

Heather Cooke

From: Cllr Enda Flynn (MCC Trim MD) <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 20 January 2019 15:21
To: RSES
Subject: Submission to RSES by Cllr. Enda Flynn Meath County Council
Attachments: Submission RSES 20012019 Enda Flynn.docx; ATT00001.htm

Please see attached document and consider as a submission to RSES.

Regards,

Cllr. Enda Flynn,
Trim Municipal District,
Meath County Council

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Submission by Cllr. Enda Flynn on the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region

Enfield has been selected by Meath County Council as a town suitable to grow from a small town to a Moderate Sustainable Growth Town. It should be stated in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) that the development of Enfield is supported into the future.

The development of Enfield falls clearly within the principles underlying the strategy.

Economic Opportunity: Enfield is situated on the East West corridor on the M4. Many believe that the positioning of the Toll Plaza has had a negative impact on Enfield and consideration should be given to relocating it west of Enfield. There is a great deal of traffic not using the M4 as the cost of the toll is prohibitive. Enfield is on the rail line from Dublin to Sligo and should be considered as a possible location for a transport hub. Enfield has a road network which would facilitate the free movement of traffic if operated correctly. Connectivity is clearly a positive for Enfield in terms of promoting it as a centre for economic development.

Climate Action: Enfield is on the Royal Canal Greenway. The greenway is designed that all cyclists and walkers must cross the road in Enfield at the new pedestrian crossing. This gives Enfield the opportunity to promote itself to the visitors. The Greenway will be used by many for pleasure but may also be used as a transport link. In the future it could be used by those who wish to study at the local University in Maynooth or to those working in the new Science and Technology park proposed for Maynooth or further afield. In the area of Climate Action the Greenway is a positive for Enfield. The use of the canal as a tourist attraction through the use of boats should be further supported and developed.

Healthy Placemaking: Enfield is a location for a very good quality of life. It has a new playschool being built to cater for the growing population along with the existing playschool. The 24 classroom primary school can cater for over 600 children and has recently been sanctioned for an extension to cater for three classes to support children with Special Education Needs. A Post Primary school has been

sanctioned by the Department of Education and Skills and is expected to open in the near future. There are a number of strong Sports Clubs supported by volunteers generous with their time and energy. The looped walk around the town is a wonder facility and it is hoped to develop it as a Linear Park. The houses in the area are built to a high standard. There are many positives to support a good quality of life for those who live in Enfield.

The advantage of Enfield in terms of connectivity supports the town as a centre for economic development. This development should take place in tandem with sustained housing development. The upgrade of water and waste-water facilities must be a priority to support anticipated housing. The transport network supports people coming to Enfield to work but also travelling from Enfield to Maynooth and the greater Dublin area for employment. Housing development must be supported with Community Facilities. The most urgently required facility is a community hall. Enfield also needs a community space in which to base a library and cultural activities. A small hub for incubator units to support new services particularly light industry and areas of creativity such as jewellery, pottery, fashion would be beneficial.

The RSES extends over a number of counties including Meath and Kildare. There are close links between the Enfield and Johnstownbridge communities although they are in different counties. They share many facilities and for the purposes of planning and development consideration should be given to promoting them as one area.