



COAKLEY O'NEILL  
town planning

# Social & Community Audit

Large-Scale Residential Development

Ross Road, Killarney

Prepared in July 2025 on behalf of

**Homeland Projects Ltd.**

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## Document Control Sheet

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Core Strategy Statement of the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 sets out the population target for Killarney to 2028, indicating a targeted growth to 17,117 people. The Plan indicates that this growth target has regard to the existing population and social and community infrastructure in the town.
- 1.2 Having regard to this, this Social and Community Audit (SCA) has been prepared by Coakley O'Neill Town Planning Ltd. on behalf of our clients, Homeland Projects Ltd., to accompany an application for a Large-Scale Residential Development (LRD) on lands at the Ross Road, Killarney.
- 1.3 The purpose of this SCA is to examine and analyse the availability and capacity of existing social and community infrastructure provision in the vicinity of the proposed development site, and to determine future requirements based on anticipated population growth as a result of the proposed LRD.
- 1.4 Social and community infrastructure relates to the provision of services and facilities which are essential for supporting and sustaining the health, wellbeing, and social development of a place. Social and community infrastructure facilities include, for example, education, childcare, and healthcare services such as GP surgeries and hospitals, community specific services such as libraries, community centres, and various local support services, as well as spaces which can offer active sports and passive recreational activities.
- 1.5 Social and community infrastructure is not only functional but can also provide an invisible platform of community and social interaction that contributes towards quality of life, social cohesion and a strong sense of place. Provision of such infrastructure in the vicinity of the proposed development site is therefore vital to support the surrounding existing residential base and anticipated increase in population as a result of the proposed LRD, with regard to both physical facilities and aspects of local community life that foster social engagement.
- 1.6 This SCA has been considered in the context of the spatial development objectives for Killarney that are set out in statutory policy documents at national, regional and local level. This SCA was conducted using desktop research and multiple site visits during 2025.

## 2.0 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 The subject site is located on the southwest suburbs of Killarney, approximately 900m from the Town Centre. The site is approximately 3.8ha, with a net developable area of 3.35ha. The site is currently a greenfield with agricultural sheds to the northern side. The site is bound to the west, east and south by existing residential estates and to the north by the Ross Road.
- 2.2 While the site is greenfield in nature, the immediate site context is characterised by residential developments such as the Castle Falls housing estate to the west and Kingspark to the east. The site is located to the south of the Killarney House and Gardens. The Ross Golf club is to the west. To the south is the Fleck River, which flows into Lough Leane, also to the west of the site.



Figure 1. Subject Site



Figure 2. Subject Site Identified in Relation to Killarney Town Centre

### 3.0 POLICY CONTEXT

3.1 This section outlines the relevant planning policy at national and local level as it relates to social and community facilities.

#### **The Provision of Schools and the Planning System – A Code of Practice for Planning Authorities (2008)**

3.2 This Code of Practice sets out best practice approaches that should be followed by planning authorities in ensuring that the planning system plays its full part in facilitating the timely and cost-effective roll-out of school facilities by the Department of Education and Science and in line with the principles of proper planning and sustainable development.

3.3 Three core objectives are set out in the code of practice in relation to the future planning and delivery of schools:

1. *Schools provision should be an integral part of the evolution of compact sustainable urban development and the development of sustainable communities;*
2. *The provision of any new schools (both primary and post-primary) should be driven by and emerge from an integrated approach between the planning functions of planning authorities and the Department of Education and Science; and*
3. *Local authorities, as planning authorities, will support and assist the Department in ensuring the timely provision of school sites.*

#### **Quality Housing for Sustainable Communities - Best Practice Guidelines (2007)**

3.4 The aim of these Guidelines is to identify principles and criteria that are important in the design of housing in order to deliver sustainable, inclusive communities.

3.5 The Guidelines define sustainable neighbourhoods as being:

*'areas where an efficient use of land, high quality urban design and effective integration in the provision of physical and social infrastructure such as public transport, schools, amenities and other facilities combine to create places people want to live in'.*

#### **Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Growth Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2024)**

3.6 These Guidelines (SRDCS) set out policy and guidance in relation to the planning and development of urban and rural settlements, with a focus on sustainable residential development and the creation of compact settlements.

