

# Fiddown & Piltown Local Area Plans

Summary of Consultation Meeting - 10<sup>th</sup> November 2009



Kilkenny County Council – Forward Planning



## **Introduction**

This document summarises the issues raised during a pre-draft consultation event for the Fiddown and Piltown Local Area Plans (LAP) that took place on the evening of the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2009 in the Piltown Parish Community Centre. The meeting was well attended by a range of stakeholders and members of the local community in Fiddown and Piltown and the results of the event will be considered during the preparation of the Draft LAPs.

A short presentation was given at 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 Fiddown and Piltown?
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 Piltown & Fiddown?**

### **Community**

- Good community spirit – it's get up and go parish. There are lots of community groups that are progressive and positive. Fiddown has a close-knit community.
- The community centre is as a result of community effort.
- The quality of the GAA & Soccer Club is due to good volunteer organisation in Piltown.
- Piltown Tidy Towns committee is small but people are very involved.

### **Great Facilities**

- Lots of sports and recreation for different age groups from school age upwards.
- Sports - soccer floodlit pitch, GAA complex and all weather pitch, rugby field in Tybroughney
- Community centre – karate, snooker, basketball and computer course.
- Kildalton College is an asset both as a third level college and as an amenity with walkways.

### **Public Realm Upgrade**

- Footpaths have increased in number and are a positive addition, eg. at Orchard Estate right up to the GAA grounds.
- New steps outside the Doctor's Surgery.
- Speed ramps Tower Road
- Infrastructure is of good quality.
- By-pass took heavy traffic.
- Poles / bollards.
- Works at the school is positive.

### **Services**

- Existing shops, new pharmacy and Health Centre – there is a good level of service.
- Recycling centre. Small Businesses – i.e. Facloner's Hurleys
- Piltown has the best national school in the county.
- Population increase in Fiddown has brought benefits such as the Daybreak shop; the Chinese is a bonus.

### **Past & Heritage**

- Heritage buildings and the preservation of buildings – the Tower, Tybroughney Castle, Hatchet's Well, Anthony's Inn – historical/ social; also these are tourist attractions and could be used more.
- In the past it was good; Piltown was a model village linked with the Bessborough Estate and was one of the most attractive villages years ago.
- There used to be an ice-rink in Kildalton when the lake froze over.
- Kildalton Close is an example of good design and scale.

### **River**

- River provides a good opportunity; in 1834 there were 126 boats per year traveling up the River Pil and at the back of the Barracks there was a quay.
- Breagach River through Hillcrest in Piltown is nice.
- End of Tybroughney flooding due to clean-up of the Pil River.

**Location**

- Very central near Carrick-on-Suir, Dublin and Waterford and with bus services to these areas.

**Other**

- Piltown is a nice place to live, with lots of amenities with very little unemployment up until recently. Good access to services and amenities that are within walking distance.
- Having a plan/ vision is important.
- Iverk Agricultural Show.

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

### **Dereliction**

- Derelict buildings: creamery, houses on Main Street, house near Credit Union, Foyles garage – put on derelict sites register. Travellers are residing beside the creamery.

### **Housing**

- The zoning for housing on the periphery of the village is not suitable, and zoning for a large number of houses on a floodplain is dangerous and would cause problems.
- There are unfinished estates with people living in them; enforcement action is needed for completion.
- Residential developments: issues with visual appearance, design, scale and amount of development, sanitation, vacancies, street lighting, roadways, lack of green areas, lack of infrastructure and overlooking. Kildalton Close should have been used as example in relation to scale, urban density in a village, quality of layout etc.
- Infrastructure not in place prior to development, such as wastewater and water.
- Speculative development occurred for investment properties, and new people haven't integrated.
- The Council and the Developer are at fault; the Council gave permission, local people weren't listened to. Have needed to go to An Bord Pleanala to stop housing.

### **Landscaping**

- Proper landscaping is needed; if the Council bring the area to a certain standard, then the local residents could form a community organisation and maintain it.
- In Fiddown there are a number of areas that are unfinished and that look terrible including at the flyover, the tunnel and at the beehive – these should have been landscaped. Fiddown is a bit grey.

### **Playground**

- No playground in Piltown, you need to go to Carrick-on-Suir or Mooncoin. It should not be necessary to get into a car to go to a playground. The number of young families in the area is up and a playground is needed.
- The playground in Fiddown residential estate is in a poor location along a cul-de-sac; private car-parking is compromised and equipment is not managed.

