

**Senior Executive Officer,
Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Department,
Fingal County Council,
County Hall,
Swords,
Fingal,
County Dublin.**

23rd April 2012

Re: Preparation of a Local Area Plan for Rowlestown, Co. Dublin

Dear Sir/Madam,

The National Transport Authority ("the Authority") welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Issues Paper for the Rowlestown Local Area Plan.

The Dublin Transport Authority Act 2008 provides that each planning authority within the GDA shall ensure that its local area plans are consistent with the Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy for the period 2011-2030. The Authority has published a draft Transport Strategy, which has been submitted to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport for his consideration. While the Transport Strategy is a draft document, the Authority requests that Fingal County Council reflect the policies, objectives and measures contained within the draft Transport Strategy in the preparation of the Rowlestown Local Area Plan (LAP).

Land Use Planning Issues

Measure LU1, LU2, LU3 and LU4 of the Draft Transport Strategy outline a number of land use planning recommendations that should be considered when preparing the LAP. In particular, the LAP would be strengthened by incorporating the following principles/measures in the plan:

- A sequential approach to development whereby lands which are most accessible by public transport are prioritised for growth;
- All development areas to provide for internal permeability for walking and cycling;

- The design of new developments to incorporate new walking and cycling routes, or exploit existing direct routes, to social and commercial facilities in the village core;
- Parking, where required, to be located and designed in such a manner that it does not dominate the streetscape and does not compromise walking, cycling and public transport;
- The provision for the delivery of goods and services to be taken into account in the design of new and existing development, to improve efficiency and minimise impact on the local community in Rowlestown, and the built and natural environment; and
- Severance within local catchments, particularly on key access routes, to be avoided to the extent practicable.

Walking and Cycling Matters

The Authority consider that the LAP process is the appropriate level at which the walking and cycling networks for Rowlestown can be identified. In this regard, the Rowlestown LAP should consider measures to improve the walking and cycling environment within the village core. In particular, the Authority recommends the incorporation of enhanced walking and cycling facilities along the R125.

The Authority's guidance on cycling planning and provision is contained in www.cyclemanual.ie and any cycle measures within the Local Area Plan should be consistent with this guidance.

I trust that the initial views of the Authority will be taken into consideration in the preparation of the draft Rowlestown Local Area Plan, and the Authority looks forward to on-going dialogue with Fingal County Council as part of the Local Area Plan process.



Hugh Creegan

Director of Transport, Planning and Investment