

## Transportation Strategy

### 5.1 Introduction

New Ross has the potential to build on its strategic location between Waterford, Wexford and Kilkenny. The presence of New Ross Port, as well as good inter-urban road linkages, provides strengthening opportunities for the town and surrounding areas. Accessibility is a key requirement to attract enterprise and employment to the town. The Transportation Strategy will seek to improve access through the provision of good transport infrastructure and facilities which will support the movement of both people and goods, while also promoting sustainable modes of transport locally as a measure to reduce man-made greenhouse gas emissions. Improved transport and infrastructure will have economic, social and environmental benefits for the town and environs.

### 5.2 Transportation

New Ross is strategically located between Wexford and Waterford on the N25 Rosslare Harbour to Cork route. The N30 also connects New Ross with Enniscorthy, where it joins the N11 Rosslare Harbour to Dublin route. Both the N11 and N25 form part of the developing Euroroutes E01 (Larne-Belfast-Dublin-Rosslare Harbour) and E30 (Rosslare Harbour-Wexford-New Ross-Waterford-Cork) respectively. In addition, the R700 connects New Ross to Kilkenny City and the R733 provides access to the scenic Hook Peninsula. The Councils recognise that the provision of roads infrastructure is an essential element of transport provision providing essential inter-urban links for the economic and cultural development of the town and the region.

The New Ross Bypass is recognised in the RPGs as an infrastructural development priority which will form part of a strategic national transportation corridor. The implementation of the bypass scheme is essential for the economic development of the region and forms part of a wider strategic policy to improve access to Rosslare Europort from the region and the country as a whole. The proposed Bypass, which includes a bridge crossing to the southwest of New Ross Town, has been approved by An Bord Pleanála. It is envisaged that the completion of the Bypass, together with improvements to the N30 New Ross-Enniscorthy route, will increase accessibility to New Ross while also relieving congestion within the town centre.

New Ross Town is not currently serviced by rail. The New Ross-Waterford line closed to commercial freight in 1995. The line remains in situ but is very much derelict and overgrown in sections. It will be the policy of the Councils to encourage and facilitate the re-opening of this line for passenger and freight trains, in order to provide a more efficient transport system which offers a range of transport choices and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

Bus Éireann operates daily services to New Ross from Wexford, Waterford and Dublin. Local rural bus services run once a week from Killealy and Adamstown while a service from Duncannon operates twice daily. Bus Éireann also operates a School Transport Scheme in the area. The Councils will seek to expand these services where possible and will support the implementation of the Green Schools Travel Programme.

New Ross Port specialises in handling both dry and liquid bulk. Approximately 527,000 tonnes passed through the port in 2009. The port is of strategic importance to the region and must continue to be developed to meet the needs of the industrial and commercial sectors. There is considerable potential to develop port infrastructure in terms of value-added shore based activity. The Councils will support this by facilitating the development of the port at Marshmeadows, including an additional wharf.

### 5.3 Transportation Strategy

In line with the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2010 and the Draft Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities, one of the major aims of this plan is to facilitate a sustainable transportation strategy which includes appropriate measures to reduce man-made greenhouse gas emissions. Sustainable transportation aims to minimise the negative impacts of traffic and facilitate ease of movement. This includes minimising emissions and the negative impact on lifestyle and on the business community of traffic congestion. It also provides a choice for individuals regarding the modes of transport available and ensures that all plans and developments facilitate ease of movement for all members of the community.

Traffic congestion is one of the most significant threats facing New Ross which, if left unchecked, will impact on the economic vitality of the town's commercial life and the attractiveness of the town as a place to live. New Ross is identified in the NSS and RPGs as a larger town which has the capacity to absorb growth to support the regional gateway of Waterford City. It is therefore likely that, over the period of the plan and beyond, there will be a significant growth in traffic due to increases in population, car ownership and travel.

This Development Plan contains policies and objectives to facilitate ease of movement by, for example, supporting the implementation of the New Ross Bypass Scheme and through the appropriate zoning of land uses to match with their accessibility requirements. This approach aims to link the proper activity or mix of activities to the right place by directing businesses with a large workforce or large numbers of visitors to highly accessible locations. Provision is also made for the mobility impaired and people with disabilities through the promotion of inclusive networks which link key public buildings, shopping streets, public transport points and tourist and recreational attractions.

The Councils will encourage smarter travel (i.e. reduce overall travel demand) in accordance with 'Smarter Travel: A Sustainable Transport Future' published by the Department of Transport in 2009 and will seek to reduce the number and length of car journeys through the careful integration of transportation and land use planning. Other modes of transport, such as walking and cycling, will be encouraged through the zoning objectives, for example by zoning residential areas close to schools and other amenities. Integration of land uses, for example the facilitation of childcare facilities close to employment centres, will also reduce the number of car journeys by allowing multiple errands in single trips. The Councils will also encourage car pooling, which has environmental benefits in terms of reduced congestion and associated greenhouse gas emissions.



Above: Traffic calming - new roundabout at Kent's Cross.

## Transportation Strategy

It is the **policy** of the Councils to:

- TM01 Develop a safer, more efficient and integrated transport system within New Ross with improvements to the road network, public transport which will encompass accessible public transport, cycle ways and to create a pedestrian friendly environment.
- TM02 Support the implementation of the New Ross Bypass Scheme.
- TM03 Guide development to ensure that it is positioned in a location which minimises the need to travel and co-ordinates particular land uses with their accessibility requirements.
- TM04 Seek to improve parking provision in the town centre and require all new developments to provide accessible parking in accordance with the standards set out in the development management standards section of this Plan.
- TM05 Maximise pedestrian and cycle movements between residential areas, town centre, schools and industrial estates.
- TM06 Encourage the provision of secure bicycle parking facilities in the town centre, at public facilities such as schools, New Ross Library and in all new developments in accordance with the standards set out in the development management standards section of this Plan.
- TM07 Ensure that roads and footpaths are designed and constructed to allow ease of access for persons with disabilities.
- TM08 Require the submission of a Traffic and Transport Assessment and/or Road Safety Audit for developments with the potential to create significant additional demands on the traffic network by virtue of the nature of their activity, the number of employees, their location or a combination of these factors and for significant developments affecting national roads.
- TM09 Support New Ross Port Authority in developing the commercial port by facilitating the future development of the port at Marshmeadows, including the facilitation of an additional wharf and construction of warehousing and open storage, subject to the findings of an Appropriate Assessment in compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. Any development of the port and/or wharf shall ensure the protection of the Waterford Harbour Shellfish Area and shall be monitored and assessed to ensure compliance with the Water Framework Directive.
- TM10 Encourage and facilitate the reopening of the existing railway line. Development which would prejudice the reopening of this line will be prohibited, however temporary uses may be considered where appropriate.
- TM11 Support the provision of charging points for Electric Vehicles at appropriate locations.
- TM12 Support the implementation of the National Climate Change Strategy and any Regional Climate Change Action Plan or Climate Change Strategy adopted for the County.

## Transportation Strategy

It is the **objective** of the Councils:

- TM01 To upgrade the existing ring road, including the provision of accessible footpaths and energy efficient public lighting, from O'Hanrahan Bridge along South Quays (N25), The Wexford Road (N25) as far as Kent's Cross (N25/N30), The Ring Road (N30) as far as Mannion's Cross (N30/R700), Cherries Road, John Street, Bridge Street and North Quay (all R700).
- TM02 To provide a traffic control/junction improvements at the Junction of N25/R733 to facilitate the development of the Port-related and Industry land use zonings on the R733. The Council shall apply a special levy to applications on these lands as the works are required to facilitate the development of these lands.
- TM03 To provide roundabouts/junction improvements at the following locations:
  - N25/R733 junction;
  - N25/Hospital Road junction;
  - N25/Ballylane East junction;
  - N25/L-8042 junction;
  - N30/Wexford Street junction;
  - N30/Mountgarrett Road junction;
  - N30/L-8037 junction;
  - L-8037/L-8038 junction;
  - L-8038/Irishtown junction;

- N30/R700 junction (Mannion's Cross);
  - N25/R704 junction (Rosbercon);
  - N25/Millbanks Road junction (Rosbercon)
- TM04 To upgrade the following road sections:
- R733 from N25 junction to end of development boundary;
  - L-8042 road (Redhouse) from junction with N30 to junction with N25;
  - L-8037 road (Knockavilla) from junction with N30 to junction with L-8038.
  - L-8038 road (Knockavilla) from junction with L-8037 to junction at Irishtown.
- TM05 To provide signal controlled pedestrian facilities, which have an audible signal and dished kerbs with tactile paving to assist visually and mobility-impaired persons in crossing roads.
- TM06 To improve and expand coach/bus parking facilities adjacent to the town centre and provide parking for buses which include disabled access.
- TM07 To provide additional public and private car parking in the town centre.
- TM08 To provide a new link road between Irishtown/Morrissysland and Redhouse as shown on Map No. 10.
- TM09 Facilitate the construction of a river crossing between Marshmeadows and Raheen, as indicated on Map No. 10, subject to the findings of an Appropriate Assessment in compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.
- TM10 To facilitate, in co-operation with public transport providers, the provision of accessible bus shelters on all routes.
- TM11 To carry out a Footpath Audit which will identify the areas where existing footpaths require completion/upgrading and new footpaths are required.
- TM12 To carry out an audit which will identify areas where cycling facilities can be developed and inform a programme for promoting and encouraging cycling in the plan area.
- TM13 To improve cycling facilities in the town to enable New Ross to be linked to the National Cycle Network.

