

Name

Eavan, Roche

### SECTION 3 VISION FOR LEIXLIP

#### 3.1 STRATEGIC VISION

"This LAP is underpinned by a strategic vision which is intended to guide the future growth of Leixlip in a sustainable manner, in a way that reflects the existing character and amenities of the area, the surrounding landscape, heritage and environment and improve the quality of life for the existing and future community.

The vision for the LAP will ensure that growth planned for the town over the Plan period and beyond occurs in a suitable and sequential manner, while prioritising a low carbon, compact, consolidated and connected pattern of development."

- Accurate research clearly was not carried out. We don't want Confey to resemble a soulless ghetto – Adamstown springs to mind, so does the Ballymun, Dublin, the planning disaster of the 1960s.

- Community is very important – the GAA Club is the heart of the community. The proposal to move it is ludicrous, even if only the playing fields. The new location would be too far to walk to for all members of the community, especially the elderly (we have a very high number of senior citizens), the school-going playing members, and the pupils of the local primary schools whose only fields are the GAA Club.

- Two proposed footbridges at River Forest and Glendale would fail to serve any real purpose, being exceedingly costly, attract unsociable behaviour, would be ugly eyesores and a complete waste of taxpayers' money. The height alone would make them prohibitive, unsafe and unrealistic for wheelchair users and those pushing buggies or with limited mobility. A target for crime for users.

#### 3.2 DELIVERING THE STRATEGIC VISION

"The vision is supported and consistent with the policies and provisions of:

- Proximity to the railway stations.

- Ability to promote sustainable transport modes and connections, both within the existing urban footprint, new community, education, sports and recreational facilities, maximising existing amenities such as the River Liffey, the Royal Canal & Greenway, Leixlip Spa, Leixlip Castle and St. Catherine's Park."

- How can sustainable transport modes be promoted? The planned electrification of the local railway lines will not be complete for a minimum of twelve plus years. The existing train service is a hit and miss affair – commuters are forced to take trains up to 90 minutes earlier, just to get a seat on the train in the mornings. The carriages are not monitored for over-crowding and, for Confey and Leixlip commuters, it's always standing room only; almost always crammed together like the Calcutta Express. Travel by rail is dangerous and unbearable, unless late at night or at midday, midweek. It is clear the Planners have not properly researched this either.

- Bus Connects has announced that it is cancelling the only bus service to Confey, the 66A.

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#### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

"S6 To phase significant future growth in line with the capacity and delivery of supporting physical infrastructure.

S8 To protect, enhance, create and connect national heritage, high quality amenity areas and other green spaces throughout Leixlip for both biodiversity and recreational use."

- St. Catherine's Park and the provision of a motorway linking the N3 and the N4, despite unanimous and vehement promises to the contrary, right through the Kildare side of the park, has not been addressed in the LAP. In fact, it has been removed since the previous edition of the LAP. Why?

- St. Catherine's Park, Kildare land, has been identified as the proposed route for the new, alternative motorway to the major M50 in Dublin. That means the loss of all the playing fields in the entire Co. Kildare section of this, the only public park in North Kildare. Motorway underpasses or high pedestrian bridges would be unsafe, unrealistic and an unfair way to access land already designated to Dublin clubs, in the next county. How can the removal of the Park possibly be considered an 'improvement'? PLEASE EXAMINE THE RESULTS OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY, MAY 2019, CARRIED OUT ON BEHALF OF T.I.I. BY ROUGHAN & O'DONOVAN, AECOM ALLIANCE, CONSULTING ENGINEERS – TITLE: 'ENHANCING MOTORWAY OPERATION SERVICES, M50 RESILIENCE BETWEEN M50, J 6 AND J7, SCOPING STUDY, MAY 2019'.

- In the above-named Study, four of eleven routes examined are deemed the most suitable for a replacement M50. All four are routed through St. Catherine's Park. Three of these are through the Co. Kildare part of the Park. Apart from destroying the quality of life for residents - the motorway is planned directly behind back gardens. Kildare Co. Councillors unanimously voted to prevent this land from having the proposed road ever routed through it.

- Indeed, our current Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, and Minister Damien English promised in a televised sitting of the Dail that no road would ever be permitted to be built through St. Catherine's Park.

- The LAP proposes moving Confey GAA pitches unreasonably far away to an alternative location; instead providing ugly dense housing.

- The proposed Sensory Garden in St. Catherine's Park, to which Kildare Co. Council awarded a €50,000 grant, provided its most suitable site and approved its plans for expected completion in August 2019, has not been mentioned in the LAP. I do not understand why or how the Planners could have missed something so important. It was as a result of a €5,000 donation from Intel Corporation and further substantial fundraising by locals towards the Sensory Garden that Kildare Co. Council came on board in 2018 and announced their €50,000 funding.

- The carparks for St. Catherine's Park are crammed to capacity every weekend, both in the Co. Kildare and the Fingal sides. The weekly Urban Market & Craft Fair held in St. Catherine's Park attracts thousands of visitors, apart from all of the sporting events, exercising options, picnics, socialising, nature walks and other general well-being benefits that the Park offers. Again, why has the protection of St. Catherine's Park been omitted from the current LAP?

- In the recent SEA Report, under the heading of Mitigation Measures 9.2, Subsection Policy I5, it is advised that: 'It is the policy of the Council to protect environmental quality in Leixlip through the implementation of European, national and regional policy and legislation relating to air quality, light pollution noise pollution and waste management.'

- For Air Quality, the following is recommended: "It is the policy of Kildare County Council to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole, though promoting the preservation of best ambient air quality with sustainable development."

- Under the heading Visual Amenity, the creation of a new policy is recommended: "Recommend creation of new policy: Protect the landscape character, values, sensitivities, focal points and views in the Leixlip area. This will include, inter alia, the following: a) the requirement of a Visual Impact Assessment for developments with potential to impact on areas of significant landscape character, value or sensitivity, including both urban and natural features, significant townscapes and historic buildings, as appropriate, and b) Prohibit development that will block or interfere with a significant focal point of view. Where it is considered that a development may impact on focal points or views, have regard to the significance of any such impact and any appropriate mitigation measures that should be incorporated."

#### PLEASE PREVENT THE DESECRATION OF THE BEAUTIFUL ST. CATHERINE'S PARK

- Above, you will see some of the reasons illustrated why it is so important to save our valuable St. Catherine's Park from either housing development or, especially, a very large motorway. These are some of the daily scenery of one of the most beautiful places in Ireland, and quite certainly in Co. Kildare. If you could kindly visit the area, before allowing the desecration of the area, it would be greatly appreciated. A visit will not disappoint!

- The residents of Glendale Meadows already tolerate the noise of increased rail traffic, the constant hum of traffic using the Leixlip By-Pass/M4 and the sounds of planes and helicopters flying in and out of Weston Airport. We are in the direct flight path of Dublin Airport and it is particularly noisy during summer months.

- Apart from the associated health risks, the noise from traffic using the proposed Eastern Access Road would create a living Hell scenario for the residents of the innermost, and certainly our road, of Glendale Meadows.