

From: Gerry Louise Gilroy [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday 26 March 2022 19:32
To: Development Plan
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: : submission from Ennis Sub Aqua Club in relation to County Development Plan.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am making this submission on behalf of Ennis Sub Aqua Club under the revisions to the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029.

As a long-established sporting club, we draw our membership mainly from Ennis and its environs. As a Sub Aqua Club, we provide:

- A healthy range of outdoor active pursuits to both adult male and female participants, from a wide and diverse range of backgrounds.
- Training, mentoring, and progression for all members
- We also provide training and mentoring to our youth section ranging in ages from 8 to 14 yrs., teaching them snorkelling and an appreciation of nature.
- The club also has an important role conducting search and recovery missions for missing persons throughout Clare and wider afield.

Our club was established in the early 1980's, and through careful planning has expanded, however a major drawback is that we do not have a fixed clubhouse, or base, in which to store our equipment and boat. We are currently dependant on the good will of our members to park our boat and keep equipment.

This year we have invested further, and having received some assistance with a sports club grant we have commissioned a new Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB) and trailer. This boat and trailer are worth circa €75,000 and constitutes the bulk of our club assets. We are most anxious to have a permanent place where we could park and properly maintain this boat, jeep and some small pieces of equipment.

As part of Clare Co. Council's development plan, we would request a site, preferably close to the river Fergus, where we could store our boat. Over time it would be our intention to build a clubhouse/storage facility and to properly secure it from the elements.

Previous attempts by our club to acquire a clubhouse over the years have been met with setbacks. One site earmarked for our club was subsequently repurposed, and is now the current Dog Shelter in Dullick, alternative sites options were to be explored but no alternative was put forward. Another option explored was the new Civil Defence HQ, who we work closely with, whereby a portion of their indoor car park would be set aside to allow us to park our boat. We were informed this was unavailable due to lack of space.

As mentioned over time it would be our intention to build a boathouse/storage, close to the river. Indeed, these facilities could also be shared with similar clubs such as rowing, canoeing, etc. provided our assets remained secure.

A slipway could also be constructed and provide easy access for launching boats for Search and Recovery and training missions. We could also deploy a system of riverbed netting (activated when a missing person is reported in

the river). This could then be checked by our dive teams preventing a drowning victim from being swept further downstream.

We would be grateful if due consideration could be given by Clare Co Council to our request for a site.

Yours sincerely,

Gerry Gilroy

Chairman Ennis Sub Aqua Club

CC Treasa Faulkner, Club Secretary