



---

# Chapter 9

## Social Infrastructure & Community Development

---

135-148

- 9.1 Introduction
- 9.2 Social Inclusion
- 9.3 Community Facilities/Infrastructure
- 9.4 Childcare Facilities
- 9.5 Education
- 9.6 Libraries
- 9.7 Health Services
- 9.8 Sporting and Leisure Facilities
- 9.9 Public Open Space
- 9.10 Public Rights of Ways
- 9.11 Burial Grounds



## 9.1 Introduction

Social Infrastructure in this Plan includes health care services, education facilities, burial grounds, fire and emergency services, recreational and sports facilities. The Council is responsible for the provision of some social infrastructure while the remainder is provided by government departments, state and local agencies and private providers and in such cases the Council works to facilitate the sustainable provision of social infrastructure.

Investment in social and community infrastructure assists in achieving economic growth, employment and improves the well being and quality of life of our citizens.

## 9.2 Social Inclusion

Social Inclusion aims to ensure that everybody should have the right to fulfil their potential, through access to high quality public services, education, employment opportunities and adequate housing in an attractive and safe environment. It is therefore important that our living, working and leisure environments are designed and maintained in a manner to ensure people of all backgrounds and circumstances can achieve equality and access to the facilities and services needed to achieve their own potential in life. The Development Plan has an important role in promoting social inclusion in the County and includes a range of strategies to promote access to housing, community facilities and public transport.

### 9.2.1 Access

Physical access is key to creating a socially inclusive community. It has been common practice to address physical access by focusing on 'special needs' of the elderly or the disabled. This has resulted in policies and objectives that segregate access and therefore people by making provision for different groups in different ways – for example by providing steps for the able bodied and

ramped access for wheelchair users.

Kerry County Council is committed to contributing to the development of a more inclusive public realm which allows all people to use space in the same way – and on equal terms.

### 9.2.2 Age Friendly County

One of the major social issues facing communities over the next decade will be an ageing population. The average life expectancy for men in Ireland is 76.8 years and 81.6 years for females. Life expectancy is rising faster in Ireland than any other EU country. By 2041 approximately 20% of population will be over the age of 65 (CSO 2011). It is important that we start now to create an age friendly environment that will meet the needs of an aging population. This can be achieved through the way we design our towns and cities. In concentrating on this group, towns will become more friendly to all elements of society – “if you build for the young you exclude the old, but if you design for the old you include everyone”<sup>(1)</sup>.

### 9.2.3 Non Irish Nationals

Non Irish Nationals have played a very important role in Kerry in the last number of years and will continue to do so into the future. It is noted that 11.2% of County Kerry's Population is comprised of non Irish nationals, it is therefore very important that non Irish Nationals are able to avail of services open to them.

*(1) Ireland's Age Friendly Cities and Counties Programm 2013 - Resources Guide for Planners.*



**It is the policy of the Council to:-**

Provide or facilitate, in conjunction with all relevant statutory agencies and social infrastructure providers, the provision of high quality sustainable social infrastructure, improve the quality of life for the citizens of the County and to reduce social exclusion, through the implementation of the objectives below.

| <b>Social Inclusion</b>                       |   |
|---|---|
| <b>It is an objective of the Council to:-</b> |   |
| <b>SC-1</b>                                   | Recognise the needs of people with special needs and to support the local communities, health authorities and other bodies involved in the provision of facilities for such persons.  |
| <b>SC-2</b>                                   | Co-operate with all relevant agencies to counter disadvantage and social exclusion, to secure improvements in the quality of life and to promote equality of access to public and social services in order to create sustainable communities. Encourage and support the development of sustainable ancillary facilities within social housing developments. |
| <b>SC-3</b>                                   | Support integrated service delivery with other state agencies.  |
| <b>SC-4</b>                                   | Encourage the retention and improvement of existing community services and facilities.  |

