



**Oifig an
Rialaitheora Pleanála**
Office of the
Planning Regulator

People - Places - Planning

Niall Cussen
Planning Regulator





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People - Place - Planning





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Broadening Planning

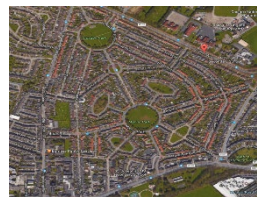
- ▶ Growing awareness of spatial/physical layout effects on our health and wellbeing.
- ▶ NPF/NDP signal move away from “business-as-usual” urban sprawl.
- ▶ Planning at local level must be more aware of addressing inequalities in quality of places from a health and wellbeing perspective.
- ▶ Popularity of TV programmes like “Operation Transformation” signal societal wish for healthier living - BUT: driving to the gym?
- ▶ People want to live closer to physical amenities, employment, cultural and heritage attractions - avoiding long car-based commutes - more time for families.
- ▶ Higher densities - lower greenhouse gases (30%+ less??) from transport, heating - BUT!
- ▶ Communities need to be at the centre of design - ensuring enhanced social interaction, integrating security and safety considerations (Commission on Future of Policing)



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Déjà vu?

- ▶ Origins of planning: health/environment/social crises...
- ▶ Frederick Engels (1844) “The Condition of the Working Classes in England”
- ▶ Benjamin Ward Richardson (1876) “Hygeia - City of Health”
- ▶ Parks Movement (late 19thC)
- ▶ Ebenezer Howard (1902) “Garden Cities of Tomorrow”
- ▶ Patrick Geddes (1904) “Eco-system based Urban Planning and Social Surveys”
- ▶ Le Corbusier (1920’s) “Social Engineering”





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Moving On...

- ▶ Rigid zoning - reactive development management - scarcity of resources for plan-led development prevalent until relatively recent times.
- ▶ Led to more development driven planning, which creates:
 - ▶ (Roads) infrastructure led extensive development?
 - ▶ Unhealthy/de-socialised environments?
 - ▶ Erosion of ecosystems and green infrastructure
- ▶ BUT!
- ▶ People are seeking change - (evidence will drive further change)...
- ▶ Move is on from “numbers based planning” to “place making/management”



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Past Focus For Planning?

