

Continuous Assessment Option 1. Comment on a Live Planning Policy.



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Reclaim the Sprawl

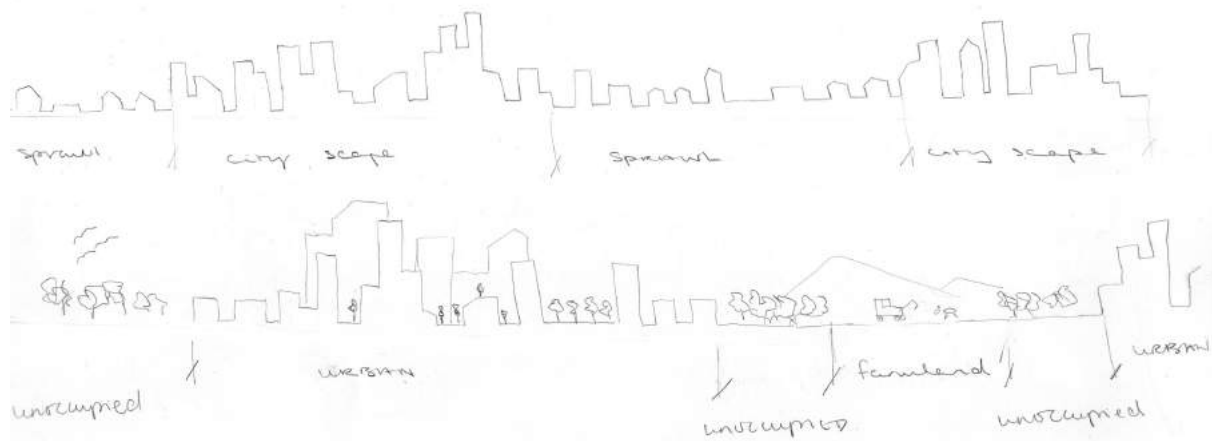


Image showing today (above) with city and sprawl and the prospect (below) urban and unoccupied zones.

The 20th and 21st centuries have seen huge rapid growth with stages of development having negative impacts with urbanisation suburbanisation industrialisation and urban sprawl. The current city seems to be no more than just a collection of villages fused together with Dublin, Wicklow and Kildare counties having become extensions of a sprawling city. However, the city itself seems to be largely and unfavourably abandoned. This has been brought about by soaring prices which can only be afforded by large chain stores. As such, Dublin itself has lost a lot of cultural significance while its hinterlands have become deprived of valuable fertile farmland, natural habitats and diversity as a whole. This Increase in housing and a growing population puts stresses on services which has not been catered for and should have grown in sync with development.

I think one step to solve these major issues would be to focus on urban hubs to incorporate centers of living and places of social and cultural importance. I believe in a more organic and sustainable future for Ireland where tightening up on urban areas would let our natural habitats to recover and prosper as it once did in our parent's time. It is time we started being caretakers of our surroundings and allow nature to restore itself with native woodlands, hedgerows, wild meadows and grasslands which would also save the bees from extinction. It is disgraceful that Ireland has one the lowest percentage of trees per cap in Europe and they could be used to benefit urban zones and help make greener and user friendly spaces.

There is a lack of innovation and independent thinking on the countries behalf and we turn to other countries to look for help rather than our own people for answers and solutions. Economic greed is having serious consequences on the local community where developers are driven by profit. Ireland often seems to be too concerned about its image abroad rather than improving the conditions for its people. Architects are pro refurbishment, redevelopment and density so why do we not listen to our educated professions for answers? So many regulations are put on architects to design sustainable and environmentally friendly buildings but the same restrictions are not being applied to the city as a whole.