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| <b>SC-5</b> | Promote universal equality of access to public spaces, buildings and community services by ensuring that appropriate design solutions are incorporated into all developments.   |
| <b>SC-6</b> | Consult with and support Kerry Comhairle na nÓg in the development of local services and policies that may impact on the lives of young people.   |
| <b>SC-7</b> | Facilitate the sustainable development of sheltered housing and other such schemes which cater for the elderly and other vulnerable groups.   |
| <b>SC-8</b> | Ensure that all large scale residential developments take account of the need to provide appropriate community facilities such as childcare facilities and schools and community meeting spaces. Planning applications for large scale housing developments must be accompanied by an impact assessment of such facilities and provide for the phasing of developments to match community infrastructure. |
| <b>SC-9</b> | Require relevant social infrastructure developments to comply with the standards set out in the Development Management Guidance of this Plan.   |



|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>SC-10</b> | Ensure that age friendly values and commitments, as set out in the Dublin Declaration of Age Friendly Cities and Communities in Europe 2013, are incorporated into all aspects of the local authorities plans, policies and service provisions. |
| <b>SC-11</b> | Engage with local communities and other key stakeholders to improve the quality and experience of towns for older people.   |
| <b>SC-12</b> | Ensure that all local area plans have regard to the age friendly guidance as set out in The Age friendly Cities and Counties Programme 2012.  |
| <b>SC-13</b> | Identify areas where social deprivation occurs, both urban and rural areas and identify strategies for the sustainable regeneration of such areas within the Municipal District Plans   |

where no other dedicated facilities exist. In order to prevent the loss of community facilities, the Council will discourage their change to non-community uses.

The primary role of the Council is to reserve sufficient lands within the settlement centres to meet likely future demands for community infrastructure. This will be done by zoning land at appropriate locations for the provision of community facilities which keeps pace with likely future housing provision. In particular it is important to provide land for the expansion of facilities within existing sites where possible.

| <b>Community Facilities</b>                   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>It is an objective of the Council to:-</b> |  |
| <b>SC-14</b>                                  | Support the sustainable provision and distribution of a range of social infrastructure facilities in accordance with the Settlement and Core Strategies of this Plan.  |
| <b>SC-15</b>                                  | Ensure as far as practicable that all social infrastructure and local services be located at central village/ neighbourhood locations within settlements, which will facilitate pedestrian access, social inclusion, growth in community vibrancy, safety and accessibility for the greatest number of people. Where alternative sites are proposed, applications shall demonstrate why a central location cannot be achieved. |

### 9.3 Community Facilities/ Infrastructure

There is a strong tradition of voluntary community development in the County. This is reflected in the presence of voluntary agencies and community initiatives that continue to play a central role in delivering a wide variety of local social services. These organisations play a vital role in co-operation with statutory agencies such as the HSE and the Kerry Education and Training Board in the provision of such services.

The loss of a social facility can have a major impact on a community, especially in localities

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <p><b>SC-16</b></p> | <p>Ensure that, where practicable, community, recreational and open space facilities are clustered, with the community facilities being located in local centres or combined with school facilities as appropriate. Community facilities should be located close to or within walking distance of housing, accessible to all sectors of the community and facilitate multi-use functions through their design and layout.</p> |
| <p><b>SC-17</b></p> | <p>Seek the efficient and timely delivery of community and social facilities commensurate with the needs of the resident population and to assist in the delivery of such facilities.</p>   |
| <p><b>SC-18</b></p> | <p>Require as part of all new large residential and commercial developments and in existing developments where appropriate, that provision is made for facilities including local/neighbourhood shops, childcare facilities, schools and recreational facilities and to seek their provision concurrent with sustainable development.</p>   |
| <p><b>SC-19</b></p> | <p>Safeguard existing social facilities including health, education and leisure amenities of public benefit.</p>  |
| <p><b>SC-20</b></p> | <p>Promote the provision of Active Recreational Facilities (eg. Drop In Cafes For Young People) – in appropriate locations that promote active recreation and participation.</p>  |
| <p><b>SC-21</b></p> | <p>Promote the provision of outdoor gyms at suitable locations throughout the County.</p>   |

