Land Use Planning & Transportation

0 4 AUG 2026

South Dublin County Council

Chapter:MA Finnstown Castle

Topics: MA3.1

I Emily Lawlor strongly support he decision of the elected members of South Dublin County Council not to proceed with the proposed residential zoning of the lands at Finnstown Castle, Lucan, under proposed Variation No.2 to the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028.

The Council's own figures show that the revised National Planning Framework (NPF) baseline housing requirement has already been met. The overall package of proposed rezonings in SDCC provides approximately **30% more residential capacity than the Government's baseline requirement**. As a result, there is no planning necessity to remove the existing zoning from the Finnstown Castle lands in order to comply with national housing policy.

Finnstown Castle lands form part of a historic estate and have a high heritage value. Housing on this land would destroy the historic context and totally erase the sense of place associated with the location. It would curtail future use as a hotel and leisure centre as the access road was always a selling point before its current temporary use as a homeless hub.

The Newcastle Road area is already hugely congested with multiple residential exits. This is the only remaining green space along the stretch and offers a visual and potential recreational buffer. It needs protection not housing development. The area also contains many mature trees, and it is an essential natural habitat and corridor for biodiversity in the area.

Maintaining the existing zoning achieves an appropriate balance between meeting housing needs and protecting a locally important environmental and landscape asset. It reflects the principle that sustainable development should provide for growth, while safeguarding the natural environment for current and future generations.

I respectfully request that the elected members' decision be upheld in this matter.

Signature [redacted]

Address: [redacted]