

# **Stamullen Needs a Playground Submission To Meath County Council in Regards of \the Review of the Existing County Development Plan.**

## **1. Introduction**

Stamullen Needs a Playground was set up in August 2015, following two well attended public meetings in the village, to campaign for the provision of a playground in the community which is accessible to all.

Previously the Council proposed to put a playground in the Mountain View estate, which lacked adequate space and proper facilities for car parking and associated facilities. As a result of the objections, a playground for the village was scrapped and we are still waiting on this facility for the young people of the village

The group is community based and is committed to putting the provision of a playground back on the agenda for the village. We welcome the chance to make this submission.

## **2. Population and Housing.**

The committee notes that the Strategic Issues Paper section cites the increase in population of the county to a total of 195,000 people, and also that the county has the second fastest growth rate in the country as per the 2016 census. It further goes on to state that both Stamullen and Enfield has been identified to grow from small town to moderate growth town status. Our position is that there should be no further development of Stamullen until adequate community infrastructure, such as playgrounds are first built. This position is laid out in our submission on Variation Number 3 of the County Development Plan, which is attached to this submission. We further argue that it should become the policy of the Planning Department to insist this sort of vital community infrastructure is built prior to any housing developments commencing to ensure developers put community ahead of profit.

## **3. Urban Design.**

The Strategic Issues Paper also cites good urban design as a vital issue. It is our position that any future planning adhering to our argument in point one above, should be subject to a set of guidelines issued by the Planning Department to ensure uniform design of public space. This should include recommended sizes of public amenities, contents of amenities in the case of playgrounds and the optimum area for passive supervision. This would then ensure communities benefit from knowing exactly what specification is applied to these facilities.

## **4. Transportation and Movement.**

The provision of any public playgrounds should also encourage families to come to them on foot or by bike. To this end the council should insist any future plans include adequate

walkways and cycle paths around playgrounds, as well as facilities for secure locking of bikes.

## **5. Social, Community and Cultural Development.**

Under the numerous headings in this section, the committee sees scope for improving the provision of playground facilities. Playgrounds can help children develop fine and gross motor skills through play, and also help children's health through giving them more scope to be active and minimize childhood obesity. In addition, the provision of playgrounds will help develop communities as they become a focal point for interaction between both parents and children who use them. They have the added benefit of being a relatively inexpensive way for families to spend time together.

## **6. Conclusion.**

In conclusion we are asking that the points set out in this submission are accepted by Planning Department who develops a policy based on the following principals;

1. Provision of playgrounds and community facilities prior to the commencement of any housing development.
2. A set of uniform specifications for playgrounds and community facilities, both in terms of size and equipment for developers to adhere to.
3. The provision of adequate walkways, cycle paths and associated facilities to enable families and users to access playgrounds with ease.