



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



## **CHAPTER 6**

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

#### **6.1 Introduction:**

Community facilities including schools, colleges, libraries, hospitals, childcare facilities, Gardai headquarters, fire stations, crèches and local services such as Community buildings, post offices and banks are all important facilities within urban environments and should be accessible to all sectors of the population. They are vital to the life of any area if the community as a whole is to nurture a sense of shared belonging and inclusivity. This is particularly true of the more vulnerable members of society who can often feel left behind as the pace of social change quickens. Schools, local shops, post offices and similar small scale service centres have a crucial role to play in maintaining the sense of community in any area. Such facilities act as centres of social interaction in that they bring a variety of people together on a day to day basis for common interactions and tasks.

#### **6.2 Health**

There is a range of health services provided by the Health Service Executive within the Drogheda town.

Our Lady's of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda located on Cross Lanes in the northern portion of Drogheda is part of the Louth Meath Hospital Group and provides a general acute hospital service to the catchment area of Louth, Meath and North Dublin. Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda is also the centre for many regional services including Emergency Medicine/Trauma and Symptomatic Breast Care.

The range of acute services provided by the hospital including General Medicine; General Surgery; Obstetrics/Gynaecology. Paediatrics including Neonatal services; E.N.T. Orthopaedics. Oncology; Urology, Dermatology, Day Services. Out-patient Services. Pathology Services. Radiology Services. Physical Medicine Services. Speech and Language services, Social work and ICU/CCU

The town has a number of other hospital facilities providing Services for Older People: St. Mary's Hospital and Boyne View Home located on Dublin Road and the Cottage Hospital on Scarlet Street. The HSE also provides a range of residential, day and community services from its facilities throughout the town. These facilities include:

Peter Street Health Centre (under construction); Haymarket Health Centre; Ballsgrove Health Centre; North Quay; Donore Road; Moneymore; Val Halla; Chord Road; West Court

A number of voluntary agencies also provide health and social services in Drogheda. These include St John of God's, Order of Malta and Drogheda Community Services.



### 6.3 Nursing Homes

Nursing Homes shall comply with the standards laid down in the Statutory Instrument No 317 of 1985 “Homes for Incapacitated Persons Regulations 1985”.

Permission for a change of use from a residential dwelling to a nursing home shall only be granted in cases where such a use would not give rise to a traffic hazard and where the building can be adapted to a satisfactory level of accommodation.

#### Policy:

In terms of Health Services it is the policy of Drogheda Borough Council:

- **To co-operate with the Health Service Executive and other statutory and voluntary agencies in the provision of health and community social facilities; and support for the future development of the Lady of Lourdes Hospital.**
- **To ensure that adequate lands and services are available for the improvement, establishment and expansion of health services;**
- **To ensure that high standards of design and layout are achieved in new healthcare facilities and in the change of use of existing premises to health care facilities;**
- **To facilitate the appropriate provision of private medical facilities;**
- **To co-operate with the Health Service Executive in the implementation of their ‘Primary Care Strategy’**
- **To encourage, support and facilitate the provision of a range of services for the aged population.**

### 6.4 Policing

The Divisional Headquarters of the Garda Síochána is located in Drogheda. This modern building is located south of the Old Abbey Lane overlooking the Boyne River. The modern looking station has been carefully landscaped to preserve views of the Abbey walls and some of the buried medieval walls of the church. The station has a public office, communications centre, parade room, in-service training facilities, recreation room, locker rooms, doctor's room, and 3 cells. General safety and crime prevention is a concern for the Garda Síochána, given the projected population growth of the town and its environs.

#### Policy

In terms of Policing, it is the policy of Drogheda Borough Council:

- **To assist in improving and maintaining general safety within the town centre and its environs;**
- **To promote the installation and usage of CCTV cameras along the main streets in the town centre;**
- **To promote the formation of neighbourhood watch groups in newly developing and existing neighbourhoods;**
- **To maintain a high level of safety in new residential and commercial development, through appropriate urban design provisions.**



## 6.5 Childcare Facilities

Childcare facilities will be in accordance with the Planning Guidelines on Childcare facilities as published by the DOELG December 2001, and will be permitted in appropriate locations. Such locations include:

- Larger new housing estates;
- Industrial estates and business parks and other areas of significant employment;
- In the vicinity of schools;
- Adjacent to public transport corridors

Where such facilities are to be provided it will be essential to show their location will not give rise to a traffic hazard or have adverse impact on the residential amenity of the area. Where these facilities are to be provided in larger new housing estates the Planning Guidelines have provided a standard of one facility with places for 20 children for each 75 dwellings.

