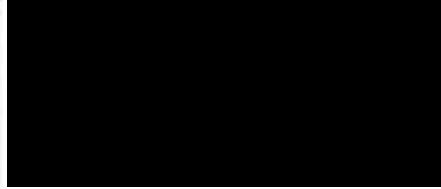


From: WordPress <wordpress@npf.ie>
Sent: 24 October 2017 20:13
To: National Planning Framework
Subject: Ireland 2040 Submission from Brian Condra
Attachments: npf-submission.docx

Name: Brian
Surname: Condra



Message:

Please find attached a short submission that I would ask be given due consideration before the the final National Planning Framework document be published.

 This e-mail was sent from a contact form on National Planning Framework (<http://npf.ie>)

To whom It may concern:

I wish to make the following submission for consideration under the NPF. While the need and existence of a national framework to better plan and address future population growth in Ireland is welcome, I note with regret that the draft document fails to identify the enormous potential of Drogheda town.

Drogheda town is the largest town in Ireland, and the fifth largest population center. It has the potential to be a major strategic and beneficial urban hub both for commerce and tourism in Ireland, and could with the right planning ease the pressure and congestion of Dublin City. Unfortunately, at present the town falls under the administration of two county councils and suffers as a result. I would propose that the NPF make recommendations that a plan be developed to bring the entire town of Drogheda under the one single administration, that is that the town of Drogheda be recognised as a single borough and the administration of both the Louth and Meath quarters be amalgamated into a single borough council. Drogheda is already strategically placed via its proximity to air, sea, rail and national road networks to serve as an import/export hub that would with proper management strengthen both the local and national economy.

Also, Drogheda is an historic and culturally significant town, which again due to its location would serve as an ideal gateway to the Boyne Valley. The town has always been central to the history of Ireland, and could easily become the flagship of a new Ireland that places cooperation and shared traditions at the fore. The historical division of the town of Drogheda into what effectively amounts to two towns, is both wasteful and detrimental to the interests of the town and surrounding areas. As such the boundary of Drogheda should be amended so that a historic anomaly is not allowed to become an act of cultural and economic vandalism. The benefits of making Drogheda a single municipal borough is easily identified. Such a move would allow for better planning and use of the town's natural resources. At present everything from road maintenance to street lighting and the collection of revenue is split between Meath and Louth. This is a needless and costly impediment to orderly management of the town. This division is a manufactured divide that ignores the sense of community that the town has always enjoyed.

In conclusion I would point out that in the 1412 the two sides of Drogheda were joined into one town and it became a county corporate. Surely now in the 21st century it is time that the Irish state followed suit and afforded the town of Drogheda a chance to flourish as one town with one boundary, and managed by one municipal authority. This would allow Drogheda to grow as an urban center and enrich the lives and prospects of its citizens.

I thank you in advance for giving my submission due consideration and hope it will serve to better inform the National Planning Framework concerning the hopes and aspirations of the people of Drogheda.