

The following are my observations in relation to the Killeigh Village Plan contained within Draft 2 of the Offaly County Development Plan; 1. Killeigh is affected by a flood zone and it is reassuring to see the draft includes this fact. As a resident of the village, I have personally witnessed floods, particularly in the Millbrook area. The “Constrained Land Use” zoning on the Village Plan is a welcome addition to the Development Plan and I hope this will also remain within the final version. 2. The core strategy correctly identifies Killeigh village as “Rural”. I believe that it is correct and right for planning and strategic development that open countryside continues to be protected and that over-development be avoided. Killeigh’s rural economy is based and should continue to grow out of agriculture, forestry, tourism and rural enterprise. I am happy to see that the core strategy states that sustainable development of the open countryside will be supported, and I hope this will remain within the final version of the Development Plan. 3. Killeigh is home to a number of important archaeological features such as the 6th century monastery, and 13th century Augustine Convent and Franciscan Friary. The current Development Plan (2014 – 2020) contains a good description of these features. I believe that the Village Plan would benefit from the addition of a brief description of the village’s significant archaeological features. A stated objective in relation to the village archaeological elements would also be a welcome addition. 4. More compact residential zoning, within the proposed village centre, will help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. Reducing unnecessary residential zoning will help to minimise sprawl and would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur. The current zoning proposal and in particular the current open space zoning should be carried into the final version, as this conforms to the proper future development of Killeigh village.