All applications for crèches or preschool facilities shall be required to comply with the Childcare Act and the Childcare (Pre School Services) Regulations 1996. In general for sessional services and drop in centres a floor area of 2sq.m. per child is required. For full day care a floor area of 3 sq.m. per child is required.

Applications for crèches, playschools and pre school facilities shall be assessed with regard to the following information:

- Details of the proposed opening times;
- Proposed number and age range of children;
- Proposed number of staff;
- Internal floor areas devoted to use as crèche /playschool excluding areas such as kitchens, toilets, sleeping and other ancillary areas;
- Details of external play areas;
- Car parking arrangements for both parents and staff.
- Vehicular and Pedestrian Access Arrangements

Drogheda Borough Council may impose a temporary permission of between 1-5 years on any grant of permission for such facilities to assess their impact on surrounding areas and developments.

There are approximately 6124 persons in the 0-14 age cohort as per the 2002 Census data. This represents 21.09 % of the total population for the five electoral wards of Drogheda. The National average is 21.1 %.

There however is a significant number of people in the 0- 14 age cohort persons, which emphasises the need for both childcare and primary school education facilities. This age group shall have significant impact on increasing the numbers who will require employment within the town and future social services within the town.

This has implications in terms of social infrastructure provision in the town, particularly with regard to childcare facilities. There are approximately 31 pre-school childcare facilities in Drogheda which cater for approximately 572 children and provide primarily sessional day care services.



## Policy

In terms of Childcare it is the policy of Drogheda Borough Council:

- **To seek to realise the objectives of the Drogheda Childcare Plan 2002 – 2006’ as pertinent to Drogheda, to ensure the balanced provision of quality childcare facilities throughout the town and environs;**
- **To continue to comply with the Department of Environment & Local Government’s Planning Guidelines on Childcare Facilities (2001)**
- **To consider childcare needs in future Local Area Plans, Action Area Plans and all residential planning applications;**
- **To encourage the location of childcare facilities in suitable locations, such as neighbourhood centres, areas of concentrated employment, in the vicinity of schools, adjacent to public transport corridors and in larger new housing estates.**

## Objective

In terms of Childcare it is an objective of Drogheda Borough Council:

- **COM 1**

*To facilitate the provision of 1 childcare facility to cater for 20 children in each residential development in excess of 75 number of residential units*

## 6.6 Education

Drogheda provides a wide range of educational facilities, catering for approximately 7,601 students attending primary, post primary and special education. There have been significant increases in population during the lifetime of the last Development Plan, and it is likely that there will be significant population increase in the lifetime of the Development Plan period 2005 – 2011.

The demands on the internal structure of the schools particularly at primary school level should be carefully monitored and provision made by the Borough Council to identify potential future educational sites within the town.

### 6.6.1 Primary Education

There are eleven Primary Schools within the envelop of the proposed Drogheda Development Plan boundary. (See Table 1). As a result of population increases it is expected that pressure will continue to be placed on these education facilities, most of which are already reaching capacity and have little room available for further development and expansion. The primary school numbers for 2002 / 2003 have increased by 129 pupils from the preceding year 2001/2002. Those schools which have shown the greatest growth over this period include St. Patrick’s & St. Bridget’s Bothar Brugha and St. John’s & St. Paul’s Rathmullan. The primary school at St. Joseph’s Mell increased by 6 pupils over the same period however the school is currently operating at above its designed capacity.



Plean Forbairt 2005 – 2011

Development Plan 2005 - 2011

The distribution of schools throughout the Borough administrative area largely covers the population base in these areas, however population expansion existing in estates outside the Borough's administrative boundary in County Meath and proposed within County Louth mean that the numbers of children attending schools in Drogheda have increased in recent years in certain areas. Any future expansion of populations in the environs of Drogheda should have due consideration to the fact that the capacity of existing primary schools in the Drogheda Borough are limited and provision of new schools in the environs should be sought to cater for the expected population expansion.

