

Development Plan Review
Clare County Council
Aras Contae an Chlair
County Clare
V95 DXP2



[REDACTED]

Dear Sir

Please find attached my comments on your issues paper.

I am a member of the Older People's Council and represent the group on the Age Friendly Alliance Board. My comments, therefore, are biased in that they try to reflect the views of older people in the county. I am in no way in a position to put forward ideas for the general public.

I hope that you get many replies and that people appreciate your attempt to include the ideas of the people of County Clare.

Thank you
Yours sincerely

Stella O'Gorman

Clare County Council Development Plan

1. THE VISION OF COUNTY CLARE`

a) Eventual Plans Directory should be written out in an easy to read and understandable format

- i.e.
- minimum of pictures- can be a distraction
 - clear headlines and black on white print throughout
 - essential bullet points

b)Emphasis on development of Shannon Airport , otherwise Clare will not become a preferred destination.

c) In reducing carbon footprint, promote off shore windmills rather than changing Clare's beautiful countryside views.

d) Improvement of maintenance of country roads, their surface and hedgerows in keeping with biodiversity.

2. ATTRACTIVE RESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENT

a) Recent research has shown that 81% of older people in Clare want to stay in their own homes if at all possible. Emphasis should be on help with upgrading houses to suit the needs of older people.

b) New property should be given planning permission only if the proposed houses are built with future needs included – e.g., shower, toilet facilities and a room suitable for bedroom conversion on ground floor.

c) Grants should be available to encourage upgrade of vacant houses.

d) Biodiversity should be encouraged

- e.g.,
- CCC should show good example in their own gardens and green areas
 - biodiversity should be taught and encouraged in schools at all levels

NB Please include Cahermurphy as a cluster on your map. There are various age groups living in this area including several young families. Your marker could be on Cahermurphy school!

3. COUNTY CLARE'S STRENGTH AND WEEKNESSES

a) Apart from public houses there are few places in small villages where people can meet together for a chat. Tea and coffee cafes with assorted menus would be great places for all ages to meet. They could also cater for teenagers at lunch time and prevent them from eating unsuitable food whilst walking through the villages.

b) Improving rural bus services would make sure that the community could have an increased choice of destinations. As well as the routine services for schools, there could be a route to different places each day to include the whole community.

c) Investment is needed in small villages making sure the following services are available, otherwise it will die.

e.g., GP services

Chemist

Post Office

Church (maybe ordaining women might help, or letting priests marry!)

d) Moneypoint should concentrate on developing off shore windfarms which would maintain biodiversity, provide power as well as providing jobs for the county.

4. TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL

a) Encourage Tidy Town participation.

b) Invest in waste water schemes in villages.

c) Encourage local people to support Voluntary groups such as GAA, ARA, Tidy Towns etc.

d) Would be nice to have more outdoor seating everywhere.

e) Ensure streets are clean and safe to walk on.

f) Provide bins for waste and impose fines when litter is not disposed of correctly.

5. RURAL DEVELOPMENT

a) Services in villages should include

- e.g., general grocery shops
- petrol pumps
- GP
- church
- café
- community hall for general meetings

b) Arrange meetings in rural areas to inform people what is available in grants and supports to maintain rural based energy and enthusiasm. Most people are unaware of what is needed or available.

6. INTEGRATION OF LAND USE AND TRANSPORT

a) It is vital that Shannon Airport is maintained and developed. It is the life of County Clare and the West of Ireland.

b) Main issues re mobility

Buses do not come out to rural areas beyond towns and villages.

Bus rounds should be developed for different days to cover all areas.

Some elderly people, because of health conditions, have to give up driving, and then have to rely on neighbours or friends to drive them to the nearest bus stopping place which could be a few miles away. It also takes away their independence.

c) There appears to be non-communication between different services e.g., trains and buses. There should be a coordinating plan and a requirement for all transport services to carry out the specifications set down.

d) Cycle ways and walkways should also be located centrally in villages, connecting up to those outside in the countryside. Information regarding these facilities should be available e.g., leaflets and maps.

e) Broadband should be upgraded throughout the county. It became more apparent during the pandemic this year that working from home and carrying out Zoom meetings is impossible for many people.

7. COMMUNITY PROJECTS

- a) The Lake Walk in Kilmihil should be looked at again. It would bring life and improvement to the village.
- b) Encourage farmers to maintain stone walls. Many are being lost now which is changing the countryside. There could be projects linked to schools or unemployment schemes.
- c) Encourage people to plant trees in garden areas to help restore the bird and bee population.

8. RENEWABLE ENERGY

- a) Support offshore wind and wave developments.
- b) Encourage building of eco -friendly new housing to include good insulation, solar panels, eco-friendly fuel and disposal of waste.

9. SUPPORT FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN CLARE

- a) Promote Age Friendly meetings and ideas.
- b) Encourage meetings of different ethnic groups and promote their ideas.
- c) Continue to support Celtic music and dance events.
- d) Develop classical music events enabling people to listen to music that is played and appreciated all over the world.
- e) Have a day specifically devoted to multi -cultural development in Clare