

Comhairle Chontae na Mí

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Meath County Council

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Planning Department.

25th September, 2019.

Review of County Development Plan,
Forward Planning Department,
Offaly County
Council, Aras an
Chontae, Charleville
Rd, Tullamore,
County Offaly.

Re; Review of existing Offaly County Development Plan 2014-2020 and Preparation of new Draft Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027.

Dear Madam,

Please find hereunder the comments of Meath County Council in respect of the review of the existing Offaly County Development Plan 2014-2020. Meath County Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the process and looks forward to continued co-operation with and between both Authorities; with particular reference to social, cultural and economic development and the protection of the environment.

Meath County Council is presently at an advanced stage of preparing the Draft Meath County Development Plan 2020-2026 and the draft will be published in December 2019. The Plan can be viewed at: <http://countydevelopmentplanreview.meath.ie/>. It is anticipated that a number of Rural Nodes will be identified within the plan adjacent to the Offaly border at Castlejordan and Ballinabrackey.

There is a cross-county dimension to many environmental issues such as energy, climate change, water quality, habitat and species loss and cross-county cooperation is therefore vital to protect the environment across the two counties and the wider region. It is important that both Local Authorities have the same high standards with regard to the protection of the environment. A divergence of standards would be detrimental to the conservation of our shared natural heritage for future generations. It is therefore considered necessary that there be a high level of consistency between County Plans in adjoining authorities. In this regard it is important that cognisance should be taken of the policies and objectives of the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 as varied.

This can be viewed at <https://countydevelopmentplan.meath.ie/adoptedplan/>

Invasive species is also an important environmental cross border issue. Cooperation on invasive *species* has been, and will continue to be necessary.

Conclusion

Meath County Council respectfully requests that the relevant issues raised above are fully considered in the review of the Offaly Development Plan. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require clarification of any of the issues raised in this submission or any further information on Meath County Council policies or strategies necessary for the review of the Plan.

Yours Sincerely,


Pat Gallagher *PP*
Senior Planner.