

Kilkenny Open Space, Sports And Recreation Study

Volume 1 – Sports and Recreation Study

Prepared by

Cunnane Stratton Reynolds
Town Planners and Landscape Architects
3 Molesworth Place
Dublin 2

&

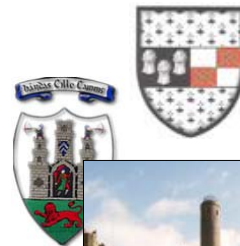
Plunkett Chambers
21-23 Oliver Plunkett Street
Cork

With assistance from

Kilkenny County Council
County Hall
Kilkenny

&

Kilkenny Borough Council
Town Hall
Kilkenny



Document Control Sheet

Date	Revision	By	Type
19/03/02	-	JFC	Layout Format
17/05/02	-	JFC	Issued as Consultation Draft for Steering Committee
17/06/02	A	JFC	Corrections & Final Copy of Consultation Report and Open Space Report
07-08/02	-	JFC / PG / JF / Team	Facilities / Clubs Questionnaires
08-09/02	-	Team	Facilities Surveys – Additional Facilities
10/02	-	JB	Household Surveys
10-11/02	-	Team	User Surveys
12/02	-	JFC/JB	Report Draft Working Document
01/03	-	JFC	Policy Draft
02/03	-	JFC	Initial Modelling Info and Policy / Strategy
02/03	B	JFC	Issued As Draft – FPM Run 2 GAA (Run 1 All Under Prep)
03/03	C	JFC / SD	FPM Maps
04/03	D	JFC	Text Corrections
04/03	E	JFC	Final Issue

CONTENTS

Executive Summary

INTRODUCTION

- 1.0 Introduction
- 1.1 The Framework
- 1.2 The Brief
- 1.3 The Study Area
- 1.4 Aims and objectives

DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 Sports, Recreation and Leisure
- 2.2 Active Sports to be Considered

SPORTS & RECREATION POLLICIES

- 3.1 Sport and Recreation Policy
- 3.2 Health Policy
- 3.3 Planning Policy

CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Public Consultation
- 4.2 Advertisements On Local Newspapers & Interviews of Local Radio
- 4.3 Consultation with Adjoining Local Authorities
- 4.4 National Bodies
- 4.5 Sports, Community and Activity Clubs
- 4.6 Issues

OPEN SPACE AND AMENITY AREAS AUDIT

- 5.1 Assessment of Open Space and Amenity Areas
- 5.2 Future Opportunities
- 5.3 Open Space Development Issues

FACILITIES AUDIT

- 6.1 Identification of Facilities
- 6.2 Facilities Audit
- 6.3 Quantitative Assessment
- 6.4 Qualitative Assessment
- 6.5 Facility Management

FACILITIES USE

- 7.1 Participation levels
- 7.2 Current Facilities Demand
- 7.3 Future Demands
- 7.4 Areas of Need

POLICIES

- 8.1 Planning Policies

- 8.2 Sports and Recreation Policies
- 8.3 Provision Policies
- 8.4 Local Sports Partnership

DELIVERY

- 9.1 Funding
- 9.2 Management and Human Resources
- 9.3 Implementation & Integration
- 9.4 Strategic Targets

PROPOSALS

- 10.1 Issues Arising
- 10.2 County Issues
- 10.3 Recommended Locations for Development of Sports and Amenity Facilities

Appendix A - Sports and Recreation Policy of the Kilkenny County Development Plan

Appendix B - Participation In Outdoor And Indoor Sports Throughout The County And In Adjoining Areas Of Tipperary, Laois And Carlow

Appendix C – Issues Addressed in Surveys

All maps and documentation produced in this document are OSI © and are reproduced on behalf of Kilkenny County Council and Kilkenny Borough County by CSR and the University of Edinburgh

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Project Brief

Cunnane Stratton Reynolds was retained by Kilkenny Borough Council and Kilkenny County Council with the expressed aim of preparing a Sports and Recreational Study for the entire County. In preparing this study CSR had regard to a wide range of issues. In summary the Brief for the Study required the following:

- (1) An audit of existing active sports provision and standards in qualitative and quantitative terms.
- (2) To carry out consultation with clubs governing organisations, key agencies and groups on future needs.
- (3) To assess future needs with regard to (a) current and likely future trends in urban recreation provision; (b) future demand having regard to population density, population profile and catchment areas; (c) identify future requirements through sample surveys; and finally (d) identify land / areas / strategically suitable for recreation development and correlate this to areas of need.
- (4) Identify the mechanism for provision through policies and actions for future recreation provision and management set in a Strategic Action Plan covering 10 years, with 3 / 5 years targets highlighting potential joint initiatives. This includes advising on the level of service from Kilkenny Borough Council and Kilkenny County Council
- (5) To consider open space areas and provisions.

The Study Area

The study area for the overall commission was the entire County of Kilkenny along with adjoining areas of Cos. Carlow, Tipperary SR, and Laois. In essence it is one of the most far reaching and comprehensive sports and recreation reports carried out for any Local Authority in Ireland.

As an essential part of the study involved determining the level of sporting provision and need in the key urban area of the County, around Kilkenny City (and for the lands within easy reach of the City) a Facilities Planning Model has been used to assess facility provision. Qualitative Assessments of open space provisions and facilities were also carried out through surveys of established open spaces and facilities to compliment the use of the Facilities Planning Model. A qualitative approach was carried out exclusively in the area of the County around Waterford City due to difficulties in applying the Facilities Planning Model in that area.

Policy Frameworks

There are a range of policy documents that are important to the development of sports and amenity strategies for the plan area. The background policy framework established the key objectives for the plan area. In summary, the key areas considered included:

- National Sports Strategy, as established by “Targeting Sporting change in Ireland; Sport in Ireland 1997 to 2006 and beyond”.
- A New Era for Sport which contains the Irish Sports Councils Strategy for the period 2000–2002.
- Health Policy & the Implications of Amenity Provision for Health, Wellbeing, Sporting & Recreation Activities were also assessed in light of the Report of the Cardiovascular Health Strategy Group.
- Providing for All Ages - Young to Old in light of the exclusion from sporting activities evidenced in the area for both the less physically able and mentally disabled. Similar issues were also considered in “Public Policy on Children’s Play in Ireland: An Examination of Central and Local Government Policies on Children’s Play in Public Areas”¹.

¹The Children’s Research Centre, TCD, June 1999

Planning policies for the areas were also considered including the:

- National Spatial Strategy 2002
- County & Local Sports Policy
- A Policy for the provision and maintenance of Parks, Open Spaces and Outdoor Recreation Areas (1987)
- Kilkenny City Development Plan 2002
- Kilkenny County Development Plan 2002

Consultation

Consultations were also carried out with a wide range of organisations, sporting bodies and special interest groups. These consultations demonstrated that a wide range of issues were relevant to the study including:

- i. The overuse of existing facilities.
- ii. Maintenance Issues.
- iii. A need for more facilities (including training facilities).
- iv. Access to facilities.
- v. Social inclusion.
- vi. Land availability.
- vii. Ancillary facilities (including changing rooms).
- viii. A demand for indoor facilities.
- ix. The distribution of facilities.
- x. Provision for new development areas.
- xi. The overwork of volunteers.
- xii. Poor participation rates.
- xiii. Poor fitness of young people.

Consultations were also held with the adjoining Local Authorities in order to determine their issues and to detail the proposed study objectives given the fact that the catchment of the Kilkenny City can reach into areas of Cos. Carlow, Loais and Tipperary (SR).

Open Space And Amenity Areas Audit

This issue is more comprehensively covered in the Volume 2 of the Study. Kilkenny is home to a wide range of amenity areas and facilities that can be both improved and enhanced. Current provision and future opportunities have been considered in looking at the amenity space provision and a comprehensive audit of open space areas carried out. In general a number of key recommendations have been identified. These are set out below and include:

Kilkenny City

1. There are substantial areas of land zoned for Recreation Amenity and Open Space in the Kilkenny City & Environs Development Plan. The total area zoned for the current population is in excess of that required under the Development Plan and similar standards.
2. Although there is more than adequate provision of open space in Kilkenny City, amenity value, quality and functionality of many existing spaces is poor and they should be contributing far more.
3. There is almost a complete absence of quality play provision within most of the open spaces surveyed.
4. The open space resource at a local level requires redesign and redevelopment to maximise its quality and potential.
5. There is a unique water corridor both ecological / green and urban / hard associated with the Nore river with the potential to embellish the image and civic attractions of Kilkenny city.

6. There is a need for a hierarchy of open space provision to ensure a clear function / purpose for each open space provided. This will inform day to day decision making re individual facilities and avoid duplication and / or under-provision.
7. Open space in Kilkenny should provide visual enhancement to the fabric of the city, whether as a recreational amenity or not.

Kilkenny County

8. County towns are generally well provided for with an attractive surrounding countryside context – walks, natural areas, woodlands etc, and individual sports clubs often have their own facilities, however, in general, each town / village requires consolidation or enhancement of at least one existing green / space or creation of new greens or town parks as a focal point for social and community events and informal provision for miscellaneous recreational activities

General

9. Kilkenny City and County have no dedicated department to develop and manage open space within the city / county.
10. The issue of public liability should not be a deterrent to providing equipped play areas as long as recently adopted and recognised EU standards are followed.
11. There is a need for a strategic vision of open space in the city and county and its role in
 - The promotion of Kilkenny as a city and county with a high quality of life.
 - The potential to create networks of open spaces.
 - The development of Kilkenny City, County and the Nore / Barrow region and its niche in the leisure and tourism market, building on it's established heritage attractions.

Facilities Audit

The second element in the study was the identification and assessment of the established sporting provisions within the County.

The identification and evaluation of sporting facilities is intended to:

- a) Allow for an audit of their quality and condition.
- b) Allow for user surveys to be carried out to determine the nature and character of use of the facilities at peak times.

In total, in the order of 250 facilities were identified where sporting clubs carried out activities and games. In general these facilities ranged in quality and scale and the nature of provision and the opportunities for improvement differed through the County. A detailed assessment of the nature of provision is set out in the document but in summary the key findings included:

1. A determination that facilities in the area are relatively evenly distributed throughout the County but with a general tendency to concentrate on urbanised locations such as towns and villages.
2. A finding that the majority of facilities provided in the County are attached to educational establishments, while a large proportion are either provided by a club or are private facilities. This is particularly important for future provision and the dual use of facilities, such as educational establishments, to provide for public needs and use. A positive step in this regard has been made by the Co. Kilkenny VEC, their recommendation for the development of Local Sports Advisory Boards² and the promotion of the Local Sports Partnership application.
3. The main or dominant use of sports facilities was principally that of the field sports such as soccer and hurling / gaelic football.

² Local Sports Advisory Boards are a means of promoting the more efficient use of local sports (primarily education facilities) and amenity resources.

4. The outputs demonstrate that areas such as Kilkenny City, in terms of total facility provision, have above average provisions in facilities such as soccer, rugby, basketball and handball for instance but below average provision in gaelic sports. While this is consistent with the fact that most gaelic sports are carried out at club facilities, it also substantiates a frequent issue emerging at public consultation phases that limited pitch availability occurs in GAA team sports in the city area.

Qualitative Assessments of facilities were also carried out which found that the majority of facilities were of a relatively poor quality, with limited changing, playing and spectator facilities.

Facilities Use

An assessment of facilities use was also carried out in the study through the application of the Facilities Planning Model by the University of Edinburgh. This model considers the participation levels in a range of sporting activities, assesses facilities demand and identifies unmet provision / future demands and the areas of need.

The review of facilities concentrated on active sports and amenity facilities providing for activities such as;

- (1) Hurling, Gaelic Football, Camogie
- (2) Handball
- (3) Soccer
- (4) Athletics
- (5) Swimming
- (6) Rugby
- (7) Hockey
- (8) Indoor Sports Activities
- (9) Golf
- (10) Multi-gym
- (11) Boxing
- (12) Tennis

However, this review process was also informed by approximately 900 household surveys carried out throughout the area within which the FPM is applied. The representative data returned from these areas is important as it identifies:

- o Certain sports and amenities not catered for on a formal basis within the model area but for which a demands occurs (e.g. bowling alleys).
- o Sports and amenities that are used by older, or less physically able, age groups may be catered for at facilities in off – peak periods.

In summary, the FPM has identified that there is a large under provision in the area's sports facilities and that additional sports facilities should be developed and existing facilities retained.

Policies

Having regard to the FPM outputs, and also the need to encourage the development of a more strategic approach to sports and amenity provision the overall approach of the study is to ensure that current and future needs are:

- i. Guided by appropriate policies and recommendations.
- ii. Reflect the need to develop a hierarchy of sports and recreations opportunities.
- iii. Targeted geographically.
- iv. Implemented and promoted by all statutory undertakers in the area.
- v. Appropriately funded.

The Local Authorities for the area have previously developed a comprehensive set of policies and recommendations to guide development decisions in the City and County. In light of the consultations carried out, the facilities audit and patterns of facility use emerging from the surveys and consultations it is recommended that the established policies of the County and City Development Plan are amended to reflect the emerging trends in provision and demand. Importantly, the need to recognise the potential of new development to provide necessary amenity provision must be recognised. A hierarchy of development has been identified by which new development will have to provide facilities depending on the size of development. These amenity Development Thresholds are set out below.

Amenity Development Thresholds

Site Capacity	Minimum quantity and type of leisure facilities required
No. of Dwellings	
<25	Development Contribution in lieu of Open Space or 2.4 hectares per 1,000 people (a minimum of 0.25 hectares must be provided)
25 or over	Active Amenity Open space 2.4 hectares (6 Acres) per 1,000 people (a minimum of 0.25 hectares must be provided)
100 – 199	Public open space to include a Neighbourhood Play Area.
200 – 499	Equipped public open space to include: One full size grass sports pitch; One local Play area; and One court multi-use games area with Community association/club movement.
500 – 599	Public space to include: One full size grass sports pitch; One district play area or one local play area and additional neighbourhood play areas; One court multi-use games area and Two tennis courts / basketball courts etc.
600 +	Equipped public open space to include Two full size grass sports pitches; One district play area or one local play area and additional neighbourhood play areas; One court multi-use games area, and two tennis courts / basketball courts etc.
1,000+	One community / leisure Building including full size badminton / basketball court with community association / club movement Equipped public open space to include; Two full size grass sports pitches; One district play area or one local play area and additional neighbourhood play areas; One court multi-use games area; and two tennis courts / basketball courts etc. One community leisure building including full size badminton / basketball court with community association /club movement within.

Similarly, a hierarchy of facility development, and a protocol for facility development are also recommended for the future development of sports and amenity facilities. The protocol and hierarchy are as follows:

Protocol

The following protocol should be considered as a sequential approach to developing or improving (where existing) facilities.

- a. **Bring into use a redundant or infrequently used facility.** This could be a redundant sports hall or a community hall that is not used for recreational or sports facilities.

- b. **Make better / more frequent use of existing sports facilities.** For example, bring an existing school into dual use so that it can be used outside school hours and at weekends.
- c. **Improve management procedures within existing facilities.** This would be considered as a final opportunity to improve facilities before embarking on physical works.
- d. **Refurbish facilities within the existing footprint.** This will usually not require planning permission and is an option before physically extending existing facilities. This may involve moving existing walls / pitches catering for other uses.
- e. **Extend existing facilities.** This may entail physically extending facilities and the physical footprint of the existing sports facility. It may entail providing for other sports (i.e.) providing new rather than shared pitches as indicated in (d) above.
- f. **Provide a new stand alone facility.** This should be considered as a last option once options (a) to (e) have been explored.

Hierarchy Components

Guide to Hierarchies

LEVEL	REGIONAL	CITY/SUB COUNTY CO.	DISTRICT	NEIGHBOURHOOD
OPTIMUM LOCATION	On national road. Located in environs of Kilkenny City if possible.	Convenient national roads. Located on convergence of bus routes.	On bus routes	Accessible to pedestrians and non-car users.
CATCHMENT IN KMS	50-75km	10-20km	3-10 km	1-2km
ACCESS	University students, and national teams, national and regional elite teams and athletes.	Public, clubs and local elite	Public and clubs	Public and community based
SPORTING FACILITIES – POOL	50m x 20m	25m x 6m	None / Leisure	None
HALL	12 min state of the art facility designated for specific purposes.	6 plus suite of smaller halls	4 plus	2
PITCHES	High quality training	Suite of pitches for training/local leagues	1/2 pitches training/local leagues	1 no pitch training
MULTIPURPOSE/ SYNTHETIC	No. full size 2 ATPs (Astro Type Pitch)	1 No. full size multifunctional Astroturf and 1 No. full size ATP	1 No. full size multifunctional Astroturf.	1 No. training all weather pitch.
LIGHTS	Television/ competition quality	Astroturf and ATP at competitive level	Astroturf at competitive level/training level	Lights to training standard. Where appropriate no lighting should be considered in areas where passive observation cannot be encouraged at after dark times. (e.g. sports pitches / play areas not adjacent to housing areas, schools or clubs or in park areas that cannot be directly observed).
LEVEL OF SPORTING PERFORMANCE	Excellence/ Performance Competition specialist (specialist equipment)	Performance	Competition/ Recreation	Recreation
ACTIVITIES – DAYTIME	Exclusively sport	Sport mainly but health and community	Sport, recreation, health and community	Recreation, health and community

NIGHTTIME	Exclusively sport	Sport	Sport, recreation and community	Recreation and community
PLAY AREAS	None	None	District play area as per open space study recommendations	Neighbourhood play area as per open space study recommendations
CHILD CARE FACILITIES	Yes	Yes	Optional	Optional / Not Necessary
AMENITIES	Substantial parking; 100 spaces; restaurant; accommodation	Parking up to 100 spaces; restaurant	Up to 50 parking spaces; cycle racks; refreshment area	Up to 15 car parking spaces; cycle racks; good pedestrian and disabled access

Delivery

The overall aim of the Study is to identify and meet the recreational needs of Kilkenny City and its Environs, provide for the needs of the County as a whole and to meet these needs with an integrated strategy capable of delivering, maintaining and managing the facilities to meet these needs.

To provide for this integrated approach three key issues must be considered in the development of an effective response. These include:

- i. Funding
- ii. Management / Human Resources
- iii. Implementation and Integration

A range of different funding sources were identified including, The National Development Plan, Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, Public Private Partnership, The Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism. However, more innovative approaches to the funding and development of facilities should be pursued, including obtaining facilities as a 'planning gain' to housing developments, promoting the development of Local Sports Advisory Boards and developing joint public / private access to existing facilities.

The delivery of the commission is not simply tied to funding and finance availability, management procedures to deliver the commission must also be considered. Currently, the development of additional amenity facilities and improved management of existing facilities has been recommended by the Volume 2 – Open Space Assessment of this Report. The improved management of existing open space facilities and the development of new facilities either solely by the Council or in conjunction with other local groups will require the development of a specific responsibility within the Council for Parks and Open Space provision and maintenance. Similarly, in order to coordinate and develop sports and recreation provisions within the County the appointment of a **Sports and Recreation Officer**³, preferably jointly between the Borough Council and County Council should be considered.

Targets

One of the objectives of the study was to identify a Strategic Action Plan covering 10 years, with 3 / 5 years targets highlighting potential joint initiatives. This includes advising on the level of service from Kilkenny Borough Council and Kilkenny County Council. While the level of service available from the Council will depend on the availability of funding and the implementation of staffing recommendations, a range of key objectives and targets are set out below for the coming years

³ This could be a joint role with the Local Sports Co-ordinator appointed by the County Development Board / through any Local Sports Partnership

Strategic Targets; Years 2002 – 2005

While not a definitive time table the following are key sets of recommendations and an indicative sequencing for their commencement. It is recommended that given the changing nature of sports participation, population change and facility provision that a plan, monitor and review process is adopted to allow sports facility provision to be monitored and assessed. In light of this a review period for implementation and planning has been identified for the period 2006 – 2009 (this should integrate with the County Development review process).

Yr 2003	Adopt Sports and Amenity Strategy
Yr 2003	Consider Amending Development Plans to incorporate revised sports and recreation policies
Yr 2004	Identify and agree organisational changes necessary
Yr 2004	Appoint Sports and Recreation Officer
Yr 2004	Issue Calls For Proposals for Improvements
Yr 2004	Identify Capital infrastructure requirements
Yr 2004	Identify facilities in geographic areas of needs
Yr 2004	Identify Joint Initiatives
Yr 2004	Review Local Sports Advisory Board Locations and Progress
Yr 2005	Prepare / Revise Section 48 Development Contribution Scheme (on area basis if necessary)
Yr 2005	Review Local Sports Advisory Board Locations and Progress

Strategic Targets; Years 2006 – 2009

Yr 2006	Review Staffing and Organisational Arrangements for Implementation
Yr 2006	Review implementation of County, District and Neighbourhood facility development.
Yr 2006	Review Local Sports Advisory Board Locations and Progress
Yr 2007	Review Amenity provision as part of housing development.
Yr 2007	Commence review of sports and amenity facility development as part of the County Development Plan Review Process.
Yr 2007	Review Local Sports Advisory Board Locations and Progress
Yr 2008	Review expenditure and infrastructure requirements
Yr 2008	Review Local Sports Partnership
Yr 2008	Review Local Sports Advisory Board Locations and Progress
Yr 2009	Review joint initiatives and management of opens spaces
Yr 2009	Review funding arrangements
Yr 2009	Review Local Sports Advisory Board Locations and Progress

Proposals

A wide range of proposals (based on the hierarchy of facilities identified as an ideal recommendation) have been set out including:

- The development of a City / County level sports / Amenity facility in Kilkenny City and its environs through linkage of existing and proposed developments. This is likely to require an integrated management / development / marketing plan.
- The development of Sub – County level facilities in

Thomastown
Castlecomer
Ferrybank

Specific recommendations are set out for the development of sports and amenity facilities in Ferrybank given the fact that it is so close to Waterford City.

- Given the catchment areas identified the opportunity also exists for the development of additional District Facilities in North and South Kilkenny areas. Appropriate locations include:

Piltown

Graiguenamanagh

Johnstown

Mullinavat

Callan

All of these locations, and their catchments, are geographically separate from surrounding major urban settlements and the provision of a district level facility in these areas would contribute to the development of sports and amenity provision.

In all other areas neighbourhood facilities should be developed on the basis of the criteria set out in Table 8.1 and the Facility Development Protocol set out in Section 8.3.1.2. No specific locations have been identified for the development of neighbourhood facilities although there are a wide range of locations identified in Volume Two of this Report that are suitable for the development of neighbourhood amenity facilities. These facilities should in general be prioritised for development in DED's with an increasing population.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Kilkenny Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study was commissioned by Kilkenny County Council and Kilkenny Borough Council to provide guidance on the future development of open space, sports and amenity policies in Co. Kilkenny. It represents a continuation of the positive approach of the County Council to the development of open space and amenity areas demonstrated in the County Development Plan 2002. However, with the continuing growth of cities such as Kilkenny and the pressure to plan for appropriate amenity facilities to meet future demands this Study has been prepared to provide detailed guidance on both the quality and quantity of open space, sports and amenity facilities that should be planned for.

As such the Study will advise all public and private bodies in the area of the open space, sports and amenity provisions that should be considered when planning new development areas.

Open space performs a wide range of roles in enhancing the liveability of cities, towns and rural villages. Protecting open space for its amenity, ecological, educational, social and community benefits are now well established as planning principles among planning authorities and wider interests. The protection of open space is consistent with the principles of sustainable development.

The Study is important in this regard as it applies both qualitative and quantitative assessments to the open space, sports and amenity facilities easily accessible in County Kilkenny. The study has provided for extensive research and surveys into elements as diverse as the:

- The quality of open spaces,
- The availability of sporting and amenity facilities,
- The quality of sporting and amenity facilities,
- The opportunities for improved amenities and resources.

The study represents a comprehensive and strategic approach to the development of open space, sports and amenity areas. It considers existing policies and provisions, statutory objectives and policies at both National, Regional and Local Levels.

1.1 The Framework

This document considers open space, sports and amenity provisions on a number of levels. These include:

- Policy Background
- Consultation
- Open Space And Amenity Areas Audit
- Facilities Audit
- Facilities Use
- Area Based Approaches
- Proposals
- Policies
- Delivery

Our assessment and recommendations in all areas have also been advised by additional documentation compiled as part of this overall study. These include:

- a) A comprehensive audit and assessment of Open Space Provisions carried out as part of this overall study (This is available as a companion document to this overall report – both should be read in conjunction. This Kilkenny Open Space, Sports And Recreation Study is informed by and draws on the Open Space And Amenity Areas Audit)
- b) The results of a series of public consultations carried out over 2002.
- c) The provisions of the County Development Plan 2002.
- d) The outputs of facility surveys of over 250 sporting facilities in Co. Kilkenny

- e) The outputs from householder surveys carried out at sample locations throughout Co. Kilkenny.
- f) The results of user surveys to determine perceptions and views of users of the facilities they frequent.

Assistance and comments have been received from the Planning Departments of the commissioning authorities in the preparation of this study and also from the planning departments of:

- o Carlow County Council
- o Laois County Council
- o South Tipperary County Council
- o Waterford Corporation (with respect to the development issues in the Waterford City Environs).

1.2 The Brief

In summary the Brief for the Study required the following:

- (6) An audit of existing active sports provision and standards in qualitative and quantitative terms. Having particular regard to the need to protect existing recreational areas and current demands on the council from various sporting participants and organisations while also having regard to the role of educational establishments
- (7) To consult clubs governing organisations, key agencies and groups on future needs.
- (8) To assess future needs with regard to (a) current and likely future trends in urban recreation provision; (b) future demand having regard to population density, population profile and catchment areas; (c) identify future requirements through sample surveys; and finally (d) identify land / areas / strategy suitable for recreation development and correlate this to areas of need.
- (9) Identify the mechanism for provision through policies and actions for future recreation provision and management set in a Strategic Action Plan covering 10 years, with 3 / 5 years targets highlighting potential joint initiatives. This includes advising on the level of service from Kilkenny Borough Council and Kilkenny County Council
- (10) To consider open space areas and provisions.

1.3 The Study Area

The study area for the overall commission is the entire County of Kilkenny.

- o However, the brief of the project has required a more detailed approach to be adopted in the case of the primary urban area within the County; Kilkenny City and its Environs. In this area – the **Model Area** - a Facilities Planning Model⁴, with all associated mathematical and facility modelling was prepared to an area within 30 minutes of Kilkenny City⁵. This approach required an assessment of sporting and amenity facilities in areas of Cos. Carlow, Laois and South Tipperary that were within a 30 minute drive time of Kilkenny City and Environs. This also ensures that regard is had to the likely impact of development pressures emerging from new urban / residential developments throughout the model area. As part of this assessment modelling of participation sports in the Kilkenny City area was carried out in order to detail future needs on a quantitative basis and thereby advise in the refinement of sports and amenity policy and objectives for the area.

⁴ The process involved in applying the Facilities Planning Model will be detailed later

⁵ This was carried out by the University of Edinburgh in association with CSR

- Qualitative Assessments of open space provisions and facilities in the remainder of the County was also carried out with particular reference to the development needs of Waterford City Environs.

This approach recognises that a large number of active sports facilities will be located in and around Kilkenny City but that facilities will also be located throughout the County and within surrounding counties and that those living in surrounding rural areas will likely travel into the city and environs to use sports facilities⁶ while the immediate needs of more rural areas are more easily identifiable.

The Study area is identified on Map 1.1 to 1.4 (overleaf). For the purpose of the study and to allow for the identification of the particular needs in particular areas of the County, the study considered the areas sporting provisions on an area basis with results broken down to illustrate particular needs in North Kilkenny, South Kilkenny, Kilkenny City and Cos. Laois, Carlow and Tipperary (See Section 6).

The Facilities Planning Model (FPM) was applied to a model area comprising of all DEDS within⁷ a 30 minute drive time from Kilkenny City. The 30 minute drive time is a standard that has been used in other applications of the Facilities Planning Model as it generally represents the longest distance over which persons are likely to travel in order to access a sporting facility. The 30 minute drive time was established in this study through the use of a computer programme that took into account the travel time on all roads in the area where one travels at the permitted speed limit.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

The overall aim of the Study is to identify and meet the recreational needs of Kilkenny City and its Environs, provide for the needs of the County as a whole and to meet these needs with an integrated strategy capable of delivering, maintaining and managing the facilities to meet these needs.

⁶ It is recognised that sports participants neither use the nearest facility and will on occasion travel in excess of this time particularly when league competition structure dictates this.

⁷ Those DED's within the model area include all those with substantial land areas & populations within the 30 minute drive time area

Insert Map 1 – Study Area

Insert Map 2 – Tipperary Study Area

Insert Map 3 – Laois Study Area

Insert Map 4 – Carlow Study Area

2.0 DEFINITIONS

2.1 Sport, Recreation, Amenity and Leisure

Sport is defined by the Council of Europe as:

“all forms of physical activity which, through casual or organised participation, aims at improving physical fitness and mental well-being, forming social relationships, or obtaining results in competition at all levels.”

Sport England formerly the English Sports Council has identified the following as recognised sports.

A

Aikido
American Football
Angling
Archery
Arm wrestling
Association football
Athletics
Aussie Rules

B

Badminton
Ballooning
Baseball
Basketball
Baton twirling
Bicycle polo
Billiards and snooker
Bobsleighing
Boccia
Bowls
Boxing

C

Camogie
Chinese martial arts
Cricket
Croquet
Crossbow
Curling
Cycling

D

Disability sports
Dragon boat racing

E

Equestrian
Exercise and fitness

F

Fencing
Football

G

Gaelic Football
Gliding
Golf
Gymnastics

H

Handball
Hand Gliding and paragliding
Highland games
Hockey
Horseracing
Hovering
Hurling

I

Ice Hockey
Ice Skating

J

Jet Skiing
Jujitsu
Judo

K

Kabaddi
Karate
Kludo
Korfball

L

Lacrosse
Lawn Tennis
Life saving
Luge

M

Modern pentathlon
Motor cycling
Motor sports
Mountaineering
Movement and dance

N

Netball

O

Orienteering

P

Parachuting

Polio

Pony trekking

Pool

Q

Quoits

R

Raquetball

Rockets

Rambling

Real tennis

Roller hockey

Roller skating

Rounders

Rowing

Rugby league

Rugby union

S

Sailing and yachting

Sand and land yachting

Shinty

Shooting

Skateboarding

Skiing

Skipping

Snowboarding

Softball

Squash

Street and skater hockey

Sub aqua

Surf life saving

Sufing

Swimming and diving

T

Table tennis

Taekwondo

Tang soo do

Ten bowling

Trampolining

Triathlon

Tug O War

U

Unihoc

V

Volleyball

W

Waterskiing

Weightlifting

Wrestling

Y

Yoga

2.2 Active Sports to be Considered

There are a number of sports which will be considered in detail and for which facility needs will be identified. These sports include:

- (1) Hurling, Gaelic Football, Camogie
- (2) Handball
- (3) Soccer
- (4) Athletics
- (5) Swimming
- (6) Rugby
- (7) Hockey
- (8) Indoor Sports Activities
- (9) Golf
- (10) Multi-gym
- (11) Boxing
- (12) Tennis

Whilst participation in all sports will be identified and a qualitative and quantitative assessment made of all facilities within the study area the demand for facilities in terms of capacity will only be identified for the above listed sports. For these sports a facilities planning model developed by Sport Scotland and the University of Edinburgh will assess quantitatively the demand for active or organised sports facilities. The model uses:

- a. participation rates,
- b. demographics,
- c. distance to existing facilities,
- d. the physical capacity of each facility, and
- e. the road network both existing and committed to estimate current and future demand for new facilities.

The model can be used to estimate future demand using changing demographic profile, substantial new housing developments, the development of zoned residential lands and road / building improved public transport.

2.3 Other Sports

While the study principally focussed on active amenity facilities, sports facilities and passive recreation resources, it was noted in the preparation of the report that there was a definite demand for certain leisure activities that would cater for those less inclined to partake in active sports. A specific demand was noted for activities such as ten pin bowling. The household surveys illustrated that this activity could attract a significant level of custom.

The provision of 'less-active' sports facilities such as ten pin bowling and potentially snooker / pool, while unlikely to contribute to a general desire to improve health and amenity, is likely to contribute to the meeting recreation needs of younger age groups.

SPORT AND RECREATION POLICY

3.0 Sport and Recreation Policy

National Sports Strategy

There is a national sports strategy and it is contained in "Targeting Sporting change in Ireland; Sport in Ireland 1997 to 2006 and beyond.

It identifies, in the context of facilities, that the main requirement is the introduction of a strategic planning approach to the provision and development of the sports facilities in Ireland. In this regard, the development of clear processes, criteria and objectives for the development and funding of facilities in the context of a National Facilities Plan is seen as a priority. There are a number of issues in the areas of community sports facilities, sports training and competitive facilities such as the need to refurbish outdated public swimming pools.

Key issues identified are:

A - Community Sports Facilities

- (1) Need for strategic planning of sports facilities with clear criteria for funding accompanied by assessment of feasibility and long term sustainability;
- (2) The development and implementation of a National Facilities Plan from local through competitive to high performance;
- (3) All local authorities to prepare their sport and recreation strategies including facility provision and management;
- (4) Increased funding to protect and upgrade the existing infrastructure and provide for development of new facilities;
- (5) Improve quality of sports facilities in local communities;
- (6) Increase funding to meet the demands of refurbishment of local community swimming pools;
- (7) Future facility planning to assess the impact of the existing and proposed supply of hotel leisure centres and private clubs on the demand for facilities;
- (8) To address the lack of access to facilities for many people in socially disadvantaged areas;
- (9) The continued introduction of professional management and appropriate management structures for the operation of sports facilities;
- (10) The introduction and implementation of minimum standards for all sports facilities;
- (11) Greater support and training for volunteer and committees managing the many community facilities around the county;
- (12) Further improvement in management and programme of sports facilities;
- (13) The design of sports facilities to include the needs of women;
- (14) The design of sports facilities to include the needs of people with a disability;
- (15) The recognition of the growing demand for use of natural resources for sporting purposes and action to secure sustainable access to these resources;
- (16) The encouragement of greater private sector investment; and
- (17) The protection of sports field and open spaces in urban areas.

B.- Sports Training and Competitive Facilities

- (1) Greater Strategic planning by NGB's (Non- Governmental Bodies; e.g. sports clubs and organisations) in relation to their training and competitive priorities;
- (2) The provision of training facilities for all high performance athletics and players.

The following Strategy aims have been identified.

By 2000

- (1) To ensure that new systems and processes are in place for sports facility planning;
- (2) To develop a Community Sports Facilities Plan and a Sports Training and Competitive Facilities Plan linked to the Recreational and High Performance Sports Strategies.
- (3) To secure increased funding for investment in sports facilities through a clear process of multi-annual funding according to agreed processes and priorities.
- (4) To improve interdepartmental and inter-agency co-ordination in facility planning and funding.
- (5) To ensure the development and implementation of minimum standards for the operation of sports facilities;
- (6) To improve investment in Community facilities in targeted disadvantaged areas;
- (7) To ensure improvement in the quality of sports training facilities linked to the implementation of the High Performance Strategy;
- (8) To ensure accessibility to sports facilities for women;
- (9) To ensure accessibility to sports facilities for people with a disability.
- (10) To attract sustainable investment for the refurbishment of existing infrastructure to make better use of facilities.
- (11) To ensure that all relevant agencies prepare sports strategies which include facility plans.
- (12) To ensure that all major facilities are managed by a network of trained leisure management professionals.
- (13) To ensure that the implementation of the Sports Training and Competitive Facilities Plan with a particular emphasis on the development of quality competitive facilities.
- (14) To ensure that every major town / community has access to a quality multi-purpose sports centre.

In order to ensure the overall delivery of the National Sports Strategy at a broad level the National Sports Action Plan sets out specific objectives. The *National Sports Action Plan* comes under the following headings:

- (1) Structures and Administration
- (2) Strategic Planning
- (3) Sports Facilities Funding
- (4) Facility Management
- (5) National Resources

Key elements within these headings are as follows:

- (1) Structures and Administration
 - Establish a Sports Facilities Advisory Committee to assess applications for funding, report to the Sports Council on recommendations and co-ordinate expenditure funding on sports facilities across government departments, semi-state and European agencies.
 - Appoint ILAM (Ireland)⁸ to develop and advise on implementation of the community facilities and sports training and competitive facilities plans.
 - Ensure that ILAM (Ireland) continues its role of developing and overseeing the implementation of "minimum" operating standards.
 - Review funding of ILAM (Ireland).
 - Ensure that within government there is an interdepartmental approach to facility planning and funding.
- (2) Strategic Planning
 - Prepare a sports facilities inventory

⁸ Institute of Leisure and Amenity Management Ireland

- Develop a community sports facilities plan looking at needs, current supply and usage, future management structures, principles of dual use and dual provision etc.
- Promote examples of good practice where schools are sharing their facilities successfully with local communities.
- Encourage and provide funding for local authorities to develop strategic plans for sport and recreation.
- Develop a Sports Training and Competitive Facilities Plan linked to the High Performance Sports Strategy. Support the NGBs in developing strategic plans which should include identification of their requirements for training and competitive facilities.
- Develop and implement a marketing plan in partnership with relevant agencies to promote the use of facilities and to increase awareness of the range of facilities available within the community.

(3) Sports Facilities Funding

- Develop new criteria and mechanisms for funding capital schemes.
- Revise the application process for funding of sports facilities.
- Examine the merits of a job creation and facilities provision scheme involving the private sector through a tax incentive scheme similar to the existing Business Expansion Scheme for stand alone leisure centres.

(4) Facility Management

- Continue to support ILAM (Ireland)
- Assess the opportunity to reintroduce the “Better Use of Facilities” Scheme.
- Ensure ILAM (Ireland) in partnership with all facility owners and operators develop, adopt and regulate agreed minimum standards for the operation of sports facilities.
- Ensure that all state funded recreation facilities identify aims / objectives and prepare business and operational plans.
- Investigate the long term sustainability and the factors affecting viability of sports facilities.
- Seek greater external community involvement at board of management level in the operation of local authority facilities.

(5) Natural Resources

- Develop a natural policy in partnership with all key agencies and national organisation for the promotion of outdoor pursuits and the sensitive utilisation of natural resources.
- Compile an inventory classifying and identifying areas of national interest and “rights of way” for outdoor pursuits and activities.
- Support the creation of locally developed short walks in partnership with local, tourism and health promotion agencies.

The Sports Strategy Group identified the following facilities development priorities at a national level.

(1) Community Sports Facilities

Develop a Communities facilities plan to address the provision of facilities within local communities focusing on.

(a) Planned investment in existing community based swimming pools.