## 9.4 Childcare Facilities

The level of availability and accessibility of affordable and adequate childcare in a community will influence the level of social inclusion that exists. The lack of such services will act as a barrier to entering the workforce or availing of education, thereby increasing the level of disadvantage and poverty of those affected. Kerry County Council recognises the importance of providing childcare facilities within new and existing communities as a valuable and essential element of community infrastructure but also to facilitate employment opportunity and economic progression and in support of equality in this regard in line with Department guidelines.

The Government has issued guidelines to Planning Authorities on the provision of childcare facilities - *Childcare Facilities: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG June 2001)*. Childcare refers to both primary and community provision. The Council will have regard to these guidelines in assessing any proposals for development.



The needs of children have been given explicit recognition in the National Children’s Strategy, ‘Our Children- their lives’ (Department of Health and Children, 2000). Kerry County Council has published ‘Developing Play in Kerry: Countywide policy on the development and management of playgrounds and play areas in public open spaces’ (February 2004). Kerry County Council has in partnership with community groups installed playgrounds in a



number of locations with more planned during the lifetime of this Plan.

In primarily residential areas the provision of childcare facilities can prove convenient for users but this must be balanced against retaining the essential residential character.

In established residential areas detached houses/sites or substantial semi-detached properties with space for off-street car parking and/or suitable drop-off and collection points for customers and also space for an outdoor play area are likely to be more acceptable for the provision of child care facilities. This is especially the case if this involves use of only part of the house and the residential use remains.

The use of terraced properties or semi-detached properties on small plots is less likely to be acceptable for full day care facilities and will be assessed on their merits with regard to the objectives and development management guidelines outlined in this Plan. Sessional or after-school care which is ancillary to the main residential use, may be more appropriate in this regard. In new housing areas developers will be expected to plan for and include provision for childcare facilities. The level of this will depend on the particular circumstances but as a guide one childcare facility for a minimum of 20 childcare places per approximately 75 dwellings may be appropriate.

| <b>Childcare Facilities</b>                   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>It is an objective of the Council to:-</b> |  |
| <b>SC-22</b>                                  | Encourage, promote and facilitate the sustainable provision of quality affordable childcare facilities in accordance with national policy and relevant guidelines. |

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>SC-23</b> | Permit childcare facilities in existing residential areas provided that they do not have a significant impact on the character or amenities of an area, particularly with regard to car parking, traffic generation and noise disturbance. Where proposed facilities relate to properties which have been designed and built as dwellings and are surrounded by other houses, a significant residential element should be retained.   |
| <b>SC-24</b> | Promote and encourage the provision of a network of childcare facilities that reflects the distribution of the residential population in the County and to minimise travel distance and maximise opportunities for disadvantaged communities.   |
| <b>SC-25</b> | Permit childcare facilities of appropriate size and scale in rural locations adjacent to development clusters, community and educational facilities provided that they do not to have a significant impact on the character or amenities of an area, particularly with regard to car parking, traffic generation and noise disturbance and subject to satisfying environmental standards and the needs of the community. Such facilities must generally be required to locate within community/educational campuses where purpose built childcare facilities are being provided; retain a significant residential element where proposed facilities relate to properties which have been designed and built as dwellings. |

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| <b>SC-26</b> | Facilitate the provision of childcare facilities in Neighbourhood Centres; such facilities would be located within local mixed use service centres.                      |
| <b>SC-27</b> | Facilitate the provision of childcare facilities at appropriate locations adjacent to public transport corridors.  |
| <b>SC-28</b> | Liaise with the County Childcare Committee in identifying and meeting prospective childcare needs and in monitoring the effectiveness of planning policy in this regard. |

this is undertaken in the context of Local Area Plans and Framework Plans. Where new schools are required they should be located close to or within the main residential areas of the town so that as many children/students as possible can walk or cycle to school. The opportunity should be taken to locate schools so that they naturally contribute to the development of a sense of community in new neighbourhoods. Where possible, these schools should be served by a dedicated and safe footpath and cycle-way network.

