

## **Submission to Consultation regarding Tipperary County Council Draft Nenagh Local Area Plan 2024 - 2030**

### Local Transport Plan

I welcome the draft Local Transport Plan (Appendix 2). I believe it presents a way to change the current situation whereby 63% of journeys less than 2km and 84% of journeys between 2km and 5km are being made by car. I believe that if implemented the plan will help Nenagh to become a town that is safe, friendly and inviting for walking and cycling to school and work. I know that this would be welcomed by Nenagh residents. Supporting residents and visitors to Nenagh to get around the town more actively - on foot or by bike - by creating safe and accessible infrastructure will have a positive knock on effect for mental and physical health; air quality and carbon emissions.

I particularly welcome the emphasis on making the town's schools easily and safely accessible by cycling and walking. I note that most pupils in Nenagh are within a 10 minute cycle of school so I commend the proposed dedicated cycle tracks on all roads leading to schools. I also welcome the proposed traffic calming and road safety measures which are so vital at drop-off and pick-up times.

I note that the plan shows that cycling rates in Nenagh are below the national average due to poor infrastructure, with few cycle lanes, and without exception, the cycle lanes that do exist end abruptly at junctions and roundabouts, with no cycling infrastructure apparent through any of the six main roundabouts in Nenagh.

I welcome the ambition to change this and to create a linked-up cycle track network through the town. It is vital that this network follows the latest national Cycle Manual Design document (published this month, September 2023) and especially ensures safe cycling at junctions. I also support the plan to develop the Nenagh River Greenway and extend it out to Dromineer and Lough Derg."

I welcome the proposed weight restriction on heavy goods vehicles in the town centre and I also support the pedestrian-friendly measures to prevent vehicular access at the junctions of O'Rahilly St and Pearse St, and Abbey St and Kenyon St.

I note that the plan states that 68% of surveyed people in Nenagh rate public transport provision as 'poor' or 'very poor'. I urge development of the much needed mobility hub at Nenagh Train Station to be expedited. I welcome the works going on there now to improve pedestrian access. I support the creation of more bus stops throughout the town, which are sheltered, accessible and comfortable.

### Local Area Plan for Nenagh.

I welcome that this plan is part of realising Tipperary County Council's commitment to become a climate resilient, sustainable and low carbon county and to support a 51% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2030 in line with the National Climate Action Plan.

I welcome the commitment to support compact residential growth in Nenagh through the sustainable intensification and consolidation of the town centre and established residential Areas.

I support the Town Centre Strategy for Nenagh that seeks to ensure that the vibrancy and vitality of the town is maintained and enhanced by increasing the residential population of the town centre, regenerating town centre brownfield lands, and providing a high-quality, pleasant and enjoyable town centre environment focussed on active modes of travel.

I support compact residential development on lands zoned within the town centre area and areas close to existing services and seeks to promote compact growth through the re-use and re-development of vacant properties, regeneration and consolidation sites, brownfield and infill sites.

I urge the Council to ensure that services are delivered in tandem with housing on greenfield sites, not after houses have been built.

Any new roadway to the south of Nenagh must give priority and space to dedicated cycle and walkways which also include biodiverse margins along their length.

I note that on page 48, point 5.3 there is mention of “The expansion of existing public amenity space and the provision of dedicated playground spaces will be supported as well as the provision of allotment space.” I welcome this support but urge the Council to identify within the Local Area Plan where the space for publicly owned amenities and allotments will be and to include these locations on the maps that accompany the plan.

In relation to publicly owned amenities I urge the Council to commit to working with the Local Sports Partnership to extend the municipal sports facilities beyond the current meagre spaces. In addition to the excellent sports clubs and facilities within the town there needs to be a commitment to create more informal spaces such as open basketball courts (at least two for the town) and open soccer ‘cages’ (very simple straightforward structures common in North London) whereby kids can play freely outside of formal sports club trainings. Space for such amenities must be identified and detailed on maps accompanying the plan.

I also urge the Council to consider spaces which are designed specifically for teenagers to ‘hang out’. There are plenty of international examples of such design which can be looked to for creating creative and nurturing spaces for young people in Nenagh. I support Nenagh being an Age Friendly town. But let’s make it a town that is friendly for all ages, teenagers included.

Section 8.1 I commend the Council for its support for the transition to renewable energy for heating and transport, and its encouragement and support for the transition to renewable energy generated locally in tandem with the energy efficiency upgrading of built fabric throughout the town.

Section 8.2 I welcome the commitment to ensuring proper and expanded wastewater capacity in order to facilitate house-building whilst protecting the Nenagh river and Lough Derg catchment.

8.3 I welcome the commitment to Sustainable Urban Design Systems approach.

8.5 Flood Risk Management - given the latest climate change science flood (escalating extreme weather events) risk assessments must be revisited frequently.