

Addendum to Manager's Report on Submissions to the Draft Plan

Ardee Local Area Plan 2010 - 2016

15th November 2010



INTRODUCTION

This report has been compiled as an addendum to the Manager's Report in respect of submissions received on the draft Ardee Local Area Plan 2010-2016 (dated November 2010) and should be read in conjunction with that report.

The purpose of this report is to outline the details of a submission which was lodged within the statutory timeframe and considered accordingly.

DETAILS OF SUBMISSION

Submission No.	Name
8	Louth Older People's Forum

This submission received on behalf of Louth Older People's Forum seeks to improve Ardee's potential to become an Age Friendly Town. It details the demographics of the town, facilities, services, consultation with stakeholders and consultation through a Community Consultation Workshop. It seeks that the following amendments and additions are made to the draft plan:

- OBJ 10 Plan for people to age in their own homes by improving mobility, access and opportunities for social interaction'.
- Re-title S 4.12 as 'Access' [i.e. omit '...for all Ages and Abilities']; to move the first paragraph to a new section after 4.12 titled 'Age Friendly Ardee'
- Change 'INF 23 to improve standards of accessibility by:' [instead of 'to embrace the Age Friendly society concept by'].
- New Section that will follow S 4.12 will include the following table of policies
- S 3.5 includes a suggested area for the development of housing, infrastructure and services for older people which should be given preferential priority through the allocation of specific lands some 300m west of the Town Centre with direct access to same. This is termed an 'Enabled Area' as identified by appendix 4.1.
- S 4.7.5, Table 4.1 insert -Boat Trench Lane – Implement a one way traffic flow.
- New (after 4.12)-Policy AF 1 Improve pedestrian, wheelchair and cycle connectivity to essential services and community facilities from existing housing estates and residential developments for older people.
- Improve the experience for older people using public transport.
- Promote opportunities for economic and social participation of older people in the town.
- Strengthen Ardee's role as an important economic centre for Age Friendly activity within the county.
- S 4.8 insert Transport Plans and Policies need to keep a balance between engineering and traffic management efficiency on the one hand and the maintenance of safety and amenities for an ageing population on the other.
- S 4.8 insert – (i) Provide appropriately designed outdoor seating in convenient locations throughout the town. (ii) Provide a Taxi Rank in the town centre, beside the proposed town centre bus stop.
- S 4.10 insert (i) Provide a bus stop with shelter, seating and lighting on Market Street. (ii) Provide a bus shelter with seating and lighting at the bus stop on Drogheda Rd adjacent to Sliabh Breagh. (ii) Drogheda Rd adjacent to the Church of Nativity and Our Lady (iii) Drogheda Rd adjacent to Ardee Monastery N.S. (iv) Irish St (v) N33 Rd between the two roundabouts.

- S 4.11 insert -Provide a pedestrian crossing with timers which count the number of seconds left to cross, visually and audibly, at traffic congested locations in the town at the following locations (i) Drogheda Rd adj. to Lidl and Sliabh Breagh (traffic calming measures will have to be put in place on the Drogheda Rd to facilitate this). (ii) Drogheda Rd adj. to the Church of Nativity and Our Lady and Ardee Monastery N.S (Appendix 4.1 – Obj. Map).
- Provide zebra crossing in the town at the following locations (i) John's St adjacent to the Church of Nativity and Our Lady (ii) At the junction of the N52 (Kells Road) and N2 on the Main St.
- Relocate the pedestrian crossing with lights on (i) Market St further north to St. Patrick's Terrace. (ii) Relocate the pedestrian crossing on Castle St from Ardee Castle further north adjacent to Ash Walk (Appendix 4.1 - Obj Map).
- Improve pedestrian crossing and visibility at the junction of The Boat Trench Lane and Castle St (Appendix 4.1 – Obj. Map).
- All pavements throughout the town should be surveyed and upgraded accordingly.
- Upgrade the pedestrian route along the River Dee at Bridge Street, and extend to the pedestrian bridge adjacent to New Dawson's Demesne (Appendix 4.1 - Obj Map).
- Develop a pedestrian and cycle route around the perimeter of the town centre along the old town wall and the River Dee.
- Provide direct pedestrian and cycle access with public lighting from (i) Ferdia Park Estate to St Brigid's Complex, (ii) Ferdia Park Estate and St. Joseph's Nursing Home to the Town Centre via Ash Walk, (iii) St. Brigid's Complex to Town Centre via Ash Walk.
- S 4.13 insert -Promote opportunities for inter-generational activity in public green spaces i.e. age friendly exercise equipment beside playgrounds and sports facilities.
- S 9.1 insert - Housing Design Principles – A proportion of future housing developments in Ardee should adhere to lifetime adaptable design principles