## 5.4 Noise

Having regard to EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise and the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, which give direct effect to the Directive, Local Authorities are required to prepare Noise Action Plans to manage the existing noise environment and protect the future noise environment within the action plan area.

Increased levels of environmental noise will be prevented and avoided where possible, through the integration of noise management into the planning process for the development of new noise sensitive premises, or sources of long term environmental noise, such as road, railways and industrial sites. In considering planning applications the Councils will have regard to any Noise Action Plan relating to the site location.

### Noise

It is the **policy** of the Councils:

- N01 To seek to ensure that new development does not cause an unacceptable increase in noise levels affecting surrounding properties.

### Noise

It is the **objective** of the Councils:

- N01 In considering planning applications to have regard to any Noise Action Plan prepared for the area in accordance with the EU Directive on Assessment and Management of Environmental Noise.

## Infrastructure

### 6.1 Introduction

The provision of good quality infrastructure is essential to the economic, social and cultural development of New Ross Town. Future development of the town will rely on the provision of improved infrastructure and accessibility to promote the town as an attractive place to live and to maintain its competitiveness with other large towns in the region. Development of infill sites and the promotion of higher densities around transport nodes will also result in greater land use efficiency and lead to a reduction in infrastructure demands, thereby reducing impacts on the environment.

### 6.2 Water Supply

An assessment of water needs in New Ross was carried out by WCC in September 2009. Preliminary reports show that existing demand for the New Ross Water Supply Scheme is 3,100–3,500m<sup>3</sup>/day depending on time of year. This demand is met through the existing water supply scheme. An upgrade to the Castlemoyle Water Treatment Plant is expected be completed by 2011. This upgrade will improve existing river sources and the overall quality of the water supply itself.

Future demand for the scheme is estimated at approximately 6,700m<sup>3</sup>/day by the year 2025. It is proposed to satisfy future demand through retention of existing sources together with a new groundwater development at Adamstown. The Adamstown development is expected to provide an additional 4,700m<sup>3</sup>/day and will include a collection and treatment facility.

It should also be noted that the Councils are actively pursuing a leakage reduction policy. A detailed water conservation project is underway to reduce the current levels of unaccounted for water throughout the county.



**Right: Water Tower, Hewitsland.**



## Water Supply

It is the **policy** of the Councils to:

- WS01 Ensure an adequate, sustainable and economic supply of good quality water for domestic, commercial and industrial needs for the lifetime of this Plan, subject to the findings of an Appropriate Assessment in compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, where appropriate.
- WS02 Conserve supplies through the maintenance of the mains and the elimination of leakages.
- WS03 Promote public awareness on the maintenance of water quality and economic and sustainable use.
- WS04 Ensure that existing developments that are still discharging directly to the River Barrow and other freshwater sources are connected to public mains as soon as possible to optimise water quality status in accordance with the Water Framework Directive and the environmental standards and objectives of the South Eastern River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015.

## 6.3 Wastewater

A new wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and a pumping station have been completed. The WWTP has a design capacity of 16,000 P.E., with possible future expansion to 24,000 P.E. Estimated existing load for the town and environs (including KCC area) is 10,625 P.E. The new WWTP will have a positive impact on surface water quality in the area.

### Wastewater

It is the **policy** of the Councils:

- WW01 To provide optimum wastewater treatment facilities and infrastructure to serve the existing and future population of New Ross Town and Environs, whilst ensuring waste water discharge effluent standards are in line with the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations, 2001 and functioning of the facilities are in compliance with EPA Waste Water Discharge Licence conditions.
- WW02 To require and facilitate the connection of existing developments in the Mountgarrett area that are served by private wastewater treatment facilities to connect to the town's wastewater treatment system.

### Wastewater

It is the **objective** of the Councils:

- WW01 To provide a gravity sewer along the R733 to service industrial zoned lands at Marshmeadows.
- WW02 To maintain a 'sterilisation zone' around the Wastewater Treatment Plant as shown on Map 10. No residential development will be permitted within 150 metres of the Treatment Plant.



Above: Wastewater Treatment Plant, Marshmeadows.



**Above: Port at Marshmeadows south of the town with the new wastewater treatment plant in the foreground, bottom right.**



## 6.4 Flood Control & Drainage Systems

Flooding can significantly impact on human activities, property and the environment. With climate change the frequency, pattern and severity of flooding are expected to change, becoming more uncertain and more damaging. Some low-lying areas within New Ross Town are susceptible to flooding, to tidal surge or flash downpours. The physical nature of the built environment with its impervious surfaces including roads, car parks and roofs, increases storm water run-off. New Ross, by virtue of its steep streets, can experience very concentrated flows and requires careful consideration in this regard.

New development can exacerbate the problems of flooding by accelerating and increasing surface water run-off and removing floodplain storage. The provision of storm water retention facilities such as soft landscaping or storage systems serve to attenuate surface water discharges until peak storm flows have abated, thereby conserving pipe and culvert capacities downstream. Surface water run-off and flow volumes can also be significantly reduced through the layout and design of new developments, for example by using permeable pavements in the design of new parking areas and access roads.

An Interim Flood Relief Scheme has been put in place in New Ross as part of the Main Drainage Scheme, providing some protection from floods along the Quays. The following flood relief works have been completed as part of this Scheme:

- Construction of concrete flood wall to 3.3m AOD Malin Head along most of the Quay front from Bridge Street to the Dunbrody Centre.
- Provision of temporary flood gates at certain sections of the Quay – at the Galley Restaurant and behind the Harbour Master's office. The gates will be installed in times of flood warnings.
- Construction of a ramp on the N25 (near Lidl supermarket).
- Non-return outlet valves have been provided at the surface water outlets to the river. This will prevent river water from entering the surface water network.
- An overflow system from the surface water network to the new interceptor sewer has been constructed. This will ensure that should the tide rise above the non-return valves preventing them from opening and preventing the surface water from entering the river, then the surface water will spill over into the interceptor sewer and flow onto the new pumping station at the marina. There is an emergency overflow pump there to pump excess flows directly to the river.

In accordance with 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DEHLG, OPW, 2009), a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been carried out as part of the preparation of the Development Plan. It is contained in Appendix V. The flood zones identified as part of the assessment informed the sequential approach and the justification test, which were used to determine land use zoning objectives for the development plan area. In certain areas within or adjacent to the urban core, development in Flood Zones A and B will be necessary to facilitate the compact and sustainable expansion of the town centre, to facilitate growth targeted for the town under the NSS and the RPGs. In such cases the Councils will seek to mitigate risks through the location, layout and design of the development.

### Flood Control & Drainage Systems

It is the **policy** of the Councils:

- SW01 To safeguard floodplains from inappropriate development. By retaining open spaces for storage and conveyance of floodwater, flood risk to both upstream and downstream areas can be more effectively managed without reliance on flood defences.
- SW02 To carefully consider the alteration of natural drainage systems and in the case of development works require the provision of acceptable mitigation measures in order to minimise the risk of flooding and negative impacts on water quality.
- SW03 Proposals for new developments in Flood Zone A and B for developments that are vulnerable to flooding shall be accompanied by an appropriate Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment carried out in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG, OPW November 2009). The assessment must detail how the Development Management Justification Test has been met.



