

From: [plandev](#)
To: [Forward Planning](#)
Subject: FW: Submission for Castleconnell Local Area Plan
Date: Tuesday 29 March 2022 08:32:48

From: Paul Gavan <Paul.Gavan@oireachtas.ie>
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2022 3:16 PM
To: plandev <planning@limerick.ie>
Subject: Submission for Castleconnell Local Area Plan

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Housing

There is a severe shortage of housing in Castleconnell, particularly so re public housing. As things stand the only additional public housing planned are the five units as part of the expansion of Castlerock. This is wholly inadequate, and the council needs to be pro-active in acquiring additional land and/or housing units. Due consideration should also be given to ensuring a good mix of housing throughout the village, rather than focusing on a concentration of purely public housing units in one area of the village.

Transport

1) Buses

We desperately need bus shelters in our village and more buses to visit them! If the council is to succeed in persuading more people to use public transport then we need to see a couple of fundamental changes. Firstly we need proper bus shelters at bus stops in our village-this has been called for for years and really needs to happen. Secondly we need a major enhancement of services between Castleconnell and Limerick City, or at the very least a regular loop service between Castleconnell and Castletroy. The latter would need to be hourly and run on a loop through Annacotty to UL and back. Right now we have parents and partners dropping loved ones into the city by car because the alternatives are not there-a 3 hour gap between buses is simply not acceptable in this day and age!

In addition consideration should be given to changing the existing bus route through the village to be more inclusive of the northern part of Castleconnell in terms of Scanlon Park, Cedarwood Grove and Nelson's Cross allowing ease of access for residents of Cloon and Commons, Derreen and Gooig-which were areas previously served by former routes that Bus Eireann operated.

For example: for a resident of Castleconnell living in Derreen the bus route which operates

currently-disembarking passengers at Castle Street-precipitates at least a 1.5km walk which is generally made all the harder by the fact that passengers are alighting after a full days work and considering the weather conditions that prevail in Ireland generally.

2) Trains

We need to see a change in the schedule of the evening train coming from Limerick to Castleconnell-its current departure time of 4.55pm means it is practically useless for working commuters. The time should be pushed back to 5.45pm.

In addition there needs to be an additional rail service during the middle of the day-this would encourage many more people to take the train as opposed to driving into town. The council should be actively lobbying for this to happen. Castleconnell is ideally suited to be a commuter town but it is very hard to make this happen without buses and trains!

Active Travel Infrastructure

The village needs to have an active travel grid that works for the whole village and would significantly reduce cars travelling through the village.

Essential to this is the need for an active travel foot and cycle path connecting Nelsons Cross to Daly's Cross. There is clear logic in doing this to complete a proper grid for the village and match the excellent footpath along Belmont to complete a simple loop making the whole village safely accessible by foot and cycle. Right now most commuting through the village is done by car because the alternative options are not there-especially for residents across the northern half of the village.

Retail, Commercial, Employment and Enterprise

Consideration should be given to additional supports to the ACM centre to assist in promotion and development of Co-Working space in the village in order to bring additional business back into the heart of our village.

Community, Amenity and Recreation

The plan for a Greenway to connect Castleconnell to Limerick is the most important item under this heading and has the potential to be a major source of additional tourism revenue as well as facilitating direct travel to the University. We need to see a detailed timeline for this project and assurances that funding will be ringfenced to see this project delivered well within the lifetime of the new local area plan.

Thanks for taking the time to read the above.

Best Regards,

Senator Paul Gavan

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