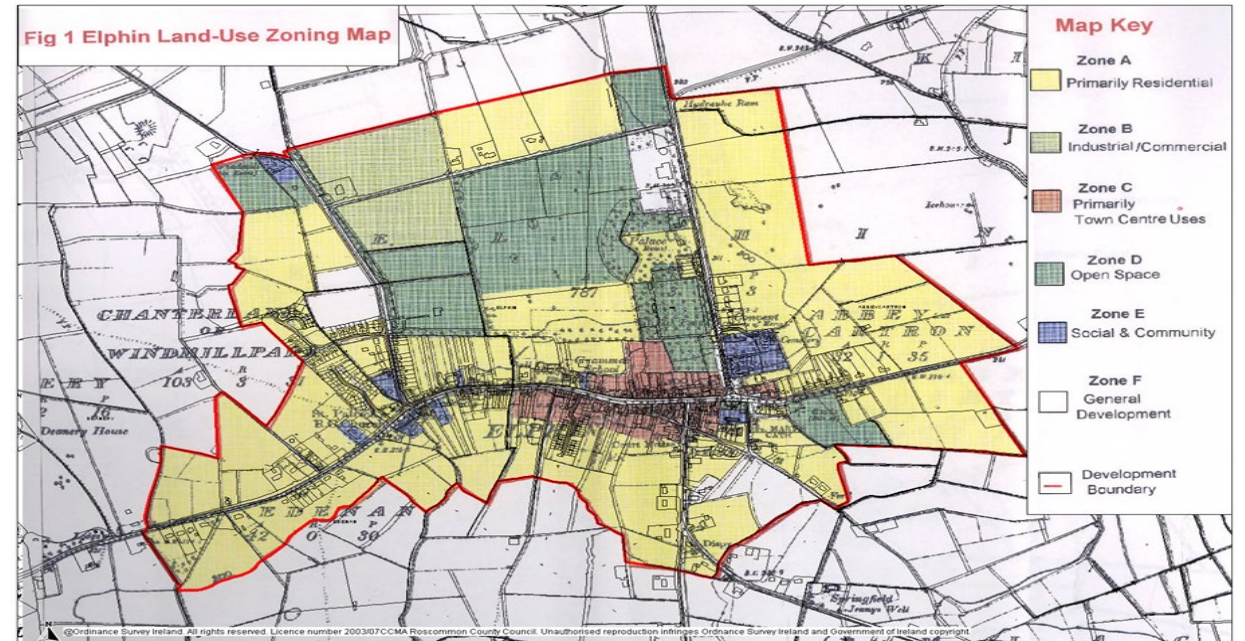




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Losing Our Way...

- ▶ Local Area Planning: 100ha zoned residential 2004
- ▶ 2,000 homes +5,000 people?
- ▶ Population in 2006: 590
Population in 2016: 565
- ▶ Replicated many times over...



