

## **Athlone Joint Urban Area Plan**

### **Submission by Leah Moloney**

**1<sup>st</sup> February 2024**

#### **Summerhill**

- Summerhill does not appear to be included in this plan. Summerhill is an integral part of the Athlone Urban Area. It has a secondary school with approx. 900 pupils, primary school with approx. 250 pupils, a business park, community centre, housing estate and many other houses. It would be wise to include it in the JUAP, as it is set to continue developing quickly.
- Due to this rapid development, Summerhill requires a bus service to improve accessibility for residents to the town and local amenities.
- The successful development of Coláiste Chiaráin has resulted in increased traffic to the area. Better traffic management needs to be introduced.
- Investment in business and amenities for residents and students alike would improve quality of life in the area – eg publicly accessible green spaces, shops.
- Better walking and cycling paths are needed for residents as well as the children and teenagers walking to Summerhill Primary School and Coláiste Chiaráin Secondary School.
- Resident of Summerhill and Monksland need access to a decent supermarket such as Aldi or Lidl in the area, it is not acceptable that planning permission keeps getting rejected.
- The presence of speeding on the Old Galway Road (R446) is a huge danger to residents, road users and school children. It is a 60km/h area, yet often drivers are doing 80 or 90 km/h.
  - Efforts have been made by local residents to address this issue since 2020, to no avail.
  - There is currently no pedestrian crossing on the R446 near the two schools. This is an urgent matter, and a safe, dedicated crossing needs to be constructed asap.

- There is currently a speed reminder sign, but only after the change in speed, and only in the Athlone to Ballinasloe direction. There also needs to be one in the Athlone to Ballinasloe direction.
- There have already been accidents on this road in the past. A Garda presence, speed checks, the banning of overtaking, and eye-level speed limit signage, and additional lighting would ensure this busy stretch of road remains safe for all.