3.7 The Guidelines state that appropriate locations for higher density residential development that can deliver sustainable and inclusive communities are where there is good planning, good management and the necessary social infrastructure.

#### **National Planning Framework First Revision (2025)**

3.8 The *National Planning Framework* (NPF) is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of our country out to the year 2040. It recognises the importance of quality of life and notes that how future development in Ireland is planned will continue to be a significant determinant of people's quality of life.

3.9 **National Strategic Outcomes** 1. *Compact Growth*, 4. *Sustainable Mobility*, 7. *Enhanced Amenity and Heritage*, and 10. *Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services*, are all aimed at increasing people's quality of life.

3.10 **National Policy Objective 12** aims to ensure the creation of attractive, liveable, well designed, high quality urban places that are home to diverse and integrated communities that enjoy a high quality of life and well-being.

3.11 **National Policy Objective 38** is as follows:

*Plan for a more diverse and socially inclusive society that targets equality of opportunity and a better quality of life for all citizens, through improved integration and greater accessibility in the delivery of sustainable communities and the provision of associated services.*

3.12 **National Policy Objective 43** seeks to:

*Prioritise the provision of new homes at locations that can support sustainable development and at an appropriate scale of provision relative to location.*

### **Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (2020)**

3.13 The *Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region* (RSES) is the regional level strategic plan prepared by the Southern Regional Assembly and promotes and supports the strategic function of the Southern Region to drive balanced regional development inline with the National Planning Framework 2040.

3.14 The RSES states that compact urban settlements, enhanced and efficient public transport networks and the provision of physical and social infrastructure is essential and required in tandem with achieving projected growth in the Southern Region. **Regional Policy Objective 175** is aimed at improving quality of life through infrastructure-led planning which includes social infrastructure.

3.15 The RSES identifies Key Towns through the regional settlement hierarchy as being strategically located settlements which contribute to development of the key cities within the Southern Region in addition to the wider network of rural villages and towns.

3.16 The RSES identifies Killarney as a Key Town in the Southern Region. Identifying that Key Towns will play a significant role in the strengthening of the urban structures in the region.

3.17 Objective RPO 11 identifies the key objectives for Key Towns, including (b): *'It is an objective to seek investment in holistic infrastructure inclusive of utilities, transportation, social and community, digital infrastructure [...] that will deliver sustainable growth in Key Towns subject to the outcome of the planning process and environmental assessments.'*

### **Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028**

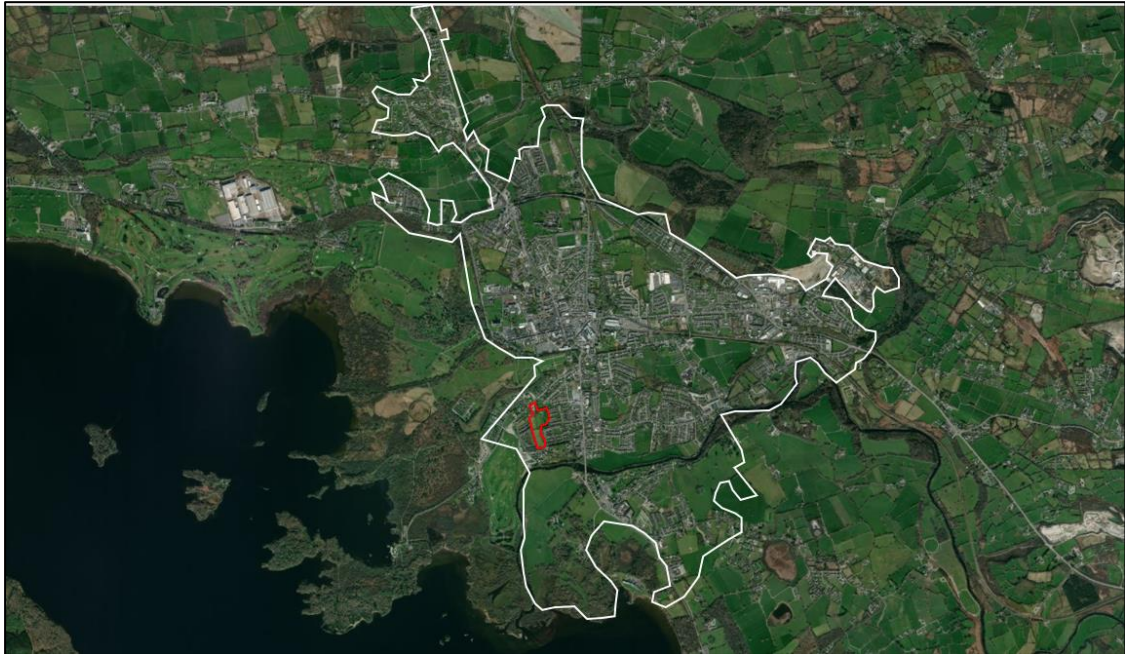
3.18 The Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 (hereafter the Plan) is the relevant statutory plan under which the regulation and development of the subject site is to be considered. Below, we set out policy provisions and objectives of the Plan that are relevant to the consideration of this application.

