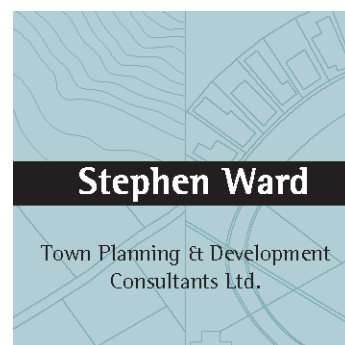


# School Capacity and Demand Assessment

**Old Slane Road, Mell/Tullyallen, Drogheda, Co.Louth**



Prepared on behalf of  
Lagan Homes Tullyallen Ltd



## CONTENTS

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 1.0 Introduction .....                                     | 3 |
| 2.0 Existing School Provision .....                        | 3 |
| 2.1 Primary Schools.....                                   | 3 |
| 2.1.1 School Building Programme Large Scale Projects ..... | 5 |
| 2.2 Secondary Schools .....                                | 5 |
| 3.0 Projected Demand for School Places .....               | 6 |
| 3.1 Primary School .....                                   | 6 |
| 3.2 Post-primary School .....                              | 7 |
| 4.0 Predicted Demand for School Places .....               | 8 |
| 5.0 Conclusion .....                                       | 8 |

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Stephen Ward Town Planning and Development Consultants Limited have prepared this report to update the assessment undertaken as part of the permitted Strategic Housing Development on the Old Slane Road, Mell/Tullyallen, Drogheda, Co.Louth.

The permitted SHD consists of 237no. dwellings in the following mix-

|              | Housing   | Duplex / Simplex | Multi-Level Apartments | Total      |
|--------------|-----------|------------------|------------------------|------------|
| <b>1-bed</b> | -         | -                | 19                     | <b>19</b>  |
| <b>2-bed</b> | 1         | 15               | 80                     | <b>96</b>  |
| <b>3-bed</b> | 76        | 21               | 12                     | <b>109</b> |
| <b>4-bed</b> | 13        | -                | -                      | <b>13</b>  |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>90</b> | <b>36</b>        | <b>111</b>             | <b>237</b> |

The proposed modifications will amend the mix within the permitted SHD as follows-

|              | Housing    | Duplex / ground floor Apartments | Total      |             |
|--------------|------------|----------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| <b>1-bed</b> | -          | 21                               | <b>21</b>  | <b>8%</b>   |
| <b>2-bed</b> | 28         | 21                               | <b>49</b>  | <b>20%</b>  |
| <b>3-bed</b> | 142        | -                                | <b>142</b> | <b>62%</b>  |
| <b>4-bed</b> | 25         | -                                | <b>25</b>  | <b>10%</b>  |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>195</b> | <b>42</b>                        | <b>237</b> | <b>100%</b> |

This report will detail the predicted number of school age children that could result from the completed SHD as modified and examine existing schools within reasonable distance of the application site in order to indicate if there are sufficient enrolment capacity to cater for future predicted demand.

## 2.0 EXISTING SCHOOL PROVISION

### 2.1 PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The schools detailed in Table 1 are all within a 3km radius of the application site and a 5km driving distance as measured along the road network and to the north of the River Boyne. The primary school in Mell is the closest at a 15-20minute walking distance from the site. There will be full footpath connectivity to this school from the application site as a result of the permitted SHD.

| Table 3 |  |              |              |              |              |
|---------|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|         | Primary School                             | 2019-2020    | 2020-2021    | 2021-2022    | 2022-2023    |
| 1       | Mell National School – St.Joseph’s         | 292          | 278          | 270          | 268          |
| 2       | Tullyallen National School (Tulach Aluinn) | 497          | 494          | 458          | 453          |
| 3       | St.Bridgets & St. Patricks, Bothar Brugha  | 534          | 525          | 533          | 536          |
| 4       | St. Peter’s National School                | 94           | 92           | 95           | 104          |
| 5       | St.Josephs CBS (SCOIL NA MBRAITHRE SN)     | 287          | 279          | 298          | 312          |
| 6       | Scoil Aonghusa                             | 201          | 185          | 172          | 167          |
|         | <b>Total enrolments by academic year</b>   | <b>1,905</b> | <b>1,853</b> | <b>1,826</b> | <b>1,840</b> |

