

Chapter 7 Community & Social Development

7.0 Introduction

This Chapter sets out the aims and objectives relating to Community and Social development in Tramore over the Plan period. Building strong, inclusive communities is a key element in achieving sustainable development. Sustainable communities not only require economic development but also social and community development. Communities need opportunities to meet socially and to interact and form bonds, and these are essential prerequisites to the development of a sense of place and a feeling of belonging.

This Chapter also examines the requirement for social and community infrastructure necessary to make Tramore a sustainable and attractive place to live for all of its citizens.

7.1 Community Facilities & Services

Community facilities are an important element in the urban fabric of a town and should form part of an integrated network of resources available to local people. They serve the basic needs of the town and provide a place where people can meet and create a sense of town spirit and pride in their community. Community facilities also play an important role in the coming together and integration of marginalised sectors of the local population who can use such facilities as meeting places.



Tramore Coastguard Station

7.2 Civic & Community Services

Community centres are an important element in the social fabric of the Town as they provide a venue for social gatherings and meetings. An example of the changes in the community provision is the extension to the existing Riverstown Community Centre which is currently ongoing.

The existing facilities in the Town provide a variety of services including civil defence, childcare, education programmes, social spaces and womens groups.

7.3 Places of Worship & Burial Grounds

The 2011 CSO Census indicates that the predominant religion in the Town remains the Roman Catholic religion. Other stated religions included Church of Ireland, Orthodox, Islam and Presbyterians. The local churches in Tramore include Holy Cross Church (Catholic) and Christ Church (Church of Ireland).



Holy Cross Church

It is considered that the Crobally Upper cemetery has sufficient capacity for the Plan period and there is no requirement for the reservation of additional lands for burial ground purposes at present.

7.4 Fire Station, Garda Station & Emergency Services

The Tramore Fire Station is located on Pond Road and has an associated control tower and offices. It is a 24 hour service that operates 7 days a week.



Tramore Fire Station (Courtesy: Munster Fire & Rescue Service)

The Garda Station is located off Market Street in modern offices which are considered adequate for the foreseeable future.

The Tramore Cliff and Mountain Rescue Association is a voluntary service and is a member of Mountain Rescue Ireland. Together with the RNLI lifeboat service they continue to provide a vital rescue service along the Tramore and wider Waterford Coastline.

7.5 Public Open Space

At present there is an existing playground at Cannon's Field and also a skate park on the Promenade. There are limited areas of public open space within existing housing

developments in Tramore. Given the projected increase in population there is a need to address this issue. The Council is committed to the redevelopment of the boating lake area into a Town Park. This proposed Town Park shall provide an excellent amenity area around the boating lake that can be integrated into existing developments through the provision of pedestrian linkages and secure and safe walking routes. This will provide a public area that people can enjoy and can also be used for sporting /cultural uses.



Boating Lake Area

Objective CS1

The Council is committed to the redevelopment of the boating lake area to a Town Park over the lifetime of the Plan

7.6 Health Facilities

Tramore Primary Care Centre is now located at the new purpose built Tramore Medical Centre in the Summerhill Centre. The range of services provided for at this location include mental health services, dental services, occupational therapy, speech and language services, physiotherapy, a dietician service and finally the public health nurse service.

7.7 Education

7.7.1 Primary Schools

There are 3 mixed primary schools in Tramore. They are as follows:

- Glór na Mara National School
- Holy Cross National School
- Gael Scoil Philib Barun

7.7.2 Post Primary Schools

Post primary education needs in Tramore are catered for by the following 2 schools:

- Christian Brothers School (Boys)
- Stella Maris Secondary School (Girls)

The 2 post primary schools are situated on lands that have limited potential for expansion and growth. To this end, construction on the amalgamated secondary school “*Ardcoil na Mara*” at Ballycarnane commenced in December 2012 and is scheduled for completion in March 2014.

7.7.3 Adult Education

County Waterford VEC operates a number of adult education courses from the Tramore Education Centre in the Seapoint Business Park. The courses include Applied Social Studies, Information Processing, Early Childhood Care and Education, Healthcare Support, Information and Communication Technology Skills and Retail Skills.

