

Kilkee Chamber of Commerce (KCC) would like to make the following submission to Clare County Council planning department for inclusion in the next County Development Plan

- The National Planning Framework has a stated objective (NPO15) to “Support the sustainable development of rural areas by encouraging growth and arresting decline in areas that have experienced low population growth or decline....” KCC would like to see a more committed approach within the development plan for the provision of housing for permanent occupancy on lands that are zoned for residential uses in the town of Kilkee.
- Kilkee Chamber submit that a reduction of the housing vacancy rate of 71% be robustly addressed as an objective of the CDP through ensuring no more holiday homes are built in the town of Kilkee.
- We would strongly urge that Kilkee be designated a centre of excellence for scuba diving and water based sports and all assets that support this activity be maintained and upgraded.
- Kilkee Chamber of Commerce wants to see greater emphasis on the provision of affordable housing in Kilkee, specifically through the provision of affordable serviced sites for permanent residency.
- Kilkee Chamber of Commerce wants to see a commitment to the full implementation of all the measures in the Kilkee traffic management plan.
- We think the delivery of a coastal pathway around the Loop Head Peninsula should be an objective of the next CDP. Due to its location and available amenities, Kilkee is a logical choice for the principal trailhead.
- Having regard to the potential of a Coastal Pathway and the future delivery of the West Clare Greenway we would like to see a clear plan put in place to show how these two pieces of infrastructure will be connected through the town of Kilkee to provide seamless transition from one to the other and ultimately connecting the coastal pathway with Kilrush and further afield.



- KCC would like to see a greater provision of communal areas on the streets in the centre of Kilkee, ensuring a more pedestrian and family friendly environment.
- That CCC should liaise with local bodies in finding a use for the Old Courthouse.
- That having cleaned up the asbestos contaminated area around the reservoir, that it is returned to its use as a fully accessible fishing location as soon as possible and that other amenity uses such as biosphere are explored, funded and developed.
- That all rights of way should be mapped and clearly signed.
- That innovative approaches to the development of overnight camping facilities for campervans and tents be encouraged and supported through appropriate and sympathetic zoning
- Any tourist infrastructure be retained for tourist infrastructure especially short term infrastructure.
- Tourism is the major industry in the area but is subject to seasonality and the vagaries of weather or connectivity disruption. Kilkee Chamber of Commerce insure against this, a number of enterprises should be developed especially around farm-based rural enterprise, agritourism, artisan food and renewable energy. Remote working is now an option for many and the new IT working spaces in Kilkee are a welcome addition to the town and should be promoted within Clare County Council's remote working strategy. We strongly advocate that more retail outlets be encouraged to open in the town for the benefit of locals and providing more employment and encouraging social activity.