26 Feb 2021

Forward Planning Section

Kilkenny County Council

County Hall

John Street

Kilkenny

Re: Kilkenny City and County Draft Development Plan 2021 – 2027

Dear Sir/Madam,

Kilkenny RFC welcomes the opportunity to submit observations on the Draft Development Plan and, specifically, the development of the Western Environs of Kilkenny City.

We are aware that the development of the Western Environs of Kilkenny City will include a new town centre/commercial hub, housing, recreational and amenity facilities and three new schools.

As an established and long-standing sporting club serving the community of Kilkenny City and County we are particularly interested in the provision of suitable full-sized playing pitches. This could enable us to expand our service to meet the needs of the new community in the Western Environs in addition to enhancing services to our existing membership in the wider community of Kilkenny City and County.

We are also eager to develop partnerships with the three new schools in the Western Environs and recognise the positivity of facilities being sited adjacent to the schools.

As a rugby club providing sporting opportunities at both Youth and Adult level we require playing pitches with an area of 120 metres by 70 metres.

The number of players at the club (male & female), especially at Youth level, has grown significantly over recent years & has placed exceptional pressure on existing playing facilities. Additional playing pitches are required. Suitable synthetic pitches would be of major advantage and such a facility is not available in Kilkenny at present.

We request that provision is made for an appropriate number of full sized playing pitches adjacent to the proposed new schools in the Western Environs of Kilkenny City.

Yours sincerely,



**Vincent O'Shea**

**Kilkenny RFC Club Secretary**