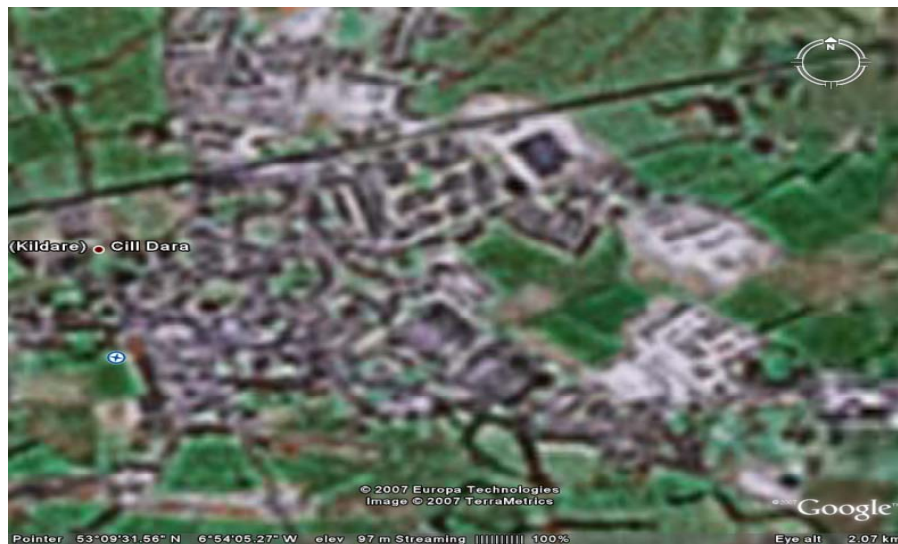


*Draft consultation document
for discussion purposes only.*

**Seeking A Model to Achieve Balanced and
Sustainable Development:
Kildare Town, Co Kildare.**



Google Earth: Kildare Town:

McGee Barracks Site

Michael Kenny, NUI, Maynooth.

The content of this document is the
responsibility of Mr Michael Kenny only.
The preparation work to prepare this document
was supported by Kildare County Council.

Context (based on 2002 figures, CDB, 2006)

- Kildare Town is a significant historical site (akin to Maynooth & Celbridge).
- Kildare Town is named as a “moderate growth town” within a “secondary dynamic cluster with Monasterevin” in the Greater Dublin Area Settlement Strategy 2004
- Kildare Town has a population of greater than 5,000, but has not experienced the same population growth as it’s counterparts in the north-east of the county in recent years.
- Kildare Town had among the highest percentages of persons born outside Ireland & the UK, and persons with a different address one year previously in Co Kildare
- Kildare Town has a higher than average percentage of young adults, working adults and preschool families.

- Kildare Town has a lower than average percentage of married persons and adult families.
- Kildare Town has a higher than average percentage of people employed in the hospitality (hotels & restaurants), community service, social service, public administration and commerce. Kildare Town also has higher than average unemployment rates.
- Kildare Town has less than average upper secondary and third level education participation and less than average persons in social classes 1 (professional workers) and 2 (managerial and technical workers), but higher than average persons in social class 7 (gainfully occupied but not identified)
- Kildare Town has a relatively low affluence index and democratic participation rate.
- Kildare Town has a relatively highly level of rented accommodation (both local authority and private) and a relatively large proportion of the housing stock in the area was constructed since the 1960s.

Preparing for the Next Stage of Development

- Kildare Town has experienced rapid growth and is well positioned to take advantage of many modern initiatives that are happening or about to happen.
- Kildare Town is experiencing significant change as the town adjusts to the closure of the McGee Army Barracks and decline in occasional and employment associated with the land.
- Kildare Town will experience significant challenges and difficulties in its economic and social development in the next decade if present challenges are not addressed.
- Kildare Town will require significant public investment in educational / social / community / and local enterprise facilities to meet needs.
- Kildare Town does require immediate town-wide initiatives to address the way some people are slipping into disadvantage and relative poverty.
- Kildare Town does require a partnership approach of all the sectors together focused on leading integrated and town-wide development.
- The McGee Barracks site could be a highly visible catalyst for how multi-sectoral integrated development could happen.
- Lifelong education and building peoples social and economic capacity are essential human skills for sustained development in Kildare Town.
- A public service provider / local authority / town council forum working in partnership with the community & voluntary organisation (third sector) development workers must direct and support future development.

