

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

Confey GAA Club
Confey
Leixlip
Co.Kildare

3rd July 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

We, the club executive of Confey GAA, would like to lodge our concerns about the Confey Urban Design Framework and the Draft Area Plan for Leixlip, specifically the proposed development in Confey. We acknowledge that there may be a housing crisis in the greater Dublin area but it is not in the best interest of Leixlip/Confey to develop housing on a rapid and large scale to meet the demands of national interest. Any development needs to be planned correctly with appropriate infrastructure in place and with the desired objective to be a model community development that other areas can aspire to.

The strategic transport assessment for Confey delivered a number of road infrastructural options. No decision has been made regarding any of these options despite the pivotal importance of them to the entire LAP. The proposed works to Cope Bridge will worsen traffic congestion for residential areas located east and west of Captain's Hill. It will negatively impact on the access for residents in and from their estates. The plan does not adequately factor in the impact of the major expansion of Intel on water, sewage or transport infrastructure. The draft plan does not reflect or acknowledge the complexity of towns the size of Celbridge, Maynooth and Leixlip lying in such close proximity to each other and sharing the same road networks and public transport systems. The scale of the plan does not harmonise with or enhance the existing built and natural environment of Confey.

Confey GAA Club see the benefits of development in Confey for our club's membership. We are experiencing problems with volunteering at coaching level and a loss of involvement of our senior players when they retire from playing. There is no affordable housing in Confey and they must move further away. We ask that the scale of this planning for Confey be altered to a level that matches the actual demand for our community. We ask that these homes are affordable for the younger residents of the community to put down roots and raise families.

Every club wants more players but Confey GAA Club is unique in that we compete at senior level in Hurling, Football and Ladies and we struggle for pitch space for these three senior teams. Added to that we have "B" teams and an excellent juvenile structure already in place. We have access to a pitch in St. Catherine's Park but this still does not alleviate the problem of lack of playing space. To add more housing to the area of Confey would pose a considerable difficulty for the club to cater for these new families and so it is important that more pitches are allocated to clubs servicing the new members of the community. Confey