

## CO. LOUTH DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Ardee is a progressive modern town situated between Dublin & Belfast, Dundalk & Drogheda with a good network of roads M1 N2 & N52 and is ideally suited for new industries for Ardee to service employment for midlouth & North Meath.

In the last development plan Ardee was considered a commuter town for Dublin, Dundalk & Drogheda, with very little help from state bodies to bring industry into Ardee even though we have large landbanks in Currabeg ( Health Board Land) and on the N33 Link rd. Zoned for Industry.

In 1990 a proposed Eastern & Western Bypasses were proposed to alleviate the traffic in Ardee.

The Eastern Bypass seems to be shelved when it was appealed to An Bord Pleanála because it was too close to Newgrange.

Last September, there was a Public Consultation in Slane on the Bypass of Slane but there was no mention of Ardee being bypassed as the outer relief road to Dublin.

The Western Bypass seems to have run aground in recent months even though all the land has been purchased for the last 20 years.

Before any Bypass of Ardee goes ahead, there needs to be a regeneration plan put in place to attract visitors, tourists and foot traffic into the town to boost the local economy.

2014, Ardee Town Council had plans for Ardee Castle drawn up by Fingal Co.Co. and money ring fenced for it to be refurbished but to this day there is no sign of the castle being opened to visitors.

In the 60s & 70s bus tours came to Ardee Castle & Jumping Church as the jewel in the crown as the main tourist attraction with Newgrange.

In the last Development Plan, the buzz word was integration between new housing developments with older mature areas with bicycle lanes & walkways which caused unsocial behaviour in many of these areas and they had to be closed.

Many of these mature areas have elderly citizens living in them and do not need the problems of new developments.

Ardee Bus Corridors provide a good bus service to Dublin by Bus Eireann and private bus providers and also a good service to Drogheda & Dundalk.

There is no bus link service to Midlouth towns & villages such as Annagassen, Castlebellingham, Dunleer to Ardee or the hinterland of North Meath and Navan.

Ardee is an ancient historic town that could be linked by a tourist triangle, walkway and bicycle lane between the Viking Village of Annagassen to Ardee's ancient battle of Cuchullain & Ferdia on the river Dee to Tallanstown and the Cuchullain Stone in Knockbridge and could eventually lead to the Táin Walk in Cooley.

Signed: Fintan Malone