- SW04 To facilitate the provision of suitable flood risk management infrastructure, for example flood defences, by the OPW, the local authority or private developers, subject to the findings of an Appropriate Assessment in compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, where appropriate.
- SW05 To require the provision of adequate storm water retention facilities in new developments, including the use of soft landscaping and sustainable drainage techniques. The Councils will seek to ensure that all proposed drainage systems are consistent with Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) and will ensure that the rate of discharge into the public surface water system are restricted in line with stormwater management policy.
- SW06 Any proposal for new development on lands zoned for Port-Related Activities at Marshmeadows for developments that are vulnerable to flooding must be accompanied by an appropriate Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment contained in Appendix V of the Development Plan and the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG, OPW November 2009). The assessment must detail how the Development Management Justification Test has been met, clearly demonstrating that:
- (i) the development is for a use that complies with the Port-Related Activities land use zoning,
  - (ii) the development proposed will not increase flood risk elsewhere, and if practicable, will reduce overall flood risk,
  - (iii) the development proposal includes measures to minimise flood risk to people, property, the economy and the environment as far as reasonably possible and;
  - (iv) the development proposed includes measures to ensure that residual risks to the area and/or development can be managed to an acceptable level as regards the adequacy of existing flood protection measures or the design, implementation and funding of any future flood risk management measures and provisions for emergency services.

## 6.5 Waste Management

Waste management is a fundamental requirement for sustainable development and environmental protection and we cannot continue to rely on landfill as the principal means of waste disposal. There are a number of EU Directives that apply to the area of waste management defining the legal context within which waste must be planned and managed. The Joint Waste Management Plan for the South East Region was adopted in 2006. The Plan highlights current levels of waste and sets objectives whereby overall levels will be reduced and stabilised in order to comply with both national and European legislative guidelines. The guidelines set out a hierarchy of preferential modes of waste management, focusing on prevention, minimisation, re-use/ recycle and disposal with energy recovery and disposal of residual waste.

New Ross is well advanced in the sustainable management of waste. There are two purpose-built civic amenity sites located within the development area at Hewitsland and Rosbercon. Hewitsland Civic Amenity Centre is a relatively new facility which caters for a range of waste products including but not limited to electrical goods, textiles, waste oil, oil filters and scrap metals. Rosbercon Civic Amenity Site includes a shredding facility. Smaller bring centres are located at the Library car park, Irishtown and Castlemoyle (Statoil Garage). A newspaper recycling facility is also located at St. Joseph's primary school. The Councils will seek to retain and expand these services where possible.

Hazardous waste is provided for in the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2008-2012 prepared by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Councils will seek to ensure that hazardous waste is disposed of in a safe manner in accordance with the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan and any subsequent amendments or revisions of this Plan.



Above: Civic Amenity Site, Hewitland.

## Waste Management

It is the **policy** of the Councils:

- WM01 To implement the specific objectives contained in the Joint Waste Management Plan for the South East 2006-2011.
- WM02 To require a Waste Management Plan to accompany planning applications for significant developments where appropriate. The Waste Management Plan shall supply full details of all wastes generated (including topsoil/'clean fill') and proposals for the prevention, re-use, minimisation and disposal of these wastes. The Plan shall be prepared in accordance with Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction & Demolition Projects (DEHLG, 2006).
- WM03 To encourage communities to become involved in environmental awareness activities and community-based recycling or environmental management initiatives that will lead to local sustainable waste management practices.
- WM04 To encourage waste minimisation strategies for domestic, industrial and commercial wastes. The Councils will support initiatives such as the 'Green Business Initiative' and the 'Green Schools Programme' which promote waste prevention in businesses and schools.

## Waste Management

It is the **objective** of the Councils:

- WM01 To continue to provide bring facilities throughout the town in easily accessible locations where population growth demands. Planning applications for significant developments, for example supermarkets, will be required to submit proposals for bottle-bank facilities.
- WM02 To support the roll out of a three-bin system for domestic and commercial developments within the town and environs area.

## 6.6 Telecommunications and Energy

To accord with the principles of sustainable development and to maintain economic competitiveness, the Councils will facilitate the provision of accessible telecommunications infrastructure to all residents in the plan area and will encourage energy conservation and development of renewable energy resources. A modern telecommunications system and a good energy supply will have major spin-offs in terms of attracting inward investment and supporting economic development in the town and environs.

### Telecommunications and Energy

It is the **policy** of the Councils:

- TE01 To support the improvement of energy generation and transmission infrastructure and to ensure the security of energy supply for the existing and future population of the town and environs.
- TE02 To locate services, including electricity, telephone and TV cabling underground, where possible, with future capacity considered and appropriate ducting put in place.
- TE03 To provide orderly development of telecommunications infrastructure throughout the town in accordance with the requirements of the “Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures, Guidelines for Planning Authorities” July 1996.
- TE04 To maximise the use of existing masts by sharing installations for antennae support structures.
- TE05 To support the development of wide access to high speed broadband.
- TE06 To adopt a presumption against the erection of antennae in proximity to residential areas, schools or community facilities, structures of historical or architectural interest and areas and sites of archaeological importance.
- TE07 To facilitate the provision of an accessible and free WiFi zone in the town centre.

### 6.6.1 Renewable Energy

The development of energy sources and supply, in particular renewable energy, is a priority at national and European level for both environmental and energy policy reasons. Renewable energy sources have an important role to play in achieving national targets in relation to reductions in fossil fuel dependency and greenhouse gas emissions. The Councils strongly support national and international incentives for limiting emissions of greenhouse gases and will prioritise the development of renewable energy resources and the maximisation of electricity production from renewable sources where possible. In doing so the Councils will have regard to the Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG, 2006) and any other relevant guidelines that may be published from time to time.

### Renewable Energy

It is the **policy** of the Councils:

- RE01 To promote energy conservation, decrease dependency on fossil fuels and support environmentally friendly methods of producing energy.
- RE02 To facilitate the continual development of renewable energy sources having regard to residential amenities, biodiversity and landscape sensitivities.
- RE03 To encourage the participation of local residents, community and schools groups in sustainable energy projects and awareness campaigns.
- RE04 To engage in consultation with other agencies regarding the development of an Energy Master Plan for the town to allow for a maximisation of energy efficiency.
- RE05 To support the implementation of the South-East Region Bio-Energy Implementation Plan 2008-2013.
- RE06 To support the implementation of the National Climate Change Strategy and any Regional Climate Change Action Plan or Climate Change Strategy adopted for the County.

### Renewable Energy

It is the **objective** of the Councils:

- RE01 To promote the extension of the Natural Gas network to New Ross Town and Environs.
- RE02 To investigate the potential for small-scale wind energy developments within the urban and industrial areas.



## 6.6.2 Energy Efficiency in Buildings

The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) was transposed into Irish law through the European Communities (Energy Performance of Buildings) Regulations 2006 and the European Communities (Energy Performance of Buildings) (Amendment) Regulations 2008. As part of the Directive, a Building Energy Rating (BER) certificate is required once a building is offered for rental or sale. The BER measures the energy performance of a building and is also useful for determining compliance with Part L of the Building Regulations. Public service buildings are required to display an energy certificate under the European Communities (Energy Performance of Buildings) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2008.

The Councils recognise the need to reduce dependence on fossil fuels for energy generation and are committed to supporting the development of renewable energy resources and increasing the use of renewable energy in all new building projects. All new buildings shall be designed and constructed in accordance with Part L of the Building Regulations 2008, and any subsequent amendment to those regulations, so as to ensure the energy performance of the building is such as to limit the amount of energy required for its operation and the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions associated with this energy use. This can be achieved using a combination of measures including the use of renewable energy sources, limiting heat loss and availing of heat gain through the fabric of the dwelling.

### Energy Efficiency in Buildings

It is the **policy** of the Councils to:

- EN01 Require all new building developments to meet low energy performance targets. Each buildings energy performance, as calculated by the Building Energy Rating (BER), will have a minimum energy efficiency that meets the requirements of Part L of the Building Regulations 2008 and any subsequent amendment to those regulations. New buildings should incorporate renewable energy technologies in order to help achieve the rating required.
- EN02 Promote the prioritisation of energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy in the design, layout and operation of new developments.
- EN03 Promote innovative housing design and layout solutions that address concerns of environmental sustainability with regard to matters such as energy efficiency and use of materials.
- EN04 Encourage the integration of micro renewable energy sources into the design and construction of single and multiple housing developments.
- EN05 Have regard to the Guidelines on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (DEHLG, 2008) in the assessment of any proposals for residential development, including inter alia those in respect of energy efficiency, passive solar design and renewable energy sources.

## Housing

### 7.1 Introduction

The Councils have statutory obligations to ensure that sufficient land is zoned for all types of housing to meet the town's projected housing requirements over the plan period. The future household projections for New Ross Town and Environs are contained in the Core Strategy section of this Plan. One of the basic aims of any Local Authority is to promote balanced social, physical and economic development. The availability of housing for a diverse range of housing needs is important for sustaining communities and for enhancing quality of life. Local needs and requirements will determine the rate of public sector house building, whilst in the private sector the market has a greater influence on the demand and supply of new housing including locational preferences.