### **Services and Amenities**

- Kylemore estate in Fiddown - management of the estate by the Council is required.
- Bottlebank should be at a shop not in an existing estate; it's a great asset, but people dump rubbish.
- The lack of broadband provision is a severe obstruction to business development.
- The quality of drinking water has deteriorated and lime is an issue.
- A focal point is needed for the centre of the town in Piltown.
- Signage on the entrances to Fiddown are inadequate and need improvement.
- Outside of the community hall, barriers have been put up to keep Travellers out, rather than facilitating local people.
- The steps outside of the doctor's surgery provided under the urban and village renewal scheme look nice but cost a lot of money that could have been better spent.
- Several areas of the last plan haven't been implemented.

### **River & Tourism**

- Objectives for river walks and linear parks have not happened, the river in Piltown is under-utilised as is the strand in Fiddown; there is potential for tourist amenity in these locations, and access needs to be improved. The Pil River needs to be cleared up.
- Very well positioned near Waterford on the river Suir, but this is not being exploited for tourism; also the valley and the Comeraghs need to be exploited.

### **Transport**

- Bus shelters are needed, as are more bus stops.
- Could Iarnrod Eireann consider opening a railway station at the level crossing in Fiddown.
- There is no school bus service in Fiddown, even though it was mentioned in the last plan.

### **Roads**

- Traffic control needed at the school. In the morning there are a lot of people going to Kildalton College and 200-300 children going to school, which causes a problem. Need speed ramps installed, and for the flashing lights to be put on a timer.
- The by-pass is dangerous, particularly the junction at the Tower when trying to exit, there have been 8 deaths since 1995. The levels at the Tower would lend themselves to a fly-over. The junction should be altered to provide a slip road when turning left coming off the by-pass from Carrick-on-Suir. Representations have been made about the roundabout entrance to the Area Engineer - responsibility needs to be with the Area Engineer. A safety review of the Tower road junction is being carried out by the Roads section. The right-hand turn at the Ink Bottle is dangerous. The length of the slip road at Fiddown is insufficient and the sign at the beehive is obstructing visibility. 14 million pounds over run on the road, and without consultation, and the by-pass has not been properly finished. Better design and traffic safety required and lighting is needed at all junctions.
- The by-pass has left the village of Fiddown in a shambles with people cut-off from each other; the Rathmore tunnel is too low and emergency services can't get through. The by-pass was not officially opened.
- Fiddown has a very high volume of traffic going through, and vehicles will go through the village to avoid paying tolls. Traffic is going back through the villages, and the junctions are dangerous and there is a lack of lighting at all junctions. Speeding is a problem in Fiddown and Piltown traffic calming is needed.
- The roads have not been properly finished in Fiddown; there are issues with the crash barriers and at the beehive – the works should be finished.
- The Tybroughney road has been widened with a ditch on one side and a footpath on the other. The ditch needs to be maintained to stop it being a traffic hazard. There are problems with road safety access on this road with inconsistencies in width and no white line. There is no drainage and the new footpath is leading to water lodging on the road.
- Speed limits are needed on the Ardclone road, need to reduce the huge amount of heavy goods vehicles and tractors, it's not safe and wasn't intended for such heavy traffic to the factory; ramps needed.
- Something is needed to slow down traffic approaching the narrow bridge at Mundy's shop, this is a black spot and a narrow point.

- Behind the chip-shop in Piltown is like an obstacle course. Traffic parking at the chip-shop around 6.30p.m. is particularly bad.
- The Council need to take the access road to the soccer field into care; it is in bad repair. The roads need to be maintained, there are issues with leaves, debris, potholes and hedges.
- Pedestrian lights are needed. Speed ramps on the Tower Road.
- There are traffic queues in Piltown at Hillcrest in the mornings.

### **Footpaths**

- A new footpath needed between Fiddown and Piltown; it would be a nice walk; there used to be a footpath with limestone kerbs between the settlements. Footpaths are needed in a number of areas and would be safer for pedestrians: including on: Tower Road, from school to community centre, to the soccer pitch, from the church. The footpath at Fiddown Bridge is badly designed. Maintenance of footpaths is needed.

### **Parking**

- Bollards on the Main Street are restricting parking at the take-away and Centra leading to congestion. Parking is a problem at both shops and enforcement is needed by Gardai and road markings required. Parking standards aren't sufficient, the chemist doesn't have parking.

### **Flooding**

- Flooding in Piltown is a problem at Tybroughney, Stroneybridge, the Orchard estate, the two slip roads, Rathmore road, at Tom Tennysons and north of the school.
- Flooding was 8 inches deep on Tybroughney road, 74 houses and over 700 people affected. No consideration has been given to flood planning and the floodplain has been subject to dumping. Flooding needs to be addressed.
- The Pil River needs to be cleared up, the OPW has responsibility to clean it.
- The bridge was damaged from sewerage works.

