



**Clare Public Participation Network
Clonroad Business Park
Clonroad
Ennis
Co Clare
087-1617375**

November 8th 2019

**SUBMISSION from Clare Public Participation Network (PPN)
in respect of Clare County Council's DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2019 -2024**

About Clare PPN: Clare PPN is a network of 296 community & voluntary, environmental and social inclusion groups from Clare. Clare PPN has three 'Colleges' which gathers the member groups in terms of their interests and activities – these are environmental college, social inclusion college and community and voluntary college. Clare PPN exists to facilitate the formal participation by the community sector in Clare County Council's decision making structures and to serve as a support and information sharing network for the Community and Voluntary Sector in Clare. It is funded jointly by the Department of Rural and Community Development and Clare County Council but is autonomous and its activities are directed by its members through an elected secretariat.

Clare PPN greatly values the immense amount of work done and services provided by Clare County Council to communities across the county. Clare PPN recognises the financial constraints within which Clare County Council operates. Clare PPN notes that only 8/% of all government expenditure is distributed through Ireland's local authorities an amount which is not sufficient to allow local authorities to work to their full potential. Despite these constraints Clare PPN calls on Clare County Council to be ambitious and creative in its attempts to ensure that all the diverse people of Clare are valued, and that their health, mental health, education, accommodation, transport, social and economic needs can be met within the county.

Clare PPN greatly welcomes this opportunity to make submissions in respect of the new Corporate Plan and we hope that our recommendations will be given due consideration and that we will receive a response in advance of the adoption of the final draft plan by Clare County Council. We note that Clare PPN and our member groups were not consulted prior to the drafting of this document and we request that in future a pre- draft consultation might take place as this would ensure better buy- in and understanding of the draft document as well as ensuring that the expertise and experience of our member groups was available to Clare County Council for its initial considerations. We would like to indicate Clare PPN's willingness to assist with the organisation of any such consultations should that be of benefit.

We note also that previous submissions made to Clare County Council by Clare PPN have not received responses which detail the reasoning behind the decisions to adopt or not adopt recommendations and we request that we would in this case and in future receive such responses or reports at an appropriate point in the consultation process so that our members can be fully informed about issues which affect them.

This submission contains relevant recommendations from previous submissions made by Clare PPN in respect of various local and national plans and strategies. Links to those complete submissions are included where they are referenced.

This submission is in two parts:

Part One presents the recommendations of Clare PPN drawn from member consultations, plenary meetings and previous submissions and input from representatives.

Part Two contains submissions made under each of the headings of the Draft Corporate Plan 2019- 2024, by the general public in response to an online questionnaire organised by Clare PPN which was open until November 6th 2019.

Part One: Submission from Clare PPN.

Recommendations in respect of Core Values – PG 7

We recommend the replacement of 'informing, listening and responding to citizens and communities' with 'providing information in a timely and public fashion, ensuring that consultation methods used enable people to fully participate in the decisions which affect them and that their views are acknowledged and fully considered and that they receive responses in relation to their input'.

We further recommend the replacement of 'Citizens' wherever it is used in this draft strategy with 'people who live in Clare' or other suitable wording. Albeit unintentionally, the term Citizen excludes those without citizenship which means that migrants on work permits, those who have emigrated permanently to Clare and those here seeking asylum are not included within this terminology although they constitute a considerable portion of our community.

We recommend the replacement of the word 'Customers' with members of our community or 'the people of Clare' as appropriate wherever it appears in the document. The idea of communities as customers of local authorities contains a particular ideology which does not accurately reflect the responsibility of a local authority in respect of the community it serves, nor the status of the community as the chief stakeholders in the work of the local authority.

Clare PPN greatly welcomes Clare County Council's commitment to both equality of opportunity and of outcome as set out under the heading 'Social Inclusion'. We recommend the following sentence replaces the current first sentence under the social inclusion heading: *'Clare County Council will respect all relevant equality legislation and is committed to the progressive realisation of human rights including economic and social rights which will be monitored and reported on to all listed stakeholders in accordance with Public Sector Duty principles.'* Clare PPN further recommends that a commitment to eradicating poverty be included as one of the core principles and ambitions under this heading which will ensure that it is a stated objective of Clare County Council in all its aims and actions.