Table 3: Enrolments in Existing Schools identified on figure 1

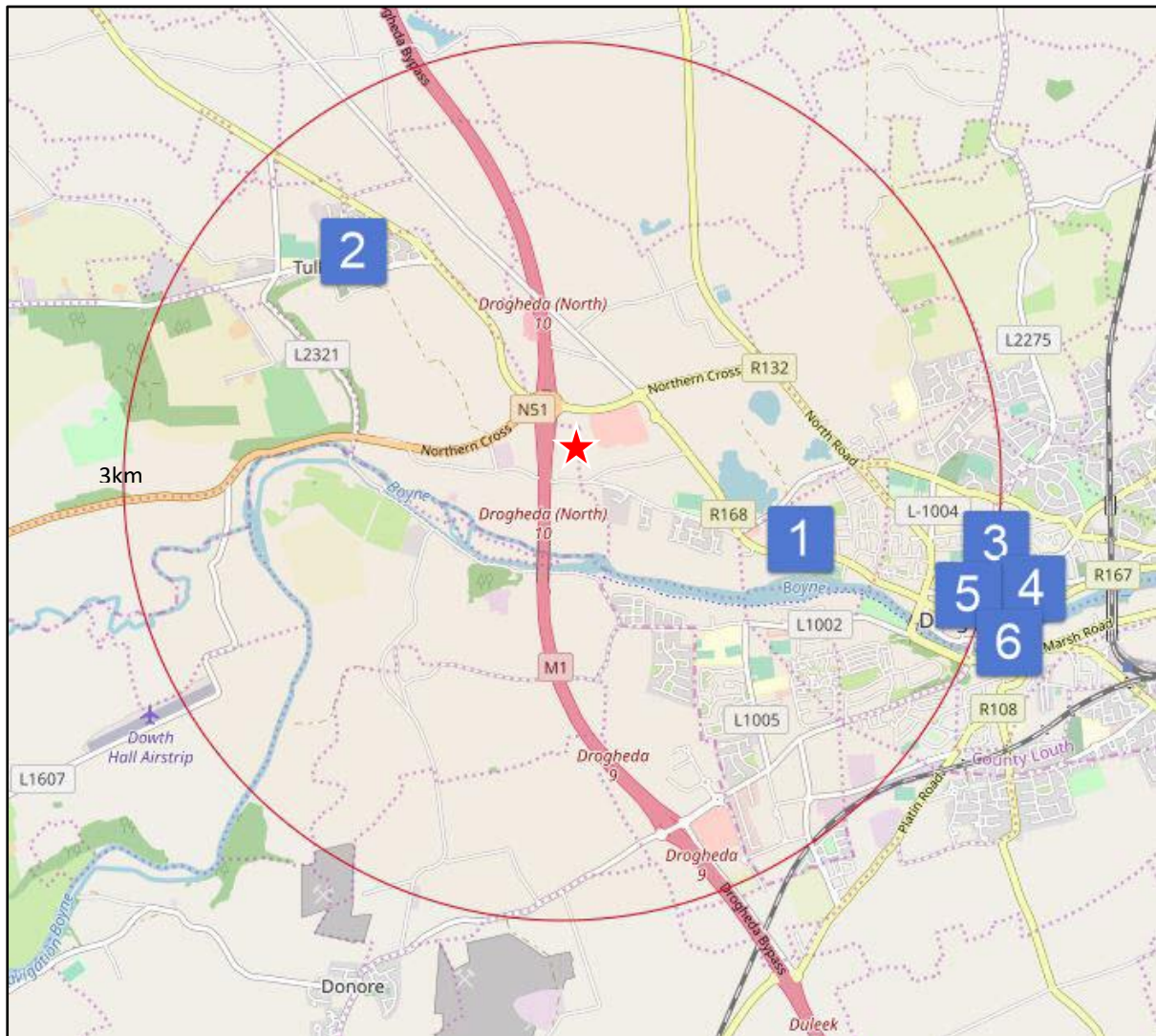


Figure 1: Location of Primary Schools

### 2.1.1 SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAMME LARGE SCALE PROJECTS

Planning permission has been granted for a new special school for St.Ita's and St.Mary's Schools under P.A.Ref. 2360225 on Cemenet Road, Mell approximately 2km from the application site. This school building will contain 27no. classrooms.