The Council is cognisant of the following wide range of issues regarding schools and other educational facilities, in respect of the provision of accommodation and ancillary services and amenities:-

- Population distribution and family size.
- The capacity and condition of buildings.
- Educational disadvantage and special educational needs.
- Synergy between education, research and the economy.
- Potential benefit as community or social centres.
- Residential zonings in the local area plans throughout the County.
- Criteria set out in the Development Management, Standards and Guidelines of this Plan.

**It is the policy of the Council to:-**

- Facilitate the sustainable development of primary, post primary, third level, outreach, research, adult and further educational facilities in appropriate locations to meet the needs of the County.
- Ensure the provision and implementation of primary and secondary education facilities in conjunction with the planning and development of residential areas in order to maximise the opportunities for walking, cycling and use of public transport

## 9.5 Education

Decisions on the future requirements for educational facilities are primarily a matter for the educational authorities. However, the 'Provision of Schools and the Planning System, A Code of Practice for Planning Authorities' (2008) outlines that the planning system plays a critical role in anticipating future development and co-coordinating the provision of essential supporting infrastructure such as transport, water services, schools, amenity and community facilities through the actions of the planning authorities, the investment programmes of government departments and their agencies and through the private sector.

The primary role of the Council is to reserve sufficient land within the identified development centres to meet likely future demands for community facilities including education. The provision of educational facilities should be planned and implemented in concert with residential development, especially where



- Ensure that adequate lands and services are zoned and reserved in appropriate locations to cater for the establishment, improvement or expansion of primary and post-primary educational facilities in the County. The Council supports the concept of multi-campus educational facilities.
- Co-operate with all relevant agencies in the preparation of an integrated County strategy for education and training provision.
- Encourage, support and develop opportunities to open up schools to wider community use.



| Education                                     |  |
|---|--|
| <b>It is an objective of the Council to:-</b> |  |
| <b>SC-29</b>                                  | Facilitate the Department of Education & Skills and Kerry Education and Training Board, other statutory and non-statutory agencies in the necessary provision of primary, post primary and third level educational facilities throughout the County by reserving lands, at appropriate locations, for such uses in the Local Area Plans. |

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| <b>SC-30</b> | Facilitate where possible, the development in future proposals of site reservations, as close as possible, to community facilities such as sports facilities, libraries etc. so that these can be shared between the school and the community. The Planning Authority shall also consider multi-campus school arrangements e.g. 2/3 primaries side by side or a primary and a post primary school sharing a site, subject to appropriate assessment of specific sites, in order to reduce the land take requirements for school development. |
| <b>SC-31</b> | Promote the sustainable provision of dedicated facilities for adult and community education and encourage the retention and expansion of all tiers of educational services and associated educational and skills training programmes.  |
| <b>SC-32</b> | Ensure that applications for large residential developments are accompanied by an assessment of the educational facilities in the area to cater for the projected increase in population.  |
| <b>SC-33</b> | Have regard to the DoEHLG and Department of Education and Skills document titled The Provision of Schools and the Planning System – A Code of Practice for Planning Authorities (2008).  |
| <b>SC-34</b> | Encourage and promote the shared use of school facilities with community groups where possible.  |

## 9.6 Libraries

The Council recognises the importance of libraries, both private and public. The Council itself has responsibility for the public library service. The Kerry Library Service has 9 branches, 2 mobile libraries, a primary schools library service, a local history and archives service and runs an extensive events and exhibitions programme.

