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Forward Planning Section
Offaly County Council
Aras an Chontae
Charleville Road
Tullamore
Co Offaly

RE: Ugent-Submission for Offaly County Develop. Plan 2021-2027

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to make further representations on behalf of the residents of Rahan who recently contacted me, these residents have expressed concern over the designation of Rahan village to a Sraid area. It is my understanding that since 2004 Rahan has been designated village status. Local residents are eager for this status to remain and feel that Rahan should not be desinated as a Sráid area. I fully support the residents in their submission for Rahan to continue to have village status.

I'm concerned that in the proposed Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027, there is a significant and unnecessary change proposed to designate Rahan as a sráid only area. I'm asking for Rahan to be allowed to retain its village status as highlighted in the previous Offaly County Development Plan 2014-2020. Rahan has a number of important amenities very similar to those in other areas of the county which have village status. These amenities include: a primary school, a housing estate, a community centre and GAA facility.

The fact that Rahan has uniqueness in that it also has a Monastic site adds to the character of Rahan as a village of historic importance and supports the case for Rahan to be left with village status which is more fitting and which describes the area more accurately. It has also been brought to my attention by the residents of Rahan that the Grand Canal Greenway is frequently used by local residents and cyclists who travel to Lough Boora Discovery Park from Tullamore and beyond. If Rahan was to retain its designated village status, it would be beneficial in that this would strengthen future proposals to enhance pedestrian and cyclist connectivity between the village and the greenway.

I will conclude by asking for serious consideration to be given to ensuring that Rahan is allowed to retain its village status which accurately describes this area in terms of all of the above factors I have outlined previously in addition to the fact that it has a density exceeding 15 dwellings per hectare which reflects the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on sustainable Residential in urban Areas for Villages.

Kind regards,

Carol Nolan IND TD Laois/Offaly



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Market Sq. Birr.

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