- Redevelop existing swimming pools on the basis of identified need and confined professional management structures.
- Upgrade stand alone swimming pools to a multi-purpose recreation complex in order to integrate with day activities at a local level and to ensure greater financial viability.
- Development is based on market feasibility.
- Appropriate management structures are established for the operation of the pool
- Professional management is employed on site at the pool

- The pool operators develop and implement a swimming development programme.
- (2) Provision of Community based recreation facilities in identified priority areas (i.e.) towns, urban and rural areas where existing provision is well below an agreed national average.
- Prioritise the development of integrated indoor recreation facilities at a local level which combine wet and dry facilities at a local level,.
 - Develop quality indoor multi-purpose sports centres in partnership with local communities, sports clubs, the private sector and local development agencies.
- (3) Support for the Local Sport Facilities
- Continue the Recreational Facilities Scheme to provide equipment and modification to existing community sports facilities.
 - Develop new criteria for this scheme to ensure that the funds are targeted towards facilities which provide the best return on investment.
- (4) Provision of Dual Use / Provision Recreation Centres
- Provide new dual provision multi-purpose recreation centres for schools and community use in urban areas. This should be undertaken in a partnership between the Department of Education's Planning and Building Unit and the Irish Sports Council.
 - Prioritise the development of new community based sports centres where the opportunity exists to meet the dual demand of providing for school based sports facilities in conjunction with community recreation facilities.
- (5) Provision of outdoor synthetic pitch playing areas
- Provide synthetic pitches for use as a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) based on the outcomes of the National Sports Facilities Plan.
- (6) Phased reinvestment in community sports halls based on the outcomes of the proposed National Sports Facilities Inventory.

The principles of this investment programme should include the following:

- The proven existence of an adequate catchment market to meet the supply of facilities.
 - The assessment of feasibility based on the objections and targets of the local area sports and recreation strategy.
 - The development of a comprehensive business plan by operators.
 - That the local contribution is in place, before grant and is approved, and complies with new criteria of the National Facilities Plan.
 - The design and refurbishment of Sports facilities to take account of the needs of women, especially in relation to childcare and changing areas.
 - The design and refurbishment of sports facilities to ensure access for people with a disability.
- (7) Provision of New Community Sports Facilities
- Continue support to community groups in the provision of community centres, where the *expressed demand* matches the *real demand* identified within the proposed Community Sports Facilities Plan.

A New Era for Sport

This document contains the Irish Sports Councils Strategy for the period 2000–2002.

This document does not deal directly with issues affecting the funding, provision, maintenance, management or use of sports facilities. However, this strategy document identifies the importance of creating Local Sports Partnerships to promote and develop local sport. As far as facilities are concerned these Local Sports Partnerships will establish,

- (1) local directions of sports facilities
- (2) encourage better use of existing facilities
- (3) set out clear priorities for local facility provision and improvement with related quality management initiatives.

Local Sports Partnership Challenge funding for specific, high priority targeted initiatives identified and promoted by Local Sports Partnerships will also be set aside. The statutory authorities of Co. Kilkenny are actively pursuing the development of a Sports Partnership in conjunction with other agencies.

3.2 Health Policy

The role of active recreation and sporting activities in encouraging the development of a healthy lifestyle has long been recognised. Increasingly however, the role of national policy in this area, encouraging the development of primary health care initiatives, is becoming more prominent. Good practice, the Department of Health, the Department of Education and emerging County Development Board Strategies throughout the Country recognise the fact that the quality of an individuals life can be improved by exercise among other factors.

However, in many areas, the opportunities for an active lifestyle can be limited by:

- Poor public transport.
- Inappropriate or unsuitable recreation areas or facilities.
- No recreation facilities.
- Restricted Access.

Each of these is commented on as follows.

Poor Public Transport

The County Development Board has carried out a Rural Transport Audit in order to address the potential difficulties that some rural areas may have in accessing public transport. This is also an issue that has emerged in the public consultations for the Recreation Study particularly where many minority sports may be less accessible to the wider community. The difficulties with public transport however, tend to be reflected in the use of private vehicles in rural areas to access recreation facilities.

Poor public transport affects access to all recreation facilities and in practical terms the only way to ensure that the least mobile member of the community has access to basic passive and active recreation facilities is to ensure that they are located within the local community.

Inappropriate Or Unsuitable Recreation Areas Or Facilities Or No Recreation Facilities

Unsuitable amenity spaces or spaces suited only to one segment of the community have a similar exclusionary impact as that of no open space or amenity provision. The development

Building Healthier Hearts 
Introduction to the Report of the
Cardiovascular Health Strategy Group
Prepared by the Department of Health and Children

*Report of the Cardiovascular Health
Strategy Group*

and provision of a range of facilities to meet the requirements of all age groups and provide for both passive and active recreation and amenity is important.

Restricted Access

Often, while public facilities are available and accessible to all sectors of the community, many facilities are not accessible to the general community as they can only be accessed through private fees or through membership. This is most common in the case of leisure facilities in hotels for instance of private facilities catering for specific sports, e.g. tennis clubs. These facilities, meet the needs of a specific sectors of the community.

In many cases, multi – use facilities to which members of the public have access also charge user fees although this is generally associated with operational and insurance costs.

3.2.1 Implications of Amenity Provision for Health, Wellbeing, Sporting & Recreation Activities

National Policy in this area has been explored through the recent *Report of the Cardiovascular Health Strategy Group*. This emphasises that amenity and recreation is only one element in the formulation of a healthier lifestyle but it is nonetheless an important element as it can be modified (age, sex and hereditary implications for health conditions cannot be altered). As a result, it is important for all recreational needs to be provided for in order to ensure that all lifestyles are catered for with an appropriate range of active and passive recreation choices.

Factors which Alter Risk of Cardiovascular Disease

Although many factors have been implicated in increasing risk of heart disease, smoking, raised blood pressure and raised blood cholesterol are regarded as the three 'classic' risk factors (Figure 2.1).

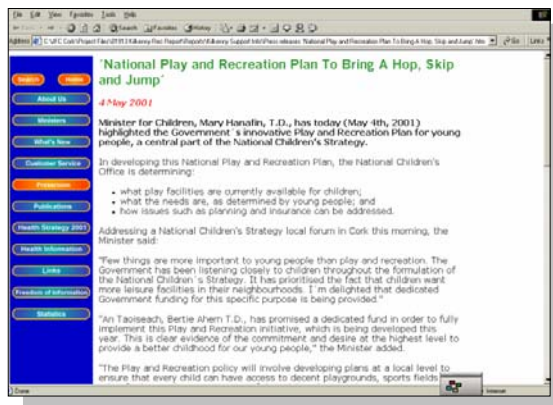
Figure 2.1 Lifestyles and other characteristics associated with increased risk of future CHD

Personal characteristics (non-modifiable)	Lifestyles (modifiable)	Biochemical or physiological characteristics (modifiable)
Age	Diet high in saturated fat, cholesterol and calories	Elevated plasma total cholesterol (LDL cholesterol)
Sex	Tobacco and smoking	Elevated blood pressure
Family history of CHD or other atherosclerotic vascular disease at early age (in men <55 years, in women < 65 years)	Excess alcohol consumption	Low plasma (HDL cholesterol)
Personal history of CHD or other atherosclerotic vascular disease	Physical inactivity	Elevated plasma triglycerides Hyperglycaemia/diabetes Obesity Thrombogenic factors

Because cardiovascular disease rates in population groups change relatively quickly, we know that for most people it is the combination of genes and lifestyle which is important in determining risk. Families share lifestyles as well as genes. Healthy lifestyles and preventive treatment can do much to ameliorate increased risk which is attributable to genetic inheritance.

3.2.2 Providing for All Ages - Young to Old

The objective of providing an appropriate range of recreation / amenity facilities and opportunities for all has been established as a key element in health strategies for all age groups. However, very often the primary considerations in active and passive recreation provisions are framed by the fact that the bulk of the population who are likely to participate in sporting activities are in the younger, more active age groups. To make this the primary consideration in any study of sporting activity would only ignore the fact that amenity demands exist for all sectors of the community young and old.



In developing this National Play and Recreation Plan, the National Children's Office is determining:

- what play facilities are currently available for children;
- what the needs are, as determined by young people; and
- how issues such as planning and insurance can be addressed.

A number of the issues likely to be addressed in the National Play and Recreation Plan have also been

addressed in "Public Policy on Children's Play in Ireland: An Examination of Central and Local Government Policies on Children's Play in Public Areas"⁹. This report made a number of important points relevant to design and layout but also stressed the positive role of play in promoting health.

Equally, active lifestyles, can also have a positive contribution to the health and wellbeing of older age groups. Within Kilkenny the 'Active Retired Association' plays a positive role in promoting active lifestyles and the promotion of 'wellbeing'.

Both these sectors have different demands from the more active age groups who may demand gyms, sports hall and playing fields. These groups can have provisions met through good design of estates, suitable walking areas and the development of shared passive recreation and play areas.

County & Local Sports Policy

County and Local sports policy have developed in a number of ways in County Kilkenny in recent years. The City Council, County Council and the County Development Board have progressed with the formulation of sports and recreation policy, programmes and objectives in a consistent and progressive manner in recent years. The two most notable advances in recent years have been:

1. the adoption of an improved set of sports and recreation policy by the County Council through the County Development Plan 2002, and
2. the submission of a Sports Partnership application by a number of agencies through the VEC

⁹The Children's Research Centre, TCD, June 1999

It is important for the Council to investigate the means by which the established sports and amenity provision of the County and City can be improved to meet the area's future challenges. This is important as it provides for **Capacity Building**, improving the amenity and recreation facilities of the County while also improving the capacity of all agencies in the area to address the requirements of sports and recreation provision.

Local

Kilkenny City Development Plan 2002

The planning policy and objectives for Kilkenny City are contained in the County Development Plan. This approach allows the advantage of a coordinated approach to the planning and development of open space and amenity areas. This approach is supported and advanced by this Recreation Study.

It is a stated objective of Kilkenny Borough Council that, taking into account the Department of Environment's broad policy objectives, it shall seek:

1. *"To provide a co-ordinated and graded system of parks, open spaces and outdoor recreation areas within urban areas so that the population can participate in a wide range of active and passive recreational pursuits within easy reach of their home and places of work;*
2. *To preserve and improve public access to those riverbank and countryside areas which have traditionally been used for outdoor recreation and by land acquisition or other measures to make accessible to the public important areas of natural amenity and countryside which have not hitherto been open to the public;*
3. *To ensure that public roads in urban and rural areas are properly landscaped in the interests of visual amenity;*
4. *To provide a new swimming pool which shall incorporate other sports and leisure facilities in Kilkenny City and Environs".*¹⁰

Kilkenny County Development Plan 2002

Recreation and Sports Policy for the County of Kilkenny is set out in County Development Plan. The detailed policy of the Development Plan is set out in **Appendix A**. The Development Plan covers issues such as;

- Provision of Facilities Generally
- Protection of Open Space
- Open Space in New Residential Development
- Outdoor Recreation in the Countryside
- Intensive Sports Facilities
- Noise Generating Sports
- Development associated with water sports
- The floodlighting of Recreational Facilities
- Development Levies for Sports and Recreation facilities
- Appropriate levels of Sports and Recreation Provision

The detail of this policy is set out in Appendix A. The County Development Plan also sets out certain objectives for the County. These are detailed below.

¹⁰ Section 9, Kilkenny City Development Plan 2002

5.1.2 Objectives

- 1) During the period of the Plan it is an objective of the Council to prepare a detailed recreation study of the County dealing with the quantitative and qualitative aspects of recreation within the County and setting out a strategy for the future provision of recreational facilities within the County.
- 2) It is an objective of the Council in conjunction with Kilkenny Corporation to develop a new swimming pool on a suitable site within Kilkenny City and its environs. A feasibility study has been carried out and the site selection process is underway at present.

This study represents Objective 1) of the County Development Plan set out above. Objective 2) of the County Development Plan is also being addressed.

However, in response to this study, amendments to the provisions of the policy and objectives of the Development Plan may be appropriate in order to further define and support the policy and objectives of the County Development Plan. Changes in the objectives of the County Development Plan may be necessary in order to address specific policy objectives resulting from the qualitative and quantitative assessment of sports facilities (whereby a variance in demand for particular sporting activities has been noted in certain locations). The implications of the qualitative and quantitative assessment of sports facilities in the area are considered in more detail Section 6.

Recommendations for action, a strategy for future provision of sporting facilities and changes to Development Plan Policy as a consequence of consultations, research, surveys, open spaces audits and qualitative and quantitative assessment of sports facilities will be set out in Sections 9 – 12 of this document.

4.0 CONSULTATION

4.1 Public Consultation

The consultations allowed for extensive opportunities for all parties to provide an input to the study including an opportunity to attend;

- Presentations / Workshops throughout the County and City.
- The issuing of over 300 direct requests for submissions from sporting bodies nationally and locally, (local clubs and schools).
- Councillors Workshops.
- Advertisements on local newspapers & broadcasts on local radio.
- Consultations with adjoining Local Authorities.
- Household surveys of a selected sample group.
- User surveys of those using facilities in the study area.

The study was also advertised on the County Council's website. A commentary on each of the above is set out below.

- Presentations

A number of presentations and workshops were held throughout the County. These were advertised in local newspapers over a two week period from 1st March to the 15th March 2002. The meetings were also advertised through a mailshot to all identified clubs, schools and organisations within the County. In total over 300 general invitations were issued. A sample of the invitation is detailed overleaf.

In total, eight presentation / consultations were held where attendees from sporting organisations and members of the general public were able to identify their issues and requirements in a structured format while also interacting with other sporting / amenity clubs in order to ascertain any areas of shared interest and common challenges. These meetings were attended by representatives of a wide cross section of representative sports with attendees from all the major sports¹¹ and amenity groups also attending

- Consultation Format

Each meeting was divided into various segments. The introductory segment informed attendees about the purpose of the projects. The second involved a formal question and answer session and the final and third segment involved an informal

Figure 1: Sample Invitation for Public Meetings

KILKENNY RECREATIONAL NEEDS STUDY

AN Other
Kilkenny Club
Kilkenny Sports
Kilkenny

Planning Consultants, Cunnane Stratton Reynolds have recently written to sports organisations, clubs, community and social groups requesting submissions on the above study, which is to identify sports facility objectives, policies and projects for County Kilkenny. The Project is being undertaken by Kilkenny County Council and Kilkenny Borough Council.

All interested parties and individuals, whether already contacted or not, are invited to a series of meetings / workshops to be held in a variety of locations in / around County Kilkenny during the coming weeks. We would ask you to attend at the venue that is most accessible to you. The venues and times where everyone is welcome are:

DATE	VENUE	TIME
Monday 4 th March 2002	New Park Hotel, Kilkenny	7.30pm
Wednesday 6 th March 2002	Hotel Kilkenny, Kilkenny	7.30pm
Thursday 7 th March 2002	Castlecomer Community School	7.30pm
Monday 11 th March 2002	Kilkenny River Court Hotel, Kilkenny	7.30pm
Tuesday 12 th March 2002	The Rising Sun, Mullinavat	7.30pm
Wednesday 13 th March 2002	Grennan College, Thomastown	7.30pm
Thursday 14 th March 2002	Coláiste Éamonn Ris, Callan	7.30pm

Issues that will be discussed include:


(1) the funding of sports projects; (2) the provision of recreation facilities to meet social needs in certain parts of the city; (3) a strategic approach to the provision of new facilities (4) the provision of facilities for special recreational needs and finally (5) the provision of new/improved open space

The Consultants will make themselves available each evening to discuss individual projects / needs.

Further details can be provided from John Crean at:

Phone: 021 - 4275032
Fax: 021 - 4275034
Email: jcrean@csrlandplan.ie

Further details of the project are available on Kilkenny County Council's website www.kilkennycoco.ie



CUNNANE
STRATTON
REYNOLDS

Town Planning & Landscape Architecture
3 Malinscross Place
Dublin 2
A
Runket Chambers
21/23 Oliver Plunkett Street
Cork

e-mail: info@cunnane-stratton-reynolds.com
Web: <http://cunnane-stratton-reynolds.com>

¹¹ GAA, Soccer, Golf, Camogie, Rugby, Athletics and other sports such as hill walking, and mountaineering were among sports from which representatives attended the various public meetings. Amenity groups such as Residents Associations also attended along with representatives from schools.

discussion between the Consultant team and the attendees covering individual proposals, facilities etc.

- Identification of Issues

Discussion at the meetings was framed around the following headings:

- (1) Please identify your organisation/activity?
- (2) What general issues affect your sport/activity?
- (3) What are the key issues affecting facilities for your sport/activity?
- (4) What are the key issues for your club/organisation
- (5) Any other comments.

The issues that were raised by participants at these meetings included a wide range of factors ranging from facility availability, to their funding and distribution. The meetings were attended by members of the community from across the spectrum of bodies that may have an active or passive involvement in sporting activity and ranged from club committees to school principals and representatives of socially disadvantaged groups.

In general the issues raised included:

- xiv. The overuse of existing facilities.
- xv. Maintenance Issues.
- xvi. A need for more facilities (including training facilities).
- xvii. Access to facilities.
- xviii. Social inclusion.
- xix. Land availability.
- xx. Ancillary facilities (including changing rooms).
- xxi. A demand for indoor facilities.
- xxii. The distribution of facilities.
- xxiii. Provision for new development areas.
- xxiv. The overwork of volunteers.
- xxv. Poor participation rates.
- xxvi. Poor fitness of young people.

While this is not an exclusive list of the issues raised it does give an indication of the factors that are relevant to the development of sports and amenity facilities

4.2 Advertisements On Local Newspapers & Interviews On Local Radio

A number of submissions were made to the study as a direct result of the public advertisements in newspapers and a radio interview on Radio Kilkenny. These submissions were made by bodies such as:

- Enable Ireland
- The Fairways Residents Association
- The Freshford Heritage Group

In general there was a low response to newspaper advertisements and radio interviews as they occurred contemporaneously with the public consultations, meetings and the issuing of direct invitations to over 300 sporting and community bodies for comment and opinions. From anecdotal evidence gathered at public meetings it appears that the direct opportunity to make representations at public meetings was the preferred manner of making comments on the proposed study.

4.3 Consultation with Adjoining Local Authorities

While the entire County is the subject of the study, a more detailed approach using the modelling process offered by the FPM, has been taken in respect of the Kilkenny City area given the potential for the area's growth over the coming years. As the modelling process will be focussed on an area within a 30 minute drive time of Kilkenny City, lands within Cos.

Laois, Tipperary and Carlow are within the study area for modelling purposes. It is appropriate to consider these areas as they can access Kilkenny City and its surrounding lands so as to gain access to amenity facilities.

The Local Authorities responsible for each of these areas has been contacted and consulted so as to determine the recreation and amenity issues of these areas and to assist in the survey process. The views of each Local Authority are set out below.

4.3.1 Laois County Council

Physical Context

The area of Laois that will be modelled as part of the study is largely rural although a number of well established settlements with limited sporting and amenity facilities are located within the area. The area under consideration extends in a band adjacent to the northern and eastern borders of the County and takes in the areas around Culahill in the west to Durrow further north east along the N8, to Ballinakill. The eastern portion of the model area within Co. Laois includes principally upland undeveloped areas with a number of small settlements with little or no amenity and recreation facilities. These areas are generally more accessible to Carlow Town than Kilkenny City.

Recreation & Amenity

The portion of Co. Laois that adjoins the Kilkenny County Boundary is generally rural in character and is largely characterised by settlements located along the N8 which, runs through both Kilkenny and Laois. Laois County Council has already carried out a facilities needs analysis of the entire County and has noted that the key issues surrounding sports facilities involved the poor quality of existing facilities and the difficulty in accessing those facilities.

4.3.2 South Tipperary County Council

Physical Context

The area of Co. Tipperary that will be modelled as part of the study is again largely rural and centred on the Slievedaragh Hills. There are a number of smaller settlements within the area although the largest would be Mullinahone. These areas tend to generally focus towards settlements in Co. Tipperary, particularly Clonmel.

Recreation & Amenity

This area is generally experiencing a decline in population or is at best stagnating. Given this there is little demand for the provision of additional recreation and amenity facilities on the basis of population increase. However, attempts are being made to improve the passive recreation provision in the area through the development of village / environmental improvements such as a town park in Mullinahone. The overall area is noted as a strong GAA / fieldsports area with a strong Parish tradition of GAA.

4.3.3 Carlow County Council

Physical Context

The area of Co. Carlow that is within the drive time model area is particularly close to Carlow Town and is more likely to look to that area for recreation and amenity provision than to Kilkenny. However, there are a number of settlements within the study area that are of significant size. These include Leighlinbridge and Beagnalstown both to the north east of Kilkenny and Borris to the east.

Recreation & Amenity

The Council has noted that the main area where future development pressures are likely to emerge are in the area of Bagenalstown where commuter driven pressures from Dublin are resulting in planning applications for large housing estate developments (these proposed developments are not necessarily located on residentially zoned lands). A recent application for a 400 unit development has been refused planning permission while a 250 unit development is currently under consideration. The development of zoned lands in

Bagnalstown is a possibility and additional development pressures are likely to emerge there in the future. Currently however, the Council and County Development Board have noted that there are pressures for facilities for the young in the rural areas of Carlow emerging while additional problems as regards accessibility have also been noted.

4.3.4 Waterford City Council

The development of the lands in Kilkenny County Council's administrative area within the Environs of Waterford City has led to the effective expansion in Waterford City north of the River Suir. This development is primarily taking place in the Kilculliheen DED. Waterford City Council have provided sports and amenity facilities in their administrative area north of the River Suir bordering the County Boundary with Kilkenny but view the County Kilkenny development area as part of a broader area that can be catered for by regional scale developments within Waterford City. Waterford City Council envisages the catchment of Waterford City as extending at least over a 30 minute drive time from Waterford City.

4.4 National Bodies

Consultation was undertaken with a number of national bodies

- (1) Department of Tourism Sport and Recreation
- (2) The Irish Sports Council
- (3) The Institute of Leisure and Amenity Management

Discussions and consultations with those groups concentrated on issues of strategic and National significance.

A number of National Sporting Organisations were advised of the study, its preparation and terms of reference. The bodies notified at a National level of the proposed Recreational Needs Study are detailed below in Table 1. All these bodies provided assistance to the preparation of the study through either direct representations or the identification of relevant local contacts. Those organisations making representations are highlighted in **bold**.

Table 1: National Level Consultees

Athletics Association of Ireland	Trout Anglers Federation of Ireland
Irish Amateur Boxing Association	National Course Fishing Federation Association
Cumann Luthchleas Gael	Irish Gymnastics Ltd.
The Ladies Gaelic Football Association	Irish Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association
Golfing Union of Ireland	Equestrian Federation of Ireland
Irish Ladies Golf Union	Horseshoe Pitchers Association of Ireland
Comhairle Liathroid Laimhe na hEireann	Irish Judo Association
Irish Hockey Association	Irish Martial Arts Commission
Pitch & Putt Union of Ireland	Motor Cycling Union of Ireland
Irish Rugby Football Union	Mountaineering Council of Ireland
Football Association of Ireland	Republic of Ireland Netball Association
Swim Ireland	Special Olympics Ireland
Tennis Ireland	Irish Orienteering Association
Irish Adventure Sports Training Trust	Racquetball Association of Ireland
Irish Amateur Archery Association	Irish Amateur Rowing Union
Irish Schools Athletic Association	Republic of Ireland Snooker & Billiards Association
Badminton Union of Ireland	Irish Squash
Irish Baseball and Softball Association	Irish Surfing Association
Irish Basketball Association	Irish Schools Swimming Association
Bol Cumman na hEirreann	Irish Table Tennis Association
Cumman Camogaiochta na Gael	Irish Taekwondo Union
Irish Canoe Union	The Heritage Council
Irish Clay Pigeon Shooting Association	Volleyball Association of Ireland
ESB Community Games Headquarters	Irish Wheelchair Association, Sports Section
Irish Cricket Union	Speleological Union of Ireland
Irish Cycling Federation	Irish Amateur Fencing Association
Irish Deaf Sports Association	Irish Federation of Sea Anglers
Cerebral Palsy Sport Ireland	Irish Underwater Council

The above organisations provided a representative input on the issues that were important to the development of sports and amenity facilities in the study area.

4.5 Sports, Community and Activity Clubs

Submissions were received from Clubs/Organisations, residents associations, community and special interests groups. These highlighted special interests, the need for amenity facilities and the fact the amenity provision would benefit an area socially and assist in the promotion of physical health and development. These issues also became apparent during general public consultations and workshops..

4.6 Issues

The following list of issues were common to most clubs / organisations and while most concentrated on issues particular to their own areas (e.g. field sports organisations concentrated on the overuse of existing facilities, the need for new facilities, training facility requirements etc – Passive recreation groups concentrated on the provision of play areas, walks, safety etc) all demonstrated a keen awareness of the potential for inter-linkages to occur between all activities. The key issues raised and problems perceived include:

- *The overuse of existing facilities.* Many sporting clubs identified the fact that the existing facilities were overused through the combined pressures of sporting fixtures and training requirements. This was exacerbated by the fact that some clubs catered

- for a large number of active members and also attempted to provide facilities for schools in the area.
- *Access to facilities.* The access to many facilities was also raised as an issue. This particularly applied to playing facilities of active clubs, whose reasonable contention was that this was to ensure that their overused facilities were not further damaged. However, this also applied to other facilities where access was controlled by bookings or gatekeepers and where inefficiencies were noted by members of the public and consultees.
 - *The need for new facilities.* The need for new facilities was noted in a number of locations. This was justified by the overuse of existing facilities.
 - *A need for Changing Rooms.* The need for changing facilities has been identified as a significant issue for a number of reasons including the fact that they are seen as an essential element in the provision of a quality experience for young people participating in sporting activities. Many sportspersons noted that there is a drop off in participation rates by teenagers in sport partly due to a latent dissatisfaction in the facilities and that given the competition for children's interest from other activities.
 - *A need for indoor facilities.* The need for indoor facilities for all sporting activities was identified as a significant issue by many parties. Such facilities, providing for a mix of uses, were identified as a means of encouraging participation in sporting activities and recreational activities.
 - *Land Availability.* Many clubs and sporting organisations identified the fact that they were unable to compete with developers for land for the development of additional playing facilities.
 - *Funding.* The availability of funding for the development of additional facilities was identified as a major problem. While many organisations had identified means of additional funding on an occasional basis, such as collections (etc), some had taken out commercial loans in order to fund development programmes although the ongoing maintenance and management of facilities was a notable funding issue. In this respect funding in relation to capital and maintenance expenditures consistently represented a reoccurring issue.
 - *Declining Participation Rates.* The decline in the numbers of persons, particularly children, participating in sporting activities was generally associated with two factors. Firstly, the poor quality of facilities and secondly the lack of a sporting culture; this latter point was generally identified as resulting from a poor involvement in active recreation / sporting activities at a young age and the general lack of play and active recreation facilities as a whole. This, in the view of many, has engendered a lack of interest in active recreation and the progressive development of a more sedentary lifestyle.
 - *Insurance.* This has been identified as a significant issue for sporting and recreation facilities and has been noted as having implications for both funding and operational decisions. The insurance issue has been noted as being particularly important as regards provision for social inclusion and those with special needs.
 - *Distribution of Facilities.* The poor distribution of facilities was noted as a significant issue as many areas had limited access to recreation and amenity facilities.
 - *Lack of Facilities in New Development Areas.* Related to the fact that there was a poor distribution of facilities in existing areas was that fact that new development areas were equally poorly provided for in the views of many with a perceived lack of provision and where it was provided a perceived lack of quality in appearance, design and maintenance.
 - *Pressure on Volunteer Inputs.* This was noted as a very significant problem in some active sporting activities with an over reliance on particular individuals who were potentially risking 'burn-out'. Supporting structures and the overall struggle to maintain, promote and manage activities was noted as a particular problem in this regard.
 - *Safety.* The safety of facilities was noted as a significant issue in terms of both supervision and design with a perception that many spaces were poorly designed, poorly observed and consequently unattractive to recreational activities.
 - *School Facilities.* School facilities were identified as a significant component in the potential hierarchy of sporting and recreation facilities with many viewing them as retaining a latent potential to act as community assets in the development of new

sporting facilities. They were also identified as an area that was under pressure with some schools, particularly primary schools having a limited open space recreation provision. The VEC was particularly helpful in identifying schools that could act as a focus for development for sports facilities with an appropriate partnership mechanism.

- *Shared Facilities.* The potential for clubs and organisations to share facilities was noted as a possible long term opportunity and an opportunity to develop a nodal facility for the area in which it is located.

From the consultations carried out the development of additional recreational facilities emerged as a definite demand. Sporting organisations tended to display similar requirements and depending on the nature of their activities. The following table illustrates the key issues that tended to emerge from consultations with a range of sports / groups which can generically be grouped on the following basis.

- Field Sports
- Specialist Sports
- Passive Recreation
- Active Recreation
- Schools Primary
- Schools Secondary
- Residents Associations

Some of the key facility issues to emerge from these groups are set out in Table 2 overleaf.

Table 2: Typical Sports Groups Requirements

Field Sports	Required additional training facilities. New pitches Changing rooms / facilities Own pitches (particularly with Soccer Clubs who tend to lease facilities)
Specialist Sports	Require Changing Rooms Ancillary facilities (Halls, sprung floors, specialist equipment) Specialist Demands (e.g. Weights rooms, running tracks) Hardstand areas (tennis, basketball, handball (wall)) Access (River Access – fishing & canoeing)
Passive Recreation	Open Spaces Access Security
Active Recreation	Walking Routes Linkages Rights of Way
Schools Primary	Playing Pitch / Area Play Area
Schools Secondary	Additional Playing Pitches Ancillary Facilities (Showers and Changing Facilities)
Residents Associations	Play areas Security Mixed use facilities

5.0 OPEN SPACE AND AMENITY AREAS AUDIT

5.1 Assessment of Open Space and Amenity Areas

Open space provision within the County and City areas is considered in more detail in Volume Two. Recommendations are also set out in Volume 2 in more detail.

The following details the key issues emerging from the assessment of open space and amenity areas within the County and City. The aim of this element of the study (detailed in Volume Two) is to review the existing open space resource in terms of function and quality, with the objective of establishing what is the existing capacity and potential to meet the city's and county's needs in terms of amenity and recreation and / or alternative uses of dysfunctional spaces as appropriate.

The existing provision is assessed against recognised standards and highlights the shortfall.

The study area covers Kilkenny City and Kilkenny County. On ground analysis, desk top studies as well as public consultation have been carried out as part of the analysis. Extensive surveys were carried out for all individual open spaces including waterfront corridors (see Figure 5.1).



Figure 5.1 Sample Open Space Survey Sheet – Scanlon Park, Kilkenny

The findings of the assessment and future opportunities identified are as follows.

5.2 Future Opportunities

Kilkenny City

1. There are substantial areas of land zoned for Recreation Amenity and Open Space in the Kilkenny City & Environs Development Plan. The total area zoned for the current population is in excess of that required under the Development Plan and similar standards.
2. Although there is more than adequate provision of open space in Kilkenny City, amenity value, quality and functionality of many existing spaces is poor and they should be contributing far more.
3. There is almost a complete absence of quality play provision within most of the open spaces surveyed.
4. The open space resource at a local level requires redesign and redevelopment to maximise its quality and potential.
5. There is a unique water corridor both ecological / green and urban / hard associated with the Nore river with the potential to embellish the image and civic attractions of Kilkenny city.
6. There is a need for a hierarchy of open space provision to ensure a clear function / purpose for each open space provided. This will inform day to day decision making re individual facilities and avoid duplication and / or under-provision.
7. Open space in Kilkenny should provide visual enhancement to the fabric of the city, whether as a recreational amenity or not.

Kilkenny County

8. County towns are generally well provided for with an attractive surrounding countryside context – walks, natural areas, woodlands etc, and individual sports clubs often have their own facilities, however, in general, each town / village requires consolidation or enhancement of at least one existing green / space or creation of new greens or town parks as a focal point for social and community events and informal provision for miscellaneous recreational activities

General

9. Kilkenny City and County have no dedicated department to develop and manage open space within the city / county.
10. The issue of public liability should not be a deterrent to providing equipped play areas as long as recently adopted and recognised EU standards are followed.
11. There is a need for a strategic vision of open space in the city and county and its role in
 - The promotion of Kilkenny as a city with a high quality of life.
 - The potential to create networks of open spaces.
 - The development of Kilkenny City, County and the Nore / Barrow region and its niche in the leisure and tourism market, building on it's established heritage attractions.

Recommendations

Provision of Open Space

1. Adopt an open space strategy for the city and its environs.
2. All policies should be guided by the need to provide a balanced range and hierarchy of open spaces and locations throughout the Study Area and by providing access to all.
3. Communities in the City and County should be involved in an informed way in local redevelopment plans involving improved open space, footpath creation and particularly infill development.
4. Due to the strategic nature of the proposals in Kilkenny City impacting on recreation, housing, community development, urban and economic development, tourism and city image it may be appropriate to put in place the appropriate resources to support the development of a multi agency approach to the development of sports and amenity facilities where the Local Authorities have a key role in the implementation of any development.
5. Put in place appropriate cross-departmental structures to manage and develop the open space strategy, and provide sufficient resources to implement it.
6. In consultation with local communities, provide one publicly managed town park or village green in the each county town and village addressed in the Study Area.

Design, Quality and Management of Open Space

7. An immediate priority within the strategy should be to upgrade and facilitate the improved design, maintenance and management of existing open spaces both in the City and County.

Provision of Play Facilities

8. In consultation with communities, plans for the improvement, maintenance and management of local facilities should be developed with an emphasis on the early provision of quality children's play areas.
9. For the provision of Play Areas the City and County Councils should:
 - Adopt EU standard EN 1176 for the design and management of play area equipment.
 - Be directly responsible for the control and management of the play areas unless by agreement with another agency.

- Should undertake weekly checks on play areas and equipment, carried out by suitably qualified employees.
- Remove all defective / dangerous equipment immediately and not reinstate until satisfactorily repaired.
- Maintain records of inspections including dates, personnel and qualifications of inspectors, and necessary actions taken.

5.3 Open Space Development Issues

Resources

10. The City and County Councils should seek to implement Sections 48 & 49 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, for the purpose of raising funds to not only provide for but to also fund the management and maintenance of these amenities.
11. The Councils should consider whether to impose a flat rate development levy per house to go towards the provision of open space.
12. Where it is possible under these Sections, developers should provide a satisfactory level of open space on site in accordance with best practice including:
 - The amalgamation of open space into useable units.
 - Arrangements of housing to provide maximum surveillance.
 - The enclosure of open space where it abuts a main road.
 - The provision of equipped children's play areas.
 - The protection of existing landscape features of merit.
 - The provision of hard and soft landscape features, furniture and lighting as appropriate.
13. The clustering of open space in City and County areas with other leisure and sports opportunities to maximise usage, efficient use of capital and human resources and management e.g. the location of open space with sports centres.
14. The recognition of the social and cultural benefits of providing open space to capture available funds from non-traditional agencies e.g. Urban Woodland Schemes, Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation.
15. The Councils should develop management, maintenance and access agreements with what is classified as private space with open access - schools, community run facilities, hospital or college / institutional grounds – to develop and realise the potential of these often quality and mature environments as informal passive recreational areas.

Redesign and Redevelopment

16. In the City and County consider the use of infill built development to reconfigure / structure open space in accordance with best practice for open spaces and urban design.
17. Such redevelopment coupled with public/private partnerships and further public investment should create additional resources to address the upgrade of open space within the City and County.

Strategic Vision

18. The existing River network has potentially established the basis for a network and links County with City, tourism features and existing recreation facilities.
19. Link the development of a green city and leisure facilities with tourism programmes and opportunities e.g. the Nore Waterway Corridor and city centre initiatives such as the Batemans Quay. (Kilkenny, The Medieval City, in sitting in a beautiful, cared for, wooded, riverside environment).
20. Consider jetties and boating facilities in the city centre to bring the river to life.
21. Identify walking and cycling routes linked to open spaces and facilities to develop "greenways" and Sli na Slainte routes e.g. the city centre and interconnecting riverside walks out to the countryside.
22. To upgrade existing and provide new riverside walks as shown on Cit Map 5.
23. To preserve existing rights of ways in City and County especially those along the river.

Hierarchy

24. Proposals should be prepared for the development of existing open spaces in the City as high quality district, city and regional parks.
25. Provide facilities to enable a greater range of activities be provided i.e. skateboarding, rollerblading and such activities that may become popular and which could be accommodated within the proposed park network. This will ensure maximum potential is realised in the parks and open space system.
26. It is important to integrate city based leisure and tourism proposals with those in the county and region. This will maximise the value derived from recreation investment by enhancing the city and county not just for residents but for visitors also.

Open space provides a green lung for the urban area and green networks are important for future economic and social well-being. However the benefits of open space are severely compromised if the spaces are neglected or undeveloped. Open spaces will only bring benefit if they are of a high quality, managed and maintained.

The fundamental importance of open space, over and above sport and recreation must be recognised in order to bring better quality of life and encourage an urban renaissance. Open spaces significantly enhance the liveability of urban environments. Allowing successful establishment of an open space network will serve the city and it's population in a multitude of ways: including health, education and tourism, whilst also bringing socio economic benefits. The role of open space in providing a facility for informal recreation must be recognised as this is more broadly relevant to the population. A minority of park visitors use parks for formal sport and demographically the ageing population means there will be fewer participants in active recreation.

Open space is not an 'add on' to recreation, it is where recreation, sport and social activities take place.

6.0 FACILITIES AUDIT

6.1 Identification of Facilities

The second primary element in the study was the identification and assessment of the established sporting provisions within the County.

The identification and evaluation of sporting facilities is intended to:

- Inform the formation of recommendations and to identify areas where an established provision for particular sporting activities already exists.
- Allow for an audit of their quality and condition.
- Allow for user surveys to be carried out to determine the nature and character of use of the facilities at peak times.

In total, in the order of 250 facilities were identified where sporting clubs carried out activities and games. In general these facilities ranged in quality and scale and the nature of provision and the opportunities for improvement differed through the County. A detailed assessment of the nature of provision is set out below in the following sections.

6.2 Facilities Audit

The overall study, allowed for an assessment of sporting facilities throughout the County and in areas in adjoining counties within reasonable driving distance of Kilkenny City. The audit provides a baseline from which future sporting facility provision can be determined.

The audit carried out identified a range of important issues relating to the general character and nature of sports and amenity provision in the County. In summary, while the study has identified the availability of a wide range of facilities throughout the County, it is not necessarily true to say that these are located in areas where there is the greatest level of population or need (an issue that will be more fully assessed when applying the Facilities Planning Model - FPM), nor that they are of good quality or cater for a wide range of physical abilities or ages.

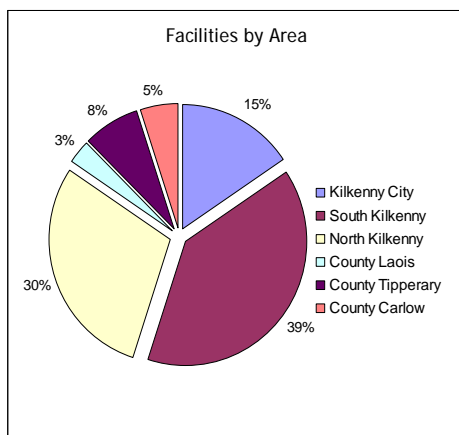
Map 6.1 overleaf identifies the location of surveyed facilities.