The library service plays a very important community, information, cultural and outreach role within the County. The public library service has for many years provided an important means of access to information and to (leisure) reading facilities and has played a major role in the advancement in education and literacy throughout Kerry. It has also become an important venue for cultural activities.

The internet service is an additional tool of communication available to the residents of Kerry and thereby has the potential to support a more inclusive society. Kerry County Council encourages groups and individuals to use the library service facilities for a wide range of activities.



It is the policy of the Council to continue to expand and improve the library service to meet the needs of the community, in line with the objectives and priorities of the Library Development Plan and subject to the availability of finance.

| Libraries                                     |  |
|---|--|
| <b>It is an objective of the Council to:-</b> |  |
| <b>SC-35</b>                                  | Support, expand and promote the services provided by the County Libraries to local communities across the County.  |
| <b>SC-36</b>                                  | Provide and improve access to library facilities and services and to encourage an integrated approach to the delivery of library, arts and other related services.   |
| <b>SC-37</b>                                  | Continue the sustainable development, upgrading and improvement of library infrastructure.   |
| <b>SC-38</b>                                  | Make provision for new library facilities at appropriate locations, or extensions and refurbishment of existing facilities, sufficient in their overall extent, quality and distribution to meet needs for library services. |

## 9.7 Health Services

Healthcare facilities are essential to ensure that the residents of the County have access to the care that they need. Health care is provided by a range of private, community and charitable service providers. HSE policy reflects a shift away from traditional hospital-based care, towards more community-based care with increased emphasis on meeting people's needs at local level within primary care teams. Kerry County Council will seek to facilitate the provision and expansion of built

facilities at appropriate locations to ensure accessible healthcare services are integrated into communities throughout the County.



**Health Services**

**It is an objective of the Council to:-**

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <p><b>SC-39</b></p> | <p>Facilitate the Health Service Executive and the Department of Health in the provision of health centres (physical and mental health) and other health related facilities throughout the County through various initiatives including the reservation of lands for such uses at appropriate locations in the respective Local Area Plans.</p>   |
| <p><b>SC-40</b></p> | <p>Encourage the integration of healthcare facilities within new and existing communities and facilitate public, private and community based agencies to provide appropriate healthcare facilities, including hospital care and community-based primary care throughout the County and to discourage proposals that would cause unnecessary isolation or other access difficulties, particularly for the disabled, older people and children.</p> |

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <p><b>SC-41</b></p> | <p>Encourage, support and facilitate the sustainable provision of a range of services for the aged population. The Council is committed to accommodating the needs of older people in rural areas through the provision or facilitation of nursing homes and sheltered housing developments, at appropriate locations. These facilities should be located within settlements in order to enhance overall quality of life, increase their links with and accessibility to local amenities and therefore reduce the likelihood of social isolation.</p> |
| <p><b>SC-42</b></p> | <p>Consider change of use applications from residential to health care facilities / surgeries only where the privacy and amenity of adjacent occupiers can be preserved and the proposal does not have a detrimental effect on the local amenity and vitality / viability of town centers. The full conversion of semi-detached or terraced type dwellings will not normally be permitted.</p>  |
| <p><b>SC-43</b></p> | <p>Facilitate and encourage the accommodation of emergency services including fire services, rescue services, heli-pads and acute care in appropriate locations that facilitate ease of access, effectiveness and safe functioning with respect to the road network.</p>  |

**9.8 Sporting and Leisure Facilities**

The provision of sporting, recreation and amenity facilities, which can cater for the demands of an increasing population and

which will be accessible for all sectors and age groups of the population is a central element in the delivery of sustainable communities. The Council recognises the role that good quality open space, recreation and amenity facilities can play in creating healthy and active lifestyles to ensure the wellbeing and improved quality of life of the entire community.



The Council will normally favour any development proposals for sustainable recreational facilities for the community in a suitable location.

