



Uimhir Thagarta Uathúil: KCC-C55-501

Stádas: Submitted

Aighneacht: submission to Co Dev plan

Údar: Fiona OLoughlin

Comhairliúchán:

Draft Kildare County Development Plan 2023 - 2029

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2. Core Strategy

Caibidil: Volume 1 - chapters » 2. Core Strategy

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According to the 2016 census Kildare, has a population of 222,504 which is projected to grow by up to 44,000 by 2031. Covid 19 pandemic has changed the way in which we all live, work and play. People are leaving bigger cities and choosing smaller cities and towns that offer a better work life balance, choosing hybrid forms of work and remote hubs to work from. This needs to be reflected in this plan-most particularly in relation to inter-generational housing. I also believe we need to look at the requirements for step down housing prior to nursing homes as outlined by Pat O`Mahony in his book "rethinking housing options for senior citizens"

The National Planning Framework sets out the projected demand for new households in an area over a specific time period. Kildare's housing supply target to 2031 is a total of 13,840 units, of which 3,934 are expected to be social housing supports and 1,818 are expected to be affordable housing.

Given that current housing stock levels are inadequate, it is crucial that the level of housing supply target through appropriate tiered zonings as well as appropriate rural housing. It is also essential to have the appropriate infrastructural supports as in schools, playgrounds, GPs, transport links and infrastructure. For example whilst Newbridge has its own development plan, I believe that it is Imperative within the County development plan to reiterate the need for a second bridge enabling a ring road, the necessity of a proper traffic management plan, the need for a new Primary as well as a Post-Primary School as well as a second playground and the continued development of the Liffey linear park on both sides of the bridge.

As there is no Secondary School in Athgarvan, there is an absolute need for a footpath completing the connectivity from Athgarvan to Newbridge, as there is a need for the continuation of footpath in Newtown Rathangan as far as Cribbens lane.

There also needs to be an extension of sewerage schemes to include Allenwood South in Allenwood, and Newtown in Rathangan.

There needs to be a very clear statement in the co development plan as to how unauthorised developments will be dealt with-both in terms of residential, waste facilities and operation of quarries.

In relation to tourism, rural tourism and bio diversity, strong consideration should be given to the development of eco-tourism-including added protection for the Curragh and the development of a national peatlands park to complement the blueways and greenways. Rathangan, Robertstown. Monasterevan and Athy should be specially designated as Blueway destination towns in terms of developing appropriate industry. There should also be specially designated sites for glamping/motorhomes. An increase in serviced berths is needed to support our inland waterways tourism. These are needed in Robertstown, Rathangan, Monasterevan and Athy. There needs to be appropriate parking and signage at the Curragh and hill of Allen. Community gardens and allotments should be considered where possible.

I am concerned that the rural housing policy is becoming increasingly restrictive, and we will have aging populations in townlands and settlement areas without younger family members supporting intergenerational living. There should be regard to family clusters being allowed, and increase in serviced sites.

I welcome the Councils proposals regarding the repurposing of sites and reducing vacancy and underutilised lands. Quality of life, housing, social infrastructure, transport and broadband connections, and energy security are all hugely important for Kildare. Progress is essential!

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Documents Attached: Níl