### 7.2 New Residential Development

The Councils will attempt to consolidate growth within and around the existing town fabric to develop a compact urban form and to attain the most efficient use of existing infrastructural services. The design of dwellings in residential estates should bear a relationship to the nature, scale and form of the existing built fabric within the settlement. New housing developments should be designed in accordance with 'Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas' and its companion document 'Best Practice Urban Design Manual' (DEHLG, 2008). Dwellings should also achieve the minimum standards set out in 'Quality Housing for Sustainable Communities: Best Practice Guidelines for Delivering Homes Sustaining Communities' (DEHLG, 2007). A variety of dwelling types, sizes and designs will be encouraged to ensure a good social mix.

In order to improve the supply of suitable housing choice for the future, all new housing estates of 10 dwellings or more shall seek to ensure that at least 20% of the proposed dwellings are adaptable to provide accommodation for people with disabilities.

#### Housing

It is the **policy** of the Councils:

- HS01 To promote a high standard of architecture in the design of new housing developments and to encourage a variety of house types, sizes and tenure. Consideration will be given to existing stock and occupancy levels in the plan area of the type of residential unit that is proposed.
- HS02 All new housing estates of 10 dwellings or more shall seek to ensure that at least 20% of the proposed dwellings are adaptable to provide accommodation for people with disabilities.
- HS03 Applications for residential developments with the potential to create significant demands on the traffic network by virtue of the location and/or scale of the development shall be accompanied by a Traffic Management and Mobility Plan.

#### Housing

It is the **objective** of the Councils:

- HS01 To implement the County Housing Strategy 2007-2013 and any subsequent strategy adopted by the Councils and to integrate housing provided under Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, into private development in a layout that prevents segregation and promotes good design and layout.

- HS02 To carry out the Councils' responsibilities under the Housing Acts and to provide Local Authority dwellings, affordable units and voluntary co-operative housing as need arises and as finances permit.
- HS03 To ensure the necessary infrastructural investment to facilitate the overall level of housing output required to meet the current and anticipated levels of demand in a planned and coherent fashion.
- HS04 To actively promote the provision of community, educational, social and recreational facilities in parallel with future housing development.

### 7.2.1 Zoned Land

The Development Plan forecasts a population of 9,147 persons by 2019. This represents an increase of 541 persons from the estimated population for the town and environs in 2009. In addition to the existing residential zoning the Councils have provided an element of new zoning to ensure that New Ross has an adequate amount of residentially zoned land to allow choice in the market and delivery of services. This will ensure that the availability of zoned land will not be a constraining factor in the housing market and there will be sufficient choice available for both the developer and the purchaser. It is envisaged that future residential development will take place within the plan area as shown on the Land Use Zoning Map (Map 9).

### Housing

It is the **policy** of the Councils:

- HS04 To ensure that there is a sufficient amount of zoned land within New Ross Town and Environs to meet residential needs up to 2019.
- HS05 To co-ordinate and facilitate the release of new residential development, giving priority to locations that enhance the existing urban structure (sequential test) and which can be integrated into existing public services. Development of greenfield sites will therefore be encouraged to occur in a sequential manner with the lands nearest the town centre being developed first.



Above: Convent Court, Irishtown.





Above: Cluain Fada, Morrissysland.

### 7.2.2 Social, Affordable and Voluntary Housing

The Councils will ensure that there is an adequate supply of social and affordable housing to meet the needs of the town and environs for the plan period. Ideally the provision of social and affordable housing will be mixed with private housing to promote social inclusion and integration of communities. In general 20% of land zoned for residential development or for a mix of residential development and other uses will be reserved for social and affordable housing. The regeneration of existing housing stock is also vital to ensure a high quality living environment.

#### Housing

It is the **policy** of the Councils:

- HS06 To continue to meet social housing needs in the town and to integrate housing provided under Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, into private developments in small schemes so as to prevent segregation and promote good design and layout.
- HS07 To ensure that 20% of any land zoned solely for residential use or for a mixture of residential and other uses shall be reserved for the provision of social and affordable housing in accordance with the requirements of Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and the County Housing Strategy 2007-2013.
- HS08 To support and facilitate the expansion of the role played by the voluntary sector in meeting social housing need.

#### Housing

It is the **objective** of the Councils:

- HS05 To regenerate the Councils' current housing stock as required.

### 7.2.3 Residential Care Homes

The Councils recognise the need to provide for a range of accommodation for those who require supervised care. In considering applications for care homes the Councils will have regard to the following:

- The existing social facilities and demand within the area. Applicants shall ensure, through consultation with the Councils, that facilities are located to avoid the grouping of care homes in a particular area. In

locations where there is a grouping of a particular user group applications should include an assessment of the impact on local services in order to ensure that the necessary support is available;

- The impact on the physical character of the area such as car parking levels, private amenity space;
- The impact on noise and disturbance from additional traffic;
- The standard of accommodation and facilities offered. In large developments or developments which are not located adjacent to local facilities the provision of such facilities will be required, for example prayer rooms /chapels and shops.

#### 7.2.4 Accommodation for Members of the Travelling Community

The Councils recognise the distinct culture and lifestyle of the travelling community and will endeavour to provide suitable accommodation for Travellers who are indigenous to the town and its environs. The Councils will implement measures, as required by national policy and in accordance with the County Housing Strategy 2007-2013, the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013 and any subsequent strategy or programme, to provide accommodation for members of the travelling community, whether by way of residential caravan sites/ halting sites, including transient sites, or by housing, as may be appropriate. The design and layout of accommodation will be undertaken in conjunction with members of the travelling community and will have regard to The Housing (Travelling Accommodation) Act, 1998 and relevant guidelines issued by the DEHLG.

##### Housing

It is the **policy** of the Councils:

- HS09 To provide for Traveller accommodation in halting sites, individual dwellings or in-group housing schemes in accordance with the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013 and any subsequent programme adopted by the Councils.

#### 7.2.5 Community Facilities

The Councils will actively promote the provision of accessible community, educational, social and recreational facilities in parallel with future housing development. The provision of such facilities is important for quality of life and to promote the town as a good place to live. Community facilities should be located within close proximity to existing and future housing developments in order to promote walking and cycling over use of the private car. This accords with the Core Strategy and Transportation Strategy contained in this Plan.

##### Housing

It is the **policy** of the Councils:

- HS10 To facilitate and co-operate with other organisations in the provision of services for the community including, in particular, schools, crèches and other education and childcare facilities in parallel with future housing.
- HS11 To facilitate the provision of additional primary and second level schools in appropriate locations where residential expansion is planned.
- HS12 To ensure that the provision of recreational areas and the development of residential areas (where both form part of the same development boundary), are undertaken concurrently.
- HS13 To require the provision of Childcare Facilities in new residential developments in accordance with Childcare Facilities: Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2001 and We Like This Place: Guidelines for Best Practice in the Design of Childcare Facilities 2005. The indicative standard is one childcare facility, accommodating 20 children, for approximately 75 dwellings. This standard may be modified in any particular case where there are significant reasons for doing so. Criteria that may be taken into account in such an assessment include the existing geographical distribution of childcare facilities and the emerging demographic profile of the area.
- HS14 To retain existing open space areas within housing estates.

### 7.2.6 Residential Density and Design

The Guidelines on Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for Apartments 2007, Quality Housing for Sustainable Communities 2007 and Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas 2008 set out the Government policy of encouraging more sustainable urban development by the avoidance of excessive suburbanisation and the promotion of higher residential densities in appropriate locations. This will result in:

- More economic use of existing infrastructure and serviced land;
- A reduced need for the development of 'greenfield' sites, urban sprawl and ribbon development;
- Reduced need for investment in infrastructure;
- Better access to existing services and facilities;
- More sustainable commuting patterns.

The Councils recognise that higher densities will not be appropriate in every circumstance. In achieving higher densities the protection of the amenities of existing developments and those of the residents of the proposed development will be a primary consideration. A high quality of architecture in the siting and design, providing a good quality living environment is essential if increased residential densities are to be acceptable. The development management standards set out in Section 15 outline the standards that will be applied to new development proposals to ensure a high quality living space.



Above: Brooklawn, Chambersland.

#### Housing

It is the **policy** of the Councils:

- HS15 To require diversity in the density of development and in the form, size and type of dwelling within residential areas.
- HS16 To ensure that a high standard of design is incorporated into structures and layout of housing developments, to facilitate pedestrian safety and restrict vehicular traffic speeds.
- HS17 To promote energy conservation and renewable energy technologies in developments. Such measures shall be consistent with other policies in this Plan.
- HS18 To require that all new residential accommodation meets the necessary standards of accessibility, health, sanitation and design, and are carried out generally in accordance with principles of good design.
- HS19 To encourage strong frontages onto the main thoroughfares creating definite building lines and continuity of the town structure.
- HS20 To encourage equal access housing in accordance with the standards set out in Section 15 of this Plan.

