

From: Glenn McCormack [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 November 2017 11:25
To: National Planning Framework
Subject: Drogheda City status -NPF - St Oliver's Scout Group

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A Chara

I write to you regarding the draft national planning framework, on behalf of the Group Council of St Oliver's Scout Group Drogheda, 3/4/6th Louth.

St Oliver's Scout Group is the largest scout group in Louth Scout County and serves more than 200 members of our community in Drogheda, whose members are predominantly aged from 6-18 years, and live both within the town and its surrounding environs stretching into other parts of Louth and Meath.

Our Group is a member of Scouting Ireland which includes approximately 500 Groups throughout the island of Ireland. We have members within our Group as elected officials at county, provincial and national level and our members have represented Group, Town and County to a high standard within our organisation not only in recent years but since the Group's establishment in 1935.

At a recent meeting of our Scout Group Council, it was agreed to make a submission in support of the Drogheda City Status Group. One of the key foundations of our membership is making a promise to serve our community, and as the adult elected representatives of this Group, we feel it our duty to protect the future of our hundreds, and thousands, of members who will become an integral part of this community between now and 2040, and we feel it is only fair to them to ensure that Drogheda is correctly and adequately considered within the planned framework, in order to ensure that the government provides the necessary tools for growth, not only for our Group, but also for other youth-centric community Groups that support our future citizens and leaders.

As you will be aware upon adoption this plan will become the sole legal reference for all future discussion regards national planning for cities in the Irish republic.

While I note with regret that the draft document fails to address the possibility of city status for Drogheda, despite the advantageous prospects such a recognition of status might bring to Ireland's largest town; I am more concerned that failing this the draft document makes no provision for any strategic plan for Drogheda at all. All this despite the population of the town being over 40 thousand and growing, and the town having the necessary infrastructure both via air, sea, rail and national roads to make it the primary hub for export/import commerce outside of Dublin.

I believe that Drogheda needs as a vital matter of urgency to be afforded special status within the framework document and therefore I am asking that you attend to this matter via all proper channels to help achieve a just future for the citizens of one of Ireland's most historic and strategically placed urban centres.

At a minimum the issue of the town boundary needs now to be addressed, Drogheda spreads across two counties and is therefore treated as two separate towns. If this at least were now amended it would benefit all her citizens in both Louth and Meath.

I trust that this meets with your approval.

Yours in Scouting
Glenn

Glenn McCormack
Group Leader
St Oliver's Scout Group Drogheda, 3/4/6th Louth



Sent from my iPhone