

Submission for the Kilkee Chamber of Commerce to the Draft County Development Plan 2023-2029

Having read the draft plan above the Kilkee Chamber of Commerce wish to make the following points in our submission.

- We cannot stress enough the need for more housing for permanent residency in Kilkee and therefore welcome the four points set out under the heading Place Making and Regeneration. We are disappointed that planning continues to be given to houses that will not be used for permanent habitation in the historic town centre listed as an ACA. Where planning has been given contingent to the house being permanently occupied this has been honoured in the breach. We would like to see a robust implementation of planning guidelines that inhibit the continued building of holiday homes in the central areas of Kilkee. Both the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy both set out urban regeneration as a key requirement. This is vital for Kilkee which has seen a precipitous decline in population.
- We would like the issue of dereliction in Kilkee to be tackled as a matter of urgency. There are quite a few properties in Kilkee that have remained unused for many years and are gradually falling into disrepair.
- We advocate that Kilkee be used as a pilot project by Clare County for remote working and regeneration.
- The Chamber would like to see the proposed Greenway between Kilkee and Kiltrush go ahead as soon as possible with the Greenway linked to cycling routes in Loop Head and Doonbeg.
- We would like to see businesses that are open all year round and who upgrade and/or modernise their premises being given a rate reduction for the subsequent two years which has been used in other parts of the country.
- The Kilkee Relief Road has been talked about for the last 60 years or so yet nothing has been done to advance this project. We'd question whether the route should be safeguarded when there is no sign of this road being built.
- We would like a new town traffic plan addressing the issue of cars being parked for long periods in the central areas sometime for days and greater cycling routes connecting the town to the proposed Greenway and to the cycle routes on Loop head. A scheme for the centre of the town for one hour parking June to August with a derogation for homeowners should be implemented.
- OP1, OP2 and OP3 are in private ownership and cannot be considered opportunity sites.
- The proposals within the Towards a Better Kilkee be implemented given the deadline for said implementation is fast approaching.
- The reservoir be cleaned up, restocked and used for recreational purposes and as a biodiversity park.