### 7.2.7 Infill Housing

Infill housing in the existing built up areas of the town will be encouraged. Any proposals should be designed to integrate successfully with the existing pattern of development in terms of housing type, scale and details to include material finishes and building lines. In all cases the protection of the amenities of existing development should be a significant consideration.

#### Housing

It is the **policy** of the Councils:

- HS21 To encourage infill development on appropriate sites where the proposals respect the existing scale and character of the area.



# Section 8

## Community and Education

### 8.1 Introduction

Building strong and inclusive communities is a key element in achieving sustainable development. Economic development is undoubtedly important but for sustainable development, people must have access to the provision of good quality education, health, childcare services, recreation and leisure amenities and facilities, community support services and a good quality accessible built environment. Underlying this is the opportunity for all members of the community young and old, to meet and interact in order to form strong social networks and develop a sense of place and belonging.

### 8.2 Community Facilities

The Councils are committed to providing accessible community, recreational and cultural facilities to serve the needs and expectations of the growing and diverse population of New Ross and the surrounding rural hinterland. The Councils recognise that a range of community facilities is essential to improve the quality of life of existing residents and also to attract people to live in the town. Where additional community facilities are required as a result of new development, the developer will be expected to contribute to the cost of the provision of these facilities. This will be facilitated through the Development Contribution Scheme.



Above: Town Park, The Quay.

## Community

It is the **policy** of the Councils:

- C01 To promote the development of sustainable communities on the basis of a high quality of life where people can live, work and enjoy access to a wide range of community, cultural, health and educational facilities suitable for all ages and needs.
- C02 To support and facilitate the provision of new and the improvement of existing community, health and educational facilities. The Councils will, where possible, protect and improve cultural assets in the interests of public enjoyment and for the education of residents and visitors alike.
- C03 To facilitate the provision of adequate community facilities in accordance with the County Development Board strategy as outlined in the document "Remodelling the Model County 2002 - 2012", and any future revision of this document, in relation to the provision of childcare, play, sports and the arts.

## Community

It is the **objective** of the Councils:

- C01 To carry out within the lifetime of the plan, a 'Social Audit' which will identify the areas within the town where community and social facilities are lacking and the facilities which require further development/expansion.

## 8.3 Community Participation

The Councils are committed to maintaining good working relationships with voluntary groups and organisations within New Ross and to supporting efforts by communities to provide and improve facilities and amenities in their local areas. The Councils will seek to establish a partnership approach with local community groups and relevant agencies as the basis for the formulation of local planning policies or action plans, which reflect the real needs of the community. It is intended to promote public awareness of the functions and activities of the Councils, to provide information in relation to their policies and objectives and to engage in consultation with local communities as appropriate.

New Ross is a designated RAPID area (Revitalising Areas by Planning Investment and Development). RAPID is a focused initiative by the government to target concentrated areas of disadvantage. The programme centres on facilitating closer co-ordination and better integration in the delivery of local services. Community and voluntary participation is at the heart of the RAPID Programme. RAPID Structures have been devised to give communities a strong input into the Plan for their own areas. Current projects supported by this initiative in New Ross Town include the development of a healthy living centre and the New Ross Allotments Project.

## Community

It is the **policy** of the Councils:

- C04 To encourage and assist the formation, development, direction and co-ordination of community organisations, local interests and self help groups, with an emphasis on areas of special needs within the town.

## Community

It is the **objective** of the Councils:

- C02 To co-operate with private and commercial interests, community and voluntary groups and state agencies in ensuring an equitable distribution of facilities at locations convenient to where people live and work.

## 8.4 Groups with Specific Design/Planning Needs

There are some groups in the community who will face more barriers than others in accessing services and facilities, for example, older people, people with young children, people with disabilities, the Travelling community and Ethnic Minorities. The removal of physical barriers to access and movement, creating a safe environment and ensuring the adequate development of appropriate commercial and community facilities in and adjacent to the town centre and neighbourhoods centres, is important in creating a more accessible environment for everyone in the community.

### 8.4.1 Older People

The Councils recognise that the demand for nursing homes, residential care homes and sheltered housing accommodation, is continuing to grow in the town. The Councils will support the provision of appropriate housing accommodation for older people. Such facilities should be integrated wherever possible into the established residential areas of the town, where residents can avail of reasonable access to local services. Good design is important in creating a safe and barrier-free environment which is easily accessible and negotiable by older people.

### 8.4.2 People with Young Children

The removal of physical barriers to access and movement for those with young children in prams and buggies is important for any new development or for the upgrading of the existing built environment. Level access to buildings, dished kerbs, parent and child parking facilities and baby changing and feeding facilities are important and should be incorporated into the design of buildings and the layout of developments to which the public could be expected to have frequent access. Access to childcare and community facilities is also important.

### 8.4.3 People with Disabilities

People with disabilities face particular physical barriers to access and movement. For people with mobility impairments, ensuring level/ramped access to buildings, dished kerbs and the provision of appropriate parking and toilet facilities are important. For people with visual impairments, tactile paving and audible signals at pedestrian crossing are necessary.

The Councils will require that the design of buildings and the layout of developments to which the public could be expected to have frequent access incorporate measures to ensure accessibility. Access requirements for people with disabilities, the elderly and others who may be temporarily impaired must be incorporated into the design of buildings, public spaces, car parking, footpaths and general facilities and services. Developers must have regard to criteria set out in the following in the preparation of development proposals:

- Part M of the Building Regulations and the requirement for Disability Access Certificates (DACs)
- Buildings for Everyone: Inclusion, Access and Use published by the National Disability Authority in 2002 and any subsequent revisions to this document
- Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas: Guidelines for Planning Authorities and its companion document Urban Design Manual (DEHLG, 2008).

The Councils shall promote and encourage Universal Design and Lifetime Housing in all new developments in accordance with the policies and principles contained in Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas: Guidelines for Planning Authorities and its companion document Urban Design Manual (DEHLG, 2008). Universal Design is defined as referring to the design and composition of an environment so that it can be accessed, understood and used to the greatest extent possible by all people, regardless of their age, size or disability. This type of housing allows accessibility/easy adaption for accessibility by the permanently and temporarily disabled, young families and the elderly. It is a proactive step in addressing disability as well as increasing the value and sustainability of buildings in the long term.

Notwithstanding the above the Councils shall require that all new housing estates of 10 dwellings or more should ensure that at least 20% of the dwellings are suitable to accommodate or are adaptable to provide accommodation for people with disabilities, in accordance with Section 7.2 and 15.5.3 of the Plan.



#### 8.4.4 Travelling Community

Travellers are an indigenous minority and have been a part of Irish society for centuries. Travellers have a long shared history and value system which makes them a distinct group. They have their own customs and traditions. The Councils recognise the long tradition of the traveller community within the County and the distinct requirements arising from their culture. The Councils' Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013 will address the particular accommodation needs of members of the New Ross Travelling community. The promotion of mainstream public services that are accessible and welcoming to Travellers is vital as is ensuring that members of the Travelling Community can easily access facilities such as shops, schools, childcare and community facilities.

#### 8.4.5 Ethnic Minority Groups

The integration of all groups in society is important in creating and maintaining sustainable communities. Ethnic Minority groups in the town may face barriers to services and communities for reasons including language. The provision of services and community facilities should reflect the varying needs of these groups so as to facilitate ease of integration into the community.

#### Community

It is the **policy** of the Councils:

- C05 To support the entitlement of all members of the community to enjoy a decent living environment in the town and to support local communities, the Health Authorities and other bodies involved in the provision of facilities for groups with specific design/planning needs.
- C06 To ensure that all new developments within the town are easily accessible by people with specific design/planning needs.
- C07 To seek to ensure that a minimum of 20% of all new residential development of 10 or more dwelling units are adaptable to provide accommodation for people with disabilities.
- C08 To promote and encourage Universal Design and Lifetime Housing in all new developments in accordance with the policies and principles contained in Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas: Guidelines for Planning Authorities and its companion document Urban Design Manual (DEHLG, 2008).

#### Community

It is the **objective** of the Councils:

- C03 To carry out within the lifetime of the Plan a 'Town Accessibility Audit' which will identify the physical obstacles to accessibility and inform a programme for achieving greater accessibility for all members of the community.

