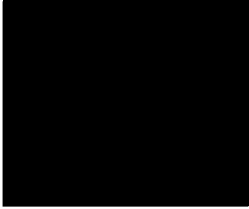


Submission No: 177

New Quay Community Development



Submission on behalf of NEWQUAY/BELHARBOUR area to Clare County Council for consideration in CLARE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022 - 2028

- Development of a Community building to accommodate and facilitate multi-group meeting, local productivity, inter-age sociability, integration, tourism and local enhancement and development.
- Partnership with local GAA club to develop an improved, more inclusive sports facility.
- Visitor facilitation and management on the 'Flaggy Shore' walking route to deal with issues arising such as parking, traffic management, walking and driving etiquette and safety, concerns of resident inhabitants and general road maintenance & upkeep.
- Safer traffic management at the viewing point of the Corker pass and Green road/Abbey Hill walking amenity.
- Upgrade to 'The Pound' green area at Finnavarra with possible landscaping, regeneration and seating amenities.
- Instigate safer access and egress from New Quay primary school drop off and pick up area.
- Manage and lessen the visual impact of all signage of the local area.
- Initiate a maintenance plan for all wall and hedgerow management in the area to enhance scenery but foremostly to improve road safety.
- Manage and support local First responders Group as an area with County Clare's highest concentration of AEDs per head of capita.
- Supply of water taps to both of our local burial sites to facilitate the families of those buried within to maintain flowers on graves.
- Develop local historical records from local elderly and memorabilia of deceased families to be available publicly on a digital archive
- Mark the birthplace and townland of local musician, the late Chris Droney, with an appropriate memorial suitable a visitor focal point for all who respected and enjoyed his huge contribution to traditional music.

1. Development of a Community building to accommodate and facilitate multi-group meeting, local productivity, inter-age sociability, integration, tourism and local enhancement and development.

In recent years we have taken part in a project run in conjunction with Clare Leader to survey the residents of the community. The results of the survey confirmed the real need for a community facility where meetings or functions can be held. A working hub providing access to office space with broadband is vital especially in present times. The area is one of great tourism potential but there needs to be a focal point which can provide information, toilet facilities and possibly a dedicated walking hub for the many pleasure walkers who visit our local walking trails or the Burren as a whole.

2. Partnership with local GAA club to develop an improved, more inclusive sports facility.

-There are many advantages to be had if the sporting and recreational needs of a community are central to the focus of its GAA club. At present the facilities at Michael Cusack's GAA club are in need of restructuring and many people of varying ages and genders cannot avail of what is offered at present.

-A running track for instance would allow all generations to exercise safely and would draw more life towards the club. Also, an indoor gym facility would be of immense benefit to the community at large.

3. Visitor facilitation and management on the 'Flaggy Shore' walking route to deal with issues arising such as parking, traffic management, walking and driving etiquette and safety, concerns of resident inhabitants and general road maintenance & upkeep.

-The Flaggy Shore has become an extremely popular area to walk or cycle on for families which come from near and far to do so. At weekends it is difficult to find parking and subsequently means cars are abandoned on Flaggy road itself or the roads leading to it. This causes great inconvenience to local farmers and inhabitants of the Flaggy Shore and its surrounds. Parking area at the west side of the route might alleviate some of this and draw people towards the ornithology of Lough Muree.

-GPS brings traffic for the Wild Atlantic Way onto Flaggy Shore and at times they approach the Flaggy road from the Russell Gallery side at a speed not suitable to suddenly meeting pedestrians and cyclists including many children coming up from the steps leading from the beach.

-The road maintenance is an issue as much of the sides of the road are hazardous to all road users whether on foot, bicycle or in a vehicle.

-As there are no public toilets in the area at all this has led to associated problems such as defecating behind foliage or down near the rocks and sea wall.

-People who visit the area to walk or drive the route are often ignorant of the opposite. Those who walk believe there should be no cars on the route and are often unforgiving or abusive to the motorist on this 'public road'. Sometimes these motorists are residents accessing their own homes. On the other side, some motorists are driving the route as if they are on a public 'highway' and are blind to road caution. An etiquette of passage is needed for all users.

