

1.1 Introduction

Limerick City & County Council is currently preparing a new Local Area Plan (LAP) for Croom. The LAP sets out Limerick City & County Council's strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of Croom to 2025. The proposed Local Area Plan replaces the current 2009 LAP which has been extended until 2019. It must address current challenges and reflect developments since 2009, both in respect of settlement and other planning policies and in respect of changes to the economy and local community.

1.2 What is the purpose of the Croom Local Area Plan?

The Local Area Plan is a public statement of planning policies and objectives for the development of your area and includes zoning measures, which set out the various purposes for which land may be used. However it should be borne in mind that the achievement of various objectives will be subject to the availability of resources and the inputs of various statutory and other bodies.

These zoning measures include open space, housing, retail, commercial & community, enterprise and employment use. It also contains a number of objectives in relation to areas, preserving natural and built amenities, e.g. important buildings, historic sites, etc. In addition, the plan will highlight areas where facilities are lacking. With your help, the plan will contribute to the sustainable future development of Croom.

1.3 Why replace the current Croom LAP?

There is a legal requirement in planning legislation to make, amend or revoke an existing plan at least every six years. The Croom LAP 2009 was extended until 2019 under section 19 of the Planning and Development Act 2000(as amended). Therefore a new plan is now required to replace the existing LAP.

1.4 How does the Plan affect me?

The Local Area Plan can have an important bearing on all aspects of life. For example, all planning applications are measured against the zonings and objectives in the plan and development permitted must be in accordance with the plan.

1.5 Planning Issues you may wish to comment on?

Croom's proximity to Limerick City and its accessibility in terms of road networks, as well as the function it serves as a local centre means, the area has potential for future growth. It is likely that the area will see change over the next number of years. This growth will led to pressure on certain services, such as the schools, the need for accommodation/homes, infrastructure such as roads, treatment of sewerage, provision of water and social services.

1.5.1: Population and Housing

The population of the Plan area was 1,157 in the 2016 Census. This remained the same as the population recorded for the town in 2011. The potential for growth over the next number of years has consequences for community life, local services, infrastructure as well as the social composition of the population.

1. How can the quality of existing residential areas be improved?
2. Where should future housing be located?
3. How can social integration be achieved to create a balanced and mixed community?



1.5.2. Retail/Commercial Development

The Croom area is well served by a town centre with a mix of commercial and retail development. The new plan will need to examine and identify any shortfalls in the provision of services in the town and allow for adequately zoned lands to facilitate this type of development.

- Is there an absence of any type of activity on the town centre zoned sites?

1.5.3: Community, Amenity and Recreation

Community infrastructure plays a vital role in contributing to the quality of life for all. The physical environment should be developed in such a way that it facilitates and does not obstruct the healthy functioning of community and cultural life. It is never enough just to build houses and leave such needs as crèches, schools and other community facilities as an afterthought.

1. What community facilities are needed in the area? Where should they be located?
2. Are there sufficient sports facilities in Croom?
3. What natural features/routes can be used/developed as walkways/blueways?



1.5.4: Built and Natural Heritage

In terms of built and natural heritage the area has character, rooted in its history and its natural setting along the banks of the Maigne River. The built and natural heritage should be a vital consideration for new developments to create a 'sense of place' contributing to the attractiveness of Croom as a desirable place for people to live, shop and work and for communities to take pride in.

1. What are the features and elements of the areas natural and built heritage that should be conserved and enhanced?
2. Can effective ways be found to conserve and enhance Croom's built and natural heritage?
3. How can key features of the areas heritage be made accessible, attractive and legible to the public?

Issues Paper

1.5.5: Enterprise & Employment:

According to the 2016 Census figures, it takes 41% of the population 5 years and over in Croom less than 15 minutes travel time to work or school. This would indicate that a significant level of the populations daily lives function around the town.

What supports/services are required in the area to sustain and grow Croom's employment potential?



1.5.6: Transport and Infrastructure:

The potential for growth in Croom will lead to demands on the road network and on the provision of water and sewer facilities.

What transportation and infrastructural issues face the area and what can be done to help alleviate these?

1.5.7: Waste, Energy, Telecommunications, Water services and Flood Risk

1. As there are a number of watercourses in the area including the River Maigue what precautions can be taken to avoid or to prevent flooding?
2. What are your observations on water, waste, energy and telecommunications infrastructure in Croom?

1.6: What process is involved in making a new Local Area Plan?

This 'First Issues' document is the first step in the preparation of a Local Area Plan for Croom. A public information evening will take place on **Tuesday 19th February from 6.00pm to 8.00pm in the Croom Civic Centre, Croom**. The purpose of this session is to give you an opportunity to highlight any issues/views that you want addressed in the preparation of the Proposed Local Area Plan for the Croom Area.

The proposed LAP will be put on public display for a period of six weeks in the Council Offices in Dooradoyle and Merchants Quay, and local libraries. The proposed LAP will also be displayed on the Council's website www.lcc.ie. Any person may then make written observations or submissions on this proposed plan and these are then taken into consideration by the elected members in the making of the plan. The proposed LAP is expected to be placed on public display in April 2019. Notices will be placed in local newspapers accordingly.

Submissions made may result in changes in the proposed plan. If the changes are significant, the amendments will go on display for a further period of four weeks, during which time further submissions may be made on these changes. The LAP is then formally adopted with or without amendments by the Adare/Rathkeale Municipal District and becomes the official Local Area Plan for Croom.

YOUR OPINION COUNTS

Above are just some of the issues that will need to be addressed in the Plan. With your help we will be able to produce a better plan to guide us in the years ahead. The current Croom Local Area Plan, 2009 – 2015 (as extended) can be viewed on the Council's website www.limerick.ie. If you have any queries or wish to discuss the plan, please contact Noreen O' Connell, Forward/Strategic Planning Section at (061) 557211. We would welcome any comments that you may have. Please forward written submissions by the 11th of March 2019 to:

Forward/Strategic Planning Section, Economic Development Directorate, Limerick City & County Council, Merchants Quay, Limerick or forwardplanning@limerick.ie

Attached for your reference is a zoning map from the current Croom Local Area Plan.

First Issues submission period 9th February – 11th March 2019



Review of Croom Local Area Plan February 2019