Clare PPN welcomes Clare County Council's commitment to sustainability and recognises its efforts in this direction. Clare PPN welcomes too the commitment by Clare County Council to deliver on the Government's Climate Action Strategy, however we note as previously submitted by us in respect of the Draft Scheme for SPCs 2019-2024 -

<http://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Clare-PPN-Submission-SCHEME-FOR-THE-STRATEGIC-POLICY-COMMITTEES-2019-2024-003.pdf>

and in our submission in respect of the Draft Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019- 2024-

<http://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Clare-PPN-Submission-in-respect-of-Clare-Draft-Climate-Change-Adaptation-Strategy-August-2019-1.pdf>

that the Climate Action Strategy includes a recommendation that each local authority would set up a Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee and our members request that this should

be done in Clare despite previous decisions not to do so. Clare PPN also notes that in respect of sustainability that Clare County Council should proactively analyse all plans for industrial developments taking note of the likely impacts on CO2 emissions and energy consumption and biodiversity and requiring remedies such as renewable energy use and production, reforestation and locally based carbon offsetting to be included as conditions for granting permission for such projects.

Section 3 Operating Environment. PG 9

Clare PPN recommends that this section should include the following:

This Corporate Plan is being made in the context of a worsening environmental and ecological crisis situation. Clare County Council recognises the seriousness of this crisis for its communities and all decisions being made will be considered in the light of the need for both climate change mitigation and adaptation at a community level.

Section 4 External Factors PG 10

Clare PPN strongly welcomes the recognition of the climate change crisis contained under this heading however questions have been raised with us as to how this threat can be seen as a 'external factor' rather than a factor which must now be *intrinsic* to every decision. Clare PPN would welcome a change of wording here to reflect this.

Clare PPN notes a continuing tendency on the part of Clare County Council strategies or plans to down-play or misunderstand the importance of biodiversity in relation to the sustainability of human life on earth.

Clare PPN requests as we have previously done that all strategies referring to biodiversity include in the strategy a definition of biodiversity and ensure that where it is referenced a full understanding of the importance of biodiversity for human existence and sustaining life on the planet is taken into consideration and that the sentence relating to this under 'External Factors' PG10 is changed as follows:

'The protection (~~promotion~~) and restoration (~~awareness~~) of biodiversity in County Clare will feature as a key priority throughout the organisation and adequate resources will be provided to ensure that this is the case.'

It is noted that at Clare County Council special meeting of September 16th 2019 in response to a question raised by Cllr Pat Hayes in relation to the discussion on the Draft Climate Adaptation Strategy that Mr Leonard Cleary agreed that a full time staff 'resource' from within existing staff would be allocated to Climate Change and Biodiversity. Clare PPN notes that so far it is not aware of any action to dedicate a person or FTA staff resources to such a role. We are happy to receive any update in relation to this and would welcome seeing this detailed in this Corporate Strategy or other appropriate strategy to ensure that it happens in an effective manner and that local community groups are aware of this role and how they may communicate and engage with it.

Clare PPN seeks clarification on the term used 'Strategic Policy Group' as used under the External Factor heading (PG 10). Should this read Corporate Policy Group? If so we have no questions, however if there is a Strategic Policy Group we request that we could receive a breakdown of who it is comprised of, its terms of reference and meeting schedule in advance of the adoption of this draft plan.

Under the heading Strategic Policy Committees (PG 14)

Clare PPN recommends the set-up of a dedicated Climate Change and Biodiversity SPC.

Under the heading Our Stakeholders: (PG 16)

Clare PPN recommends the inclusion of an acknowledgement of the fact that the diverse communities of Clare are the chief stakeholders of Clare County Council.

Our member group Clare Older People's Council also requests that it is recognised as a key stakeholder within those listed and Clare PPN supports their inclusion.

