

Broadford & Kilbane N.S.

Broadford, Co. Clare, RN: 20452A

4th of October 2020



Re: Submission to Clare County Development Plan 2022-2028

Dear Helen,

Below is information on our school that will hopefully come in useful to you. I have also listed a number of areas that both the school and a local Community group have been working hard to address for the last 4 years, with varying degrees of success. I'll also draw your attention to the 'Broadford Village Study' which was due to be published approximately 18 months ago by Anne Marie Henneally and Cliona Corry, both of Clare County Council. (If you happen to get your hands on a copy, you might forward it to me so I can distribute it to the members of our Community group)

Finally, if there is any further information you require, or anything detailed below that you require further clarification on, then please make contact with me.

Le GachDea-Ghuí,

Aonghus O'Brien
Principal
Broadford & Kilbane N.S.

School Information:

- Only school in the parish following the amalgamation of Broadford NS and Kilbane NS in 2014.
- Total Enrolment: 111 (105 mainstream and 6 in Special Class for Autism)
- Catchment Area: Mainstream classes serve the entire parish of Broadford (including Kilbane and some of Kilmore). Special class serves an area that includes the parishes of Broadford, O'Callaghan's Mills, Killaloe, Clonlara, Meelick and Parteen (including Westbury and Shannonbanks).
- Enrolment Trends: Decreased from an all-time high of 130 to the current figure of 111. Projected figures indicate that numbers will stay relatively close to this over the next number of years.
- Building Capacity: Has the ability to house upwards of 150 children following extensive recent building works and renovations. Similar investment into playing facilities on school grounds took place very recently.
- Staffing-10 teachers, 3 SNA's, 1 secretary and 2 cleaners.

Priority Areas for Broadford Village

1. **Need for a Sewerage Scheme:** Raw Sewerage enters the Glenomra River from a number of dwellings and premises in Broadford Village. This represents an obvious environmental hazard, particularly when this is the primary river which serves Castlelough Drinking Reservoir for the Shannon and Sixmilebridge areas. The lack of a sewerage scheme is also severely restricting the development of business in the Village along with the ability of parishioners to gain housing in the local area.
2. **Flood Defense required** along a tributary of Glenomra River which has flooded the school in the near past.
3. **Need for a Crèche and Pre-School.** Currently, there is no pre-school facility in the parish. Also, the only child-care option for parents is child-minders in private houses.
4. **Digital Hub**-many Broadband blackspots in the parish. A recent Community Hall survey indicated that there is significant demand for a Digital Hub type facility in the parish.
5. **Traffic, Transport and Parking.** Traffic calming measures are required through the main street and also past the National School and Hurling pitch as cars travel much too quickly through these areas. There is a lack of footpaths to outer limits of the village and existing footpaths are wholly substandard. Street lighting is also substandard. The lack of parking is also an issue. The hurling clubs Ball Wall training area is currently the main source of parking in the Village which represents a major safety concern as it is very regularly used a playing area for children both before, during and after school. The lack of adequate public transport services to and from Limerick and Ennis is also noteworthy. An issue has also arisen very recently in relation to children not getting bus spaces to Tulla Secondary School, despite the fact that it is the closed secondary school for the majority of children in Broadford.
6. **Derelict Housing**-similar to many towns and villages around the county, there are a number of prominent vacant properties in the Village. They give a very obvious negative image when entering the village.
7. **Outdoor Leisure.** Broadford Village is nestled in a valley of the SliabhBearnagh Mountains (highest mountain range in Clare). It has an amazingly under-utilized potential for trailed walks, hikes and cycles. Obvious areas for development include Doon Lake, Formoyle Fort, the 'Enchanted Lake', linking the 12O'Clock Hills trail to Broadford Village, linking Moylussa to Cragnamurragh and down to Kilbane/and or Broadford. There is also a potential to develop both Historical and Biodiversity Friendly walks either within or close to the bounds of Broadford Village.
8. **Littering**-there are a number of blackspots in the parish that require interventions from the appropriate authorities.
9. **Sports and Activity.** Hurling and Camogie clubs need to develop a second field as the current GAA facilities are not adequate to serve both clubs all year round. There is also a need for a playground to be developed which serves the sensory needs of the children in the ASD class in the school, along with all the children in the community, both during and after school.