

Re: Killina Sráid - Draft Offaly County Development Plan 2021 - 2027

To Whom It May Concern,

This submission relates to the Killina Draft Sráid Plan 2021 – 2027. The overall approach to the development of Killina as proposed is welcome as it identifies the importance of the former Convent at the core of this settlement under Specific Objective No. 3 (SO3).

The Killina Presentation Resource Centre (KPRC) Steering Committee was formed in 2019 to act on behalf of the community to rebuild local services and to provide facilities that would be utilised by and strengthen bonds between people of all ages in the parish. The Steering Committee has acquired the now vacant convent property with a view towards developing this as a resource centre on behalf of our community and wider area.

It is requested that the items outlined below are considered for inclusion as Specific Objectives for Killina Sráid under the proposed County Development Plan 2021 - 2027 and for Offaly County Council to support uses, infrastructure and development that achieve these objectives.

1. It is noted that the proposed development plan includes a Specific Objective SO3 to 'encourage the future re-purposing of the Convent and associated buildings for a use that enhances and strengthens the function of the Sráid.' however it is considered appropriate to strengthen this commitment by including the wording 'support Killina Presentation Resource Centre to adapt the former Convent to include community services, training and education, pastoral care, tourism, community, cultural, leisure and co-working activities to enhance and strengthen the function of the Sráid'
2. The former Convent is in close proximity to a 497 student Secondary School and Catholic Church where the primary mode of transport is car or bus transport. Having the Grand Canal Greenway in close proximity to the former Convent provides an excellent opportunity to enhance the walking and cycling infrastructure for Killina Sráid and the Resource Centre by providing an appropriate off-road pedestrian and cycling link between the Centre and the Grand Canal Greenway. It is noted that the proposed development plan includes a General Objective 'Support the provision of a pedestrian / cycleway connection between the Secondary School and Grand Canal Greenway.' However it is considered appropriate to include Killina Presentation Resource Centre in the wording and to include this item as a Specific Objective in the Development Plan.

This would align with Sustainable Mobility and Accessibility Policy SMAP-08 and Tourism and Recreational Objective TRO-14 of this County Development Plan in addition to complying with the aims of the National Cycling Policy Framework, Healthy Offaly Plan 2018-2020 and the Green Schools Initiative.



3. It is noted that at present there is little public amenity space in proximity to the former Convent. It is therefore submitted that the area outlined in red in Figure 1 is included under SO3 to facilitate the sustainable development of community facilities at Killina Presentation Resource Centre as this area is included within the lands leased by Killina Presentation Resource Centre.

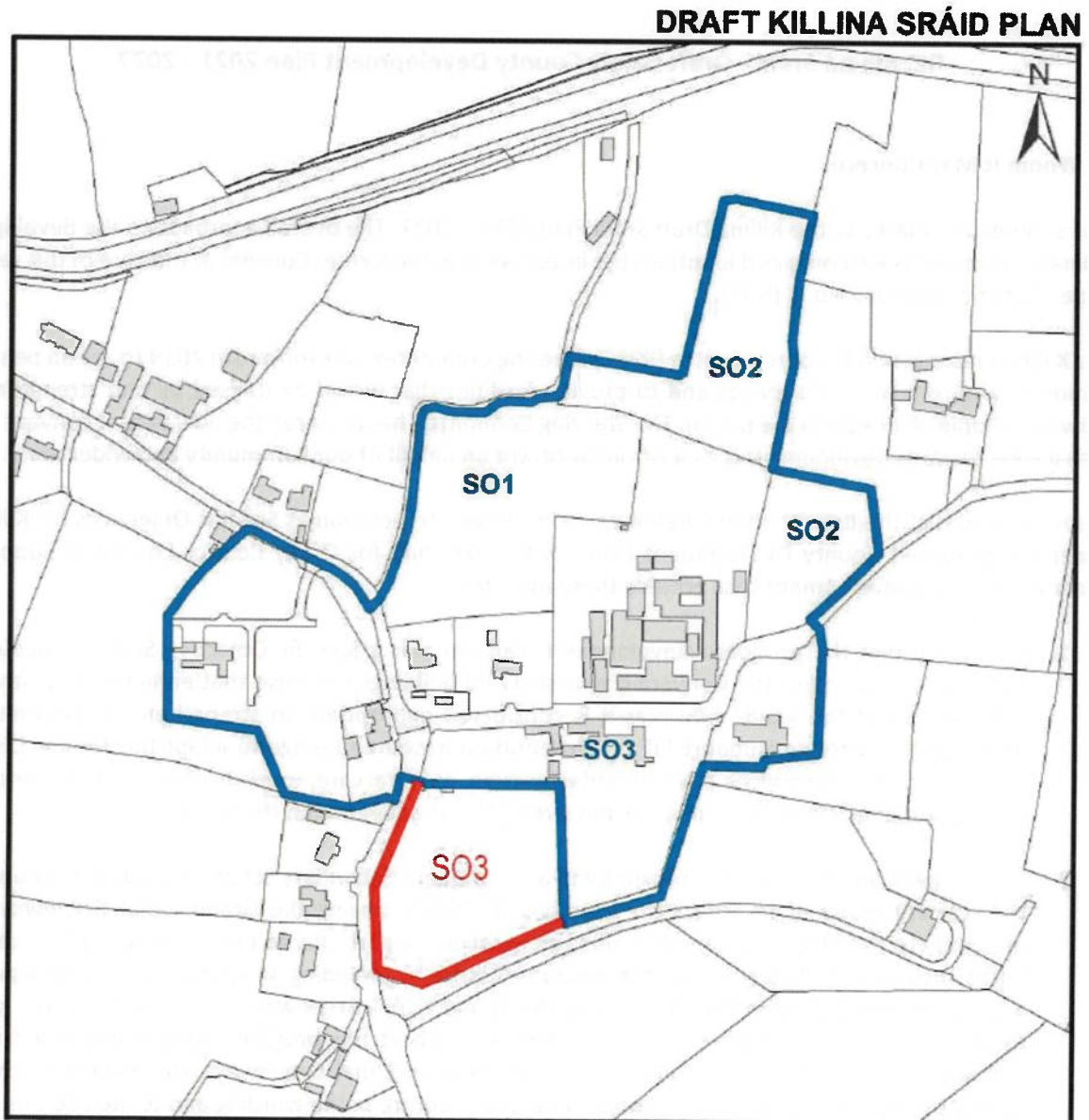


Figure 1 – possible extension to Killina Sráid to incorporate Killina Presentation Resource Centre

Signed: Killina Presentation Resource Centre Steering Committee

