

National Planning Framework – Ireland 2040

Details:

My name is Thomas Conway, a 20 year old student working on behalf of Dr. Cllr. Phyll Bugler, local Fine Gael representative in the North Tipperary region.

Submission:

Our submission centres specifically around the sustainable regional development of North Tipperary and its environs, encompassing towns like Nenagh, Thurles, Templemore, Roscrea, Ballina/Killaloe and Newport. While much of the economic and industrial activity in this area is based around agriculture, we feel that general infrastructural and social development will be pivotal in allowing the region to advance in the coming years.

The announcement of the closure of Coty International in Nenagh in recent weeks underlines the huge need for industry and foreign direct investment in the North Tipperary region. With the M7 motorway and the ease of access to major cities like Limerick, Cork and Dublin, North Tipperary is the perfect central location to attract international business. The area is crying out to be cultivated in terms of business and the infrastructure of towns like Nenagh, Thurles, Templemore and Roscrea need to be developed if they are to have any chance of competing with our major cities. Promotion of the long-standing tradition of indigenous industry is also vital, and it is industries like these, local town based businesses, that we need to encourage and expand to take on a greater role in the market.

Another aspiration of this submission is to highlight the rich tourism potential of North Tipperary and particularly the lakeside region extending from Nenagh to Ballina/Killaloe. We feel the history, heritage and scenery of the area needs to be exploited and would benefit hugely from greater tourist facilities and attractions. One suggestion made was the establishment of a “Green Way” or cycle path along the edge of the lake, which has been successful in both North Mayo and the south-east in recent years. Many of the other towns have excellent scope for tourism initiatives and can be described as hubs of rural Irish culture. This needs to be capitalised and perhaps an incentive similar to that of the “Wild Atlantic Way” or “Ireland’s Ancient East”, except with a “Lakelands” theme, would really benefit the region.

All in all, North Tipperary is a perfect destination to put the National Planning Framework strategy into practice. By 2040 it has the potential to be a hotbed of industrial and touristic activity and we sincerely hope you share our belief in the area.

Thank you.