Tramore Library is located to the rear of the Strand Hotel on Market Street. An accessibility audit of the library was carried out during the last Plan period. The building was subsequently altered to include new accessibility infrastructure including an access elevator, ramp and handrails, widened door widths and an audio loop system. Wi-Fi is available in the library for registered members and there are also 4 internet points available.



Tramore Library

Policy CS 1

Ensure through the zoning of appropriate lands, that adequate educational facilities to cater for the future population growth within the Town and surrounding areas may be provided.

Objective CS 2

Support the amalgamation of the secondary schools in Tramore.

7.8 Neighbourhood Centres

To co-ordinate the provision of community services and facilities in an efficient and sustainable manner, it is proposed to establish neighbourhood centres into which basic facilities would be channeled. This would ensure that all areas in the Town would have equal access to facilities and that the facilities would be grouped to minimise journeys.

Neighbourhood centres will provide a range of community facilities to serve the surrounding area. The type facilities/services that are considered suitable for location in neighbourhood centres include: childcare facilities, small food stores, general practitioners, dentist, café and leisure uses etc.

The areas identified for future neighbourhood centres in the Town are outlined on the appended Core Strategy Concept Map. The exact location of the neighbourhood centres in the areas subject to Master Plans including the strategic land reserve at Monvoy and Knockenduff shall be determined at Master Plan stage.

7.9 Childcare Facilities

Childcare facilities include full day-care and session facilities, services for pre-school children and after-school care for school-going children. It covers services involving the care, education and social integration of children. The current facilities in Tramore comprise of 6 sessional facilities providing pre-school services, 2 part-time facilities providing both pre-school and school age facilities, 2 full time facilities providing care for under 3 years of age, preschool and also school age, 5 home based services and finally 2 parent and toddler groups. At the 2002 Barcelona European Council, Member States agreed by 2010 to provide full-day places in formal childcare arrangements to at least 90% of children aged between 3 years and compulsory school age and to at least 33% of children under 3. The table shows the current number and percentage of places available against the population (CSO 2011):

	<1	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 6	7 to 12
Facility Capacity	16	23	210	38	101
Population	163	342	313	332	922
DED Pop Coverage	10%	7%	67%	11%	11%

Childcare facilities: *Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (DoEHLG, June 2001), National Children's Strategy, '*Our Children – Their Lives*' (Dept. of Health and Children, 2000) and the Waterford County Childcare Committee report, '*County Childcare Strategy, 2002 – 2006*', deal with the needs of children. It is noted that the National Children's Strategy is currently under review. Also the Waterford City and County Committees are in a merger process and will form one entity by January 2014. Childcare strategies that maybe formulated during the Plan period will be informed by the new National Children's Strategy.

The Council shall liaise with the Waterford County Childcare Committee (and the proposed merged Committee) on the provision of future childcare services. The Planning Authority

will direct future childcare facilities into the neighbourhood centres rather than their provision on a piece meal basis in individual housing estates.

7.10 Social Integration

The Local Authority has an important role to play in counteracting social imbalances and inequities, through the provision and improvement of social and community services. The implementation of Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) with regard to Social and Affordable Housing will ensure a more balanced socio-economic profile in residential developments and will ensure that public and private housing is better integrated.

7.10.1 Traveller Community

At present there is no Traveller Community in Tramore. However the Council will continue to monitor this situation and if and when the need arises shall address the requirements of the community.

Policy CS 2

To promote social integration through the provision of mixed tenure housing estates and the fulfillment of the Councils requirement under Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000

Policy CS 3

To provide for the health care needs of the Town's population as it grows and to provide for a mix of community related healthcare facilities for people with various healthcare needs such as nursing homes and health centers.

Policy CS 4

To promote recreational and cultural facilities and activities that encourage inclusion of specific groups that may experience social exclusion due to social status, race, religion or any other factor that may lead to social marginalisation.

Policy CS 5

To promote a high quality living environment through the provision of community facilities in line with, and supporting new residential development

Policy CS 6

To facilitate the provision of housing for the elderly, integrated into the community, at appropriate locations with access to facilities and services and to work with recognised voluntary housing agencies and other relevant stakeholders in this regard

7.11 Sports and Recreation

Sports and recreation activities in Tramore can generally be categorised into both water based and land based activities. Due to its coastal location Tramore is suited to water based activities such as angling, surfing, kite-surfing, surf lifesaving and kayaking and there are a number of active clubs in the Town associated with these. Splashworld in Railway Square also provides opportunity for year round indoor swimming and an associated fitness centre. Planning permission has also recently been granted for the Tramore Flowhouse which will further diversify the water based activities in the Town. The land based activities in the Town and its environs include Gaelic football and hurling, soccer, horse racing, golfing, walking, tennis/badminton, boxing and martial arts. There is a requirement to highlight the diverse range of activities available in the Town to assist in the promotion of the Town both during and outside of the main tourist season.



