

A group of local residents have met groups from across Caherconlish and Caherline over the past month to discuss the Local Area Plan and this has coincided with a separate Community Planning Process which is being facilitated by Ballyhoura Development Company and managed by the Caherconlish Caherline Community Centre Council.

In light of the previous Local Area Plan 2016-2022 and after comparing this draft plan and considering the 'lived experience' of the various strands of residents the following is proposed as a submission to the Limerick City & County Council for consideration in the Local Area Plan for Caherconlish (2023-2029).

Proposal

The Local Area Plan (2016-2022) had areas of land zoned for educational purposes has now been removed from the current draft LAP and after reviewing and comparing the map of the local area and investigating how to be congruent with the strategic vision of the Limerick City & County Council (appendix.1 ref: 3.1 Strategic Vision) the proposal is for the land on the southwest side of the village (appendix. 2 ref: zoned land map) coloured in green and yellow within the blue boundary line be added to the Caherconlish Local Area Plan to enlarge the area of the village that is being considered. This proposal is to encompass the current grounds of the tennis club which has a feasibility study in place for the development of the site and to support future planning that includes the provision for growth in population and caters for the education, community, and open space for recreation. The current Caherconlish Local Area Plan boundary has little or no scope for developments to cater for the education, community and recreation needs of the village.

Further consideration for the LAP

Strengths, weaknesses, threats, and opportunities from our community,

1. There is no sit-down area in the village i.e., in the square, churchyard, or parish field.
2. The car parking for the national school is inadequate. The front of the national school is an incident black spot.
3. The soccer field needs additional space for cars and a play area due to considerable and forecasted population growth. Is an incident black spot on days of games.
4. The lack of a pathway to the GAA field is very dangerous due to the major road. This road is an incident blackspot on any day but more so on match days.
5. The loss of the handball alley which was taken for housing by the council. This is a popular sport in the area and no longer available.
6. Lighting of the Steeple needs updating
7. Parish field walkway into Park.
8. Tackling unemployment in Area.
9. Vacant houses brought back into use.
10. The purchase of old church on Barrack Road to be utilised as a community hub/space/library and other educational/historical purpose.
11. Churchyard/carpark in a poor state needs upgrading.
12. Walkway to the graveyard is in a poor condition and needs upgrading.

13. Bottle Banks and recycling facilities are needed.
14. Facility for AstroTurf in village to support the current sporting groups but also to facilitate other activities in the area.
15. Doctors' clinic has no capacity for new patient registrations and too small.
16. Proposal new school on a local site as outgrown the current premises and this current site is adding to the dangers of traffic management.
17. No Taxi service.
18. Poor bus schedule and times for starting work at 8 am In Limerick City centre.
19. Need of men's shed.
20. Need for a mental health hub in the village as issues are on the rise recently in the village.
21. Car Parks in the village.
22. Incomplete footpath on the busy walkway around the creamery, poor signage extremely bad bends a high-risk black spot. The roadway/surface from Newtown & soccer pitch is poor and every rain shower brings overflowing storm water down to the Old Barracks and the road into main street is full of potholes and road debris washed down the road. This makes pedestrians journeys down this road a 'dodge-a-wave' of surface water as vehicles pass at varying high speeds.
23. Poor signage on entrances to the village, particularly coming past the GAA field, a speed zone, black spot
24. Sewer stormwater issues causing a risk of damaging our river waterway going through the village.
25. Traffic Jams in the village recently a retired person in our area was abused by an Artic driver. The local lady driver left in a stage of shock and distress after an incident of abuse.
26. The Limerick City & County Council have plans to build a further 164 houses in Caherconlish. This will project an increase of 500+ residents that *must be planned* for, in advance. Increased housing must cater for the spectrum of age ranges; under 5 services, primary school places, adolescent services, and activities and ultimately when the population reaches family planning stages with the objective of retaining our residents for the long term.
27. Lack of youth activities/facilities that would encourage more pro-social opportunities for the growing age range.
28. The proposed walkway by the river from the Millennium Centre to Old Barracks has a growing number of objectors due to the perceived suitability of the walkway in terms of width and the risk of creating a 'haven' for anti-social behaviour due to the lack of visibility and therefore, it will discourage users.
29. Dog waste bins around the Creamery Walkway and other walk routes as they don't currently exist.
30. The future zoning and developments of the village should incorporate a strategy to raise the awareness of Biodiversity with all residents and Caherconlish would like the Limerick City & County Council to help the village kick start this approach with establishing a forum for planning that utilises all opportunities to initiate and develop biodiversity.
31. There is no EV points for vehicles, and this must be incorporated into this Local Area Plan. The Riverside walk (and vehicular access to main street homes) behind the main street houses might be designed and developed to allow vehicles to access EV outlets. We believe this option was utilised in Adare or Croom.

