

From: margot healy [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday 28 March 2022 15:11
To: Development Plan
Subject: "Submission to Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029"

Dear Sir/Madam,

Sixmilebridge is a commuter town, well located in relation to the surrounding settlements of Limerick, Shannon and Ennis.

The Accessibility Audit of the town, conducted in 2020, asked respondents to list things that reduce the quality of life in the town. Anti-social behaviour followed by pedestrian and cyclist safety / traffic management issues ranked top of the list, but were followed by poor public transport. The report itself described Sixmilebridge in terms of driving distances to the nearby towns.

This tied in with Census 2016 results which showed private car journeys accounting for c. 70% of all work/college/school trips. The majority of these were 15 - 30 minute journeys.

Yet the Draft Development Plan's Transport Objectives for Sixmilebridge do not directly address the issue of public transport other than propose a link, via Bunratty, from the station to Shannon Airport. (While the re-opening of the train station has much improved transport links, not just locally, but nationally, frequency and cost remain drawbacks.)

Bunratty is well served by public transport with frequent, regular buses. Improving connectivity by shuttle, or with safer cycling routes to Bunratty would allow Sixmilebridge residents to access such services. The provision of a secure bike storage area in Bunratty would also be help.

My reading of the Draft Plan is that while there are generalised statements on a county level about improving public transport, an issue which is obviously high on the national and local agenda from an environmental perspective, it is not really addressed here. While I appreciate that perhaps public transport links are not within County Council's control, I do think that, as drafted, the report suggests that Sixmilebridge is better served by public transport links than is actually in the case. This matters where the plan also states that potential remains for further residential development in the area.

I can see how on a local town level, the works undertaken in Sixmilebridge to improve pavements, parking and pedestrian crossings have both improved the visual amenity as well as public safety. Additional traffic / speed calming measures might also improve these issues.

Thank you,

Margot Healy