Developing & Sustaining Community

- Rapid population growth has strained the sense of local community. People do not know other people in the town. People are not familiar with all parts of the town. There is a lesser sense of being neighbours.
- A range of sub-communities such as a commuter community, an immigrant community, etc. has evolved.
- Kildare Town offers town-wide community facilities like meeting rooms, schools, library, etc., but lacks enough neighbourhood-based facilities like neighbourhood meeting centres.
- Wide ranges of community organisations are very active but there is limited cross cooperation between groups. With less people having time to volunteer those involved just get on with the task and have less time to look at other possibilities.
- There is no town-wide community development plan. As a result there is less sense of a town. People are focused on their own area with limited sense of the bigger town-wide picture.
- The task of integrating activities in the town and getting a gain for the town-wide community needs to be clearly stated in any work plan of local development. This direction to integrated development needs to be supported with resources and the leadership of the various projects and leaders in the town.

Developing & Sustaining Social Capital

(Networks & Inter-Action between people)

- Kildare Town needs a one-stop town-wide centre as a base for all local development work. This one-stop centre would be complimentary to the local / neighbourhood centres. This encourages a town-wide perspective while not ignoring the very local needs.
- Audits of the community activities, economic activities and service activities are required to know what is being delivered, how services are being used, and areas being missed. These audits completed locally would make a data infrastructure for cohesion and integration as development goes forward.
- The Kildare Town Local Development Plan must prioritise 1) inclusion to make sure sections of the population are not left out, 2) innovation to seek new ways a providing services proactively and promoting more economic activity, and 3) cohesion so that there is the best levels of co-operation. If the process of preparing the plan encourages participation then it will significantly enhance inter-action and networks between people in the town.
- Ongoing audits of participation and involvement are vital criteria to show the levels of inter-action and participation. This all builds social capital. Better social capital leads to a better sense of community, better community relations, better problem solving and more holistic development. In other words quality of life is very much improved when social capital is better.

Developing & Sustaining Economic Capital

- Equally improving economic capital is central to the Kildare Town Local Development Plan. A strategy of invention and innovation linked to the local and indigenous features of Kildare Town is a key in enhancing economic capital in the town.
- The economic aspect of the development plan should use the unique heritage of the town. Kildare Town could develop an economic advantage in modelling strategies for sustainable quality of life for communities on the edge of large population centres. Kildare Town needs to involve a range of development agencies in stimulating greater economic capital in the town.

Developing & Sustaining Governance

- Improved social capital will enhance participation. However participation needs to be invited and welcomed. Capacity building should address knowledge of the tasks and process of local governance.
- The Kildare Town Local Development Plan needs to include an opportunity for participative democracy in the governance of the town. This should start in local area governance through estate and area management.
- Governance plays a key role in ensuring that everybody is included and that there are opportunities for people's voices to be heard in a responsible way.
- The overall purpose of a Kildare Town Development Plan would be to:

**Sustain a Quality of Life for All the People in Kildare Town
and to Develop the Social & Economic Capacity to Absorb
Change Positively.**

Your Input into:
A Model to Achieve Balanced and Sustainable Development
Kildare Town, Co Kildare, Ireland
April 2007

This Draft consultation document seeks to your views;

Please fold a & return to address over

All Comments are confidential to Michael Kenny ONLY

Fold here

Michael Kenny,
The Department of Adult &
Community Education,
NUI, Maynooth,
Co Kildare.

1. Context:

Comments & Suggestions:

2. Preparing for the Next Stage of Development:

Comments & Suggestions:

3. Developing & Sustaining Community:

Comments & Suggestions:

4 Developing & Sustaining Social Capital:

Comments & Suggestions:

5. Developing & Sustaining Economic Capital:
Comments & Suggestions:

6. Developing & Sustaining Governance:
Comments & Suggestions:

The overall purpose of a Kildare Town Development Plan
would be to:

**Sustain a Quality of Life for All the People in Kildare Town
and to Develop the Social & Economic Capacity to Absorb
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8. Any other comments Welcome:

Thank you

Your Notes:

How can you make an input to the development of Kildare Town?

This is a draft document for consultation.

The centre pages are for you to make notes and return your comment. An open meeting will be called in late

May to progress discussion

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