

Kenneth O Heiligh

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10th November 2017

Submission-National Planning Framework

I write to seek the Inclusion of Drogheda in the National Planning Framework. As a former member of Louth County Council and Drogheda Borough Council for 10 years and following the disillusion of the Drogheda Borough Council came the transfer of services to the Council offices in Dundalk Town. This move has placed an undue burden on elected members from Drogheda in making fair and meaningful representations for housing applicants. Many residents from Drogheda are forced to make the journey of 86km there and back to view a Drogheda planning file(s).

Drogheda's population has shown rapid growth, and this is evident in the Drogheda, in Meath catchment area and has in the past and will continue to create planning issues and infrastructure issues along this current County boundary.

The issue of the Donore Road Ramp Tolls M1 junction 9 has in effect encouraged significant numbers of traffic to avoid the Tolls and the negative impact results is daily grid lock on our internal road network.

No other town in the state is split in half by a toll like Drogheda. The Ramp Tolls located on the Donore Road are a barrier to traffic entering and exiting the Town and need to be removed.

The Port Access Northern Cross Route, long identified as a vital infrastructure project for Drogheda requires Council action to drive this project and bring it to a successful completion.

To properly address this void in services I would respectfully ask that you seriously consider a Drogheda East Meath Council to properly manage this large urban area.