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# Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028 Submission

## **EAST GALWAY**

## JOINT LOCAL AUTHORITY STRATEGY

* Work with Roscommon County Council on the development of River Suck in terms of tourism for towns & Villages along the county boundaries
* Beara Breifne Way – Walks & Trails Tourism
* Strategy to link Regional Cycleways
* Develop towns along boundary for local community.

## REGENERATION OF TOWNS & VILLAGES

Ballinasloe is a Key Town with a Local Area Plan

Ballygar, Dunmore & Glenamaddy are Small Growth Villages

* Tackle vacancy in urban areas and renewal for housing
* Pro-active management of derelict sites.
* Planning – development of quality housing with sufficient green spaces and access to services
* Increase population levels in East Galway towns – Placemaking
* Support of community centres and groups.
* Support roll-out of National Broadband Plan and connectivity

## TRANSPORT

* Increase public transport options and development of Local Links to connect towns and villages in East Galway including Mountbellew to Portiuncula University Hospital & rail & coach services. TO ensure connectivity for an older population.
* Development of off-road dedicated Cycleways linked to the TII Galway to Athlone Cycleway to towns and villages in East Galway

## EDUCATION

* Develop safe routes to schools – primary & secondary
* Develop further hubs for third level regional outreach in towns such as Dunmore, Glenamaddy & Ballinasloe and expansion of Connacht Ulster Alliance – Technological University in Mountbellew. Opportunities with Shannon TÚS University.

## TOURISM

* Development of East Galway within the Hidden Heartlands
* Shannon Masterplan links with towns & villages on the River Suck

## ACCESSIBILITY

* Develop footpath/ cycleway access within our town and villages in East Galway especially to sports clubs in or adjacent to urban area under Active Travel. TO have safe routes for children and teenagers – all ages to walk or cycle to sports clubs for training.

## COMMUNITY CENTRES

* Support the development and maintenance of Community Centres
* Work with Healthy Communities HSE & primary care access in regional areas with community centres
* Remote Working Hubs

## ENVIRONMENTAL

* Prioritise areas of Special Protection and the boglands, woodlands, rivers in the area. Allow access public amenities.
* Protect flora and fauna and quality of waterways.
* Prioritise the support of group water schemes and treatment plants to assist with development in regional areas.

## MOUNTBELLEW

* Review Mountbellew as an area of strategic potential with the development of Connacht Ulster Alliance Campus as part of the Technological University with GMIT Mountbellew Agricultural College
* Strong Commuter Town for Galway city

## **BALLINASLOE – KEY TOWN**

## TOWNSPARK ROAD

* Urgently develop the Townspark Road and continue from the rear of Gullanes Hotel to the development of the new school for Scoil An Chroí Naofa
* Develop a park amenity to run along the Suck

## SPORTS

* Develop a multi-purpose sports hub adjacent to the Tennis Courts to accommodate sporting groups with an indoor facility and basketball court.
* Develop water sports – kayaking & paddleboarding in river stretch from marina to the lock in Poolboy as well as through the town and along the River Suck banks.
* Explore the possibilities of a safe swimming zone.
* Develop a boardwalk to allow a circular route walk to link the marina to lock on Poolboy and walks along the Grand Canal and the Beara Breifne Way
* Develop natural walkways in the Fair Green to encourage usage of green spaces
* Develop accessible areas and walkways along by the River Suck

## BALLINASLOE FLOOD EMBANKMENT PROJECT

* Local Authority to work with state agencies to develop a walkway & cycleway on the embankment

## MARINA

* Develop marina to attract further tourism – electricity sockets on docks, small playground visible to families on boats,
* Signage to promote Ballinasloe in liaison with Waterways Ireland

## BOGLANDS ADJACENT TO M6 MOTORWAY

* Eco-Park Development in Poolboy & Kellysgrove Bog areas as well as the Suck River Callows
* Work with Bord na Móna for a licence in the area working with Ballinasloe Walks & Trails and BACD development association to develop as a public amenity.
* Protect wildlife and flora & fauna in the area
* Develop a public park and amenity for the community in Ballinasloe. Currently no public park in the town.

## SUPPORT OTHER SUBMISSIONS

* I support both submissions from Poolboy Community Development Council in relation to rezoning of lands adjacent to the landfill and at the Premier Proteins site.
* I support the submission from Mr. Kevin Dolan in relation to rezoning of his property to residential in the Poolboy area.

There is a large residential demand in Ballinasloe. The recently funded footpaths project in to Poolboy and down Old Mill Road provide safe routes for residents to access town especially in terms of accessibility. Ideal location to walk to town centre in 10-15 minutes as well as less than a km to M6 motorway. As a strong commuter town, many residents travel to Athlone, Tullamore, Galway & Dublin for work. Close access in the Poolboy area to healthcare supports with Portiuncula University Hospital, Day Hospital & GP services and frequent coach & rail transport links. Also a high demand for residential units in this location from Brothers of Charity.

In terms of the lands adjacent to the landfill, this is a low-lying site close to River Suck Callows Special Protected Area. Developments in this area impact underground waterways and the health of the local community as well as a devastating impact on wildlife and biodiversity protected by the SPA. An inappropriate location for any industrial development.