



COAKLEY O'NEILL
town planning

School Demand Report
**PROPOSED STRATEGIC HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT, MONACNAPA,
BLARNEY, CORK**

Prepared in February, 2022 on behalf of
Eoin Sheehan

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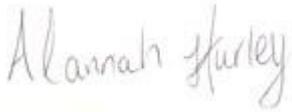
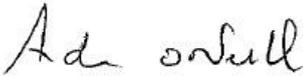
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 We, Coakley O'Neill Town Planning Ltd, NSC Campus, Mahon, Co. Cork, have been instructed by Eoin Sheehan to prepare this School Demand Report to accompany a Strategic Housing Development application to An Bord Pleanála, as enacted under the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016, in respect of residentially zoned land at Monacnapa, Blarney, Cork.
- 1.2 This School Demand Report provides details on the current and future capacity of existing and proposed schools in the area along with the demand for places likely to be generated from the proposed development.

2.0 PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

- 2.1 This section examines the relevant planning policy at national and local level as it relates to educational facilities.

THE PROVISION OF SCHOOLS AND THE PLANNING SYSTEM – A CODE OF PRACTICE FOR PLANNING AUTHORITIES (2008)

- 2.2 This Code of Practice sets out best practice approaches that should be followed by planning authorities in ensuring that the planning system plays its full part in facilitating the timely and cost-effective roll-out of school facilities by the Department of Education and Science and in line with the principles of proper planning and sustainable development.
- 2.3 Three core objectives are set out in the code of practice in relation to the future planning and delivery of schools;
- *Schools provision should be an integral part of the evolution of compact sustainable urban development and the development of sustainable communities;*
 - *The provision of any new schools (both primary and post-primary) should be driven by and emerge from an integrated approach between the planning functions of planning authorities and the Department of Education and Science; and*
 - *Local authorities, as planning authorities, will support and assist the Department in ensuring the timely provision of school sites*

CORK COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2014

- 2.4 The County Development Plan is the primary document which provides an overview of the Local Authority's policies and objectives relating to the provision of schools and educational facilities in the County.
- 2.5 Objective SC4-1 of the Plan relates to educational facilities and is outlined as follows:

Facilitate the provision of educational services in the community such as schools, crèches and other educational and childcare facilities. Multiuse facilities which can accommodate both educational and childcare facilities are also encouraged.

2.6 It is further stated in Section 5.4.9 of the Plan, that all substantial residential developments must be accompanied by a report identifying the demand for school places likely to be generated by the development Objective SC4-2, provides additional detail in relation to the provision of educational facilities in large residential developments and is outlined as follows:

- a) *Provide new educational facilities in accordance with the guidance set out in Guidelines on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas.*
- b) *Recognise that new residential communities can generate demand for additional school places and that it is vital to the process of supporting sustainable communities, that the necessary increased capacity in school facilities, either in the form of new schools, or the expansion of existing schools, is provided.*
- c) *Work closely with the Department of Education & Skills to identify in the Local Area Plans, existing and future educational requirements, identify and reserve suitable sites for educational purposes and acquire, as appropriate and with the approval of the Department of Education & Science, sites for future school provision in order to ensure that the necessary increased capacity in school provision is provided in a timely manner and as an integral part of the development of an area.*
- d) *Facilitate the development of primary, post primary, third level, outreach, research, adult and further educational facilities to meet the needs of the County.*
- e) *Encourage, support and develop opportunities to open up new and existing educational facilities to wider community use, subject to normal proper planning and sustainable development considerations.*
- f) *Require that proposed new large scale residential developments, either as part of an individual development or a collective group of developments include an assessment of the demand for school places likely to be generated by the development and proposals to address any identified increase in demand which may arise.*

2.7 Section 5.4.4 of the Plan is particularly relevant to the subject site and is outlined as follows;

Reservations will be made for new schools in Local Area Plans in close proximity to existing or planned residential developments and community facilities such as sports facilities, public open space, libraries etc so that these can be shared between the school and the wider community.

DRAFT CORK CITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028

2.8 Objective 3.23 of the draft Plan seeks:

- a. To work closely with the Department of Education in planning for the delivery of new schools in-step with new housing development within the city.
- b. To ensure that new school sites are made available in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Education.
- c. To encourage the co-location of schools as part of education campuses and with other community

uses to create community hubs. This could facilitate the sharing of halls, playing fields and courts where feasible.

d. Work closely with the Department of Education and Skills and landowners to ensure that new schools are provided to meet the needs of new residential neighbourhoods at: City Docks; Tivoli Docks; Ballincollig Maglin; Ballyvolane; South Glanmire; Blarney (Stoneview); Kilbarry / Blackpool Neighbourhood; and Douglas (Castletreasure).

- 2.9 Sections 3.67-3.74 of the draft Plan addresses the provision of schools in Cork City, to include Blarney which is located in the expanded City boundary. Table 3.7 identifies a requirement for 1-2 new or expanded primary schools and 1 new or expanded secondary school for Blarney, over the period to 2031. It would be expected that this new or expanded provision would principally be required as the major new residential areas of Stoneview and Ringwood are delivered.
- 2.10 Section 10.256 of the draft Plan states that as new development comes on stream the provision of additional educational facilities in this area will need to be prioritised. Cork City Council will work with the Department of Education to identify and deliver new school sites for Blarney.

