

Submission for the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern and Midland Region (on my behalf as a Local Resident of the Enfield Community)

Dermot Kelly

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I have lived in Enfield for 22 years and seen significant growth in mostly housing development of reasonably good quality and infrastructure (ringroad town bypass, train station carpark, esb/water and telephone reliability improvements, street lighting, regular bus route improvements etc). Enfield also sits on the Royal Canal and its community developed leisure park is largely maintained by a voluntary Tidy Towns group.

But the progress and viability of the town is let down by a poorly designed town centre used as a rat run and lacking mainstream facilities such as a second level school which has been sought for 30 years and the absence of high quality indigenous employment. This means that cash is bled from the town as people are forced to use and pay for school services elsewhere, and local business loses out when people work and spend in other locations. The local authority has sat on its hands regarding derelict sites around the town which deplete the moral of the community living near them and trying their best to make improvements. The canal harbour infrastructure is also in need of some renovation funds.

Enfield has proven itself to be a progressive and committed community. It hosts a St Patricks's Day Parade, A Darkness into light walk which raised over €40,000 last year, a summer festival, an annual show - the Enfield Revue, a Live Christmas Crib, continuous work and success in Tidy Towns and many other activities. In addition the local community organisations have developed soccer and GAA grounds including an all weather pitch, and these local voluntary organisations have long been shouldering the burden of social responsibility lacking from the local authority. Enfield also hosts its own website and social media pages and groups which help to unify and promote the community, its successes and its activities.

It is absolutely essential for the future viability of the town, and the proper utilisation of its transport infrastructure and advantageous proximity to Maynooth University, that a second level school be provided immediately as was promised last year. It is also essential to give consideration to a proper centre for the town to facilitate shopping and parking. It is extremely important to attract high quality businesses and jobs to the industrial park to keep local money being earned and spent in the community.

Enfield has proven its entrepreneurial and community nature over the last number of decades and it is only fair that the local authority give it the resources it needs to continue growing sustainably and becoming a focal service point of the area in South Meath and it is quite alarming that these objectives are not already part of the Draft plan. Please include them.

Yours sincerely

Dermot Kelly.

16-Jan 2019