- 3.19 The subject site is zoned within the Plan as R1 - New Residential and R2 - Existing Residential.
- 3.20 Under the Plan the objective identified for lands zoned R1 is to *'provide for new residential development in tandem with the provision of necessary social and physical infrastructure'*.
- 3.21 The objective of lands zoned R2 is to *'provide for residential development and protect and improve residential amenity'*.
- 3.22 The Plan outlines that the provision of community and social infrastructure at appropriate locations is key a key component to the delivery of sustainable communities and that the delivery of new residential developments should be in line with the availability of essential community and social infrastructure including schools, childcare facilities and other amenities.
- 3.23 This is reflected in objective KCDP 6-1, which states: *Develop and support vibrant sustainable communities in Kerry where people can live, work, and enjoy access to a wide range of community, health, educational facilities, and amenities, suitable to all ages and needs, in both urban and rural areas, thereby supporting an enhanced quality of life for all people.*
- 3.24 The Plan identified that community infrastructure is an essential part of all communities. Facilities such as community centres, sports centres, libraries, and playgrounds can serve as a focal point for communities they serve, and provide venues for local sporting, cultural, community, education, and social events and the need to integrate housing with the provision of supporting community and social infrastructure,
- 3.25 The Plan states *'different levels of service provision are appropriate to settlements of different sizes, it is therefore important that the Council ensures that an appropriate range of community facilities are provided in all communities, taking account of the population profile and growth targets identified in the Core Strategy'*.

#### **4.0 CATCHMENT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SITE**

- 4.1 The site is located to the southwest of Killarney town centre. For the purposes of this SCA, it is practical to consider the existing population within the vicinity of the site and the various social and community facilities which support that population.
- 4.2 Presented in Figure 3 below is the catchment of the development site assessed for the purposes of this SCA. The defined catchment area encompasses the settlement boundary of Killarney Town as defined in the 2022 Census Data published by the Central Statistics Office.
- 4.3 This catchment as defined by the CSO comprises of the built-up area of Killarney Town. The use of this catchment allows for the accurate assessment of the population data of Killarney Town which is of relevance to the proposed development.

- 4.4 As acknowledged in both in National and Local Planning Policy that there is a requirement for there to be sufficient community and social infrastructure within Killarney to support the immediate day-to-day needs of existing and future residents.
- 4.5 The Census 2022 boundary for Killarney is illustrated below in relation to the subject site.



