

Karin Funke



**Submission Ref: S3-037**

Proposed Amendments to Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029  
Planning Department  
Clare County Council  
New Road  
Ennis  
Co. Clare V95 DXP2

Lisdoonvarna, 17 December 2022

**Sent by Registered Letter**

Re: Lisdoonvarna section of the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023 to 2029

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached my submission for the above mentioned plan.

I think I noticed two mistakes – could you please double-check:

p. 77 – “R5 Lands to the West of the Town Centre”

This should probably read “... to the East of the Town Centre”.

p. 79 – “The square needs suitable physical definition on its southern side...”

I think this should read western side.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Karin Funke".

Karin Funke

## Submission to the amended

### Lisdoonvarna section of the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023 to 2029

After the presentation of the December 2021 plans in Lisdoonvarna in January 2022, the plans have been changed without consultation or official presentation to the local public. Though they are being on display in libraries, nobody seems to know about the changes.

Two big Residential zones – R4 and R5 have been added on to the map after January 2022.

SR4 was taken off, and R3 was added to the area of Rooska instead which makes it three new residential zones.

This particular site, R3, is State-owned and earmarked for the “Ready to Build Scheme; Serviced Sites for New Homes – Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund”.

The eligible target group for this scheme (under which people can buy a plot of serviced land at a discounted price to build their own house on it) is very small to non-existent. For those on the social housing list, it is not an affordable scheme.

In total, five Residential zones plus 4 Strategic Residential Reserve zones have been added since the start of the Draft Clare County Development Plan, bringing the total to nine new (potential) residential sites.

There is now a considerable imbalance between Residential zones versus Commercial, Enterprise Utilities, Community, Tourism and Recreational zones.

Furthermore, the amount of Strategic Residential Reserve – which I am led to believe might or might not be used before the end of the life span of this plan – is very worrying. If the need for (temporary) accommodation rises, these sites will most likely be used for those in need of this kind of accommodation.

In a small town like Lisdoonvarna with ca. 350 residents living here up to the middle of March 2022, the services provided even then were not always sufficient.

If we increase the population considerably which is implied by the additional residential zones (residential and potentially strategic residential reserves zones), we need to be able to provide places of work, educational, recreational and medical facilities for everybody.

- The schools are already at capacity.
- There is hardly any non-seasonal work available in the area. Most jobs are in tourism which has already slowed down considerably over the last summer with restaurants for example experiencing cancellations because groups cannot get accommodation in town.
- There is hardly any garda presence.
- The GP surgery will be closed at the end of March unless two new doctors will be willing to take over.
- The library is back to only one open day a week.

Most likely, businesses will identify Lisdoonvarna as not being suitable for their investments. There will most likely be no economic growth in the town. The downward trajectory that the tourism is on will continue.

If residential and Strategic residential reserves zones are built on, Lisdoonvarna will not be a quaint historical spa town anymore which the description of the development plan puts so much focus on.

My suggestion is to provide social housing in a few (i.e. much less than the suggested 5 to 9) small pockets, and increase the amount of services listed above which would include building the new promised school.

Karin Funke, 

17<sup>th</sup> December 2022