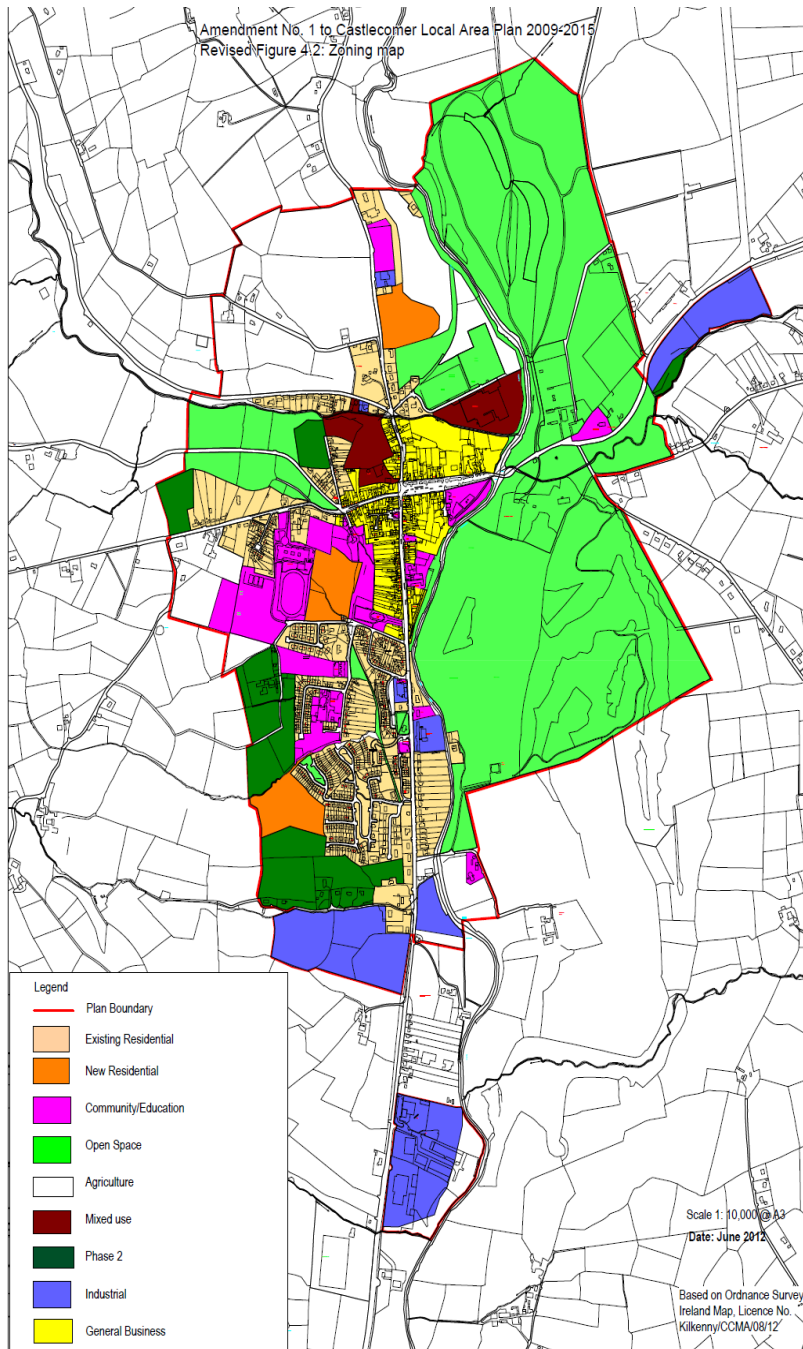
The amended Local Area Plan, once adopted, will remain in force as the legal planning framework for Castlecomer for the next six years. Kilkenny County Council and An Bord Pleanála must have regard to the provisions of the LAP when making a decision on all planning applications for development proposals within the Plan area.



2. The Plan Area

The current Castlecomer Local Area Plan (LAP) was due to expire in 2015, however Kilkenny County Council, under Section 19 of the Planning and Development Acts (2000 – 2015), extended the Castlecomer LAP until 14th March 2020. This Plan is now being reviewed and a new Draft Plan will be proposed. When adopted, the new LAP will be in force for the next 6 years

The plan area as set out in the current Local Area Plan is set out below.



3 Purpose of Issues Paper

The purpose of this paper is to seek your views on what needs to be included into the Castlecomer Local Area Plan in order to guide future development in the area, given revisions in Government policy and changes in economic circumstances in the period since the preparation of the current LAP.