### 8.5 Childcare Facilities

Changes in the population structure, the significant increase in female participation in the labour force and ongoing social change have given rise in a short period of time to a significant increase in the demand for childcare facilities. Wexford County Childcare Committee carried out a Childcare Audit in 2006 which identified New Ross as a gap area in terms of childcare facilities. In particular the town is lacking a community-based childcare facility.

The provision of childcare facilities is recognised as being important for economic and social well being. The National Anti-Poverty Strategy identifies childcare provision as a means of alleviating poverty and social exclusion. Accordingly, national policy in regard to childcare is to increase the number of places available and to improve the quality of childcare services for the community.

An 'Assessment of Childcare Need in County Wexford', launched in 2008, notes that the rate of female participation in the labour force in County Wexford is lower than that of other counties in the region. This may be due to the lack of availability of suitable employment opportunities, lack of suitable affordable childcare facilities, or as a result of personal choice. The Assessment recognises the need to expand current childcare provision and develop additional childcare provision that is affordable, flexible, accessible and of high quality.

The Councils will promote dual use facilities, so that childcare facilities are capable of being adapted or used as another type of community facility should that need arise. 'Childcare' is taken to mean full day care, sessional facilities and services both for pre-school and after school.

### Community

It is the **policy** of the Councils:

- C09 To require the provision of Childcare Facilities in new residential developments in accordance with Childcare Facilities: Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2001 and We Like This Place: Guidelines for Best Practice in the Design of Childcare Facilities 2005. The indicative standard is one childcare facility, accommodating 20 children, for approximately 75 dwellings. This standard may be modified in any particular case where there are significant reasons for doing so. Criteria that may be taken into account in such an assessment include the existing geographical distribution of childcare facilities and the emerging demographic profile of the area.
- C10 To encourage and facilitate the provision of crèches and play-schools where feasible within new or existing places of work or in proximity thereof, e.g. in light industrial estates.
- C11 To facilitate the development of childcare facilities where demand arises subject to satisfying applicable planning and engineering criteria.

### Community

It is the **objective** of the Councils:

- C04 To work with and support the Wexford County Childcare Committee in developing a programme for the development of childcare services and facilities in New Ross.

## 8.6 Education

The existence of adequate education facilities can lead to the increased attractiveness of an area for location of businesses and families and increased development and prosperity. Education has long been cited as one of the key factors for development and it is now accepted that a highly educated population leads to a decrease in factors leading to social exclusion. The Councils will seek to create an environment in which every resident can develop their full potential to enable them to participate in all aspects of life. Therefore, it is important that educational facilities within a developing area are accommodated.



Above: St. Mary's School, Irishtown.

In many urban and rural areas across the county, there have been significant increases in residential development without the accompanying educational facilities. This has placed considerable strain on existing facilities in these areas. Future provision should be planned and implemented in concert with residential development. Where such provision is being planned, new facilities should be located where possible close to or within the main residential areas in order to maximise the use of walking, cycling and public transport and to reinforce the sense of community.

There are currently four primary schools and five secondary schools in New Ross as listed in Tables 10 and 11 below. New Ross Vocational College also caters for 121 post-leaving certificate pupils with links to Dublin Institute of Technology, Waterford Institute of Technology and the National College of Ireland. The schools are almost at full capacity with the exception of CBS secondary school which has capacity for approximately 100 students.

**Table 10: Existing Capacity in Primary Schools**

<b>Primary Schools</b>	
CBS Primary	208
St. Joseph's N.S.	378
St. Michael's N.S.	151
St. Canice's, Rosbercon Millbanks	267
<b>Total Enrolment</b>	<b>1004</b>

**Table 11: Existing Capacity in Secondary Schools**

<b>Secondary Schools</b>	
CBS Secondary, Mountgarrett	200
Our Lady of Lourdes, Rosbercon Millbanks	350
St. Mary's Secondary School, Irishtown	467
Good Counsel College, Reddysland	730
New Ross Vocational School, Stephensland	142
<b>Total Enrolment</b>	<b>2009</b>



**Above: St. Joseph's School, Michael Street.**

### 8.6.1 Educational Requirements

In consultation with the Councils the Department of Education and Skills (DES) has identified the requirement for new primary school facilities in New Ross. Planning permission has recently been granted by WCC for the construction of two primary schools, each consisting of 18 classrooms, and a Special Needs Unit at Castlemoyle.

The amalgamation of schools at post-primary level is also under consideration by the DES. The Councils will support and encourage the provision of new schools in the town and will facilitate such development by identifying appropriate lands and through continued consultation with the DES in accordance with 'The Provision of Schools and the Planning System' (DEHLG, 2008).

#### Education

It is the **policy** of the Councils:

- EC01 To facilitate the provision of education facilities by zoning suitable lands.
- EC02 To consult with the Department of Education and Skills regarding the location and provision of adequate educational facilities and identification of suitable sites.
- EC03 To restrict new development adjacent to existing schools where such development may have the potential to restrict the expansion of that school.

#### Education

It is the **objective** of the Councils:

- EC01 To consider the future development of educational facilities at Castlemoyle.

### 8.6.2 Dual Use of School Buildings

School and other educational premises represent a valuable resource in terms of land and buildings, which are generally only used on a partial basis. The dual use of educational facilities, where it does not conflict with the delivery of the education service (i.e. outside school hours and during school holidays) can contribute to meeting the wider needs of the community, by helping to satisfy demand for a variety of uses. The Childcare Facilities: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (Department of Environment, 2001) recommend the use of school premises to cater for after-school care.

Where lands and buildings can be beneficially used by the community, the Councils will promote such uses. Where new schools or other community facilities are proposed, the Councils will seek to ensure that they are designed in such a way as to facilitate dual use from the onset.



## Recreation & Open Space

### 9.1 Introduction

It is acknowledged that the provision of a good range of recreational facilities and well-designed public open spaces can improve quality of life and the attractiveness of a town as place to live. The Councils recognise the need to protect and improve existing recreational facilities and public open spaces where they exist and to provide new facilities and public open spaces in areas where they are deficient. This policy is in line with Objective D of The National Children's Strategy 2000 which states that "children will have access to play, sport, recreation and cultural activities to enrich their experience of childhood".

### 9.2 Open Space

A survey of open space provision was carried out as part of the preparation of the New Ross Town and Environs Development Plan 2004. This survey highlighted a lack of functional open space within the town but recognised that there is a good range and spread of formal recreation areas (e.g. sports pitches) and natural open spaces. The public open space provision has not changed much during the six year period 2004-2010. During this time there has been little opportunity to develop functional open spaces in and adjacent to the town centre, mainly due to the building density in this area.

The Town Park is the largest functional public open space in the plan area providing a range of activities, including a Multi-User Games Area (MUGA). Parts of The Quay also function as public amenity space. Recent works have improved the attractiveness of this area however further significant works are required to realise its potential as a central civic space. Smaller pockets of public open space exist around Three Bullet Gate and at the junction of Michael Street and Nunnery Lane. Public playgrounds are also located at the Town Park, Rosbercon, Michael Street and Mount Carmel Estate.



**Above: Town Park, The Quay.**



**Above: Three Bullet Gate.**

In addition there is a linear area of woodland to the north of the town along the eastern bank of the river which is designated as Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA). The New Ross Urban Design Waterfront Study 2006 seeks to develop a woodland walk in this area which would be connected to the town centre by a linear walkway/boardwalk along the riverfront. Improved access to this area could be achieved by the provision of additional linkages from Craywell Road.

The area along the river bank to the west of the River Barrow (north of O'Hanrahan Bridge) is also included in the SAC and pNHA areas. There is an opportunity to develop amenity uses as part of any future development of these lands and the adjacent greenfield lands, provided that such uses would not give rise to significant adverse impacts on the integrity of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC.

The town is limited in the development of green corridors due to the existing built environment and topographical constraints. Nevertheless there is an opportunity to develop attractive walkways which link green spaces, civic spaces and heritage areas to create strong urban spaces and increase pedestrian activity around the town centre. It is also the aspiration of the Councils that a second Town Park would be developed as part of any future development of the lands surrounding Mount Carmel Convent. Outside of the plan area to the south of the town, Oaklands Lake provides a unique and valuable amenity. There is an opportunity to link this facility to the town by way of a green corridor.

The Councils acknowledge that open space can provide a variety of functions, including passive recreation (such as walking), active recreation (such as field sports), visual amenity (important landscape views), ecology (bird and wildlife habitat; plant species), drainage regulation (particularly storm water control) and even socio-economic needs (meeting places, allotments and travelling carnivals). It is important that the provision of open space considers all of these needs. Key landscape features such as trees, stone walls, rock outcrops, streams and ponds create distinctiveness in the landscape and give a place its own identity. Where such features exist they should be retained where possible and incorporated into the design of new developments.