BLARNEY-MACROOM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT LOCAL AREA PLAN 2017

- 2.11 The subject site is located within the Blarney-Macroom Municipal District, where Blarney is identified as a Main Town, and it is the largest town in terms of population within the Municipal District.
- 2.12 Section 3.2.37 of the LAP notes that there are 3no. primary schools and 1no. secondary school in Blarney. It is further noted that an additional 2 no. primary schools and a secondary school are planned as part of the Stoneview Urban Expansion Area.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS PUBLICATIONS

- 2.10 The Department of Education and Skills website provides useful tools and reports in relations to schools in the County. The website also publishes school inspection reports for each school, and these were available intermittently for the primary and secondary schools in Blarney.

3.0 EXISTING SCHOOL PROVISION

- 3.1 For the purposes of this report, we have limited the assessment to schools within the Town of Blarney, however CSO data from 2016 suggests that 53% of people in Blarney commute between 15 and 45 minutes daily to work/school or college. Therefore, it can reasonably be assumed that a large proportion of children travel outside the Metropolitan Town for school.
- 3.2 As per the Blarney Municipal District Local Area Plan, there are 3 no. primary schools and 1 no. secondary school in Blarney. Table 1 and 2 below sets out the numbers enrolled in each school for the 2019/2020 academic year, as per the statistics section of the Department of Education and Skills website.

Ref	School Name	Location	Girls	Boys	Total
1	Scoil Chroi Iosa	St. Anne's Road, Blarney	151	162	313
2	Gaelscoil Mhuscraí	Shean Lower, Blarney	92	82	174
3	Cloghroe Mixed National School	Cloghroe, Blarney, Cork	254	271	525
Total			497	515	1012

Table 1 Existing Primary Schools in Blarney

Ref	School Name	Location	Girls	Boys	Total
1	Colaiste Muire ¹	Blarney, Cork	409	393	802
Total			40	393	802

Table 2 Existing Secondary School Provision in Blarney

4.0 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN BLARNEY

4.1 Primary School Population

4.1.1 The total primary school population (5-12 age bracket) in Blarney was 268 in 2016, accounting for 10.6 % of the population. It is noted that this is lower than the percentage of primary school aged children in the county, which is 12.6%.

4.1.2 It is noted that no. of people in the 5-12 age bracket increased by 35 no. people during the period from 2011 to 2016. Based on the age structure of Blarney in 2016, it is estimated that this age bracket will increase slightly in period from 2016-2021.

4.1.3 The 268 no. students of primary school age living in Blarney equates to an average of 34 no. students each school year. In 2016, there were 169 no. children in the pre-school age bracket (0-4), which corresponds to an average of 34 no. students for each pre-school year. Therefore, in the short-term, it is possible that local demand for primary school places will remain unchanged.

4.1.4 As there is a total of 1,012 primary school places available in the existing primary schools in Blarney, and 268 no. students of primary school age (5-12) in the town, it can be reasonably concluded that there is likely to be available capacity in the town's existing primary schools. This does not take into account the potential for prospective primary school students to travel outside the Blarney area.

¹ Permission is in place under PL04. 247742 (16/6473) for an expansion of the existing secondary school to provide for up to 1,200 pupils.

4.2 Secondary School Population

- 4.2.1 CSO census data indicates that there are 214 no. students in the secondary school age bracket (12-18) which represents 8.4% of the population in Blarney in 2016. In Cork County as a whole, secondary school children were representative of 8.1% of the total population. This indicates a generally average proportion of secondary school children living in Blarney.
- 4.2.2 There was a growth in the number of children of secondary school age of 42 no. children in the period of 2011 to 2016. Based on the population structure of Blarney, this growth is likely to continue in the short to medium term, even without any population increase.
- 4.2.3 The 214 no. students of secondary school age in Blarney equates to an average of 36 no. students per school year. The 268 children of primary school age equates to an average of 34 no. students per school year. Therefore, in the short-medium term, it is possible that the local demand for secondary school places will generally remain unchanged.
- 4.2.4 Having regard to Table 2 above, there are 214 students within the secondary school age bracket in Blarney, and an existing supply of 802 no. spaces². It can be reasonably concluded that there is likely to be available capacity in the town's existing secondary schools. This does not take into account the potential for prospective secondary school students who travel outside the Blarney area.

5.0 FUTURE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL DEMAND

- 5.1 The proposed development consists of the construction of 143 no. dwellings. Based on the average family size of 2.8 for Cork County (2016 census), the proposed development could result in a total population of 406 people.
- 5.2 Section 4 of this report notes that 10.6% of the population of Blarney are of primary school age. Using this percentage as a basis, it is estimated that the proposed development could result in a requirement for an additional 43 no. primary school places.
- 5.3 In addition, Section 4 of the report states that 8.4 % of the population of Blarney are of secondary school age. Using this percentage as a basis, it can also be estimated that the proposed development could result in a requirement for an additional 34no. secondary school places.

² This is before the permission for an expanded secondary school is implemented

6.0 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Based on the existing age profile of Blarney, current household sizes and the number of proposed units, it is estimated that 43no. primary school places and 34no. secondary school places could be generated by the proposed development.
- 6.2 At present, there are 3 no. primary schools and 1 no. secondary school in Blarney. There are 268 no. students of primary school age (5-12) in Blarney, and a total of 1,012 primary school places. In addition, there are 214 students of secondary school age in Blarney, and an existing total supply of 802 no. spaces.
- 6.4 It is evident that there is capacity in the existing primary and secondary schools in Blarney to accommodate the school-going age group of the future population of the proposed development.
- 6.5 This does not take into account the potential for prospective primary and secondary school students to travel outside the Blarney area.
- 6.6 Overall, it is concluded that the demand for school places generated by the proposed development can be accommodated within the existing schools in Blarney.