The primary school in Mell, St. Josephs is closest to the application site. This school had two additional mainstream 80sq.m classrooms added in 2014 and a further two additional mainstream classrooms (80sq.m) and additional toilet facilities in 2019. There are 11no. classes in the school.

| <b>Table 4: Class Size Range</b> |  |              |              |              |                        |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------|
| <b>Academic Year</b>             | <b>Pupil numbers in each class size range</b>    |              |              |              | <b>Pupils enrolled</b> |
|                                  | <b>Mell National School – St.Joseph's 18069M</b> |              |              |              |                        |
|                                  | <b>10-19</b>                                     | <b>20-24</b> | <b>25-29</b> | <b>30-34</b> | <b>Total</b>           |
| 2019/2020                        | 37   | 133          | 26           | 96           | 292                    |
| 2020/2021                        | 19   | 111          | 51           | 97           | 278                    |
| 2021-2022                        | -  | 136          | 104          | 30           | 270                    |
| 2022-2023                        | 15   | 91           | 162          | -            | 268                    |

### 2.2 SECONDARY SCHOOLS

There are seven Secondary Schools in Drogheda. St.Olivers Community College south of the River Boyne is the closest to the application site. Ballymakenny College is within 4km driving distance, St.Mary's Diocesan School and Sacred Heart Secondary School are all a 4km drive from the site.

| <b>Table 5</b> |                              |                  |                  |                  |                  |
|----------------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                | <b>Secondary School</b>      | <b>2019-2020</b> | <b>2020-2021</b> | <b>2021-2022</b> | <b>2022-2023</b> |
| 1              | St.Olivers Community College | 1,391            | 1,431            | 1,462            | 1,514            |
| 2              | Ballymakenny College         | 843              | 921              | 955              | 993              |
| 3              | St.Mary's Diocesan           | 837              | 865              | 916              | 902              |
| 4              | Sacred Heart                 | 648              | 655              | 685              | 690              |
|                | <b>Total</b>                 | <b>3,719</b>     | <b>3,872</b>     | <b>4,018</b>     | <b>4,099</b>     |

