

The following are my observations in relation to the Killeigh Village Plan contained within Draft 2 of the Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027;

- Killeigh has been rightly identified and classed as “Rural” as part of the core strategy. It is proper planning and strategic development that open countryside be protected and that over-spill development be avoided, as Killeigh’s rural economy is based and could grow out of agriculture, forestry, tourism and rural enterprise. I’m 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.
- Killeigh is affected by a flood zone and it’s reassuring to see the draft includes this fact. 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.
- Killeigh has a number of important archaeological features. The current Development Plan (2014 – 2020) contains a good description of these features, mentioning the 6th century monastery and 13th century Augustine Convent and Franciscan Friary. I believe that the Village Plan would benefit from the addition of a similar narrative on the village’s significant archaeological features. Also, the current village map contains areas of archaeological potential marked on it, and it’s regrettable to see these omitted from the draft. The Plan would strengthen the possibilities and potential of these features if they were once again placed on the village map. A stated objective in relation to the village archaeological elements would also be a welcome addition.
- More compact residential zoning, within the proposed village centre, will help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment. By consolidating the zoning and helping to avoid unnecessary sprawl of the settlement, the likelihood of brownfield development would be improved and this would contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility. 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.

