

From: [REDACTED]
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To: National Planning Framework
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Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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To Whom It May Concern,

The Irish Cancer Society welcomes the opportunity to comment on The Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government's *Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework*, which is out for public consultation. We specifically wish to comment on Chapter 3, People's Health and Wellbeing, where emphasis is placed on linking people's health and wellbeing to place.

As part of the consultation, we are asked to *consider whether change needs to take place, or if we are content as a nation to continue with Business as Usual?*

The Irish Cancer Society draws the Department's attention to Tobacco Free Ireland. There are a number of recommendations in Tobacco Free Ireland which support these principles and which are relevant to the National Planning Framework and they are:

- Promote tobacco free campuses for all third-level institutions
- Promote tobacco free campuses for all health care, governmental and sporting facilities
- Further develop the tobacco free playgrounds initiative in conjunction with local authorities by way of voluntary measures or by the introduction of bye-laws
- Promote tobacco free environments and in particular parks and beaches in conjunction with the local authorities by voluntary measures or by the introduction of bye-laws

You will be aware of ongoing efforts by the Government to reduce smoking rates and the importance of reducing children's exposure to smoking as part of this effort. Two of the core principles of the Government's *Tobacco Free Ireland* policy are to protect children from tobacco smoke and the de-normalisation of tobacco use. Smoke-free environments are particularly important in reducing exposure to cigarette smoke and to role modelling behaviour in facilities where children are present.

While we recognise that there is currently no legislative requirement for outdoor areas to be smoke-free, there are an increasing number of parks and other public facilities that are voluntarily choosing to become smoke-free. Many local authorities have already designated their parks smoke-free, including playgrounds and sports fields and the public are very supportive of the change and there has been a high level of compliance.

As a vision for our built and community infrastructure is developed under Ireland 2040, the Irish Cancer Society believes that the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government is ideally placed to enhance the work of the Department of Health and meet the all-of-Government commitment to a smoke-free Ireland, by including smoke-free environments as a cornerstone of expanding and developing open shared spaces for Ireland.

The Irish Cancer Society believes every Government Department has responsibility to lead the coalition advocating for smoke free environments so that tobacco free areas become the new norm in Ireland and the health of our children is protected.

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Foley.

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The Irish Cancer Society's 30th Daffodil Day takes place on Friday, March 24th. [Hold an event, volunteer or buy a Daffodil](#) and raise vital funds to support people affected by cancer.

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