

**Emma Mulroy - submission for development plan review**

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**Date:** 03/07/2009 11:59  
**Subject:** submission for development plan review

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The current town plan states that one of the key goals of the plan is

*"To protect residential and amenity lands from encroachment by incompatible types of development".*

However, there are several instances in the town of residential properties being bought for speculation, evidently in the hope of future rezoning for higher value use.

Often these properties are left empty and semi-derelict, which is damaging for neighbours. Empty houses result in lower security for everyone, and they become magnets for vandalism and drinking parties, and frequent noise pollution from alarms. We have direct experience of these negative consequences at our home on the Dublin Road.

I don't know exactly how it can be done, but the plan should do something to discourage this activity. Judging by the number of empty commercial properties both in Naas town centre and the nearby retail and commercial parks, it should be possible to make a clear statement that under no circumstances will residential areas be rezoned.

The previous (1999) development plan stated that the policy was "to prevent encroachment by higher value uses and incompatible types of development", and this goal seems to have been watered down in the current plan. In order to prevent speculators from blighting residential areas with empty properties, a much stronger statement should be included in the new plan.

At a minimum I propose that key goals should be:

- *To protect existing residential and amenity lands from encroachment by higher value uses and incompatible types of development*
- *To protect residential areas from the blight of vacant and derelict properties".*

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