

Friends of Holmpatrick Cove
South Strand
Skerries
Co Dublin
K34XN77
8th Nov 2017

NPF Submissions
Forward Planning Section
Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
Custom House
Dublin D01 W6Xo

Email to npf@housing.gov.ie

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Dear Sir/Madam,

THE NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK FOR IRELAND

Friends of Holmpatrick Cove, Skerries welcome the new National Planning Framework (NPF) and we are pleased to have the opportunity to comment on relevant planning issues in the Ireland 2040 Draft Plan. We are a community group based in Skerries made up of members of the community who have formed as a result of a decision by An Bord Pleanála to refuse permission (overturning the grant of permission by Fingal County Council) for the Holmpatrick Cove Development.

We in particular welcome National Policy Objective 25 and the following statement;

Enabling and fostering community leadership at a local level shall continue to be supported at Government level"

We believe the voice of a community (and indeed the elected members that represent this community) should not be ignored in the planning process, as has been the case of Holmpatrick Cove, Skerries. This sensitive development (which underwent a full EIS) is badly needed and welcomed by the overwhelming majority of local people in the area. Apart from the numerous observations made by all of the local clubs and societies during the planning process, people have walked to the site and over 3,000 people have signed petitions in support of this development as a result of the Bord Pleanála decision, As our Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, said this week, in relation to the Apple "planning fiasco", it is very unusual to see people demonstrating "in support" of a development.

The following community organisations have registered their support during the planning process:

- The Skerries Community Association (Responsible for planning and community initiatives)
- The Skerries Chamber of Commerce
- St Michael's House
- Skerries Tidy Towns Committee (Particularly noting the major infrastructural gap of a hotel in this National Tidy Town's winner)
- Skerries Rugby Club
- Skerries Tourism
- Skerries Soundwaves (Arts Festival)
- Skerries Swimming Club
- Skerries Frosties (Sea Swimming)
- Skerries Harps Gaelic Club
- Skerries Soccer Club
- Skerries Sailing Club
- Skerries Cricket Club
- Mourne Estate Management

We would welcome the "bottom up" community engagement referenced by the RTPi Ireland submission to the National Planning Framework.

In light of the above we believe that the creation of the Office of the Planning Regulator, (Key Element no 2. of the NPF) is of utmost importance. This would enable unusual decisions made by individuals in Bord Pleanála to be examined on their planning merits and not solely on procedure, as in the case of Judicial Review. The status quo is undemocratic and in the case of Skerries, does not serve the community well. The introduction of the OPR will ensure there is more transparency in the decision making process and will engender more confidence in the planning process.

Sincerely yours

Kevin O Sullivan

Friends of Holmpatrick Cove.