

# Gowran Local Area Plan



## Summary of Consultation Meeting – 11<sup>th</sup> November 2009 –



Kilkenny County Council – Forward Planning  
17<sup>th</sup> November 2009

## Introduction

This document summarises the issues raised during a pre-draft consultation event for the Gowran Local Area Plan (LAP) that took place on the evening of the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2009 in the Gowran Community Hall. The meeting was well attended by a range of stakeholders and members of the local community in Gowran and the results of the event will be considered during the preparation of the Draft LAP.

A short presentation was given to the meeting setting out the format of the evening, the progress in implementing the last LAP (in 2003) and what the making of a new plan involves.

Stakeholders and members of the local community formed discussion groups to focus on three key questions:

1. What's good about Gowran?
2. What are the current issues?
3. What are the possible solutions?

The summary reflects the feedback received to these three questions and is structured accordingly.



## **1. What's good about Gowran?**

- Good village to live in, good community spirit, good neighbourhood structure
- New houses – people have returned to village, new residents, which have brought children to village
- Integration of new people is successful
- Picturesque village with good architecture – well kept and has nice setting
- New housing blends in well – level of input from community to planning process is high
- No ribbon development
- Broadband is good, village is well serviced – Eircom, O2
- History and heritage: Walled town with two tolls, Gowran Castle & Demesne, Ballyshanemore Castle
- St. Mary's Church/ Abbey restoration & fountain – visitor's centre has opened since last plan
- Teach Mhuire – community enterprise centre
- School is excellent
- Increase in population has brought improved services: Chemist
- Elderly are taken care of with excellent services: Day care centre, nursing home, homes for elderly
- Good community alert with Gardai
- Good active sports organisations: Athletics, GAA, golf, pitch n' putt, racing
- Good sports facilities: GAA, golf course, race course, pitch n putt, soccer pitch
- Good organisations – Panto, Credit Union, Vincent de Paul, Tidy Towns, Bingo, Foroige, parish activities, Meals on Wheels, Development Association, mother & toddler group
- Community hall is good facility, has been extended
- Local priest is v. pro-active – excellent
- Good small industries – wood craft, Harding's fireplaces, 360 Marketing, marble works
- Shopfronts are well maintained
- Traffic calming has been successful – Paulstown Road and Waterford Road
- New road will solve traffic problems
- New sewerage scheme

## **2. What are the current issues?**

- Castle and lodge – has fallen into disrepair
- Old mill race – ram to pump water – could this be reused?
- Unfinished housing estates - unsightly
- Street cleaning – litter – no one doing this now – leads to blocked shores esp. at supermarket
- Footpaths needed around Church and on Kilkenny Road and to grotto/racecourse
- Footpath needed to hurling pitch and pitch and putt – drain on left side of road should be piped and footpath put over it
- Vacancies in houses – risk of vandalism
- Traffic still a problem, traffic calming needed e.g. signs at Flagmount, ramps on Mill Road
- No bus shelter and cars park in bus stop area
- Inadequate parking – esp. at St. Mary's church – was parking at Green, but now gone
- Goresbridge road junction is bad: might be problematic for RH turn to motorway, sign is in way
- Loughlin's junction – view to right is blind and is very near pedestrian crossing – parking bay to left should be removed?
- Dangerous bend at bridge/Bennettsbridge road
- Speed limits are too near village on Thomastown rd – 50 kph too near to village – should be phased – 60 then 50
- Not enough advance warning of railway crossing
- Kerbing at Community hall – should be removed – hazardous
- Facilities for sports – athletics club use racecourse – no changing facilities
- GAA – need more ground, is overused, need more facilities, needs redevelopment
- Road to GAA pitch is dangerous, narrow road and no footpath or public lighting, pipe the drain and put path over it
- Soccer pitch – not fully utilised - changing rooms burned down – co-operation between soccer and GAA?
- Nearest playground is Castle Park, Kilkenny – need one closer – derelict site could be used?
- School might need expansion – when all houses filled, also needs more sports facilities
- Need more people involved – same people involved in all activities
- Dereliction on Main street – fire damaged house, petrol station, gate lodge, Pearl's, boarded up house on Goresbridge road
- Flooding is issue – Rockfield
- Motorway might lead to loss of business
- Accommodation needed for tourists
- ATM needed
- Bigger shop needed?
- Drop in centre for youth needed, youth club – no activities esp. in winter – scouts/girl guides should be set up
- Vandalism at school and cars at church – linked to lack of activities
- Lack of garda presence
- No crèche
- No primary care unit

### **3. What are the possible solutions?**

- Creche – private enterprise/opportunity – County Enterprise Board could support this
- Possibility that Gowran is being considered for primary care unit
- Finish housing estates, occupy houses
- St. Mary's Church gets approx. 3,000 visitors per annum – the potential of keeping these visitors could be exploited
- Castle grounds and buildings have huge potential: walks, cycling
- Derelict sites legislation should be utilised to clean up buildings
- Get people into village – provide accommodation
- Walking tours and footpaths along river
- Improve signage in village
- Motorway is opportunity – will take traffic away from village
- Public transport – main route to Dublin – airport bus
- Parking – area opposite Teach Mhuire could be used?
- Loughlin's corner – from Kilkenny Road, cut in path to left hand side to increase visibility
- Traffic calming – might not be needed with motorway
- Remove kerbing outside community hall
- Tidy towns should be supported in street cleaning
- Project for young people based around cars
- Space for playground on derelict site
- Gardai presence could be improved.
- Need local industry – designate land for industrial use
- Extension to school may be needed – talk to Department of Education
- Identify land for more amenities – tennis court, athletics facilities, more ground for GAA
- Possible co-operation between GAA and soccer
- Establish cubs/scouts – use community hall

## **Conclusion**

This is a summary document of the issues raised at the public consultation as detailed by each of the groups. If you feel that any item is not mentioned here, or is not representing your views accurately, please let us know. The closing date for the receipt of pre-draft submissions is 5pm on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

Send a submission to:

**Director of Services,  
Planning Department,  
Kilkenny County Council,  
John Street,  
Kilkenny**

Or email to [localareaplans@kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:localareaplans@kilkennycoco.ie) or contact Caitriona Reilly at 056-7794234 with any questions.

The next step will be considering all the issues highlighted here and raised in the submissions and gathering them into a Draft Plan, which is scheduled to be released for public display in February/March 2010.

At the meeting, people were also requested to put forward their names listing one thing they would be prepared to do/get involved in. If you put forward your name, Martina Comerford from the Community and Enterprise Section will be in contact shortly to follow up on this.

**Your input is appreciated to the Local Area Plan process - thank you for your co-operation.**