4. Safer traffic management at the viewing point of the Corker pass and Green road/Abbey Hill walking amenity.

A 'Green road' walk from the Corker pass leads along Abbey Hill and emerges at the N67 by St. Patrick's Church. Many of those using this for their leisure day out will park on the main road at the Corker Pass end with no thought for regular road users and the passing hazard that they are creating. There is also a wonderful viewing point beyond this on the Corker hill which has become a dangerous 'Photo Stop' on the tourist trail of the Burren. A suitable parking area or pull in would be a step towards saving lives here.

5. Upgrade to 'The Pound' green area at Finavarra with possible landscaping, regeneration and seating amenities.

-To follow on from recent landscaping work at two road junctions in the community we hope to make improvements to the green area, known as 'The Pound' in Finavarra. It is of triangular shape and measures 78ft x 60ft x 50ft. There are twelve trees within the green and it is surrounded by a stone wall. With feedback from the inhabitants around the Pound it is suggested to include a bio-diversity friendly patch of wild-flowers or a small rockery as well as a bench or two for people to relax on. The pound is situated along a popular walking route coming from Flaggy Shore and this would be a welcome place to rest. It would also be a popular community spot for a chat. The entrance to the Pound needs to be made safe using a small gate. It was also proposed to erect a very subtle information sign or at least an inscribed stone marker with the name of the Pound on it.

6. Instigate safer access and egress from New Quay primary school drop off and pick up area. –

At this point in time there is a notable danger to those involve in bringing their kids to and from New Quay Primary school as the parking and drop off facilities have remained the same since the school was opened in the mid-seventies. There is barely the length of a car between the road and the school wall and with the four teachers parking spots plus a bus drop off area, this severely congests the peak school time parking. The N67 is a very busy road, especially from March to October, and even with the school warning lights plus the road markings we still have close encounters with visitors in rental cars. Visibility on approach from the Ballyvaughan direction does contribute to this hazard.

7. Manage and lessen the visual impact of all signage of the local area. – Throughout our area and indeed throughout the county, there is a type of visual pollution with the population of signage. Most people nowadays are using Sat-Nav, Google Maps or equivalent to get to a destination and many of the signposts scattered around the countryside are repetitive, competitive and in some instances obstructive to driver visibility. Proper management by authorities would lessen the overpopulation of signage and possibly generate a revenue stream for local areas if signs were rated to the locality the were situated.

8. Initiate a maintenance plan for all wall and hedgerow management in the area to enhance scenery but foremostly to facilitate and improve road safety. –

The walls and road edges of the Burren are for the most part run right up to the road edge. In a lot of instances, the road edge can be solid stone. Where this occurs and it is not visible to the visiting and unfamiliar drivers it very often results in one or both tyres of the passenger side being damaged. There is also an issue with the growth of the Hedgerow obscuring visibility on the approach to bends as well as forcing traffic further into the center of the road.

9. **Manage and support local First responders Group as an area with County Clare's highest concentration of AEDs per head of capita.** – In the New Quay/Bellharbour area we have no fewer than six AEDs available for public use. Our first Responder group is open to any support that is available from authorities to sustain this vital service for our residents plus the thousands of visitors to the area each year.
10. **Supply of water taps to both of our local burial sites to facilitate the families of those buried within to maintain flowers on graves.** – Many of our locals have expressed a desire to have the availability of a water tap at each of the two graveyards in the Parish to facilitate to watering of flowers on graves during the Summer months. A button flw tap would ensure that there would be no excess waste of water and the feel could be disconnected during the winter. Sometimes the small things are appreciated the most.
11. **Develop a local historical record from our local elderly and memorabilia of deceased families to be available publicly on a digital archive** – We would appreciate any support towards our efforts to gather and correlate the information. This would be a follow on from the old Duchas Heritage school archive
12. **Mark the birthplace and townland of local musician, the late Chris Droney, with an appropriate memorial suitable a visitor focal point for all who respected and enjoyed his huge contribution to traditional music.** – Sadly, we recently lost the eldest resident of our Parish, Chris Droney RIP. His contribution to Parish, County, Province and Country on the traditional music scene is immeasurable. As per other areas who are justifiably proud of their achieving residents, New Quay/Bellharbour would equally like to recognize and appreciate one of our favourite sons. We would like to create a focal point with a suitable sculpture in the Bellharbour area near Chris's home where fans of the trad music scene could come sit, muse and pay homage to the man and the legend.