Just to note the discussion local residents have had recently, retired persons, parents, and grandparents.

Residents' feedback - on a daily basis the difficulties that locals have which are causing fear and distress. A mother and grandparent who opt to walk their children to school and collect them state that on a daily basis are forced to walk off the footpath out onto the road 30m back from school & walk around cars, avoiding agitated drivers to collect their children, abandoned cars (poor driver behaviour), lorries 'making deliveries and regular arguments between drivers. Parents state this occurs twice daily for them collecting children state their mental health is on the decline due to fear and stress.

Discussed also is the weekends when a soccer game or a GAA game is taking place and they cannot safely access either park safely due to cars blocking footpaths, and traffic being diverted. Young teenagers are not allowed to go to games as parents cannot allow them to walk there because of risks and dangers.

Discussed was the weekend of a Feis in our community centre local residents face dangerous parking, Deli counters eating places packed out. One OAP person described the isolation on a match day a day of dancing in the centre as it's too dangerous to leave their house with traffic and there is nowhere to sit and everywhere is overcrowded.

We have 7 housing estates, and our little village cannot cope. We as locals are experiencing higher levels of anti-social behaviour and contributed to by the above chaos in our village.

Discussed how cramped and crowded and run down our village has become. Great work by our local tidy towns but one person stated the cramping of everything into such a small place. Everything is run down our village square, our church and access to the graveyard our historical monuments and history no signs info no info hubs.

Discussed is the incomplete footpath around the creamery which is highly dangerous, and people are afraid to utilise this walk as traffic is using the route as a 'rat run' to avoid the village roads for reasons already provided.

Appendices

Appendix. 1

3.1 Strategic Vision

The purpose of the Draft Caherconlish Local Area Plan is to set out the policies and objectives which will guide the sustainable future growth of the village between 2023-2029 and beyond and to ensure alignment with provisions of higher-level planning policy. The vision of the plan is to improve the local environment focusing on the sustainable growth of the built

environment, employment generation, and the provision of community and social services together in a low carbon, compact, consolidated and connected pattern of development.

The strategic vision statement reads as follows:

‘The strategic vision for Caherconlish is to fulfil the role of a Level 3 settlement as identified in the Limerick Development Plan. This will include the provision for growth in population and employment through a mix of quality residential development (choice and tenure), education and employment opportunities, sustainable mobility choice, a strengthened retail/commercial village centre, community infrastructure, active lifestyles, and recreation choice, and sustaining Caherconlish’s unique heritage assets. The future development of Caherconlish will provide for low carbon, sustainable and consolidated growth in a coherent spatial manner.’

3.2 Spatial/Development Strategy

The overall development strategy for Caherconlish, is to grow the population of Caherconlish in line with the Limerick Development Plan as a Tier 3 Settlement, by focusing growth within the village core and in doing so, supporting in the regeneration, repopulation, and development of the village. The future of Caherconlish is one where the quality of life and wellbeing of its inhabitants are enhanced, building a resilient and sustainable compact village, that supports improved local employment and economic activity, protects its local culture and heritage, while supporting the village’s transition to a low carbon society.

Overall Strategic Development Objectives

It is an objective of the Council to:

1. Seek the sustainable intensification and consolidation of the existing built environment, in accordance with the objectives for compact growth in higher-level spatial plans through appropriate infill, brownfield development, supported by the necessary physical and community infrastructure.
2. Promote sustainable economic development, enterprise and employment opportunities and prioritise the village centre, as the primary location for retail and commercial activity.
3. Promote and facilitate sustainable modes of transport, prioritising walking, cycling and public transport, whilst protecting and improving existing road infrastructure.
4. Protect, conserve, and enhance the built environment, through promoting awareness, utilising relevant heritage legislation, and ensuring quality urban design principles are applied to all new developments, respecting historic and architectural heritage.
5. Protect, enhance, and connect areas of natural heritage, blue green infrastructure, and open space for the benefits of quality of life and biodiversity, capitalising on climate change adaptation and flood risk measures.
6. Ensure the highest quality of public realm and urban design principles apply to all new developments.
7. Have cognisance to the Limerick Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019 - 2024, and any forthcoming climate adaptation and mitigation strategies that emerge during the lifetime of this plan.

8. Guide the future development of Caherconlish, in accordance with the Town Centre First policy approach seeking to bring people and appropriate business/services back into the heart of Caherconlish through place-making, good quality urban design, and sustainable mobility as promoted by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Department of Rural and Community Development.
9. Ensure the future development of Caherconlish supports the transition to a low carbon society and economy, implementing national policy to reduce gas emissions, improve environmental quality and contribute to national targets for climate change

The Caherconlish Local Area Plan committee wish to be updated on the submission and can be contacted through: Mike V. [REDACTED] b [REDACTED]:
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