6.2.1 General Background

The audit of provision of facilities to meet sporting needs identified a range of important facts that relate to the:

- o Distribution of facilities
- o Nature of provision.
- o The management and upkeep of facilities; and
- o The maintenance of facilities.

Figure 6.1



Distribution of Facilities

The distribution of facilities has been recorded to provide information on the volume of facilities available throughout the County.

In summary, the audit identified that the majority of sporting facilities were located in the south of the County. A large number of facilities were also identified in the North and City areas, while only a limited number of facilities were identified in the adjoining counties of Tipperary, Laois and Carlow.

Map 6.1 – Facilities Surveyed

This is consistent with the fact that the most urbanised areas of the County are generally in the north of the County, within easy driving distance of Kilkenny City. The quantity of sporting facilities identified in the County and the adjacent areas of Cos. Tipperary, Laois and Carlow are set out in Table 6.1 below.

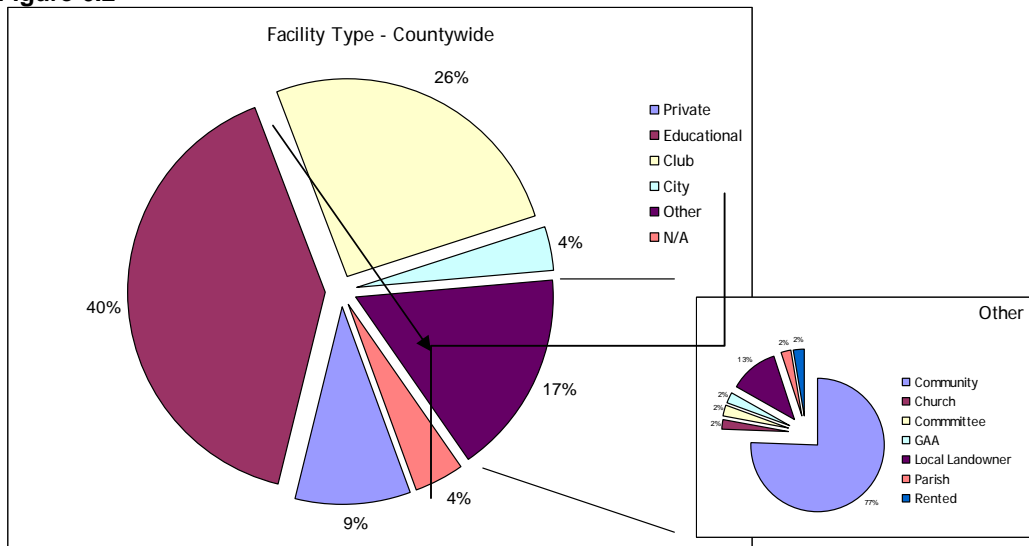
Table 6.1

Facilities by Area	% of Facilities	No. of Primary¹² Facilities
Kilkenny City	15.4	38
South Kilkenny	39.4	97
North Kilkenny	29.7	73
County Laois	2.8	7
County Tipperary	7.7	19
County Carlow	4.9	12
		246

Type of Facility Provision

As important as the quantity of facilities available throughout the County is the type of provision. This has an important bearing on the development and provision of sporting facilities for active amenity. In the County, and the overall study area as a whole, there is a range of facilities available to cater for most activities. However, the nature of provision has meant that many of these are not necessarily open to the public or available on a consistent basis to meet needs.

Figure 6.2



In summary, the majority of facilities provided in the County are attached to educational establishments, while a large proportion are either provided by a club or are private facilities. This is particularly important for future provision and the dual use of facilities, such as educational establishments, to provide for public needs and use. A positive step in this regard has been made by the Co. Kilkenny VEC, their recommendation for the development of Local Sports Advisory Boards and the promotion of the Local Sports Partnership application.

¹² Additional sports may also be played at these facilities so the total number of overall individual facilities is higher

The provision sports and amenity facilities by third parties, other than statutory bodies may have implications for future sporting provision, particularly in and around Kilkenny City. In this area, many of the established sporting facilities will be located in the established urban areas. New emerging residential areas will require the provision of new sporting and amenity facilities to ensure that peak demands can be catered for. In addition, it is likely that while new sports clubs will emerge in developing areas, additional publicly managed facilities and amenities will have to be developed to cater for development needs. These issues will be addressed in more detail in the following sections.

The review of facilities concentrated on active sports and amenity facilities providing for activities such as;

- (1) Hurling, Gaelic Football, Camogie
- (2) Handball
- (3) Soccer
- (4) Athletics
- (5) Swimming
- (6) Rugby
- (7) Hockey
- (8) Indoor Sports Activities
- (9) Golf
- (10) Multi-gym
- (11) Boxing
- (12) Tennis

However, this review process was also informed by approximately 900 household surveys carried out throughout the area within which the FPM is applied. The representative data returned from these areas is important as it identifies:

- o Sports and amenities not catered for on a formal basis within the County but for which a demands occurs.
- o Sports and amenities that are used by older, or less physically able, age groups that may be catered for at facilities in off – peak periods.

These will be fully considered in Section 7.

6.3 Quantitative Assessment

A wide range and number of sports and amenity facilities have been identified in the County.

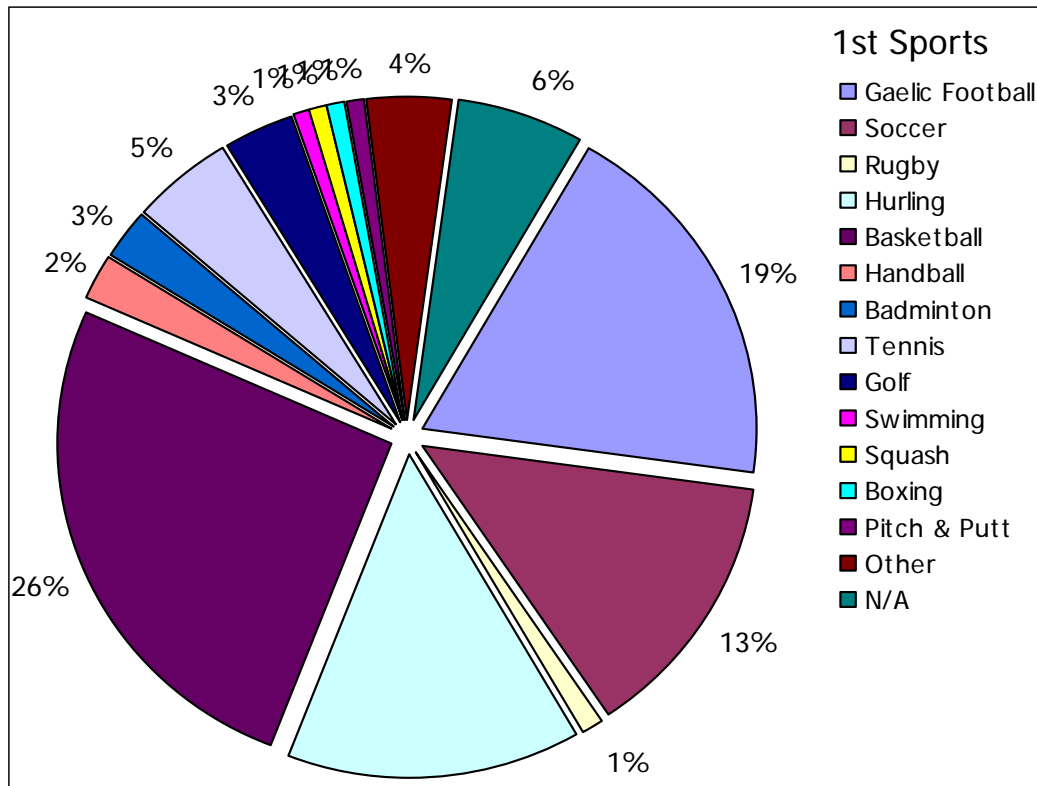
In summary, the review of the quantity of sports and amenity facilities available for active recreation pursuits was tailored to assess facilities on the basis that one or more use can be catered for at any particular facility (e.g. a basketball court may also provide for tennis or a handball court may also provide for squash or racquetball). Consequently, in assessing the sports present in an area, all facilities can be said to have one sport present, with a lesser number having two, three or four sports etc.

The highest number of sports present at any one facility was seven sports while in general, most facilities catered for three to four sports on average, in a variety of combinations. A brief summary of the information emerging from the surveys is given below.

6.3.1 1st Sports

The main or dominant use of any sports facility is termed the primary use. Of all facilities reviewed, the 1st Sport (dominant use) was principally that of the field sports such as soccer

Figure 6.3.1



and hurling / gaelic football.

1st Sports	%	All
GAA	33	79
Soccer	13.3	32
Rugby	1.3	3
Basketball	25.8	62
Handball	2.1	5
Badminton	2.5	6
Tennis	5.0	12
Golf	3.3	8
Swimming	0.8	2
Squash	0.8	2
Boxing	0.8	2
Pitch & Putt	0.8	2
Other	4.2	10
N/A	6.3	15

Within the County the predominance of field sports is more pronounced in certain areas with a high proportion of recreation facilities in the south of the County demonstrating use as GAA¹³ or soccer facilities for example.

Data returns have also been obtained for areas in South Kilkenny, North Kilkenny, Kilkenny City, Tipperary, Laois and Carlow which demonstrates that some sports exceed the average levels established at County level.

¹³ While all GAA facilities are defined as either hurling, football or Camogie the uses are interchangeable and refer to the use on the ground as observed when surveyed

Table 6.3.1 1st Sports Provision in the Plan Area

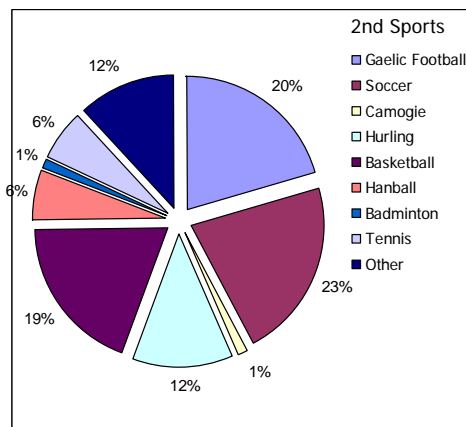
1st Sports	All % & Nos.
Gaelic Football	18.8 45
Soccer	13.3 32
Rugby	1.3 3
Hurling	14.2 34
Basketball	25.8 62
Handball	2.1 5
Badminton	2.5 6
Tennis	5.0 10
Golf	3.3 9
Swimming	0.8 2
Squash	0.8 2
Boxing	0.8 3
Pitch & Putt	0.8 3
Other	4.2 14
N/A	6.3 15
	245

The outputs demonstrate that areas such as Kilkenny City, in terms of total facility provision, have above average provisions in facilities such as soccer, rugby, basketball and handball for instance but below average provision in gaelic sports. While this is consistent with the fact that most gaelic sports are carried out at club facilities, it also substantiates a frequent issue emerging at public consultation phases that limited pitch availability occurs in GAA team sports in the city area. In general there appears to be an under provision of pitch facilities although this will be considered in more detailing in the following sections.

A similar assessment was also carried out into other sports (the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th sports etc.) located at various facilities throughout the County. A summary of the information emerging from these sports is set out in the following tables 6.3.2 to 6.3.7.

Table 6.3.2 2nd Sports Provision in the Plan Area

2nd Sports	All % & Nos.
Gaelic Football	20.5 17
Soccer	21.7 18
Camogie	1.2 1
Hurling	12.0 10
Basketball	19.3 16
Handball	6.0 5
Badminton	1.2 1
Tennis	6.0 5
Other	12.0 10
	83



Key: All = County, NK= North Kilkenny, SK= South Kilkenny, KC= Kilkenny City, T= Tipperary, L= Laois, C=Carlow

Table 6.3.3 3rd Sports Provision in the Plan Area

3rd Sports	All % & Nos.	
Gaelic Football	10.5	2
Soccer	21.1	4
Camogie	5.3	1
Basketball	31.6	6
Handball	5.3	1
Volleyball	5.3	1
Squash	5.3	1
Other	15.8	3
		19

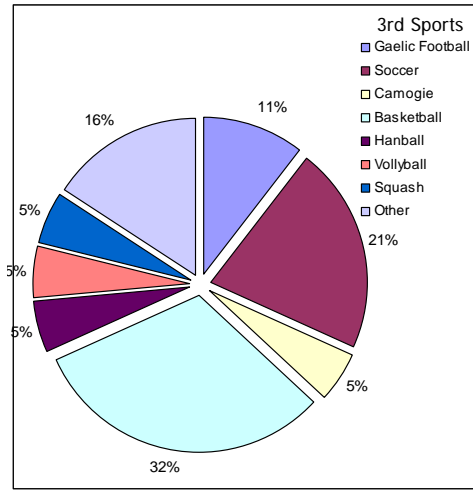


Table 6.3.4 4th Sports Provision in the Plan Area

4th Sports	All % & Nos.
Tennis	33.3 1
Athletics	66.7 2
	3

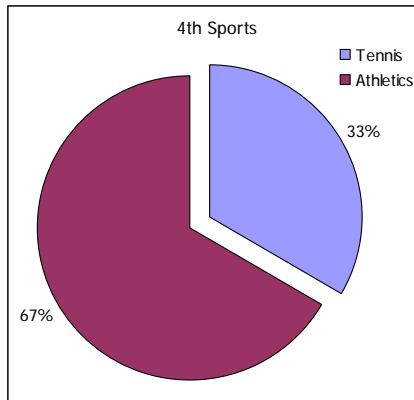


Table 6.3.5 5th Sports Provision in the Plan Area

5th Sports	All % & Nos.
Soccer	50.0 1
Camogie	50.0 1
	2

Table 6.3.6 6th Sports Provision in the Plan Area

6th Sports	All % & Nos.
Hurling	100.0 1
	1

Table 6.3.7 7th Sports Provision in the Plan Area

7th Sports	All % & Nos.
Basketball	100.0 1
	1

Concluding Points

The sports in the plan area with the greatest provision are the field sports of soccer and hurling / gaelic football. In general this pattern is repeated throughout the County and the plan area as a whole with:

- some local variations where particular sports are more dominant (this should not be taken as meaning that there is no demand for other sports, just that they are not provided).
- In general, most facilities with pitches provide only for field sports. Some facilities provide additional facilities such as a handball, halls etc.

6.4 Qualitative Assessment

While a quantitative assessment of the available sports facilities demonstrates that there are a wide range of facilities available throughout the county, generally where there are population centres. However, the provision of a sports facility does not necessarily give any indication of the qualitative experience of persons partaking in active sports.

In summary, there are a range of criteria whereby the qualitative experience of a sport or active amenity can be reduced / enhanced. These include:

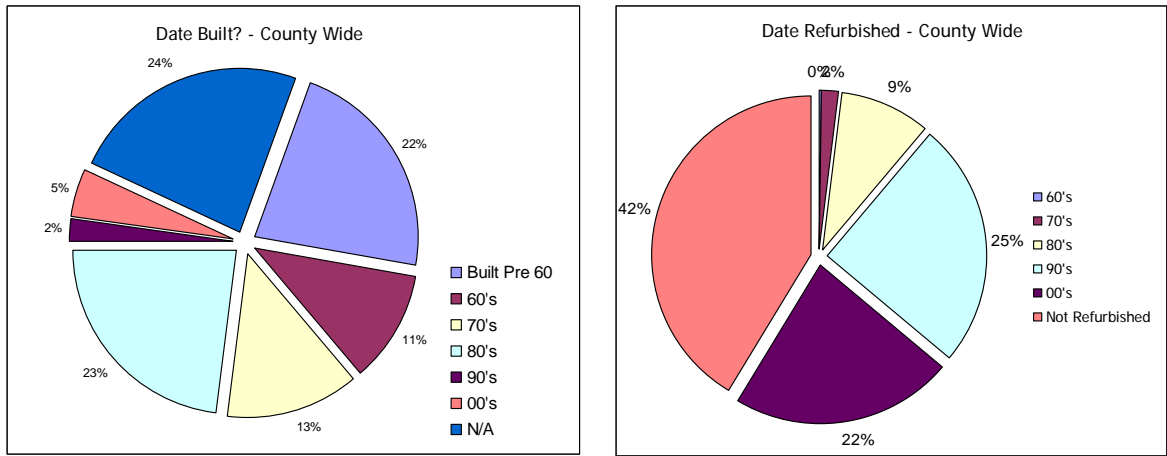
- *The age of the facility.* The age of the facility can adversely affect the experience of any sporting activities carried out.
- *The provision of changing rooms.* In general, the quality of experience has been found to be adversely affected by the non-availability of changing rooms and facilities. This appears particularly important in encouraging older age groups (teenagers upwards) to continue in sporting activities.
- *The nature of changing room provision.* Where provided, some facilities remain inadequate for sporting activities. In particular, the use of 'containers' in many locations to provide for changing without any basic facilities is completely inadequate.
- *The location of changing room facility.* Where provided it is desirable for changing rooms to be either centrally located or as close as possible to sporting facilities. In many cases it appears that while some facilities provide for a range of sports, changing facilities appear to principally relate to the main sport on site and are either unsuited or poorly located in relation to the second, third, fourth sports etc. For example, showers may be provided adjoining changing rooms for a GAA pitch but not physically linked to other facilities such as handball alleys or gyms.
- *The quality of the pitch and the availability of training facilities.* The pitch surface and the availability of training facilities. This is particularly important given the volume of use that pitches can experience. In many cases the evidence suggests that pitches are being over used in an effort to provide for peak demands, training, matches etc.
- *The availability of car parking.* The use of private cars to gain access to sporting and recreational facilities appears from user surveys to be the predominant mode of transport. Consequently, the availability of car parking facilities is an important element in the quality of the facility and the experience of the users.
- *The availability of spectator facilities.* The provision of spectator facilities is an important element in the overall experience of a facility. In many cases the provision of such facilities was found to be inadequate.
- *The availability of lighting.* The provision of lighting is considered to be an important element in the development of better and more accessible sporting facilities. The provision of lighting is an important given the fact that the peak times for private and public use of most sporting facilities is in late afternoon and evening periods.

These are all considered in more detail below.

6.4.1 Facility Age

The assessment of the age of facilities in the County, suggests that many facilities have been developed or refurbished within the last 20 years. From surveys of all facilities it would appear that as a consequence of this, that many existing facilities will require refurbishment or improvement in the coming years. In total, 102 facilities have never been refurbished since initially developed.

Figure 6.4.1 & 6.4.2



An assessment of improvements that may be necessary has been carried out as a result of the survey returns. The results are set out below for the areas within Co. Kilkenny. These returns are of interest as they demonstrate that different improvements should be considered in different areas of the County.

Table 6.4.1 Recommended Improvements for All Areas

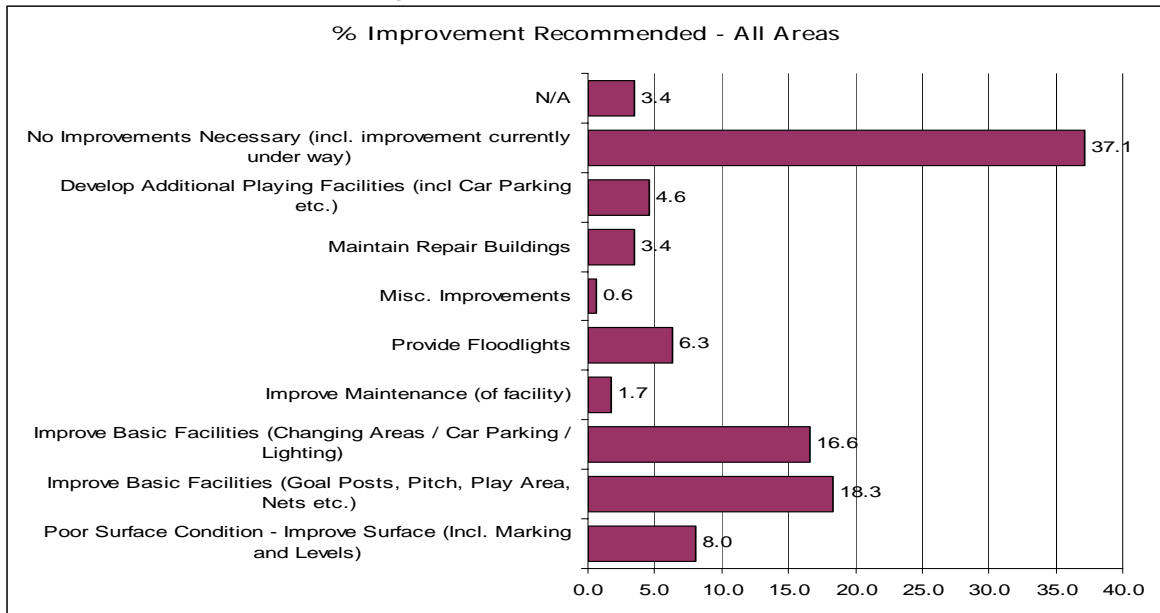
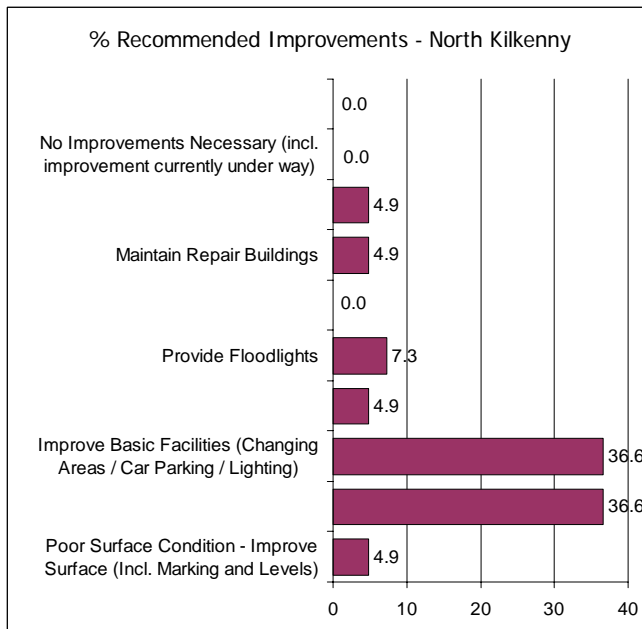


Table 6.4.2 Recommended Improvements for North Kilkenny



These survey results demonstrate that differing capital investment requirements are likely in areas such in the North and south of the County and in the City areas of Co. Kilkenny.

This has specific implications for management solutions, public investment and amenity provisions necessary as part of proposed residential developments.

It is important to note that the extent of poor quality of facilities in the County (Table 6.4.1) can be seen from the basic demand that improvements to Basic Facilities such as either Changing Areas /Car Parking / Lighting or basic playing areas and goal posts / equipment

make up a combined 34.9 % of the recommended improvements.

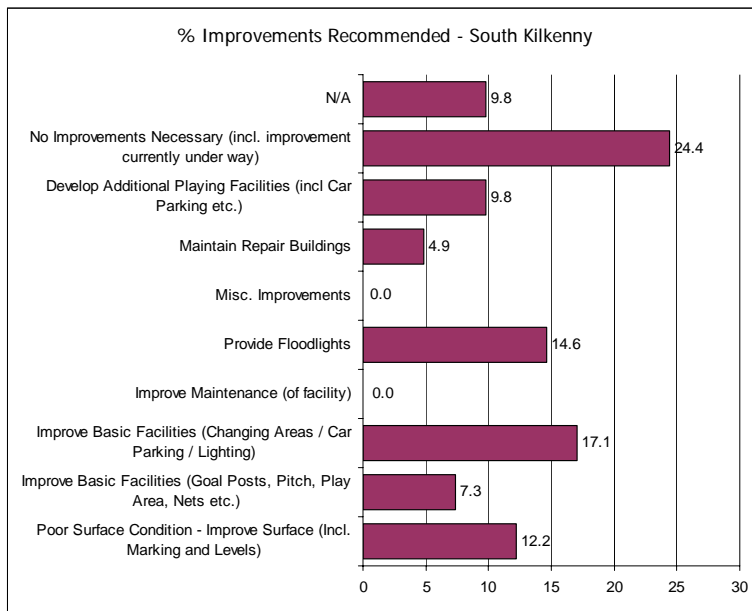
o *North Kilkenny*

While not all facilities have identified what improvements they envisage as appropriate it is apparent that many playing facilities have inadequate basic equipment and facilities.

Table 6.4.1

North Kilkenny – Proposed Improvements	No. of Facs	%
Poor Surface Condition - Improve Surface (Incl. Marking and Levels)	2	4.9
Improve Basic Facilities (Goal Posts, Pitch, Play Area, Nets etc.)	15	36.6
Improve Basic Facilities (Changing Areas / Car Parking / Lighting)	15	36.6
Improve Maintenance (of facility)	2	4.9
Provide Floodlights	3	7.3
Misc. Improvements	0	0.0
Maintain Repair Buildings	2	4.9
Develop Additional Playing Facilities (incl Car Parking etc.)	2	4.9
No Improvements Necessary (incl. improvement currently under way)	0	0.0
N/A	0	0.0

Table 6.4.3 Recommended Improvements for South Kilkenny



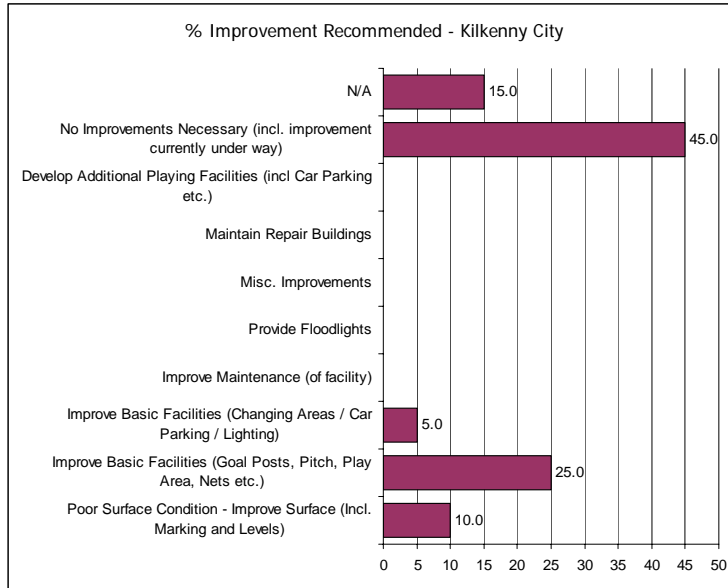
o *South Kilkenny*

While it is apparent from the previous table that some of the basic equipment in North Kilkenny are under provided. This appears to be less of a problem in South Kilkenny.

Table 6.4.2

South Kilkenny – Proposed Improvements	No. of Facs	%
Poor Surface Condition - Improve Surface (Incl. Marking and Levels)	5	12.2
Improve Basic Facilities (Goal Posts, Pitch, Play Area, Nets etc.)	3	7.3
Improve Basic Facilities (Changing Areas / Car Parking / Lighting)	7	17.1
Improve Maintenance (of facility)	0	0.0
Provide Floodlights	6	14.6
Misc. Improvements	0	0.0
Maintain Repair Buildings	2	4.9
Develop Additional Playing Facilities (incl Car Parking etc.)	4	9.8
No Improvements Necessary (incl. improvement currently under way)	10	24.4
N/A	4	9.8

Table 6.4.4 Recommended Improvements for Kilkenny City



o *Kilkenny City*

The facility provision within Kilkenny City is qualitatively better than in either North or South Kilkenny.

However, the survey returns identify that this area also suffers from an under provision of basic equipment.

In many cases certain key provisions have been made at facilities in Kilkenny City such as the provision of floodlights. However, playing times at certain

not all outdoor facilities have this provision and the extension of facilities may be facilitated by their provision.

Table 6.4.3

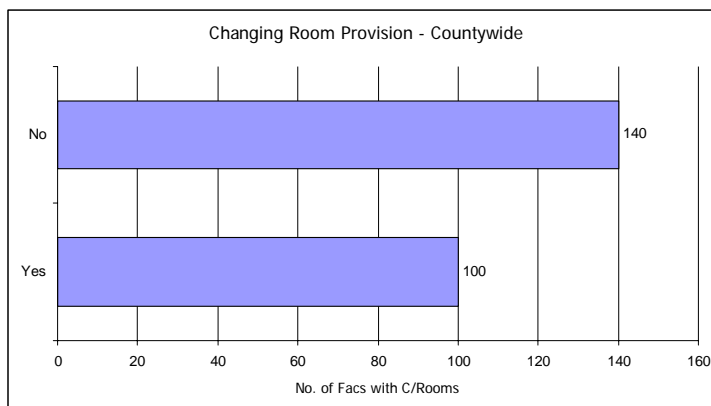
Kilkenny City – Proposed Improvements	No. of Facs	%
Poor Surface Condition - Improve Surface (Incl. Marking and Levels)	4	10.0
Improve Basic Facilities (Goal Posts, Pitch, Play Area, Nets etc.)	10	25.0
Improve Basic Facilities (Changing Areas / Car Parking / Lighting)	2	5.0
Improve Maintenance (of facility)	0	0.0
Provide Floodlights	0	0.0
Misc. Improvements	0	0.0
Maintain Repair Buildings	0	0.0
Develop Additional Playing Facilities (incl Car Parking etc.)	0	0.0
No Improvements Necessary (incl. improvement currently under way)	18	45.0

6.4.2 Changing Room Provision

Identified in Section 6.4 as an important element in ensuring that sports and amenity facilities can be used, the underprovision of changing room facilities emerged as a major qualitative deficiency in the sports and amenity infrastructure of the County.

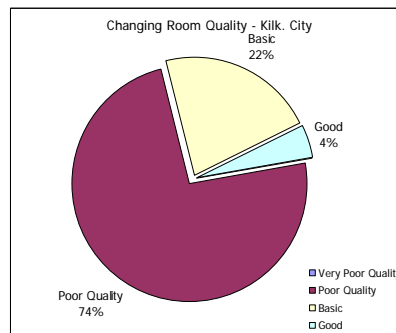
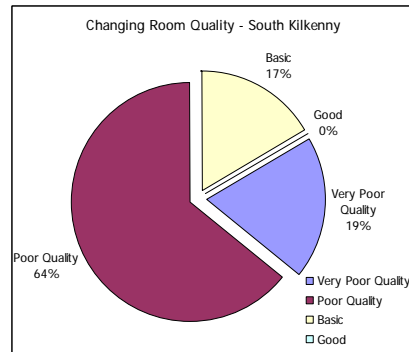
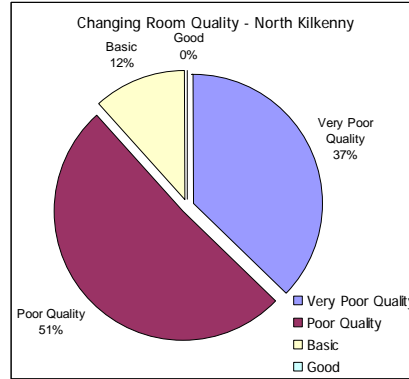
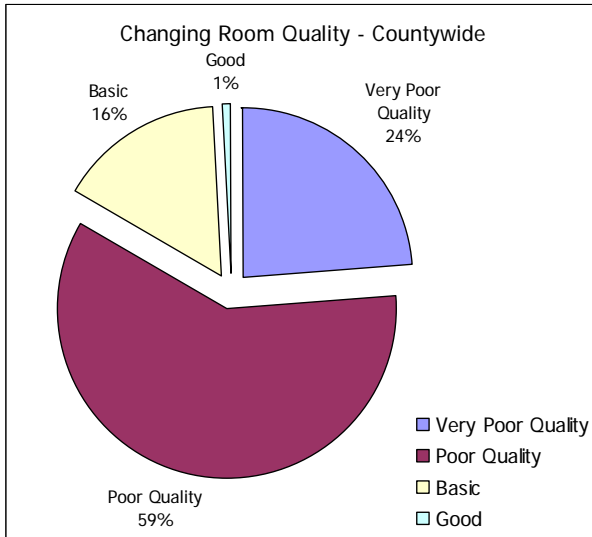
In total less than half the sporting and amenity facilities in the County had a changing room facility (**Figure 6.4.3** opposite).

Figure 6.4.3



The under provision of such basic infrastrure should not be permitted to continue. Where changing rooms or facilities are provided, they can in many instances be inadequate to meet needs. In general, on a countywide basis (including the adjoining areas of Laois , Tipperary and Carlow considered to be within the study area) the majority of facilities can be considered to be of either ‘very poor’ or ‘poor’ quality. For reference purposes, a ‘very poor facility’ is one with a room only, a ‘poor facility’ is one with a room and cold water while a ‘basic facility’ is one with a room and hot water.

Figures 6.4.4



The poor quality of changing room facilities is likely to have the unintended consequence of discouraging the use of sporting facilities as a whole, encouraging more seasonal use of any particular facility and promoting the under use of facilities which often have a high capital expenditure.

The poor quality of many of the facilities associated with sports fields and other such locations, and the potential for them to discourage facility use due to the inconvenience associated with use rather than the benefits associated with exercise can only be seen as a long term threat to the development of amenity provision within the County.

While the above figures demonstrate that the changing facilities provided are of a poor quality, there are also differences between their spatial distribution throughout the County.

In general the availability of changing rooms as with the quality of facility available, varies throughout the County on an area basis. The differing nature of provision is emphasised by the following Figures 6.4.5.

Figure 6.4.5: Changing Room Location

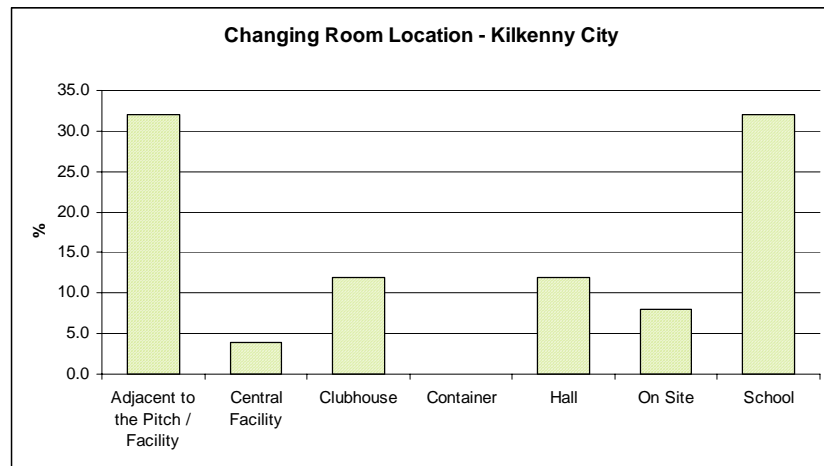
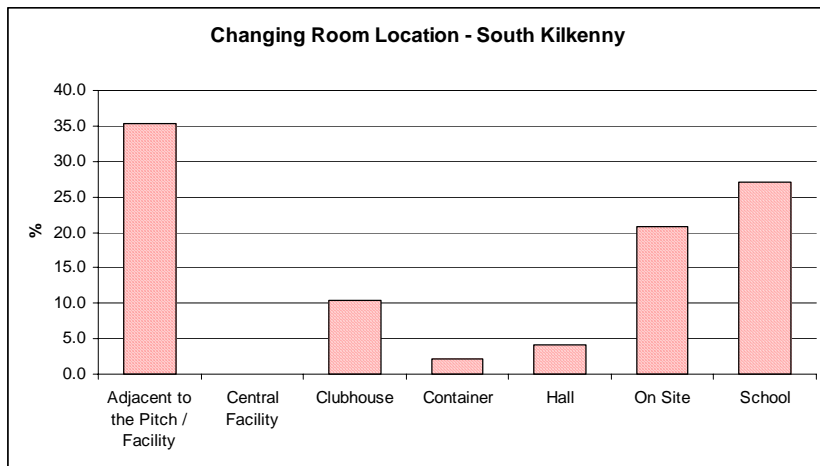
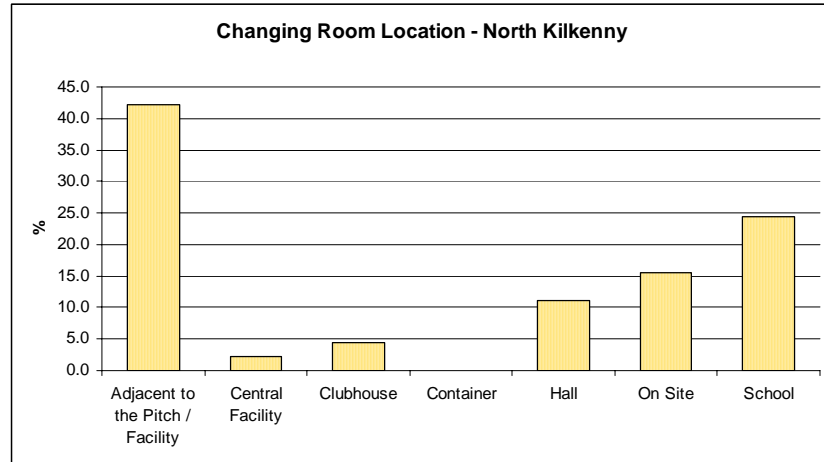
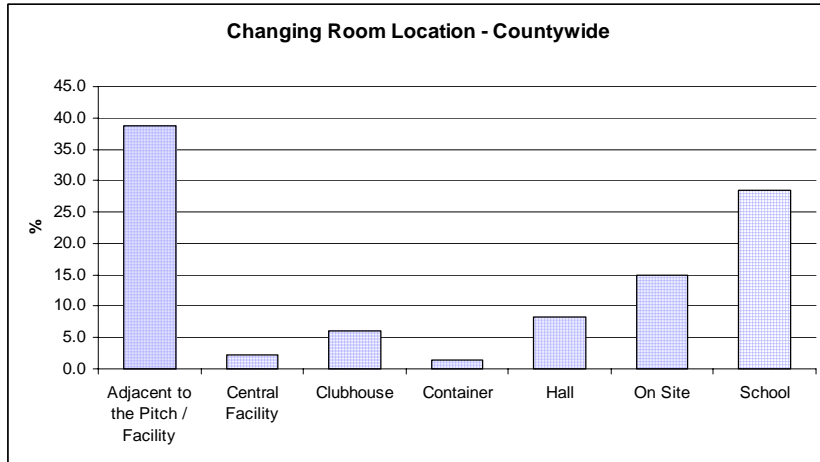


Figure 6.4.5 demonstrates that educational establishments play an important role in the provision of sporting and amenity facilities. This was noted initially in Figure 6.2. However, it also demonstrates that the majority of changing room facilities, where provided, are located either adjacent to pitches, in educational establishments on site or in halls or clubhouses.

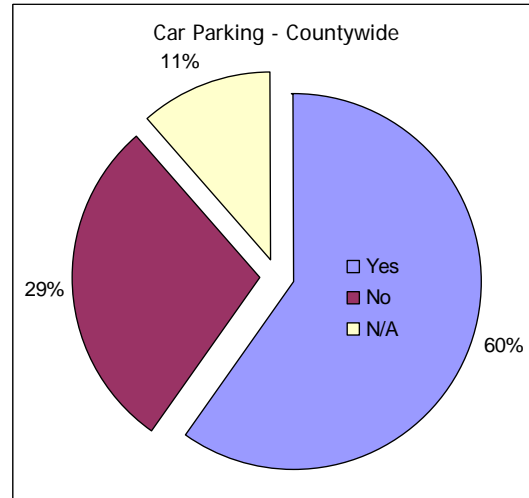
In summary, the overall provision of changing facilities in terms of both quality and quantity is very poor.

