

To: Town Clerk, Naas Town Council
From: John and Jenny MacNamara.
Date: June 2009.
Re: Naas Development Plan 2011 – 2017

Dear Sir,

Re the above, here are our submissions:

Population and housing:

We can't build anymore houses in Naas until we improve the infrastructure.

The Primary and Secondary schools are at bursting point already.

The Hospital is way too small for a Town of this size.

The Fire Station would need to be upgraded to a full time station.

If we improve the infrastructure, new homes could be built out the Blessington and Ballymore roads. There is also a possibility of building within the new ring roads. To facilitate this, agricultural land would need to be rezoned.

Enterprise and employment:

It's a shame the IDA campus has gone.

The Millennium Park campus is still way short of expectations.

Naas needs to develop a new business park area and hopefully attract state of the art IT and computer companies.

Looking ahead 10 – 15 years, there are not many exciting employment opportunities for our children.

Town centre and Urban design:

Hopefully the planned new shopping centre will provide the focus to regenerate the "dreary main street".

John's lane should be a one way road.

Abbey Street could get a major facelift by Eircom being relocated.

Every effort should be made to regenerate closed/dilapidated premises. There should be greater penalties applicable to closed/run down premises.

Superquinn and Tesco should be offered incentives to relocate. The Town centre is too narrow and congested to support these supermarkets.

Movement and transportation:

As a priority, HGV vehicles must be banned from the main street and housing estates

The Gardai must help to restrict the antics of "boy racers".

More people would cycle if the roads were safer. The cycle lanes disappear well before the Town centre. The roads are too narrow to have full width cycle lanes, but a "half width painted lane" would help considerably.

Loading bays should be painted yellow or red to clearly identify them.

Parking bays should be replaced by "Bus only" bays in front of the Convent and boys schools.

The old Swimming pool area should be taken into the charge of NTC and given over to the boys schools. This area would be ideal as a safe pick up/drop of point for the school children. The new shopping centre is going to make Corban's Lane/Lough Bui very busy.

More public transport is needed.

Infrastructure:

Osberstown must be close to full capacity, what plans are there for a new or upgraded sewerage/water treatment plant?

Environment:

We live in The Park, we can clearly hear the drone of traffic from the motorway and from the Sallins/Monread Road. Is it possible to implement traffic calming measures on the Sallins/Monread Rd and to put in additional noise reduction measures to limit the noise from the motorway?

All of the global warming reports suggest that we are going to get a lot more precipitation. The lakes badly need to be dredged to increase their capacity to hold water. The rivers that are piped under the main street need to be cleaned out. It wouldn't take much of a deluge to flood the Main Street, Poplar Square and Sallins Rd.

We could develop more lakes to hold water and provide extra leisure amenities.

The island on the canal by the Harbour/Sarto Park should be turned into a garden area, or it could be another designated wet lands area but incorporating nature walks.

Naas could embark on a tree planting program. This would help to soak up rainwater and Co2 emissions.

New Council houses should be built incorporating solar panels.

Existing housing estates need to be "taken in charge" as soon as possible.

Social Community and Cultural Development:

Naas hospital badly needs a paediatric unit, even if it is only a referral unit. It's a long drive to Dublin with a sick child.

Currently, there are very limited facilities in Naas for after school care for teenagers.

Thank you.

John and Jenny MacNamara
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