Under the heading Strategic Objectives 2019- 2024 PG 17

We request that Economic Directorate SO is adjusted as follows:

To facilitate a pro-active economic environment where environmentally sustainable businesses locate and grow and create sustainable employment to support our diverse communities and to reduce poverty, thus enhancing the economic value, environmental sustainability and community wellbeing for County Clare.

We request that the Social Development Directorate SO is adjusted as follows:

To enhance the quality of life for the diverse peoples of County Clare through proactively and innovatively addressing the issues of homelessness, and lack of adequate, affordable sustainable housing in all areas of the county and by providing sufficient supports for those experiencing housing insecurity so that they may transition to secure long term culturally-appropriate accommodation which enables people to reach their full potential.

To enhance the quality of life for the diverse people of Clare through the development and promotion of the county as a regional centre for arts, culture and sport.

We request that the Rural and Tourism Directorate SO is adjusted as follows

To put in place a process of rural development to deliver environmentally sustainable key projects that will improve the quality of life, social and economic wellbeing of people in County Clare.

We recommend too that within the rural development strategy that key climate change issues are prioritised- including the protection and restoration of biodiversity, carbon offsetting, renewable energy generation and food security to name a few.

Priority Actions Economic Development PG 21

At item 3 Clare PPN notes that the environmental impact and energy usage of Data Centres means that unless developed under stringent conditions they will have negative impacts on Climate Change. We note as previously submitted by Clare PPN in our submission in relation to the Draft Climate Adaptation Strategy <http://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Clare-PPN-Submission-in-respect-of-Clare-Draft-Climate-Change-Adaptation-Strategy-August-2019-1.pdf>

that conditions ensuring that all data centre developments are carbon neutral should be attached to any planning permission granted. Research and planning for such developments should include provisions for the re-use of the heat generated which is considerable and is in itself a resource. Clare PPN has noted that internationally, criteria requiring Data Centre operators to generate their own electricity from renewable resources have been applied and we consider that this should be part of any plans in Clare. We also note that the level of employment generated in Data Centres following the construction phase is comparatively low in comparison to other forms of industrial and technological development and request that a thorough cost benefit analysis be done on any such developments.

At Item 7 Clare PPN greatly welcomes the commitment to seek broad stakeholder engagement in the RESS, NPF 2040, Clare County Development Plan and the LECP. Clare PPN links here its submission to the Draft RSES <http://clareppn.ie/clare-ppn-submissions-to-the-draft-regional-spatial-and-economic-strategy/>

Clare PPN requests that in engaging stakeholders in any of the above plans and strategies that Clare County Council would undertake to commit itself to notifying Clare PPN directly of any such engagements and of engaging with Clare PPN at the earliest opportunity. Clare PPN notes that in respect of all of the above overarching strategies that three key issues affecting and hampering Clare from sustainable development and rural regeneration are the lack of available high quality health services within reach of those living in the County, the lack of availability of suitable secure homes for those at all stages of life and the lack of an efficient affordable public transport system in rural areas. Clare PPN notes that member groups and communities have expressed their confusion relating to the conditions under which planning permission is or is not granted for new homes in the county and that they would appreciate a public engagement which details the obstacles to new build houses in certain areas and the alternative plans Clare County Council has for ensuring that people can live and thrive in communities around Clare.

Priority Actions Physical Development: P25

At item no 2. Clare PPN notes that under the Aarhus Convention communities have a right to information and participation in decision making on environmental issues and would like to see Clare County Council acting proactively to include environmental groups in Clare in consultations and discussions with the CARO. Clare PPN notes that PPN members and community groups were not included in the engagements with CARO which resulted in the drafting of the Climate Adaptation Strategy and that as a result our members feel very strongly that their views were not given due consideration within the strategy. They wish to indicate their willingness to work collaboratively with Clare County Council on any future initiatives and to request once more that they are engaged with at the earliest stages of any such process.

Also in relation to item no 2 Clare PPN notes that in its submission to the Climate Adaptation Strategy that our younger contributors (Friday's for Future Clare) strongly advised and requested that voluntary community emergency response teams would be trained and set up in each area likely to be affected by Climate events before such events take place. We consider this to be an extremely necessary and proactive step that Clare could take as part of its adaptation processes and would like the Physical Development Directorate to strongly consider instigating such a scheme. Clare PPN wishes to indicate its willingness to help convene and promote such a scheme.

