

Template 3 – Protecting the Liffey Valley

Chapter: MA St. Edmundsbury

Topic: MA6.1

I wish to express my support for the elected members' decision **to retain the existing High Amenity zoning at St. Edmundsbury by rejecting the proposed residential rezoning of these lands.**

The St. Edmundsbury lands form part of the wider Liffey Valley landscape and make an important contribution to rich biodiversity, visual amenity and the County's Green Infrastructure network. They help maintain the distinctive character & ecology of the valley and provide an important green setting, between existing developed areas.

While being a great opportunity for establishing an ecological status here, this is an equally bad location for more housing. There is no infrastructure to support more housing, the Lucan road is already clogged with traffic. There is no trainline local to this. The village is not at a scale to support the amount of housing in Lucan already let alone with more.

Retaining these lands also avoids the cumulative loss of green space in the Lucan area and protects an important environmental asset for future generations. The gradual erosion of High Amenity land through individual rezoning decisions can have significant long-term consequences for landscape character and ecological connectivity. The Liffey Valley itself is home to ancient woodlands and ancient ecosystems dependent on them, and the more buffer we can give around these areas, the better.

The entire Liffey Valley area at St Ed's should be considered an ecological project, and an opportunity for employment in expanding the native woodland, and making the area into an area for outdoor leisure (walking / birdwatching etc.) should be the plan and focus. If the line across this side of Lucan road is broken and any development is allowed, it will further encroach until there is nothing meaningful left.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask that the elected members' decision be upheld and that the existing High Amenity zoning at St. Edmundsbury be retained.

Signed:

Ronan Gallagher

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