

Submission to Co. Development Plan 2022 - 2028

Population & Housing:

- Provision for universally designed housing for all new builds is key to developing sustainable communities and solving future housing issues. This type of housing is fully accessible and therefore allows a person to both rear their family, age well at home and would accommodate any permanent or temporary disability that may arise within the family.
- Mixed developments of houses (multi-generational estates) close to shops & services are the most desirable option in the opinion of older people. This is favoured above dedicated 'Retirement Villages'.
- Green spaces incorporated into housing estates to promote physical activity.
- The Gardaí's Crime Prevention Unit in Dublin now offer a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design training to local authority staff. This is very useful in the design of housing estates to make them safer places for all.

Economic/Enterprise/Tourism/Retail:

- One effective means for improving Towns & Villages is for them to work together in clusters with regard to the retail services they offer e.g. people can move between them within a cluster to avail of different shops and services. This would boost their vitality whilst eliminating competition between them.

Transport & Infrastructure:

- There needs to be better connectivity between Transport services both within the county and linking outside of the county.
- Reference to the 'Limerick Shannon Metropolitan AreaPlan' which will be crucial for the connectivity to Shannon International Airport.
- Provision for a Town Bus Service for Shannon & Ennis with proper lit bus shelters.
- **Active living** is a way of life that integrates physical activity into your everyday routines, such as walking to the shops or biking to work. More focus on building places that encourage active living and physical activity, aimed at the general public to encourage a healthier lifestyle.
- Reference to Safe Routes to School program focusses on footpaths, crossings etc.



- Recreational opportunities (parks, fitness centres etc.) close to the home or workplace, walking trails and bike lanes for transportation also encourage a more active lifestyle.
- Provision of access to drinking water in public parks, recreation and community spaces.
- Development of more Greenways to promote Healthy Tourism.
- Development of Green infrastructure.
- Reference to the 'Universal Design in the Public Realm' by the Centre for Excellence in Universal Design.
- Reference to the 'National Physical Activity Plan'.
- More public toilets with baby changing facilities would accommodate all age groups.

Climate Change:

- Provision for Living Walls and Rooftop Gardens on buildings in Towns to reduce carbon emissions.
- Provision for development & exploitation of wave technology in the Shannon estuary to power homes e.g. Thames barrier in London.
- Provision for E-bike/scooter schemes in towns like in other European towns & cities.

Social Community & Cultural Development:

- More Sports & Leisure Facilities other than GAA needed around the county to provide much needed outdoor recreational meeting spaces for physical activity and social connectedness. E.g. parks, walkways, running tracks, seating, picnic tables.
- Community gardens in both urban & rural areas can have very positive social, economic and environmental impacts in communities. Community gardens attract a wide cross-section of people across the entire socio-economic spectrum and include individuals who have little gardening experience as well as those who have been gardening for years, making them a great place to learn outside in a natural environment.
- Community Food Projects bring people together in local communities of all ages, abilities and social backgrounds, where they share knowledge and interact.
- Planting fruit trees in public spaces has been shown to help combat food poverty.
- Smoke/Vape free beaches & parks.

Other References:

National Positive Ageing Strategy 2013
Rural Development Strategy 2016 - 2026
Clare Age Friendly Strategy 2018 - 2022
Healthy Clare Strategic Plan 2019 – 2021 (2 key priorities of increasing physical activity and improving mental wellbeing for the county).

Health Impact Assessment(HIA)is referenced in the World Health Organisation’s Healthy Cities Policy. It is a practical approach used to judge the potential health effects of a policy, programme or project on a population, particularly on vulnerable or disadvantaged groups. Recommendations are produced for decision-makers and stakeholders, with the aim of maximising the proposal's positive health effects and minimising its negative health effects. The approach can be applied in diverse economic sectors and uses quantitative, qualitative and participatory techniques.

Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs)are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice. Learn more and take action.

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