



James Lawless TD
KILDARE NORTH



20/04/2016

A Chara,

Re - Sallins Development Plan 2016

I am writing in response to the consultation currently underway on Alteration 20 of the Sallins Development Plan pertaining to 70 acres on lands at Bodenstown on the edge of the village.

Namely that these lands would be zoned as 30 acres new residential, 37 acres amenity and open space with the remaining 3 acres zoned community and educational. I understand the Department have invited submission on these proposals whilst they consider whether a directive should issue.

I support the proposal to zone these lands in the manner stated above and I was Mayor of the Naas Municipal District when this proposal was first tabled in October 2015 and supported it then. Whilst I can understand the reasons advanced by the Chief Executive regarding conformance to guidelines on new residential development, it must be recognised that the proportion of new development allocated to Sallins in the county development plan fails to take into account a number of factors.

Sallins village includes Sallins and Naas Rail Station, a busy commuter hub around which development is encouraged under national guidelines. The M7 motorway is adjacent with a new interchange in planning at Osberstown on the Naas ring road. The new Naas Community College secondary school (of which I am chairperson) is to open in two years at Millennium Park, also adjacent to the village. The population of Naas numbers 20,000 and is targeted to grow to 50,000 as a strategic growth objective; given the proximity of Naas to Sallins a related development of Sallins is inevitable to achieve this and it is submitted the towns should be considered as a bloc in this regard.

Furthermore the overriding challenge faced by residents of Sallins in the past decade has been a lack of recreational facilities. The 40 acres achieved through this zoning present a unique opportunity to deliver on the serious amenity gap suffered by the village to date. All major sports clubs in the town support this proposal and there has been significant community mobilisation to support it also.

In summary I feel the huge potential for new amenities far outweighs the concerns about increased residential zoning. I also feel that the proximity to major transport networks, to schools primary and secondary, to employment centres such as Millennium Park along with the fact that the county town is directly adjacent to the village over the motorway bridge; all make this a positive proposition. It is essentially the only viable proposal in the last decade to deliver the amenities so badly needed.

Is mise,

James Lawless TD