At Item 18 Clare PPN would like to see a commitment to make provisions for the safety of those living in temporary dwellings such as trailers, caravans, tents etc during any weather or other emergency. It notes that during recent Orange and Red weather alerts no provision had been made by Clare Co Co for those in such situations, in particular members of the Traveller community in unofficial, roadside and halting sites. Clare PPN calls on Clare County Council to address this in advance of the next such situation by planning for temporary safe accommodation/storm shelters to be provided and publicised in advance of such events.

Priority Actions Social Development PG 29

Clare PPN recommends that Clare County Council take an ambitious approach to housing in the county using housing first approach.

Clare PPN welcomes and commends recent developments such as the Housing Action Team and the opening of the Hub in the County.

Clare PPN recommends that Clare County Council sets itself a target of eradicating homelessness in Clare within the timeframe of this Corporate Plan. Clare PPN notes that the facilities for those experiencing homelessness in Clare do not currently meet the need and that there are gaps in service provision which are inexcusable and need to be rectified. Clare PPN notes that the issue seems to be one where no organisation has the direct responsibility of catering for the needs of those experiencing homelessness and we call on Clare County Council to take this responsibility and to draw up a new interagency Homelessness Action

Plan for the county which has the aim of eradicating homelessness and ensuring that those currently experiencing it are catered for properly until they transition to a secure home.

For the last two years Clare PPN has been submitting and calling for the implementation of immediate schemes which ensure that laundry facilities and hot meals are made available for those currently living in emergency accommodation. Given the comparatively low numbers of people experiencing homelessness in Clare compared to other counties Clare PPN strongly recommends that provisions are made immediately and budgeted for to ensure that at a very minimum those in emergency accommodation in particular children have the benefit of at least one hot meal daily and have access to laundry facilities.

Clare PPN notes too that the Traveller Community in Clare is disproportionately affected by housing/accommodation insecurity. We note that a Traveller Accommodation Programme was passed by Clare County Council this year without input from the Traveller Community. We recommend that Clare County Council include a commitment within this Corporate Plan to build relationships with the Traveller Community in the county and to accept from the outset that building these relationships will require effort and change from the County Council in how it conducts its business as well as buy-in from the Traveller Community. In particular, we draw your attention to the Traveller Primary Health Care Workers' submission to IHREC and the Minister of State at the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government, Damien English, which includes recommendations on paths to home ownership for members of the Traveller Community as something which could be collaboratively explored. Link: <http://clareppn.ie/traveller-primary-health-care-clare-ppn-notes-on-traveller-accomodation/>

In respect of item 10 Clare PPN welcomed the opportunity to submit to the Clare County Arts Plan in January 2019. (<http://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Clare-PPN-submission-to-the-Clare-Arts-Plan-2019-2024.pdf>) In line with our requests for feedback on all submissions we would like to request that future such submissions are responded to in the form of a report on submissions or other workable format so that those who have participated in making submissions can be aware of the reasoning behind decisions made to include or not include their recommendations. Clare PPN considers the contribution of the arts to the wellbeing and social life of the diverse population of Clare to be hugely significant and would like to see commitments to its proper resourcing included in this Corporate plan.

Clare PPN also request that the County Arts Plan 2019 – 2024 be displayed on the Arts and Recreation section of Clare County Council's Website where it is easily accessible for the interested public.

Priority Actions Rural Development: PG 33P

Item 3 – Clare PPN requests that the word Managed is replaced by Coordinate to more accurately reflect the participatory nature of the LCDC.

Clare PPN note that currently in Clare the LCDC is not responsible for the delivery or oversight of the LEADER Programme so this may need to be corrected in this plan.

Clare PPN notes the persistence of issues of drug addiction throughout the County and notes with relation to the SICAP programme, the LCDC, Healthy Ireland and the Social Development Directorate that there are shared responsibilities and opportunities in respect of those communities' individuals and families affected by drug mis-use. Clare PPN would like to see the development of a new user-centred interagency drugs strategy for the County which would seek to provide sufficient treatment places as well as supports for those currently suffering addictions.