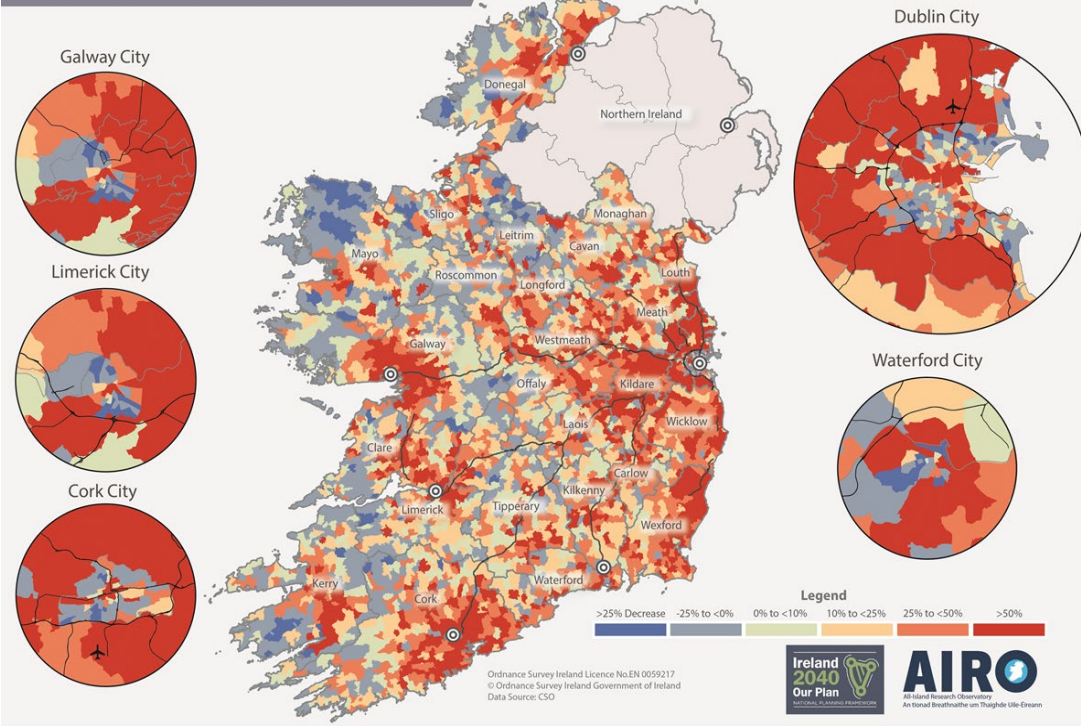


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Living/Working Apart

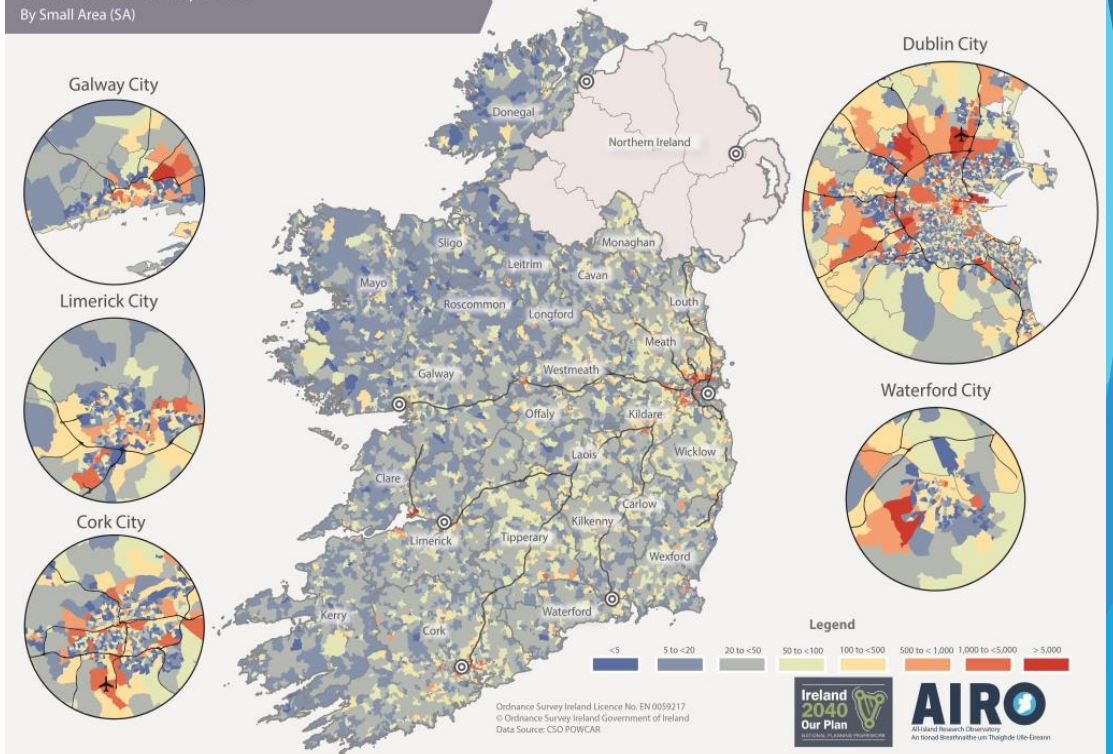
Population Change (%), 1991 to 2016

By Electoral Division (ED)



Location of Jobs, 2011

By Small Area (SA)





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Challenges...

How does the Government plan to tackle the housing crisis?



Grappling with the housing crisis: Fresh approaches needed

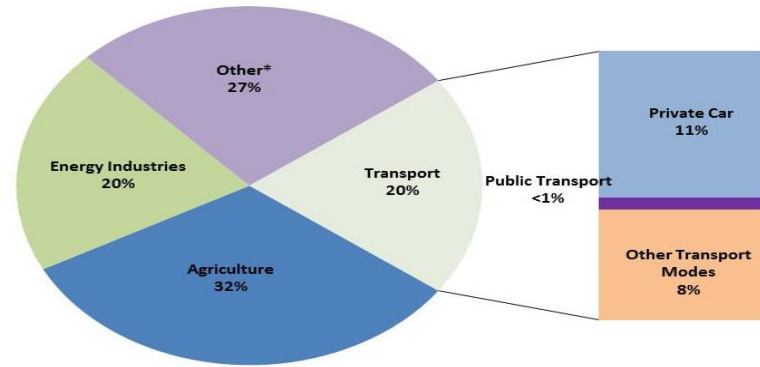
With 90,000 people on social housing lists, we asked five insiders for potential solutions



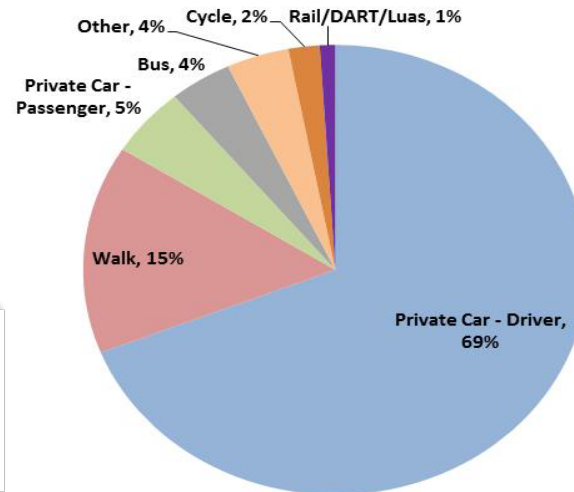
The complex question of why there is a housing shortage

