

JOHN AND CARMEL STAFFORD

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The Secretary
Kildare County Council Aras
Chill Dara,
Devoy Park, Naas,
Co Kildare

11th July 2019

Ref: DRAFT LEIXLIP LOCAL AREA PLAN 2020-2026

Dear Sir or Madam:

I ask you to seriously consider this and all the submissions being made regarding the latest Draft Leixlip Local Area Plan.

I understand that despite many objections to the previous plan very little has changed other than to make the situation worse.

For example, the housing density is increased from 30 units per hectare to 35 units per hectare. Existing mature treeline bordering Leixlip Park, Wogansfield and Highfield Park is to be removed

The objections regarding the intrusion into Leixlip Park and Wogansfield on the previous plan still stand for this plan.

The proposed developments along the Celbridge Road, Wonderful Barn and Guinness land will mean a heavy dependence on busses as the local train stations are so far away.

I repeat below items I mentioned previously as I believe they are still relevant.

As mentioned in my previous submission, I believe the development proposed for the Leixlip Castle demesne and any further rezoning of the lands at the Wonderful Barn is a not a good idea with respect to the present Leixlip/Celbridge road infrastructure. With HP, Colaiste Cíaráin, Scoil Uí Dhálaig, the Catholic Church the Parish Centre and domestic traffic from the estates all trying to access Leixlip Town this road is at present barely coping with the existing level of traffic. Adding the increase of traffic for the proposed new developments will cause total traffic congestion making it unsafe for motorists and pedestrians.

I'm also concerned about the effect on Leixlip Castle & Demesne. Once zoning for residential purposes is granted so close to it, will we see this wonderful building eventually stuck in the middle of a housing estate. More needs to be done to protect this historic and cultural site.

The Wonderful Barn; once again another historic site is under threat. This area needs to be protected and turned into a high-quality amenity area with recreational facilities and developed as a tourist attraction. All development under existing zoning should be restricted to two storey height or better still the whole area rezoned recreational/conservation

Community Facilities, before any rezoning of land for residential use, plans should be developed for new facilities, e.g. reinstating the new swimming pool at the Leixlip Amenities complex which was set out prior to the collapse of the "Celtic Tiger."

Educational facilities must be looked at and developed before any further housing development is considered.

Also mentioned in my previous submission I'm concerned also about the effect on the sewage system. The system was upgraded at Old Hill in recent years and it seems not to have been a success as the hill is closed regularly while work is being carried out. Only last week the hill was closed for a full 24hrs. With so many new houses being added this surely can only get worse.

The proposed plan must be seriously modified to get the backing of people in the area who only ask for sustainable development which this proposal is most definitely not.

Yours sincerely

John Stafford