**The Department of Education will work in partnership with the Borough Council to assist the identification of school needs and possible locations for future schools. A new zoning objective CP (Community Facilities) has been indicated on the Cement Road. This zoning objective has been created to allow for a future primary school building within this area as there have been capacity constraints on the existing primary school located at Mell.**

NAME OF SCHOOL	LOCATION	02/ 03	01/ 02	00/ 01	99/ 00
Presentation Convent	Ballymakenny Road	325	330	338	324
Scoil Aonghusa	Sunday's Gate	213	213	219	222
Marymount N.S.	Ballsgrove	289	274	272	252
Christian Brothers	Sunday's Gate	327	334	325	342
St. Patrick's	Bothar Brugha	408	348	316	307
Scoil Mhuire Fatima	Dublin Road	401	404	388	403
St. Mary's N.S.	Congress Avenue	458	482	482	470
St. Peter's	Bolton Street	104	101	104	111
St. Bridget's	Bothar Brugha	362	310	284	301
St. John's & St. Paul's	Rathmullen	482	450	429	406
St. Joseph's	Mell	109	103	98	96
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3478</b>	<b>3349</b>	<b>3255</b>	<b>3234</b>

**Table 1 :** Students Numbers Attending Drogheda Primary schools,.

### 6.6.2 Post Primary Schools

There are 6 post primary schools in Drogheda. They serve a wider catchment area, accommodating students not only in Drogheda but from a 10 – 15 mile radius of the town. There are currently **4058** children in the post primary school age cohort attending schools in Drogheda. This represents a decrease of 75 pupils from the



Plean Forbairt 2005 – 2011

Development Plan 2005 - 2011

1997 – 1998 school roll for these same schools and confirms the Department of Education view that there are no existing problems in dealing with the numbers of children within this age cohort.

NAME OF SCHOOL	LOCATION OF SCHOOL	02/03	01/02	00/01	99/00
St. Oliver's C.C.	Rathmullen Road	988	1019	1022	1090
Drogheda Institute of Further Education	Twenties Lane	386	323	333	340
St. Mary's Diocesan School	Clinton's Lane	676	677	683	674
St. Joseph's CBS	Termonfeckin Road	618	631	639	648
Sacred Heart	Sunnyside	528	515	516	516
Our Lady's College	Greenhills	862	870	858	865
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>4058</b>	<b>4035</b>	<b>4051</b>	<b>4133</b>

**Table 2** illustrates the secondary school attendance rolls since the 1997 – 1998 period up until 2002.

### 6.6.3 Third Level Educational Facilities:

At present, there is no Third Level Education in Drogheda. In order to cater for the provision of third level education within Drogheda Borough in the short term, it is recommended that links should be developed with other third level education facilities outside the area in addition to the setting up of partnership and outreach programs with these third level colleges. It is also proposed that further links should be built up with local industry with the view of fostering closer educational and work training arrangements.

The Borough Council recommend that the consideration should be given to the establishment of a business educational training complex within the newly designated Drogheda Business / Technology and New Economy Park. The site has the potential to be a centre of excellence linked with new economy business within easy access of a large population catchment area.

### Policy



Plean Forbairt 2005 – 2011

Development Plan 2005 - 2011

In terms of Primary & Post-Primary & Third Level Education it is the policy of Drogheda Borough Council:

- **To facilitate the development of primary and post primary educational facilities to meet the needs of Drogheda, it's environs and it's catchment population;**
- **To ensure that adequate land and services are reserved to cater for the establishment, improvement or expansion (where possible) of primary and post primary educational facilities;**
- **To encourage and support the development of further educational facilities and training programmes for children and adults with special needs;**
- **To encourage the integration of those with special needs into the education system of streamlined schools, where possible.**

In terms of Third Level Education it is the policy of Drogheda Borough Council:

- **To actively promote and encourage the provision of third level educational programmes in the town;**
- **To promote the development of outreach programmes between businesses and the third level institutions in adjoining Counties.**

## Objectives

In terms of Primary and Post-Primary Education it is an objective of Drogheda Borough Council:

- **COM 2**

*To zone sufficient lands at appropriate locations to cater for the needs of primary and post primary schools and educational facilities in Drogheda.*

- **COM 3**

*To investigate, in consultation with the relevant School Authorities and Board of Management's the potential for the development of sustainable means of transport for school going children, to include walking, cycling, bus and car pooling.*

In terms of Third Level Education it is an objective of Drogheda Borough Council to:

- **COM 4**

*To actively encourage the development of links with third level institutions in adjoining Counties;*

## 6.7 Community Houses/ Community facilities:



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Development Plan 2005 - 2011

There is a need within the residential areas of Drogheda for community houses or resource centres to serve the needs of the residents across many services and issues, such a centre could house the state and semi state agencies, as well as voluntary and community groups.