The Council is committed to working with Waterford Sports Partnership (WSP) which commenced operation in 2002 with the key aim of increasing participation in sport and physical activity among target groups and to ensure that local resources are put to their best possible use.

Policy CS 7

It is the policy of the Council to support the implementation of the Waterford Sports Partnership Strategy and their work to increase participation in sport and physical activity.

Objective CS 3

To promote sporting and recreational activities in the Town and to encourage the provision of indoor and outdoor facilities for local clubs and organizations.

7.11.1 Amenity Paths and Networks

“Waterford County: a Monument for the future-Waterford County Strategy for Economic Social and Cultural Development” sets out the following objective:

“To enable Waterford to become the Walking Capital of Ireland”

Tramore is home to a spectacular and varied coastline that provides exceptional walking routes such as Doneraile walk, the Cliff Road and Newtown Woods. The multi-agency publication “Walk Waterford – From Sea to Mountains” provides information on both the Doneraile Walk and



the Dune Walk. In conjunction with this pedestrian way marking signage in the Town has been improved. A Cycle and Walking Strategy for the Town will be prepared during the lifetime of the Plan.

The Council will encourage all walking initiatives established in Tramore as a tourism product for the area and in achieving Waterford County's goal in becoming the walking capital of Ireland.

7.11.2 Need for Additional Facilities

Given the population increases in Tramore over the past number of years it is necessary that certain additional community and social facilities be developed in line with future housing developments. It is necessary to support the increases in population with the required community facilities. The Council may require prospective developers of larger housing estate developments to submit a Community Impact Assessment to ascertain the capacity of the existing community facilities to absorb the proposed development and the possible need for additional facilities to accommodate the population increase. The report may include a needs assessment of the following (amongst others):

- Childcare facilities.
- Community buildings.
- Recreational/ sporting areas.
- Additional educational facilities.
- Elderly housing units.

The Office of Public Works restored Tramore Coast Guard Station. Every effort was made to retain the architectural and historic integrity of this landmark building which is located on a prominent site overlooking Tramore Bay.

Tramore Coast Guard Station has played an important role in hosting various exhibitions and social and cultural nights since its refurbishment and reopening to the public in 2004. Waterford County Council lease part of the building and run it as a centre for arts, craft & heritage activities in partnership with Tramore Development Trust Ltd.



As stated in the 2007 Local Area Plan there is no cinema or dedicated theatrical centre in Tramore. Given the increasing population such facilities are important to the social fabric of the Town and should be catered for.

Policy CS 8

To develop a programme to ensure that all communities have quality accessible playground facilities.

Policy CS 9

The Council shall promote the development of additional recreational facilities within the Town to cater for the current and projected populations.

Policy CS 10

To promote Tramore as an area for amenity walks and to play a role in promoting Waterford as *“The Walking Capital of Ireland”*.

Policy CS 11

Promote and facilitate the provision of a network of quality amenity pathways and cycleways subject to the requirements of the Habitats and Birds Directives.

Policy CS 12

Promote and encourage the development of a cinema and multifunctional building suitably located within the Town.

Policy CS 13

To protect the existing recreational and sporting facilities in the Town.

7.12 Public Art

Public Art has an important role to play within a Town context as it can create a sense of identity and can define particular areas within the townscape. The redevelopment of the boating lake area to provide for a Town Park provides an opportunity for the commissioning of a piece of public art. Ideally public art should relate to the particular area that it is displayed on and should in some way reflect a sense of what the Town is about. The bronze “Iris” sculpture on Lower Branch Road funded through the % for Art scheme (i.e. Tramore Sewerage Scheme) represents an acknowledgement of the flora and fauna of the region, bringing the wild and natural into the planned and it was chosen for this location adjacent to the existing boating lake because the Iris flower inhabits wet areas and watersides.



Iris Sculpture