

To whom it may concern I wish to make the following submission in regard to the KEY DEVELOPMENT AREA (KDA) Confey, Leixlip.

Also I would like to request an objective of a NEW PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL it be added to the Leixlip Local Area Plan (2017- 2033) HC4- Other Community Sports and Recreational Facilities- (details below).

Included in this submission are the signatures of 1,696 residents of Leixlip and its environs in full support of the need for a new public swimming pool facility in Leixlip, Co Kildare

A bit of back ground - I moved to Confey, Leixlip with my family when I was 3 years old back in 1982, living in [REDACTED]. I had a wonderful childhood playing on our road until the street lights came on, playing and building dens around the corn field (now St Catherines Park) and having a general feeling of being carefree and a real sense of belonging in the community.

After college I moved to Dublin and from there travelled Australia and other parts of the world. I then moved to London where I lived there for 9 years. But I always knew I would move back to Leixlip, it was that sense of belonging, the amazing community and relationships I had grown over the years and still have today and that was something I really wanted for my children if I ever had any.

So in 2017 with my husband ([REDACTED]) and our two young boys [REDACTED] [REDACTED] we took the serious decision to move home leaving behind very successful careers. So sensibly my husband got a job in Dublin before the move and we had 4 weeks to move our life from London to Leixlip.

We were in for a rude awakening, we couldn't believe how difficult it was to get a rented house, it was impossible and we ended up living with family for 4 months until something became available. 4 of us in a bedroom! We now live in [REDACTED] paying more rent than we did in Central London!

I understand more that anyone the need for housing in Leixlip and I'm a huge advocate of development in Leixlip however this new proposed plan to develop Confey has a number of serious issues that I'm keen to address. INFRASTRUCTURE and the lack of it! I feel the planners just looked at a map and decided let put this here and that there but when you're living here day to day the issues are real and they need to be sorted out before adding more pressure to an already failing infrastructure in our town.

SWIMMING POOL:

Also there is a ongoing enigma that is a SWIMMING POOL, something that has been promise to Leixlip for over 30 years. I have attached a petition with 1,696 signatures, I set up the campaign out of sheer frustration. I have lived abroad and have seen how a swimming pool can be the heart of the community bringing together all walks of life.

The Leixlip population will continue to grow and we deserve adequate facilities that fuels the needs across all demographics, a swimming pool would do that -for exercise, learning the life skill of how to swim, rehabilitation, people with disability or special needs, school swimming programmes plus its affordable and accessible for everyone.

The benefits for our community would be priceless and this needs to be seriously considered and added to the plan for Leixlip.

The Draft LAP makes no specific provision for

- A civil building with theatre or performance space.
- Homes for the elderly/retired – 25% of Leixlip population 55+
- Affordable homes.
- Social housing.
- A Sensory Garden.
- Charging points for electric vehicles.
- Playground for Confey- nearest playground is 1.6 miles from my house in River Forest
- Adequate parking in the village, train stations or the proposed new Confey development.
- Maintaining existing estates, green areas or new developments.
- Improving and maintaining the existing water, waste & power supply infrastructure which is aging and faulty.

We have witnessed the power cuts- this year alone in 2019 we've already had 3! water leaks (no water for 3 days two weeks ago) and the on going stench in the middle of our town from the existing systems.

Traffic- it's an ongoing issue on the Captains Hill particularly at peak times and school times. If Cope Bridge was to be widened and a two flow car was to happen this will just add more issues, the knock on effect is getting cars out of the estates. I live in Riverforest and sometimes have waited up to 10 minutes just to get out of the estate. We need a roundabout NOW to get out of the estate. Also the plan does not adequately factor in the major expansion of Intel's impact on our existing transport infrastructure.

Trains- The morning trains in particular are an absolute disgrace, they are running at full to capacity and to even suggest additional residents using this services is beggars

belief! This needs to be address NOW. Either more frequent trains or more carriages because the current system is shocking and unreliable with delays the norm.

RIVERFOREST Bowl/ The Green belt- proposed walk way/ cycle track- no indication as to when, how big etc with foot bridge to Confey back roads? Do we lose the greenbelt completely?

St Catherines Park- Previous objective removed from Plan - 'To protect the amenity of St. Catherine's Park. No road proposal shall be considered by this Council through the park within the Council's ownership or jurisdiction.' In a complete "U" turn the LAP is now in fact proposing a road into the park to facilitate a major housing development at Black Avenue. This change is despite 1021 submissions in 2017 regarding protection of St Catherine's Park from road development. To totally ignore the people is dictatorial and undemocratic.