The reason why, at a time of strong demand and rising prices, more homes are not being built

Ireland's GHG emissions per sector (2016)



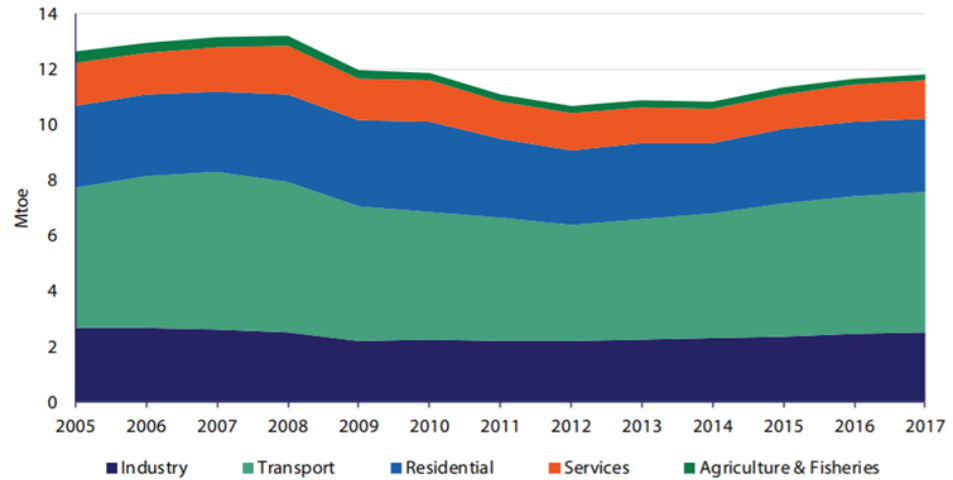
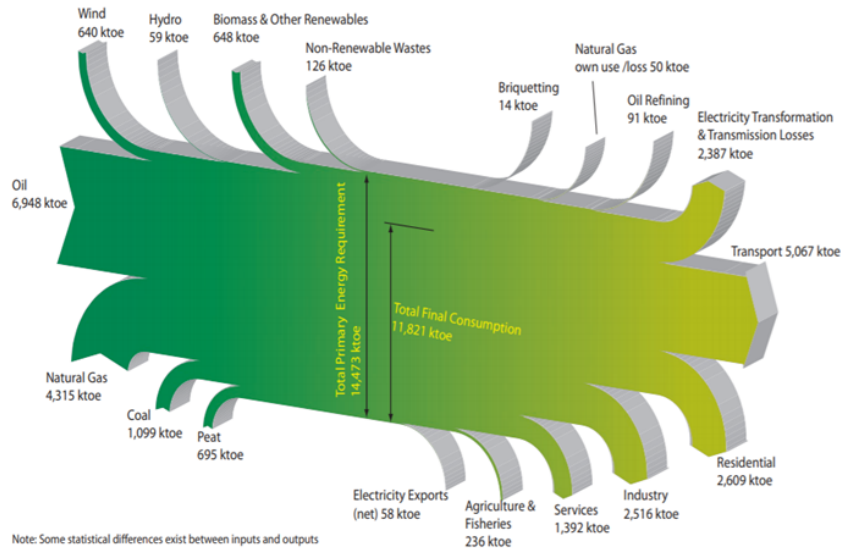
How do we travel? Modal Share of Ireland's Transport Journeys (2016)





