



Submission from Elm 2nd Year Geography Class Scariff Community College to proposed Clare County Council Development Plan

A Chara

We have prepared the following submission for consideration in the preparation of the new Co. Clare Development Plan. We have divided our suggestions into our local areas.

Scariff:

- Our school needs an astro – turf this could replace our pitches which are not fit for use. We currently have no facility for training or playing matches on our school property despite the fact that we have ample space. Training for matches requires students to go to Scariff GAA facilities this is a big issue for our school we would like to see a facility similar to the Clarisford Park initiative in Killaloe being examined where the facility could be used by the local community after school hours and at weekends.
- A lollipop lady for the Primary school to help minimise the danger at busy times
- Additional car parking spaces need to be developed for the town -the town is often congested and sometimes we feel that this might mean people go elsewhere to use retail services etc. Is there an area in close proximity to the Town that could be used for organised parking.
- Electric car charging points to be installed – this would further encourage people to think about electric cars as a real option in the coming years.
- Developing a skate park suitable for teenagers to have a dedicated outdoor space
- A dedicated space for young people to meet indoors such as renovating some old property in the town – this could be used to provide a social space for teenagers to meet and potentially age appropriate clubs and organisations could use the venue.
- Developing a signed walkway to the river and associated facilities to maximise the location beside the lake.
- Investigating the potential of more water based sports in the town kayaking etc.
- A dedicated swimming area like Mountshannon with classes provided in the summer by Water Safety Ireland

- Dedicated space for a country market on a Sunday perhaps similar to the Scariff Harbour Festival when the square in the town is closed of for a certain length of time – similar markets in Mountshannon and Killaloe have proved very popular.
- Data hub – hot desk area for the village very important now with people working from home

Bodyke/ Tuamgraney

- The development of a safe walkway from Bodyke to Bodyke GAA field this would encourage people to walk in a safe environment.
- To develop a playground for younger children in the village of Bodyke
- Car park outside the church - could the Council look at acquiring land for this purpose
- More advertising and signage for Wilde's Chocolate Factory and recently opened Cafe

Ogonolloe

- Need to attract retail into the area (Scariff or Killaloe are the only options)
- Absence of childcare facilities - look perhaps at a dedicated community facility similar to Mountshannon.
- Additional housing needs to be looked at for the area. -Small well designed, affordable housing estate
- Public walking access all around Lough Derg's shoreline
- Small public swim spaces, with additional water activities around Lough Derg
- Free overnight camping and motor homes in Lough Derg area
- Increase planting of public native woodlands.
- Improve public transport links.

Feakle

- A bus shelter for the students waiting for the school bus in the morning
- Improve the surface and width of the path from the Church to the Post Office
- Further develop the facilities for children in the playground
- A dedicated cycle path on the Feakle – Scariff road
- Additional planting of trees and shrubs to enhance the village

Whitegate/ Mountshannon

Whitegate

- More signage and tourism awareness regarding the close proximity to the lake / Williamstown etc people are not aware in some cases of this.
- More lighting on back roads
- Dedicated mapped out walking routes similar to the Sli na Slainte initiative in many towns and villages and lighting along these routes
- Renovate some of the unused buildings on the Main street – even if this was just visually using fresh paint and flowers and shrubs

- A playground for younger children in the village
- The provision of litter bins on the street - there are currently none
- Develop a handball alley in the village this would be a great recreational asset to the village for the growing young population

Mountshannon

- Investment in the hall for necessary improvements so this could be used as a focal point for activities for young and old. Upgraded heating etc are needed here.
 - That the Council encourage the developers/ owners of the Mountshannon Hotel to reopen the hotel and prevent it becoming an eyesore on the street.
 - The development of Holy Island will provide a host of opportunities to develop small tourist offerings such as walking guided tours etc - education training and support from the Council and Tourism Ireland should support this in advance of the development.
 - Develop a walkway from Whitegate to Mountshannon this road is too dangerous currently to safely cycle on or walk
 - Provide investment and support to encourage small business to establish in the area.
 - Investigate the potential of wind energy farms in the area
 - Car charging points in both Mountshannon and Whitegate
 - A bank machine for one of the villages – could this be proposed to some of the retail premises in the area.
-
- Put pressure on telecom companies to improve mobile signal and broadband access in the area. So many people in Whitegate and Mountshannon have terrible internet access and poor mobile phone coverage.
 - Illegal dumping in the area is a huge problem. Can some measures be introduced as a deterrent (CCTV)?
 - Shared sports facilities for use by all local clubs; including flood lit, full size 4G playing pitch.
 - Develop a water sport activity centre at the harbour in Mountshannon or in Williamstown harbour in Whitegate.

Overall for the East Clare Area :

- Mini tourist cards for all the local villages with all the local attractions developed and contained in a wallet to promote awareness of the many and varied attractions.
- Attracting economic activities to the area and supporting the ones that are already here so that people can work and live in the area without travelling every day
- The young people are very eager to utilise the outdoors but they need investment to provide facilities such as the walk ways cycle paths etc.

Le gach dea ghúí

Class Elm Scariff Community College . 14/11/2020