### **Litter**

- Recycling centre is great, but litter is a problem. More rubbish bins are needed, especially at the chipper, and there is a problem with them not being emptied. Rubbish is being dumped in Banagher Court. There is an issue with stray dogs and fouling.

### **Lighting**

- Lack of public lighting around Piltown especially at school, and the trees obscuring lighting at the school. Public lighting needed in Piltown from Anthony's Inn to the sports centre, from the school to the entrance to Kildalton college, and at the Tower. There are issues with lighting in Kylemore estate in Fiddown.

### **Activities**

- Youth club needed. Community centre - could be used more by sporting groups. Community groups – like a dormitory town the numbers turning up are not great and no new people are getting involved.

### **Consultation**

- Area meeting – public not aware of same. Little consultation with the Council; people 'railroaded' and this should be improved.

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

#### **Heritage**

- Formation of Heritage Group for the two villages and a heritage centre should be developed.

#### **Employment**

- Need new ideas for new enterprise. Reduction in development charges to encourage new enterprise. Lands to be zoned in Fiddown for jobs. Small business park for Piltown based around agricultural companies providing services e.g. customer support centre, link in agricultural industry with college; a pre-requisite is the provision of broadband. Funding of Piltown needed.

#### **Consultation**

- Contact with Council officials and Councillors needs to be improved. Need Middle ground between residents/ community groups and Council.

#### **Transport**

- Re-open the railway station in Fiddown.
- Provide bus shelters in Fiddown and Piltown.
- Move the bus stop to outside the shop.

#### **School**

- Speed bumps onto the school road will deter traffic.
- Lollipop lady at the school.
- There should be a pedestrian school crossing.
- Divert traffic out of the village and keep cars and trucks diverted to the new road, but should not be diverted to bypass via ink bottle.
- Provide lighting from the college to the school.
- Place a timer on the signs.

#### **Parking**

- Enforce parking at peak times at Mundy's and Centra. Provide double yellow lines outside shops. Provide for parking in these areas and on Main Street and traffic calming on exit from the shop.

#### **By-pass**

- Removal of 2 plus 1 system (outdated in Europe) and replace with 2 plus 2/ dual carriageway whole way. Remove wire. Provide for a full and proper design of junction at the Tower road.
- Temporary solution – roundabouts at Tower and Ink Bottle (cheap).
- Take heavy traffic out of village.
- Provide a fly-over and longer slip road on the by-pass.
- Increase the height of the tunnel in Fiddown to cater for an ambulance.
- Divert traffic to the Ink Bottle, although a mile outside the village, heavy goods vehicles would go there.
- At the Tower have only entry / no exit.

### **Roads**

- Traffic calming, road markings, road crossings and speed limits in Fiddown.
- Footpath connection to both villages needed – there was one before. Maintain the relationship between the two villages as they compliment each other.
- Need traffic calming in estates – lots of children.
- The Council should take ownership of the laneway to the soccer club.
- Improve road markings and safety and speed limits.
- Maintenance of footpaths and roads.
- The hedges should be properly maintained on the Tybroughney road.
- All junctions should be lit.

### **Footpath**

- Put footpath at Turkstown and increase pedestrian safety with pavements in the village environs.

### **Amenity**

- Explore recommendation for additional activities.
- The quality and individuality of the historic quay side in Fiddown should be retained and an upgrade of the quay is needed which would facilitate boating.
- Walking routes and amenities in Fiddown could be provided. The river has a lot of potential and a river walk should be developed, with the possibility of looped walks.
- The Creamery should be regenerated for business or an enterprise centre and become a focal point and the area around Foyle's should be regenerated.
- Tidy up and landscape around the Beehive. Erect signage coming into Fiddown on the main road and from Piltown, as the signage is currently inadequate and there is a need to announce the village and for clear demarcation at the entrances to the village.
- FAS workers do good work, but an area for them to place cuttings etc. is needed.
- Provide playground and a park as a focal point in Piltown at the Minister's field (beside Centra), at Foyle's Garage or opposite Kildalton Close.
- More community spirit needed.

### **Zoning and future development**

- Change zoning at Banagher as it is not suitable for residential use.
- Need a continuous streetscape to Foyles garage.
- Need coherent plan that takes account of all development.
- New development is not wanted.

### **Services**

- Every house should be charged for disposal of rubbish.
- Water quality should be addressed on a county level.
- Give a copy of the local area plan to the Area Engineer.

## **Conclusion**

This is a summary document of the issues raised at the public consultation meeting 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); you can contact Claire Kelly at 056-7794018 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.**