

Submission on behalf of : **Killeigh Residents/Development Association**

6<sup>st</sup> October 2020

Submitted to : **Offaly County Council, Aras an Chontae, Tullamore**

## **Settlement Objectives**

### **Housing and Sustainable Communities Objectives**

#### **SO1**

We agree with the council's view of balanced growth which is sustainable and appropriate to scale, size and character of the village.

This will allow for limited opportunities for new residential and other development while protecting the existing character of the village and recognising the significant archaeological potential of some of the lands within the settlement.

We would like to see limited and cluster style developments, as condensed development in only one area of the village would destroy the character of the village.

Growth would have to be limited as to not put excessive amount of pressure on both the private water scheme and the present sewerage network.

It should be noted that in the draft there is no mention of the historical significance of the village and the confirmed archaeological areas on the Village Plan Map. These have been noted in previous County Plans. The Association are concerned about the omission of these areas and would like the areas outlined on the Killeigh Plan Map.

Please confirm, because of the archaeological importance of Killeigh village, where a lot of areas would be known for their importance but have not been formally identified, that a standard condition on all future development applications be that a top soil strip work be carried out by an archaeologist before development work can proceed.

#### **SO2**

On the plan there are two Opportunity Sites identified. One of which already has planning granted for residential houses.

The second site would be considered an historical building and site and any development here would have to take the archaeological history into consideration.

### **S03**

The area marked as Constrained Land Use, can be confirmed as an area that floods regularly and any measures that have been taken to reduce this flooding have not worked to date. There is evidence on a yearly basis of this area showing signs of flooding. This issue of flood water control measures is a major concern of the Association. There is only one stream accessible for the containment of all flood water for the village. We would have concerns with regards to future housing developments or the expansion of existing developments and the effect this would have on the streams capacity.

Another concern would be the use of water harvesting in future housing developments. If excess water was released at times of major rain periods, the results would be catastrophic on the flood water measures.

### **Economic Development and Regeneration Objectives**

#### **S04**

The Association would agree with the expansion of existing service provision from the council. In particular, the National School is at full capacity and any further residential development in the area will have a serious effect on the school's ability for extra numbers.

We would also see a need for the broadband service to be improved as there is a noticeable dip in service in the evening time.

#### **S05**

The Association would agree with the council's commitment to the re-development of the Macra Hall as a community centre. We would also like it noted, that the Killeigh Community Centre Development Association (KCCDA) and the whole community have committed both their time and money to this re-development over the last 3 years.

### **Healthy Place Making and Infrastructures Objectives**

#### **S06**

We agree with the councils view to upgrade, consolidate and expand the public lighting and footpath network in the village.

We note from the current plan 2014-2020, the councils objectives of providing public lighting for Lock Close, extending public lighting from village to Lock Close. These objectives have not been meet fully. Also the objective of moving overhead cables to underground have not been meet.

## **SO7**

We agree with the council's objective to improve public amenities/recreational facilities, including exploring the possibility of extending The Seven Blessed Wells of Killeigh walking northwards along the river/stream. We would like to include that The Seven Blessed Wells & Walkway are in a very poor state at present, to the point that we would recommend that the area be closed off to the public as public safety would be a major concern. The wooden railing and pathway are dangerously close to collapsing in different areas and the bridge section is also dangerously unsafe.

## **SO8**

We agree with the council's objective of protecting the carrying capacity, efficiency and road safety of the N80 through Killeigh. This would include any future residential or commercial development not compromising the capacity of the N80 road. The association would also like to see the speed limit brought further out of the village. Also to look at the possibility of reducing the speed limit from 100km to 80km on the outskirts of the village.

## **SO9**

We agree with the council objective of promoting traffic calming measures and road safety in the village including the investigation the feasibility of providing a pedestrian crossing at the school. We would further like it noted that we had discussed traffic calming measures with the council, such as flashing amber lights at the school to be included in the works that were carried out this year. We are disappointed that the lights and the pedestrian crossing were not included when the whole road was re-done.

## **SO10**

We agree with the council's objective of protecting the Irish Water Eastern and Midlands Water Supply Project pipeline corridor from inappropriate development that would prejudice the delivery of the project.

## **SO11**

The council would like to investigate the feasibility of providing a bypass for Killeigh, but they do not outline the potential bypass on the Killeigh Plan Map.