



May 23rd 2022

Draft Development Plan,
Kildare Co. Council
Devoy Centre,
Naas Co. Kildare

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached submissions in relation to the current development plan and matters relating to the historical area of Tipperkevin and Kill.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Philip O'Reilly', written in black ink.

Philip O'Reilly





May 23rd 2022

Draft Development Plan,
Kildare Co. Council
Devoy Centre,
Naas Co. Kildare

Dear Sir/Madam,

The development plan needs to include a sustainable guideline and method of the cutting of hedgerows in the county.

All over the county trees are being ripped out of hedges and hedges are being cut down to the base to the detriment of wildlife, flora and fauna.

It should not be necessary to trim road side hedges to a height of less than 4 meters off the top of a boundary bank.

And the current approach of "short back and sides" should be outlawed. Hedges should be cut and trimmed in such a way that they retain their natural form so they are maintained at varying heights, shapes and formats.

I in particular refer to the N7 where there was extensive planning with its widening 15 years ago

Notwithstanding the need to facilitate and maintain the lighting along the road as far as Naas, hedges and trees should be maintained in such a manner that intervention is kept to a minimum in terms of trimming and cutting such that the trees and hedgerows are allowed to generate naturally.

In particular I refer to the section of the road to Straffan from the N7 junction 7 to the start of the Bishops Court estate a distance of about 1 kilometre. Half of this distance is a new road which evolved from the N7 scheme of 15 years ago with significant planting of trees and hedging. These trees and hedging should be allowed to attain their own natural heights with only minimal intervention needed to facilitate street lighting and encroachment on to the carriageway and should not otherwise be cut back. The ESB will come along and do its worst but they should be communicated with and they should be obliged to adopt a proper and satisfactory policy towards trees and hedgerows and not the rip and slash policy they currently pursue.

Towards the Bishops Court part of this road the hedgerows on the southern side of the road at the bend in the road have in recent years have been mutilated out of existence and this should be flagged as not being acceptable and such an approach outlawed in the up and coming development plan and strong policies against such be adopted.

The development plan should also adopt policies towards radically controlling the growth of IVY on trees in the county. The growth of IVY in the county can only be considered as prolific and serious environment measures should be taken to control its growth. It overwhelms trees and hastens their demise. It makes trees top heavy, imposing a load on a tree structure which the tree was never designed to carry or support. It weakens trees and encourages and speeds up the development of rot. As a result, perfectly healthy trees are brought to their knees prematurely. Trees which would otherwise be perfectly healthy succumb to wind throw and rot and are rapidly weakened. Such trees growing on road boundaries are rapidly blown over in windy conditions and this situation with the increased number of storms in both number and ferocity is resulting in an increased safety hazard to the public.

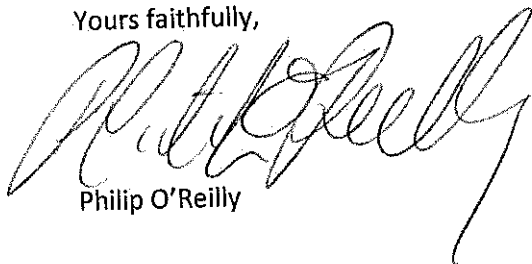
Excessive IVY destroys trees and results in the loss of what would otherwise be perfectly healthy trees. Accordingly, a determined policy on the management of IVY on trees in the interests of wildlife, flora and fauna should be adopted and the county act as a pioneer and an example for the rest of the country.

The increased safety hazard of trees being blown over in storms is not a problem with trees, it is a problem with excess IVY on trees weakening their structure, increasing their wind resistance and subjecting them to significantly increased windthrow factors resulting in increased uprooting and overtopping of what would otherwise be perfectly healthy trees.

Finally a determined policy in the matters of the comprehensive control of Ragwort should be actively pursued and implemented.

All these objectives should be adopted as active policies to be pursued in the forthcoming development plan.

Yours faithfully,



Philip O'Reilly

Tipperkevin is a small settlement in Northeast Kildare, close to the Wicklow border and at the western side of Slieve Rua, the third highest land point in Kildare.

It is strongly believed that St Kevin passed through the area on his way to Glendalough as there was a fresh water spring which is still in situ and still has fresh water flowing from it.

At some stage given the availability of water and the nature of the area, a church was built here and a graveyard. It is clear that an ancient community grew up here based on the availability of clear clean water.

The ruins of the church were visible up to the last century and are marked as such on maps and the graveyard is in situ having been used right up to the end of the 20th century and even more recently.

The settlement as it is today came about as a result of the presence of ground water at the aforementioned water well as well as further to the east on higher ground where a river rises out of the ground and flows in a north westerly direction eventually reaching the river Liffey. This today is marked on maps as the Morell River.

With the coming of the landlords, the owners of the land at the time designated land at Tipperkevin as common land and this allowed the tenants to build their houses on such land rates free. And this is how the current settlement evolved. From the historic religious settlement which established around west of the well, the community expanded eastwards towards the other water source facilitate by the designation of lands by the landlord as "Commons".

This area can be seen on maps marked as the townland of "Commons" on maps today.

There were two larger commons areas, one extending from the aforementioned well westwards down the hill beyond the church and the graveyard, and the other large area on the higher ground at the eastern limit of the commons where the river flowed.

The two bigger areas were connected by a narrower strip of commons land probably about 500 ft wide. People built their houses on these common lands and around the sides of the bigger commons plots already referred to.

People could water their livestock on these commons lands as well as get fresh water for their own use

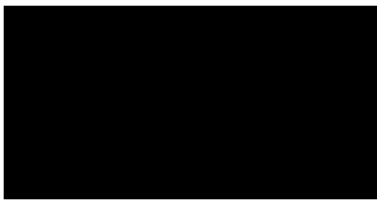
In the 20th century many of individual households with holdings on the commons registered their dwellings. With the coming of piped water, locals no longer needed to go to the commons for water and they fell into disuse as far as watering and common grazing for animals was concerned. Today, part of the lower commons around the well and the Upper Commons through which the river Morell flows is still open, unmanaged and uncared for and needs a plan to protect it into the future or it will be further lost forever.

It should be reviewed and managed as a natural and historical resource to facilitate the protection of local flora and fauna and the historical remains of the earlier times of the settlement.

A grass triangle at the junction of the Tipperkevin Road and the Ballymore Eustace/Eadestown Road is being vandalized on an ongoing basis by people driving over it and ripping it up. What grass that remains on it is being continually cut and mowed without consultation with the community and to the detriment of the local flora and fauna. This is another resource that is being lost.

This historic area needs to be recognized for the important area that it is and for the remaining historic and open lands that remain in this area and appropriate measures taken to maintain the area in its current open and historical setting for the benefit of the community now and into the future.

Philip O'Reilly



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Philip O'Reilly".



Issued by the
**DEPARTMENT OF
 AGRICULTURE,
 FOOD AND FORESTRY**

for area aid purposes only

Townland code: **I16910**

Townland name: **GLEBE WEST**

Scale: **1:5000**

Parcel number _____ Gross area *

I16910005 2.58 Ha.
I16910006 5.54 Ha.

* Areas shown above are **gross areas** in hectares. Deductions should be made for non-agricultural areas in Area Aid Applications.
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Kildare County Council
 Planning Department
23 MAY 2022
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