

# Participants Guide

**High-Level Rural Policy Forum**

**RURAL PACT**

**3 - 4 November 2026**

Naas, County Kildare, Ireland



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## 1. Introduction

The High-Level Rural Policy Forum '[Europe's Rural Future – Responding to rural priorities through integrated national and regional strategies and LEADER](#)' will take place in the Killashee Hotel, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91 DC98, Ireland on 3-4 November 2026. It will offer two days of networking and reflections to explore integrated national and regional policy approaches, exchange experiences and reflect on practical approaches for designing and implementing national and regional rural strategies. It will also provide an opportunity for LEADER/CLLD practitioners and rural development stakeholders to exchange experiences on the added value and impacts of LEADER/CLLD and reflect collectively on the future of LEADER and multi-sectoral CLLD post-2027 and their key role in supporting rural development under the NRPPs.

The event will welcome a total of 200 participants across civil society organisations, policymakers and public authorities, LEADER Local Action Groups (LAGs), academics and researchers, businesses and citizens, all keen on actively contributing to the future of rural areas.

This document provides guidance to participants to help organise their attendance at the event providing relevant information about the venue, accommodation and transportation options.

## 2. Venue

The Conference will take place at the **Killashee Hotel**, located just 2km outside of Naas Town in County Kildare (address: Kilcullen Rd, Killashee, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91 DC98, Ireland). The county is part of the province of Leinster, and the tourism region known as Ireland's Ancient East. The hotel is situated amongst acres of gardens and wild woodland and trails.

Please note that the venue is outside the main town.

Further information on accommodation and transportation can be found below.

## 3. Accommodation in Naas, Co. Kildare

Participants have already been informed via email by the Rural Pact Support Office of their acceptance to attend the event (Note: only accepted participants will be welcome to participate in the event). The acceptance email also specifies whether participants are expected to arrange and cover their own travel and accommodation expenses or whether their travel and accommodation will be organised by the Rural Pact Support Office.

This section provides information on some accommodation options in Naas to help participants organise their own travel and accommodation (see table further below).

Also, the event organisers have made a specific arrangement with **Lawlor's Hotel** to offer participants a special event rate. Please note that only a limited number of rooms are available at this rate, and bookings will therefore be subject to availability. Please use the following booking reference in your communication with the **Lawlor's hotel** so that you are identified as a participant and you can be offered a room if available: 371440. Please contact the hotel by phone by calling +353 45 906 444 extension 1 or by email [reservations@lawlors.ie](mailto:reservations@lawlors.ie) quoting the reference.



The table below provides information on a selection of suitable accommodation options available, including in Naas and the surrounding area. This is not an exhaustive list, and participants are free to book other suitable accommodation of their choice:

| Accommodation                                                                                            | Email                                                                                                                                                          | Phone              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Lawlor's of Naas, Town Centre <a href="#">Hotel</a> ****</b>                                          | <a href="mailto:reservations@lawlors.ie">reservations@lawlors.ie</a><br>Booking Reference 371440                                                               | +353 (0)45 906 444 |
| <b>Osprey <a href="#">Hotel</a>, Naas****</b>                                                            | <a href="mailto:reservations@osprey.ie">reservations@osprey.ie</a>                                                                                             | +353 (0)45 881 111 |
| <b>Monaghans Harbour <a href="#">Hotel</a>, Naas**</b>                                                   | <a href="mailto:res@harbourhotel.ie">res@harbourhotel.ie</a>                                                                                                   | +353 (0)45 879 145 |
| <b>The Town House <a href="#">Hotel</a>, Naas**</b>                                                      | <a href="mailto:info@thetownhousehotel.ie">info@thetownhousehotel.ie</a>                                                                                       | +353 (0)45 879 226 |
| <b>The Keadeen <a href="#">Hotel</a>, Newbridge, Co. Kildare****<br/>(approx. 17km from Venue)</b>       | <a href="mailto:info@keadeenhotel.ie">info@keadeenhotel.ie</a>                                                                                                 | +353 (0)45 431 666 |
| <b>Barberstown Castle <a href="#">Hotel</a>, Straffan, Co. Kildare****<br/>(approx. 22km from Venue)</b> | <a href="mailto:info@barberstowncastle.ie">info@barberstowncastle.ie</a>                                                                                       | +353 (0)1 628 8157 |
| <b>B&amp;Bs or Rental Homes</b>                                                                          | <a href="http://www.booking.com">www.booking.com</a><br><a href="http://www.trivago.ie">www.trivago.ie</a><br><a href="http://www.airbnb.ie">www.airbnb.ie</a> |                    |