Clare PPN notes that as the Local Community Development Committee is dedicated to Community Development that a shared understanding, definition and training in what a community development approach entails should underpin this at the earliest opportunity and a working definition be included in this Corporate Plan and in the LCDC terms of reference. Clare PPN has contracted Community Work Ireland to deliver training to its representatives on this topic and wishes to indicate our willingness to organise such a workshop for all members of the LCDC should this be beneficial.

Priority Actions Finance and Support Services PG 37

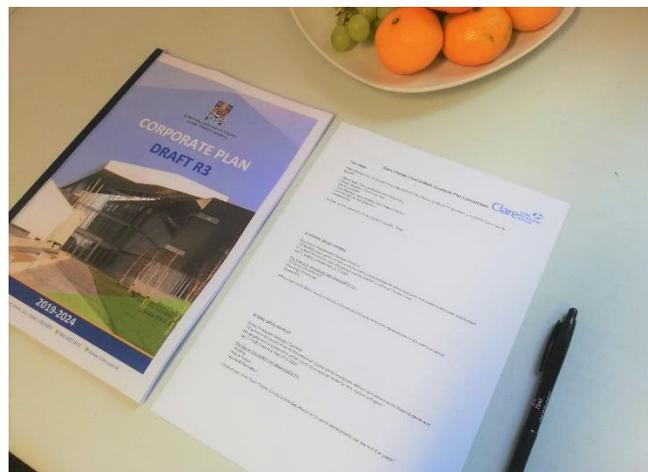
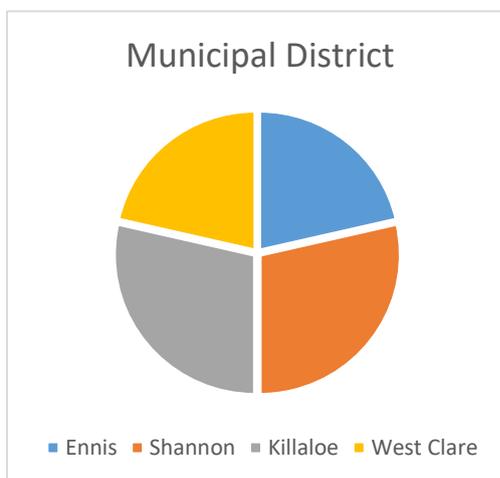
At Item 13 Clare PPN would like to see the following included after elected members 'and community representatives on the SPCs, LCDC and JPC'

We thank you for the opportunity to make this submission and look forward engaging further in respect of this submission.

Part 2 Individual Responses to Clare PPN's Public Questionnaire on Clare County Council's Draft Corporate Plan 2019- 2024

Respondents Geographical Spread

Please note that Clare PPN conducted an online survey questionnaire based on the Draft Corporate Plan 2019 - 2024 and all input received is presented below. The suggestions presented below are those of the individuals who responded and not the collective view of any college of Clare PPN or the general position of the membership.



GENERAL: What would you like to see reflected in the Core Values Section?

- An open-minded approach to contentious issues, and a willingness to accept that sometimes there are grave misconceptions brought about through the natural human tendency to pay more attention to disaster than to good news. This relates to a number of the above core values.
- Respect
- Age Friendly compatibility. 30% of people in county Clare will be over 55 in 2030
- Quality Services/Customer Care - These are essential to the provision of public services such as Housing and Housing Needs in any Local Authority Area. Quality and Customer Care are key in providing effective provision of these services
- Conservation of the natural environment because the health of the planet is the biggest issue, both globally and locally at present.
- Local Services
- Adherence to the climate change adaptation strategy

- Accessibility to services available and decision making process so people can have a better understanding and clarification.
- The above list is excellent
- Public Participation
- Actioning the above. Paper never refuses ink. The above are great phrases, they need to be followed through on.
- Accessibility to all communities in Clare
- Rural Development
- Drop the term customer and replace with the word client.
- Consultation and communication

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

'To facilitate a pro-active economic environment where businesses locate and grow and create sustainable employment to support our communities, thus enhancing the economic value of County Clare.' Pg 17

Is there anything you think should be included in the Economic Development Priorities for this Draft Corporate Plan?

