

Submission to URBACHT

27<sup>th</sup> March, 2017.

I attended the conference at the Aishling Hotel on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2017.

Prior to that wonderful experience, I have written to various departments making suggestions regarding water, broadband and public transport. I am now sending this idea to you as you may have the authority and know-how to do something with it. I believe Ireland has to connect with itself first before we can successfully interconnect with other cities in Europe. We are not learning from others as our administration is too diffuse and too divided and so very complicated for such a small island at the edge of Europe. Among other things, we need an efficient public transport system, a clean water system and an efficient broadband system. Otherwise, we will not attract financial investment and people that we so very badly need to get things done. We are killing our tourist industry because of our poor services.

This suggestion should form one project with the three services, transport, water and broadband undertaken together. (Telephone could be done also and get rid of all the overground telephone poles across the country) This would create immediate employment and make maintenance of the system very straight forward.

Build a new train track right around all of Ireland at the periphery. Lay at least two tracks going in opposite directions 24-7 (like scalextric). While laying the tracks lay a whole new water system with new pipes and the broadband system - right around the periphery in a loop. Then each county can link into the supplies and the transport. If I were to draw it, it would look like a two oval shapes with 32 legs (for the 32 counties). The centre of the country might have a mini loop and connect into the large loop. This way all of Ireland is on line in three ways at a much reduced cost and little disruption. The peripheral ring will be a tourist attraction. It will cut down on carbon emissions as more people use public transport. With regard to the present poor services – just leave all the old system in place until the new system is ready to be connected, similar to how we changed from analog to digital or were electrified in the early 1900's. If we do not do something as creative and innovative as this, we are constantly spending money to repair and mend old systems that are no longer able to cope with the demand. If we do not do this we have a terrible urban-rural divide and all the pressure is on Dublin and the roads into it.

I have worked most of my life with Engineers as a secretary. I then furthered my education and branched into Law and Mediation. Recently I achieved a specialist Dip. In Environmental Science. I have worked in various counties in Ireland and worked and studied at N.U.I.G. and in Alberta Canada. I am now retired. I worry for our young people trying to work and have a quality of life in Ireland for themselves and their children.

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