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Trends



Transport is Ireland's largest Energy Use

Energy for Transport continues to grow



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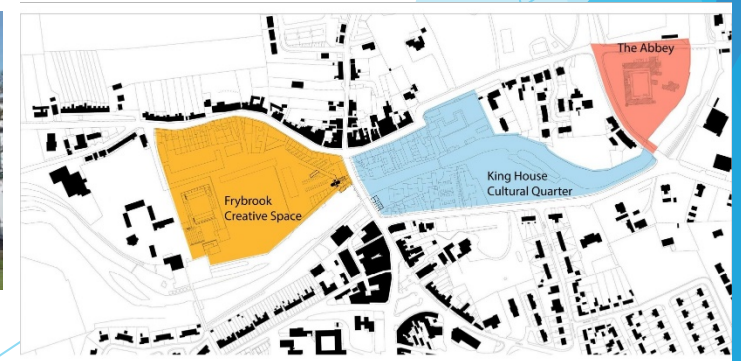
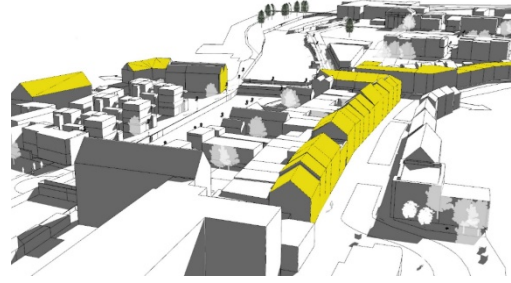
Change...

- ▶ Project Ireland 2040 (NPF and NDP): Major policy shift - *Compact Growth*.
- ▶ Driven by clear public voice that connected environment - health - planning.
- ▶ People are understanding the links.
- ▶ Now our turn to implement a more holistic - place and people centred approach to planning.
- ▶ New governance/implementation mechanisms.
 - ▶ Office of the Planning Regulator
 - ▶ Land Development Agency
 - ▶ National Development Plan Funds (x4)
- ▶ Need for ongoing analysis - monitoring - feedback into public awareness and policy evolution



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Focus Post NPF...





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About Today

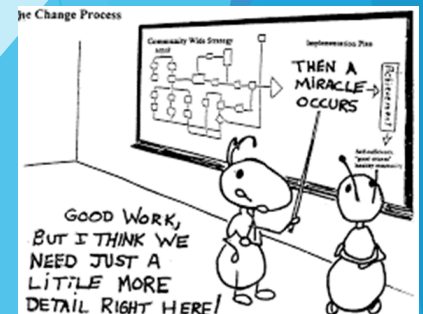
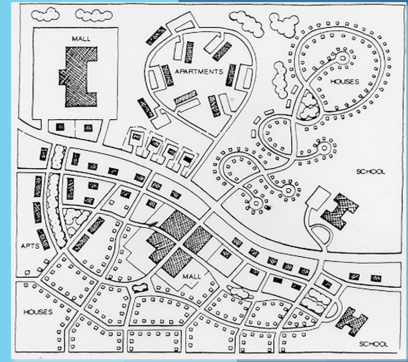
- ▶ Highlighting the outputs from ESRI - EPA - DHPLG research collaboration.
 - ▶ Gianluca Grilli (ESRI) Park attributes - visiting behaviour and health effects;
 - ▶ Ronan Lyons (TCD) Value of green spaces in Ireland;
 - ▶ Tom Gillespie (NUIG) Value of coastal views/proximity in Ireland; and
 - ▶ Seán Lyons (ESRI) Relationship between rents and commuting distance.
- ▶ Multi-disciplinary collaborative evidence based policy and implementation is key!
- ▶ OPR statutory functions includes greater public awareness of planning - education - research.
- ▶ Start of conversations today - where next? who should be listening next?



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About OPR

- ▶ Independent Statutory Office established April 2019 - 3 key functions:
 - ▶ Assessment of statutory plans against strategic legislative and policy requirements
 - ▶ Qualitative assessment of systems and procedures of planning authorities
 - ▶ Promoting better knowledge/awareness/skillsets/research into future planning issues
- ▶ Over 20 statutory plans assessed
- ▶ 200+ contacts from public re PA performance (most not within OPR remit)
- ▶ Regional training seminars established
- ▶ Year 1 objectives on staffing, premises and internal process near complete
- ▶ Research/Education/Training activities program nearing finalisation





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Thank You