The Council will not look favourably on any development proposal that would result in the effective loss of an existing amenity or facility or which would prejudice the provision of an amenity unless:-

- The facility or amenity was established as an interim use pending the completion of an improved or satisfactory replacement facility,
- or**
- The applicant can demonstrate that there is an insufficient local demand for the existing or an alternative,
- or**
- Satisfactory alternative provision can be made by the applicant prior to the commencement of development.

**It is the policy of the Council to:-**

- Encourage and support local sports, community groups and other groups in the sustainable provision and development of outdoor and indoor sporting and community facilities.
- Support local sports groups, community groups and other bodies in the sustainable development of facilities through the reservation of suitable land at appropriate locations for such facilities.
- Cater for the sporting and recreational needs of all sectors and ages of the community and promote the integration of those with special needs into the sporting and recreational environment.
- Seek alternative open space, leisure and sporting facilities provision where existing such facilities are being discontinued as part of development proposals.
- Ensure that new leisure facilities where possible are located in proximity to public transportation routes and where they can best meet the needs of the community that the facility is intended to serve.

| <b>Sporting &amp; Leisure Facilities</b>      |   |
|---|---|
| <b>It is an objective of the Council to:-</b> |   |
| <b>SC-44</b>                                  | Facilitate the sustainable provision of sports facilities having regard to local recreational needs and the conservation of the cultural and natural environment. |
| <b>SC-45</b>                                  | Implement the recommendations of 'Developing Play in Kerry' Policy', in a sustainable manner, in conjunction with all relevant agencies.                          |



|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| <b>SC-46</b> | Resist the loss of existing sporting facilities unless the facility is provided on an alternative site or it can be demonstrated that there is no longer sufficient demand to sustain such a facility. |
|--------------|--|

**9.9 Public Open Space**

Public open space in appropriate locations is a critical element to the creation of a quality and distinctive urban environment, offering opportunities for both passive and active recreation, contributing to the quality of life of residents and visitors alike and offering environmental and ecological benefits. Private open space provision is a fundamental tenet of residential amenity, offering the resident an opportunity for safe and private recreation.

Development Plans have tended in the past to emphasis detailed quantitative standards, but there is now an increasing focus on the quality of public open space, which ensures that the reasonable expectations of users are more likely to be fulfilled. The qualitative standards set out in the ‘Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas - Guidelines for Planning Authorities’ (Department of Environment, Community and Local Government) relating to design, accessibility, variety, shared use, biodiversity, sustainable urban drainage systems and the provision of allotments and community gardens should be adhered to.

Public and private open space standards are set out in the Development Management Standards and Guidelines.

**It is the policy of the Council to:-**

- Promote sustainable development of high quality open space areas for both active and passive use and formal and informal activities in accordance with the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy.
- Resist the loss of existing public open

space, unless alternative recreational facilities are provided in a suitable location.

- Encourage where possible local community involvement in the upgrading and improvement of open spaces.
- Facilitate the sustainable development of children’s play areas and playgrounds in proximity to existing and proposed neighbourhood centres where feasible.
- Maintain free from development lands that are subject of a deed of dedication or identified in a planning permission as open space to ensure the availability of community and recreational facilities for the residents of the area.
- In certain instances, consider public open spaces for use as public allotments, community food gardens, community fruit orchards and community native woodlands subject to appropriate local community consultation.

| <b>Public Open Space</b>                      |   |
|---|---|
| <b>It is an objective of the Council to:-</b> |   |
| <b>SC-47</b>                                  | Examine existing public open spaces and carry out improvements where necessary to increase their usefulness as recreational spaces. |
| <b>SC-48</b>                                  | Provide for appropriate play provision in accordance with the ‘Developing Play in Kerry’ Policy 2004 and any revisions there of.    |

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>SC-49</b> | Prohibit the intrusion of development along public walking routes and Public Rights of Way, particularly those in scenic areas, the sea coast and along inland waterways. Loss of existing recreational space or facilities will be resisted. |
|--------------|---|

### 9.10 Public Rights of Ways

A Public Right of Way is defined as ‘a **strip of land (normally a road or path), usually leading from a public place to a public space, along which the public has a legal right to travel**’.<sup>(1)</sup> There are very few registered Public Rights of Way in Ireland that are not maintained public roads. Access to the countryside is usually obtained through ‘permissive rights of way’ i.e. with the landowners’ permission. Land owners have facilitated, through their goodwill and tolerance, access to the countryside through their lands. Ireland’s waymarked trails are ‘permissive routes’ and have been developed with the landowners’ agreement.

