



**SUBMISSION IN RELATION TO THE DRAFT
GALWAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
2022-2028**

Submission in relation to Section 5.10.5 Former Galway Airport Lands Strategy

This valuable piece of Infrastructure was purchased by both Local Authorities (Galway City Council & Galway County Council) on behalf of the Citizens/Taxpayers of Galway City & County which now makes every one of them a stakeholder in this and therefore they should be consulted (by a plebiscite or community meetings) to get their opinions on what should be done with the Airport site. The Local Authorities/Planners should not be making decisions on behalf of the Citizens of Galway City & County without consulting them. The Citizens may not agree with the proposed plan for the Airport site.

I as a Citizen/Taxpayer am making this submission in the hope that my opinion will be taken account of by The Councils Executives & Planners.

Galway City & County together is an area with a large population and is the only City which does not have an Air Service to any of the other Cities in Ireland which have air Services i.e. Limerick (Shannon), Cork, Waterford, Dublin, Belfast.

I know we have two Airports North (Knock) & South (Shannon) and realistically I know that it would not be viable to have an Airport however it would be viable (as the infrastructure is in place i.e. The Runway) to have a viable Airfield/Airstrip which can cater for Small Jets & Light Aircraft.

Galway has a lot of multi-national Employers and their Owners/Directors have used the Airport (when it was open) to come to visit their Operations. I know it can be said that Shannon/Knock are only an Hour to an Hour and a half away but in a busy schedule (which most of these Directors/Owners have) that is two to three hours out of their day just getting to and from their operations.

By keeping the runway in place it could also be helpful to the Air Ambulance & Search and Rescue as they could use the runway to aid their operations as multiple Aircraft can use the facility at any given time.

Over the years (when the Airport was operational) there was a few million Punts/Euros of taxpayers money spent on upgrading & maintaining the runway and it would be criminal if that runway was to be removed.

We have seen how rural Ireland has been decimated by cutbacks, losing it's Bus stops, Banks & Post Offices and now we could possibly, if common sense does not prevail see Galway losing it's aviation status and another nail in the coffin for rural Ireland.

My submission is that there should be a facility for Aviation in Galway and the infrastructure is there and should be kept an utilised.


David Courtney