

9<sup>th</sup> of November, 2020



Re: Development Review

**Submission**

We welcome this opportunity to make a Pre-Draft submission to the consultation on the Clare County Clare County Development Plan 2022 – 2028.

We have been full time residents of Liscannor since 1996 when we moved home from the USA. We have always loved the beauty and culture of North West Clare. Our children were able to attend national school within walking distance. As a family we enjoyed a great lifestyle, taking full advantage of the outdoor activities such as walking, hiking, surfing, swimming in fantastic local venues. Over the last few years, it has been exciting to see the area develop more active activities such as kayaking, surfing, etc and also become a local 'foodie' destination with the many new food businesses on offer for locals and tourists.

There are several issues that we would like to address in this submission:

1. **Liscannor is in a delicate situation. It is a rural village positioned between the larger communities of Doolin, Ennistymon and Lahinch.**

So much of the development pertaining to the village seems to be driven by the Cliffs of Moher and the Wild Atlantic Way that we are in fear of losing the village community to amenities designed largely for this market. The current Clare Development Plan cites the following as some of the General Objectives for Liscannor:

- ***To make provision for growth within the village which will support its existing services and encourage further expansion of the service base, whilst retaining its character and setting.***

While we certainly support local residents benefiting economically from tourism, we feel it is time for a more balanced approach to development in the area. For example, it is well known that in the summer months, leisure activities such as walking and cycling on Liscannor roads are highly dangerous due to the high volume of traffic, particularly large tour buses. Parking in the village is also a significant issue. Yet, it seems common sense that the area could benefit from the enhanced development of such active activities that benefit everyone year-round, tourists and local residents alike. The development of safe walking and cycling ways would be a great asset to the area.

We would also strongly urge the Council to make direct consultation with any developments that would impact local village residents directly, such as where and how to site tourist amenities, such as caravan/mobile home parks which would require very careful and comprehensive planning considerations.

The Coastal villages of North Clare are all facing the same challenges in terms of development of tourism that is ecologically sustainable and also benefits all of the local community. Most of these communities are small but their concerns and needs are similar and there would be value in linking up to problem solve and support each

other. We would encourage the development of Coastal Village Network that would seek to strengthen the voice of the North Clare Coastal Villages as collective entity.

- ***To ensure that the village maintains and increases its existing population levels.***
- ***To provide for residential development to cater for the permanent population in the area.***

There is an increasing number of young people, families and retirees who are anxious to live in the area. Everything should be done to promote opportunities for them to live and work here. One of the lessons that we are learning from the pandemic is that increased facility that people have to work from home. There is a huge need for affordable housing development in the village, possibly even a retirement village. Now that the wastewater treatment barrier is being addressed, plans for further housing development in the village can be progressed. We have already learned something of a lesson from the massive earlier influx of holiday home development which are largely empty during the winter months, offering nothing to the activity and vibrancy of the village and community at large. It is very timely to look to attracting a more permanent year-round population through initiatives designed to develop the number of houses for year-round occupancy either by rental or purchase.

Once again, we would like to thank the Council for this opportunity to participate in the development of the Strategic Plan which will affect all the residents of our lovely village of Liscannor!

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul and Jan Godfrey