

Proposed Material Alterations - Draft Leixlip LAP 2020 - 2026

Only submissions that refer to the Material Alterations will be considered. The Material Alterations Report is available on our website <http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Planning/DevelopmentPlans/LocalAreaPlans>

Name *

Nicola

Jackson

First

Last

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Email *

[REDACTED]

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All submissions will be published on our website. Please do not include any personal information in your submission (e.g. your address, names of children, phone number, email etc)

Please state the Material Alteration(s) your submission refers to *

KDA Celbridge Road East

The material alteration report can be viewed at <http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Planning/DevelopmentPlans/LocalAreaPlans/LeixlipLocalAreaPlan2020-2026/>

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Type your submission here and/or upload attachment below *

This year marks a great opportunity in The Leixlip Draft Area Plan 2020-2026 to protect the walled area proposed by Kildare Development Plan KDA Celbridge Road East, which is part of Leixlip Castle Demense. A Demense this year celebrates 847 years.

It is by no accident in the Leixlip Development plan that under the section Record of Protected Structures, 18 of these protected structures are part of Leixlip Castle Demense, this represents the huge efforts made by Desmond Guinness to protect Leixlip heritage.

In honor of Desmond Guinness who has devoted his life to protecting architecture and environment for our future generations to enjoy and use for tourism and social use. We should zone area KDA 1 Celbridge Road East in Leixlip Development Plan as parkland and with a footbridge over the motorway at The Wonderful Barn can link up with Castletown Demense. I propose that we call this new park; The Desmond Guinness Park.

Leixlip Castle 1172

Adam de Hereford, one year after the Norman Invasion of Ireland, built Leixlip Castle in 1172.

One of the oldest inhabited Castles in Ireland (847 years).

1185 King John, Lord of Ireland used Leixlip Castle as a hunting base.

1316 it withstood a 4-day siege by Edward Bruce's army.

1567 purchased by Judge Nicholas White whose family remained living there until 1728.

From 1728 William Conolly of Castletown house took ownership and so began the long connection with Castletown house. The house was rented out to many famous people:

- Archbishop Stone, the protestant primate

- Viceroy Lord Townshend

- Lord Waterpark

- Baron de Robeck

1920's it became the residence of the first French ambassador to the Irish Free State.

1945 William Kavanagh

1958 The Hon Desmond Guinness who still resides here.

The Hon Desmond Guinness

Born 1931 and residing at Leixlip Castle to date. Well-known historian, writer and conservationist.

1958 he co-founded the revived Irish Georgian Society with his then wife Mariga Guinness (1932-1989). Mariga Guinness is buried at Connolly's Folly, Leixlip.

1960 Desmond Guinness wrote in the Irish Georgian Society's Spring bulletin, "We are the only country in Europe that has not yet developed its architecture as a tourist asset"

1962 Connolly Folly preserved.

1967 Castletown House purchased by Desmond Guinness for €93,000 and transferred it to the state in 1994.

1970-1980's The Irish Georgian Society managed to preserve Dublin's Mountjoy Square. "These decades witnessed concerted efforts on the part of the Irish Georgian Society led by Desmond & Mariga Guinness and John & Ann Molloy41, to arrest the acquisition and intended demolition of the townhouses by the Gallagher Group." (<http://www.dublincity.ie/.../MountjoySquareConservationPlanHi...>)

1970 The Irish Georgian Society purchased Roundwood House, Co Laois and continued its restoration.

1974 The Irish Georgian Society helped the restoration work on Damer House, Co Tipperary.

1971 Doneraile Court, Co Cork and outbuildings were leased to The Irish Georgian Society and began restoration.

Other notable buildings preserved by The Irish Georgian Society are Tailor's Hall, Dublin (<http://archiseek.com/.../1706-tailors-hall-high-street-dublin/>) and St Catherine's Church (http://archiseek.com/.../1769-st-catherines-church-thomas-st...)

Leixlip Castle and its remaining estate should be turned into a parkland similar to Castletown estate in Celbridge which Desmond Guinness saved from ruins in 1967. Future generations will thank Kildare County Councilors for saving this vital historical estate that will add greatly to the tourism potential of Kildare and the the Guinness history.

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