The design of new developments should incorporate accessibility as a key element to ensure usability of the facility/amenity by all. Loss of existing public or private open space will be resisted by the Councils unless alternative recreational facilities are provided in a suitable location.





**Above: Woodland area along the east riverbank north of the town. This area is a designated SAC and pNHA.**



**Above: On the right in the photograph - the western bank of the River Barrow (north of O'Hanrahan Bridge) is also included in the SAC and pNHA areas.**

## Open Space

It is the **policy** of the Councils:

- OS01 To ensure that adequate amenity and recreational open space and facilities, including community facilities and centres, are available for all groups of the population at a convenient distance from their homes and places of work.
- OS02 To facilitate the continued enhancement of the quayside and riverfront areas in accordance with the New Ross Urban Design Waterfront Study 2006 adopted by New Ross Town Council, subject to the findings of an Appropriate Assessment in compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, where appropriate.
- OS03 To ensure that a detailed landscaping plan accompanies all applications for housing estates and significant industrial and commercial developments.
- OS04 To avoid loss of public and private recreational open space unless alternative recreational facilities are provided in a suitable location.
- OS05 To support the implementation of the New Ross Allotments Programme in conjunction with the RAPID scheme.
- OS06 To seek to enhance existing areas of public open space.

## Open Space

It is the **objective** of the Councils:

- OS01 To carry out, in conjunction with the County Development Board, an Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study for New Ross Town and Environs.
- OS02 To examine the feasibility of providing a walkway adjacent to the disused railway line between Rosbercon and Annefield. The long-term objective to re-open this railway line should not be jeopardised.
- OS03 To examine the feasibility of providing a walkway/green corridor adjacent to the east of the R733 Road linking the Town Park with Oaklands Lake and the surrounding area.
- OS04 To examine the feasibility of providing a woodland walk along the eastern bank of the river to north of the town and to facilitate the development of new pedestrian linkages from Craywell Road to the proposed woodland walk subject to the findings of an Appropriate Assessment in compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, where appropriate.

## 9.3 Recreation

There is a wide range of recreational facilities available in New Ross Town including the public swimming pool and library at Barrack Lane. The Town Park provides a range of facilities to the public including tennis courts, running track, playground and a MUGA. Additional playgrounds are located at Rosbercon, Michael Street and Mount Carmel housing estate. St. Michael's Theatre, located on South Street, functions as a cinema at weekends and provides a venue for range of cultural and community events.

Sports facilities include Geraldine O'Hanrahan's GAA grounds at Healysland, New Ross Celtic A.F.C. at Butlersland and New Ross Rugby Club at Southknock. New Ross Golf Club is located approximately 2km northwest of the town. The Three Sisters Marina and Ross Adventure Playbarn also provide privately run recreational facilities for the local population. Current proposals are in place to re-locate the public swimming pool to Irishtown. The new location would be easily accessible to residential areas and schools on the northern side of the town, while also freeing up town centre lands.

The Councils recognise that sport is an essential component of everyday life, playing a valuable social, cultural and economic role, providing enjoyment for people, a livelihood for some, and promoting a healthy lifestyle. The Councils are committed to enhancing the range and quality of sports facilities and to ensure that there is reasonable public access to sport and a network of facilities. The Councils acknowledge the role played by sports clubs in the provision of facilities and opportunities for people to participate, and will continue to encourage and facilitate the development of such facilities.





Above: Soccer Club, Butlersland.



Above: Tennis Court, Town Park.



Above: MUGA, Town Park.



Above: New Ross Rugby Club, Southknock.



Above: Geraldine O'Hanrahan's GAA grounds in foreground.





Above: New Ross Public Library



Above: Swimming Pool



Above: Three Sisters Marina

## Recreation

It is the **policy** of the Councils:

- OS07 To secure the development of indoor and outdoor recreational facilities, which can be shared with schools, on suitable sites where resources are available.
- OS08 To facilitate the development of private lands for recreational purposes, having regard to the amenities of residents in vicinity and the environmental impact of the development.
- OS09 To facilitate sports clubs and their expansion in a practical manner.

## Recreation

It is the **objective** of the Councils:

- OS05 To facilitate the re-location of the public swimming pool to Irishtown.
- OS06 To facilitate the development of a Skate Park at an appropriate location in the town.

## 9.4 Public Rights of Way

The Councils will preserve and maintain public rights of way and promote their greater use in amenity areas. In order to link amenities and facilities, the Councils will, where appropriate, seek the provision of pedestrian ways as a condition of planning permission. Where pedestrian routes are proposed, they must be directly overlooked at ground floor level by dwellings, be well lit, have a straight alignment without bends or corners, have appropriate boundary walls/fencing and be constructed in accordance with the requirements to ensure accessibility.



Right: North Quay.

## Public Rights of Way

It is the **policy** of the Councils:

- PRW01 To protect and preserve those existing rights of way which contribute to general amenity.
- PRW02 To create new rights of way in the interest of amenity as opportunities or need arise.
- PRW03 To promote the development of river-side walking routes and foster the enjoyment of the natural amenities of the area including the River Barrow, whilst protecting areas of ecological value and ensuring that any development takes cognisance of the aims and objectives of the Water Framework Directive and achieving “good status” by 2015 and that all development is undertaken in compliance with Articles 6 and Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.
- PRW04 To encourage the provision of access routes to amenity areas in co-operation with landowners and protect amenity areas from infringement by inappropriate development.
- PRW05 To protect and enhance, through the development management process, existing town centre laneways which add to the character and permeability of the town. Regard shall be had to the New Ross Laneway Study 1999 and future amendments/revisions of this document.

## Public Rights of Way

It is the **objective** of the Councils:

- PRW01 To examine existing rights of way, paths and access points to the river and other amenity areas to determine where public rights of way exist and where public rights of way should be created, either by agreement or by compulsion, for the provision of walking routes.



# Section 10

## Tourism, Arts & Culture

### 10.1 Introduction

The development of the tourism, arts and cultural sectors has the potential to significantly increase the number of visitors to the town. This would provide valuable benefits to the local economy by way of increased expenditure and job creation. The town is well placed to maximise tourism development. A unique cultural identity gives the town a sense of place and contributes to its image and vitality. The Councils will therefore seek to protect, improve and further develop the tourism, arts and culture sectors in the town and surrounding areas.



Above: The Dunbrody - Famine Ship is a major tourist attraction in the town.

### 10.2 Tourism

The Councils recognise the contribution that tourism makes to the town's economy and the potential for growth in this industry having particular regard to the heritage of the town and the potential for river-based amenities. The proximity of New Ross to Rosslare Harbour and Waterford airport, together with its strategic location on the N25 and N30 national roads, make the town and surrounding area accessible to international and domestic tourists. Sufficient primary tourist attractions as well as the availability of appropriate secondary support services and infrastructure are the key to providing a viable tourist product.





**The Ros Tapestry Project is a massive community initiative in progress in New Ross. Conceived in 1998 and being developed by over a hundred dedicated volunteers, fifteen striking embroidered panels - 6 x 4 foot each - it is a cultural and historical accolade to its creators.**

**Left: A panel from the tapestry depicting a fair in the town.**

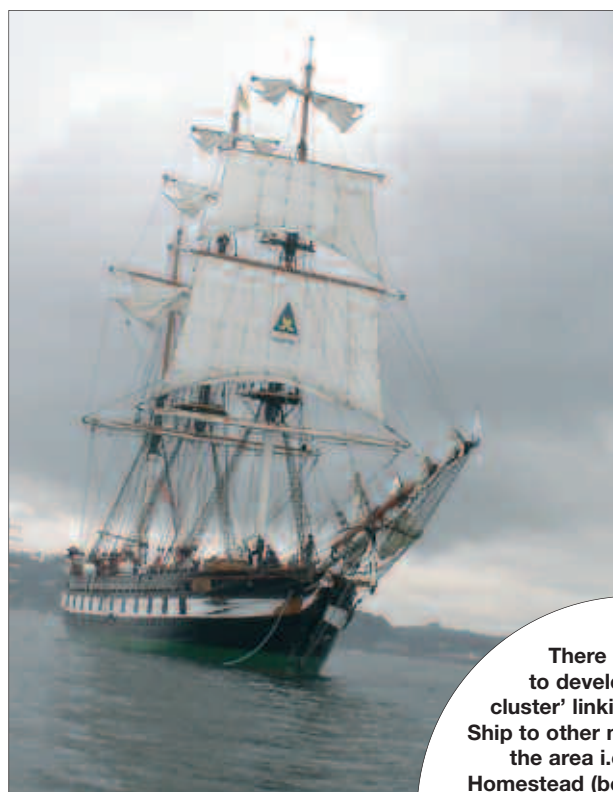
The town's existing tourism resource base can be summarised as follows:

- The overall character of the town in particular the historic centre with its medieval street pattern and large number of architecturally significant buildings;
- The fine quality of smaller scale elements including the survival of a remarkable number of very fine nineteenth- and early twentieth-century shopfronts;
- The rich archaeological heritage of the town including the upstanding remains of the town wall;
- The natural beauty of the River Barrow;
- Tourist attractions of national importance such as the Dunbrody Ship and Visitor Centre;
- Cultural projects such as the Ros Tapestry;
- Special attractions such as the Dunbrody and Piano Festivals;
- Recreational facilities including the Three Sisters Marina, New Ross Boat Club, New Ross Golf Club and Oaklands Lake;
- Proximity to a range of other tourist attractions.

