

Julianstown Update

Julianstown and District Residents Association is inviting all residents to a public meeting and family tea party and quiz to take place at the City North Hotel on Sunday March 9th at 3.00pm. The Village noise map will be on display. Julianstown is dying!

In the last year both the post office and Old Mill have closed. Worse still the burnt shell of the Old Mill now features amongst the eye-sores in the village. Over the last two decades the village shop shut and the Garda Station closed. Many of us remember the ICA, Cubs and Scouts and the village Youth Club; all long gone.

Amazingly in this period the population of the village has almost doubled. At the same time the Meath County Council staff who maintained the village have been redeployed elsewhere and with the commissioning of new traffic lights the council now expects our children to cross one of the busiest roads in the country on their own to get to school. Meath County Council claims to have no resources for services in Julianstown despite a decade of Irish prosperity and an unprecedented period of development in the area which has seen the East Meath Population Double.

Since 1974 we have campaigned to bypass Julianstown and there was hope that the M1 would reduce the traffic. However the opening of the M1 came just as hundreds of acres of land was rezoned by County Councilors and the population trebled to almost 20,000. These same councilors have recently voted to double the population again by 2013 without

any provision to bypass Julianstown, the results are predictable. Whereas the population of the East Meath was about 7500 in 1995 it could be 4 times that in 2013.

There is a misconception that the toll is causing the problem, but this is not the case, it is the massive population of car based commuters in East Meath and South Drogheda accessing the M1 via Julianstown that is causing the problem. Poor planning decisions by the council are directly responsible for the situation in the village. Bizarrely Meath County Council thinks the village is bypassed despite the fact that there are 22,000 vehicles a day driving through Julianstown. In the morning rush, there is more traffic in Julianstown than on the M1.

Do Nothing?

If we do nothing, Julianstown will be destroyed, literally, by a combination of traffic and apathy. The traffic makes it impossible for any public activity in the village, driving people away and causing closure and dereliction. Lack of care also allows property speculators to come in, take advantage of local apathy and build what they want.

Do Something

We have to take ownership to reverse the decline, to take back our village from traffic and property speculators. Each person who lives or works in Julianstown needs to do something, no matter how small to contribute.

The power of the population can achieve change and improvement. §