

Killucan Kinnegad Transport Lobby Group
C/o Kinnegad Community Council

Secretary: Denis Leonard, Trim Road, Kinnegad, Co. Westmeath
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Minister Noel Dempsey
Transport House,
Kildare Street, Dublin 2

Dear Minister;

As you are aware Killucan is the only station in the 22 miles between Mullingar and Enfield that has double track, an existing station and platform and parking for over 200 cars. We have had plans and costings drawn up to your specifications at our own expense to show that for just over €2 million the entire station and car parking would be up and running. We forwarded them to Irish Rail by email late last year. The revenue would run into over €8000 a week even if half of the 300 people identified in the feasibility study used it. Also with the rising cost of motoring, the large toll cost on the M4, the two-hour delay getting to Dublin and the need to cut back on carbon emission rail travel is more attractive by the day.

We have Lagan Cement offering all material at cost, FAS offering a now highly skilled database of workers for the project, 40% structural funding, and agencies like Leader, Westmeath Community Development, and the BMW have offered support. Our MEPS met us last week and have given an undertaking that every support at EU commission level will be available. Westmeath County Council has given commitments in terms for road alignments etc. In Smart Travel announced by your office last month you want to take thousands of cars off the road and with a dwindling bus fleet, rail with park and ride seems the only answer. Stringent economic times have seen the development of rail in the past, the Navan line is going to come in under time and under budget and if large projects like the Metro fall victim to budget constraints then small project like ours that can take 300 cars off the road for a small investment should be looked at seriously.

We have continually pointed out the facts of our situation as we have worked for many years to have the railway station opened at Killucan. Killucan/Rathwire (about 1 mile away) is to go to 3000 people in this development plan and Kinnegad (less than 4 miles away) to 4000 even with the downturn. There are already over 5000 people between the 2 communities. There are also a myriad of settlements within 7 miles including Mullingar East, Rochfordbridge Milltownpass, Raharney, Delvin, Ballivor etc. representing thousands of commuters. No one else outside Dublin has such a population without a station. The Athlone IT study showed over 300 people just in Killucan Kinnegad and Ballivor town centre areas would use the service and hundreds more would consider it depending on times/ availability.

We have 2 requests. Can we not be included in the review of Transport 21 immediately considering all we have put in place? Can a meeting be held with all the parties and bodies involved to advance a project that would mean so much to this region? We feel your office could commission this, what have we to lose? We await your reply.

Sincerely yours,

Denis Leonard
Secretary

Summary of some of the information we presented to MEPS and TDs

Team Approach

- Communities involved.
- Irish Rail
- Westmeath Co. co.
- Government /Dept of Transport
- EU
- BMW Fund
- VEC
- Local councillors and T.D.'s and Minister
- MEPS
- Local business
- FAS
- Media
- Rural Transport initiatives
- Westmeath Community Development

EU considerations

- Emissions
- Legislation to move more goods by rail
- Regenerating infrastructure
- Job creation
- Part of TEN network

Help with Current Chronic Economic Situation

- Allowing people to alleviate need for second car
- Saves emissions (Kyoto fine)
- Project creates jobs and contributes to local economy
- Regeneration of local area by having a rail link
- Giving 300 people access to rail
- Local tourism

Important Considerations

- Get people back to work in the area. CIF recommends that each 100 million spent on infrastructure means 30 million saved to the exchequer
- 40% structural funds still available
- We are in the BMW region so drawing from different fund to Hill of Down
- Both stations will be needed in the future
- In "Smarter Travel" Minister Noel Dempsey wants to get cars off the road and people using park and ride

Financial Considerations

- Irish Rail owns the land
- Feasibility study, Plans and Quantity Surveyor reports already completed
- FAS workers available
- Every worker employed saves State €20,000
- Materials at cost
- Could be contribution to exchequer from rail tickets if station is built
- Gives many more people access to education along the line.