21.05.2022

RE: Submission to Kildare County Development Plan

Dear Kildare County Council

We wish to make a proposal to the Kildare County Development Plan (“KCDP”) to classify the route from Harristown Estate, through Dunnstown towards the Harristown Commons (L6044) as a scenic route. Our submission is based on the criteria laid out in the KCDP.

The KCDP mentions the objective of preserving views to/from hills and ridgelines. The road, as it approaches Harristown Estate rises to give a clear, unobstructed views towards Ballymore Eustace, Hollywood village and the rising of the Wicklow Mountains National Park towards the Wicklow Gap. The mountains clearly visible include Church Mountain, Sorrel Hill, Mullaghcleevaun and Turlough Hill. A more picturesque view of this area of scenic beauty could not be found. The usage of the L6044 as a route for walkers and cyclists has increased substantially since the early periods of Covid lockdowns, when the 5km rule encouraged people from Two Mile House, Kilcullen and surrounding areas to explore their immediate localities, and this has continued long after the restrictions were lifted.

The rise on the road mentioned above also means that the L6044 has a view along the walls of Harristown Estate and into the River Liffey Valley. Views of this Class 4 Landscape sensitivity area should be preserved for all to enjoy.

We have also noted that the National Transport Authority’s plans include the objective to develop a greenway along the route of the old Naas to Tullow railway which incorporates the old Harristown railway station that passes through the valley below the road. Classing L6044 as a scenic route would preserve these views to ensure maximum usage and enjoyment of this proposed amenity.

The L6044 also runs alongside and has views of some historic sites mentioned and listed in the KCDP, the most notable of which is Harristown Castle. Preserving and protecting these views and vantage points should be a priority for the Council in our opinion.

In conclusion, this stretch of the L6044 meets a number of the criteria used to determine the suitability of an area to be classified as a scenic route and having protected views. Failure to protect and preserve this area for current and future generations would be a loss to both the immediate community and the wider communities of Naas, Kilcullen, Ballymore Eustace and Two Mile House.

Yours sincerely,

Siobhan Taaffe & Stephen Bourke