

FROM THE DESK OF
JOHN WEIGEL

July 11, 2019
Plan 2020 - 2026,
The Planning Department,
Kildare County Council,
Áras Chill Dara,
Devoy Park, Naas,
Co. Kildare.

Dear Planning Department,

From accounts in our local newspaper, *The Liffey Champion*, it appears that planners in Kildare County Council have finally discovered the gem that is the community of Leixlip.

Following the last big plan to redevelop Leixlip over 20 years ago, the community has coalesced into a safe and pleasant united community with all the amenities of a modern, cared-for community.

The plan to accommodate 3,000 new dwellings threatens the very fabric of the community.

Although Leixlip is an historic community with its own castle, it remains a village while other communities in the Dublin metropolitan area have been swamped with development.

Good planning protects and enhances the infrastructure of an existing community to encourage responsible development in keeping with what is already in place.

The plans as outlined in the new plan for Leixlip will overwhelm the community with high density housing for residents with little regard for the community and change the demographics of the community. (Note the the anomalous population of Adamstown in Co. Dublin).

What should happen is an increased population allowance at the centre of Leixlip to allow for more people who support small village businesses. This, in turn, would encourage new residents to participate in village life as well as assimilate and increase economic activity.

Concentrating development in the Confey area serves no purpose but to provide a concentration of small dwellings adjacent to an established community, creating an isolated dormitory for workers in Dublin. Quality of life issues for new-comers will be at variance with the present community and create a divisiveness that does not exist at present. up-scaling the density for non-historic dwellings closer to the village center is one way to incentivize redevelopment.

Planners need to start again and not be following national and international recommendations. The failure of the flat complex in Ballymun is a salutary example of following international trends at the expense of the generations of people forced to live there. Ballymun looked good on paper but in practice it failed miserably.

Better planning (and investment) for the village itself with flexibility to meet the demands of the housing market is what is called for.

Sincerely yours,

John Weigel