MANAGER'S OPINION

Ardee seeks to be the first Age Friendly Town in the State and so I consider it is important to embrace the age friendly society concept in this Plan.

Therefore I am proposing to amend the wording of the plan as detailed below, to take cognisance of the recommendations put forward in this submission as far as they relate to its remit. I am satisfied however that many of the substantive issues raised in this submission are adequately dealt with under the appropriate headings of the Plan where policies are inclusive of all age groups.

- An 'Enabled Area' to accommodate housing, for older people is identified by this submission on HSE lands to the rear of the Supervalu outlet in the town centre. I consider that there is merit in providing a specific zoning objective for the identified lands in order to further promote the development of Ardee as a national exemplar in the Age Friendly City Initiative. The Enabled Area zoning will provide scope for the facilitation of housing for older people with infrastructure and facilities according, where practicable, with the Checklist of Essential Features for Age Friendly Cities. In addition the review of the Housing Strategy may take into account the special requirements of elderly persons including the consideration of a quantum of lifetime housing.
- I propose that an additional land use zoning objective be included within Table 8.3 (Land Use zoning Objectives) This additional policy will read;

'To provide for the development of housing for older people, specifically designed for flexibility and adaptability to accommodate the physical and cognitive needs of residents as they develop over time'.

- Furthermore in order to develop Ardee as an exemplary age friendly town I consider the next step is to develop an Action Plan to provide a framework to identify and prioritise the delivery of housing, seating, facilities etc as identified in the Louth Age Friendly County Strategy 2009 and this submission. I recommend that the following policy be included in the Plan:

'To develop and promote the implementation of an Action Plan which will identify, prioritise and provide a timeframe for the provision of infrastructure that will make Ardee an exemplary age friendly town'.

- Policy INF 21 promotes the provision of resting facilities.
- Policy INF 20 seeks to explore and facilitate the provision of a bus stop in a central location in the town and improved passenger infrastructure which would relate to the provision of seating, lighting, timetable etc at other locations in the town.
- Policy NBE 2 relates to the provision of a riparian corridor for reasons which include recreation and access to the river. This is further detailed on the Objectives Map.
- It is not possible to implement a one-way traffic system in Boat Trench Lane due to the physical alignment of this road
- At present there are no taxis or taxi premises in Ardee.
- While it is an aim of the Plan to make the town centre more pedestrian friendly it is neither feasible nor practical to provide the entire pedestrian facilities as proposed in this submission.
- I do however propose to add the following wording to policy INF 16 '*... and to investigate the feasibility of the provision of audible time counter at pedestrian crossings and the provision of a pedestrian crossing on the Drogheda Road in the vicinity of Sli Breagh*'.
- The up gradation of footpaths is included under the Roads Schemes and Improvements detailed in table 4.1 and works are currently on-going.
- The Objectives Map seeks the provision of a pedestrian and cycle route which ties in with parts of the old town wall and all along the River Dee. In areas however it would not be feasible as it runs through private properties.
- Exercise equipment for adults is being provided in Fairgreen Park. I recommend that Policy INF 24 is amended to include '*...including inter-generational activities...*'

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

Amend Plan as follows:

- Add OBJ 10 *To embrace the Age Friendly society and turn Ardee into an Age Friendly Town*
- Re-title 4.12 –Access
- Re-title policy INF 23 - to *Improve standards of accessibility*.
- Insert section Add paragraph in 1.10 titled Age Friendly Society (Amend 4.12 accordingly)

Louth Age Friendly County is an initiative piloted by the World Health Organisation which

encourages an age friendly society. Louth has been chosen as the pilot for the first Age Friendly County in Ireland and Ardee as the first Age Friendly Town. The Louth Age Friendly County Strategy Document has highlighted challenges that face older members of society which includes under-provision of resting places and access to toilets in public spaces, obstructions on footpaths, access to public transport, convenient parking spaces, choice of suitable and adaptable housing, socialising facilities and employment opportunities.