- To grow business at Shannon Airport for the good of the whole region To prioritise sections other than tourism for development, such as artisan foods, craft, environmentally sustainable businesses.
- Provision of public transport..
- Encouraging young people to become involved in developing solutions to the problem of plastic processing, to limit non-recyclables. This requires scholarships at college level and providing science students in school with encouragement. If successful, this could be a globally useful development. Secondly, new forms of plastic might help reduce the problem, however, developing a standardised system of packaging that was reusable and/or recyclable would be valuable. (If it doesn't recycle, it doesn't belong on the planet.)
- Prioritising businesses with a zero carbon footprint. Investing in public transport. Reduce dependence on food imports and diversify our local agriculture
- Accept that some people may want to stay longer in employment.
- Biodiversity
- Biodiversity, linking in with community enhancement programme, town and village renewal, rural recreation and heritage
- Planning and Enterprise
- Build better towns and villages in clare
- To see Shannon Airport thrive - using the Atlantic economic corridor the limerick ring road initiative and a limerick cork bypass. Look to Kerry for their models as they do so well
- I question if biodiversity should be included under the Economic Directorate. Changes in practice in order to restore and enhance biodiversity in Co. Clare are critical.

Economic development and enterprise will become increasingly challenging if the Council does not embrace the urgency to take measures to build resilience in the environment, and among communities.

- Rural Transport and improvement to road structure especially in North Clare. There are many people in rural Clare very socially isolated and may not see a person from one week to the next this has a detrimental effect on their health and well-being. Sheltered accommodation would have huge benefits in North Clare with many people interested and would benefit from supported living
- Help small farm holdings diversify with a view to reducing the carbon foot print.
- Protecting natural landscapes and habitats, safeguarding and promoting the unique biodiversity of County Clare. Regenerating rural communities - providing excellent transport infrastructure.
- Encouraging 'drug free' towns and communities. Building creative/art hubs
- Biodiversity
- Encourage small businesses to open shops by more flexible rates. ie. PPP
- A de-growth economy.
- Filling the empty shops. Are rates prohibitive? Give rate amnesties and or reductions to specialised stores. Make Ennis and smaller towns bustling again.
- Economic development
- Planning and Enterprise, Rural Community development
- Sustainability
- Urban and rural regeneration Making towns and villages great places to live. Ease of planning Protection of farming jobs by protecting our coast line

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

***'To enhance the quality of life for the people of County Clare through the delivery of a vibrant social housing sector and the development and promotion of the county as a regional centre for arts, culture and sport.'* Pg 17**

- Housing - as without provision of housing - other areas won't interest people as their need of provision of housing needs to be met first for the other areas to be of benefit.
- Housing sustainably
- Housing
- Shops and businesses
- housing sector does not seem well placed here. What is a vibrant social housing sector? Absolutely arts culture and sports are key here but housing should be elsewhere
- The priority should be to stop families from being evicted from their homes because they have run into financial trouble. New housing stock is urgent but developments must be sustainable, energy efficient, designed with the mental well-being of residents in mind, and accessible.