6.4.3 Car Parking Provision

Identified in Section 6.4 as important given the predominant use of the private car as a means of transport, the availability of car parking has been identified as an important issue in providing for improved access.

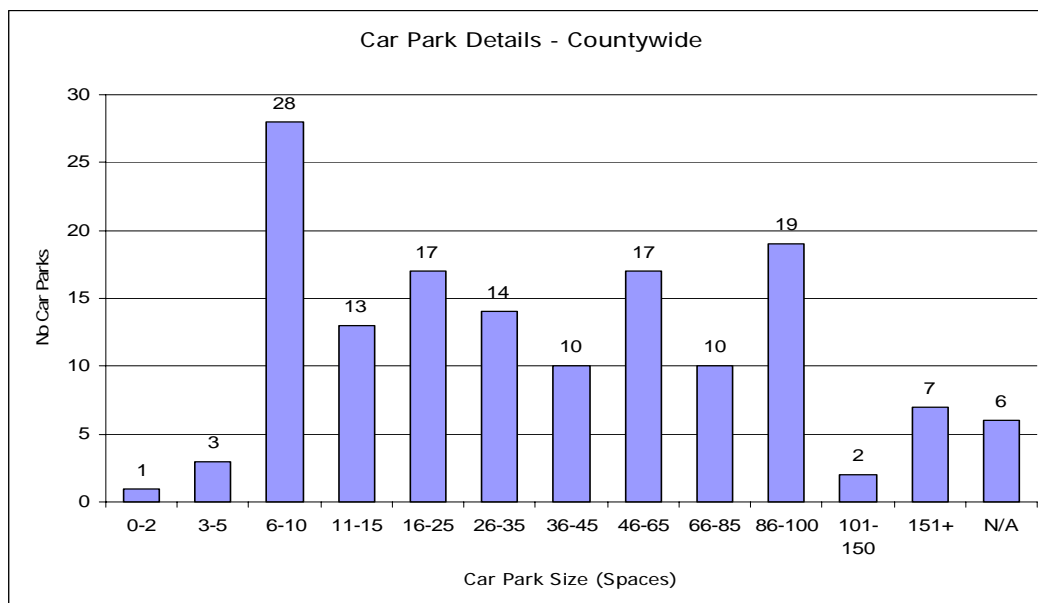
In total, nearly 40 percent of sporting facilities either had no car parking facilities or could not be attributed any car parking (these facilities may have had car parking on the adjacent public roads for example). However, in many cases where car parking was available there was a limited provision of spaces. Other problems noted in the assessment of provided car parking included the need for additional disabled car parking spaces (In total, of the 147 facilities with attributable car parking spaces only 3 had defined disabled spaces).

Figure 6.4.6



While many facilities and sporting organisations may maintain that the provision of spaces for the mobility impaired are not necessary, particularly in the case of active amenities / sports, such provision should be encouraged in the interests of facilitating access for all sectors of the community given that there are many active sports that mobility impaired or disabled individuals do take part in (including running, swimming, basketball, archery etc).

Figure 6.4.7



6.4.4 Pitch Quality and Availability

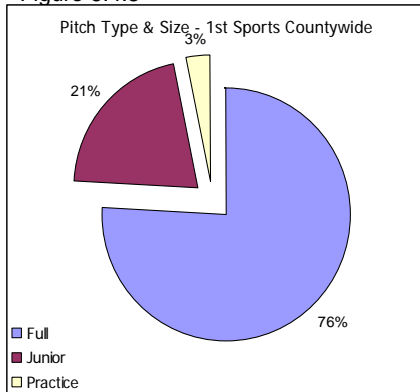
Three important elements to emerge from the assessment of sporting facilities are firstly, the availability of pitch facilities, secondly, the quality of the available pitch facilities and thirdly the availability of training facilities.

In general, it has been found through the survey of facilities that the many facilities are being heavily used at peak times with a high number of matches and training events being carried out.

Training Pitches

The availability of training pitches is limited. In the assessment of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th sports it was found that there was only a limited availability of training facilities and that in most instances the only available facility was that of the main pitch for any particular club.

Figure 6.4.8



The limited availability of training facilities or junior facilities has had a practical impact on the use of facilities in the area, generally leading to overuse and poor pitch condition. Specifically, the use of pitches for both playing and training is concentrated at the same times of the day and season with the consequent impact on facility quality.

Figure 6.4.9

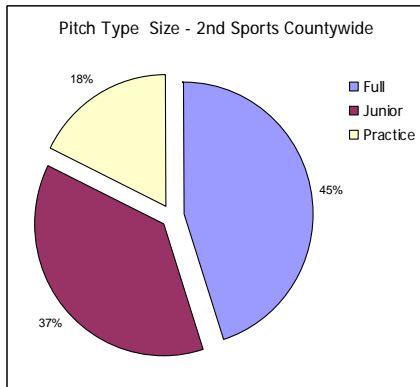
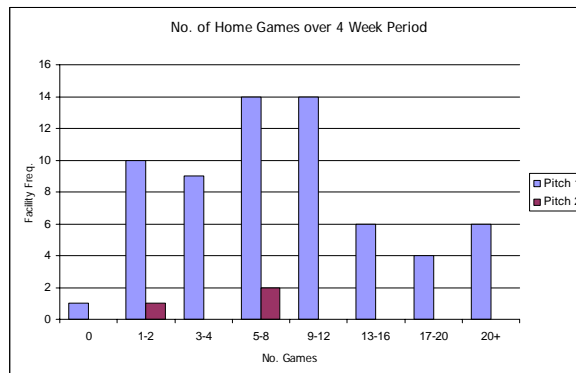
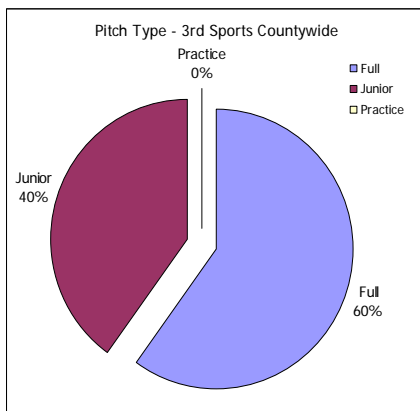
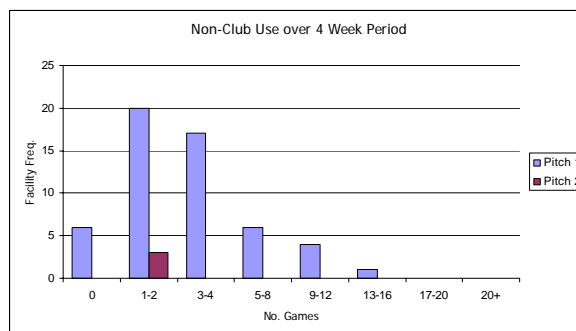


Figure 6.4.10



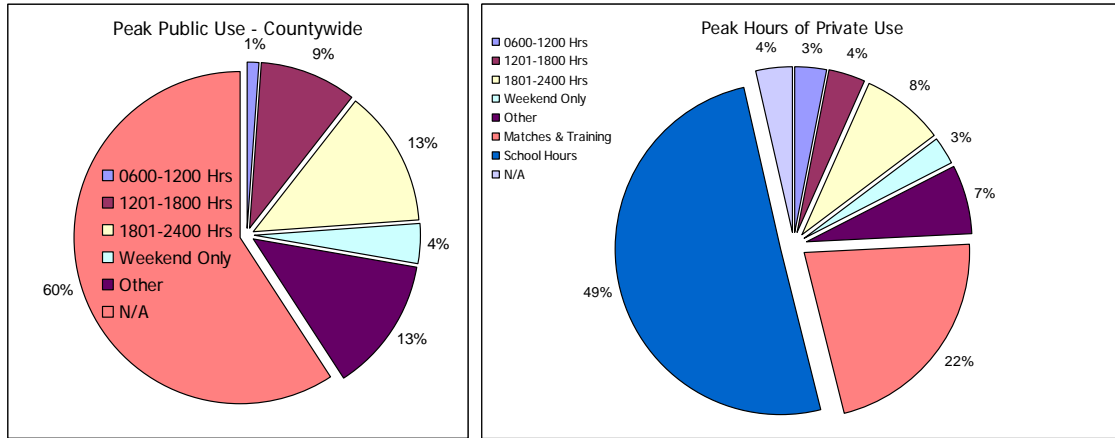
Figures 6.4.9 – 6.4.10 demonstrate that most pitches are used for games (excluding training), at least three times a week over an average 4 week period during a season. Training adds an additional loading to the use of facilities as user surveys have indicated that training can occur at least 3 – 4 times per week.

Similar returns have been obtained for the all areas in the County.

Peak times, for the commencement of sporting fixtures and training have been recorded as occurring all day Saturday and Sunday and also on weekday evenings between 7 and 8 pm.

This concentration of sporting activities only emphasises the need for additional facilities to share the loadings. The adverse impacts of facility over use have been noted and the use of all weather facilities, such as Scanlon Park in the winter months for playing and training, is recognised as an alternative to the underprovision of training facilities. This may justify the provision of new all weather pitches although many would not be suitable for competitive league purposes.

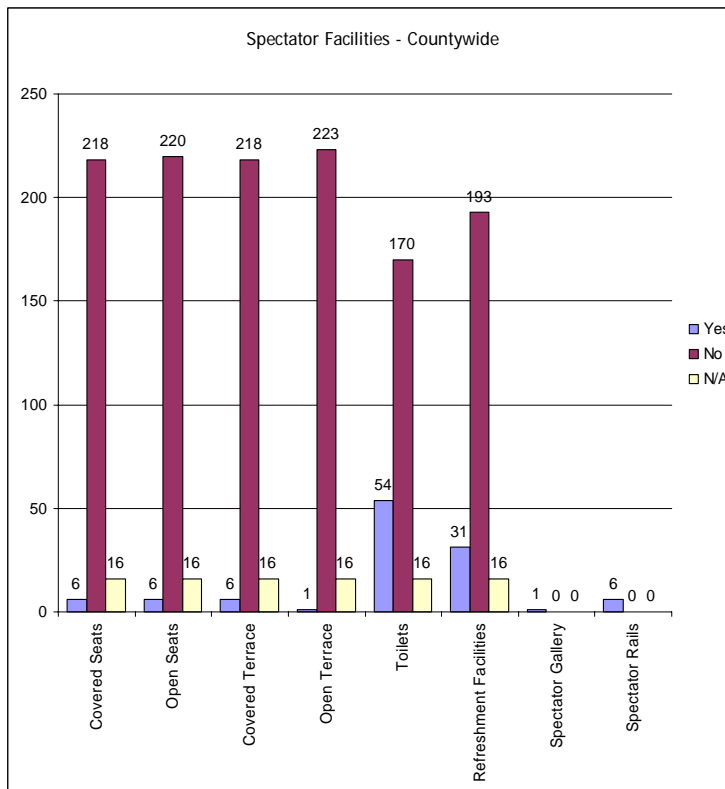
Figure 6.4.11 & 6.4.12



6.4.5 Spectator Facilities

Spectator facilities were found to be of poor quality throughout the plan area. In the majority of cases there were no available spectator facilities.

Figure 6.4.13



In assessing the spectator facilities available an assessment was based on the availability, or otherwise, of:

- Toilets.
- Spectator Rails.
- Spectator Gallery.
- Refreshment Facilities.
- Open Terrace.
- Covered Terrace.
- Open Seats.
- Covered Seats.

In most cases the provision of facilities was very poor. Most facilities not even having basic facilities such as toilets. The failure of developments not to provide even basic facilities such as this

has the potential to ensure that the role of sporting activities as a central feature in the community may be jeopardised.

6.4.6 Lighting

The provision of lighting in the development of sports and amenity facilities is important from the viewpoint of security, amenity, and use. Having regard to the issues raised in Section 6.4, and the fact that for the majority of facilities the hours of peak use occur at after dark, it has been determined that there is an under provision of lighting.

An assessment of the lighting in the area has been detailed overleaf in Figures 6.4.14 – 6.4.17 (overleaf). These demonstrate that for the majority of sporting facilities that there are more facilities without lighting facilities than with lighting facilities. Where lighting facilities are provided, they are generally of poor quality and not particularly extensive catering only for the main sports at any facility. Lighting was generally found to be available for the 1st and 2nd sports at any particular facility but thereafter, only 8 of the facilities available for 3rd, 4th and 5th sports had lighting facilities.

6.5 Facility Management

The role of educational facilities in meeting the active sporting and recreation demands of the County is emphasised by the survey returns obtained.

In summary, the management and ownership of sports facilities, throughout the area covered by the study has been found to be predominantly focused on educational institutions and clubs (See Figure 6.5.1 and Table 6.5.1). This has particular implications for the management solution adopted towards the provision of future sports and amenity facilities.

Figure 6.5.1: Management Type

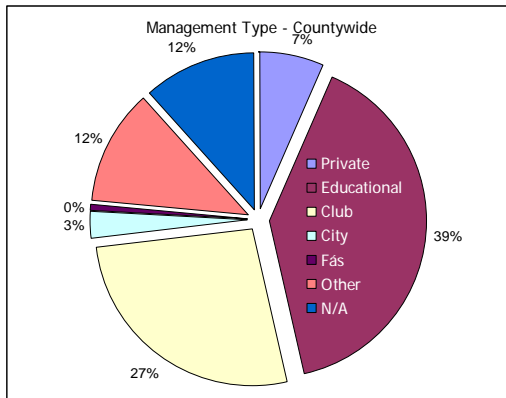


Table 6.5.1

Ownership	All % and Number of Facilities		NK		SK		KC		T		L		C	
Private	7.1	17	6.8	5	8.3	8	8.8	3	5.3	1	0.0	0	0.0	0
Educational	41.3	99	38.4	28	45.8	44	35.3	12	31.6	6	42.9	3	50.0	6
Club	26.7	64	26.0	19	27.1	26	23.5	8	26.3	5	42.9	3	25.0	3
City	3.8	9	0.0	0	1.0	1	23.5	8	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
Other	17.1	41	27.4	20	12.5	12	5.9	2	21.1	4	14.3	1	25.0	3
N/A	4.2	10	1.4	1	5.2	5	2.9	1	15.8	3	0.0	0	0.0	0
		240		73		96		34		19		7		12

Key: All = County, NK= North Kilkenny, SK= South Kilkenny, KC= Kilkenny City, T= Tipperary, L= Laois, C=Carlow

Figure 6.4.14 & 6.4.15

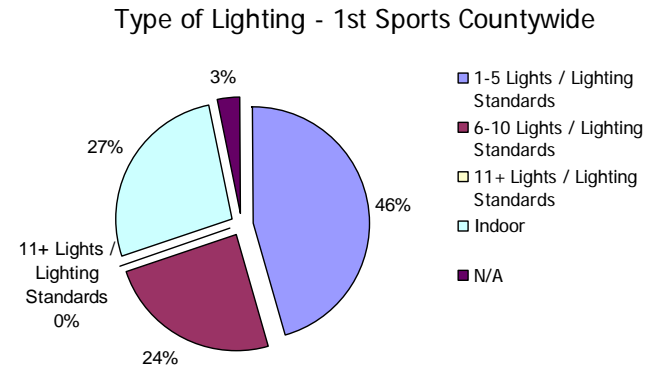
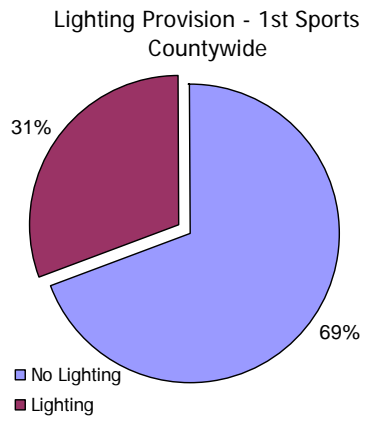
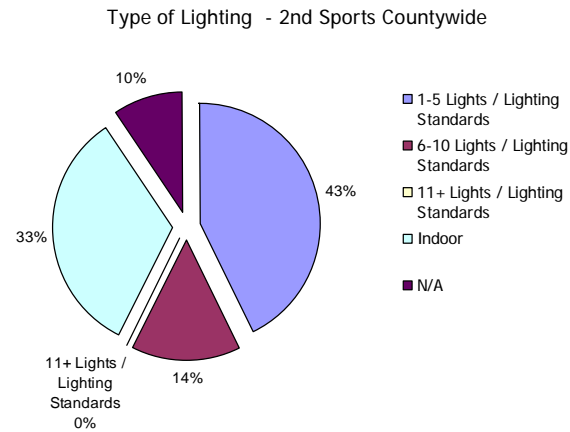
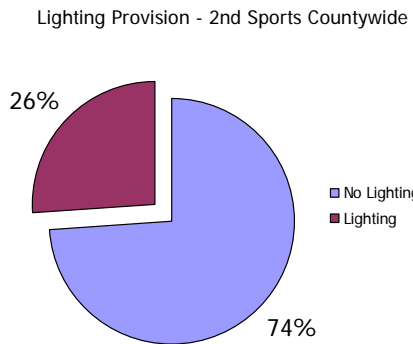
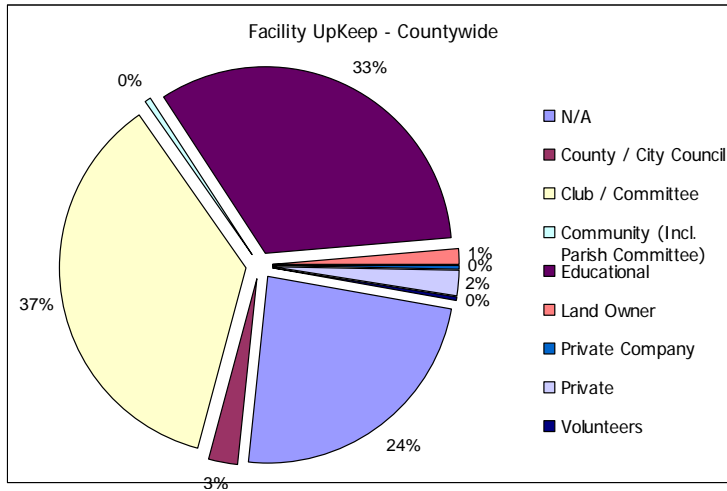


Figure 6.4.16 & 6.4.17



The pattern highlighted by the management / ownership of the facilities throughout the County is repeated by the information obtained on facility upkeep through the surveys. These again emphasise the role that clubs and educational establishments have in the upkeep of facilities but also highlight the role that the Local Authorities also have in the upkeep of facilities.

Figure 6.5.2



7.0 FACILITIES USE

An assessment of facilities use is carried out through the application of the Facilities Planning Model. This model considers the participation levels in a range of sporting activities, assesses facilities demand and identifies unmet provision / future demands and the areas of need.

Sports assessed as part of this exercise include:

- (1) Hurling, Gaelic Football, Camogie
- (2) Handball
- (3) Soccer
- (4) Athletics
- (5) Swimming
- (6) Rugby
- (7) Hockey
- (8) Indoor Sports Activities
- (9) Golf
- (10) Multi-gym
- (11) Boxing
- (12) Tennis

The FPM is a computerised, sophisticated and flexible planning tool specifically devised by the Scottish Sports Council for use in the assessment of existing and future land-use planning needs for sporting activities of all kinds; it is a flexible policy tool and not a provision standard. It caters for the unique demographic, economic and social characteristics of, and within, each area to which it is applied. The model compares demand for facilities with supply using the same unit of measurement, namely number of visits per week at peak times. The model has three components:

- (i) Demand
- (ii) Supply
- (iii) Catchment Areas

It compares the location and capacity of sports facilities with estimated demand from the resident or projected population in the peak period, constrained by catchment areas, or accessibility. All sports facilities are assigned co-ordinates and are plotted on a computerised road transport map, along with demographic information.

7.1 Participation levels

Assessing demand required an assessment of current / future participation levels in sport and recreation and secondly, relating this to the provision of facilities. Two principle surveys were used to obtain this information. The first was a household survey the summary of which is contained in Section 7.2 and Appendix B, following, and also a questionnaire of users of sporting facilities along with inputs from available national data on sports participation¹⁴.

It was decided for the purposes of estimating participation levels in sport and recreation that a household survey was to be undertaken. It was decided to undertake this survey by telephone and the conduct of the questionnaire was in accordance with recognised surveying and marketing standards. The derived participation levels have been inputted into the Facilities Planning Model as prepared by the University of Edinburgh.

¹⁴ A National Survey of Involvement in Sport and Physical Activity, Dept. of Education, Health Promotion Unit, 1996

7.2 Current Facilities Demand

Through the FPM an assessment of the volume of demand throughout the study area around Kilkenny City (within a 30 minute drive time) area can be made for all active sports that require facility provision. The following section details the provision issues in relation to the active sports of:

- Hurling, Gaelic Football, Camogie
- Handball
- Soccer
- Athletics
- Swimming
- Rugby
- Hockey
- Indoor Sports Activities
- Golf
- Multi-gym
- Boxing
- Tennis

7.2.1 Inputs to the Facility Demand Process

The assessment of the demand in the study area has been informed by both user surveys and household questionnaires. The data returns from the household surveys have been used to assist in the demand calculations.

These surveys are of particular interest as they identify that while certain sports that will be assessed under the FPM, there are other sporting activities that will not be assessed under the FPM but still have a demand in the County. In summary, it appears that these sporting activities, that are more consistent with leisure activities rather than active field sport type activities, represent a demand that can be catered for through either additional leisure facilities, such as ten-pin bowling facilities, or through the more intensive use of existing facilities during day-time hours (using indoor facilities for example for short mat bowling etc. for example.

7.2.1.1 All Areas - Participants in General Sports

Table 7.1 General sports

Sport	Last 4 weeks	Last 12 months	Ave. no.	Members
Walking (2+miles)	49	3.6	14.87	0.8
Swimming in a traditional pool	19.8	5.7	6.36	16
Golf (excluding practice indoors)	12.8	1.8	5.66	73.7
Soccer (11-a-side)	9.1	0.3	6.88	45.2
Hurling	6.1	0.6	6.94	56.1
Cycling	5.7	1.9	9.54	0
Tennis / Short Tennis (outdoor)	3.3	0.8	5.64	58
Running / jogging	2.8	0.7	7.97	2.7
Swimming– in a leisure pool/with a flume chute wave machine	2.6	3.1	6.52	54
Snooker / Billiards / Pool	2.6	1	6.95	5.4
Camogie	2.6	0.3	9.1	58.7
Rugby	2.3	0.4	7.97	35.9
Gaelic Football	2	0.2	5.63	30.2
Hockey (outdoor)	1.9	0.7	6.76	13.1
Horse riding	1.7	0.5	8.82	4

Dancing excluding in a hall or studio	1.6	0.4	3.63	13.6
Soccer (5-a-side) – outdoor	1.4	0.9	5.38	19.8
Hill Walking / climbing / mountaineering	1.2	0.8	9.69	11.2
Sailing & other water sports	1.2	0.5	1.84	26.5
Ten pin bowling	0.9	1.8	1.76	0
Fishing / Angling	0.9	0.6	8	27.6
Squash	0.8	0.3	9.53	11.8
Basketball	0.7	0.3	4	0
Skateboarding	0.7	0.1	10	0
Swimming – outdoor	0.6	0.6	5.26	12.4
Athletics (outdoor)	0.6	0.2	5.39	11.5
Pitch n Putt	0.4	0.8	2.16	5.9
Bowls (excluding short mat bowling)	0.3	0.4	3	0
Handball	0.3	0.3	4.78	10.5
Roller skating (outdoor)	0.1	0.3	4	0
Ski-ing		0.3		
Cricket		0.1		
Ice Skating		0.1		
Netball (outdoor)		0.1		
Volleyball (outdoor)		0.1		
Archery (outdoor)				

Table 7.1 presents the percentage of people who have taken part in an activity in the last 4 weeks and the percentage of people who haven't taken part in the last 4 weeks but have in the last 12 months. Those who had taken part in a sport in the last four weeks were also asked on how many occasions during the past month they had taken part in the sport. The average number of times is presented in the table. These people were also asked to indicate whether or not they are members of a club for that particular sport.

The data obtained suggests that many sporting activities, that may ordinarily be classified as minority sports or specialist sports, can attract a user group. Furthermore, the data suggest that there are a range of sports such as ten pin bowling and short mat bowls that can function as leisure / sports activities.

Perhaps the most interesting return from the household surveys is that walking is the most popular form of outdoor amenity activity; more popular than field sports.

All Areas - Participating in Indoor Sports

Table 7.2 Indoor sports

Sport	Last 4 weeks	Last 12 months	Ave. no.	Members
Use of mutigym / weight training	6.8	1.2	8.45	62.2
Fitness activities (e.g. aerobics, circuit training, Yoga)	4.7	1.1	6.8	52.2
Movement inc. Dance	2.1	0.6	4.55	36.2
4 or 5 a-side soccer (indoor)	1.7	0.6	5.76	22.3
Badminton	1.4	0.8	6.2	39.7
Martial arts	1.1	0.2	5.12	20.8
Basketball	0.9	0.7	4.45	14.6
Boxing	0.4	0.1	6	29.5
Hockey (indoor)	0.3	0.2	12.21	26.8
Weight – lifting	0.3	0.2	3.33	17.7
Judo	0.3	0	14.94	25.3

Hurling (indoor)	0.2	0.3	4	6.2
Handball	0.2	0.2	4	12.8
Golf	0.2	0.1	8	13.5
Athletics (indoor)	0.2	0	4	0
Archery (indoor)	0.1	0.2	3	9.4
Table Tennis	0.1	0	1	0
Fencing		0.2		
Tennis / Short Tennis (indoor)		0.2		
Volley ball (indoor)		0.2		
Netball (indoor)		0.1		
Shortmat bowling		0.1		
Trampolining		0.1		
Wrestling		0.1		
Camogie (indoor)		0.1		
Gymnastics				
Roller skating (indoor)				

Respondents were also asked to compare how often they participated in hall sports now with 12 months ago. Nearly one in five (19.9%) stated that they play halls sports less often than they did 12 months ago; nearly one in ten (9.5%) said they take part in hall sports more often; 64.9% said it's about the same; and 5.7% didn't know (see Table 7.3).

Those who indicated participating in less hall sports now than 12 months ago were asked why this was so. The responses can be categorised as follows:

Table 7.3 Reason for participating in hall sports less often

Reason	Percentage
Lack of time	39.1
Poor health, injury, or old age	27.8
No access to facilities	10.8
No interest	10.4
Other	9.3
Prohibitively expensive	2.5

7.2.2.2 Future Participation in Sports

Respondents were asked to indicate how likely they were to take up any of the sports mentioned in Table 7.1 in the near future. The choice of responses were as follows:

- very likely,
- quite likely,
- not very likely,
- not at all likely, and
- don't know.

Some sports did not receive any very likely or quite likely responses and therefore do not appear in the table below. The percentage of people who are likely (either very or quite) to take up a particular sport in the near future can be seen in Table 7.4.

Table 7.4 Future participation in general sports

Sport	Very likely	Quite likely	Very or quite likely
Swimming in a traditional pool	8.6	8.7	17.3
Walking (2+miles)	11	2.6	13.6
Ten pin bowling	6.3	5.7	12
Swimming– in a leisure pool/with a flume chute wave machine	5.7	5.3	11
Golf (excluding practice indoors)	3.1	1.1	4.2
Soccer (11-a-side)	2	1.1	3.1
Cycling	1.7	1.2	2.9
Snooker / Billiards / Pool	1.7	0.6	2.3
Tennis / Short Tennis (outdoor)	1	1.3	2.3
Hurling	1.2	1	2.2
Soccer (5-a-side) – outdoor	1.2	0.9	2.1
Dancing excluding in a hall or studio	0.9	1.2	2.1
Horse riding	1.3	0.7	2
Running / jogging	0.8	1	1.8
Hill Walking / climbing / mountaineering	0.8	1	1.8
Ice Skating	0.8	0.8	1.6
Hockey (outdoor)	0.7	0.9	1.6
Bowls (excluding short mat bowling)	0.7	0.8	1.5
Basketball	1.1	0.3	1.4
Squash	0.8	0.6	1.4
Pitch n Putt	0.3	0.8	1.1
Skateboarding	0.3	0.6	0.9
Swimming – outdoor	0.4	0.2	0.6
Camogie	0.5	0.1	0.6
Gaelic Football	0.3	0.3	0.6
Volleyball (outdoor)	0.1	0.5	0.6
Sailing & other water sports	0.2	0.2	0.4
Handball	0.2	0.1	0.3
Fishing / Angling	0.2	0.1	0.3
Rugby	0.1	0.2	0.3
Roller skating (outdoor)		0.3	0.3
Athletics (outdoor)	0.1	0.1	0.2
Netball (outdoor)	0.1		0.1
Archery (outdoor)		0.1	0.1

7.2.2.3 Future Participation in Indoor Sports

Respondents were also asked to indicate how likely they were to take up any of the sports mentioned in Table 7.2 in the near future. Again, the choice of responses were: very likely, quite likely, not very likely, not at all likely, and don't know. The percentage of people who are likely (either very or quite) to take up a particular indoor sport in the near future can be seen in Table 7.5.

Table 7.5 Future Participation in Indoor Sports

Sport	Very likely	Quite likely	Very or quite likely
Fitness activities (e.g. aerobics, circuit training, Yoga)	3.1	4	7.1
Use of mutigym / weight training	2.9	3.9	6.8
Badminton	1.5	1.9	3.4
Basketball	1.1	0.8	1.9
4 or 5 a-side soccer (indoor)	1.1	0.8	1.9
Movement inc. Dance	0.7	1.2	1.9
Martial arts	0.5	1.3	1.8
Table Tennis	0.3	0.6	0.9
Boxing	0.2	0.7	0.9
Golf	0.7		0.7
Weight – lifting		0.6	0.6
Shortmat bowling	0.2	0.3	0.5
Hockey (indoor)	0.1	0.4	0.5
Tennis / Short Tennis (indoor)		0.5	0.5
Hurling (indoor)	0.2	0.1	0.3
Judo	0.1	0.2	0.3
Gymnastics	0.3		0.3
Volley ball (indoor)	0.2		0.2
Roller skating (indoor)	0.1		0.1
Trampolining	0.1		0.1
Handball		0.1	0.1
Netball (indoor)		0.1	0.1

Again, as with the data concerning the current active participation in sporting activities, it is apparent from Tables 7.4 and 7.5 that there is an unfulfilled demand in specific leisure activities (not necessarily in active sports that can be modelled through the FPM) such as Ten Pin Bowling.

Details of participation in outdoor and indoor sports throughout the County and in adjoining areas of Tipperary, Laois and Carlow are given in Appendix B along with an assessment of the survey representation.

7.2.2 The Facility Planning Model Outputs

The Facilities Planning Model

The Facilities Planning Model is a computerised and flexible planning tool specifically devised by the Scotland Sport for use in the assessment of existing and future land use planning needs for a determined list of sporting activities.

The list of sports / facilities to be modelled are as follows:

The model compares demand for facilities with supply using the same unit of assessment namely the number of visits per week at peak times. The model has 3 main components:

1. Demand
2. Supply
3. Catchment Areas

The model compares demand for facilities with supply using the same unit of measurement namely the number of visits per week at peak times. It compares the location and capacity of sports facilities with estimated demand from the resident or projected population in the peak

period constrained by catchment areas or accessibility. All sports facilities are assigned coordinates and are plotted on a computerised road transport map along with demographic information.

Demand

Demand is calculated by dividing population census data into sex/age bands for both sexes of the population; in this case population projection based on the volume of undeveloped zoned residential lands in the model area. For each sport a rate of participation is then applied to each of these sex/age bands, together with a frequency of participation. The participation rates and frequency estimates for each sport having been established from the household and facility user surveys. Local residents in the sample DED's in the model area were asked how often they took part in active sports and how far they travelled. From this data it is possible to calculate how many people from a particular age/sex group are likely to participate in particular sports and how often. This participation figure can then be applied to the overall census data to produce a demand figure throughout the model area (population x participation rate for the age/sex group).

The existing population is represented by a series of points (called centroids) at which the number, sex and age structure for each small homogenous area of population is recorded. Since census data is only available for DED's in the Borough and County it was necessary to break these down into smaller areas. This was undertaken with the assistance of the City and County Council using their detailed knowledge to produce areas of reasonably consistent socio-economic structure and housing density.

The population characteristics for each sub-area were assumed to be the same as for the DED within which it lay but factors such as age/sex breakdown could be carried in future runs of the FPM to reflect local circumstances even more closely. Each sub-area was allocated centroid points depending on the level of population and these were sited to reflect the distribution of population. Each centroid reflects a specific population figure generally somewhere around 600 people. Using population projections enables the modelling of future demand patterns. The use of false centroids, representing possible new population, enables the model to be used to calculate the effects of possible future housing developments upon demand patterns.

Supply

Supply of sports facilities is worked out by first of all carrying out a complete audit of existing facilities, and then identifying the number of visits which each facility can accommodate in a specified weekly peak period. Surveys carried out at facilities enabled a duration-of-stay figure to be established along with catchment area for each facility, defined by travel time. These surveys, combined with management information also enabled weekly peak hours of use to be identified. Supply in terms of peak time capacity, is derived by dividing the peak hours by the duration of stay, and multiplying by the at-one-time capacity of each particular facility. For example, if the peak demand for a swimming pool occurs over 40 hours each week (weekday evenings and weekends), the normal duration of stay is one hour and the pool can hold 100 people at one time, then the supply (capacity) would be $40 / 1 \times 100 = 4000$ visits per week.

Catchment Areas

Catchment areas around each facility are modelled by applying travel times to a computerised road transport network. Travel times are defined by the results of the facility user surveys. Driving catchment areas will be irregular in shape, related to drive time, which in turn will vary according to the grade of road, speed limits, the number of junctions and other restrictions. Walking catchments are generally assumed to be circular.

Total Aggregate Demand

Total aggregate demand (or unconstrained demand) is the number of visits per week, in the peak period for each facility that would be expected if all demand were expressed. The comparison of facility supply (location and capacity) with total aggregate demand in the peak period, subject to accessibility, allows the calculation of satisfied demand and unmet demand.

Satisfied Demand

Satisfied demand is that part of aggregate demand which is satisfied by the available supply of a facility.

Unmet Demand

Unmet demand is that part of aggregate demand that is not satisfied by the existing supply of facilities. With distribution taken into account, unmet demand can be expressed as the level of need for an additional facility.

Utilised/Unutilised Capacity

For each sport the model 'allocates' demand in terms of visits to individual facilities until either the available capacity is used up (utilised) or the available demand is satisfied, leaving a balance of unutilised or spare capacity.

Comparing Supply and Demand

By comparing supply and demand as defined above the FPM produces a comprehensive "picture" which primarily seeks to identify areas of unmet demand. It must be noted, however, that the simple existence of unmet demand does not automatically lead to the conclusion that new sports facilities should be provided. The level and distribution of unmet demand may be insufficient to justify the provision of a new facility, or there may be alternatives such as upgrading the capacity of an existing facility.

It is important that the model output be tempered by what is achievable in reality. It is important that all recommendations and future opportunities for the provision of sports and amenity facilities have regard to factors such as available resources, particularly financial resources and land availability.

7.3 Future Demands

The future development of the sports and amenity demands in the area will be influenced by the future development of zoned residential lands and population changes. The development of additional sports and amenity facilities will also require a refinement of the established sports and amenity policies contained in the County Development Plan.

The development of future facilities must have regard to the capacity of zoned lands in the plan area to accommodate future populations. These have been inputted into the FPM model in order to ensure that future development and facility programming can be targeted at the areas programmed to grow in the Development Plans for the County.

The development potential of the urban settlements in the model area, the County as a whole and the adjoining urban settlements in Cos. Tipperary (SR), Carlow and Laois, has not been discounted. These areas are all home to large, undeveloped residential land banks that can be developed at a range of densities. These, when fully developed will give rise to an additional population component that should be catered for.

Significant future demands resulting from undeveloped residentially zoned lands are expected in the following settlements (see Appendix C)

- *Kilkenny City & Environs*

While much of the lands within the City are already developed there is a notable potential for the development of extensive areas in the environs. If all residentially zoned lands in the environs of the City were developed a potential for the 13,000 and 30,000 population increase exists. A growth potential in the range of 13,000 would be more consistent with the provisions of the NSS for Kilkenny and the targeted growth of the City by 2020 for a population of 30,000.

- *Waterford City Environs (Lands in Kilkenny County)*

Depending on the density of development permitted in this area and changes in household size, the population of the area could, if all residentially zoned lands are developed, increase by between 8,000 to 20,000 persons. This is a significant increase and specific recommendations for the promotion of sports and amenity facilities for this area are set out in Volume 2 of this report and later in Section 10 of this volume.

- *Callan, Thomastown*

Callan and Thomas Town are also a potential development locations. There are substantial areas of residentially zoned lands in these settlements that could provide for a population increase in the range of 2,000 – 3,000. Given the relatively limited provision of facilities in this area at present it is important that any future development in this area is provided for.

- *Kilmacow, Castlecomer and Graigueamanagh*

While not providing the same volume of undeveloped residential lands as other settlements, the above towns have demonstrated the potential to cater for a population increase in the region of 1,000 – 1,500 through the development of undeveloped residential lands.

While all of the above settlements have the potential to generate a substantial level of residential amenity need, the key areas likely to require additional facility provision include Kilkenny City and its environs and Waterford City Environs.

7.4 Areas of Need

Areas of need have been identified by the FPM for areas of the model area based on an individual sport basis.

The FPM has identified for each of the modelled sports, the location of greatest demand. The model is based on parameters that can be altered depending on circumstances and therefore it provides a flexible tool in the development of a rapid response to changes in population composition, demands and locations.

The ability to deliver facilities to meet identified demand (as represented by underprovided trips) in some of these areas of need is limited because of shortage of land, inadequate access, planning restrictions etc. The fringe of the city area and environs are less constrained and provide the greatest opportunity or scope to provide new facilities insofar as there is sufficient land and these areas are expected to experience greatest population growth in the next five – seven years (over the life of the current Development Plan).

Figure 7.1 overleaf identifies the areas (DED'S) that were included in the study as part of the lands within a 30 minute drive time of Kilkenny City. Sample DED's used to provide inputs through the household surveys were extracted from this study area.

Figure 7.1 DED Map

7.4.1 GAA – Areas of Need

Supply

The GAA sports considered were gaelic football (including ladies), hurling and camogie. Because the FPM compares demand with the supply of facilities, the demand rate for these three activities has been combined into one because the activities almost always use the same facilities/pitches.

There is widespread provision of GAA facilities across the Study Area and the county beyond however, many indicated a desire to develop additional facilities (pitches, improved changing facilities etc.). It was noted however, that women's participation in GAA activities, while occurring, does so on unequal terms with many not enjoying the same access to facilities (specifically changing facilities) that males do; a number of clubs did not appear to have dedicated womens changing areas.

