

Planning Department
Kildare County Council
Áras Chill Dara
Devoy Park
Naas
Co.Kildare


Leixlip
Co.Kildare.

06/07/2019

To Whom It May Concern,

We are residents of Confey. We understand the need for development, particularly in times of a housing crisis when the attraction for developers to build in Confey is obvious. Development is necessary. If this goes ahead I would urge the planners to take into consideration the small community style of living that we have here. Everyone comments on how Confey is similar to communities 'down the country'. When planning for the new development this needs to be taken into consideration. Urban planners need to sit down and look at what works and what doesn't. A successful plan could make Confey a model community for others around the country to base their developments on, rather than the usual development we see in Dublin. If we're to have development in Confey let's make it one to be proud of.

John Lonergan, former governor of Mountjoy, travels to communities throughout Ireland discussing the importance of open and green space for the well rounded development of children and teens. He talks about the fact that lack of green and open space is a main contributory factor to social deprivation...lack of respect, idleness, boredom leads to social problems. I am a primary school teacher in a DEIS school in Dublin 15. The opening of a large green space in which we have access to has made a huge difference in the children's behaviour on a daily basis. Having the space to run about leads to less fighting, less bullying and in effect less social issues.

Children show a lack of respect for their surroundings when they have no pride in their environment. If you're surrounded by concrete and you need to get into a car to find a sports pitch it is not conducive to easy living. The way we plan our towns and cities needs to take into consideration the success of "village building". We need to avoid the necessity of cars. We need to be able to get around by foot, have access to local shops, green spaces and sports facilities.

This is what we have here in Confey. The new development plan makes proposals to make a new neighbourhood hub to allow what we already have in our existing community. It is incumbent on us as the current dwellers of the community of Confey and the potential purchasers of new housing to insist on the same green open spaces as we had growing up here in the 80s. We have a GAA club in a perfect location for the existing community and the new development. Why would the club move to the periphery of any new community?

Our GAA club is a community club. Apart from the obvious GAA games that take place, the club facilitates a large amount of community groups such as basketball, old folks meeting, bridge club, cards, darts club, pool club, Irish dancing, set dancing. The GAA club will require more pitch space for any new development as the club struggles for pitch space as it is with the existing membership. The GAA club can play a real role in integrating new families to the area of Confey.

We are opposed to a sprawling development that comes across from Blanchardstown, to Ongar and into Confey. We do not want a situation whereby poor housing development goes ahead and we're left with roads and walls and more roads and walls. We then find ourselves in a situation where we must campaign for green spaces. The cost of that then falls on the council. Do it right and let's have the developer build correctly in the first place. Families living in homes need good infrastructure, access to goods and services, places in schools, sports facilities and green open areas to make their living environment one to be proud of. It really is that simple. Schools places in Confey College are available if the intake of the school is restricted to the area of Confey. We have a community centre, library, a beautiful park in St.Catherine's, an excellent GAA club, commercial units, a supermarket and a hotel. We may need extra primary schools. We need proper infrastructure, and not the type that brings roads through parklands. We need plenty of green space. We need adequate water and sewage upgrades to the existing and any new community. We have what many would want in a community and we don't believe an additional community hub is necessary.

We hope our concerns will be taken into consideration when decisions are being made.

Regards,

Fran and Joann Deffew