- As above sheltered accommodation for supported living would be hugely beneficial to rural communities.
- I agree with the above
- Inclusion, diversity and accessibility - in housing, arts and sports. Safe streets and towns. Making county Clare the first 'drug free' county to protect our youth from the scourge of drugs and associated fear/behaviour/violence/intimidation. Major annual cultural festival.
- Housing
- Housing by heavily promoting the rent a room scheme and PPP with landlords, some schemes already exist I believe, to get empty properties in use.
- Build much more social housing
- Housing a huge issue. But planning is terrible. Are supports in place to support large estates, roads, footpaths, schools amenities...
- Should be developing recreation centres including swimming and athletic services within rural communities to limit elder loneliness, combat youth inactivity. Instead of forcing people to travel long distances to private hotels.
- Housing
- Compacting Rural isolation
- More and immediate social housing built by and owned by the council.
- Open access to public areas and sports facilities. Kilrush is locked and overpriced. Stop increasing rent prices by agreeing to more hap money in areas. Stop the entitlement culture. Just because you are 18 does not mean you should just be given a house. Better explain the states' obligation's around housing.
- Make sure all new house are built to accommodate an aging population. Support those who wish to stay in their own homes.
- Affordable housing.
- The development of appropriate downsizing opportunities for older people, in age integrated communities, GP's to receive specific training in relation to listening to and responding to the health needs of older persons in Clare. The reintroduction of the rural resettlement scheme pioneered by Fr Harry Bohan to revitalise rural communities and provide housing for people who need it.
- Housing for older citizens in communal settings such as group of bungalows in conducive setting.
- Assisting community interactions by supporting development of spaces where people can meet, with safe hardwired internet facilities, refreshments, bathrooms, and the exchange of used books etc. A social space for company and ideas to be exchanged, for all ages. This could link to other agencies, such as the library system, or existing cafes or community centres.
- More Social Housing For People With Disabilities and Across The Board.
- Affordable housing.
- Make sure all new house are built to accommodate an aging population. Support those who wish to stay in their own homes.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

'To put in place a process of engagement in a rural development strategy to deliver key projects that will improve the quality of life, social and economic wellbeing of people in County Clare.' Pg 17

- Ending dependence on aviation- based tourism as this is completely environmentally unsustainable. Facilitating local communities to be more resilient to extreme weather events because of climate change.
- Support local villages in their various enterprise. Develop rural broadband to prevent isolation.
- Community and Rural Development
- Biodiversity conservation and enhancement
- Without it Rural Clare will die
- Rural development
- Lahinch showed how well placed it was for an incredible week of golf - identify and create an international festival for the county to occur on an annual basis. create community council networks throughout Clare and ensure the councillors report back to these councils on a monthly basis
- Clare Accessible Transport has provided a lifeline for countless families in East and North Clare. Even though it has maintained a professional service on a small budget, and can demonstrate best practice in its activities, the service has been changed to the detriment of all its service users. Its reinstatement should be a priority.
- Accessibility to services for all through rural transport schemes, open communication at local level to identify local needs
- Broadband. Engaging in the revival of small towns and villages.
- Affordable housing, repopulation, excellent transport and jobs in rural areas. Mobility for young people.
- The 12 O'Clock Hills community and tourism hill walking facility requires support to cater for a growing number of visitors Clare Co Co are requested to tar the access side road to the facility as its currently littered with pot-holes due to traffic volumes. Its location is off the main Sixmilebridge Broadford road and has a length of 400 to 500m to the facility car park in Belvoir Sixmilebridge.
- Rural Development
- Direct involvement in community projects like: tidy towns, community alert, allotments, men's shed
- Supporting communities to be sustainable
- Continue to build capacity within communities. Work on their organisation, structures to reinstalled the sense of community. From this a flow of information will occur and the other objectives will action from.
- Community
- Community Broadband
- Sustainability

- All new road surfacing should include broadband ducting first. Sub-let council tourist products to be managed the council don't have the skill set to manage these Stop the over-charging for parking at cliffs of moher.
- Provision of effective broadband services county wide. Promotion of tourism in a sustainable way, that is guarding against 'over tourism' especially in regard to the Burren . Training in provision of tourism services to service providers e.g people working in pubs, restaurants, as tour guides , to make the services more professional than they currently are. More local democracy and accountability in terms of 'community' - e.g facilitation of community councils, improving communities' skills in terms of seeking and sourcing grants from EU and the State for beneficial improvements to their areas.
- Promoting a hardwired internet system throughout the county, and educating the public on the dangers of emf wireless particularly in schools and near young children.
- Broadband and Social Inclusion

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

'To deliver, maintain and protect key infrastructure to facilitate the economic, social, physical and rural development of County Clare in a manner which promotes sustainability, accessibility, connectivity and respect for the environment.' Pg 17

Is there anything you think should be included in this list of priorities for the Physical Development Directorate?