In terms of pitch quality the nature of Gaelic games is such that it produces less damage to the pitch surface than, for example, either soccer or rugby. Add to this the fact that the majority of Gaelic games are played during the summer and it becomes less surprising that the carrying capacity of pitches is higher. For the purposes of the FPM this has been assumed at 3 adult games over each weekend peak. There is an underlying assumption that the pitch would be used for additional games during the week, training sessions and juvenile games.

Demand

The combined demand rate for GAA sports, being the percentage of the population desiring to play the sport, is estimated at 4.3% of the adult population in the Model Area. This demand rate, calculated from the household and facility surveys conducted specifically for the study. A unit of provision is a pitch.

Unmet demand exists in the plan area and is distributed across the whole Model Area. (See *Map ref: 01913/4.1.6a-2, 4.1.7a-2, 4.1.8a-2 and 4.1.6a-2 [units]*) and additional pitches should be developed to meet demands.

In summary, the FPM has shown that there is an unmet demand for GAA pitches throughout the County area modelled but that the greatest need is in the area around Kilkenny City. In total, there is a need for an additional **5-10** pitches (see **Map ref: 01913/4.1.6a-2 [units]** to meet the demands of all residential lands (developed and undeveloped¹⁵). This demand decreases as one moves away from Kilkenny City and development need (generated by population) decline. However, while *Map ref: 01913/4.1.6a-2 [units]* demonstrates unmet demand from an aggregate of car and pedestrian movement, the unmet demand for pedestrian movement has also been detailed in *Map ref: 01913/4.1.6a-2*.

This demonstrates that in the developing urban areas around Kilkenny City, and in the urban settlements further into the model area, that at least an additional pitch should be provided in areas with the highest level of unmet demand per week. This unmet demand is particularly noticeable in areas such as Callan, Gowran, Castlecomer, Johnstown, Ballyraggett and possibly Thomastown.

Options

The FPM output makes it very clear that all existing GAA sports facilities should be protected. Any opportunities for the creation of new pitches or to increase the capacity of existing pitches, should be taken throughout the Model Area. As set out, the aggregate unmet demand for GAA sports pitches would require something in the region of **10** new pitches to be provided to meet totally the predicted demand from the Study Area. Such a number may be unrealistic now but represents the target if predicted demand is to be met with all zoned residential lands developed.

¹⁵ Zoned but undeveloped

Further options for enhanced provision could be offered by educational facilities where increased public use should be investigated and future consideration should be given to increased use of school facilities particularly as clubs have strong ties with local schools which act as feeders for the clubs. It should be noted that the potential exists for the development of shared pitches in association with other sports; where publicly provided pitches are developed they should be designed to provide for a range of pitch based sports.

Strategy

The FPM confirms that overall demand is more than high enough to justify a policy of retaining all existing GAA pitches within and around the Study Area.

Greater use of existing pitches within the Model Area in general and within the Study Area in particular, should be promoted. The use of pitches at educational establishments should be investigated along with the possibility of dual use, particularly of Local Authority pitches, for other sports.

Summary

- Approximately **10** new pitches are required in the study area to meet demands for additional GAA facilities.
- Additional facilities should be developed in the City environs and areas such as Callan, Gowran, Castlecomer, Johnstown, Ballyraggett and possibly Thomastown.
- Existing facilities should be protected and retained.

7.4.2 Soccer – Areas of Need

Supply

The supply of soccer pitches is relatively widespread across the Study Area. As with GAA pitches the peak-time capacity of a grass soccer pitch in Kilkenny for modelling purposes is two - three matches per week. There is an assumption that the pitches are also used at off peak times for an occasional match or training, or are used by juvenile teams (under 15 years old). In general however, the level of use that pitches receive and the quality of the facilities is low.

Soccer games tend to result in more significant wear and tear on the pitch surface, particularly in key areas such as the goal mouths and the centre circle, than GAA in pitches. In a sample survey of facilities a number of pitches were found to be over used, resulting in poor grass coverage and excessive wear and tear in the key areas mentioned above. In addition, many respondents to the club survey indicated that the general condition of the changing rooms, showers etc. is poor in many football clubs and the use of containers, without running water, appears to be the 'traditional' approach to providing changing facilities.

Demand

Unmet demand exists in the plan area and is distributed across the whole Model Area. (See *Map ref: 01913/4.6.8a-2, 4.6.7a-2, 4.6.6a-2, 4.6.6b-2, 4.6.6b-2 [units] and 4.6.6a-2 [units]*) and additional pitches should be developed to meet demands. The participation rate in soccer was identified as 5.5%. A unit of provision is a pitch.

In summary, the FPM has shown that there is an unmet demand for soccer pitches throughout the County area modelled but that the greatest need is in the area around Kilkenny City. In simple numerical terms, the level of unmet demand revealed by the FPM would justify the provision of around **30+** new pitches to meet the demand for soccer from residents of the Study Area. This does not take account of the distribution of demand, the potential contribution from improving the quality of an access to existing facilities, nor the benefits of all-weather pitches. The demand for additional pitches (see **Map ref: 01913/4.6.6a-2 [units] and 4.6.6b-2 [units]**) is necessary to meet the demands of all residential lands (developed and undeveloped¹⁶) in areas close to Kilkenny City. When one moves further into rural areas, towards towns such as Callan, Castlecomer, Paulstown, Thomastown and Ballyraggett / Johnstown / Durrow areas there is a similar, but less pronounced demand for additional pitches (in the region of 10 pitches [as part of an overall provision of the specified 30+] should be provided in these areas). This level of demand could be accommodated through planning gain, whereby pitches are developed as part of residential developments.

Priority demands (generated by more sustainable walking patterns) are shown in Map 01913 / 4.6.6a-2 where unmet walk demand is shown. This demonstrates that initial provision of soccer pitches should be considered in areas such as Callan, Durrow, Urlingford, Castlecomer and Ballyraggett.

Additional pitches in the urban area should be developed in areas of proposed new residential development.

Options

The FPM output makes it very clear that additional soccer facilities are required. It may be that these are provided by established clubs or by the Local Authorities developing additional facilities and leasing them to clubs. In either case, management of any new public facilities will be necessary.

It is possible that the development of many new pitches is likely can be achieved through planning gain facilitated by locating new pitches as part of proposed housing developments. However, it is important that any such facilities are properly managed (management solutions are set out in Section 9 following). In this context overall pitch use could be increased by

¹⁶ Zoned but undeveloped

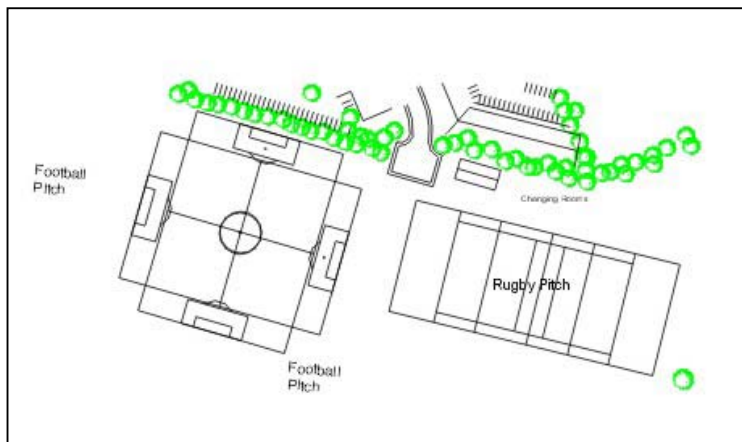
better management, by physical improvements to existing pitches and by the provision of more all-weather surfaces which have a considerably greater carrying capacity. Whilst the model provides guidance on the level of unmet demand for pitches, the actual level of new provision will be decided by the policy decisions of the local authority. For example, it is generally impractical to provide a large number of new pitches within an established urban area, principally because of land availability, cost and pressures for alternative uses. Priorities in these areas are matters of policy which are beyond our remit.

Further options for enhanced provision could be offered by the use of cross pitches (See Figures 7.2 – 7.3 below). Such pitches allow the areas of a soccer pitch that receive the higher levels of wear (other than the centre circle area) to be protected. Play areas that can be provided as part of residential developments (by way of 'planning gain') should attempt to provide sufficient lands to allow for the development of cross pitches.

Figure 7.2 – Pitch by Pitch



Figure 7.3 – Cross Pitch Layout



Strategy

The FPM confirms that additional soccer facilities are required throughout the study area. In summary however, given the demand for additional facilities, the Council should consider developing pitch facilities in the southern environs of Kilkenny City, within the zoned areas or , outside in undeveloped lands. Development of multiple pitch complexes in these areas would go some way to satisfying demand and may allow for the development of centralised changing facilities, parking etc.

This is particularly important given the limited opportunity for the provision of new facilities in the urban areas due to land costs and development pressures.

Greater use of existing pitches within the Model

Area in general and within the Study Area in particular, should be promoted. The use of pitches at educational establishments should be investigated along with the possibility of dual use, particularly of Local Authority pitches, for other sports.

In areas where land is set aside for amenity purposes it is essential that the chosen sites are appropriate for pitch sports, particularly in terms of topography and accessibility. The relationship with neighbouring users should also be taken into consideration.

Additional use of education facilities should be investigated as a means of providing for local sporting needs.

We recommend that further all-weather surfaces should be provided, particularly as a way of making maximum use of any opportunities for pitch development or improvement within the city area. Although some multi-purpose, all-weather pitches may not be suitable (or acceptable) for matches of league standard they will make a valuable contribution towards extending the overall match-carrying capacity of grass pitches by taking some of their "load" of informal games and training; thereby increasing capacity for matches. While all weather pitches can offset the demand for full size pitches they can only be used by the same number of players at peak time (e.g. 22 players will occupy an all weather pitch for 90 minutes in the same way as an ordinary grass pitch) However, unlike grass pitches they can be more flexible, providing for soccer, hockey, five-a-side and training purposes. In this context that can represent sound investment choices where they can be located in secure sites. Because of the capital cost and the need to manage access to an all-weather facility it is likely that these will only be provided in connection with an educational establishment, leisure centre or community centre. Also, further investigations may reveal opportunities to upgrade existing pitches to all-weather standard, although they will need to be laid out to accommodate 5-a-side soccer and other pitch sports as well so as to try to achieve maximum use. Again, this would be particularly useful on sites within the city area. Floodlights should be considered as a means of increasing capacity by extending the potential playing times.

Summary

- Approximately **30+** new pitches are required in the study area to meet demands for additional soccer facilities.
- Additional facilities should be developed in the City environs and areas such as Callan, Gowran, Johnstown / Durrow, Urlingford, Castlecomer, Paulstown and Ballyraggett.
- Existing facilities should be protected and retained.
- The use of cross pitches and pitch sharing should be considered.

7.4.3 Swimming – Areas of Need

Supply

There is a limited provision of swimming pools in the study area and in many cases there is no or limited public access.

The FPM has been used to assess the provision of swimming on two levels, one in which all pools in the area (public and private ones located in hotels for example) are open to the public, and the second where only the public pools are open to the public. While additional facilities are likely to come on stream in the near future (specifically the proposed development of the Waterbarrack), there is a likelihood that the potential development of additional facilities could be justified given the analysis of the FPM.

In summary, the present facilities are quite limited in both quantity and geography with the majority of facilities being located in the Kilkenny City area with only a limited number of pools outside that urban centre. In terms of access, the facilities that are available have limited opportunity for public access, with many of the pools, particularly those provided as part of hotel leisure centres, not being designed for public use or sports use (being more suited towards leisure purposes).

Demand

From the facility user surveys it appears that the existing public pool use (by the public) is spread through the day, with many community groups availing of public pools in particular at off peak times. The participation rate in swimming was identified as 1.1%. A unit of provision is a (1 person per) 2 square metres of water surface area

In terms of aggregate unmet demand, there is a high level of unmet demand for swimming. For the purposes of the FPM, the at-one-time capacity of a pool is linked to the size of the water area, using a peak capacity parameter of 1 person per 2 square metres of water surface area (lower capacities can also be used; 1 person per 3 sq. m. are used in the UK but this would lead to a higher requirement – a need for more pool space to meet demand). From the FPM for Kilkenny, it is evident that there is a high demand for swimming. In the following pages there are two sets of FPM output maps. One set (*Maps 01913/4.13.6a-3, 01913/4.13.6a-3 (Units), 01913/4.13.7a-3, 01913/4.13.8a-3*) describes future demand with public access available to all pools, the second describes the demand map with access shown only to the public pool in Kilkenny (*Maps 01913/4.13.6a-4, 01913/4.13.8a-4, 01913/4.13.7a-4, 01913/4.13.6a-4, 01913/4.13.6a-4 (Units)*).

In summary, there is a high unmet demand for swimming in the County but the level of demand is quite different depending on the nature of access, e.g. when the facilities that have a membership only access criteria are excluded from the assessment of provision versus demand, the level of unmet demand increases significantly.

- *Assessing Provision Versus Demand For All Facilities*

Due to the availability of pool facilities throughout the County in public facilities and other hotel related facilities, there is a level of provision achieved whereby many individuals have the opportunity to access a pool facility for leisure purposes. When the available pool space is taken into account and assuming unrestricted access, the level of unfulfilled demand, while notable demonstrates two key points. Firstly, the areas of highest unmet demand are in the north west of the study area. Secondly, the south west of the study area demonstrates comparatively lower levels of demand (see Map Ref: *01913/4.13.8a-3*). When this unmet demand is considered in the context of swimming pool provision, and in light of the general trend demonstrated in surveys for individuals to use the private car to access pool facilities, there is no justifiable demand for additional pool facilities (see Map Ref: *01913/4.13.6a-3*). However, this is not the case when access restrictions that limit public access are taken into consideration.

- *Assessing Provision Versus Demand When Public Access Is Restricted*

When public access to private facilities is limited the extent of unmet demand increases significantly and generally results in a high level of demand throughout the Study and Model Areas (see Map Ref: 01913/4.13.8a-4). However, when the volume of unmet trips is considered in the context of the area of pool space necessary to meet demands the development of approx. 424 sq. m. of pool space is justified to meet future demands (2 pools 8-9 metres wide by 25 metres long).

Options

There is a need for additional swimming facilities that are open to public access. The development of a new facility is likely to meet unmet demands to a significant degree although the areas remote from Kilkenny City may still experience some unmet demand. It may be appropriate to re-run the Facilities Planning Model when a new facility is operational and continue to encourage the improvement of public 'pay as you play' access to hotel and gym facilities.

Strategy

We suggest that priority should be given to the development of a new facility at the Waterbarrack. However, established private facilities should be encouraged to facilitate public access where possible in order to meet unmet demand.

It is also suggested that the means to encourage the retention of the existing James Stephens Pool in a leisure use should be investigated so as to support the continued development of water sports activities.

Summary

- The development of a new facility at the Waterbarrack is justified and should be prioritised.
- The development of improved public access to existing facilities should be encouraged (particularly in the case of private / members only facilities associated with hotel developments).
- The Council should consider requiring all new leisure developments providing swimming pools to provide for public access without membership charges ("pay as you play").

7.4.4 Rugby – Areas of Need

Supply

There are a number of sites within the study area providing rugby facilities and activities. The provision is limited however, with the main facilities being located at Kilkenny College and Kilkenny RFC.

The facilities (pitches) appear to be of a relatively good standard but in overall terms improvements to the facilities, such as lighting, changing areas etc can be made. In general however, the sport is developing in the area.

Demand

Unmet demand exists in the plan area and is distributed across the whole Model Area. (See *Map ref: 01913/4.7.6a-1, 4.7.7a-1, 4.7.8a-1, 4.7.6b-1, 4.7.6a-1 [units]*). The participation rate in rugby was identified as 0.7%. A unit of provision is a pitch.

From the surveys carried out an unmet demand has been identified. This demand is most significant in the areas around Kilkenny City where the highest population levels are evident. In this respect, the aggregate unmet demand and the unmet car demand¹⁷ display similar patterns of demand. However, as with the other sports, high walking demands for those likely to walk to a facility are also demonstrated in areas such as Callan, Gowran, Castlecomer, Durrow, Johnstown, Ballyraggett and possibly Thomastown. This unmet demand for rugby is similar to demands for other pitch based sports throughout the plan area.

The level of demand displayed however, does not suggest that there is as high a demand for rugby pitches as with other field sports of soccer and GAA. In total, the highest demand for rugby is concentrated within roughly a 20 minute drivetime of Kilkenny City where the provision of an additional 4 pitches would address unmet demands.

Options

The overall level of demand is sufficient to justify the retention and protection of existing rugby pitches within the city and its environs but also supports the development of facilities elsewhere. However, given the limited development of the sport at a local level it may be more appropriate to investigate the development / provision of additional facilities in conjunction with existing schools and clubs in the area.

Strategy

As with GAA and Soccer, Council Policy should provide for the retention and protection of existing rugby pitches within the Study Area. Policy should seek to retain land in use as pitches generally within the county so that any areas currently in sports pitch use should not be lost even if the actual pitch sport might change.

Summary

- Approximately 4 new pitches are required in the study area to meet demands for additional rugby facilities.

¹⁷ For those travelling by car

7.4.5 Hockey – Areas of Need

Supply

There are a number of pitches in the study area suitable and used for hockey purposes. However, these facilities are also used as all weather surfaces for activities such as soccer. In general the only effective surfaces for hockey in the study area are at Kilkenny College, Castlecomer and Scanlon Park. There are however, other all weather surfaces available throughout the County that may be suitable for the development of hockey as a sports activity.

Demand

Unmet demand exists in the plan area and is distributed across the whole Model Area. (See *Map ref: 01913/4.12.6a-1, 4.12.8a-1, 4.12.6b-1, 4.12.6a-1 [units]*). This unmet demand is notable in that the demand is primarily generated by car users. While there is an unmet walking demand, it is not sufficiently strong to justify a new facility in the city or in other surrounding areas on the basis of unmet weekly trips (*Map Ref: 4.12.6b-1*). Nevertheless, the demand exists for the development of **5** pitches that would cater for hockey demands. This could be substantiated on the basis of unmet demands and given the presence of hockey as a sport in the schools and the presence of two clubs in the area. The participation rate in hockey was identified as 0.5%. A unit of provision is a pitch.

However, previous studies¹⁸ have shown that the provision of even a single all weather hockey pitch can meet unmet demands where the majority of demands are car bourn and this may be prudent in this case. The use of an all weather pitch also allows for a wider time frame for the use of such facilities. The provision of additional pitches could be carried out in association with the development of all weather soccer pitches or other multi – function pitches.

Options

A site close to the main road network and in the city environs would be the preferred option for a synthetic grass pitch.

While shared pitches (all weather soccer and hockey) are an option, the surface characteristics of a match-standard pitch are not the same for both sports. In this case it is suggested that provision could be made for one match-standard hockey pitch which could still, nevertheless, be used for informal soccer games, five-a-side and training. The low bounce surface of a hockey pitch would not provide a league-standard surface for soccer although it would actually tend to make five-a-side, and even eleven-a-side soccer more accessible and easier to play for the casual player as the ball would be easier to control.

Strategy

It is suggested that the possibility of upgrading an existing pitch be investigated along with the opportunity for providing a shared facility in the Western Environs area of Kilkenny City; thereby aiming at qualitative improvements to increase capacity within the Study Area. As with GAA, soccer and rugby, this analysis suggests that no existing pitches should be lost to other uses.

Summary

- Approximately **5** new pitches are required in the study area to meet demands for additional hockey facilities although this demand may be catered for through the development of an all weather pitch or a shared facility suitable for soccer, five-a-side and training purposes.

¹⁸ The Cork City Recreational Needs Study 1997

7.4.6 Indoor Sports Activities – Areas of Need

Supply

There are a range of indoor halls and sports facilities throughout the County, all of varying quality and size. These facilities often provide a valuable role within the community providing for both sports and amenity purposes and social purposes.

There are however many difficulties with their provision including difficulties over access, poor quality and a general under provision of facilities suitable to meet demands. However, many of these halls are small and are not always open to the public at peak times. Some with public access are attached to schools while others are also used by local community groups and for social and leisure purposes, thereby restricting the times available for sports use.

Some schools however have no indoor facilities of any type. For the purposes of the FPM, a small hall is one capable of accommodating less than four badminton courts. That area would be equivalent to a basketball court or five-a-side area and would therefore provide for a reasonable mix of indoor sports. Anything smaller could only provide for a restricted range of activities or for sports played on sub-standard court sizes, or with a restricted ceiling height.

Across the Study Area, it can generally be said that there is both a qualitative and quantitative deficiency arising from the small number of indoor halls of the minimum 'four badminton courts' size or above. For the purposes of this analysis all halls have been presumed to be, or could be made, available to the public for the usual peak period of use during the week (principally evenings) and for some weekend use with the emphasis on Saturdays.

Demand

Because an indoor hall is capable of providing for a variety of sports, the estimated demand rate has to be representative of that full range of sports. For example, a hall might be used for one hour for five-a-side football, with a capacity of ten players, and then for a further hour it may be used by an aerobics class of perhaps thirty people. This would produce an average capacity for those two activities of twenty people. This analysis excludes fitness multi-gyms which have been isolated as a separate activity group.

The application of the model with the assumptions described found that demand in the Study Area is in excess of supply. This is demonstrated in the following maps which demonstrate that there is an unmet demand for facilities spread broadly throughout the study area (See Map ref: 01913/4.11.6a-1b, 4.11.6a-1, 4.11.7a-1, 4.11.8a-1 [units] – **a unit is a badminton court for the purpose of the FPM**). In total, in the region of **2 to 20** halls could be required to meet the needs of the plan area in the future. However, given the geographical spread of population throughout the area, the importance of these facilities at a local level and the opportunity for these facilities to meet a variety of demands it is considered important that the areas where high unmet walking demands exist are also taken into account in determining future locations for the provision of new halls and the improvement of existing facilities to meet needs. The participation rate in indoor sports was identified as 11.6%. A unit of provision is a badminton court.

In summary, high levels of unmet walking demand were noted in areas such as Callan, Gowran, Castlecomer, Durrow, Johnstown, Graiguenamanagh, Ballyraggett and possibly Thomastown.

Options

Whilst we consider an increase in sports hall provision essential, before new build provision is planned we recommend that an examination should be carried out of the increase in capacity which could be provided by increased use of existing halls in the rural locations identified above.

In particular, increased access to, and use of halls in schools, colleges and other community facilities should be investigated. We consider the improving, or bringing into use of such facilities, along with enhanced weekend sporting use of existing halls to be a more

appropriate means of meeting the geographical spread of the identified, unmet demand. It has been noted in initial survey work that the availability of facilities such as Parochial Halls in the number of locations is restricted and where possible the improvement of these facilities should be considered and assisted where public access is facilitated.

It is also usual that a significant part of the demand for hall sports is for five-a-side football and consideration needs to be given as to whether this demand could be more economically provided for by outdoor, floodlit play areas, rather than indoor, full height sports halls. Such outdoor play areas can also be used for recreational and children's basketball and we recommend that the possibility of providing such courts should be considered alongside any initiative for improved outdoor basketball facilities (it should be noted that basketball courts are widely available throughout the study area – mainly through the school facilities).

Although these could make a considerable contribution to meeting the needs for hall sports, it is doubtful whether they will fully meet the requirements identified by the model. In addition, the existing provision does consist of a predominance of halls that are less than full size (i.e. less than four badminton courts) thus the development of hall sports requires an element of new provision. In particular, there would appear to be an opportunity for an additional sports centre within the City with pull-out seating for occasional spectator use. This demand could be met by the development of the Waterbarrack facility which is important to the overall development of sports in the City / County area.

Strategy

Existing provision needs to be more effectively utilised and new provision made as recommended above. Pressure on existing facilities may also be relieved by moving five-a-side football to outdoor venues where possible.

Summary

- Up to **20 halls** are required in the study area to meet demands for additional indoor sports activities. A hall for the purpose of the study recommendations should be considered as a sports hall that can provide for up to three badminton courts laid out on a multi use surface that could also provide for basketball, indoor soccer and other sports¹⁹.
- Increased access to, and use of halls in schools, colleges and other community facilities should be investigated.

¹⁹ One unit for the purpose of the FPM was a badminton court. Some halls surveyed, such as Parish Halls, were sufficiently large only to provide for one court while most indoor courts that are used for multiple sports, e.g. basketball, indoor soccer and training purposes can cater for three or more badminton courts.

7.4.7 Golf – Areas of Need

Supply

Within the Study Area, there are number of golf courses. These range from the Kilkenny Golf Club to smaller facilities such as the Pockocke Golf Course in the City area and larger, facilities in the rural area such as Gowran Park. In total there are 6 golf facilities in the model area providing a total of 108 holes. There are also a number of facilities such as pitch and putt and driving ranges and other golf clubs located outside of the modelled area that also provide for a related demand.

All individuals surveyed as part of the study generally used the car in order to access golf facilities; this is not unusual and is generally repeated throughout the Country. There is however, a high demand for golfing facilities with many courses in more rural locations catering for unmet demand generated by the urban based population. Bearing in mind the fact that many golfers have been found to travel to the courses by private vehicle and as a new golf course is unlikely in the central city area, the supply and demand analysis is best applied to the whole Model Area rather than concentrating on the Study Area alone.

Demand

Given the level of provision within the Study Area, demand exceeds supply. In total, in the region of **8 new 18 hole golf courses** could be developed to meet demand throughout the plan area. However, the extensive land requirements of golf courses inevitably mean that urban areas can never provide sufficient courses to meet demand. Thus, as indicated above, an assessment across both the Study Area and the adjacent rural areas provides a more informed view of the need for new provision. The participation rate in golf was identified as 8.3%. A unit of provision is a golf hole.

In general, there is a high level of unmet demand in the lands closest to the urban areas where there are higher concentrations of population. As a result, there is a justifiable need for additional golf courses to be provided.

Unmet demand is spread throughout the Model Area in respect of those with access to a car while the unmet walking demand for golf is, not unexpectedly, concentrated within the city area and other urban areas. However, the demand noted in areas such as Callan is unusual given the established course at that location. This may justify this improvement / expansion of the established facilities in the area or demonstrate that they are of good quality or are relatively attractive in the context of an under provision in Kilkenny City and its environs. The same can be said of other urban areas with relatively high unmet walk demand (Aggregate unmet demand for golf is shown on Map ref: 01913/4.4.6a-2.)

It does not seem reasonable that unmet demand should be met by the development of a new golf course as an alternative to zoned lands in close proximity to the urban centre of Kilkenny. However, consideration, as policy option, could be given to the development of a new facility in the environs of the City or in the wider rural area.

Options

In view of the overall level of unmet demand, we suggest that provision be made for an additional golf course. We suggest that this could be a local authority facility but the location will largely be determined by land availability unless a policy decision is taken to particularly target unmet demand arising from those people without access to a car. It is noted however, that the availability of many new golf courses may not necessarily satisfy demand as quality of the facility is often an important element in choice of playing location (e.g. general amenity facilities, childcare, leisure and relaxation facilities). In light of this, it may be more appropriate to encourage increased public access to established facilities; this should be actively encouraged for new proposals.

Strategy

From a practical view point we do not believe that the provision of 8 new Golf Courses is sustainable recommendation or an effective use of lands given the fact that the highest

demands for Golf use are located closer to the urban areas. In this regard meeting unmet demand may be more effectively achieved by the development of one to two additional golf courses close to areas with the larger populations such as Kilkenny City and a greater emphasis being made of the need to promote off peak use as a means of reducing unmet demand. Should potential sites for the development of Golf Courses be identified further runs of the FPM model could be carried out to assess which sites would have the most beneficial effect on satisfying unmet demand in light also of any policy criteria which the local authorities might wish to apply.

Summary

- Approximately **8 golf courses** are required in the study area to meet demands for additional golf provision in addition to the existing clubs in the County. However, the provision of this number of golf courses in areas close to the highest levels of demand may not be a practical proposition as meeting unmet demand may be more effectively achieved by the development of one to two additional golf courses close to areas with the larger populations such as Kilkenny City and a greater emphasis being made of the need to promote off peak use as a means of reducing unmet demand
- Increased public access to established facilities should be encouraged.
- Public access to new facilities developed for membership use should be required.

7.4.8 Multi-gym – Areas of Need

Supply

These facilities include premises dedicated to fitness and exercise machines and aerobics studios. They also include self-contained weight training facilities but not those within sports clubs. There are many such facilities throughout the study area but not all enjoy public access, access being generally controlled through membership. In general, these facilities are either stand alone or attached to hotel leisure facilities although there are a number of sports clubs that have similar training facilities as part of their general sports provision (although this is generally provided as an ancillary facility).

Demand

The application of the model found that demand in the Model Area is in excess of supply and that the main demands are generally concentrated in built up areas. However, in general, peak activity was found to be centred around early evenings. City centre facilities reported high levels of use during this time, more likely related to people working in the city centre rather than related to local residents. In this way, the unmet demand which the FPM would normally associate with the place of residence, may well be met in this case by facilities within the walking and driving catchment area from the place of work / residence.

The modelling process permitted by the FPM demonstrates that there is an unmet demand for facilities spread broadly throughout the study area (See Map ref: 01913/4.8.6a-1 [units], 4.11.6b-1, 4.8.7a-1, 4.8.8a-1 – a unit is a gym with provision for approx. 10 stations at a capacity of 400 trips a week). In total, and due mainly to the use of the private car in order to access facilities (trips were generally found to be by car to the multi-gym facilities). The participation rate in multi-gyms was identified as 8.1%. A unit of provision is a gym with 10 exercise stations.

In summary, and based on the FPM outputs, in the region of 2 to 3 multi – gym facilities could be required. These would be required in the areas where there is a high level of unmet demand (within 10 - 20 minutes drive time the city environs area).

Options

The levels of unmet demand, and the spatial distribution are such that it may be difficult to justify a new stand-alone facility except where a fitness suite can be provided as part of an ancillary element to a public facility. In general, demands appear to be reasonably met through the existing hotel and leisure centre facilities provision although there may be some justification for club demands for additional gym facilities to facilitate training at their local clubs. Where any improvements to club facilities are assisted by Local Authorities, public access should be requested so that local demands can be provided for. We also consider that the provision of a fitness centre could be encouraged in association with any new facility, such as a sports hall.

Strategy

Land for a new stand-alone facility need not be identified but some existing facilities could be enlarged and improved. New fitness/multi-gym facilities may be encouraged at existing sports halls and as part of any suitable sports-related scheme, such as a new sports hall, with particular emphasis on the development of the Waterbarrack.

Summary

- Approximately **2-3 multi-gyms** are required in the study area to meet demands for additional activities.
- In general, demands appear to be reasonably met through the existing hotel and leisure centre facilities provision although there may be some justification for club demands for additional gym facilities to facilitate training at their local clubs.

7.4.9 Tennis – Areas of Need

Supply

The provision of tennis courts was unusual in that courts were found within a number of sites providing for mainly other sports such as numerous soccer, rugby and Gaelic Athletic Association facilities. The quality of provision varied greatly although the Kilkenny Tennis Club is a good example of a facility which is centrally located with good access provisions.

Demand

The modelling process permitted by the FPM demonstrates that there is an unmet demand for facilities spread broadly throughout the study area (See Map ref: 01913/4.2.6a-1 [units], 01913/4.2.6a-1 (Walking), 4.2.6b-1, 4.2.7a-1, 4.2.8a-1 – a unit is a Tennis Court at a capacity of 75 trips a week). However, this demand does not justify the provision of additional tennis courts given travel patterns and existing provision whereby persons can, and tend to, access facilities by private vehicles. The participation rate in tennis was identified as 3.2%. A unit of provision is a tennis court.

Options

There is an unmet demand for tennis in rural areas where walking to a facility is preferred [See map 01913/4.2.6a-1 (Walking)]. While the maximum unmet demand in these areas is less than that necessary to justify the development of an additional court., the development of additional facilities in these areas could be justified particularly in the areas of highest demands such as Callan, Gowran, Castlecomer, Johnstown, Ballyraggett and possibly Thomastown where they could be developed as part of a shared surface area (shared 5-a-side soccer kick around area / basketball court / tennis court). A similar approach should be adopted in urban areas where opportunities for multi sport play areas are also practical.

For younger age groups this approach may be more appropriate where these age groups cannot access vehicular transport. Without access to cars, particularly in urban areas, unmet demand would justify the provision of additional tennis courts.

Strategy

There is no need for additional tennis courts at the present time. However, the position should be re-assessed in association with any major new housing development around the city perimeter. Consideration should be given to the refurbishment of some courts for joint five-a-side soccer, basketball and tennis use, preferably in association with a local community or sports groups which would take on the supervision of the refurbished facility.

Summary

- There is an unmet demand for tennis facilities but this is not sufficient to require the development of new tennis courts. Such courts could however be developed as part of mixed use surface areas such as basketball courts and shared surface soccer kick –about areas.

7.4.10 Athletics – Areas of Need

Supply

There are a number of athletics facilities in the study area including Scanlon Park and Castlecomer Community School. However, many of the athletics clubs also use a range of facilities for training other than the established tracks and other training areas including Kilkenny Castle grounds and Kilkenny College.

The existing facilities generally provide limited opportunities for sports and amenity activities and, while providing for sporting (track and field) activities, have been criticised as being underdeveloped, with limited, training, warm up and competition opportunities. In this respect, overall provision is qualitatively poor.

Demand

The modelling process permitted by the FPM demonstrates that there is an unmet demand for facilities spread broadly throughout the study area (*See Map ref: 01913/4.3.6a-1, 01913/4.3.6a-1 (Units), 4.3.7a-1, 4.3.8a-1, 4.3.8b-1 – a unit is a track with an infield area at a capacity of 2800 trips a week*). The participation rate in athletics was identified as 1.1%.

Given the existing facilities in the City area demand is largely fulfilled in the City and on the main roads approaching the area particularly where car travel is used to access existing facilities. However, demands in the rural areas are generally higher (particularly in the eastern and western areas of the model area), where access by car to athletics facilities is not as easy. However, the unmet demand in these areas for either car or walking demands is not sufficient to justify the development of an additional facility.

Options

The level of unmet demand does not justify further facility provision. An alternative policy of improved public access to the existing tracks at appropriate time, and the general improvement of facilities in the area (including the improvement in the range of facilities provided at athletics locations such as Scanlon park) should be examined.

The importance of the existing facilities in providing for an established need is emphasised by the demands that currently exist and the fact that there is a general under-provision of athletics facilities (albeit insufficiently large to justify a new facility).

Strategy

Provision should not be made in land use policies for a new athletics track. However, accessibility, particularly for those without use of a car, and public use generally, could be improved. An example might be the provision of a bus link between existing facilities, perhaps serving different areas of the city on different days. Such initiatives, along with greater publicity about availability and some improvements to facilities, can reduce significantly the present level of unmet demand.

Better indoor warm-up and training facilities directly associated with the tracks could encourage greater participation in athletics and improve performance. Such facilities should be made available for use in connection with other sports as well.

Summary

- There is an unmet demand for athletics facilities but this is not sufficient to require the development of a new facility.
- Existing facilities providing for an established need are important given that there is a general under-provision of athletics facilities and all attempts should be made to improve these facilities for sports and athletics needs.

7.4.11 Handball – Areas of Need

Supply

The provision of handball facilities was found to be one of the more atypical provisions in the County. In summary, many outdoor facilities were of poor quality and appearance and were either unused or vandalised. Provision and demand conversely appeared to be met by indoor facilities that were not exclusively used by hand ball; many indoor facilities provided for other sports such as squash and racquetball. In general however, the quality of indoor facilities provided is very good.

Demand

The use of the FPM to identify sports demand is subject to a degree of error where sports with a low participation rate are modelled. Handball is one of these sports but even allowing for the relative level of error an unmet demand is noted. In summary, this demand is located generally in urbanised areas where handball courts would normally be considered local facilities.

Unmet demand for facilities is set out in *Map ref: 01913/4.19.6a-1 and 01913/4.19.6a-1 [units]*. The participation rate in handball was identified as 0.6%. A unit of provision is a handball court.

Options

The overall level of demand tends to suggest that an unmet demand in the region of 3 to 4 courts²⁰ exists throughout the County in the urban areas of Kilkenny and Callan in the west of the county and Bagenalstown, Thomastown and Graiguenamanagh in the east. However, this level of demand does not appear to suggest that there is a justifiable need to develop a new stand alone facility.

Strategy

The development of additional handball courts should be encouraged where there is the potential for these facilities to share with other sports such as squash and racquetball. Consideration should also be given to the development of walls for informal handball (such facilities can be shared with tennis – a working example of this is type of facility is located at St. Augustine's College, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford)

Summary

- There is an unmet demand for handball facilities but this does not appear sufficient to justify the development of new facilities.

²⁰ A unit in Handball is 1 no. court

7.4.12 Boxing – Areas of Need

Supply

The availability of facilities for boxing was found to be limited. In general, facilities generally consisted of limited and poor quality indoor facilities with limited changing and other ancillary facilities. It was noted that while the sport generally tended to be well attended by younger age groups, the availability of rings and training facilities had the potential to limit the retention / participation of individuals into the future.

Demand

The use of the FPM to identify sports demand is subject to a degree of error where sports with a low participation rate are modelled. Boxing, like handball is one of these sports but even allowing for the relative level of error an unmet demand is noted. In summary, this demand is located generally in urbanised areas but also in the rural areas of the model area.

Unmet demand for facilities is set out in *Map ref: 01913/4.18.8a-1 and 01913/4.18.6a-1 [units]*. The participation rate in boxing was identified as 0.7%. A unit of provision is a ring.

Options

The overall level of demand tends to suggest that an unmet demand in the region of **3 or 4 to 5 rings** exists in the area. The availability of boxing rings was noted as a significant issue.

Strategy

The development of additional boxing rings should be encouraged where there is the potential for these facilities to be developed in conjunction with other indoor sports facilities.

Such a provision could take place as part of the expansion of improvement of local halls.

Summary

- There is an unmet demand for **3 or 4 to 5 boxing rings**. These should be developed in conjunction with other indoor sports and local boxing clubs.

8.0 POLICIES

Having regard to the FPM outputs, and also the need to encourage the development of a more strategic approach to sports and amenity provision the overall approach of the study is to ensure that current and future needs are:

- i. Guided by appropriate policies and recommendations.
- ii. Reflect the need to develop a hierarchy of sports and recreational opportunities.
- iii. Targeted geographically.
- iv. Implemented and promoted by all statutory undertakers in the area.
- v. Appropriately funded.

The Local Authorities for the area have previously developed a comprehensive set of policies and recommendations to guide development decisions in the City and County. **In light of the consultations carried out, the facilities audit and patterns of facility use emerging from the surveys and consultations, it is recommended that the established policies of the County and City Development Plan are amended to reflect the following sets of policies.**

8.1 Sports and Recreation Policies

The Sports and Recreation policies will be informed by strategic objectives so as to inform recreation and sports policies. The Council, with the assistance of the County Development Board and any Local Sports Partnership should seek to:

- a. Enhance Planning of Sport and Recreation at local level through the Local Area Sports Partnership.
- b. Promote Kilkenny City, its environs and the County as a whole as a healthy area.
- c. Increase levels of local participation and promote the development of opportunities for all groups to become involved in sports and amenity. This is particularly relevant in the case of disadvantaged groups and specific target groups such as older people, girls and women, people with disabilities, unemployed people and those who live in disadvantaged communities or areas lacking amenity infrastructure.
- d. Improve access to all sectors of the population, especially the socially disadvantaged to a range of sport, recreation and leisure facilities.
- e. Encourage where appropriate better use of existing facilities and assist in the provision of new facilities.
- f. Encourage and provide facilities to enable progression through the sporting pathway of "foundation, participation, performance and excellence."

