

Name Andrew, Thomas

To whom it may concern I wish to make the following submission in regard to the Draft LAP for Leixlip.

I am in favour of additional housing in the area as we all recognise the need for houses.

But I do have a number of points I would like to make:

The last draft plan was voted on and approved by our councillors in 2017. It is vital that the provision of additional housing in Leixlip is delivered in a way that is not detrimental to the fabric and character of Leixlip and therefore seeking a well-balanced plan for the successful development of Leixlip into the future is imperative.

It is crucial that the necessary infrastructure combined with the essential community facilities are reviewed properly and implemented effectively. The lack of any intention of putting in a swimming pool in the area is a huge oversight. It has been promised to Leixlip for over 20 years. More attention is needed to community areas in the plan such as a theatre space, additional playgrounds of a good size, proportionate to the increasing population of Leixlip.

I would like to see the upgrade to the sewerage system being prioritised in advance and road networks. Please take into account water/electricity needs – esp in light of Intels new plans to expand. We have suffered a lot of blackouts and water pipes bursting recently.

Schools and creche facilities and after school facilities and club areas need to be explored and developed in more detail.

Town centre – some building in terrible state – should be made develop these. Also KCC should insist on a common store front or colours to give town centre a unified feel. Additional parking needs to be designed into plan to assist with town rejuvenation.

Much larger park and ride facilities should be included too.

Key Development Areas that were removed from the last Local Area Plan by unanimously backed Material Alterations have been included again without any reasoned argument to support same.

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submission
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Celbridge Road East Key Development Area (KDA)

I refer to the final stage of the last draft for the Leixlip LAP 2017-2023 relating to "Material Alterations" where there was a vote taken by all 40 councillors on the 20th November 2017 to remove the residential zoning for lands at Celbridge Road East (KDA2). Despite this unanimous decision by the councillors it is disappointing to see these lands back on the Draft Leixlip LAP 2020-2026 seeking the zoning of these lands for residential development.

The zoning of these lands should not be permitted on cultural and heritage grounds. Leixlip Castle and Demense are both listed for protection in the County Development Plan. Existing protection orders should not be contravened in the interest of expedient development on this heritage site. The Wonderful Barn has already been zoned, we need to preserve the remaining lands of historical and cultural heritage.

The traffic consequences of this on the Celbridge Road would be huge.

The Wonderful Barn site could and should accommodate a range of day and evening time uses. This would be an ideal location for a cultural, arts and performing centre to be located within Leixlip assisting with the fulfilment of Policy EDT3.13 with regard to evening time use.

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.

The LAP fails to provide a Master Plan as directed by ministerial order for Confey. A lot more detailed work is required here.

We should not be zoning lands that will not be developed within the lifetime of this LAP.

I would like to see services being put in place before developments happen, playgrounds, schools, creches, green spaces, infrastructure etc. If left to private developers I feel many projects will not happen as they should. Also the budget for upkeep by KCC of Leixlip's roads, verges and hedges needs to be kept in line with the growing area that this plan envisages.

Thanks you,
Andrew Thomas