



# COUNCILLOR TOMMY BYRNE

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Member of  
Louth County Council

NPF Submissions,  
Forward Planning Section,  
Department of Housing, Planning,  
Community and Local Government,  
Custom House,  
Dublin D01 W6X0

27<sup>th</sup> October 2017

## Re: Omission of Drogheda from National Planning Framework 2020 – 2040

Dear Sirs,

I am shocked that there's not a mention of Drogheda – Ireland's largest provincial town - in the National Planning Framework 2020 – 2040. Drogheda's situation is unique, with a substantial portion of the community living on the south and west side of the River Boyne, correctly stating their address as Drogheda, Co. Meath. The county boundary on the southside of Drogheda between Louth and Meath, runs through the kitchen of a family home.

The towns downgrading in 2013, by the Fine Gael/Labour Government, to Borough Council status, with all its powers shifted to Dundalk has deeply hurt the pride of the citizens of Drogheda. *Our great proud and historic town has been reduced in Status to that of a medium county town.*

There will be, at the very least, another 1000 houses completed, linking up with the Marsh Road on the South side of Drogheda over the next 5-7 years. Drogheda is bursting at the seams on its southside. **To Drogheda's Northside there is any amount of shovel ready land to expand the town and meet all its requirements.** The serious lack of government interest or action here, beggars belief. Northern Cross Route – 3 Kilometres – Total lack of serious interest by the Government

### Northern Cross Route – 3 Kilometres

- From Roundabout on Drogheda/Dundalk Road at Killineer to Drogheda Port Single lane Carriageway Each Way – with option of Dual at a later date.
- €900,000 allocated for first phase of development which is only a pittance.

(628 acres in total)

F.P.P for approx. 7000 homes Ready to Go

First Phase: 2100 Homes

Second Phase: 2500 Homes

Third Phase: 2500 Homes

**AFFORDABLE/SOCIAL HOMES**



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### ***Housing Crisis – Drogheda and South Louth***

This can be solved in the medium term if the Government fund the road in phases - Phase 1, Phase 2, Phase 3. The levies can be collected from the developers. The road will be in much faster. I think the project is too important for Drogheda's future development, to rely on Developers completing the Cross Route. I urge the Government to step in and give a firm commitment on the Route. *Incidentally, we are the only town in Ireland with a Toll for entry.* The sporting, schools, light industry along its front etc. would also be greatly speeded up. It would also take the heavy high-volume lorries off the town, which is due to massively increase, with the proposed Cement Ltd. extension at nearby Platin.

The Drogheda Port Access Road is not a priority for this Government, yet its completion **will transform Drogheda and help propel it to its rightful destiny of a city**, without encroaching or antagonising our Meath neighbours. The employment generated alone would be awesome. Sporting Clubs are crying out for facilities which are most impressive in the plans – **including 9 Football Pitches, in addition to 4 all-weather pitches and 4 Tennis Courts which will be Floodlit.**

Louth County Council are working flat out on this – but we need a definite financial commitment from the government to fast track the Northern Cross Route, if they are serious in tackling the Housing Crisis in Drogheda and South Louth.

Yours faithfully,

Cllr. Tommy Byrne

Member of Louth County Council