

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday 28 March 2022 12:25
To: Development Plan
Subject: Submission to Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029

Sir/Madam,

I wish to make a submission to the draft plan.

I believe that the inclusion of a new motorway junction on the Quin Rd. as mentioned in Section 11.2.9.1 is not a priority requirement for a town of this size with numerous existing motorway junctions and that it should be removed from the plan. A real world sustainable transport plan that ensures the town's viability is required first that is properly thought through before any suggestions of building massive new road infrastructure.

1. The inclusion of the new junction appears to be based partly on a suggestion by a Councillor of building an enormous car park at the train station to replace the town car parks and a new road around the Mart. The town already has a costly white elephant car park in the Market and the new suggested one to replace the town car parks, located almost 15-20 minutes walk from most retail premises, will prove to be another one and will kill off all small retail premises in the town. I would ask the council to provide examples from any modern town or city that has even contemplated building a car park so far from the centre.
2. A further reason suggested by a Councillor for its inclusion is to reduce the amount of traffic on existing motorway access routes. The reason there is such volumes of traffic on these routes is due to the fact that people living in the town cannot get around safely by bike, by foot or by scooter and there is no public transport alternative. All of the suggested €10-20 million plus that this would cost should be spent on safe walkways, cycle paths, public parks and supplemented public transport. Furthermore rather than there being a need to spend so much funds on a new motorway junction, there is a need to connect the Eastern and Western parts of town and completing the 'Road to Nowhere' and linking the Gort Rd. to the Lahinch Rd. would be far more valuable to the town and would reduce significant volumes of cross-town transport.
3. The Eastern side of town has seen significant development but no public parks or proper offroad walking/cycling facilities have been built. This means that the population on the Eastern side of town need to cross the town in their cars to Lee's Rd., Dromore and Ballyalla, for example, to access these facilities. There is no point building loads of houses and not providing public facilities such as parks and schools as it will lead to gridlock and no amount of extra junctions will solve this problem.
4. The Mart, hardware stores and industrial units on the Quin Rd. have access requirements for heavy transport. Most farmers, however, use their jeeps, tractors and trailers to transport the livestock and these are not permitted to use the motorway so this negates the requirement for a new motorway junction. The industrial units on the Quin Rd. have been poorly planned although in Celtic Tiger times when they were built it was envisaged that they would be connected via a new road. As an alternative, simply upgrading the Skehanagh motorway link road or building a bridge over the train tracks linking to the industrial units at Tobartescain would appear to be far simpler solutions at a fraction of the cost and damage of a new junction and would cater for both the public and deliveries.

People living in Ennis do not appear to be requesting a new junction and it is surprising to see it included when there is so much more critical infrastructure required to make this a healthy and enjoyable town to live in.

Kind regards,
Karen McGuinness