- Audit of housing to assess vulnerability to extreme weather events. (It has been estimated that 15% of houses in Clare are vulnerable to fluvial, pluvial and/or coastal flooding. Massive investment in public transport and decrease in number of private cars on the roads. Setting up of local disaster relief committees in every village to help deal with extreme weather effects. Building of storm shelters in vulnerable areas.
- Support local transport based in rural areas to prevent isolation. Provide grants for those who wish to change to more acceptable methods of heating.
- Climate Change will need to be a priority due to new laws around it and in turn Transportation is an issue for a vast amount of persons living in rural areas in particular.
- Climate change and the enhancement of biodiversity
- Transportation
- These priorities need to be reworked - with more emphasis on the objective to be sustainable and respectful. Blakes corner does not need to be replaced by a new

bridge it needs to be rerouted as in traffic can only turn left off the bridge into ennistymon - keep what makes ennistymon unique

- A county-wide strategy to control and eradicate invasive alien species is urgently needed.
 - Provision of a sustainable amalgamated sewage system in North Clare. Provision of litter bins at tourist hubs and refuse collectors to service same.
 - Waste water treatment. Environment
 - Environmental enhancement. Protecting the natural landscape Developing more recreational spaces.
 - Climate change
 - Provide a web portal so citizens can access this data for their area in one place. For example, try finding out anything about Shannon Town on the current website, like Town Park progress.
 - Climate change. Public transport.
 - Climate change. Let Clare be a forerunner for Ireland. If that's the fulcrum the rest again will flow and configure.
 - Transport
-
- Push for an agreement with fire service and NAS so fire crews can attend medical emergency
 - Provision of clean, non-contaminated water in all areas. Local transport services to be developed as a real alternative to car use , under the control of County Clare.
 - Stop using pesticides n herbicides. Stop hedge cutting in nesting season. Develop more green wild areas.
 - Hardwired internet, as mentioned above. Plastic and other waste - having a system in place to better dispose of it, and public notices of serious fines for throwing rubbish away on the streets and out in the countryside. More bins. Encouraging schoolchildren to help preserve the health of the countryside by picking up litter and feeling that they are making a valuable contribution. Teachers would need to be on board with this, for encouragement and safety. A re-evaluation of the idea of Climate Change being a problem. The concept generates billions in revenue for some manufacturers, but is based upon the false premise that CO2 levels will cause dangerous warming. Reducing the so-called "Carbon Footprint" will cost the county a fortune, and make no measurable difference to future temperatures. Examine the science in depth, and prioritise those features that promote fuel-efficiency, well-insulated homes, pollution reduction, and corporate responsibility in these areas as well as for the public.
 - Save Clare Bus. A lot of people depend on this service.
 - Support local transport based in rural areas to prevent isolation. Provide grants for those who wish to change to more acceptable methods of heating.

FINANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES PRIORITIES

To provide human resources, financial and corporate infrastructure to support and develop the Council's ability to deliver evolving services to its customers by empowering our staff and enabling them to deliver to their best capacity' Pg 17

OTHER SUGGESTIONS

- Page 16 Stakeholders - Older People's Council should be included in this list.
- p33 it is q4 but no tourism development plan has been issued - expressions of interest should be taken into account prior to issue of draft plan - this should apply to all plans
- North Clare would benefit from floodlit running/outdoor walking track an outdoor gymnasium a greenway and rural transportation
- There is no mention of working with the farming community
- Encouraging inclusive employment and social activities/opportunities for people with a disability
- **I'm generally very happy with the council.** I just feel with the funding all coming from central government their hands are tied when trying to budget their services.
- Need to also start addressing the quality of roads in rural communities. The roads are being increasingly used by tourists and not being appropriately maintained. Meanwhile the locals ruin their car tires and the council spends weeks fixing one pothole. Need to address the efficiency and efficacy of council workers maintaining these roads and start expecting faster road maintenance. Also perhaps sewage systems could be used in rural areas as well as storm drain systems to prevent flooding.

Submission Concludes.

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