

From: Tony Col [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 November 2020 15:48
To: forwardplan
Subject: CDP Submission 2020 - Doonaha Development Association



To Whom it May Concern;

The **Doonaha Development Association** would like to make the following submissions to the Clare County Development Plan on behalf of the residents of Doonaha village and town land (*constituent of Carrigaholt parish*).

Doonaha Development Association is a partner of the "**Loop Head Together**" initiative who also made submissions on behalf of our area and neighbouring communities. However we would like to elaborate on the Doonaha component of the Loop Head Together submission.

We appreciate that final submissions to the CDP need to be high-level / strategic in nature so they can speak to the policies by which the CDP is guided.

With that in mind, following are a few proposals from the Doonaha Dev Group:

1. Protect Zoning in Doonaha Village:

All housing within Doonaha village and town-land area is currently occupied. Over the last 12-18 months we have noticed an increase in enquiries from both Loop Head locals on from outside the county for places to buy or rent here.

Doonaha played a significant role in the rural resettlement programme back in the 1990's, it supported the resettlement of 6 Dublin families who are now very much part of the community. About the same time zoning within the village was increased by approximately 15 acres, immediately west of the village. It's imperative that we protect this footprint to accommodate the need for future housing in the area as recent queries have indicated.

2. (RPO 173) To ensure the Wild Atlantic Way route within the Loop Head area is DEVELOPED to meet local and tourist needs

Traffic on the WAW route within the Loop has increased by 100% over the last 5 years and is predicted to increase further. However the infrastructure in parts has not been developed to accommodate the influx of vehicles. There's absolutely no room in parts to allow for the passing of large camper vans and heavy machinery. More pull in areas and widening of roads in parts is required!

E.g. deep trenches (7-10 feet) have been dug in parts between Querrin and Doonaha villages to accommodate flood waters during winter but left open with no barrier protection, allowing very little room for large vehicles or campers to pass. For a cyclist, walker or runner who find themselves in these areas with oncoming traffic can be very dangerous as they will be required to stand on the mud verge and could easily fall in. It's an accident waiting to happen!

3. (RPO 172) Support an accessible green transport system for all, linking the town and villages of the Loop Head Peninsula and integration with public transport

The focus here is to address rural social exclusion and integration with public transport services. Could be achieved by CCC supporting the use of local electric buses.

4. Support the Development and recognition of archaeological sites in the Loop Head area (e.g. Ring Forts, O'Curry monument, Doonaha Battery).

There's a high density of ring forts within the Doonaha (*Dún Átha - place of the fort*) & Querrin town-land areas that would complement nicely our Biodiversity plans for the Loop Head area if made more accessible. We would encourage Clare County Council to take a more proactive approach in supporting landowners in making such structures more accessible to the general public.

5. Support the preservation of the Irish Language on the Loop Head Peninsula

We would like Clare County Council to acknowledge the important role of Eugene O'Curry (born in Doonaha) from a national perspective, in his efforts to preserve and promote the Irish Language. We ask the Council to mention in the CDP its support for the preservation of the Irish Language-Heritage within the the Loop Head area (i.e. local literature, local folklore, arts, local signage)

6. (RPO 92) Support for installation of EV charging stations throughout the Loop Head area. Capacity must be reflective of the increase demand over the summer months.

The residents of Doonaha and surrounding communities would like to ensure that enough capacity is considered given the increase in visitor traffic during the summer months.

7. Support the development of natural resources on the Loop Head Area in an economical, sustainable and environmentally friendly manner in compliance with planning guidelines (e.g. existing local quarries) .

Benefits include:

- Contribute to transport decarbonisation (RPO 87, RPO 91)
- Increase competitiveness of Loop Head area
- Create local employment

Regards,

Tony Collins

Chairperson,
Doonaha Development Association

