

9<sup>th</sup> November 2017

**Re: Ireland 2040 – Our Plan, *Draft* National Planning Framework**

**On behalf of: Mayo Public Participation Network (PPN) - 485 community groups registered at present**

Dear Sir or Madam,

Mayo PPN held a consultation meeting last night to consider the draft Planning Framework and decide on any views we felt should be communicated. The following were the major issues that arose, upon which there was absolute consensus.

**1. Lack of Engagement with PPNs**

Mayo PPN is extremely disappointed that we were not informed of the consultative process for the Planning Framework. We have been informed on many occasions that the Government sees the PPNs as *the* point of consultation between the State and the Community & Voluntary Sector. It is extremely frustrating, therefore, that a national consultative process emanating from the Dept. of Housing, Planning and Local Government – the Dept. which oversees our work – did not contact the PPNs for their contribution at the beginning of this process. It is by chance that we came across the opportunity to react to the draft document; we would like to have contributed to the draft, not reacted to it. We believe the PPNs should be included in the Framework as the point of contact between Government and Communities in all local, regional and national planning processes.

**2. Lack of ‘Enablers’ for rural communities**

All attendees believe the draft Framework is heavily biased in favour of the economic development of Ireland’s five cities. While ‘enablers’ were listed for the cities, none were given for ensuring the economic sustainability of rural communities. This needs to be addressed.

In closing, the participants of last night’s meeting felt that the process adopted for the ‘public’ consultation for this Framework was very weak. Older People’s Councils and Comhairle na nÓg offer easy access to the views of young and old people around the Country, social media offers huge opportunities for consultation, and traditional public consultation events are still very useful. Mayo Co. Co. have initiated a unique planning process for villages and towns called *Community Futures* which shows the strength of community consultation in planning processes.

We trust you will consider our submission, and hope to see alterations in the final Ireland 2040 Planning Framework.

Yours faithfully,

  
Teresa Carney  
Mayo PPN Convenor

P/P Mary Costello  
Resource Worker



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