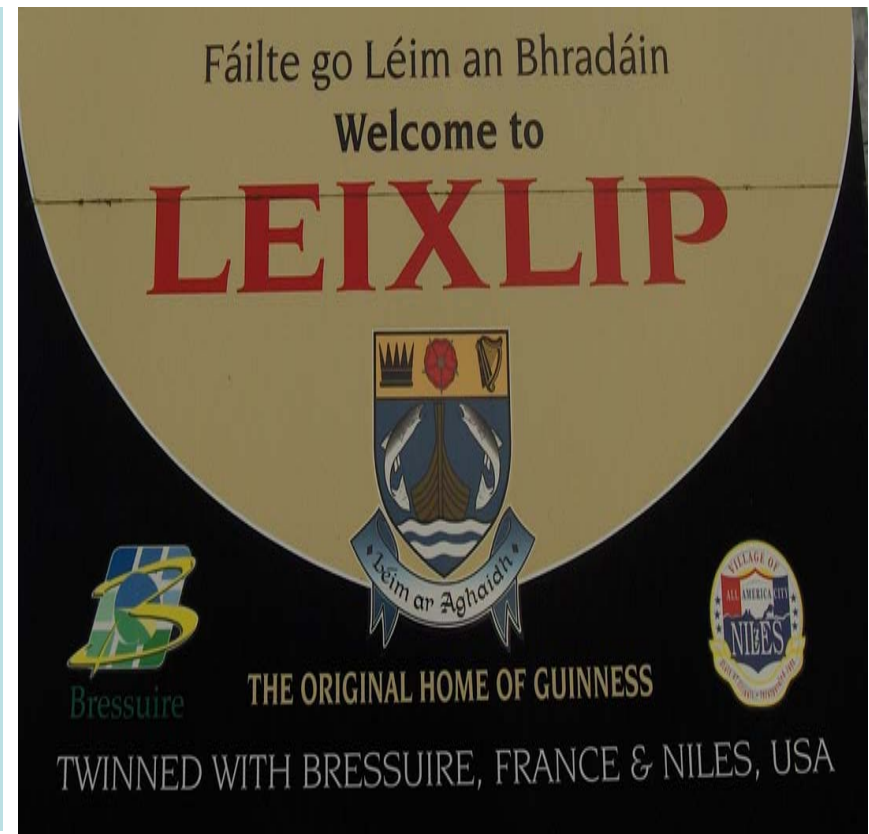


Cllr Catherine Murphy (Ind)
was elected to

- Leixlip Town Commission 1988-2005
- Kildare County Council 1991-2005
- Dail Eireann 2005-2007
- Co-opted to Kildare County Council 2008

My Hometown

- Lived in Leixlip since 1978.
- 1971 Leixlip population was 900.
- 2006 Leixlip population 15,000



Community Facilities

- North Kildare Towns developed from villages, almost everything provided from new.
- Garda presence followed crime rather than population.
- Parks and Playgrounds arrived too late for many of the inhabitants.
- Never ending round of fundraising to provide vital leisure facilities.
- Communities left to pick up the pieces in development led approach to building towns.
- Schools not provided in timely way.

Playground – provided many years after initial housing developments.



Kill National School – May 2007 children must go elsewhere



Industrial Development -bright spot-



- Intel
- Hewlett Packard
- Guinness announces new Brewery for Leixlip.

Retail Development – mixed bag

- Celbridge good grocery shopping.
- Maynooth – good range of mixed retail
- Leixlip Lidl only major multiple.
- Facilities don't always follow population.



Public Transport Improvements over years

More to do: “surrounding housing estates become car parks.”

- Community successfully lobbied for doubling rail track between Maynooth and Clonsilla.
- Peak in both directions due to Industries and NUI Maynooth.
- Car Parking deficiencies continue to be a serious problem.
- Orbital bus routes & local feeder buses needed.



Maynooth College – students big public transport users.



2006 Census – top 10 most populated Counties

Dublin	1,187,176
Cork	481,295
Galway	231,670
Kildare	186,335
Limerick	184,055
Meath	162,831
Donegal	147,264
Kerry	139,835
Wexford	131,749
Wicklow	126,194

Limerick had double Kildare's population in 1971.

2006 Census – 60% population of Kildare not born in the County .

Dublin, Cork, Galway, Limerick all have a City core – helps to build sense of identity.

New Environmental Considerations welcome in planning process

- Many changes to way plans are made in recent years.
- Early 1990's Councillors had legal responsibility for producing plan now it's the Manager.
- Landowners in proximity of towns had "hope value" due to big rezoning gains.
- National Spatial Strategy, RPG and Environmental considerations introduced.
- **Building on flood plains to stop.**
- Aug 2007 – right above opposite Custom House.
- Aug 2008 Celbridge, opposite
- **Protection of heritage and landscapes improved.**



“Free” market in Land

Current system

Has not led to:

- Orderly Development.
- Balanced Regional Development
- Continuous employment of army of construction workers.

It has:

- Made millions/ billions for few at the expense of the young who now have burden of crippling debt in order to put roof over heads.
- Led to expensive tribunals – bad apples weeded out rather than changing the system where land is used as a resource.
- Common good – juggled against free market.
- Huge financial gains when land is rezoned has led to corruption.

Development Plans – raise expectations.

- Public have an expectation plans are more than physical plans.
- 5 yearly reviews raises expectations about provision of facilities and services to accompany housing development.
- Planning system is nestled within Irish system of governance.
- 94% of all decisions made at National level – several degrees away from physical plan.
- Planning and development laws – planning used as development control function.
- Need to change the local government system – make more decisions at the most effective and efficient level – local level.
- Public often ask – where are the planners – when schools etc. fail to materialise. Real Question is where is our system of local government.

Unsustainable development pattern

- DTO linked land use and transportation planning in 1990's - tested several development scenarios – which were then ignored.
- What followed was an unsustainable pattern of development – long commutes. Very expensive to respond with public transport.
- Peaks in one direction – empty buses and trains on outward journeys– increased subsidies now needed.
- Mid 1990's Kildare includes development strategy – limited growth in North of County in favour of balanced development within county.
- More limited land zonings led to offers of community gain.
- Took the form of school sites; football pitches; parks; road development etc.
- Developers now appear to regard community gain as the norm when land is being rezoned.

25 years of Population Change

	2006	1981	% Change
Kildare	186,335	104,122	44%
Meath	162,831	95,419	41%
Wicklow	126,194	87,449	31%
Galway	231,670	172,018	26%
Cork	481,295	402,465	16%
Dublin	1,187,176	1,003,164	15%

Community and development plans

- Community have social vested interest – long term.
- Developer's vested interest almost exclusively financial – short term.
- Development plans should be about more than legal compliance – should be about real community engagement – place shaping.
- Community submissions tend to be reactive- rely on voluntary effort.
- Those with financial vested interest can pay for professional advice.
- Only part of planning process citizens have input into the area they live in - must be respected and assisted.
- Open process should be a given – meetings should be in public.
- Variety of plans can be confusing – County & City Plans; Local Area Plans; Area Action Plans; Strategic Plans etc.
- Public Representative's should understand the community they serve and bring to the table community demands.

National Spatial Strategy - RPG

- RPG's compliance needed rather than "have regard to".
- National Spatial Strategy – in principal good.
- Too many area's selected as hubs and gateways.
- Not deliverable – market dictating where development is concentrated – large land-banks in Greater Dublin Area.
- Needs a rethink, perhaps this will occur in the context of National Development Plan.