

This MASP area is expected to contribute substantially to the achievement of the National Planning Framework objectives in economic, social and amenity terms. Substantial population growth is particularly expected which in turn will lead to substantially increased recreational activities, including walking, fishing and general recreational activities along the River Shannon.

(b) The proximity to Limerick City and UL could lead to Clonlara becoming a dormitory village in the future. We note in particular the proposal to provide a Strategic Development Zone centred on UL which is supported in the draft Development Plan. This will be a development of substantial significance for the whole area.

- Clonlara itself has had a steady increase in population in the recent past with growth in the Electoral District, rising from a total of 950 people in 1981 to 1911 in 2016. The population has further increased since then with the many one off housing projects, the extension of Derryvinna and the integration of Church Fields and Clonlara Village housing estates. There is also a planning application in train for a development of 70 more houses in the village.

Even though Clonlara is located in a very scenic locality, on the banks of the River Shannon and between Killaloe and Limerick and adjacent to the Slieve Bearnagh Mountains, there is a lack of any tourism structure/facilities in the immediate area. Visitors to the greater Lough Derg region are unaware of the heritage this area has to offer. Clonlara uniquely has no through traffic so it's imperative to draw visitors to the area that can only be achieved by offering them an interesting reason to visit. The preservation of access to the River Shannon is vital in this context. The development of this walking/recreational and fishing route close to Clonlara would be a major benefit for economic, social and environmental growth for the local community and could direct and enhance community partnerships among the various groups operating within the locality. The imminent development of the UL to Scariff greenway increases the opportunity to attract more tourist and visitors to this area, providing economic opportunities in the service and hospitality sectors.

The preservation of the public right of way at this location is essential for the reasons set out above and we request the Council to include the Doonass Looped walks over the area "U" to "T" and "T" to "V" and "T" to "S" on map 1 in this submission as a public right of way in the Development Plan under the provisions of section 10 (2) (o) of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended.

Yours sincerely *Maire O'Driscoll*

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