8.2 Planning Policies

While a comprehensive set of policies has been included in the development plan for the County and City in the recent Plan review, more detailed policies and recommendations are set out below.

It is advised that all development decisions pertaining to sports and amenity provision take these into account.

Policy 1 – Protection of Open Space and Recreation Facilities

The Planning Authority will not normally permit development which would result in the loss of public or private playing fields, parks, children's play space, amenity open space or land zoned for recreational or open space purposes. An exception may be considered where the following requirements are demonstrably met:

- a) **There is a clear excess of playing fields or open space provision within the area. This should take into account the long-term needs of the community, the type and recreational and amenity value and accessibility of such provision.**

- b) **Alternative compensatory provision is made which is both accessible to and of equal or greater quality and benefit to the community.**
- c) **The continued use, proper maintenance and enhancement of the amenity/facility can best be achieved by the redevelopment of a small part of the site that will not adversely affect its overall sporting, recreational and/or amenity value of the facility.**
- d) **The site is indicated for an alternative use in the development plan.**

Playing fields, parks, gardens and informal open spaces are not only important as a recreational resource but also provide valuable green areas for wildlife corridors and habitats, act as buffers between conflicting land uses, enhance visual amenity especially in developed areas and contribute to the health and quality of life of citizens. Only where it is clearly established that open space and playing fields are no longer required for their original purposes, and the Borough and County Councils have considered the need for other forms of recreational and amenity open space in the locality will they permit alternative development proposals. Many existing areas of open space are of considerable value and are therefore worthy of protection in their own right.

Policy 2 - A Hierarchy of Open Space

The Borough and County Council's will seek to ensure that all residents have reasonable access to a range of different types of open space.

The Council's will seek to implement as a priority the hierarchy of open space identified in the City and Environs Recreation Study. This will ensure that the right open space is in the right location.

Policy 3 – Open Space in New Residential Development

The Borough *and* County Councils will not normally permit new residential development unless open space is provided within the development to a minimum standard of 2.4 hectares per 1,000 population (circa 300 dwellings) or greater for formal recreation. Where a proposed development is located in close proximity to an established park area or zoned open space this may be relaxed depending on the nature and quality of existing provision. This relaxation will only be considered where the development pays a financial contribution towards the improvement of the open space so as to improve its quality and carrying capacity. Currently, there are existing open spaces in the immediate environs of the city area sufficient to cater for a standard of 3.5 Ha. per 1000 persons; this is the preferred target for open space provision as it allows for active and passive amenity spaces. However, many of the lands identified as open space and amenity lands have a large land area but have limited formal amenity potential or limited access potential (e.g. Kilkenny Golf Club takes up a 57.83 Ha. area but is not accessible as a general amenity resource; similarly the Lovers Lane Marsh takes up a large land area (34.37 Ha.) but is not a usable amenity resource). Developers will be required to make suitable provision for the future management and maintenance of open space required under this policy where spaces and facilities are not taken in charge by the Local Authority.

Reduced provisions may only be acceptable in urban locations where there are more sustainable patterns of development and maximum use can be made of urban land or redevelopment schemes where open space is already available. With relatively high densities such as flats, townhouses or apartments, good quality landscaped open space should be provided.

Open space provision for smaller residential developments and schemes catering for special needs such as accommodation for the elderly will be considered more flexibly on its merits and having regard to the requirements of likely future residents.

Developers may also be required to provide an equipped children's playground in association with open space provision where a development scheme would be greater than 800 metres from an existing easily accessible equipped children's playground.

Developers will be required to make suitable provision for the future management and maintenance of open space required under this policy either through management companies or agreements with the Borough Council.

It is an objective of the Borough *and County* Councils to secure a high quality of design layout and landscaping in all new residential developments consistent with the Residential Density Guidelines.

Integrated pleasant, attractive and landscaped open space should form an intrinsic element of new residential development. The precise location, type and design of open space provision will be negotiated with developers according to the specific characteristics of the development, the site and its context. All open spaces proposed by developers should be designed and set out by Chartered Landscape Architects (Members of the Landscape Institute) so as to ensure their consistency with good design and layout practice.

Developers should consider providing a variety of open spaces both formal and informal semi-natural areas should be provided such as wetlands, woodlands, meadows, green corridors as well as formal gardens, and seating areas. These elements work best as part of a structure to the provision of open space.

Policy 4 – Design of Open Space

The Borough *and County* Councils will normally expect all open space provision to take account of the following principles.

- a) Open space should be provided in a comprehensive and linked way designed as an integral part of the development.**
- b) Areas should be of a demonstrated recreational or amenity value. Small dysfunctional open spaces should be avoided.**
- c) Wherever possible the majority of open space should be multi-functional. Areas for informal amenity and children's play should be combined.**
- d) Areas should be easily and safely accessible from all dwelling, which the space is designed to serve.**
- e) The design, location and appearance of open space areas should have regard to the amenities of nearby dwellings, for example, areas where children may play should normally be overlooked by the fronts of nearby dwellings to provide for maximum surveillance and overlooking**
- f) Public open space areas should not be located so close to adjoining dwellings so as to cause undue noise or nuisance to existing or proposed residents.**
- g) Attractive natural features should be protected and incorporated into open space areas. *Tree planting should normally form an integral part of such open space areas.***

To ensure implementation of open space provision the Councils will attach appropriate planning conditions to permissions, and where necessary will enter into agreements with developers. These will provide for the laying out and landscaping of open space areas in accordance with a details scheme to be agreed with the Councils.

Policy 5 – Access to Open Space

The Borough and County Councils will seek to improve the provision of local parks and play spaces and extend those spaces and pathways that can usefully form green links, footways and cycle ways to connect residential areas with parks and open spaces and with each other.

It is an intention of the Borough and County Councils to make existing areas of open space as user friendly as possible. As well as seeking to ensure that new open space is well integrated to proposed development it is essential that open space have good pedestrian, cyclist and disabled access.

Policy 6 – Children’s Play Facilities.

It is the Borough Council’s intention to provide, maintain and manage a children’s play area in each of the District and Local parks in the City and in other public open spaces where it is appropriate. The Borough Council will also require provision for children’s play or developer contributions towards providing children’s play facilities in association with new residential developments. The County Council will apply the same development criteria to lands in the Environs of Kilkenny City and all other areas where Local Area Plans are prepared.

Within new residential developments where there is a significant family residential component the whole environment should be designed so as to permit children to play in safety.

Policy 7 – Provision of Sports and Recreation Facilities

Developers will be required to make provision for sports and recreational infrastructure commensurate with the needs generated by that development and the capacity of existing facilities in the area to cater for existing and future needs. Residential planning applications in excess of 200 units will require a recreational needs assessment. This assessment should have regard to the City and Environs Recreation Strategy and any future developer contribution scheme. Recreation provision should form an integral element of development proposals. Where provision is not provided on site it may be directly provided off site.

The Councils will apply the following as guidelines.

Table 8.1: Amenity Development Thresholds

Site Capacity	Minimum quantity and type of leisure facilities required
No. of Dwellings	
<25	Development Contribution in lieu of Open Space or 2.4 hectares per 1,000 people (a minimum of 0.25 hectares must be provided)
25 or over	Active amenity Open space 2.4 hectares per 1,000 people (a minimum of 0.25 hectares must be provided)
100 – 199	Public open space to include a Neighbourhood Play Area.
200 – 499	Equipped public open space to include: One full size grass sports pitch; One local Play area; and One court multi-use games area with Community association/club movement.
500 – 599	Public space to include: One full size grass sports pitch; One district play area or one local play area and additional neighbourhood play areas; One court multi-use games are; and Two tennis courts / basketball courts etc.

600 +	Equipped public open space to include Two full size grass sports pitches; One district play area or one local play area and additional neighbourhood play areas; One court multi-use games area, and two tennis courts / basketball courts etc.
1,000+	One community / leisure Building including full size badminton / basketball court with community association / club movement Equipped public open space to include; Two full size grass sports pitches; One district play area or one local play area and additional neighbourhood play areas; One court multi-use games area; and two tennis courts / basketball courts etc. One community leisure building including full size badminton / basketball court with community association /club movement within.

The above standards will be applied as a minimum requirement for on site provision as part of residential development or for off site provision. *In the interests of meeting strategic needs the Borough and County Councils may pool together the requirements of individual and relatively smaller developments to provide facilities and amenities of a strategic nature at the higher end of the hierarchy.* Developer contributions may also be sought and may be applied to improve existing facilities nearby.

In areas where new development is proposed and the cumulative impact of the development of new houses will, or is expected to exceed the volume of housing development identified above as thresholds, developers will be required to provide financial contributions or lands towards the development of sports and recreation facilities that will be developed to meet the needs of their development in conjunction with the expected needs of other nearby developments. In instances where this includes, or is expected to include the acquisition of lands this requirement will be specified. This is particularly important in the case of the

- The Western Environs of Kilkenny City (a 346 acre area within walking distance of Kilkenny City).
- The Waterford Environs Area within County Kilkenny.

In such instances, where facilities are not to be provided directly by developers, the Local Authority will initiate development works (allowing for joint initiatives with adjoining Local Authorities where necessary).

Policy 8 – Development Levies

Where on site provision is not appropriate the Borough and County Councils will levy a sum of money from each housing unit in lieu of the provision of public open space / recreation facilities.

The Borough and County Councils will impose a levy for provision of open space in accordance with Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act. Development contributions will be used to assist in the provision of open space and recreational facilities while security will be required for the satisfactory completion of open spaces in private developments until taken in charge as per the provisions of section 34(4)(g) and (j) of the Planning and Development Act 2000.

Policy 9 – Intensive Sports Facilities

The Borough and County Councils will normally permit development proposals for intensive sports facilities where all of the following criteria are met.

- **The proposal is compatible with development plan zonings.**
- **There will be no detrimental impact on residential amenity.**

- It is located so as to be accessible to its catchment population and gives priority to walking, cycling and public transport and does not generate unacceptable levels of traffic.
- It is designed so as to minimise the impact of noise and light pollution.
- There is no significant detrimental impact on the natural environment or features of the archaeological or built heritage.
- The proposal is of high quality design and respects and contributes to the character of its location and townscape.
- Public access is provided.
- Ancillary facilities are provided such as childcare facilities.

Intensive sports facilities include stadia, leisure centres, sports halls, swimming pools and other indoor and outdoor sports facilities that provide a wide range of activities as well as facilities attracting significant numbers of spectators and use outside normal sporting periods. The location of intensive sports facilities can often be contentious. They can attract large numbers of people, particularly in the evenings and at weekends. They often also generate high levels of noise, operate long and late hours, attract a large number of vehicle movements and can require large parking areas. Specific concerns may also arise where floodlighting is proposed.

On occasion the Councils may need to be satisfied that a management plan is in place to ensure that there is no detrimental impact on surrounding residential amenity. Planning conditions may be imposed to this effect.

Policy 10 – Major Sports Facilities and Stadia

Proposals for, and extensions to, major sports stadia will be supported by the Borough and County Councils where they will be accessible by a range of forms of transport other than the car, and will not cause unacceptable impact to the amenity of nearby residents by way of noise and disturbance.

The Councils require major stadia to be in appropriate locations and to follow the principles of sustainability. For major schemes an Environmental Impact Assessment may be required. Where the Councils are concerned at possible effects on traffic a Transport Impact Assessment may be required where it is demonstrated that proposals would generate significant impact on the transport network a travel plan may be required.

Policy 11 – Noise Generating Sports

The Borough and County Councils will not normally permit development proposals for sport or recreational uses generating high levels of noise unless the following criteria are met.

- **There will be no unacceptable disturbance to local residents.**
- **There will be no unacceptable disturbance to farm livestock and wildlife.**
- **There will be no conflict with the enjoyment of areas used for informal recreation.**
- **The ambient noise level in the area is already high and the noise likely to be produced by the new activity will not be dominant.**

The impact of noise is an important issue in assessing proposals for activities such as motor sports. Appropriate sites for the regular use of these sports are not easy to identify and will depend on the type of activity, the tone, level and duration of any noise generated, local topography and the amount of existing proposed screening.

Proposals for noisy sports will only be acceptable where the likely impact can be contained and minimised by landform or woodland. Other suitable sites may include degraded land, former mineral workings or land adjacent to an existing source of noise. In certain cases the Borough and County Councils may only consider it appropriate to grant a temporary permission to allow the impact of noise levels and any potential disturbance or nuisance to be more fully assessed.

Policy 12 – The River Nore

It is the policy of the Borough and County Council to promote the amenity potential of the River in order to facilitate the development of amenity, recreational, ecological and tourism benefits for the city and region generally.

The river has considerable potential both waterside and landside to be used as recreational asset for the city, the county and the region as a whole.

The open space assessment of the City Recreation Study has defined a corridor and sites suitable for a development of the river as an amenity of quality. To this end a number of access points or slipways, related boating facilities, promenades, waterborne and waterside activities, green spaces and hard urban spaces and general amenities have also been identified. Parks have also been identified along the river.

Policy 13 – Access to the River Nore

It is a priority of the Borough and County Councils to protect and improve access to the River Nore. Riverside development will be required to set aside land for pedestrian routes, which will be strategically linked in a series of walks.

A strategic network of walks has been identified by the Borough Council in the Recreation Strategy. For riverside development the Councils will impose a development levy to provide walking amenities and facilities.

Policy 14 – The Rivers Suir and Barrow

It is a priority of the County Council to protect and improve the amenity potential and accessibility of the Rivers Suir and Barrow. These are important river assets within the County. Riverside development along these rivers will be required to set aside land for pedestrian routes, that could be linked to the broader area and any established settlements in their vicinity.

Policy 15 – Riverside Development

The Councils will seek to ensure that proposals along the River Nore will achieve an appropriate balance of uses commensurate with the sensitivity of the natural environment. Factors that will be taken into account when considering proposals affecting the River Nore include:

- 1) Any landscape or nature designation for the area.**
- 2) Any proposals to increase the extent of public access.**
- 3) The extent of any environmental improvements to the water environment and its surroundings.**
- 4) The nature of any recreation use proposed; and**
- 5) Any conflict or compliance with proposals for walking or cycling routes.**

The river is an important natural resource that must be protected. It however also offers exciting opportunities for development.

Policy 16 – Development associated with Water Sports.

The Borough and County Councils will normally only permit proposals for development associated with water sports adjacent to waterways and inland lakes where all the following criteria are met.

- The proposed facilities are compatible with any existing use of the water, including non-recreational uses;**

- It will not result in damage to sites of nature conservation importance or features of the archaeological and built heritage;
- The development can be satisfactorily integrated into its landscape or townscape surroundings;
- The development will not have an unacceptable impact on visual amenity especially in areas of high amenity or other locally important scenic areas; and
- The development will not result in over intensification of use leading to pollution, excessive noise and nuisance.

Water sports cover a wide range of activities from tranquil uses such as angling, sailing, canoeing, rowing and sail boarding to powered activities such as water-skiing and powerboat uses. The Councils may require management plans for particular water areas to address the compatibility of such varying demands.

Most development associated with water sports such as slipways, boathouses, toilet and changing facilities, parking areas and access will require planning permission. In considering such development proposals the Councils will assess the impact of the visual amenity and character of the area. Where approval is granted the Borough council will require high levels of design both in terms of layout, buildings and other structures and in the treatment of boundaries either adjacent to the road or the actual waterway. The Councils will normally require details of landscaping and surface treatments to accompany all planning applications.

Policy 17 – Walking Routes and Trails

The Councils joint intention to identify, promote and maintain a series of walking routes within the city and to link these to a strategic network of trails into the county.

The Councils will encourage the development of facilities that are accessible to those who walk and cycle. The two Councils will also work with other local authorities to provide a network of walking routes.

Policy 18 – Cycle Routes

The Borough and County Councils will require developments to provide routes, facilities and amenities for those cycling.

The Councils will seek to improve cycle facilities throughout the city and its environs.

Policy 19 – Local Area Regeneration

The development of quality open space and recreation amenities will be made a priority in local regeneration and redevelopment initiatives.

Quality open spaces reinforce an areas character and identity and are an important aspect of the regeneration of disadvantaged areas.

8.3 Provision Policies

The above policies will assist in the satisfactory, efficient and timely provision of facilities along with the protection of established facilities. However, while the above present an overall approach, or a set of “guiding principles” to the development of sports and amenity facilities, it is essential that a range of facilities is provided to meet needs and to ensure comprehensive coverage within the Study area. However, any such provision, must be planned in a manner that ensures that there is a targeted and managed approach to investment and the development of complimentary facilities throughout the County.

Consequently, in recommending areas for future amenity provision two key issues must be considered. These are:

- o The Hierarchy of Provision

- o The Protocol for the Development of Facilities

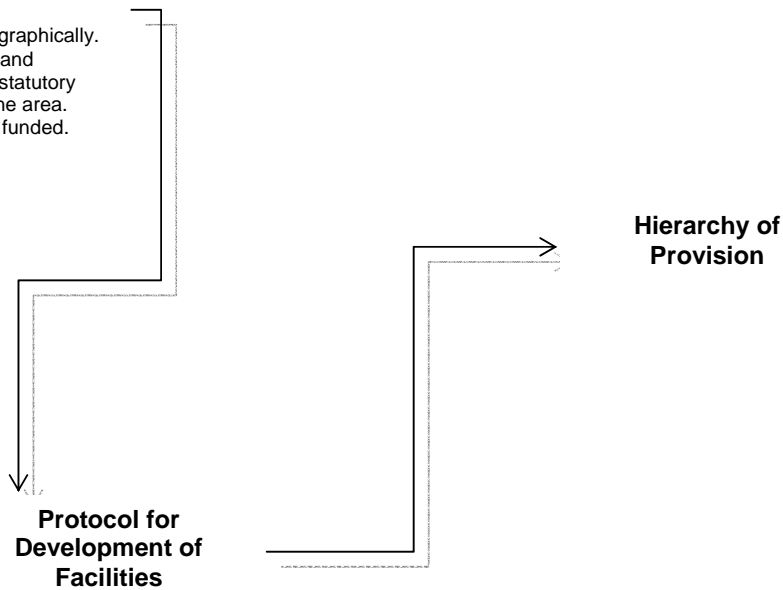
Both of these are considered below in more detail although any decision made must also have regard to the overall approach raised in Section 8.0 (these are repeated below).

- i. Guided by appropriate policies and recommendations.
- ii. Reflect the need to develop a hierarchy of sports and recreational opportunities.
- iii. Targeted geographically.
- iv. Implemented and promoted by all statutory undertakers in the area.
- v. Appropriately funded.

Guiding Principles

- i. Guided by appropriate policies and recommendations.
- ii. Reflect the need to develop a hierarchy of sports and recreations opportunities.
- iii. Targeted geographically.
- iv. Implemented and promoted by all statutory undertakers in the area.
- v. Appropriately funded.

Table 8.2: Provision Flow Chart

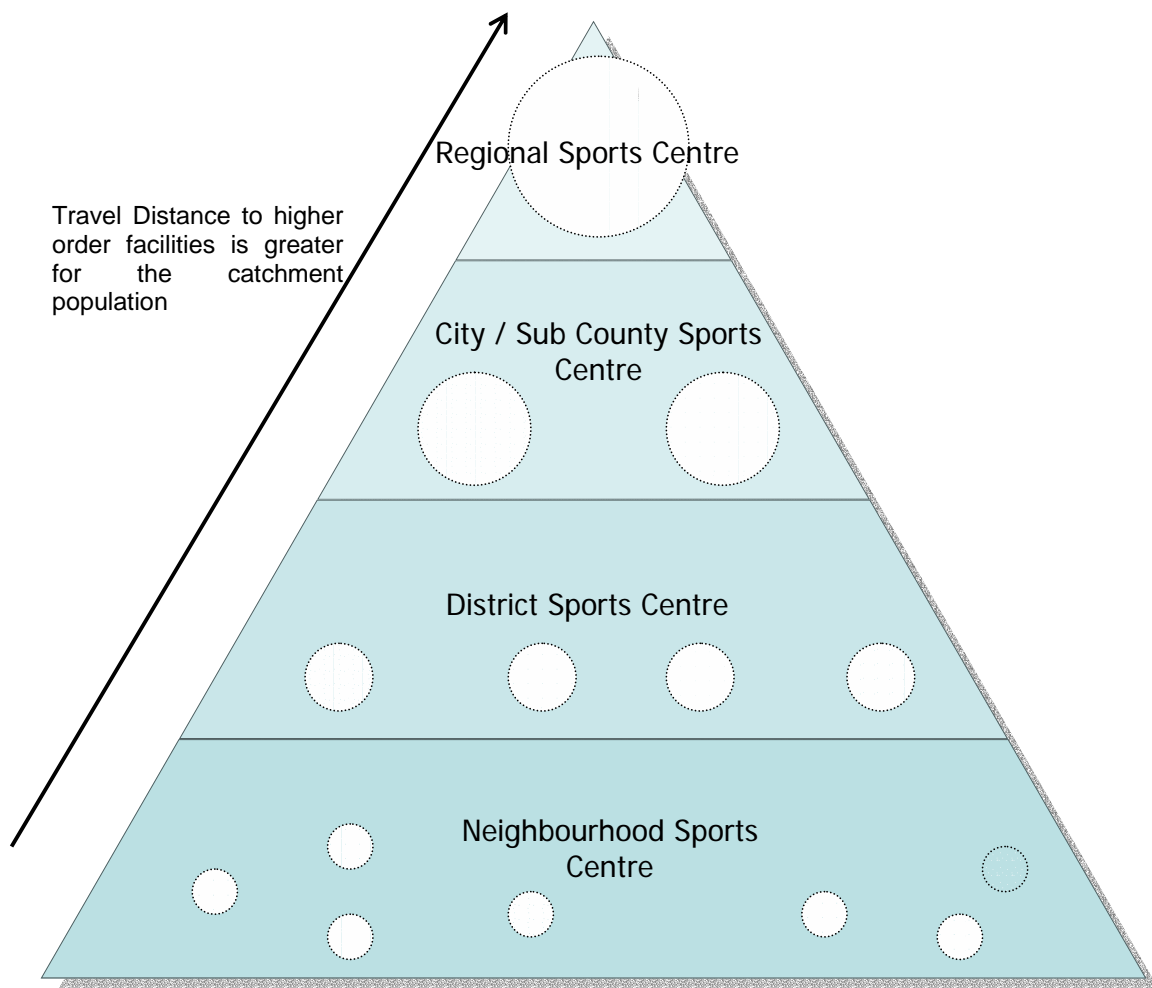


8.3.1 The Hierarchy of Provision

In formulating the development of additional facilities, or the upgrading of existing facilities, a hierarchy of sports facilities should be planned.

An assessment of existing facilities carried out through the numerous surveys indicates that developing sports and amenity facilities on the basis of a theoretical hierarchy would be appropriate (see Table 8.3).

Table 8.3: Theoretical Hierarchy - Catchment Area



The purpose of the diagram above is to indicate the tiered level of facilities to be located evenly throughout the County with the higher order facilities located, if possible, at locations that are centrally located or easily accessible to a large population.

8.3.1.1 Levels in the Hierarchy

The purpose of the hierarchy is to ensure that investment decisions are focussed so as to enable efficient planning and investment decisions. The lower order facilities will either be locally placed to serve a local community, or have only limited provision of sports and amenity facilities, e.g. a playing pitch or a ball alley. Higher order facilities would be those multi purpose facilities catering for a number of recreation and sporting pursuits.

Regional

A good example of Regional Sports Centre is the National Coaching and Training Centre / University of Limerick. This facility is certainly of regional importance but in certain regards such as coaching and high performance assessment is of national importance. In any case it

can be regarded as a good example of the pinnacle of the sporting facilities pyramid or hierarchy. While there is no similar facility in the Kilkenny City area that can be called a Regional Centre, there remains a potential for the development of such a facility in the County in the City given:

- The designation of the City as a 'Hub' in the National Spatial Strategy.
- The ability of such a centre to serve a wider area and the surrounding towns of Clonmel, Carlow and Portlaoise (and their hinterlands). While the potential for the development of such a facility at Waterford also remains a distinct possibility it is reasonable to assume that a more centrally located facility in Kilkenny would serve a larger catchment than a facility located at a 'gateway' point in the NSS such as Waterford.
- It is likely that such a facility could be developed at an accessible location in the Kilkenny City Environs (possible the new development lands in the Western Environs designated for amenity purposes).

The possibility remains that a facility, or a combination of facilities in Kilkenny City, could also fulfil this role as a Regional Facility. In this respect the scope for development at Scanlon Park along with the potential for additional development at the Waterbarrack for a complementary range of sports may increase the potential of the area to provide a greater volume of sports and recreation facilities.

City / Country Wide Level

Immediately below the top level of the hierarchy are city / countywide facilities. In the absence of a Regional Centre in Kilkenny these would be the highest points in a facility hierarchy in the County.

These centres will cover their own local sub county catchment area and can act as feeders to any regional centre enabling those who wish to avail of higher order sports facilities (or avail of ancillary services) the opportunity to do so. These centres will be at key city / county locations which preferably have:

- Good access to public transport.
- Good access to private transport.
- A strong local population base from which to draw and to serve.

District Level

District Sports Centres provide high standard community orientated multi-use sports opportunities serving a wider than neighbourhood catchment. These facilities would cater for a mix of mainly recreational sport with some opportunity for selective competitive sport, e.g. a facility for organised / occasional "five - a - side" soccer games rather than local league soccer games.

Neighbourhood Level

Neighbourhood Sports Centres are indoor and outdoor sporting facilities that provide for multi-use local, community orientated, affordable and accessible sports opportunities. In many instances the identification of the need for such a facility provision and the drive to progress its development will have come from the neighbourhood / local community itself.

The aim of these centres is to cater for predominantly recreational participation with exercise and health related activities such as badminton, aerobics or informal kick-about facilitated. Such facilities may also provide for some sports clubs and sports teams competing at a local level. Educational and community use during the day will be a key feature of these facilities. Neighbourhood Sports Centres should provide resources within easy reach of all local communities for active sport, exercise related activities and also for health improvement and rehabilitation from illness or injury.

The physical provision of new facilities and development of existing facilities should be governed by the hierarchy. For example, district centres should not be located so close to each other (i.e.) within the identified catchments so as to eat into each other's markets. The following principles should therefore apply.

- i. Facilities should be developed commensurate with the range and type of facilities and services specified at that level. For example a district level of facilities, amenities and services as specified should be provided commensurate with that level of the hierarchy.
- ii. If facilities are to be developed it is reasonable to expect facilities to move from one level of the hierarchy up to the next. Only in very exceptional circumstances would a facility be developed up two levels of the hierarchy. For example a neighbourhood facility should realistically seek to develop to district level (one step) rather than city level (two steps).
- iii. Priority should be given to consolidating facilities at the appropriate level of the hierarchy before moving up the hierarchy.
- iv. The characteristics / features such as catchments are not arbitrary and some degree of flexibility should be applied. For example, the location of new facilities will, in most cases, be most effective in established settlements with good local catchments to ensure facility viability and the fulfilment of local amenity needs. However, facility provision based on established settlement locations may mean that certain catchments overlap or other areas are located at the extremities of a catchment for local or district level facilities.
- v. When considering the development of facilities the following "protocol" should be followed (see following).

A guide to hierarchies and the range of facilities that should be located at each level of the hierarchy is set out overleaf in Table 8.4.

8.3.1.2 Protocol for development of facilities

Areas where there will be future needs, in Kilkenny City and Environs and outside in the broader County areas and County Towns, are identified through the Facilities Planning Model and on the ground surveys.

Throughout the County there is likely be a need for additional facility provisions however and while a hierarchy of provision has been identified, regard must also be had to the established provision and the potential for the improvement of those facilities. Many of the established facilities are suited to development as "City / Countywide" level facilities. In Kilkenny City itself the potential for the development of a number of complimentary facilities is noted (e.g. Scanlon Park, the Waterbarrack and any amenity development in the Western City Environs).

In recommending these areas as locations for future sports and amenity provision the application of a "development protocol" is advised. This is to ensure that development decisions are applied where most appropriate as the provision of new facilities within the hierarchy may not always be preferred as it may be more appropriate to upgrade, refurbish and improve existing facilities, particularly in established settlements.

The following protocol should be considered as a sequential approach to developing or improving (where existing) facilities.

- a. **Bring into use a redundant or infrequently used facility.** This could be a redundant sports hall or a community hall that is not used for recreational or sports facilities.
- b. **Make better / more frequent use of existing sports facilities.** For example, bring an existing school into dual use so that it can be used outside school hours and at weekends.
- c. **Improve management procedures within existing facilities.** This would be considered as a final opportunity to improve facilities before embarking on physical works.

- d. **Refurbish facilities within the existing footprint.** This will usually not require planning permission and is an option before physically extending existing facilities. This may involve moving existing walls / pitches catering for other uses.
- e. **Extend existing facilities.** This may entail physically extending facilities and the physical footprint of the existing sports facility. It may entail providing for other sports (i.e.) providing new rather than shared pitches as indicated in (d) above.
- f. **Provide a new stand alone facility.** This should be considered as a last option once options (a) to (e) have been explored.

Table 8.4: Guide to Hierarchies

LEVEL	REGIONAL	CITY/SUB COUNTY CO.	DISTRICT	NEIGHBOURHOOD
OPTIMUM LOCATION	On national road. Located in environs of Kilkenny City if possible.	Convenient national roads. Located on convergence of bus routes.	On bus routes	Accessible to pedestrians and non-car users.
CATCHMENT IN KMS	50-75km	10-20km	3-10 km	1-2km
ACCESS	University students, and national teams, national and regional elite teams and athletes.	Public, clubs and local elite	Public and clubs	Public and community based
SPORTING FACILITIES – POOL	50m x 20m	25m x 6m	None / Leisure	None
HALL	12 min state of the art facility designated for specific purposes.	6 plus suite of smaller halls	4 plus	2
PITCHES	High quality training	Suite of pitches for training/local leagues	1/2 pitches training/local leagues	1 no pitch training
MULTIPURPOSE/ SYNTHETIC	No. full size 2 ATPs	1 No. full size multifunctional Astroturf and 1 No. full size ATP	1 No. full size multifunctional Astroturf.	1 No. training all weather pitch.
LIGHTS	Television/ competition quality	Astroturf and ATP at competitive level	Astroturf at competitive level/training level	Lights to training standard. Where appropriate no lighting should be considered in areas where passive observation cannot be encouraged at after dark times.
LEVEL OF SPORTING PERFORMANCE	Excellence/ Performance Competition specialist (specialist equipment)	Performance	Competition/ Recreation	Recreation
ACTIVITIES – DAYTIME	Exclusively sport	Sport mainly but health and community	Sport, recreation, health and community	Recreation, health and community
NIGHTTIME	Exclusively sport	Sport	Sport, recreation and community	Recreation and community
PLAY AREAS	None	None	District play area as per open span study recommendations	Neighbourhood play area as per open space study recommendations
CHILD CARE FACILITIES	Yes	Yes	Optional	Optional / Not Necessary

AMENITIES	Substantial parking; 100 spaces; restaurant; accommodation	Parking up to 100 spaces; restaurant	Up to 50 parking spaces; cycle racks; refreshment area	Up to 15 car parking spaces; cycle racks; good pedestrian and disabled access
------------------	--	--------------------------------------	--	---

While the application of the above protocol will prove an effective and useful tool in the identification of development opportunities it can only be positively used where improvements in the Management of Sports and Amenity Provision is improved in the County as a whole. While specific locations have been identified in the Strategy for the development of County / City level facilities, at lower levels of the proposed hierarchy (the “District” and “Neighbourhood” levels) the identification of facilities suitable for development will require active canvassing of facilities / clubs so as to determine opportunities for public access given the limited provision of public facilities at local level, particularly in rural areas. The active involvement of local clubs and facilities in the provision of general public access is important in this respect:

- i. so as to identify facilities suitable for development (having available lands, public access and multi sport opportunity).
- ii. identify infrastructure costs (for input to any Section 48 Development Contribution Scheme).

In the interests of sports and amenity development, the provision of greater public access will require a review of Local Authority responsibilities and management. Options to refine Local Authority involvement in the provision of Sports and Amenity provisions are set out in Section 9.0 following.

8.4 Local Sports Partnership

The uses of a Local Sports Partnership should be encouraged in the development of sports and amenity in the County. This is being actively pursued by the County Development Board.

A local sports partnership is established as a company with a board, comprising representatives from the statutory bodies, organisations and groups operating in local areas with a responsibility for or interest in sports development. This includes local authorities, VEC, Health Boards, FAS, third level sector, commercial interests, sports clubs, schools, voluntary groups etc. A Local Sports Co-ordinator is employed by and reports to the Board of the Local Sports Partnership.

The Irish Sports Council generates sports programmes for adoption and adaptation by Local Sports Partnerships to suit local needs, with an emphasis on the provision of quality training and support materials for sports leaders, coaches, parents and volunteers.

The Local Sports Partnership provides advice to Local Authorities wishing to establish a recreation service within the Local Authority. The Local Sports Partnership may contribute funding or assistance in the development of strategic plans including recreation needs assessments that would benefit the local area and which would be consistent with the Strategic Plan prepared by the Local Sports Partnership.

9.0 DELIVERY

The overall aim of the Study, as set out in Section 1.4, is to identify and meet the recreational needs of Kilkenny City and its Environs, provide for the needs of the County as a whole and to meet these needs with an integrated strategy capable of delivering, maintaining and managing the facilities to meet these needs.

To provide for this integrated approach three key issues must be considered in the development of an effective response. These include:

- i. Funding
- ii. Management / Human Resources
- iii. Implementation and Integration

Each of these shall be considered in more detail below.

- iv. While not immediately related to the delivery of an improved range of sports and recreation facilities the County Development Board's Rural Transport Audit has also demonstrated that the development of sports and amenity facilities must take cognisance of the issues of access / transport. In general, the majority of user surveys carried out of all recreational facilities confirmed views that the predominant means of transport to amenity facilities (sporting facilities) in particular, was that of the private vehicle. In those surveys, only in a number of very rare instances did individuals travel to sporting facilities by any means other than the private car (occasional bicycle transport and walking was noted) and in no circumstances did individuals use public transport to access sporting facilities.

The age profile associated with users also confirmed a finding of the Rural Transport Audit which found that young adults predominantly expressed that vehicles were used to access amenity facilities. As evidenced in Table 3.7a of the CDB Rural Transport Audit below.

Table 3.7a: Top Five Trip Purposes for Each Target Group (South East Region)

	Young Adults (18-24)	Senior Citizens (65+)	People with Illness/ Disability	Medical Card Holders	Free Travel Pass Holders	People working in the home	Un-employed
1	Work	Food Shopping	Food Shopping	Food Shopping	Food Shopping	Children to crèche/school	Food Shopping
2	Training/ Education	Going to church	Visiting friends/ relatives	Going to church	Going to church	Food Shopping	Children to crèche/school
3	Social Activities	Non-food shopping	Going to church	Children to crèche/school	Visiting friends/ relatives	Going to church	Social Activities
4	Visiting friends/ relatives	Personal Business	Personal Business	Visiting friends/ relatives	Non-food shopping	Visiting friends/ relatives	Non-food shopping
5	Sport and recreation	Visiting friends/ relatives	Children to crèche/school	Work	Personal Business	Non-food shopping	Visiting friends/ relatives

Source: Rural Transport Survey Dec 2001

9.1 Funding

The identification of suitable funding opportunities for the development of sports and recreation facilities is an important requirement. While a range of funding sources have been used in the past to support recreation facility development, including private (commercial) initiatives, lottery funding, community funding Local and Central Government funding. A range of funding opportunities are investigated below; regard should always be had to the fact that funding for infrastructure investment is effectively a "moving target".

The National Development Plan

The National Development Plan lays the foundation for Ireland's continuing economic and social development into the millennium. It identifies an investment commitment in the key areas of infrastructural development and promotes social inclusion.

Under the Culture, Recreation and Sports Measure of the Local Infrastructure Sub-Programme some €294.6 million is allocated for the period 2000 – 2006. For the South and Eastern Region, where Kilkenny is located, the quality of the cultural, social and recreational infrastructure is recognised as having a significant role to play in the social and economic development of cities, town, villages and rural areas. In the South East Region the basic requirements of many such areas in these respects have been met often by voluntary effort. The NDP identifies however that there are places where the infrastructure is deficient or lacking altogether. In these areas, the public sector will have to take the lead in a targeted way but support will also be given to voluntary bodies and where appropriate the commercial private sector where they take the lead role.

Most relevant to the purpose of this Study is the allocation of €74.9 million to be expended in the South and East Region within this Measure on the following:

- a. Support for the development of multi-purpose sport and recreational facilities by local authorities in association, where appropriate, with private sector partners, utilising, where practicable, existing public facilities including swimming pools, football / hurling pitches, sports halls, golf courses and related ancillary facilities.
- b. Support to voluntary groups towards the development costs of large multi-purpose facilities as part of a local integrated plan for sport and recreation approved by the local authority and the Irish Sports Council, in areas where no such facilities exist.

The balance of €219.7 million will be spent on a variety of measures in the areas of culture, sport and recreation.

Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000

It is important that the recent changes introduced through the *Planning and Development Act 2000* in detailing the range of infrastructure developments for which development contributions can be sought is utilised in promoting future sports and amenity facility provision.

The use of Section 48, in providing, or offsetting capital expenditures on amenity and recreation facility development can be done in a number of ways including:

- i. Covering the cost of the direct provision of public infrastructure and facilities by the Local Authority, including the provision of open spaces, recreational and community facilities and landscaping works **on Local Authority lands**.
- ii. Covering the cost of the direct provision of public infrastructure and facilities by the Local Authority, including the provision of open spaces, recreational and community facilities and landscaping works **on Third Party lands**.
- iii. The establishment of Local Sports Advisory Boards (as per the VEC proposals) on which the Council should have a representative under which the Council would agree to fund specified capital works through a Development Contribution Scheme to assist in the development of public sports facilities.
- iv. Issuing *Calls for Proposals* to all local sports groups with established or proposed facilities capable of improvement with capital investment where by investment of public funds would be on the basis of providing for local public access.

The potential for the use of Section 48 of the *Planning and Development Act 2000* has been explored as part of this and other similar studies in order to determine whether or not Capital Expenditures likely to be incurred in improving facilities or to meet demands for improved facilities, changing rooms, parking, lighting etc. can be incorporated into a formal *Development Contribution Scheme* prepared and adopted by the Local Authority.

