



Uimhir Thagarta Uathúil: MH-C52-60

Údar: Niamh Scott

Stádas: Submitted

Aighneacht: Public Park for Ashbourne

Comhairliúchán:

Dáta a cuireadh isteach: 25.06.2021 - 11:31

Material Amendments to Draft Meath County Development Plan
2021-2027

Ashbourne

Caibidil: Volume 2: Settlements »
Ashbourne

Proposed Amendment Number: Proposed Ashbourne Amendment No. 7, Proposed Ashbourne Amendment No. 8

I have lived in Ashbourne for over 13 years and watched it grow into the bustling town it is now. There has always been a lack of free green space for the people of Ashbourne to use and never has it been more aparent than during our 5km covid restrictions. Families were tripping up over each as they walked the paths of Ashbourne amongst the traffic and droves of other families out for their daily walk. It was Pathetic. We all pay our property taxes and huge property developement fees have been paid from the Housing Estates in Ashbourne only to fund swimming pools, playgrounds and other amenties in other towns in Meath. Ashbourne is always forgotten. We are the 2nd biggest town in Meath and growing... we need a park, we deserve a park, give us our park.

The current lands (80 acres) identified for rezoning as public greenspace are perfect, this is a golden opportunity for our town. The park would be situated within 1.5 KM walking distance from almost all of the houses in the town, it would transform Ashbourne and reap rewards in multiple areas of life - personal, health, community and business.

- Any redirection of decisions on a park back to Local Area Level is a repeat of work already done. Extensive assessment work was done six years ago locally and potential lands were explored. To re-commence a process already exhausted would be a poor use of public resources and a severe delay for the expanding community in getting the greenspace it badly needs.

- MCC state that the necessary funds are not available to purchase and develop an 80 acre park. However, once the land is secured, multiple funding channels can be accessed. We are a very active and engaged community willing to work with the Council on the question of funding channels, as are our Councillors.

- COVID-19 and lockdown within 5km again highlighted how badly served Ashbourne is regarding OPEN and PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE GREENSPACE. Independent research conducted by Future Analytics determined that the town needs a minimum of 80 acres to address the historical and current shortfall in public greenspace. This is not our opinion, this is FACT.

- The park needs an entrance. Lands at Churchfields, gifted to the church by [Redacted_Personal Information], have been identified as most appropriate in this regard - linked to the town centre, schools, main arteries of the town etc. To put houses where this perfect access point exists would be a mistake.

Documents Attached: Níl