**Figure 3. Site location outlined in red, SCA catchment area and Census 2022 Boundary outlined in white.**

- 4.6 The population of Killarney town, according to Census 2022 figures, was 14,412 people in 2022.
- 4.7 Census 2022 figures indicate that there are 4,876 households within the Town and indicates an average household size of 2.5 people per household.
- 4.9 Table 1 below presents the age profile of the population of Killarney town according to the 2022 Census.

| Age Bracket | Population 2022 | % of Population |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 0-4         | <b>765</b>      | 5.3%            |
| 5-9         | <b>850</b>      | 5.9%            |
| 10-14       | <b>879</b>      | 6.1%            |
| 15-19       | <b>755</b>      | 5.2%            |
| 20-24       | <b>837</b>      | 5.8%            |
| 25-34       | <b>1,903</b>    | 13.2%           |
| 35-44       | <b>2,434</b>    | 16.9%           |
| 45-54       | <b>2,069</b>    | 14.4%           |
| 55-64       | <b>1,594</b>    | 11.1%           |
| 65+         | <b>2,326</b>    | 16.1%           |

**Table 1 Age profile of Killarney town, as per the 2022 Census.**

- 4.11 A review of the age profile of Killarney reveals that the town has a relatively balanced, slightly ageing profile, with 27.2% of the population of the town being aged 55 years or older, and with 22.5% of the population between the ages of 0-19.

## 5.0 COMMUNITY PROFILE – EXISTING SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROVISION

- 5.1 This SCA assesses the existing community and social infrastructure within the defined catchment area of the site of the proposed development, as outlined and discussed in Section 4 above, under the following headings:

|  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <b>1. Education/Training</b>               | <b>5. Social/Community Services</b> |
| <b>2. Childcare</b>                        | <b>6. Arts and Culture</b>          |
| <b>3. Health</b>                           | <b>7. Faith</b>                     |
| <b>4. Sports/Recreation and Open Space</b> | <b>8. Other Features</b>            |

### Education/Training

- 5.2 There are 4no. existing primary schools and 3no. existing secondary school within the catchment area (see Tables 2 and 3 below).

| Existing Primary Schools |                              |       |      |       |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------|------|-------|
| No.                      | Name and Location            | Girls | Boys | Total |
| 1                        | Scoil Mhuire na Mainistreach | -     | 194  | 213   |
| 2                        | Holy Cross Primary School    | 281   | 92   | 373   |
| 3                        | St Olivers National School   | 296   | 326  | 622   |
| 4                        | Gaelscoil Faithlean          | 132   | 113  | 245   |

**Table 2 Existing primary schools located within the defined catchment area of the proposed development.**

| Existing Post-Primary Schools |                              |       |      |       |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------|------|-------|
| No.                           | Name and Location            | Girls | Boys | Total |
| 1                             | St Brendan's College         | -     | 873  | 873   |
| 2                             | St Brigid's Secondary School | 770   | -    | 770   |
| 3                             | Killarney Community College  | 239   | 237  | 476   |

**Table 3 Existing post-primary schools located within the defined catchment area of the proposed development.**

- 5.3 The provision of primary and post-primary school facilities in Ireland is determined on an area specific basis by the Department of Education, having regard to available school capacity, demographic projections, analysis of child benefit records, and local GIS travel pattern modelling.
- 5.4 The Kerry County Council Development Plan does not identify the need for an additional school in Killarney.

- 5.5 There is 1no, third level educational facility within the study area, the Killarney Adult Learning Centre operated by the Kerry College of Further Education and Training Board is located within the Killarney Town, which provides a number of further education routes.
- 5.6 Further to this, the catchment area is well connected to both Tralee which offers third level education opportunities in the Kerry College and the Munster Technological University North Campus. The site of the development benefits from good access to these facilities from the site and catchment area due to the availability of public transport serving the area.

### Childcare

- 5.7 Based upon the Census 2022 data for Killarney town, it is calculated that there are c. 764no. children aged 0-4 living within the catchment area of the proposed development.
- 5.8 A telephone survey was undertaken in late 2024 to ascertain the level of capacity available in existing childcare facilities within the catchment of this SCA. Details of these childcare facilities, including maximum capacity, are presented in Table 4 below.