While all the above are consistent with the provisions of Section 48 of the *Planning and Development Act 2000* it is recommended that in developing and applying such a far reaching Development Contributions Scheme that:

- All planning permissions for the development of residential lands or residential properties, industrial development likely to generate additional housing demands and commercial development in town centre areas likely to attract persons into the town centre and increase the pressure on established urban open spaces and public areas should have a contribution attached to them for the provision of new amenity provisions and improvement of established spaces.
- Consideration should be given to the preparation of a Development Contribution Scheme for the area covered by the forthcoming Western Environs Kilkenny City Local Area Plan particularly should higher density development be proposed.
- All funds accruing to open space and amenity provision from a Development Contribution Scheme should be accounted for separately.

The opportunity for Section 48 Development Contribution Schemes to solely finance the development of open spaces and amenity areas may be limited however, as the availability of funding from this source will depend on the payment / amount of development contributions. All funds utilised do however, improve the quality of amenity facilities in the County as a whole and they should only be viewed as assisting in promoting the part financing of improvements to established local facilities where possible.

In this respect, careful consideration should be given to the provision of funding to facilities that have shown limited public access and no consideration should be given to facilities that will not or do not provide public access.

Public Private Partnership

Having regard to the need to use multiple sources of funding the use of PPP, particularly in the development of new sporting facilities, should be considered. A PPP is a contractual arrangement between the public and private sectors with the aim of introducing private sector resources and/or expertise for the purposes of designing, planning, financing, constructing and/or operating infrastructure projects. The private sector can bring benefits in terms of management, financial and technical skills. This approach can generate increased efficiency.

There are a range of possible partnership structures, for example, Design and Build, Design, Build and Operate or Design, Build, Operate and Finance. The role of the contractor depends on the structure of the transaction. At the simplest level, the contractor would design and build the infrastructure with the public body taking over the operation and maintenance from completion of the construction works. In the case of Design, Build and Operate, the private sector takes full responsibility for the provision of the infrastructure and for its operation or maintenance over a long term concession period.

The State Authorities (Public Private Partnership Arrangements) Act, 2002 (No. 1 of 2002), which came into effect on 22nd March 2002, provides the enabling legislation for the PPP process. An administrative and policy framework is required for the effective implementation of PPP's.

Opportunity sites exist in Kilkenny City and its Environs for the development of facilities through a PPP basis. These include, for example, the proposed development of the Waterbarrack and the possible development of amenity facilities in the Western Environs of Kilkenny City.

In January 1999, the Department of the Environment and Local Government established a dedicated Unit to promote and facilitate the development of PPP's. Grants are available to assist Local Authorities in setting up PPP projects. Grants of between 40% and 60% are available towards the preparation of plans, detailed financial analysis etc. up to a maximum of €100,000. Feasibility studies are not included in the grant scheme.

If a funding scheme is available elsewhere for the same type of project, the Local Authority will not be eligible for the grant, even if the Authority is not successful in securing a grant under the other scheme. Eligibility for the grant is dependent on a tendering procedure being carried out by the Local Authority.

The Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism

The Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism seeks to facilitate the provision of sport and recreation facilities through two grant programmes. These are the 2002 Sports Capital Programme and the Local Authority Swimming Pool Programme 2000-2002. Both of these programmes are currently at review stage.

- *The 2002 Sports Capital Programme*

The 2002 Sports Capital Programme, which is funded from the proceeds of the National Lottery, provides funding to voluntary sporting and community organisations at local, regional and national level throughout the country towards the provision of sport and recreational facilities. This programme was primarily directed at voluntary and community organizations, including sports clubs. In certain circumstances, schools, colleges and local authorities were eligible for funding. National governing bodies of sport and third level institutions were eligible where it was evident that the proposed facility would contribute to the regional and/or national sporting infrastructure. Eligibility criteria are outlined in the guidelines, terms and conditions for the information of applicants. Funding relates only to capital works. The maximum grant available for local and regional facilities was 70% and 50% respectively. In the case of disadvantaged areas, the maximum grant available was 80% of the capital cost.

The Department is currently preparing a review of the operational programme which will include a review of the criteria for funding allocation and an assessment of funding options, including public private partnerships.

- *The Local Authority Swimming Pool Programme (2000-2002)*

The Local Authority Swimming Pool Programme (2000-2002) is funded by the Exchequer. Grants of up to €3.8m are available towards both the refurbishment of existing pools and the provision of new pools, subject in both cases to the total grant not exceeding 80% of the cost of the project or, in the case of projects located in designated disadvantaged areas, 90% of the cost.

9.2 Management and Human Resources

The potential for the development of an improved management structure for open space and amenity provision has been noted in the review of established sporting provision and the surveys / consultations that have taken place. In summary particular issues were noted including:

- Limited maintenance and provision of open spaces and amenity areas (particularly in local / neighbourhood locations).
- A tendency to develop large open spaces with little amenity value to the broad range of the population (e.g. they tend to only be suitable for informal kickabouts by young persons or are used on a semi-permanent basis by local sports clubs, particularly soccer clubs, without the benefit of dedicated changing areas)
- A tendency to promote the development of low maintenance spaces and amenity areas that offer limited urban amenity (e.g. Jame's Green in Kilkenny City); or fail to exploit established spaces.
- Development and improvement of open spaces and amenity areas on an "opportunity" basis rather than a programmed / systematic / funded basis.

The above challenges are not unusual in the Irish context as many Local Authorities, particularly those outside the City / Borough Councils have limited budgets to provide for a

Parks Departments that could be tasked with amenity space development while maintenance of established open spaces, while effective, tends to maintain the quality of the space rather than allow for its improvement and enhancement. However, the improvements outlined above will be dependent on suitable sources of funding being put in place to implement the recommendations.

The future management of open space areas has particular implications for the manner in which individual sections of the Local Authority manage open space areas, improve their design and use and plan for future provision.

9.2.1 Insurance Provision

The challenge of insurance provision is a significant issue on a number of levels as it affects:

- i. The provision of local play areas by the Local Authority.
- ii. The operation of established sports facilities by Local Authorities.
- iii. The operation of established sports facilities by Sports Clubs.

The payment of insurance has been identified as a significant problem in the provision of sports and amenity facilities by both the public and private sector. However, consultation with Local Government Insurance providers has identified that the provision of insurance, and the premiums charged, can be controlled through the effective management and monitoring of facilities.

- o *Local Authority Provisions*

In summary, the provision of new facilities to adopted EU standards and the upgrading of established facilities to those aforementioned standards will be necessary in order to address insurance challenges. However, an essential of addressing this challenge is the need for an effective inspection regime to be established, adopted and pursued whereby each local facility is inspected on a weekly basis to ensure that the facility is appropriately maintained and safe for operation. This has particular implications for Area Engineers and the local maintenance and management responsibilities.

An alternative approach that has been identified as a practical approach by a specific Local Authority and this approach could be considered in instances where older facilities or the cost of insurance are considered excessive; in essence a Council does not insure amenity facilities and instead contests each claim. This, along with the installation of newer facilities to EU standards, has proved cheaper than insurance in the long run.

- o Sports Clubs Provision

Through the development of new and improved facilities the potential for reduced insurance premiums has been identified. However, the payment of nominal sums by all club members or facility users is a reasonable requirement.

9.2.2 The Resources of the Local Authorities and Open Space Development

The development of additional amenity facilities and improved management of existing facilities has been recommended by the Volume 2 – Open Space Assessment of this Report. The improved management of existing open space facilities and the development of new facilities either solely by the Council or in conjunction with other local groups will require the development of a specific responsibility within the Council for Parks and Open Space provision and maintenance.

This can be achieved by both Local Authorities putting in place the appropriate financial and staffing resources to support any multi – agency approach providing for the development of open spaces, amenity areas and sports facilities where the Local Authorities have a key role in implementation.

This is considered vital in light of the following:

1. The development of Kilkenny City Environs as an increasingly 'urbanised' location.
2. The development of an increasing volume of residential units in the Kilkenny County area of Waterford Environs. This is particularly important in the Ferrybank and Sleiverue areas of Waterford City Environs.

The provision, management and maintenance of open spaces in these areas should have a specific budget allocation given the increasing importance of open space and amenity areas in light of the higher densities now generally sought by developers and encouraged by the Residential Density Guidelines. Any budget put in place for these areas will be subject to the overall availability of finance available to the Local authority at the time.

9.2.2.1 Amenity Provision as part of Housing Development

In Table 8.1, a range of amenity facilities that should be developed as part of housing developments were identified. This table, while proscriptive, does not address the potential for developers to provide sub-threshold developments to avoid the need for amenity development. As in the case of environmental impact assessment, the cumulative impact of a number of developments is an issue.

Having regard to this, the potential of developers to avoid the provision of sports and amenity facilities as part of housing developments by developing sub-threshold estates should be addressed by the requirement for a specific Development Contribution. This should be identified and required by the Council on a pro rata basis (per house / dwelling) to specifically provide sports pitches / play areas to meet the needs of a number of housing developments.

Any contribution sought in this respect should include the cost of land purchase, facility development, car parking provision, equipment provision and lighting where desirable. Specific areas where this contribution should be sought include:

- i. The Western Environs Areas of Kilkenny City.
- ii. All Zoned but undeveloped lands in the County Council areas of Kilkenny City Environs.
- iii. Ferrybank and all other residentially zoned development lands in Waterford City Environs.

Smaller charges should be considered in:

- iv. Callan
- v. Thomastown
- vi. Kilmacow
- vii. Castlecomer and
- viii. Graiguenamanagh

Charges accumulated in this fashion should be applied on the basis of expected cumulative development; an example of the calculation is set out below.

Open Space Calculation Example – Cumulative Development

*Ten developments of 20 houses each (within 2-3 miles of each other) –
Open Space Requirement on the Basis of Table 8.1*

- i. Development Contribution in lieu of Open Space or 2.4 hectares per 1,000 people (a minimum of 0.25 hectares must be provided)
- ii. Contribution towards the development of equipped public open space²¹ to include:

²¹ This would be a requirement for a 200 house development.

One full size grass sports pitch;
 One local Play area; and
 One court multi-use games area with Community association/club movement.

It is important that any sports pitches and facilities provided in this manner should be used for local community needs in the first instance and then secondly to provide for the needs of local sports clubs who require additional training facilities or playing areas where their own facilities are committed to use, over used, or unable to be expanded.

This is recommended as a result of the identified need for sports pitches in the Kilkenny area. However, the Facilities Planning Model assumes that the quality of a pitch deteriorates²² if more than 3 matches per week are played on any one facility. Having regard to this, all facilities developed pursuant to financial contributions obtained through planning permissions should be:

- retained in the ownership of the Council.
- allowed to be used by sports clubs on a booking (with fee) basis only.
- made available for public use at all other times.

9.2.3 Sports and Recreation Officer

In order to coordinate and develop sports and recreation provisions within the County the appointment of a Sports and Recreation Officer²³, preferably jointly between the Borough Council and County Council should be considered. Any such appointee should:

- i. Have a National Diploma/Degree in Leisure Management or Business Studies (Recreation and Leisure) or equivalent qualification.
- ii. An established experience and proven performance in leisure/recreation management.
- iii. Motivation and communication skills.
- iv. A working knowledge of the Planning Acts and the use of Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 in facilitating the development of open space and recreation facilities.
- v. A good knowledge of employment legislation and health and safety requirements.

Any appointee should have the following duties and responsibilities.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Coordinate financing opportunities.
- Overall management of recreation facilities provided by the Local Authorities within the county. This includes sports centres, swimming pools, athletics and other recreational areas in accordance with the policies of the Council.
- Promoting the use of facilities for local sports and community groups and conducting campaigns to ensure maximum usage with a view to promoting sports and leisure in the community.
- Securing sponsorship for events and maximising income in all facilities.
- Advising the Council regarding the need for additional facilities and with regard to general recreational policies.
- Ensuring that all facilities are adequately staffed and that all staff are adequately trained and equipped to carry out their duties.
- Ensuring that all facilities are secure, comply with health and safety requirements and are adequately insured at all times.

²² Depending on sport, season and pitch quality, e.g. drainage)

²³ This could be a joint role with the Local Sports Co-ordinator appointed by any Local Sports Partnership

- Ensuring that proper financial records in respect of each facility are maintained on a current basis.
- Preparation of annual estimates and reports for all recreational activities.
- Participate in Local Sports Partnership programmes.
- Implementation of a Strategic Plan for the promotion of recreation, both passive and active within the County.
- Overall management of Recreational Groups/Facilities.
- Identification of facilities for development with sporting clubs.

A key action of any appointed Sports and Recreation Officer should be the involvement of all clubs in the County in the identification of the capital investments necessary to attain a set of programmed improvements. Only through the identification of a set of specific improvements, ideally through a call for proposals, can the development / improvement of local / neighbourhood sports facilities be assisted through the use of Development Contributions under *Section 48* of the *Planning and Development Act 2000* (See Section 10 following). Where public access is not provided funding should be dependent on such access.

9.2.4 Reporting Structures

Under the County Council's new structure (BLG), any person appointed in this role should report to the Director of Services for Planning and Environment. A guide to a prospective reporting relationship can be obtained from a UK example based on the structure used in the London Borough Of Richmond Upon Thames. This (see Figures 9.5 to 9.6 overleaf) can be easily adapted to improve and develop improved sports and amenity provision in the County as a whole should a position such as a Sports and Amenity Officer be in place.

It is important that the overall improvement and development of the areas sports, recreation and amenity provision is carried out on a multi agency approach where by all agencies in the area recognise the role that they have in addressing unmet demands. The linkage and interrelationship between the Local Sports Partnership, County and Borough Councils and the role of local sporting bodies and clubs must be acknowledged as an important interface that must be carefully monitored.

Figure 9.5 – Departmental Structure of Leisure Services Department Of The London Borough Of Richmond Upon Thames

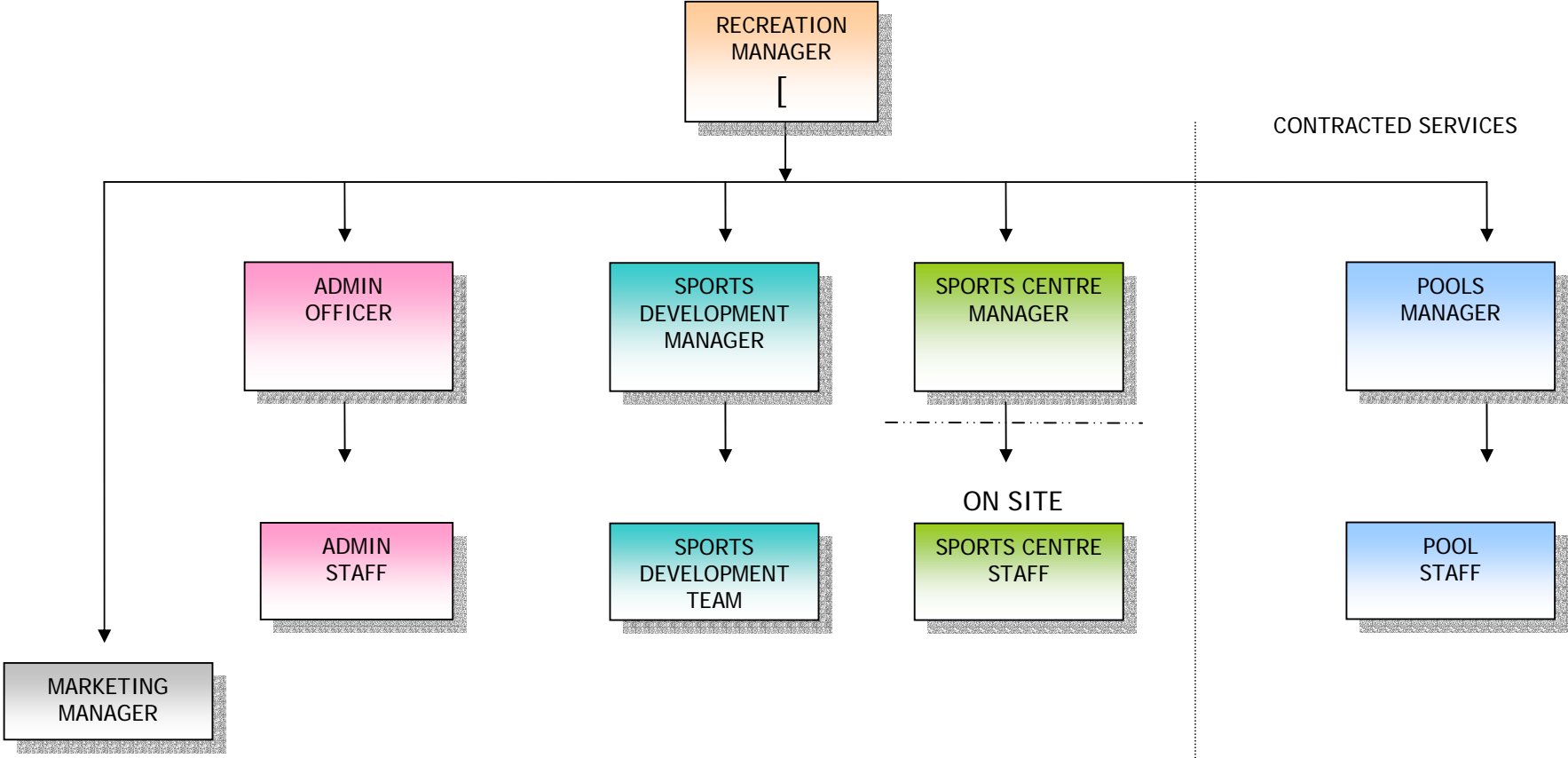
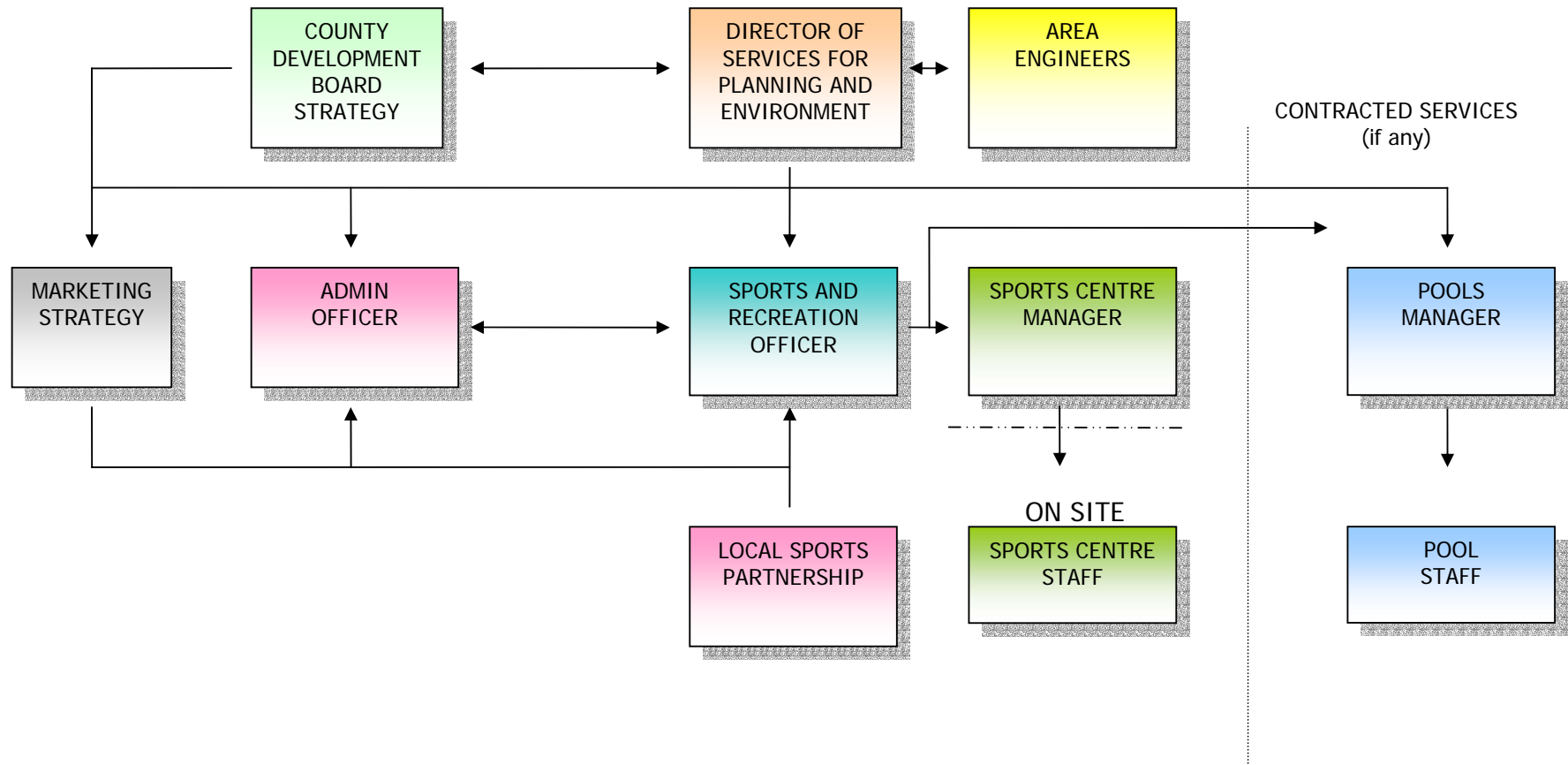


Figure 9.6 – Indicative Reporting Structure For Kilkenny County Council Sports and Recreation Officer Based On Findings From The London Borough Of Richmond Upon Thames



9.3 Implementation & Integration

Given the capital costs involved in improving the basic infrastructure of sports facilities throughout the County, the provision of improved facilities is present with particular challenges.

- Sports clubs, are often placed in a position where the development and improvement of their facilities is best achieved through either private donations or loans. This has particular implications for future use where non-club use can be restricted at peak times given the pressures that clubs themselves are under to provide for training, match and own membership use. This has the potential to limit the opportunities for non-club members to take part in sporting activities. The availability of facilities to public use is limited with many facilities either not affording any public use or only limited hours of use (Table 9.1)
- Educational facilities (existing sports clubs and educational facilities make up nearly 66 % of sporting facilities in the County – see Figure 6.2) are well placed to promote sports development in the community but are not well placed to promote the use of their facilities for after dark use at peak times likely to appeal to the public. This principally results from the difficulty in securing funding (from Central Government) for infrastructure, e.g. lighting, that would enable an extension of the hours of use outside school hours.
- The Counties Local Authorities do not generally have access to the lands necessary to develop active sports and amenity facilities. Nor do they have sufficient financial resources to acquire lands and develop such facilities independently. Furthermore, the desirability of developing facilities as an alternative to established community oriented facilities is equally questionable given the implications surrounding the dilution of resources and the sustainable use of lands.

Table 9.1 Use and Public Use Information

Times of Public Use	All % & Nos.		NK % & Nos.		SK % & Nos.		KC % & Nos.		Tipp % & Nos.		Laois % & Nos.		Carlow % & Nos.	
Not Open to the Public	48.4	119	49.3	36	46.9	45	43.6	17	42.1	8	71.4	5	66.7	8
Limited Hours	6.1	15	4.1	3	4.2	4	10.3	4	5.3	1	0.0	0	25.0	3
All Times (Day-Night)	11.8	29	9.6	7	10.4	10	17.9	7	15.8	3	14.3	1	8.3	1
Bookings	4.1	10	8.2	6	2.1	2	0.0	0	5.3	1	14.3	1	0.0	0
Other (Permit/Private/School Only)	2.8	7	2.7	2	4.2	4	2.6	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
Members Only	5.7	14	5.5	4	3.1	3	17.9	7	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
N/A	21.1	52	20.5	15	29.2	28	7.7	3	31.6	6	0.0	0	0.0	0
				73		96		39		19		7		12

Given the role that educational establishments and clubs have in the community, and their potential to fulfil public demands, and the desirability of concentrating investment in the areas and facilities in which returns on investment can be best ensured, specific consideration must be given to the establishment of 'Local Sports Advisory Boards' as proposed by Kilkenny VEC.

This approach is validated by the Department of Education who, in "*Strategies for the Future*", specifically in Strategy 4, paragraph 5, state that:

"Local Authorities will be encouraged and supported to develop strategic plans for sport and recreation, in partnership with local sports clubs and groups and interests which identify the sports facility requirements for their area"

This strategy in paragraph 7, further states that:

"A revision of the criteria and application process for funding of sports facilities will occur focusing on:

- o The preparation of quality information brochures outlining the planning and development process;*
- o Business planning and funding arrangements;*
- o Design and accessibility for women;*
- o Design and accessibility for people with a disability"*

The development of LSP is a practical option in the development of sports and amenity provision. Provision of sports halls in a majority of the survey areas in England and Scotland is often dependent on dual use arrangements between the Councils and Local Education Authorities who provide school facilities. Members of the public are able to make use of school facilities during the evenings, weekends and school holidays. A document entitled *"A Sporting Double; School and Community"* published by the Department of Education and Science in the UK provides guidance, helps local education authorities, school governors and head teachers introduce or extend dual use provision in their schools. Issues to be considered include accessibility, statutory requirements for school outdoor physical education, staff accommodation, caretaking, maintenance and security.

The sports generally available to the public through these agreements are aerobics, badminton, basketball, 5-a-side football, hockey, keep-fit, tennis and martial arts. This dual use is a valuable resource provision for sporting activities, especially in urban areas where there is a lack of open space to develop such activities.

In the UK management of these facilities is controlled centrally through the Council, although very close liaison is required with the schools to ensure school activities and public use do not clash. The most common policy for the management and provision of these facilities involves Council staff being employed on-site, both during school hours, and out of school hours. This enables bookings to be made directly to the school, and facilitates easy communication between the relevant school authorities and the council. While this approach may not be immediately practical in Ireland the principle of shared use of facilities is established and could be expanded.

This approach in the UK is very "hands on" and its success is evident through the increased provision of grants to improve and develop new facilities which are thus available to both the public and schools. For example, Preston Council received a grant, in conjunction with an education establishment, to develop a total of 12 pitches, including 5 soccer and 3 synthetic hockey pitches. The system gives day-time use of good quality facilities such as all-weather pitches, tennis courts, small swimming pools and better equipped sports halls to schools which would not otherwise be big enough to justify such facilities, even if they could be afforded.

Similar schemes are evident in Cork City at the Knocknaheeny, Tramore Road and Mayfield sports complexes. These facilities have become available through an arrangement between the Cork City Council and the Vocational Educational Committee.

A further example of co-operation in Ireland is that between the Belvedere Hockey Club and Ballincollig Community School in Co. Cork to provide a new all-weather pitch facility with floodlights. Development of the pitch was supported in past by a Department of Education grant. It is to be run by a joint Management committee under alternating chairmanship between the school and the hockey club. The provision of this type of facility available for public use is on a par with those comparable cities in England and Scotland, but this type of

partnership should be encouraged and further exploited. These pitches are particularly suitable to juvenile matches.

9.4 Targets

One of the objectives of the study was to identify a Strategic Action Plan covering 10 years, with 3 / 5 years targets highlighting potential joint initiatives. This includes advising on the level of service from Kilkenny Borough Council and Kilkenny County Council. While the level of service available from the Council will depend on the availability of funding and the implementation of staffing recommendations, a range of key objectives and targets are set out below for the coming years

9.4.1 Strategic Targets; Years 2002 – 2005

While not a definitive time table the following are key sets of recommendations and an indicative sequencing for their commencement. It is recommended that given the changing nature of sports participation, population change and facility provision that a plan, monitor and review process is adopted to allow sports facility provision to be monitored and assessed. In light of this a review period for implementation and planning has been identified for the period 2006 – 2009 (this should integrate with the County Development review process).

Yr 2003	Adopt Sports and Amenity Strategy
Yr 2003	Consider Ammending Development Plans to incorporate revised sports and recreation policies
Yr 2004	Identify and agree organisational changes necessary
Yr 2004	Appoint Sports and Recreation Officer
Yr 2004	Issue Calls For Proposals for Improvements
Yr 2004	Identify Capital infrastructure requirements
Yr 2004	Identify facilities in geographic areas of needs
Yr 2004	Identify Joint Initiatives
Yr 2004	Review Local Sports Advisory Board Locations and Progress
Yr 2005	Prepare / Revise Section 48 Development Contribution Scheme (on area basis if necessary)
Yr 2005	Review Local Sports Advisory Board Locations and Progress

9.4.2 Strategic Targets; Years 2006 – 2009

Yr 2006	Review Staffing and Organisational Arrangements for Implementation
Yr 2006	Review implementation of County, District and Neighbourhood facility development.
Yr 2006	Review Local Sports Advisory Board Locations and Progress
Yr 2007	Review Amenity provision as part of housing development.
Yr 2007	Commence review of sports and amenity facility development as part of the County Development Plan Review Process.
Yr 2007	Review Local Sports Advisory Board Locations and Progress
Yr 2008	Review expenditure and infrastructure requirements
Yr 2008	Review Local Sports Partnership
Yr 2008	Review Local Sports Advisory Board Locations and Progress
Yr 2009	Review joint initiatives and management of opens spaces
Yr 2009	Review funding arrangements
Yr 2009	Review Local Sports Advisory Board Locations and Progress

10.0 PROPOSALS

10.1 Issues Arising

From the survey and assessment of the sports and amenity provision in the County it is clear that the three key organisations that have a role in amenity provision at all levels throughout the County. These are the:

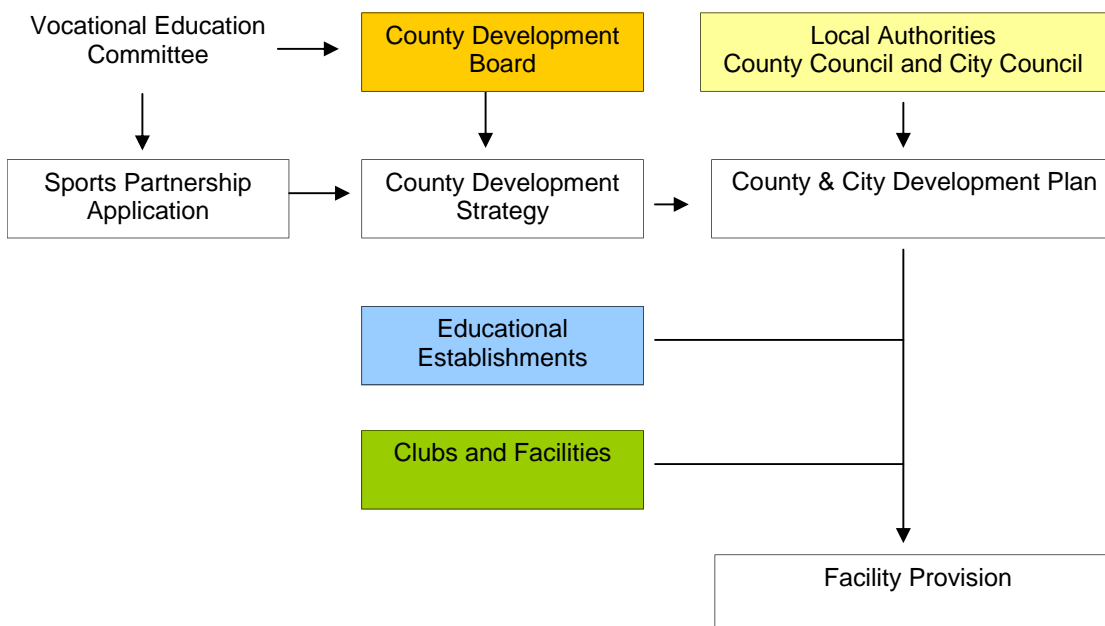
- Local Authorities
- Schools & Educational Establishments
- Sports Clubs

It is clear that while there are many facilities throughout the County, that most can be effectively characterised as basic facilities, providing a playing area at best and little in the way of car parking, appropriate changing facilities or lighting or after-dark opportunities, when peak demands occur in all areas of the County.

10.2 County Issues

While specific recommendations for the strategic provision of sports and amenity facilities are set out in the following sections, the provision of sports, amenity and recreation facilities for both passive and active participants must be framed in the context of a hierarchy of statutory bodies and plans.

Figure 10.1 Plan Hierarchy



10.3 Recommended Locations for Development of Sports and Amenity Facilities

From Section 7.4 it was clear that there are areas of need within the County that require the development of additional and / or improved recreational facilities.

While Section 9.0 has identified a strategy for funding, management and implementation of sports and amenity facilities, the future geographical location of amenity facilities will also be important. In determining the location for such facilities regard must be had to a range of issues including:

1. The proposed 'hierarchy' of provision of facilities (Section 8.3.1)

2. The proposed 'protocol' for the development of facilities (Section 8.3.1.2)
3. The established facilities on the ground with good public access and a community service ethos.
4. Also considered were the stated reasons identified in surveys for non-participation in sporting / amenity activities (see Appendix A). In general, the main category for non participation in sporting activities suggested that a lack of time was a major issue. This can be addressed by providing more local facilities closer to population centres and the likely areas of demand (rather than developing larger facilities).

These, along with the identified hierarchy of settlements outside of Kilkenny City (as identified in the County Development Board Rural Transport Audit – see Figure 10.2 below) have framed the following recommendations for the development of facilities that are;

- a) Likely to fulfil a role in the hierarchy of sports facilities.
- b) Located so as to provide a good geographical spread of provision.
- c) Suitable (available) for development

Figure 10.2 Hierarchy of Settlements in County Kilkenny as Extracted From the CDB Rural Transport Audit

A	B	C	D		
Kilkenny Waterford*		Thomaslow New Ross*	Castlecomer Callan Graigueamanagh Mooncoin Ballyragget Piltown Urlingford	Kilmacow Gowran Johnstown Goresbridge Sleeverue Freshford Bennettsbridge	Mullinavat Clogh Inistioge Kilmoganny Paulstown Mooneenoe
<p>Note: Towns are categorised from A, to D. Category A denotes county towns; Category B denotes towns of population > 5,000; Category C denotes towns of population 1,500-4,999; and Category D towns of population <1,500. The higher the category the broader the array of services/functions that becomes available. The hierarchy is broadly based on the population of towns as per the 1996 census.</p> <p>*Part of the suburbs of these towns lie within Co. Kilkenny</p>					

10.3.1. Development Locations

Potential Regional Scale Facilities

Kilkenny is effectively competing for Waterford City for a potential role as a regional sports centre. While Kilkenny appears to have a better geographical location and does for some sports draw individuals long distances to train and participate (e.g. rugby), this appears related more to matters of personal choice rather than any established sporting excellence.

Within the County there is no location that has the potential to compete with or challenge the developing infrastructure in Waterford for any potential designation as a regional facility and the designation of Waterford as a Gateway in the NSS is likely to further hamper any such challenge.

It is noted that while the recommended catchment for a Regional Facility is 50 - 75 kms the potential exists for the development of sub regional facilities at the extremes of the catchment. This would be particularly true in the case of Kilkenny City where a facility located there would be capable of serving a wider hinterland stretching up to the midlands if necessary.

City /County (Sub County) Scale Facilities – See Figure 10.3

Kilkenny City and Environs

While ideally, the development of a City / County level facility should be located on one individual campus, there exists in Kilkenny City and its environs, the potential to develop a number of established and proposed sporting facilities, as a City / County or possible as a Sub Regional facility where an integrated management / development / marketing plan is initiated.

Figure 10.3

It is recommended that Scanlon Park, the proposed new swimming pool development and any future development on sports and amenity zoned lands in the Western Environs are developed to provide a complementary range of sporting and amenity facilities. Of these facilities / locations, Scanlon Park is most in need of redevelopment / improvement. While an effective, well built, well run and well located facility which has the capacity to cater for a wide range of needs is constrained by its physical location which leaves limited opportunities for expansion. However, there are areas that could be formally laid out as car parking or investigated as suitable locations for;

- i. improved changing areas,
- ii. childcare areas,
- iii. a public gym,
- iv. Indoor halls,
- v. Restaurant / food area.



Marketing Amenity Facilities – Tralee, Co. Kerry

In surveys of Scanlon Park it was noted that the facility had limited usage during weekdays but in common with many facilities was heavily booked at peak times

(weekday evenings and weekends). The potential for these facilities to cater for a broader range of activities throughout the day must not be ignored. The development of improved indoor facilities at a facility such as Scanlon Park has the potential to cater for particular interest groups that are otherwise under provided for including:

- a) OAPS and the active retired (short mat bowling for example).
- b) Hall activities (Yoga Classes for example).
- c) Disabled / Mentally Impaired Activity groups. Many individuals who are mentally impaired or disabled have limited opportunities to access facilities; particularly at peak times when able bodied individuals dominate bookings. In the surveys of facilities carried out no participants were found to have special needs. This does not mean that there is no demand from special needs individuals for amenities. It is more likely to mean that suitable recreation and amenity facilities are not provided. It is an objective of the study that all individuals should be catered for, not just the able bodied.

Transportation Issues – Kilkenny City and Environs

It has been noted that the private vehicle is the primary means of transport to sporting / amenity facilities. The development of an integrated approach linking Scanlon Park, the proposed Waterbarrack development and any potential development in Western Environs should also have regard to the potential to develop a local bus link (feeder / hopper bus) route between all facilities. While it is noted that many sporting facilities are served principally by private vehicle, the potential for increased public transport and a more sustainable approach must be evaluated. The potential viability of such a service should be investigated however as surveys have demonstrated only one sporting activity is carried out at one time and the potential of someone to use playing pitch and then a swimming pool in two different locations maybe limited. However, at the very worst, such a service would provide a means of access for much of the population without access to a private car to a sporting facility.

Kilkenny County

Thomastown

The potential exists for the development of a Sub – County level facility in Thomastown. As an urban location (identified as a Category C urban location in the CDB Rural Transport Audit – See Figure 10.2) the town is well located on the National Road network with good access to settlements such as New Ross, Graiguenamanagh and Ballyhale and as a home to Grennan College has the potential to be developed in association with Kilkenny VEC (lands have been identified for development of amenity facilities if appropriate funding is forthcoming).

Castlecomer

While only identified as a Category D settlement in the CDB Rural Transport Audit (See Figure 10.2), the potential exists for the development of a Sub – County level sports and amenity facility, either as a stand alone facility or through the improvement and enhancement of existing facilities (such as Castlecomer Community School where specific improvement works have been identified by the School). The development of additional facilities in Castlecomer, or the improvement of existing facilities should be achieved through the development of a Local Sports Advisory Board. As the Community School is not a VEC (Scheme) facility the development and integration of the school should be encouraged, or an alternative development opportunity encouraged by any appointed *Sports and Recreation Officer*.

Ferrybank

The development of additional sports and amenity facilities in the environs of Waterford City (that are within Kilkenny County) is a particularly challenging issue given the fact that sports demands are as likely to be satisfied by facilities provided in Waterford City and Environs as within Kilkenny County.

Irrespective of this the provision of additional facilities in the Waterford City area is considered desirable in the interests of promoting the development of a sufficient volume of amenity facilities suitable to meet the needs of the population likely to develop within the Co. Kilkenny area. The VEC school at Ferrybank is a potentially suitable location for the development of improved amenity facilities. This is a new facility with a wide range of amenity facilities available however, an extension to the operating hours can be achieved particularly with the development of additional floodlighting.

Other specific recommendations for the Ferrybank area (other than the provision of amenity spaces in line with the recommendations of Table 8.1 or the development of the Ferrybank VEC as the nucleus of a Sub-County amenity facility) include the provision of a NEAP (Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play) in the region of 20 – 40 acres.

