

Dear Ministers

I have outlined some topics which may go beyond the requirements of the NPF, however I feel it is relevant to address these topics with regards to future plans in Drogheda and the North-East.

Regards
Philip Kermodé

Dear ministers,

This submission is regarding Drogheda and all it's future endeavours. Drogheda has been my home for most of my life but I have studied in Dublin and lived in Maynooth also. I am 25 years of age and I feel like my perspective is very relevant to the creation of the proposed framework; for it is my age group that will be in your position by the time these plans are in full effect. 20 years from now I can see Drogheda being a hub of prosperity and a key player for growth in Ireland.

Over the years, Drogheda has grown regardless of losing it's Town Council and the lack of investment it has received due to worsening economic conditions. The town having heavy Traffic (which is because of people driving through the town to avoid the M1 Toll) and having no proper third level education still have not affected the growth of the town. Drogheda was one of the only towns in the country that was selling houses built during the gratuitous era of over-planning for housing estates. We have built two new state of the art schools and refurbished many long standing ones, but these kids will have to venture out of the town to receive the education and training they desire which brings me to the conclusion of this point. Drogheda must receive a third level education facility or an exclusive training facility tailored to the requirements of it's coming generations. I propose that we go to the schools and ask the youth what they would like to have. Some of the most talented people in the world are deprived of fulfilling their maximum potential because they grow up and there is nowhere for them to let their abilities come to fruition. Right now there are probably animators, illustrators and programmers in Drogheda schools and they will need the proper facilities in order to make their work known to the world. I know this from experience as I have friends who have such talents and have had to travel awayd just to study. This should not be the case in modern Ireland.

I always hear about FDI being something that Drogheda and Ireland require in order to grow, so maybe we should look at why a foreign investor would want to be located here. The low corporation tax which attracts big players is not something we can rely on as Europe squeezes it's grip on Ireland's legislation. IT is always growing but the playing field has changed. More can be done with less physical expansion and the investment for new buildings is not primarily affixed to Dublin. The company "MTI Global Services" have recently opened a new facility in Drogheda, again, regardless of the town even having it's own council. This signals that the town is in the perfect location for investment whether it be foreign or national. I propose that if Drogheda was granted city status and the funding required to set up an office that solely dealt with attracting FDI the results would be a salvation for the town and the north east. One thing I know that will attract these companies is the way we sell the town. Drogheda is steeped in history and from my experience dealing with tech companies, they value solid innovation, something that Drogheda is being withheld from promoting due to lack of funding. For example, the Viaduct bridge which connects the North and the South of the country is world famous. An engineer from any land would bow at it's presence. The story behind it has fascinated a lot of historians and engineers and has received plenty of coverage regarding it's story.

<https://www.independent.ie/regionals/droghedaindependent/localnotes/viaduct-not-built-on-cotton-wool-27163632.html>

<https://www.independent.ie/regionals/argus/lifestyle/building-the-boyne-viaduct-26901269.html>



Image courtesy of Andy Murray – Photographer.

I believe this should be something for tourists to behold and a museum could generate a lot of revenue from visitors. Now that St. Laurence's Gate has been closed and the Millmount Structure has recently revealed some secrets about a geophysical scan which could be seismic to what we believe about the construction of Millmount. Drogheda is not included in the "Ancient East" chapter of the tourism boost in Modern Ireland, yet it is one of the most historic places in the country. The amount of tax revenue generated from Drogheda is huge and the town deserves to be included in the Framework. Furthermore, Drogheda is one of the fastest growing multicultural hubs of Ireland simply because people love the town. Being a Musician who has played all around Ireland, I have seen what this great country has to offer. It is not wealth or prosperity but something far more valuable. It offers wonder, mystery, imagination and creativity. Our ideas in Drogheda have always been good; the inventor of the Submarine lived in Drogheda and I'm sure there are kids growing up in Drogheda right now who will revolutionise something they love. The resilience of Drogheda's people has been put to the test by taking away our council, but it has in fact just educated people about why the town needs to be more than just another town. I hope you can understand the importance of Drogheda given it's location and size. The potential for growth are huge and it starts with this NPF.

Regards,
Philip Kermodé