| Facility Name and Location                                | Service Type                         | Maximum Capacity |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Bebé Crèche & Montessori                               | Full Day/ Part Time<br>and sessional | 75               |
| 2. Bellview Woods Childcare                               | Full Day/ Part Time<br>and sessional | 170              |
| 3. Holy Cross Mercy Early Years and School<br>Age Service | Part Time and<br>sessional           | 88               |
| 4. Maggies Montessori                                     | Sessional                            | 21               |
| 5. Montessori House of Children                           | Full Day/Sessional                   | 119              |
| 6. St. Oliver's Pre- school Ballycasheen CLG              | Sessional                            | 66               |
| 7. Torc Childcare Service                                 | Part Time/ Sessional                 | 65               |

**Table 4 Existing TUSLA Registered Early Years Childcare Facilities as of July 2024. (Source: Tusla, 2024).**

- 5.9 Following a survey of these facilities it was identified that 1no. facility had space for 10no. additional children. However, all other services were operating at maximum capacity.
- 5.10 This would therefore suggest that there is limited capacity available in childcare spaces in the catchment area of the proposed development.

### Health

- 5.11 Desktop research and site visits were employed to provide an indication of the number of health facilities and services located within the catchment area of the proposed development. The results of this research are presented in Table 5 below.

5.12 There are no national, regional or local standards for health provision in Ireland relating to the provision of primary care centres or the number of doctors in an area.

| Description of Health Service/Facility | Name and Location                    |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 15no. Medical Centres                  | 1. Killarney Medical Centre          |
|  | 2. Killarney Community Health Centre |
|  | 3. Cahernane Medical Centre          |
|  | 4. Ross Medical Practice             |
|  | 5. Park Medical and Wellness Centre  |
|  | 6. Killarney GP                      |
|  | 7. Park Medical Practice             |
|  | 8. Deenagh Medical Practice          |
|  | 9. Torc Medical Practice             |
|  | 10. Alliance Medical                 |
|  | 11. SouthDoc Killarney               |
|  | 12. My Clinic 365                    |
|  | 13. Mna Womens Health Clinic         |
|  | 14. Sain Columbanus Hospital         |
|  | 15. Killarney Community Hospital     |
| 3no. GP Practices                      | 1. Dr Rosemary Kelliher              |
|  | 2. Dr T.F Kennelly                   |
|  | 3. Dr Grainne Ryan                   |
| 8no. Dental Surgeries                  | 1. Dental Care Ireland               |
|  | 2. Gleesons Dental Surgery           |
|  | 3. Kingdom Clinic                    |
|  | 4. Killarney Dental Clinic           |
|  | 5. Trant Cronin Kelly Dentists       |
|  | 6. Kerry Endontics                   |
|  | 7. Clancy Dental                     |
|  | 8. Stephen Cotter Orthodontics       |
| 10no. Pharmacies                       | 1. Sheahans Pharmacy                 |
|  | 2. Sewells Pharmacy                  |
|  | 3. Allcare Pharmacy                  |
|  | 4. Pharmadirect                      |
|  | 5. Reens Life Pharmacy               |
|  | 6. O'Sullivan's Pharmacy             |
|  | 7. CarePlus Pharmacy                 |
|  | 8. Kennellys Pharmacy                |
|  | 9. Boots Pharmacy                    |
|  | 10. Trents Pharmacy                  |
| 8no. Physiotherapists                  | 1. Balance 21                        |
|  | 2. Proactive Physiotherapy           |

|               |    |   |
|---------------|----|---|
| 5no. Optician | 3. | Galvin Physiotherapy Clinic                       |
|               | 4. | Evolve Physical Therapy                           |
|               | 5. | Killarney Physiotherapy and Sports Science Clinic |
|               | 6. | Ross Road Physiotherapy                           |
|               | 7. | Go Beyond Physiotherapy                           |
|               | 8. | McMahon Sports Therapy                            |
|               | 1. | Urban Optics                                      |
|               | 2. | The Optical Suite                                 |
|               | 3. | Specsavers  |
|               | 4. | Kennellys Opticians                               |
|               | 5. | Tagney Opticians                                  |

**Table 5 List of health services and facilities in the defined catchment area of the proposed development.**

- 5.13 The review of the health services and facilities in the defined catchment area indicates that the town is well served in respect of medical centres and GPs in addition to the other key medical services indicated above.

