

Submission to Draft Roscommon County Development Plan 2021 – 2027

Cllr. Orla Leyden

There needs to be an alignment to the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals in all aspects of RCDP 2021 – 2027.

To encourage young people to remain and return to County:

Develop hubs throughout County to support remote working and develop innovation and enterprise hubs including in County Town.

Availability of High speed broadband

Availability of affordable housing.

Additional sport and youth facilities.

Adult and continuing education and training opportunities.

Sustainable Communities: community energy, zero waste, own food production, encourage and support development of local food production – kitchen gardens, community gardens and support increased levels of horticulture in County.

A town / village centre is made attractive by

Enhancing natural features in built or natural heritage. through enhancement of central meeting place, provision of benches, play area for children which can be built into natural environment, eco play areas etc. and with increased planting and support for biodiversity.

Need for more:

Planting of Native trees in County Roscommon in town, villages etc.

Mapping and execution of bee highways in County to support biodiversity

Infrastructure improvement required

Improve Cycling and pedestrian infrastructure throughout County with development of cycle routes, improved signage, additional pedestrian crossings.

Improvement to national road routes to improve connectivity

Provision of expanded transport links in County with Local links etc with development of services into villages and towns and development of into and around round town bus service in Roscommon Town.

Improvement to rail infrastructure by additional rail carriages and enlarged parking facilities at train stations in County.

Increase awareness, understanding and access to heritage

Continue support for vital work of Heritage office RCC which is doing great work

Support heritage initiatives developed by local communities (large and small scale)

More Heritage in school's work

Development of Cultural Heritage assets including development of Edenville House/Black's House, Ardnanagh, Roscommon Town.

Enhance connections between villages and towns and natural heritage amenity areas e.g. to local forest i.e. Mote park, lakes, rivers etc.

Roscommon's Key economic opportunities and strengths:

The number of highly Educated graduates from County Roscommon.

Pharma reputation.

Strong Agriculture County -and opportunity to create additional on farm enterprises linked to farming, horticulture, organics, wool production and by products, farm house accommodation, permaculture, orchards, food hubs linked to farm produce.

Development of innovation and enterprise hubs

Development of sustainable jobs

Tourism: Develop our tourism potential through our rich cultural and archaeological heritage and landscape, beautiful walkways and waterways for recreation and angling, develop eco-tourism.

Improve linkages between heritage assets in Roscommon Town i.e. Roscommon Castle and Roscommon Abbey. Provision of coach parking in Roscommon town – for town centre to benefit from heritage tourism and ecclesiastical tourism (Knock).

Strong Community spirit and networks

Where in the County should population growth be directed to achieve balanced growth as per the NPF and RSES?

Population growth should be in towns, villages and rural areas where we can encourage people to return to or move to County Roscommon. We want to encourage people to live in County Roscommon through our planning guidelines. Rural villages will not be sustained without planning being granted in rural countryside as well thus sustaining rural schools, shops etc. and providing necessary societal care support for family.