



# Public Participation Network **Kildare**

## Kildare PPN Submission

### Draft Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2025-2031

Kildare Public Participation Network  
Community & Culture  
Level 7, Áras Chill Dara  
Devoy Park  
Naas  
Co. Kildare



# INTRODUCTION

Kildare Public Participation Network (Kildare PPN) was established on foot of the Report of the Working Group on Citizen Engagement with Local Government published in 2014, which recommended greater input by communities into decision making at local Government level. The Local Government Reform Act 2014 provided for the formal establishment of PPNs and they are now operational in all Local Authority areas.

Kildare PPN has **45** diverse member groups in the community and voluntary, social inclusion and environmental pillars located in Maynooth. The primary purpose of Kildare PPN is to enable PPN member groups to input into and have their voices heard within the formal decision-making structures of Kildare County Council. The PPN is now the main way that Local Authorities connect with groups active in their area.

Kildare PPN welcomes the opportunity to make this Submission on behalf of its membership.

# CONSULTATION

This submission has been developed based on the findings of our Wellbeing Statement for Clane-Maynooth MD, which was informed by both in-person and online consultations in 2023.

# FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## 5.5.4 Open Space, Sports and Recreation

We recommend the provision of an additional objective in the plan to provide outdoor exercise equipment and covered exercise areas for all ages in parks and open spaces to encourage physical activity.

We recommend the addition of an objective to improve lighting in open spaces and walking areas to improve safety during winter months.

## 5.5.5 Social and Community

We note that the draft plan identifies a requirement of six additional social/community facilities and the Plan's provision to support the development of a community hub for the town. We welcome this proposal and encourage the development of more community centers and spaces to support social interaction and community cohesion within Maynooth.

We recommend that the development of an Amphitheatre is considered when developing the additional social/community facilities to aid in promoting cultural events and performances in Maynooth along with supporting the drama schools and local amateur dramatics group.

HCO 6.7 We welcome the objective to support the delivery of a swimming pool in Maynooth and also recommend the that plan support the delivery of the following to further increase the public amenities in the town:

- dog park
- sensory gardens
- public toilets

## 5.5.6 Arts and Culture

HCO 8.1 We strongly support the provision in the plan to 'support, promote and facilitate the development of cultural, arts and performance spaces in Maynooth' which will provide the opportunity to enhance understanding of cultural differences through community programmes and workshops and implement improved education programmes focusing on cultural integration and the importance of diversity.

## 8.3 Maynooth Architectural Conservation Area

BHO 2.2 We welcome the inclusion of 'The use of the Irish language within signage should be considered' in relation to shopfronts, as we support the preservation of Irish Culture and programmes to keep the Irish language active.

This submission aims to foster a thriving, inclusive, and sustainable community in Maynooth, enhancing the quality of life for all residents through improved services, cultural integration, and robust infrastructure.