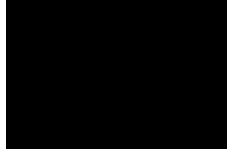


**Aileen Phelan**



Tel: ( [redacted] )  
email: [redacted]

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Department of Housing Planning  
Community and local Government  
Custom House  
Dublin  
D01 W6X0

9<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Dear Sirs

**Re: Submission to the National Planning Framework – Ireland 2040**

My name is Aileen Phelan and I am a resident of Drogheda for the past 23 years. Myself and my husband run a business in Drogheda and I am currently Vice-President of Network Ireland – Louth Branch, a national organisation for Women in Business, the professions and the Arts. In my personal life I am the Choir Director of the Mornington Gospel Choir and volunteer at a number of events, festivals etc that are run in the town and surrounding area.

Since coming to Drogheda 23 years ago I have seen huge changes in the town and surrounding area. On a personal level the areas of Mornington, Donacarney, Bettystown and Laytown and Drogheda itself are inextricably intertwined irrespective of county boundaries. My children have grown up in Drogheda. They went to Primary School in Donacarney, we attended Mass in Mornington Church (I was a member of the Pastoral Council there for a number of years). While growing up they attended dancing and drama classes in Drogheda together with other young people from Mornington, Bettystown and Laytown areas. Now grown and young adults they and their friends have part time jobs and socialise in Drogheda. For the young people from Mornington, Donacarney, Bettystown and Laytown Drogheda is their town. That is where they go to find part time jobs when in college, that is where they go to socialise and that is where they should be able to find work (if they want to) when they leave school or college.

I hear a lot about the amount of traffic on the roads, the number of people commuting to Dublin from these areas every day, the damage to the environment from all this traffic and that is not even taking into account the amount of time spent commuting every day and the strain this puts on people so it makes sense that an area with a population the size of the Greater Drogheda area (over 80,000 people) from an environmental aspect as well as for the well-being of the people that investment is made in this area. The Government talk about putting people first, if that is the case then how can you ignore a population of this size and not include Drogheda in the National Planning Framework. Drogheda has grown despite being left out of previous plans, ignoring it will not stop it growing but including it will ensure that it grows in an organised and structured way with the investment it needs to provide the services and infrastructure required for a population of its size.

It is time that the Government stepped up and does what it says it will do and PUT THE PEOPLE FIRST. The studies have been done and the evidence is there and has been put to various members of the Oireachtas and will be outlined in detail in many submissions on this Framework Agreement. Drogheda cannot be ignored anymore, the people cannot be ignored anymore. It is time for the Government to put self-interest aside, show leadership and do the right thing.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Aileen Phelan".

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Aileen Phelan