The age friendly approach will also benefit those people with impaired mobility including those with physical disabilities, parents with young children and children themselves. From a planning and land use perspective the study has provided a guide of a broad range of characteristics of the urban landscape and the built environment that contribute to age-friendliness.

This Plan seeks to make Ardee the first Age Friendly Town and to embrace the age-friendly concept. The policies therein are reflective of the Louth Age Friendly County Strategy 2009

- *Addition to Table 8.3 Land Use Zoning Objectives to include.*

'To provide for the development of housing for older people, specifically designed for flexibility and adaptability to accommodate the physical and cognitive needs of residents as they develop over time'.

- *Amendment to Land Use Map and Table 8.4 Land Use Zoning Matrix as illustrated by attachments.*
- Policy INF 24 is amended to include '*...including inter-generational activities...*'
- Add the following wording to Policy INF 16 - '*... and to investigate the feasibility of the provision of audible time counter at pedestrian crossings and the provision of a pedestrian crossing on the Drogheda Road in the vicinity of Sli Breagh*'.
- 'To develop **and promote the implementation of** an Action Plan which will identify, prioritise and provide a timeframe for the provision of infrastructure that will make Ardee an exemplary age friendly town'.

Land Use Zoning Matrix

Land Use	RE & RE(a)	TC	CB	CR	IN	CF	OA	SL	IB	RH	EA
Dwelling	Y	Y	N	<u>O(8)</u>	O ¹	N	N	N ²	O ³	N	Y
Guesthouse	O	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	O	Y	N
Hotel	N	Y	Y	O	N	N	N	N	O	Y	N
Restaurant	N	Y	Y	O	N	N	N	N	O	Y	N
Pub	N	Y	N	O	N	N	N	N	O	Y	N
Shop (convenience)	<u>O(4)</u>	Y	N	O ⁶	O ⁵	N	N	N	N	N	N
Shop (comparison)	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Retail warehouse	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
School	Y	Y	O	O	N	Y	N	N	Y	O	N
Medical and Related Consultant	Y	Y	O	O	N	Y	N	N	O	O	O
Health centre	Y	Y	O	O	N	O	N	N	Y	O	O
Nursing home	Y	Y	O	O	N	O	N	N	Y	Y	O
Community Facility	Y	Y	O	O	O	Y	N	N	Y	O	O
Recreational buildings	O	Y	O	O	O	Y	O ⁷	N	Y	O	O
Cultural uses	N	Y	O	O	O	Y	N	N	Y	O	O
Offices -Class 2	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Offices –Class 3	N	Y	O	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Garages, panel beating and car repairs	N	O	O	O	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Petrol station	N	Y	Y	O	O	N	N	N	N	N	N
Motor sales	N	Y	Y	O	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Public Car park	N	Y	Y	O	Y	N	N	N	O	N	N
Cinema, dancehall, disco	N	Y	O	O	N	O	N	N	N	N	N
Warehouse /storage & distribution	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Lorry park /store/ depot	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Industry	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Industry (light)	N	O	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N
Playing fields Park/playground	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	O	O
Place of worship	O	Y	Y	O	O	Y	N	N	O	O	O
Tourist camping site/ caravan park	N	N	Y	N	O	N	N	N	O	O	N
Halting site	O	O	Y	N	O	N	N	N	N	N	N
Amusement Arcade	N	Y	N		N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Hot food take-away	N	Y	O	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Utility structures	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Crèche/playschool	Y	Y	Y	Y	O	O	N	N	Y	O	N