### Sports/Recreation and Open Space

- 5.14 Sports and recreation infrastructure refers to parks and playgrounds, dedicated public open space and amenity areas, sports centres and formal club facilities. Desktop research and site visits were employed to ascertain the number and nature of sports/recreation facilities and open spaces located within the catchment area of the proposed development. The results of this research are presented in Table 6.

| Description                           | Name and Details                       |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 5no. Playing Pitches/<br>Sports Clubs | 1. Killarney Athletics and Soccer Club |
|                                       | 2. Killarney Sports and Leisure Centre |
|                                       | 3. Dr Crokes GAA Club                  |
|                                       | 4. Deerpark Pitch and Putt             |
|                                       | 5. Killarney Valley AC Arena           |
| 4no. Amenity Parks/<br>Playgrounds    | 1. Killarney Skate Park                |
|                                       | 2. Killarney Park                      |
|                                       | 3. Knockreer Playground                |
|                                       | 4. Killarney National Park             |

**Table 6 Existing recreational and sports facilities and clubs in the defined catchment area of the proposed development.**

- 5.15 There are a number of sports, recreation and open space facilities within the defined catchment which cater to all cohorts.
- 5.16 The *Sustainable and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2024)* state that the availability of accessible and high quality public open spaces within all settlements that are part of a wider Green and Blue Infrastructure network will be important in creating sustainable settlements.

- 5.17 The Guidelines further recommend that all residents within a settlement should have access to multifunctional public open space.
- 5.18 It is considered that the catchment area is well catered for in terms of open and recreational outdoor spaces in addition to the open space proposed on the subject site.

### Social/Community Facilities

- 5.19 Social and community facilities are broad categories and can include general civic services as well as services targeted to specific sectors of the community. Desktop research was employed to ascertain the number and nature of social/community services located within the catchment area. The result of this research is presented in Table 7 below.

| Description                         | Name and Location                                     |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 6no. Civic Facilities and Services  | 1. Killarney Library                                  |
|                                     | 2. Garda Station                                      |
|                                     | 3. Kerry Fire and Rescue Station                      |
|                                     | 4. Killarney Resource and Community Centre            |
|                                     | 5. Ballyspillane Community and Family Resource Centre |
|                                     | 6. Citizens Information Centre                        |
| 3no. Social/Community Organisations | 1. Anam Arts and Cultural Centre                      |
|                                     | 2. Kasi Community Garden                              |
|                                     | 3. Killarney Youth Centre                             |

**Table 7 Social/community services located within the defined catchment area of the proposed development.**

- 5.20 There are no national, regional, or local standards regarding the provision of social and community facilities and services. A simple standardisation which has been employed elsewhere in neighbourhood planning is: 0.3 community facilities per 1,000 head of population<sup>1</sup>. However, this approach is somewhat crude, being based on the number of buildings/ facilities provided and does not account for the size or quality of individual facilities. Consequently, the use of this standard is applied with caution and as a benchmark only. It can be assumed, based on the information presented in Table 8 above, that the area is reasonably well served in terms of social and community facilities.

### Arts and Culture

- 5.21 Desktop research was employed to ascertain the number and nature of arts and culture facilities located within the catchment area of the proposed development. The result of this research is presented in Table 8 below.

<sup>1</sup> See: Barton, H., Grant, M., and Guise, R. (2021). *Shaping Neighbourhoods: For Local Health & Global Sustainability*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. London:

| Description                                   | Name and Location                |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 6no. General/<br>Culture/ Music<br>Facilities | 1. Anam Arts and Cultural Centre |
|   | 2. Killarney Art Gallery         |
|   | 3. Killarney Convention Centre   |
|   | 4. Omniplex cinema               |
|   | 5. CinemaKillarney               |
|   | 6. Gleneagle INEC                |

**Table 8 Existing arts and culture facilities located within the defined catchment area of the proposed development.**

5.22 Killarney has a long-established reputation as being a thriving centre for the arts and culture, with multiple festivals and initiatives taking place. Table 9 indicates that Killarney is host to a number of different artistic and cultural institutions which can provide for the existing and future population.