*Table 5: Enrolments in Existing Schools identified on figure 2*

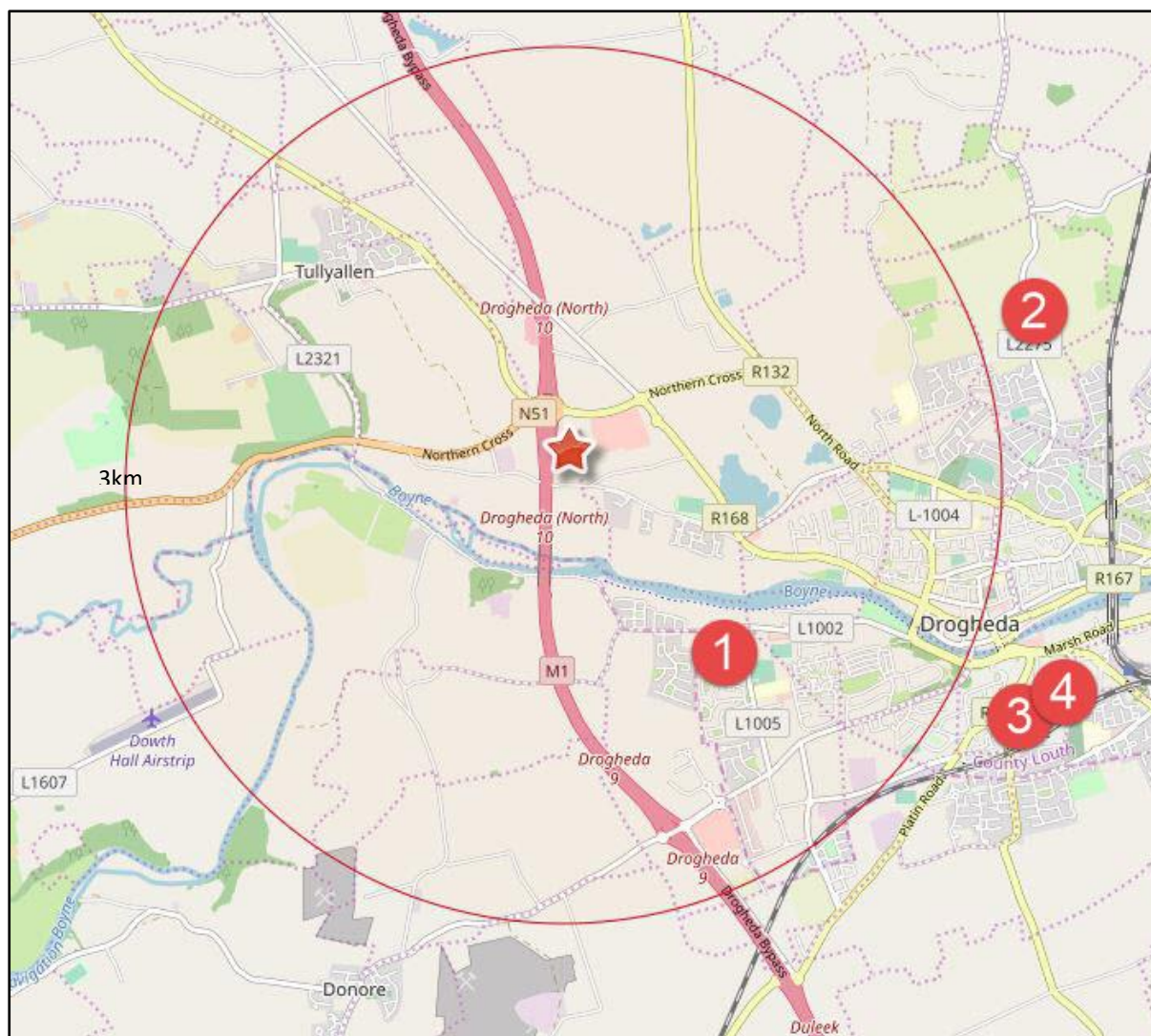


Figure 2: Location of Secondary Schools

### 3.0 PROJECTED DEMAND FOR SCHOOL PLACES

#### 3.1 PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Department of Education publication ‘Projections of full-time enrolment Primary and Second level 2021-2040’ outlines the projections for full-time enrolments in primary and secondary schools up to 2040. The results of this report are used in the forward planning of school buildings. Section 4 of the Report projects that primary school enrolment will fall over the coming years reaching a low point by 2033 before rising slowly to 2036 before accelerating in 2040. The sharpest fall is predicted during the period 2022-2028, when the proposed development is to be constructed and occupied. In 2026 it is projected there will be some 8,500 fewer children entering junior infants than in September 2021.

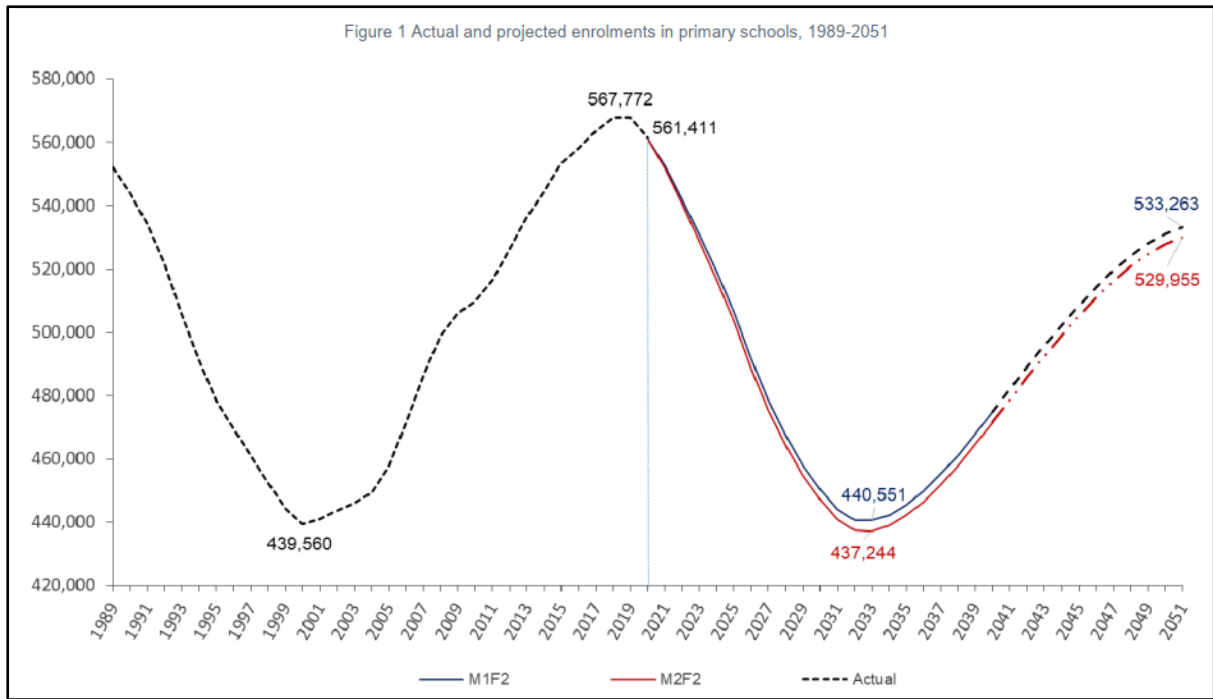


Figure 3: Actual and projected enrolments in primary schools 1989-2051

### 3.2 POST-PRIMARY SCHOOL

Enrolments in post-primary school are project to continue rising over the short term peaking in 2024. Enrolments are projected to fall gradually towards 2029. As with the primary long term projection results, the second level enrolment projection results also show a likely increase in future enrolments after the projection period.

