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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday 31 March 2026 18:50
To: Development Plan
Subject: Submission to Variation No.1 to the Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029
Attachments: EEAG Variation No1 CDP.pdf

See attached submission on behalf of Ennis Environmental Action Group

Bridget Ginnity

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Proposed Variation No.1 to the Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029

Submission by Ennis Environmental Action Group

Volume 3a(iii) Ennis 2040

1. Ennis Environmental Action Group welcomes the decision to remove the proposed transformational projects in Abbey St Car Park and Harvey's Quay Car Park. We encourage creative consideration of how these key locations can be developed to enhance the town when car parking needs are reduced through measures identified in the Local Transport Plan.
2. Regarding the removal of the Post Office Field Transformational Project, we consider that genuine consultation with the community could lead to a wonderful facility for locals to have access to and enjoyment of nature while preserving and even enhancing the biodiversity in the field.
3. We note and welcome Strategic Objective 2 and the associated climate adaptation measures. However, we are concerned that the carbon emissions from the Data Centre Transformational Project are roughly equivalent to the total current emissions of the entire county. The recent High Court Judgement (2026 IEHC 156) on the Proposed Ennis Data Centre concluded that:

"Commitments regarding corporate power purchase agreements and energy efficiency measures formed part of the mitigation framework before the Board and are secured through Condition 3."

We propose an amendment in Section 7 page 130 under Data Centre to secure this requirement in the CDP as follows:

"The operational carbon emissions of the Data Centre Campus shall be mitigated by provision of additional renewable energy to ensure net zero emissions in alignment with the Clare Climate Action Plan."

Volume 3a(iv) Local Transport Plan

Ennis Environmental Action Group would like to reiterate our support for the Local Transport Plan as detailed in our submission to the draft plan. As the Ennis Town Bus is expected this year, we would like to emphasise the opportunity for increasing the uptake by integrating the Ennis Town Bus and the Local Link buses. Quite simply, if a bus is going from where you are to your destination, you don't care who is operating it. Also, the more frequent the buses are, the more they will be used.

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

Regarding the SFRA, Ennis Environmental Action Group acknowledge that only a site by site assessment is within the scope of the amendment. However, due to the increasing risk of flooding due to climate chaos, we take this opportunity to encourage a more holistic and comprehensive

approach in the next CDP. For Ennis in particular, the risk to the town can be mitigated through a series of measures such as nature based solutions upriver and extensive rainwater harvesting to reduce pluvial flood risk. In the preparation of the next CDP, we suggest planning a second “town centre” in a low flood risk zone that has excellent links to the current town centre and can in time become the new town centre as needed.

Sustainable Residential Development

Ennis Environmental Action Group welcomes the proposed alignment with the Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities. We support a focus on creating sustainable settlements where the car is no longer dominant, community integration is encouraged by design, biodiversity is enhanced and rainwater harvesting is utilised to reduce the demand for potable water. In Ennis, until adequate waste water treatment is available, any new development should include stand-alone WWT.

Bridget Ginnity

On behalf of Ennis Environmental Action Group

Ennis Environmental Action Group (EEAG) is a voluntary group that takes actions to address the climate and biodiversity crises locally, particularly actions that benefit the community. Our areas of interest include energy efficiency in homes, biodiversity, active transport and encouraging more plant-based diets. Group members have extensive experience in climate and environmental issues and well as climate education and community engagement. Our actions include submissions on local projects that are likely to have a significant impact on the climate and environment.