The Planning and Development Act 2000-2012 (Section 10(2)(o)) requires development plans to list and map Public Rights of Way which give access to seashore, mountain, lakeshore, riverbank and other place of natural beauty or recreational utility. It is intended that this will preserve Rights of Way for recreational purposes for current and future generations.

Kerry County Council has undertaken a County wide survey to identify Public of Rights of Way in the County. These Public Rights of Way have been listed and mapped and are appended to this Plan in Volume 2. It is important to note that this is not an exhaustive list. The omission of a Right of Way from this list shall not be taken as an indication that such a right of way does not exist. It is the intention of the Council to continue to identify existing Public Rights of Way during the life

time of this Plan.

Where no Public Rights of Way exist to important recreational areas, places of historic interest, architectural heritage, scientific sites and sites of cultural heritage, the Council will encourage the creation of such Rights of Way in co-operation with local land owners.

| Public Rights of Way                          |  |
|---|--|
| <b>It is an objective of the Council to:-</b> |  |
| <b>SC-50</b>                                  | Ensure the preservation of Public Rights of Way which give access to seashore, mountain, lakeshore, riverbank and other place of natural beauty or recreational utility. |
| <b>SC-51</b>                                  | Seek to identify and protect existing Public Rights of Way which are not listed in this plan.  |
| <b>SC-52</b>                                  | Ensure that development does not impinge on public walking routes or Public Rights of Way.   |

<sup>(1)</sup> Recreation in the Irish Countryside DoECLG 2012



### 9.11 Burial Grounds

Local Authorities have a statutory responsibility to provide for burial facilities and has provided 147 to date. Some additional facilities are provided by religious bodies. Under the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2013, the Council can include objectives to reserve land for burial grounds. The individual Local Area Plans will examine the adequacy of the existing facilities to cater for the plan period. The Plans will reserve lands within each development centre at appropriate locations for burial facilities as required. The majority of the older/historic burial grounds in the County are listed in the Record of Monuments & Places and protected as archaeological monuments under the terms of the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004. As such, it is the policy of Kerry County Council to ensure the protection, preservation and recording of these burial grounds with an emphasis on retaining the historic character of the sites.

In recent years many community groups have become involved in the maintenance of existing burial grounds and this practice will be encouraged into the future.

| <b>Burial Grounds</b>                         |  |
|---|--|
| <b>It is an objective of the Council to:-</b> |  |
| <b>SC-53</b>                                  | Facilitate the sustainable provision of new burial grounds and the extension of existing cemeteries as appropriate to cater for the needs of the County where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on the environment including the integrity of Natura 2000 sites. |

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>SC-54</b> | Protect the archaeological and cultural heritage of historical burial grounds within County Kerry and encourage their management and maintenance in accordance with national legislation, Kerry County Councils Graveyard Management/Maintenance Guidelines and with best conservation practice. Encourage local community groups to develop, manage and maintain new burial facilities, in a sustainable manner. |
| <b>SC-55</b> | Develop all new burial grounds in the open lawn style.  |
| <b>SC-56</b> | Facilitate the establishment of a crematorium in Kerry.   |
| <b>SC-57</b> | Facilitate a special section for ashes, such as a garden or a wall of ashes type of development in burial grounds.  |
| <b>SC-58</b> | Facilitate the sustainable provision of car parks at burial grounds where appropriate.  |

