

Carrick-On-Suir Tourism & Economic Development Committee

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December 6, 2024

Comments on the Carrick-on-Suir & Environs Local Area Plan 2025-2031 Stage 2

Overall, COSTEDC welcomes the Local Area Plan (LAP) as written.

On Town Centre First, a considerable amount of work has been done by the TCF team. The team is awaiting the results of community and business survey data before finalising its plans which are now targeted at completion in February 2025.

In Section 1.4 on Socio Economic Profile, the data shows that the town has had lower population growth between 2016 and 2022 of 1.8% vs Co average of 5.2% and nationally 8.1% with a long term unemployment % of double the county average. These facts show that a premium needs to be put on efforts to drive economic growth in the town and that current and planned efforts such as the RRDF, COSTEDC Vision 2030 plans, the Ormond Quarter and the Tides of Time at the Heritage Centre are critical.

In Section 2 on Planning and Development, we fully support the goals set out in relation to the re-purposing of town centre areas for living including above retail premises. While there are grants associated with such projects, the fear of the cost and logistics of dealing with fire and related regulations could be addressed by planning a pilot example in the town centre. (Could be included in Objective 3C)

Also in Section 2, it is important that housing to attract young professional families is included in the housing mixes proposed given the town's proximity to Clonmel and Waterford.

In Section 3.1, Town Centre First, the text on completion date needs to be changed to February 2025.

In Section 3.6, could an objective be included to support property owners to clean up and paint their premises along the same timeline as the planned completion of the RRDF work in 2026? (A small scale project in this regard was carried out on the west end of Main Street with the Heritage Council some years ago). Could a statement about the preservation of the historic Town Clock and its building be included?

In Section 4.3 Tourism Strategy, we believe that there needs to be a bolder goal: that the town is in the process of a ground breaking change in its tourism management and promotion which will lead to economic gains not previously considered attainable. On page 41, could a mention be made of Explore Carrick-on-Suir and its positioning of the town of Carrick-on-Suir as the hub at the heart of it all including the Linguan Valley and the Comeraghs (Objective 4I). We ask that the game changing project of The Tides of Time at the Heritage Centre be included as an added Objective 4K.

Submitted by Tony Musiol

On behalf of the external members of Carrick-on-Suir Tourism and Economic Development Committee (COSTEDC)