



Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí Offaly County Council

MEMO

To: Offaly County Council Planning Section Planning Section

From: Mark Mahon, Senior Executive Engineer

Subject: Draft County Development Plan 2021-2027

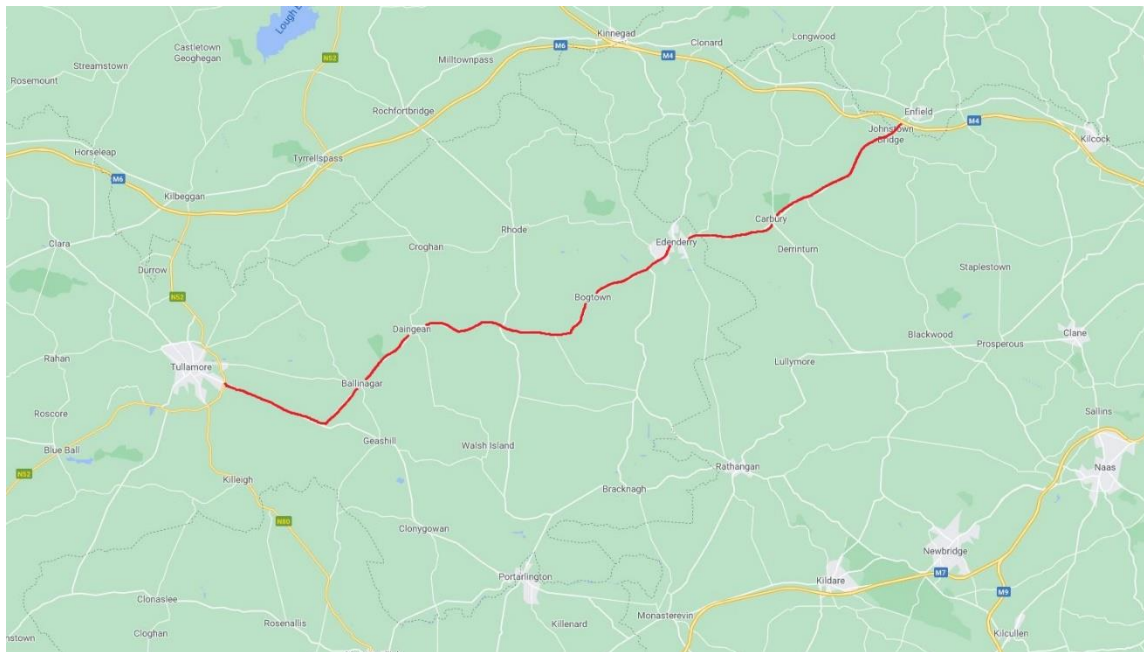
Date: 7th October 2020

To whom it may concern,

I wish to make the following observations/submission:

Sustainable Mobility & Accessibility

It is critical that Offaly County Council (OCC) advance efforts to seek to reclassify the R402 (and some section of the R420) to National Secondary status, as graphic below. This gateway route into Offaly functions as a key corridor supporting the development of enterprise within Offaly as well as enabling good quality access to the Greater Dublin area.



Climate Action & Energy - Data Centres

It is important that minimum land-takes for prospective Data Centres are not set too low within the CDP, as the technology is rapidly advancing and overly restrictive limits may curtail development opportunities over the life of this plan.

Climate Action & Energy - Renewable Energy, Energy Storage, Decarbonisation

The transitioning away from fossil fuels into renewable and green energy presents a pressing opportunity for a new phase in energy leadership within Offaly, with the potential to act as a seed-bed for new technologies, and a catalyst for enterprise, generating jobs and strengthening the local economy and communities. The repurposing of Rhode Business Park into Rhode Green Energy Park provides the opportunity for Offaly to lead the way, with an exemplar project with regional/national significance, an important milestone in the journey to Offaly's journey from brown to green. Appending to this memo is further information provided by RPS (consultants to OCC) in relation to this concept which is provided for consideration within this CDP consultation process.

Economic Development – Broadband

It is important that OCC advance plans to continue to enhance broadband to enable Data Centres or other high use users.

Water Services

It is critical the OCC consider the opportunities which may arise for the Shannon pipeline, and plan economic development and infrastructure accordingly to support these high water intensity industries.

Heritage

It is important that the long term use of water towers as defacto telecoms masts is examined to ensure that the long term visual amenity of the surrounding landscapes and settlement is not diminished.

Yours faithfully,

Mark Mahon
Senior Executive Engineer
Edenderry Municipal District