

Dundrum Local Area Plan – some thoughts from Imagine Dundrum

Following the public consultation on the draft document, the **Dundrum Local Area Plan** (LAP) was approved by the Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Councillors at a special Council meeting on October 10th last and came into effect on 21st of November. The Local Area Plan sets out the Council's framework of policies and objectives to guide future development in Dundrum for the next six years, with clear objectives for community facilities, housing, conservation of heritage buildings, and management of transport and movement.

The Plan proposes a new local park on the site of the Old Shopping Centre, and Imagine Dundrum particularly welcomes the Council's decision to proceed with the new Civic Centre, including a modern library, which we have long advocated for. This is due to be located in the Taney Cross - Waldemar Terrace area as part of a redesigned gateway to the Village.

Although Imagine Dundrum took no position on the traffic-related measures in the draft Dundrum LAP, we note the final Plan's clarification that many of the more contentious proposals are still at preliminary design stage, so may be subject to further changes later. The final Plan also states that "further consultation...with the local community will play an important role in delivering some of the LAP policies and objectives".

Of particular interest to Imagine Dundrum are the policy objectives proposed for the height, density and tenure of housing on the Old Shopping Centre site, for heights of buildings on Main Street and for the future of buildings on Main Street that form part of the Architectural Conservation Area, (ACA) designated as such in 2021 as a result of Imagine Dundrum's engagement with Council.

The Plan proposes that heights along Main Street would be generally 4 storeys, with a 5th storey setback for blocks adjoining the new local park. Greater heights of up to 11 storeys along the bypass are also provided for.

Imagine Dundrum has consistently argued for a maximum height of 3 storeys on Main Street and no more than 8 storeys on the Old Shopping Centre site, so we were very disappointed by the DLR Councillors' rejection, at their Special Council Meeting on October 10th, of the motions put forward by Councillor Anne Colgan, Chair of Imagine Dundrum, proposing these lower height limits.

On the positive side, we warmly welcome the commitment to retain the buildings on Main Street that make up a core part of the Dundrum Architectural Conservation Area, and the Plan's additional objective of retaining the former Post Office (also known as Joe Daly Cycles), along with nos 1-3, no. 4 and nos 13-13A Main Street.

The Local Area Plan and associated documents can now be viewed on the Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Council's website: <https://www.dlrcoco.ie/dundrumlap>