

Submission NO: 067.

From: Marc O Maonaigh [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday 15 November 2020 20:43
To: forwardplan
Subject: Development Plan Review



Hello

I write in relation to the county development plan which i understand is inviting submissions until Monday 16th nov. I learned of this development plan and the deadline for submissions only in recent days so have not had much time to prepare a detailed submission. I understand however that the submission process invites submissions from lay people where exhaustive research and feasibility studies have not been conducted. With this in mind I would like to make a suggestion for your consideration.

I am a resident of Westbury/Shannonbanks locality in Knockballynameath, South East Clare. I understand that the Westbury/Shannonbanks townland has the third highest population in the county behind Ennis and Shannon. I, like many others in the area, regularly use the fantastic footpath/greenway leading from the University of Limerick all the way down to Athlunkard Bridge, and from there walkers can take the Red Path(as it is called) to continue their walk down to the bottom of the Mill Road. All this development has been done on the Limerick side of the bank, the Clare side of the Shannon remains undeveloped.

My suggestion, for your consideration, is that Clare County Council should work with the ESB to create a greenway to link into this route, a new greenway could be created from the top of the headrace (almost in Killaloe), all the way to the bottom of the tail race, atop the canal bank, and to build a footbridge to cross the Shannon somewhere along the Long Pavement so that walkers/hikers/cyclists could hike/cycle all the way from O Briens Bridge (or Killaloe possibly) all the way down to Athlunkard or to University of Limerick. I suggest the cost per km to develop such an extensive greenway might be inexpensive, and good value for money considering the incalculable benefits and the longevity of such an amenity.

I would further suggest that Limerick County Council should look at developing a walkway to link into this which could go from the end of the Mill Road, up the bank at the back of the long pavement (see yellow route below), as far as Grove Island, at Grove Island then walkers could cross the O Dwyer bridge and get onto the Island Bank around Kings Island (see green route below). I understand this is outside of the remit of the Clare County Development Plan but I would like to convey my vision of what could be achieved if a cross-county co-operative approach is taken. I feel a that greenway such as this, where cyclists / hikers could walk or cycle from O Briens Bridge all the way into Limerick City without ever having to deal with road traffic would be a jewel in the crown of the South East Clare and would best utilise our greatest natural asset in the area, the majestic Shannon.

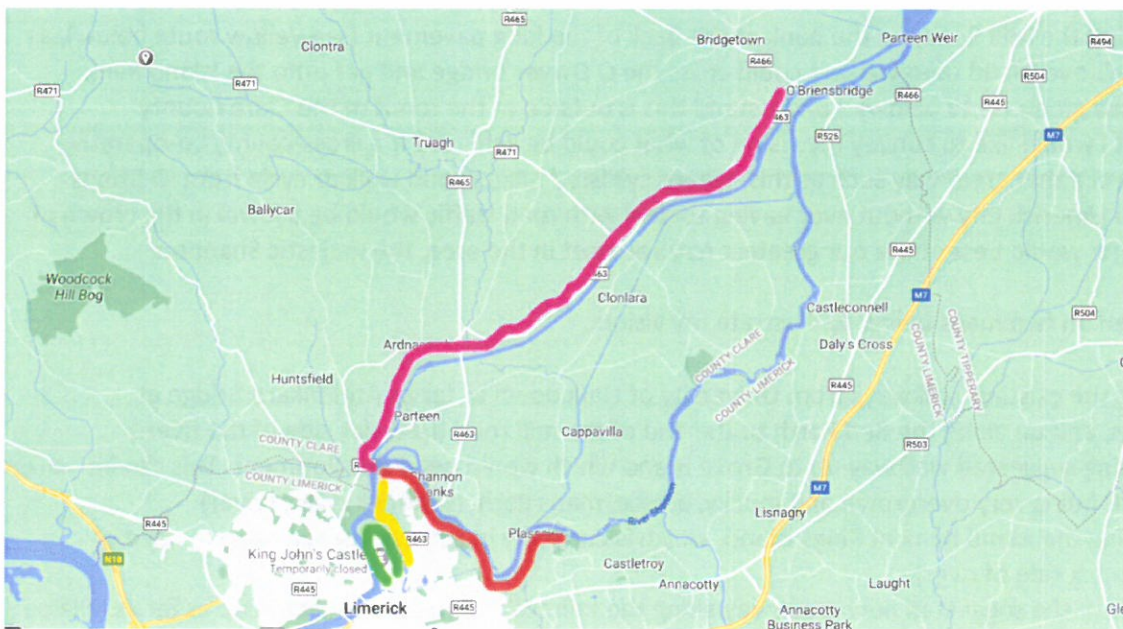
I have roughly sketched on two maps below to illustrate my vision.

- Red line being the existing walkways from University of Limerick down as far as Athlunkard Bridge at Shannonbanks, and on along the Red Path to the end of the mill road (Limerick side of the river.)
- Yellow line being suggested walkway up to Grove Island which would need development. This can be walked at the moment but is very overgrown and mucky, a fishermans path. (Limerick side of river)
- Green line being the Island Bank at Kings island, which is currently in serious disrepair and in need of upgrade.(Limerick side of river)
- Purple line being the suggested new greenway along the tailrace and headrace canals, up as far as Killaloe / O Briens Bridge, including a footbridge over the Shannon at the Long Pavement.

Pic 1 = Close up of Knockballynameath / Athlunkard.



Pic 2 = South East clare. Purple route being the proposed greenway from O Briens Bridge to Long Pavement.



Please excuse the brief and rough description of what would be no doubt a major project. I presume the ESB may put up some opposition but I'm sure there are ways of making things happen if the political will was there to do so.

I appreciate your consideration of my suggestion.

With kind regards

Marc O Maonaigh
resident of Knockballynameath, South East Clare.