To achieve this Kilkenny County Council invites you to submit your views and comments in writing on those issues that you think need to be changed in the 2009 Plan and included in a new Local Area Plan, as well as any new issues which you think are relevant for managing development in Castlecomer into the future.

Your submissions will assist the County Council in identifying the local issues that should inform the preparation of the new Local Area Plan.

The purpose of this issues paper is to pose a series of questions under a number of themes to prompt ideas on the type of issues that the amended plan should address.

The issues raised in this document are intended as a guide only and are not exhaustive and we would greatly appreciate your views and comments in writing on these and other relevant issues.



4. Current vision:

The 2009 LAP sets out a vision for Castlecomer that by 2020, Castlecomer will be a compact, sustainable and vibrant town of between 3,000 and 4,000 persons supported by a growth in retail services, jobs and community facilities. New development will be well connected to the existing urban environment and of a high quality, reflecting and respecting exiting character of the surrounding upland landscape in addition to the built and natural environment. Improved linkages between the town centre and Castlecomer Demesne will facilitate tourism development and benefit town centre vitality and viability.

Does this vision still apply today?

If not what should the new vision be?

When the existing Castlecomer LAP was adopted in 2009, a number of key development sites were identified, namely:

1. Riverside Quarter
2. Ardra Quarter
3. Glanbia site
4. Kilkenny Road Employment site
5. Ballyhimmin
6. Athy Road

In the years since the adoption of the 2009 LAP, no development has commenced on these sites, due to a number of reasons including the economic recession.

Are these sites identified above still appropriate for the level and type of development proposed under the 2009 LAP?

If not, what type and scale of development should there be?

What are the most appropriate uses at these locations?



Public participation is essential to help deliver an effective Local Area Plan. Below are some additional questions or issues which you may consider if making a submission to the preparation of the Castlecomer Local Area Plan. As stated above, the issues raised in this document are intended as a guide only and are not exhaustive. We would greatly appreciate your views and comments in writing on these and other relevant issues.

Town & village development
What do you like most about Castlecomer?
What works well and needs maintaining? What do you feel needs to be changed and why?
What type of housing development, if any, is required? Eg. rental, first time buyers, social housing?
Where should housing be located?
What amount of housing development do you want in Castlecomer?
Is dereliction a problem? Convent site/Court House/Creamery site? What's the best use/s for these?
Tourism - What are the attractions? What can be improved/ exploited, are there any problems with developing tourism? Golf Club, Discovery Park, Deerpark mines...

Community Facilities and Amenities
What type of community facilities and local services are currently needed in Castlecomer?
How do you think the Local Area Plan can provide for good connectivity for recreational walking and cycling purposes, possible routes/loops for example? How can the Discovery Park be better connected with the town?
Are there any specific views, areas of local interest of special amenity value that you consider should be protected from inappropriate development?
Is Castlecomer reaping maximum benefit from the Discovery Park ? If not, how can this be improved?
Sports Hall/Community Hall - Are facilities adequate? Are there enough facilities? Is there a need for additional venues/grounds?

Transport and Access

Roads and traffic - Suggestions to improve approach roads into the town? Any particular traffic safety issues, around the school, at junctions etc?

How do you think the Plan could facilitate improved access for people with impaired mobility?

Is there sufficient car parking in the town? If not, where do you think additional parking should be provided?

Signposting - Are improvements required?

Footpaths/Lighting - Which areas require footpaths/ lighting? Where should priority be given for provision of footpaths and lighting?

Have you any specific suggestions to encourage the use of public transport, cycling and walking?

Built and Natural Heritage

Do you feel the built and natural heritage in the town is adequately protected?

How can a balance be achieved between protecting our heritage and at the same time providing for the development and future needs of the town?

Street furniture – Is there adequate provision in the town? eg seating, planters?

Heritage - Any particular buildings of merit that should be protected? Are there any heritage items in/around the town that need to be highlighted/protected/enhanced?

Economic Development, Employment and Tourism

Should there be a physical link between the Discovery Park and the town? If so, where would this link best be provided?

Do you think the town is getting the maximum benefit from the Discovery Park? If not, how could this be achieved?

What type of enterprises would work best in Castlecomer to create local job opportunities?

Do you think there are any deficiencies with the existing provision or location of retail/commercial facilities in the town?

Public Amenity/Open Space/Recreation

What are the priorities for the town in terms of improving the public realm (eg. streets/footpaths) and public open space? What would be your top 3 areas to invest money in?

Are there areas of open space/sports grounds/facilities that are under-used for some reason? How could they be improved to allow for greater public use?

Sports Hall/Community Hall - Are facilities adequate? Are there enough facilities? Is there a need for additional venues/grounds?

We want to hear from you