At present there is one Community House in Moneymore supplied by the Borough Council and plans are underway to establish another facility on the Southside of the Town.

## Objectives

In terms of Community Houses, it is an objective of Drogheda Borough Council to:

- **COM 5** *To assist in the provision of community houses / resource centres by the identification and reservation of suitably located buildings within estates which have currently no focal point for community activities or facilities. The Housing Section of the Local Authority shall seek to assist in the provision of finance in partnership with other interested bodies for the development of community facilities through the provisions of the Planning & Development Act 2000.*

## 6.8 Burial Grounds

There are two main graveyards in Drogheda serving the Roman Catholic Church. There is a graveyard serving other members of the Christian community however there are no multi denominational burial grounds to cater for the expanding multi denominational make up of the population structure.

<b>RELIGIOUS GROUPING</b>	<b>NUMBERS STATED</b>	<b>% OF THE TOTAL POPULATION</b>
<b>Catholic</b>	27,968	90.2%
<b>Other Stated Religion</b>	1,636	5.3%
<b>No Religion</b>	991	3.2%
<b>Not Stated</b>	425	1.3%

**Table 3:** Population of Drogheda by religion. (Based on 2002 Census figures)

The grounds of St. Peter's graveyard on Cross Lanes is considered to be nearing or at full capacity. The Borough Council have a responsibility in partnership with other bodies to source additional burial grounds within the town and designate these grounds accordingly.



## Policy

In terms of Burial Grounds, it is the policy of Drogheda Borough Council:

- **To ensure lands are reserved free from development to allow the sequential expansion of all burial grounds in the town.**

### 6.9 Fire Services

The existing Fire Station is located on Scarlet Street in the north of Drogheda. The station has 7 no of vehicles and 36 staff and covers the entire Borough area in terms of fire services as well as the southern portion of County Louth and parts of East Meath.

A future site has been earmarked on Rathmullan Road for a new fire station. The current fire station is located in an established residential area within a built up residential area. There are limited opportunities for it to expand or adequately modernize and considered inadequate to cater for present and future needs of Drogheda.

## Policy

In terms of the Fire Service it is the policy of Drogheda Borough Council;

- **To continue to provide a modern and effective fire service for Drogheda.**

### 6.10 Library Facilities

It is recognised by Drogheda Borough Council that the library service plays a vital role in underpinning many cultural activities. The Drogheda Branch Library, is located at Stockwell Lane in the town centre and offers a wide and varied range of services to the public. In addition to the adult and children's library, there is an audio-visual section, information technology facilities and an entrance exhibition area available to local groups for exhibitions, recitals and readings. The building also houses a local studies section, which includes books, maps photographs, manuscripts etc. It functions as a source of local and historical information and in many instances also supports and underpins the local authority archive service.



## Policy

In terms of Library Facilities it is the policy of Drogheda Borough Council:

- **To continue to expand the library service to meet the needs of the community, subject to the availability of finance;**

## Objective

In terms of Library Facilities it is an objective of Drogheda Borough:

- *To provide for additional library services, including new branch libraries and services, where appropriate, in newly developing neighbourhoods of the town.*

### 6.11 Places of Worship

There are seven Catholic Churches and two Protestant Churches and three other religious buildings serving the range of denominations within Drogheda.

It is anticipated that, as the national population profile continues to diversify, the requirement may arise for additional places of worship and religious buildings. Drogheda Borough Council will address such needs on a case by case basis.

<b>CATHOLIC CHURCH</b>	<b>PROTESTANT CHURCH</b>	<b>OTHER RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS</b>
St. Mary's Church James Street	St. Peter's Church of Ireland – Peter Street	Church of God – Ballymakenny Road
Holy Family Church Ballsgrove	Presbyterian Church – Palace Street	Bahai Community building – Mary Street
Augustinian Church Shop Street		Jehovah Witness – Barrack Lane
Dominican Church – Dominic Street		
St. Peter's Church – West Street		
Our Lady of Lourdes Church – Hardmans Gardens		
St. Joseph's, Mell		

**Table 4** : Churches in Drogheda (2005)