## 4. Transportation

### 4.1. How to arrive to Naas

This section provides information to help participants to organise their transportation to Naas. The town has limited public transport connections to the capital.

#### 4.1.1. Main airports

- **Dublin Airport**

<https://www.dublinairport.com/>

This airport is Ireland's primary airport, located 16km to the north of the capital, approximately 56 km from Naas. The only direct public transport connection from the airport to Naas town is by bus/coach.

<https://www.dublincoach.ie/airport>



Shuttle buses to the event hotel venue will be provided on the evening prior to the event (see below).

- **Shannon Airport**

<https://www.shannonairport.ie/>

This airport is located on the west coast of Ireland, in County Clare, almost 200km from Naas. It may provide an alternative option to Dublin Airport for delegates.

However, there is no direct public transport connection to Naas, and no shuttle bus will be provided from this airport, so car hire would be the only transport connection.

- **Cork Airport**

<https://www.corkairport.com/>

This airport is located in the southwest of Ireland, in County Cork, almost 230km from Naas. It may provide an alternative option to Dublin Airport for delegates.

However, there is no direct public transport connection to Naas, and no shuttle bus will be provided from this airport, so car hire would be the only transport connection.

#### 4.1.2. Shuttle bus from and to Dublin airport

To facilitate participants' arrival in Naas at the start of the event, as well as their transfer to the airport at its conclusion, **shuttle buses will be organised for all accepted participants**. Find relevant information below:

##### **Monday, 02 November 2026**

- Dublin Airport to Naas (town centre and venue hotel - Killashee): **Departing time at 18h30 GMT**

Note: The exact departure point at Dublin Airport will be confirmed and communicated to participants in advance.

If on the day you have any problem to get to the buses, please contact **Gaia Marchesini (Phone number & WhatsApp: 00393460159097)**.

##### **Wednesday, 04 November 2026**

- Killashee hotel (Event venue) to Dublin Airport: Departure time **at 15h00 GMT (After the closing of the event)**

Note: The exact arrival point at Dublin Airport is expected at **16h15 GMT** depending on traffic.

#### 4.1.3. Public Transport

Dublin Airport is connected to Naas by bus/coach. There are buses every hour and a single journey is approximately €25. Participants can explore the timetables here: <https://www.dublincoach.ie/all-timetables/n7-service>. This is a suitable option for participants arriving to Dublin Airport who will not manage to take the shuttle bus organised for this event which departs on the 2 November at 18h30 GMT from the airport. For participants staying at the Killashee hotel, note that the **Naas Post Office** is



the closest bus stop along this route to the hotel. It would be advisable to pre-book a taxi for your estimated arrival time to take you to the hotel as this stop is located 3km from the Killashee hotel.

Naas is also relatively well connected to Dublin city centre by train. Participants can find detailed information and plan their journey via the Iarnród Éireann (Irish Rail) [website](#). The train departs from **Dublin Heuston** station and **Sallins and Naas** station is the destination, which is just over 9km from the event hotel venue and approx. 4km outside of Naas town.

**Dublin Express** offers fast, premium coach service between Dublin Airport and 15+ Dublin city centre stops, including Dublin Heuston Train Station. The Dublin Express Route 782 takes you from Dublin Airport to the city centre, and is the best option if you need to travel to Heuston Train Station. Buses typically run every 15-20 minutes and it takes around 30-40 minutes from Dublin Airport to Heuston Train Station but can be quicker (around 30 mins) during off-peak times. Coaches depart from Dublin Airport Zone 1 (Terminal 1) and Zone 21 (Terminal 2). The return journey to Dublin Airport typically takes between 40 – 50 minutes.

