

**Sheila Healy**

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**From:** Donall Mac An Bheatha  
**Sent:** Friday 22 November 2019 08:04  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Fwd: Draft County Development Plan 2021/2027

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Here are just a few proposals/ideas regarding the County Development Plan 2021/2027 in relation to Ballymahon/Forney, some of them are probably in the current plan but may not come to fruition before that plan runs its course.

Public lighting on Main Street Ballymahon. The current poles appear to be too high and since the change to LED bulbs there is quite a lot of shadow and dark spots, so maybe lower poles or back lights on to the footpath from the existing poles.

Ballymahon Enterprise/Business Hub. The reality is that Ballymahon is now served by high speed fibre broadband so, Longford County Council in collaboration with the Town Team should seek a suitable building to purchase or lease for an enterprise hub fully equipped with hot desks and appropriate I.T technology to enable workers who are currently commuting daily to Dublin work remotely from the hub, there may well be a cohort of workers who would like to relocate to Ballymahon if this facility was available.

Ballymahon Business Park, work has already commenced on this project and is being led out by the Town Team it is essential that it is given a very high priority.

A 25/30 affordable housing scheme aimed specifically at people whose earnings leave them over the limit for social housing but are not in a position to qualify for a traditional mortgage from the pillar banks. There are two five acre sites in close proximity to the town that would be ideal for this type of development, and may well dovetail with staff who are employed by Center Parcs and would like to live in Ballymahon.

Ideally this development would comprise 24 three bed semi detached homes, five 2 bed bungalows and one house specifically adapted for people with a disability. In terms of climate action and carbon footprint this development would obviously be very well insulated, triple glazed windows/doors and a common heating system for all thirty houses ie, geo thermal heat pumps or air to water electric units with all houses served in a similar manner to a district heating system.

Walkways/ Cycleways. To provide a cycleway from Bridgeways Family Resource Centre to the Longford Bridge at Drinan, and also to provide a similar facility from Ballymahon

Bridge to Newcastle Bridge this is now vital in the light of the opening of the White Bridge over the River Inny at Newcastle which would enable cyclists an off road facility from Ballymahon to Center Parcs ideal for people employed in the complex who would prefer to cycle to work.

In common with most towns Ballymahon will require numerous new charging points for electric vehicles particularly for fast charge or a boost charge in addition to the existing charge point.

Some road alignment work is planned on the R392 from the junction of the Abbeyshrule Road to Forgney Church, this road narrows considerably as one approaches the church from the Ballymahon direction and is particularly problematic during funerals, Cemetery Sunday etc, hopefully consideration will be given to widening this stretch of road in the new development plan.

Off Street Parking. Work is about to commence on phase 1 of the off street car park in the centre of Ballymahon, during the lifetime of the new County Development Plan it is envisaged that a car park and a new street lay out will be provided for up to 180 cars from the former Goldsmith Building along the backland to SuperValu, the entry and exit points to be provided at the Goldsmith building, this development is seriously overdue and should be of the highest priority in the early years of the plan and has the added benefit of attracting new business's to the centre of town.

Urban Regeneration. The former Masonic Hall on the Ballymulvey Road is a building that should be given consideration for restoration under the regeneration programme if restored it could have many uses, the Leo Casey History Group could use it as their base as could the Bridge Club or Club 91.

On the socio economic front Bridgeways Family Resource Centre, and the Convent Day Care Centre are doing great work in the community while working out of buildings that are barely fit for purpose, ideally both services could be accommodated on the same site, with a youth club or cafe similar to the Attic House project in Longford Town also on this site enhancing the work of Bridgeways.

Cllr. Pat O'Toole

To

Sent from my iPad