

## DRAFT LEIXLIP LOCAL AREA PLAN 2020- 2026

### Submission of James Lawless TD

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To;

Senior Executive Officer,

Planning Department,

Kildare County Council,

Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas .

I would like to make a submission in respect of the Draft Leixlip Local Area Plan 2020-2026.

I note the core elements of the plan include;

- The Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) recognises through its identification within a “Strategic Development Corridor” that Leixlip is going to support the Greater Dublin Area and will play a very significant role in providing future residential and employment services for the GDA.
- The headline figure from this draft LAP is that there is significant growth targeted for Leixlip, where a growth target of 3,315 units, 10.2% of the county’s growth is set for the Leixlip area.
- As of March 2019 there are permissions currently for 569 units with the LAP area, subtracting these from the 3,315 figure means 2,598 units will be allowed.
- As it stands there are 5,524 households in Leixlip. This LAP allows the town to increase in size by over 60%
- It has identified 4 Key Development Areas (KDA) for the additional housing to be located. They are
  - The Wonderful Barn KDA
  - Celbridge Road East KDA
  - Leixlip Gate KDA (Off Green Lane)
  - Black Avenue KDA

I would like to submit the following points in respect of the LAP and in particular with reference to the core elements of the plan as set out above.

#### **Provision of extra/improved infrastructure**

- The report recognises that this level of increase in population will place an extra demand and burden on infrastructure. Kildare County Council carried out an audit of services to evaluate the needs of Leixlip going forward. I would submit that these needs are essential and it is fundamental that that Kildare County Council leads a process of working alongside other State Authorities to facilitate the delivery of these key infrastructure projects and services. The work in delivering these key projects/infrastructures should commence immediately and be a key priority for Kildare County Council for the next five years.

#### **Education**

- There are 7 primary schools, 2 secondary schools and 3 further education centres currently operating in Leixlip. Both secondary schools are operating at full capacity. I note that consultation by Kildare County Council with the Department of Education has concluded with the recognition of the need for 2 new primary schools and a new secondary school with 1,000 pupil capacity. The delivery of these new schools is crucial and necessary and work should commence immediately in their provision.

#### **Childcare**

- The provision of childcare is also reaching capacity in Leixlip. Currently there are 13 facilities which are at full capacity already. The LAP states such facilities will be required in tandem and will be placed as a requirement in future planning permissions. I would submit that any future planning permission granted should have this planning condition included. Furthermore I would submit that this condition could not be removed or altered so as to remove the obligation of the developer to provide facilities for the provision of childcare.

## **Healthcare**

- The requirement of the provision Leixlip Primary Health Care facility is now crucial. Delay's here have occurred already in the delivery of this project.

## **Public Transport**

- I would submit that the DART Expansion programme and its implementation as a key source of capacity for the residents of Leixlip. The target date for construction to commence is 2021. I also note that Kildare County Council have emphasised the importance of the Bus Connects project to deliver better and more efficient services. The provision of adequate transport links for this increasing population is priority.
- The plan has indicated that it is essential to deliver an improved road network in Leixlip and has included a number of specific projects to improve the road infrastructure. This is another key priority for Leixlip.

## **Additional Points**

- The protection of St. Catherine's Park must be included in this LAP. I submit this public amenity should be protected fully and the residents of Leixlip have strongly supported this on numerous occasions.
- I would submit that voluntary and sports clubs and organisations be consulted and as to their requirements for additional facilities/lands to accommodate the growth predicted for Leixlip. Recreational and sporting needs of a community is paramount and this should be prioritised in this LAP
- The LAP has many positives in relation to Green Area's, Canal amenities, economic development, tourism and heritage. I support the promotion of these aspects of the LAP as they will improve the town and surrounding areas and will be beneficial to all residents.