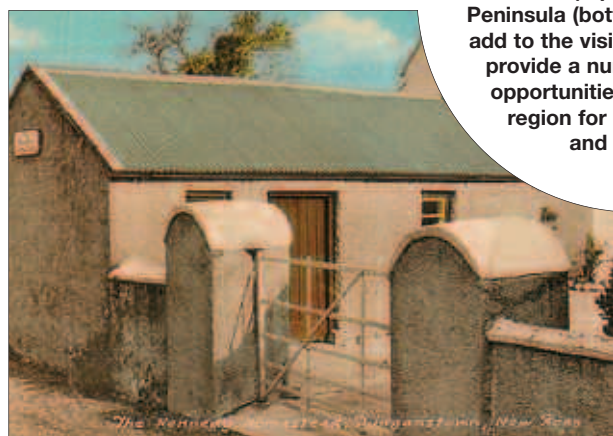
The Development Plan policy draws on the strategic tourism opportunities contained in the NSS, which recognises the opportunities for tourism growth based on heritage and natural landscapes, inland waterway circuits, development of tourism clusters and urban generated rural recreation. The Development Plan has also had regard to the Regional Tourism Development Plan 2008-2010.

It is an objective of the Regional Authority to work with the relevant authorities including the DEHLG/National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) to develop a Joint Development Programme for the River Barrow and its catchment for development of water-based activities on the river, ensuring that all such development would be undertaken in compliance with Article 6 and Article 10 of the Habitats Directive and subject to an Appropriate Assessment (AA). The Councils fully support this objective and will endeavour to implement it at the local level.

New Ross is located in the vicinity of some major tourist attractions in the south east. There is potential to develop a 'tourism cluster' linking the Dunbrody Ship to other major attractions in the area such as the Kennedy homestead, the J.F.K. Arboretum and the Hook Peninsula, all of which are internationally recognised. The Regional Tourism Development Plan 2008-2010 recognises that improved linkages between sites and attractions will add to the visitor experience and provide a number of business opportunities throughout the region for a range of visitor services and facilities – including accommodation, catering, retail and transport. New Ross has the potential to deliver high quality accommodation and other secondary facilities which will support the regional product and stimulate development in the town.



There is potential to develop a 'tourism cluster' linking the Dunbrody Ship to other major attractions in the area i.e. the Kennedy Homestead (bottom left), the JFK Arboretum (top right) and the Hook Peninsula (bottom right). This will add to the visitor experience and provide a number of business opportunities throughout the region for visitor services and facilities.



Consideration also needs to be given to the harnessing of new markets such as conference tourism and activity breaks. Course angling is already a popular activity at Oaklands Lake on the outskirts of the town. With the development of river-based amenities and further improvements to the historic walking trail New Ross could also be marketed as a short/activity break destination. This would be supported by growth in the retail sector and the protection of the town centre as the retail core, offering a range of shops and services including restaurants, cafes and bars in an attractive urban environment.

The tourist product will be enhanced by improvements to the overall townscape including the redevelopment of under-utilised and derelict sites. Care shall be taken to ensure that buildings of architectural importance are not compromised in such developments as these add to the character of the town. There is also potential to improve the Quayside and maximise the opportunities created by the riverscape through redevelopment and urban design. The creation of quality public spaces linked by attractive, safe and well-lit walkways will improve the public realm and make the experience more pleasant for residents and visitors alike.

The Councils believe that the key to future success is encouraging sustainable tourism development. While promoting and exploiting the natural resources available, care should be taken to ensure that these resources are protected. In considering tourism-related infrastructure and development, the Councils shall also ensure that the amenity of existing uses is not impinged upon.

## Tourism

It is the **policy** of the Councils:

- T01 To ensure that future development of tourism is carried out in a sensitive and sustainable manner.
- T02 To work with Fáilte Ireland, the County Wexford Tourist Board, the Arts Council and other relevant bodies to promote the sustainable development of the arts and tourism sector in New Ross.
- T03 To encourage the development of primary tourist attractions and secondary support facilities (such as transport/accommodation) in the town.
- T04 To support product clustering with other sites and attractions in the region.
- T05 To realise the tourism potential of existing archaeological and natural heritage features within the town, while also ensuring their protection.
- T06 To ensure the full recreational potential of the River Barrow and its estuary is realised whilst taking cognisance of the aims and objectives of the South Eastern River Basin Management Plan 2009-2015 and achieving “good status” by 2015 and ensuring that all development is undertaken in compliance with Articles 6 and Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.
- T07 To support the expansion of a diversified range of tourist and business related accommodation, including developments to cater for tour groups.
- T08 To encourage and facilitate the development of craft and design shops in the town centre.
- T09 To encourage the sustainable redevelopment of under-utilised and derelict sites in the town centre and to create an attractive public realm.
- T10 To encourage the provision of indoor and activities based tourism facilities and events which extend the tourism season.
- T11 To promote collective public and private sector marketing of New Ross as a short break and activity break destination.
- T12 To promote the sustainable development of eco-tourism and other leisure activities in the environs of New Ross Town, outside the proposed urban edge (development limit boundary), such as equestrian centres, outdoor recreational centres, bird watching and boating clubs.

## Tourism

It is the **objective** of the Councils:

- T01 To promote and upgrade the historic walking trail to include interpretative signs and information boards at important sites of archaeological interest, heritage and nature conservation.
- T02 To improve the attractiveness of the riverside area in accordance with the New Ross Urban Design Waterfront Study 2006 and to carry out other environmental improvements to the town centre.
- T03 To develop the potential of the River Barrow for inland navigation and appropriate facilities, such as a river taxi, in association with Waterways Ireland, the Harbour Master and other relevant authorities. Any such development should take cognisance of the aims and objectives of the Water Framework Directive and shall be undertaken in compliance with Articles 6 and Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.
- T04 To maintain and improve tourist infrastructure through the provision of attractive, useful, informative signage methods and by carrying out environmental improvements along tourist routes.
- T05 To maintain and improve viewing points and the main entrances to the town.
- T06 To provide coach parking for tour groups at a suitable location in the town centre.
- T07 To promote and develop the Norman Heritage of the town.



## 10.3 Arts & Culture

The Councils recognise that arts and culture are an integral part in a town's identity and can enhance the area as a place to live and work and as an attractive destination for tourists. A culturally vibrant town could attract economic investment and employment opportunities while making a strong contribution to the image and vitality of the town.

Existing cultural industries include the Ros Tapestry Project which is now on permanent public display in the town centre. St. Michael's Theatre also functions as a community based arts centre and is a venue for a range of cultural activities. It runs a successful Youth Arts programme and hosts a Musical Society, a Drama Workshop and a Pantomime Society, as well as a professionally run Community Art Gallery. A farmers market is held on the Quay at weekends.

There is significant potential for further development of cultural infrastructure and uses in the town. The importance of culture in all its guises is recognised and will be supported and encouraged by the Councils where possible.

### Arts & Culture

It is the **policy** of the Councils:

A&C01 To promote arts and cultural activities and facilities in the town and continue to promote local cultural events such as the Dunbrody Festival and the Piano Festival and other multi-cultural initiatives.

A&C02 To promote the development of arts/crafts and farmers/organic markets in the town.

## 10.4 Public Art

Public Art can assist in developing a sense of place and provides an identity and character to a community that is distinctive and unique. Public art has many advantages including increasing environmental quality, enhancing the built environment, nurturing civic pride and promoting a sense of place.

### Public Art

It is the **policy** of the Councils:

PA01 To encourage and facilitate the development, creation and display of works of art in public areas.

PA02 To encourage major new commercial and private residential developments to incorporate works of public art into the overall scheme in order to enhance the amenities of the local environment.



Left: St. Michael's Theatre