### Faith

5.23 There are 9no. centres of religious worship located within the catchment area. They are listed below in Table 9.

| Details of Centres of Worship      |
|------------------------------------|
| 1. Living Rock Church              |
| 2. St. Marys Cathedral             |
| 3. The Well Ministries             |
| 4. St Marys Church of Ireland      |
| 5. Church of the Resurrection      |
| 6. Grace Baptist Church            |
| 7. Church of the Holy Spirit       |
| 8. Killarney Masjid Islamic Centre |
| 9. Methodist Church                |

**Table 9 Existing centres of religious worship located within the defined catchment area of the proposed development.**

5.24 There are no known national or other benchmarking standards for the provision of religious faith and worship social infrastructure. However, the town is currently served by 8no. places of worship across faiths, given number of residential units proposed and the existing population base in the town, it can be concluded that the town has sufficient places of worship to support the existing and future population base.

### Other Social and Community Infrastructure

5.25 Killarney town centre offers a number of additional social and community assets including and not limited to a Post office, Credit Union, banks and a social welfare branch.

5.26 Further to this, Killarney benefits from a significant retail presence in the town core. This includes a number of comparison retail uses such as clothes and bookstores. Additionally, the town is served by a number of

large supermarkets including Supervalu, Dunnes, Lidl and Aldi. The town centre additionally hosts a number of hospitality uses including Cafes, restaurants and hotels.

## **6.0 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 There are 4no. existing primary schools and 3no. existing secondary school within the defined catchment area of the proposed development with a total capacity of 3,572pupils.
- 6.2 Having regard to the number of primary and post primary schools located within the catchment of the proposed development, it is considered that there will be satisfactory levels of access to primary and post-primary places for future residents of the area if the proposed development is granted permission and developed.
- 6.3 However, it is the finding of this SCA that there is currently insufficient availability of early years childcare spaces. As a result, it is the recommendation of this audit that a full-day early years childcare facility be provided as part of the proposed development.
- 6.4 With regard to access to health services, it is considered that the area is currently well served in relation to primary health care facilities. This SCA finds that Killarney Town is served by a total of 15no. medical centres which includes a community hospital, a primary care centre and a number of medical centres. This is in addition to a number of GP practices and dental practices.
- 6.5 In terms of sports/recreation and open space, it is the finding of this audit that there is sufficient provision of sports grounds, parks, amenity walks and equipped play areas/ playgrounds in the catchment area.
- 6.6 The area in which the site of the proposed development is located has reasonable access to social and community services and places to practice faith and worship.
- 6.7 It is notable that, in terms of arts and culture, Killarney currently hosts a number of cultural facilities such as Art Centres and cinemas in addition to hosting galleries and art centres, providing sufficient arts and cultural facilities to accommodate any demand created as a result of the proposed development.
- 6.8 The area is served by existing small scale convenience retail and retail services, with the nearest convenience retail store being located a 12-minute walk to the east of the subject site.

## 7.0 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 Social and community infrastructure is essential to achieving a balanced approach to sustainable local communities. It is also of critical importance to the economic as well as social development of a city/town/place.
- 7.2 This Social and Community Audit examined the current context with respect to social and community infrastructure provision within the defined catchment area of the site of the proposed Large-Scale Residential Development at Killarney, County Kerry.
- 7.3 The SCA findings highlight the presence of some excellent social infrastructure facilities in the area, as well as key challenges and opportunities regarding provision of, in particular, early years childcare facilities to serve the town.
- 7.4 The role of social and community infrastructure in integrating new and existing communities is critical. A mix of land uses can provide opportunities for community activity and places for people to meet and connect, which can thus reinforce a sense of community identity and strengthen social solidarity. Local facilities within easy walking distance of where people live can also help to reduce transport requirements and thus reduce carbon emissions.
- 7.5 It is therefore considered that the population increase in the area brought about by the proposed development, together with a crèche, can be adequately supported by existing social and community infrastructure in the area and will also enhance the offering of such, benefitting not just the future residents of the proposed development but those of the wider catchment area also.
- 7.6 The proposed development therefore has the potential to positively contribute towards the local sense of community.