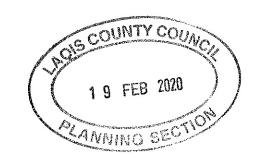
## 13/02/2020

Forward Planning Team
Planning Department
Laois County Council
ARAS AN CHONTAE
James Fintan Lawler Avenue,
Portlaoise,
Co.Laois.



Dear Sir / Madam,

## Developing a growth and settlement strategy.

Housing estate developments should adapt more private areas around private residence, for example a minimum of 70 sq meters of green and parking should be in the front of a resident home and as in the planning guide lines a minimum of 25 sq meters to the back of a residence. This would discourage on street parking and also parking on footpaths, making it safer for children and adults to walk, cycle and play in these areas, as well as taking into consideration the elderly and people with disabilities.

Open space areas in a development should not be calculated, based on the number of houses in a development or by a percentage of land that has to be used as open space. Home owners should be given more of the responsibility of looking after the outside of their residence. This can lead to more community interaction, awareness and looking out for neighbours.

Large open green area spaces in housing estates are usually left to a few people on resident committees or to private companies to maintain, this can lead to disputes about no payment to committees or overpayment to private companies for little reward to the resident of a housing estate.

Boundaries should be built [ block walls, timber fencing ] in housing estates to distinguish between private property and public property . There should be no open spaces outside private residences. This can lead to conflict and insurance liabilities for the home owner.

A condition that should be added to a planning application for housing estate development is that, on completing an estate, the developer should sign over all land folio that is registered to the developer on the developed estate to Laois County Council. Costs should be borne by the developer to have this registered to the PROPERTY REGISTRATION AUTHORITY.

Laois County Council road department should look at ways to widen footpath / cycle ways around larger towns, to encourage a healthy and safer way of travelling to schools. Cycleways should not be included in the road design. Like footpaths they should be risen up or a barrier between cycleway and roadway.

If you look at Portlaoise town as an example, 90 % of children can not cycle from their home to school in safety.

Wider footpaths are also a benefit to the elderly and persons with disabilities. All sign posts, public lighting posts should be on the outside of a footpath, this is a health and safety issue that needs to responded to. There are too many footpaths with sign posts, public lighting posts in the middle of

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Dear Sir / Ivradam.

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Housing estate developments sindled adapt more privine areas around private residence, for example a minimum of 70 squarters of green and particly, should be in the book of areadoms hance and as in the planning guide lines a minimum of 20 st meters to the back of areadome. This would discourage on struct parking and also parking on textperits making it safer for children and adult to walk, cycle and play in these treas, as well as taking into consideration the electry and people with discourage and clay in these treas, as well as taking into consideration the electry and people with

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Sport complexes should not be developed on green field sites that are outside town boundaries, unless walk ways, cycle ways or greener transport is developed to transport people to these sites., this would discourage the use of private cars.

Regards

**Barry Butler** 

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Barry Burlo