The amenity zoned lands bridging the N25 in this area appear to satisfy this requirement. This is a minimum requirement. The provision of parking facilities on the proposed park / amenity lands close to the N25 should be considered (these may in the long term offer some service as 'park and ride' locations. It is important that:

- a) All the development proposals in the area should aim to provide for integration between the open space areas running north – south across the N25.
- b) 4 - 5 acres of playing fields should be provided within the NEAP (a playing pitch should be 1 acre in area; this 1 acre area should not include adjacent facilities such as basketball courts etc.). These should be dispersed throughout the NEAP area so that any particular field is within 400 metres of a large housing estate or development area. Again this is a minimum requirement.

- c) A centrally located changing facility within the NEAP should be considered. A special contribution under Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 should be applied.
- d) All developments should provide for linkage between the green spaces.
- e) Development proposals in the region of, or over 200 houses, should be requested to provide 1 playing pitch (1 acre), 1 basketball court / hard surface shared play area and 1 no. fully equipped children's play area per 200 houses as a minimum where they are not contributing lands towards the NEAP (this should be requested where the area controlled by developers do not include Open Space zoned lands that may ordinarily be considered part of the emerging public amenity infrastructure). This should be considered in addition to the Development Plan OS standards although consideration should be given to relaxing these standards where good design and layout of amenity spaces is provided. Consideration should be given to lighting these areas or requesting that developers of the estate put the ducting in place to provide for lighting at a later date.
- f) Where developers propose development which includes zoned open space lands that may be deemed part of emerging parkland areas a developer will be required to provide a contribution towards the cost of developing the park land; such a contribution will be related to the volume of development proposed. Where a development can provide an area of public open space towards the development of a larger park area²⁴, the transfer of lands may be accepted instead of a development contribution.
- g) Any children's play area proposed within a housing development should be located so as to be in an observed location, within reasonable walking distance of the maximum number of houses (400 metres). If a significant number of properties are located more than 400 metres from a proposed play area, consideration should be given to requesting the provision of an additional play area in a location which ensures that the maximum population is served.
- h) Any sports facilities developed in the recommended NEAP area should compliment the facilities developed in *Ferrybank Community College* and on an operational basis should be managed in a fashion similar to the integrated approach recommended for the facilities located in Kilkenny City and its environs (Scanlon Park, the proposed Waterbarrack development and any future developments in the Kilkenny City Western Environs area.

District Scale Facilities – See Figure 10.4

Resource allocation in the key areas should, if possible, be targeted towards the development of City / County (Sub County) level facilities. Additional recreational needs in these areas should also be provided through the development of sports facilities as part of housing developments in order to provide for the high demand for sports pitches identified anecdotally by the surveys of clubs and through the modelling process offered by the FPM.

The provision of facilities at a District / Neighbourhood level through residential developments has already been considered in Section 9.2.2.1. However, given the catchment areas identified in Figure 10.3, the opportunity also exists for the development of additional District Facilities in North and South Kilkenny areas. These are identified in Figure 10.4.

Appropriate locations include:

- o Piltown
- o IGraiguenamanagh

²⁴ In association with other developers / developments or where the lands can be 'attached' to an existing public park area.

- Johnstown
- Callan

All of these locations, and their catchments, are geographically separate from surrounding major urban settlements and the provision of a district level facility in these areas would contribute to the development of sports and amenity provision.

Neighbourhood Facilities

Neighbourhood facilities should be developed on the basis of the criteria set out in Table 8.1 and the Facility Development Protocol set out in Section 8.3.1.2. No specific locations have been identified for the development of neighbourhood facilities although there are a wide range of locations identified in Volume Two of this Report that are suitable for the development of neighbourhood amenity facilities. These facilities should in general be prioritised for development in DED's with an increasing population.

Figure 10.4

In rural areas where, the development of facilities of the scale suggested in Table 8.4 may not be possible due to the availability of lands or insufficient funds, all efforts should be made to ensure that:

- i. Existing facilities are improved.
- ii. Public Halls / Parochial Halls are improved and made more accessible.
- iii. The development of additional recreational facilities adjoining local schools is encouraged.
- iv. The provision of improved facilities at local clubs is encouraged (along with improved public access)
- v. That local play spaces are provided.
- vi. That existing amenity space is retained free from development.

The possibility exists that many of the established sports and amenity clubs / facilities throughout the County could be developed to form the basis of a Neighbourhood Facility. In surveys of facilities it was generally found that the vast majority of sports facilities only provided for 1-3 sports (generally a primary sport, most usually a pitch sport, with a secondary hall or hard surface area that could be used for a number of activities). Only in very rare instances did sports and amenity facilities (or educational facilities) provide for more than 2-3 sports.

Having regard to this, and the low distances travelled to clubs throughout the County by individuals, the Council should investigate the development of Neighbourhood facilities at locations where there are established sports clubs. This action should be prioritised in rural locations where established sports clubs represent a positive local focus. However, where the development of new facilities at existing facilities is assisted by the Council through funding or land acquisition, the additional facilities must be made available for:

- i. Public use
- ii. Other sports (e.g. multi-use of additional community oriented facilities such as pitches should be encouraged, GAA, Soccer etc.)
- iii. The use and operation of any such facility should be monitored by any appointed Sports and Recreation Officer or any relevant department in the Council.

Appendix A - Sports and Recreation Policy of the Kilkenny County Development Plan

The following text is extracted from the Council Development Plan

The Council is committed to the protection and sustainable development of the amenities of the County for recreational purposes to the benefit of residents of the County as well as the promotion of Tourism.

The Council will endeavour to make provision for a hierarchy of parks open spaces and outdoor recreation areas within the County so that the population can participate in a wide range of active and passive recreational pursuits within easy reach of their homes and places of work.

The prerogative to maintain and enhance existing open space, sport and recreational facilities as well as providing new facilities permeates all levels of national planning advice.

(a) The National Development Plan

The benefits of a healthy population are identified in the National Development Plan and funds are allocated for provision of physical infrastructure for recreation in deprived urban and rural areas.

(b) Sustainable development A Strategy for Ireland

The principle of sustainability and encouragement to all forms of sustainable development underline the Dept. of the Environment and Local Government's approach to planning. Providing opportunities for people to participate in sport and in a wide range of formal and informal recreation activities should where ever possible be available for everyone, including the elderly, young children and those with disabilities for whom access to facilities is especially important.

(c) Parks Policy for Local Authorities (1987)

This document identifies that a co-ordinated approach to the provision of public parks and outdoor recreation areas is necessary if public demand is to be adequately catered for and if maximum value is to be obtained from the limited resources available.

(d) Targeting Sporting Change in Ireland

This document sets out a clear blueprint for the development of Irish sport with regard to facilities. A Strategic goal is the provision of quality sports facilities in the right place at the right time.

(e) Residential Density Guidelines for Planning Authorities

Permeating through the guidelines is the concept that achievement of higher densities must be coupled with a higher standard of residential environment and thus the provision of higher quality public and communal open space.

The Council recognises that the countryside has an important function in providing outdoor recreational facilities not only for the population of the County but also for visitors and tourists. It is recognised that the provision of tourist facilities is an integral part of the provision of outdoor recreational facilities in the countryside and that the two types of demand are not necessarily the same.

5.1.1 Policy:

Drawing from the relevant National guidelines and the provisions and experience of the previous development plan the following will form the Councils policy objectives.

Provision of Facilities Generally

It will be the policy of the Council to co-operate with local development organisations, community groups, the Co. Kilkenny Vocational Educational Committee, and others in the development of recreational facilities throughout the County and to enter into joint venture arrangements where appropriate for the provision of such facilities.

Protection of Open Space

It will be the policy of the Council not to permit development which would result in the loss of public or private playing fields, parks, children's play space amenity open space or zoned land for recreational or open space purposes. An exception may be considered where the following requirements are met and demonstrable:

- There is a clear excess of playing fields or open space provision within the area. This should take into account the long term needs of the community, the type and recreational and amenity value of such provision.
- Alternative provision is made which is both accessible and of equal or greater quality and benefit to the community.
- The retention or enhancement of the facility can best be achieved by the redevelopment of a small part of the site that will not affect its sporting, recreation or amenity value.
- The site is indicated for an alternative use in the development plan.

Open Space in New Residential Development

The Council will require the provision of open space to the following minimum standard:

2.4 hectares per 1,000 population (circa 25 dwellings or greater) (see Development Control Section)

- A lesser standard of provision may be acceptable in urban development or redevelopment schemes where open space is already available with relatively high densities such as flats townhouses or apartments, but should generally still amount to at least 10% of the total site area.
- Open space provision for smaller residential developments and schemes catering for special groups such as accommodation for the elderly or single persons will be considered on merit.
- Developers may also be required to provide an equipped children's playground in association with open space provision where a development scheme would be greater than 800 meters from an existing easily accessible equipped children's playground.
- Developers will be required to make suitable provision for the future management and maintenance of open space required under this policy.

Outdoor Recreation in the Countryside

The Council will normally permit development proposals for outdoor recreational use in the countryside where all the following criteria are met:

- It will not result in damage to sites of nature conservation importance or features of the archaeological and built heritage;
- It will not result in the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land;
- It will not cause harm to the appearance and character of the local landscape and can be readily absorbed into its surroundings by taking advantage of existing vegetation and /or topography;
- The amenity of the people living nearby or the enjoyment of other countryside users is not adversely affected by the nature, scale, extent, frequency or timing of the recreational activities proposed including any noise likely to be generated;
- Any ancillary built development is small in scale, designed to a high standard and sympathetic to the surrounding environment in its siting, layout and landscape treatment.
- Consideration is given to access to the proposed facility by means of transport other than the private car and;
- The local road network can safely handle the extra traffic the proposal would generate and satisfactory arrangements are provided for access, parking, drainage, litter and sewage.

The Council is aware of the considerable recreational potential which is available in the mountain, hill areas and river valleys both in the county and just outside its borders. The council will co-operate with the adjoining Authorities and with other interested parties such as Bord Failte, An Taisce, mountaineering, game clubs, and other appropriate organisations to protect the potential of these areas and to carry out appropriate developments as and when resources permit. Such developments would comprise the laying out of walks, bridle paths, access points to streams and lakes, new access roads and car parks, lay-byes and picnic sites, climbing huts and hostels.

Intensive Sports Facilities

The Council will normally only permit development proposals for intensive sports facilities where these are located within settlements and provided all of the following criteria are met:

- It will not have any direct impact on residential amenity; It is located so as to be accessible to the catchment population and gives priority to walking , cycling and public transport and does not generate unacceptable levels of traffic;
- It is designed so as to minimise the impact of noise and light pollution; There is no significant detrimental impact on the natural environment or features of the archaeological and built heritage;
- The proposal is of a high quality design and respects and contributes to the character of its location and townscape and the proposal is compatible with development plan zonings.

Noise Generating Sports

Where development proposals for sport or recreational uses generating high levels of noise are proposed permission will be considered where the following criteria are met:

- The proposal will not cause an unacceptable level of disturbance to local residents.
- The proposal will not cause an unacceptable level of disturbance to farm live stock and wildlife.
- The proposal will not conflict with enjoyment of areas used for informal recreation. The ambient noise level in the area is already high and the tone of noise produced by the new activity will not be dominant.

Development associated with water sports

The Council will normally only permit proposals for development associated with water sports adjacent to inland lakes and waterways where all of the following criteria are met:

- The proposed facilities are compatible with any existing use of the water, including non recreational uses;
- It will not result in damage to sites of nature conservation importance or features of the archaeological and built heritage.
- The development can be satisfactorily integrated into its landscape or townscape surroundings;
- The development will not have an unacceptable impact on visual amenity especially in Areas of Special Amenity, or other locally important scenic areas; and The development will not result in over intensification of use leading to pollution, excessive noise and nuisance.

The floodlighting of Recreational Facilities

The Council will normally only permit proposals for the floodlighting of recreational facilities where the amenities of adjacent residents will not be significantly impaired and the visual amenity and character of the locality will not be adversely affected.

Development Levies for Sports and Recreation facilities

The Council will continue to levy a sum of money from each housing unit proposed to go to the provision of public open space. A separate fund will be set up to assist in the provision and development of open space and recreational facilities throughout the City and County.

Appropriate levels of Sports and Recreation Provision

It will be the policy of the Council to ensure that developers be required to make provision for sport and recreational infrastructure commensurate with the needs of their developments as an integral element of their proposals. Such provision should include direct provision on or off site or a development levy to enable the Council to make appropriate alternative provision.

It will be Council's policy to maximise the use of resources. The appropriate standards are detailed in the development Control section of the Plan.

5.1.2 Objectives

1. During the period of the Plan it is an objective of the Council to prepare a detailed recreation study of the County dealing with the quantitative and qualitative aspects of recreation within the County and setting out a strategy for the future provision of recreational facilities within the County.

2. It is an objective of the Council in conjunction with Kilkenny Corporation to develop a new swimming pool on a suitable site within Kilkenny City and its environs. A feasibility study has been carried out and the site selection process is underway at present.

Appendix B - Participation In Outdoor And Indoor Sports Throughout The County And In Adjoining Areas Of Tipperary, Laois And Carlow

Kilkenny City Area

Those Participating in General Sports

Table B.1 General Sports

Sport	Last 4 weeks	Last 12 months	Ave. no.	Members
Walking (2+miles)	49.8	3.7	15.76	0.9
Swimming in a traditional pool	21.3	5.1	6.89	19.2
Golf (excluding practice indoors)	13.5	1.9	5.99	78.2
Football (11-a-side)	8.5	0.4	7.53	46
Cycling	6.4	1.5	10.2	
Tennis / Short Tennis (outdoor)	4.1	1.1	5.99	71.3
Hurling	4	0.5	8.12	53.5
Running / jogging	2.9	0.7	8.03	4.4
Snooker / Billiards / Pool	2.8	1.2	6.37	2.7
Hockey (outdoor)	2.7	0.6	6.76	17.5
Rugby	2.4	0.4	9.68	42.4
Swimming– in a leisure pool/with a flume chute wave machine	2	2.9	6.84	69.2
Football (5-a-side) – outdoor	1.6	1.2	6.14	27.7
Hill Walking / climbing / mountaineering	1.5	0.8	8.31	13.1
Camogie	1.5	0.4	10.22	74.9
Horse riding	1.3	0.7	11.78	9.6
Gaelic Football	1.2	0.2	6.84	26.7
Dancing excluding in a hall or studio	1.1	0.6	3.91	11.9
Sailing & other water sports	0.9	0.6	1.43	10.3
Squash	0.9	0.4	9.16	12.4
Ten pin bowling	0.8	2.1	1.76	0
Skateboarding	0.6	0.1	13	0
Handball	0.5	0.1	4.78	23.8
Swimming – outdoor	0.4	0.4	6.81	14.9
Athletics (outdoor)	0.4	0.3	7.82	14.1
Pitch n Putt	0.3	0.9	3	14.9
Fishing / Angling	0.3	0.8	8.28	23.9
Bowls (excluding short mat bowling)	0.1	0.5	3	0
Roller skating (outdoor)	0.1	0.4	4	0
Basketball	0.1	0.3	4	0
Ski-ing		0.4		
Volleyball (outdoor)		0.2		
Cricket		0.1		
Netball (outdoor)		0.1		
Ice Skating				
Archery (outdoor)				

Table B.1 identifies the percentage of people who have taken part in an activity in the last 4 weeks and the percentage of people who haven't taken part in the last 4 weeks but have taken part in the last 12 months. Those who had taken part in a sport in the last four weeks were also asked on how many occasions during the past month they had taken part in the

sport. The average number of times is presented in the table. These people were also asked to indicate whether or not they are members of a club for that particular sport.

Participating in Indoor Sports

Table B.2 Indoor sports

Sport	Last 4 weeks	Last 12 months	Ave. no.	Members
Use of mutigym / weight training	7.4	1.6	8.65	66.1
Fitness activities (e.g. aerobics, circuit training, Yoga)	5	1	6.75	59.1
4 or 5 a-side football (indoor)	2.1	0.7	6.41	34.4
Movement inc. Dance	2	0.4	4.71	49.7
Martial arts	1.5	0.3	5.12	34.6
Badminton	1.4	0.7	7.17	76.8
Basketball	0.5	0.9	4.69	27.1
Hockey (indoor)	0.4	0.3	12.21	69.9
Weight – lifting	0.4	0.2	3.33	59.5
Judo	0.4		14.94	69.9
Golf	0.3	0.1	8	50
Handball	0.3		4	50
Hurling (indoor)	0.2	0.4	4	22.4
Archery (indoor)		0.3		
Fencing		0.3		
Tennis / Short Tennis (indoor)		0.3		
Volley ball (indoor)		0.3		
Netball (indoor)		0.1		
Shortmat bowling		0.1		
Trampolining		0.1		
Wrestling		0.1		
Camogie (indoor)		0.1		
Athletics (indoor)				
Boxing				
Gymnastics				
Roller skating (indoor)				
Table Tennis				

Table B.2 illustrates that in general indoor sports are less popular than general sports. This however, may mean that the indoor sports that are sought are not available.

Respondents were also asked to compare how often they participated in hall sports now with 12 months ago. Over one in five (21.1%) stated that they play halls sports less often than they did 12 months ago; nearly one in ten (8.7%) said they take part in hall sports more often; 65.4% said it's about the same; and 4.9% didn't know.

Those who indicated participating in less hall sports now than 12 months ago were asked why this was so. The responses can be categorised as follows:

Table B.3 Reason for participating in hall sports less often

Reason	Percentage
Lack of time	39.5
Poor health, injury, or old age	28.2
No interest	11.2

No access to facilities	8.1
Prohibitively expensive	3.3
Other	9.7

Future Participation in General Sports

Respondents were asked to indicate how likely they were to take up any of the sports mentioned in Table B.1 in the near future. The choice of responses were as follows: very likely, quite likely, not very likely, not at all likely, and don't know. Some sports did not receive any very likely or quite likely responses and therefore do not appear in the table below. The percentage of people who are likely (either very or quite) to take up a particular sport in the near future can be seen in Table B.4.

Table B.4 Future Participation In General Sports

Sport	Very likely	Quite likely	Very or quite likely
Swimming in a traditional pool	10.2	8.3	18.5
Ten pin bowling	8.2	6.3	14.5
Walking (2+miles)	11.1	3.1	14.2
Swimming– in a leisure pool/with a flume chute wave machine	6.4	5.6	12
Golf (excluding practice indoors)	3.4	1.1	4.5
Football (11-a-side)	2.3	1.4	3.7
Cycling	1.8	1.6	3.4
Football (5-a-side) – outdoor	1.4	1.2	2.6
Snooker / Billiards / Pool	2.1	0.4	2.5
Dancing excluding in a hall or studio	1.1	1.2	2.3
Hurling	1	1.2	2.2
Running / jogging	0.7	1.5	2.2
Tennis / Short Tennis (outdoor)	0.9	1.2	2.1
Horse riding	1.4	0.7	2.1
Squash	1	0.7	1.7
Bowls (excluding short mat bowling)	0.6	1	1.6
Ice Skating	1.2	0.3	1.5
Hockey (outdoor)	0.9	0.6	1.5
Hill Walking / climbing / mountaineering	0.6	0.7	1.3
Skateboarding	0.1	0.9	1
Basketball	0.8	0.1	0.9
Swimming – outdoor	0.5	0.3	0.8
Pitch n Putt	0.1	0.7	0.8
Volleyball (outdoor)	0.1	0.7	0.8
Camogie	0.4	0.1	0.5
Fishing / Angling	0.3	0.2	0.5
Gaelic Football	0.3	0.1	0.4
Handball	0.3	0.1	0.4
Sailing & other water sports	0.2	0.2	0.4
Roller skating (outdoor)		0.4	0.4
Athletics (outdoor)	0.2	0.1	0.3
Rugby		0.3	0.3
Netball (outdoor)	0.1		0.1
Archery (outdoor)		0.1	0.1

Future Participation in Indoor Sports

Respondents were also asked to indicate how likely they were to take up any of the sports mentioned in Table B.2 in the near future. Again, the choice of responses were: very likely, quite likely, not very likely, not at all likely, and don't know. The percentage of people who are likely (either very or quite) to take up a particular indoor sport in the near future can be seen in Table B.5.

Table B.5 Future Participation In General Sports

Sport	Very likely	Quite likely	Very or quite likely
Use of mutigym / weight training	3.5	4.2	7.7
Fitness activities (e.g. aerobics, circuit training, Yoga)	2.6	4.6	7.2
Badminton	1.6	2	3.6
4 or 5 a-side football (indoor)	1.4	1.1	2.5
Martial arts	0.6	1.8	2.4
Movement inc. Dance	0.7	1.4	2.1
Basketball	1	0.5	1.5
Table Tennis	0.4	0.6	1
Weight – lifting		0.8	0.8
Shortmat bowling	0.3	0.4	0.7
Hockey (indoor)	0.1	0.6	0.7
Tennis / Short Tennis (indoor)		0.7	0.7
Golf	0.6		0.6
Boxing		0.6	0.6
Hurling (indoor)	0.2	0.1	0.3
Judo	0.1	0.2	0.3
Gymnastics	0.3		0.3
Roller skating (indoor)	0.1		0.1
Trampolining	0.1		0.1
Handball		0.1	0.1

Co Tipperary SR

Participating in General Sports - Co Tipperary SR

Table B.6 General sports

Sport	Last 4 weeks	Last 12 months	Ave. no.	Members
Walking (2+miles)	30.6		10.34	0
Swimming– in a leisure pool/with a flume chute wave machine	18.3		7.52	75
Hurling	11.6		4	50
Swimming – outdoor	11.6		4	0
Football (11-a-side)	5.8		5	0
Squash	5.8		12	100
Golf (excluding practice indoors)	3.6		1	0
Pitch n Putt		3.9		
Cricket		3.9		
Ice Skating		3.9		
Athletics (outdoor)				
Running / jogging				
Football (5-a-side) – outdoor				
Rugby				
Camogie				
Gaelic Football				
Hockey (outdoor)				
Tennis / Short Tennis (outdoor)				
Swimming in a traditional pool				
Sailing & other water sports				
Fishing / Angling				
Handball				
Ski-ing				
Hill Walking / climbing / mountaineering				
Cycling				
Bowls (excluding short mat bowling)				
Ten pin bowling				
Snooker / Billiards / Pool				
Dancing excluding in a hall or studio				
Horse riding				
Archery (outdoor)				
Netball (outdoor)				
Roller skating (outdoor)				
Volleyball (outdoor)				
Skateboarding				
Basketball				

Table B.6 presents the percentage of people who have taken part in an activity in the last 4 weeks and the percentage of people who haven't taken part in the last 4 weeks but have in the last 12 months. Those who had taken part in a sport in the last four weeks were also asked on how many occasions during the past month had they taken part in the sport. The average number of times is presented in the table. These people were also asked to indicate whether or not they are members of a club for that particular sport.

Participating in Indoor Sports - Co Tipperary SR

Table B.7 Indoor sports

Sport	Last 4 weeks	Last 12 months	Ave. no.	Members
Use of mutigym / weight training	27.6		7	100
Fitness activities (e.g. aerobics, circuit training, Yoga)	18.2		7.04	75
Boxing		4.4		
4 or 5 a-side football (indoor)		4.4		
Archery (indoor)				
Athletics (indoor)				
Badminton				
Basketball				
Fencing				
Gymnastics				
Handball				
Hockey (indoor)				
Martial arts				
Movement inc. Dance				
Netball (indoor)				
Roller skating (indoor)				
Shortmat bowling				
Table Tennis				
Tennis / Short Tennis (indoor)				
Trampolining				
Volley ball (indoor)				
Weight – lifting				
Wrestling				
Judo				
Golf				
Hurling (indoor)				
Camogie (indoor)				

Table B.7 illustrates that in general indoor sports are less popular than general sports. This could be because people prefer general sports or because the indoor facilities they require are not available.

Respondents were asked to compare how often they participated in hall sports now with 12 months ago. Nearly a third (31.3%) stated that they play halls sports more often than they did 12 months ago; over one in five (20.7%) said they take part in hall sports less often; 41.4% said it's about the same; and 6.5% didn't know.

Those who indicated participating in less hall sports now than 12 months ago were asked why this was so. The responses can be categorised as follows:

Table B.9 Reason for participating in hall sports less often

Reason	Percentage
Lack of time	100
Poor health, injury, or old age	0
No interest	0
No access to facilities	0
Prohibitively expensive	0
Other	0

Future Participation in General Sports - Co Tipperary SR

Respondents were asked to indicate how likely they were to take up any of the sports mentioned in Table B.6 in the near future. The choice of responses were as follows: very likely, quite likely, not very likely, not at all likely, and don't know. Some sports did not receive any very likely or quite likely responses and therefore do not appear in the table below. The percentage of people who are likely (either very or quite) to take up a particular sport in the near future can be seen in Table B.10.

Table B.10 Future participation in general sports

Sport	Very likely	Quite likely	Very or quite likely
Walking (2+miles)	8.7		8.7
Football (5-a-side) – outdoor	5.8		5.8
Golf (excluding practice indoors)	5.8		5.8
Bowls (excluding short mat bowling)		3.9	3.9
Pitch n Putt	3.6		3.6
Swimming in a traditional pool	3.6		3.6

Future Participation in Indoor Sports - Co Tipperary SR

Respondents were also asked to indicate how likely they were to take up any of the sports mentioned in Table B.7 in the near future. Again, the choice of responses were: very likely, quite likely, not very likely, not at all likely, and don't know. The percentage of people who are likely (either very or quite) to take up a particular indoor sport in the near future can be seen in Table B.11.

Table B.11 Future Participation in Indoor Sports - Co Tipperary SR

Sport	Very likely	Quite likely	Very or quite likely
Fitness activities (e.g. aerobics, circuit training, Yoga)		9.7	9.7
Shortmat bowling		4.1	4.1

Co Carlow

Participating in General Sports

Table B.12 General sports

Sport	Last 4 weeks	Last 12 months	Ave. no.	Members
Walking (2+miles)	46.5		16.58	0
Swimming in a traditional pool	22.2	4.9	2.98	0
Running / jogging	15.5		10.21	0
Cycling	14.3		6.6	0
Camogie	10.6		10	100
Horse riding	10.6		4	0
Football (11-a-side)	4.9		4	100
Gaelic Football	4.9		4	100
Snooker / Billiards / Pool	4.9		4	0
Dancing excluding in a hall or studio	4.9		4	0
Sailing & other water sports	3.3		4	100
Athletics (outdoor)				
Hurling				
Football (5-a-side) – outdoor				
Rugby				
Pitch n Putt				
Hockey (outdoor)				
Cricket				
Tennis / Short Tennis (outdoor)				
Squash				
Swimming – outdoor				
Swimming– in a leisure pool/with a flume chute wave machine				
Fishing / Angling				
Ice Skating				
Handball				
Ski-ing				
Hill Walking / climbing / mountaineering				
Golf (excluding practice indoors)				
Bowls (excluding short mat bowling)				
Ten pin bowling				
Archery (outdoor)				
Netball (outdoor)				
Roller skating (outdoor)				
Volleyball (outdoor)				
Skateboarding				
Basketball				

Table presents the percentage of people who have taken part in an activity in the last 4 weeks and the percentage of people who haven't taken part in the last 4 weeks but have in the last 12 months. Those who had taken part in a sport in the last four weeks were also asked on how many occasions during the past month had they taken part in the sport. The average number of times is presented in the table. These people were also asked to indicate whether or not they are members of a club for that particular sport.

Participating in Indoor Sports

Table B.13 Indoor sports

Sport	Last weeks	Last months	Ave. no.	Members
Movement inc. Dance	5.2		4	100
Fitness activities (e.g. aerobics, circuit training, Yoga)	4.9		4	100
Badminton		10.6		
Archery (indoor)				
Athletics (indoor)				
Basketball				
Boxing				
Fencing				
Use of mutigym / weight training				
4 or 5 a-side football (indoor)				
Gymnastics				
Handball				
Hockey (indoor)				
Martial arts				
Netball (indoor)				
Roller skating (indoor)				
Shortmat bowling				
Table Tennis				
Tennis / Short Tennis (indoor)				
Trampolining				
Volley ball (indoor)				
Weight – lifting				
Wrestling				
Judo				
Golf				
Hurling (indoor)				
Camogie (indoor)				

Table B.13 illustrates that in general indoor sports are less popular than general sports. This could be because people prefer general sports or because the indoor facilities they require are not available.

Respondents were asked to compare how often they participated in hall sports now with 12 months ago. Over one in ten (10.6%) stated that they play halls sports less often than they did 12 months ago; and nearly nine out of ten (89.4%) said they take part in hall sports about the same as they did 12 months ago.

Those who indicated participating in less hall sports now than 12 months ago were asked why this was so. The responses can be categorised as follows:

Table B.14 Reason for participating in hall sports less often

Reason	Percentage
No access to facilities	100
Lack of time	0
Poor health, injury, or old age	0
No interest	0
Prohibitively expensive	0

Other	0
-------	---

Future Participation in General Sports

Respondents were asked to indicate how likely they were to take up any of the sports mentioned in Table 1 in the near future. The choice of responses were as follows: very likely, quite likely, not very likely, not at all likely, and don't know. Some sports did not receive any very likely or quite likely responses and therefore do not appear in the table below. The percentage of people who are likely (either very or quite) to take up a particular sport in the near future can be seen in Table B.15.

Table B.15 Future participation in general sports

Sport	Very likely	Quite likely	Very or quite likely
Walking (2+miles)	46.5		46.5
Swimming in a traditional pool	27.1	4.9	32
Running / jogging	15.5		15.5
Horse riding	10.6	4.9	15.5
Cycling	14.3		14.3
Camogie	10.6		10.6
Ten pin bowling	4.9	3.3	8.2
Football (11-a-side)	4.9		4.9
Gaelic Football	4.9		4.9
Swimming– in a leisure pool/with a flume chute wave machine	4.9		4.9
Snooker / Billiards / Pool	4.9		4.9
Dancing excluding in a hall or studio	4.9		4.9
Sailing & other water sports	3.3		3.3

Future Participation in Indoor Sports

Respondents were also asked to indicate how likely they were to take up any of the sports mentioned in Table 2 in the near future. Again, the choice of responses were: very likely, quite likely, not very likely, not at all likely, and don't know. The percentage of people who are likely (either very or quite) to take up a particular indoor sport in the near future can be seen in Table B.16.

Table B.16 Future Participation in Indoor Sports

Sport	Very likely	Quite likely	Very or quite likely
Badminton	10.6		10.6
Fitness activities (e.g. aerobics, circuit training, Yoga)	9.8		9.8
Movement inc. Dance	5.1		5.1
Use of mutigym / weight training	4.9		4.9
Gymnastics	4.9		4.9

Co Laois

Participating in General Sports

Table B.17 General sports

Sport	Last 4 weeks	Last 12 months	Ave. no.	Members
Walking (2+miles)	39.7	14.2	13.75	0
Golf (excluding practice indoors)	12		4.22	67.2
Football (11-a-side)	9.3		5.16	100
Swimming in a traditional pool	9.1	6.6	3.32	15.5
Hurling	8.5		4	100
Fishing / Angling	5.4		10.5	100
Dancing excluding in a hall or studio	2.8		4	0
Hill Walking / climbing / mountaineering	2.7	2.7	28	0
Cycling	2.7		4	0
Snooker / Billiards / Pool	2.7		1	100
Ten pin bowling		6.6		
Swimming– in a leisure pool/with a flume chute wave machine		2.7		
Athletics (outdoor)				
Running / jogging				
Football (5-a-side) – outdoor				
Rugby				
Camogie				
Gaelic Football				
Pitch n Putt				
Hockey (outdoor)				
Cricket				
Tennis / Short Tennis (outdoor)				
Squash				
Swimming – outdoor				
Sailing & other water sports				
Ice Skating				
Handball				
Ski-ing				
Bowls (excluding short mat bowling)				
Horse riding				
Archery (outdoor)				
Netball (outdoor)				
Roller skating (outdoor)				
Volleyball (outdoor)				
Skateboarding				
Basketball				

Table B.17 presents the percentage of people who have taken part in an activity in the last 4 weeks and the percentage of people who haven't taken part in the last 4 weeks but have in the last 12 months. Those who had taken part in a sport in the last four weeks were also asked on how many occasions during the past month had they taken part in the sport. The average number of times is presented in the table. These people were also asked to indicate whether or not they are members of a club for that particular sport.

Participating in Indoor Sports

Table B.18 Indoor sports

Sport	Last 4 weeks	Last 12 months	Ave. no.	Members
Movement inc. Dance	8.4		4	0
Badminton	5.7		1	0
Table Tennis	2.9		1	0
Fitness activities (e.g. aerobics, circuit training, Yoga)		7.1		
Archery (indoor)				
Athletics (indoor)				
Basketball				
Boxing				
Fencing				
Use of mutigym / weight training				
4 or 5 a-side football (indoor)				
Gymnastics				
Handball				
Hockey (indoor)				
Martial arts				
Netball (indoor)				
Roller skating (indoor)				
Shortmat bowling				
Tennis / Short Tennis (indoor)				
Trampolining				
Volley ball (indoor)				
Weight – lifting				
Wrestling				
Judo				
Golf				
Hurling (indoor)				
Camogie (indoor)				

Table B.18 illustrates that in general indoor sports are less popular than general sports. This could be because people prefer general sports or because the indoor facilities they require are not available.

Respondents were asked to compare how often they participated in hall sports now with 12 months ago. Three point nine percent (3.9%) stated that they play halls sports less often than they did 12 months ago; nearly nine in ten (89.4%) said they take part in hall sports about the same as a year ago; and 6.6% didn't know.

Those who indicated participating in less hall sports now than 12 months ago were asked why this was so. The responses can be categorised as follows:

Table B.19 Reason for participating in hall sports less often

Reason	Percentage
Lack of time	100
Poor health, injury, or old age	0
No interest	0
No access to facilities	0

Prohibitively expensive	0
Other	0

Future Participation in General Sports

Respondents were asked to indicate how likely they were to take up any of the sports mentioned in Table B.17 in the near future. The choice of responses were as follows: very likely, quite likely, not very likely, not at all likely, and don't know. Some sports did not receive any very likely or quite likely responses and therefore do not appear in the table below. The percentage of people who are likely (either very or quite) to take up a particular sport in the near future can be seen in Table B.20.

Table B.20 Future participation in general sports

Sport	Very likely	Quite likely	Very or quite likely
Swimming in a traditional pool	4.2	8.6	12.8
Ten pin bowling		9.3	9.3
Swimming– in a leisure pool/with a flume chute wave machine	2.8	5.5	8.3
Pitch n Putt		6.6	6.6
Walking (2+miles)	6.3		6.3
Football (11-a-side)	4		4
Football (5-a-side) – outdoor	3.9		3.9
Squash	3.9		3.9
Hill Walking / climbing / mountaineering	2.8		2.8

Future Participation in Indoor Sports

Respondents were also asked to indicate how likely they were to take up any of the sports mentioned in Table 2 in the near future. Again, the choice of responses were: very likely, quite likely, not very likely, not at all likely, and don't know. The percentage of people who are likely (either very or quite) to take up a particular indoor sport in the near future can be seen in Table B.18.

Table B.21 Future Participation in Indoor Sports

Sport	Very likely	Quite likely	Very or quite likely
Badminton	2.9		2.9
Table Tennis		2.7	2.7

Appendix C – Issues Addressed in Surveys

Methodology

The 30 minute isochrone (drivetime) comprising the Study area was broken up into 4 large areas within each a team of consultants identified facilities covering those sports identified in Section 2.0 (Definitions). Facilities on the boundary of 30 minutes from Kilkenny City were included for the purposes of the Study. Those outside were also surveyed and reviewed but are not included in the modelling process where the FPM is applied to the key urban areas that are demonstrating the highest population growth.

Mapping of Facilities

Having identified facilities these were plotted using a global position system (GPS) to find the coordinates for each facility. Those facilities using the GPS were plotted to a level of accuracy of 10 metres. Coordinates were taken for car parks as the place of arrival assuring that most people would arrive by vehicular transport to use facilities. Where car parks were not provided the entrance to changing facilities were used. Where there were no facilities for changing nor car parks provided the nearest access point to the access road was used.

The coordinates were then noted onto a Discovery Series digital map of the Study area using GPS/Map info. The properties that made this software most appropriate were that information could be plotted accurately, further information can be recorded/updated directly onto the map and finally information would be easily accessible on CD Rom in a variety of locations including Council offices, libraries, schools etc.

Audit of Facilities

For each facility an audit form was completed.

In summary the following information was gathered for each facility:

<i>Name of Facility</i>	The official name of the facility
<i>Address</i>	Address of the facility so that its location and access to it can be identified
<i>Coordinates</i>	Coordinates of the facility as per the Irish coordinate system
<i>Ownership</i>	Whether the facility was privately owned, owned by a local authority, an educational establishment or other form of ownership
<i>Type of Facility and Surfaces</i>	The type and nature of facilities provided including the number of facilities, their surface, grass, cement, synthetic, gravel etc, the size, whether full, junior or practice and whether lighting was available. For pools and walls dimensions were given. For walls of less than 4.5 m over entire playing area the height was recorded.
<i>Changing Rooms</i>	Information on changing rooms was gathered on number of changing rooms, limits on numbers (size) and a score for the standard of changing room ranging from a score of 1 for room only, through 2 for cold water only and 3 for hot water available to a score of 4 for very good facilities. One point was deducted off this size if facilities were badly maintained or vandalised.
<i>Age of the Facility</i>	For all facilities an assessment was made of the age. This involved in most instances further contact with owners,

operators and users after the initial identification and survey of facilities.

Management Those responsible for the management of the facility or pitch were identified.

Upkeep Those entrusted with the daily upkeep of the facility were identified. In many cases no one was specified responsible for upkeep other than participants. In some cases no one was designated for the upkeep at all.
[REC]

Current Days and Hours for Public Use The days, times and users were recorded for public use. The total number of hours for public use were recorded.

Current Peak Hours of Public Use The peak hours of public use were recorded for the purposes of modelling.

Current Hours of Non-Public Use These were recorded as per public use.

Maximum "at one time" Capacity During This segment of the survey involved number of facilities/pitches by the numbers of players taking part

Peak Hours for matches (in the case of soccer 22 players) or training as specified by respondents. Numbers for informal use were also recorded.

Identification of opportunities for regular / or public use if not currently available

The Consultant team made an assessment of facilities not currently available to the public to see if they could become available and if so what works or management changes would be needed.

Are there spectator facilities?

An assessment was made as to whether there were spectator facilities such as covered seats, open seats, covered terrace, open terrace, spectator toilets, refreshment facilities or other facilities for spectators.

Is there a car park?

If there was a car park this was recorded. If so the number of car parking spaces was recorded including the number of disabled spaces.

Do non-sporting events use the facilities?

This was researched to find out whether other non-sporting events used the facility and whether there was additional pressure on the availability of the facility other than sport which adversely influenced its use as a sporting facility.

Appendix D – Population Increase Potential of Undeveloped Residential Lands