Dublin Express tickets can be bought online or from customer staff at Dublin Airport. You can also buy tickets online for these services at [Dublin Express](#).

#### 4.1.4. Car

##### 4.1.4.1. Car rental

In Ireland, numerous car rental companies operate at the airports and in the city centre. If you are interested in renting a car, you can explore and compare options online through the providers' websites or rental platforms. Companies operating from Dublin Airport include Europcar, SIXT and Carflexi.

While parking spaces will be reserved for organisers and certain speakers, there is plenty of parking space for delegates. The use of the organised shuttle buses to and from the venue is strongly encouraged, when possible, to help reduce the event's carbon footprint.

##### 4.1.4.2. Private vehicle

Participants may also travel by private vehicle. While parking spaces will be reserved for organisers and certain speakers, there is plenty of parking space for delegates. The use of the organised shuttle buses to and from the venue is strongly encouraged, when possible, to help reduce the event's carbon footprint.

##### 4.1.4.3. Taxis

Please note that the organisers will not be arranging individual travel plans for participants beyond the shuttle buses provided for the event. Participants not availing of the shuttle bus service are responsible for organising their own travel to and from the venue. We recommend planning your journey in advance to ensure a smooth and timely arrival.

Taxis are available from Dublin Airport. The journey to Naas should cost between €80-95.

<https://www.at24naas.ie/service-page/taxi-dublin-airport-naas>

Taxis are available to book at the venue, for local trips and airport returns. Please contact Reception.



## 4.2. How to arrive to the venue (Shuttle buses)

The venue is best accessed by private means of transport (such as car or taxi) as public transport directly to the venue is limited.

To help participants arrive to the venue, a **shuttle bus will be arranged.** The shuttle service will operate once in the morning and at the end of each day's programme (see agenda [here](#)).

### **03 November 2026**

- A shuttle bus will depart from outside the entrance of the Lawlor's Hotel (address: Poplar Square, Naas, Co. Kildare, Ireland). The exact departure time from Lawlor's Hotel and return time from the venue will be confirmed and communicated to participants in advance.

### **04 November 2026**

- A shuttle bus will depart from outside the entrance of the Lawlor's Hotel (address: Poplar Square, Naas, Co. Kildare, Ireland). The exact departure time from Lawlor's Hotel and return time from the venue will be confirmed and communicated to participants in advance.

**Note:** *all participants wishing to travel back to Dublin Airport by shuttle bus on 04 November after the event closure should bring their luggage with them to the Killashee Hotel (event venue), where a luggage area will be available in the registration lobby.*

## 5. Other important information

### 5.1. Clothing

Participants are advised to check the weather forecast before travelling and to bring appropriate clothing for winter. In case of rain, please bring a waterproof jacket or small umbrella with you, as there may be some walking outdoors. While the event will take place in one venue, you may be required to move between different locations (e.g. between venue and your accommodation, or for fresh air during the day's programme).

Participants are welcome to dress comfortably and appropriately for a professional setting. Note, there will be no gala dinner, so no special dress code is requested to join the dinner at the end of Day 1.

### 5.2. Meals

The organisers have taken note of participants' dietary requirements and will ensure suitable options are available for all participants. These will be clearly marked and displayed.

On Day 1 (03 November), there will be a morning break, networking lunch and afternoon break. A refreshment will be provided, before a buffet dinner.

On Day 2 (04 November), refreshments will be available in the morning, followed by an early lunch starting at 12h00 GMT as the event is scheduled to conclude at 14h30 GMT.



### 5.3. Electricity Plugs

Ireland uses **Type G plugs** (three rectangular pins), which are different from the standard plugs used in most continental European countries. Participants are therefore advised to bring a **UK/Ireland plug adaptor**. The electricity supply is **230V / 50Hz**, so for most European devices only a plug adaptor is needed, not a voltage converter.