



Draft Blessington Local Area Plan Submission - Report

Who are you:	Private Individual
Name:	Peter Doyle, Doyle Fox & Associates Solicitors.
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Topic

Town Centre Regeneration / Retail / Opportunity Sites / TCF Plan

Submission

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, Peter Doyle of Doyle Fox & Associates Solicitors, are writing to express our concerns regarding the proposed removal of parking from the town square and the eastern side of the Main Street in Blessington as outlined in the draft development plan.

As a business operating in the heart of Blessington, we believe this change will have significant negative impacts on both our day-to-day operations and the overall commercial viability of the town.

1. Impact on Business Operations:

The availability of convenient parking is essential for our customers, suppliers, and staff. Removing these spaces will likely deter customers from visiting our business, especially those who rely on quick and accessible parking to complete their transactions. This will not only disrupt our operations but also diminish our revenue and profitability.

2. Effect on the Town's Commercial Vitality:

The removal of parking will affect the attractiveness of Blessington as a shopping and service destination. A reduction in foot traffic may lead to decreased economic activity, threatening the sustainability of local businesses and, by extension, the vibrancy of the town centre.

3. Existing Parking Challenges:

Parking in Blessington is already at capacity, and the removal of these spaces will exacerbate the problem. The Downshire and Ulster Bank buildings, both of which are currently unoccupied, contribute to a lack of active use in the town centre, and further limiting parking options could hinder efforts to attract new tenants or revive these important properties. Further reducing parking capacity in the centre of the town will only serve discourage people from engaging with the businesses and services within the town, particularly those that require access within a short of the business itself.

4. Accessibility Concerns:

Limited parking will disproportionately impact individuals with reduced mobility, families with young children, and elderly clients who rely on proximity to their destinations. This could lead to an unintended exclusion of these groups from accessing businesses and services in the area, particularly that of legal services and doctor's surgery amongst other services and businesses, many of whom are of limited mobility.

5. Lack of Transport Links.

As there are very limited transport links to get into the town, patrons have no choice but to use their cars to visit businesses. shops and services in the town. Therefore good parking such as these spaces is essential in the town.

We respectfully urge the Council to reconsider this proposal and explore alternative solutions that balance the goals of the development plan with the practical needs of businesses and the community.

Thank you for considering our perspective. We trust that the Council will prioritize the well-being of Blessington's businesses and residents when finalizing the development plan.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Doyle,
Doyle Fox & Associates.

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