Information Booklet in relation to Killybegs
Context
Killybegs is situated along the R263 Regional Road and just off the N56 National Secondary Road. It is located 27km from Donegal Town and 26km from Glencolmcille supporting a far-reaching hinterland. The historic centre of Killybegs retains its original character and recent years have witnessed significant infrastructural and industrial investment, in the main supporting fishing and port activities.
(Source: Draft LCA, Settlement Character Assessment, Donegal County Council, 2015. Full text of draft Settlement Character Assessment regarding Killybegs can be accessed by clicking the link below: http://www.donegalcoco.ie/media/donegalcoco/planning/pdfs/viewdevelopmentplans/landscapecharacterassessmentofcountydonegal/draftsettlementcharacterassessment/Tier%202%20Settlements.pdf)

Some facts
The population of Killybegs in Census 2011 was 1,297 persons and this has grown by only 1.3% over the period 2006-2011 compared to population growth in the County as a whole of 9.4%. This indicates a fairly static population base and only a limited rate of growth. Of the total labour force in Killybegs, 72.6% were at work which is slightly lower than the equivalent county figure of 73.8%. The unemployment rate in Killybegs was 27.4% in 2011 and this was higher than the County unemployment rate (26.2% in 2011). Further information on the demographics of Killybegs can be viewed at; http://census.cso.ie/areaprofiles/areaprofile.aspx?Geog_Type=ST&Geog_Code=33022

The town provides a range of neighbourhood services to its residents and to the wider surrounding hinterland. Neighbourhood services include a number of community and cultural services, recycling facilities, public service, financial, post office, An Garda Síochána, fire station, Killybegs Harbour, Killybegs Community Hospital as well as primary, post primary and third level education facilities.
Further information on the profile of Killybegs can be viewed at; http://www.spaceialnw.eu/town-profiles/killybegs as well as other comparative information for the County at http://www.spaceialnw.eu/  

Current Planning Framework
The current planning framework for Killybegs which will be replaced by the content of the Local Area Plan is contained within the County Donegal Development Plan 2012-2018 (as varied). The Core Strategy of CDP 2012-2018 (as varied) outlines that the identification of lands to supply need for new housing is to be delivered through the preparation of a Killybegs Local Area Plan and that to this end, the amount of land to be zoned to meet this need in Killybegs is 14 ha. For clarity, the CDP 2012-2018 (as varied) does not consist of a Settlement Framework map and associated text in respect of Killybegs. The last Local Area Plan for Killybegs which has now expired (expired March 2014) was entitled, ‘The Killybegs Local Area Plan 2008-2014’ and it contained written text of objectives and policies for the proper planning and sustainable development of Killybegs together with a land use zoning map. For information purposes, the map below is an extract from the Killybegs Local Area
Plan 2008-2014 showing the land use zoning that had been identified at that time. The Land Use Zoning map of the Killybegs Local Area Plan (now expired) outlined:

- The plan boundary
- Lands zoned for a variety of uses including, but not limited to, residential, community, education, opportunity sites, open space, amenity areas, harbour/port activities and enterprise.
- A number of road linkages, junctions, cycleways and walkways.

Map extract from the Killybegs Local Area Plan 2008-2014 (now expired).

Issues for consideration through the preparation of the LAP specific to Killybegs

Issues that are likely to be considered in the Killybegs section of the LAP include:

- The importance of the fishing and port-related activities as well as the tourism sector to the towns’ economy. In tandem with the preparation of the LAP, an Action
Plan is being progressed for Killybegs to identify key actions to support and assist in the economic potential of Killybegs as a Development Centre including the promotion and development of Killybegs as an Innovation Centre for Marine Resources, Food and Tourism.

- The potential to be harnessed through the cruise ship market and through the location of Killybegs as a gateway along the Wild Atlantic Way.
- The renewal and regeneration of the town centre.
- The visual quality of the main access routes into and out of the town.
- The protection of important townscape features and key views and prospects identified in the draft Settlement Character Assessment that forms part of the draft Landscape Character Assessment
- The value and economic potential of the rich heritage of Killybegs, particularly in relation to the built and archaeological heritage.
- The approach to the identification of the boundary of the town.
- The consideration of flood risk assessment and associated implications. (Note: The Office of Public Works (OPW) is the lead agency for flood risk management in Ireland and is leading on the preparation of a national Catchment-based Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme. Killybegs has been identified as an Area of Further Assessment (AFA) for Flood Risk as part of this Programme and therefore OPW are undertaking detailed surveys and assessment to identify the causes of flooding, locations of risk and remedial solutions/ mitigation to flood risk. The CFRAM programme comprises a number of phases and consultation stages, the initial phases of which are finalised. As the work develops, the OPW will provide for further consultation. Further information in relation to the CFRAM Programme and in particular the Killybegs AFA can be viewed at www.cfram.ie)
- The approach to the zoning of lands for housing purposes to meet the identified need of 14ha as established in the Core Strategy of the County Development Plan 2012- 2018 (as varied).
- The approach to land use zoning in the town for purposes other than housing such as industry / employment, recreational, community and economic uses.
- The need to safeguard the environmental and visual amenities of the town.

How can you take part in the consultation?
The issues identified are not exhaustive and there are likely to be many more so it is important to have your say on what the issues are as you see them and what the options are to address the issues. To do so, you can make a submission or observation to be received not later than 5pm on 29th February 2016, either:

- By email to localareaplan@donegalcoco.ie or,
- By post to: The Central Planning Unit, Donegal County Council, County House, Lifford