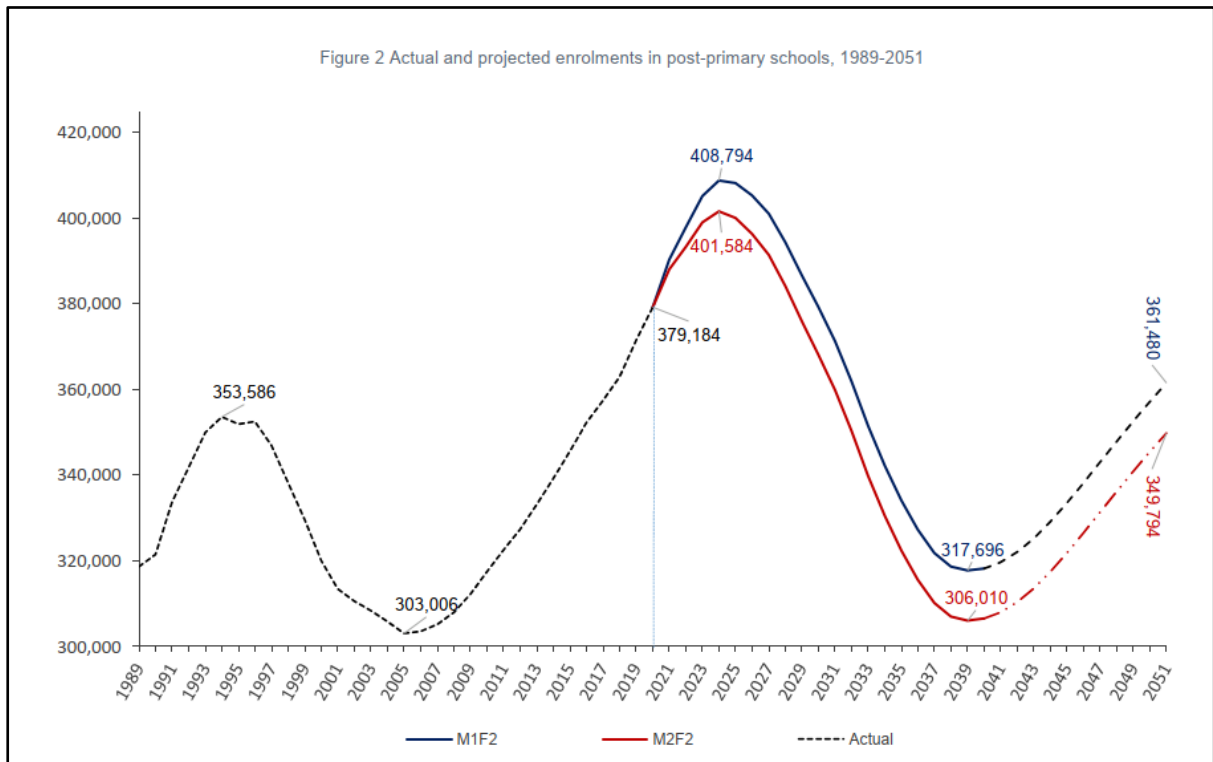


Figure 4: Actual and projected enrolments in post-primary schools 1989-2051

#### 4.0 PREDICTED DEMAND FOR SCHOOL PLACES

According to Census 2022 results for Drogheda, of the 15,751 households in the town, 11,187 (71%) are occupied by families and 52% are families with children. Discounting one-bedroom apartments (216no.) and presuming 52% of all other housing is occupied by families, this would equate to 112no. of the 237no. dwellings being occupied by families with children. According to the same Census results, families with children have on average 1.9 children per family household in Drogheda. This would generate a population of **213no. children** within the SHD as modified. Based on the demographic profile of Drogheda from the 2022 Census results, the 213no. have been profiled as follows-

- 43no. aged 0-4
- 53no. aged 5-9
- 62no. aged 10-14
- 55no. aged 15-19

These children would be spread across the eight primary school years and five secondary school years.

#### 5.0 CONCLUSION

Based on existing enrolment figures (Table 3) and not counting the predicted drop in primary school enrolments, the primary school population generated by the SHD as modified would represent a small percentage of the average enrolment figures for the primary schools detailed by Table 3 and Figure 1.

There is a choice of secondary schools in Drogheda with ample capacity for the predicted demand. It is submitted that there is adequate existing provision in Drogheda to cater for the predicted demand for school places as a result of the completed SHD as modified.