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We attach our Submission to the above.  
Pl acknowledge receipt  
Roger Garland

Chairman  
Keep Ireland Open  
<http://www.keepirelandopen.org/>

## **SUBMISSION TO ROSCOOMMON ISSUES PAPER**

### **Information about Keep Ireland Open**

KIO is a voluntary organisation whose primary aim is to lobby for the legal right to reasonable access to the countryside which is the norm in virtually all European countries but is denied to us. However, we are also concerned with issues which affect the enjoyment of our countryside. Our membership covers a broad spectrum of recreational users of our countryside including An Oige, Scouting Ireland, Catholic Guide of Ireland, An Taisce, Friends of the Irish Environment, Federation of Local History Societies, Irish Hang Gliding & Paragliding & Irish Rural Link. See our web-site: [www.keepirelandopen.org](http://www.keepirelandopen.org).

We are members of Comhairle na Tuaithe.

We make this Submission as a national body but also on behalf of our members living in the county.

The scope of our Submission is limited to access to the countryside and directly related issues.

### **Other county plans**

While you are obliged to have regard to plans in adjoining counties as per the Planning and Development Act 2000 Sec 9 (4), you may care to take into account plans in other counties particularly those within the North West Region.

### **Review of Plans in adjoining counties or within the Region**

We presume that you will be monitoring the reviews of Plans in Leitrim, Cavan, Sligo, Mayo, Galway Westmeath & Offaly which have commenced or which are imminent and that you will liaise

with their planners to ensure that the plans are compatible, where appropriate.

As our submission is very focused on issues of walking/cycling, public rights of way and better access to the countryside rather than answering the questions therein, we are basing our submission on a critique of the 2014 Plan.

## **CRITIQUE OF EXISTING PLAN**

We presume that you will use the 2014 Plan as the basis for the new one as it contains much excellent material. It does, of course, require expansion and updating.

We would point out that the Plan fails to comply with, have regard to/take into account:

Planning & Development Acts

Plans in adjoining counties

Development Plan Guidelines

National Heritage Plan

## **RSES North West Region**

We presume that all relevant provisions will be incorporated in the Draft.

The mention of a provision in the Plan, without comment, indicates our support for the wording with appropriate updating.

Counties in **bold** are adjoining and/or counties within the North West Region.

## **FORMAT**

**Index** We submit that you should provide an Index as recommended in the Development Plan Guidelines (5.15). See Clare, DLR, Sth Tipp & Waterford.

**Development Management Guidelines and Standards** We submit that these should dealt with at the end of each Chpt as

this would make the plan more user friendly. At the very least the Pol Chps and Chpt 9 should be cross referenced.

**Layout** We submit that this can be improved by sub-numbering or sub-lettering lists of points and paragraphs. The present layout creates difficulties when referring to particular points. Also we submit that you should include the Chpt title & its number on each page.

## **Chapter 1: Introduction and Policy Context**

### **1.7 DEVELOPMENT PLAN OVERVIEW**

We submit that you **should include an additional para naming the adjoining counties and also naming counties within the North West Region.**

## **Chapter 3: Economic Development**

### **3.2 INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE**

#### **Industry & Enterprise Policies**

**Pol 3.2 last phrase** We submit that **this should be replaced by:**  
*Only grant planning permission for a building in the countryside where the location is suitable and that the proposal would not be viable at an alternative location and where the development would not cause a detrimental impact or erode rural character and is compatible with neighbouring land use and ensures that development in visual sensitive areas addresses the surrounding countryside .Any new building will not be acceptable where it is unduly prominent in the landscape, where it results in build-up of development when viewed with existing and/or approved building or where the impact of the ancillary works, including the creation of visibility splays would damage rural character or impact negatively on the environment or which fails to protect Natura Sites, conservation areas, natural and built heritage or the environment or fails to protect and improve or is injurious to amenities(including visual amenities ). Buildings should be kept simple and finished with material appropriate to rural settings and should reflect the scale, nature and pattern of development in the area. Buildings of excessive height will not be permitted and should be sited to make use of existing hedgerows and topography to provide natural screening. Based on **Monaghan** 4.9 BRP 2 last phrase & 15.16 RCP 1 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & last pts, **Westmeath** 3.2.8 1st pt(**Draft** 9.11.1 CFPO 9.34 1<sup>st</sup> pt) and many other plans.*

## **3.4 NATURAL RESOURCE SECTORS**

### **3.4.1 Agriculture & Diversification of Agricultural Activity**

**Policies in relation to Agriculture & Agricultural Diversification  
23, 27, 29 & 30**

**Objectives in relation to Agriculture & Agricultural Diversification**

**4**

**6 last phrase** We submit that this should be replaced by: *Protect and conserve **rural** amenities, archaeological and natural heritage, visual amenities, landscape and the environment generally, from adverse impacts of agricultural practices and development particularly in high amenity areas and ensure that it is appropriate in nature and scale and ensure that it does not have an undue negative impact on the visual/scenic amenity of the countryside and its appearance and character, particularly in areas such as the Lough Key Environor, impacting directly upon scenic views or routes identified in the in the County Landscape Character Assessment and Integrate them into the landscape, including the minimal use of signage. Identify mitigating measures where required. Developments and practices must be necessary for the efficient use of the farm and must ensure that they are conducted in a manner consistent with the protection of the environment and in line with national legislations and relevant guidelines. Identify mitigating measures where required. Based on **Offaly** 10.6 RDO4 and many other plans.*

**7 & 9**

### **3.4.2 Forestry and Bio-fuels**

**Policies in relation to Forestry and Bio-fuels**

The topic of forestry and woodlands can be dealt with in a number of different ways. Probably the best way of dealing with it is to consider the primary function of a forest/wood. We suggest that coniferous forestry should be regarded primarily as commercial forestry and deciduous forestry as amenity. Assuming you agree we have divided this topic into three sections:

**A Commercial forestry**

**B Amenity woodlands**

**C Provisions dealing with both**

Accordingly, as this Sub Sec deals with commercial forestry we submit that it should be re-entitled: **Commercial Forestry and Bio-fuels**

### **Policies in relation to Forestry and Bio-fuels**

**33 2<sup>nd</sup> phrase** We submit that this should be replaced by: *Forestry must not be visually obtrusive in the landscape and must protect views, water quality, residential and visual amenity and public safety. Ensure that development is appropriate in its character, nature and scale and that it is carefully managed to so that it doesn't result in damage to visual amenity, water quality or have a negative visual effect on the rural environment and character of the countryside and that it must enhance and be in harmony with the landscape. Protect and safeguard scenic and exposed/elevated landscapes, nature conservation areas, geological sites, monuments and designated sites, archaeological or other historical or heritage features.* Based on **Donegal** 7.1.2 O 9 last phrase, **Cavan** 3.9 EDP13 1<sup>st</sup> phrase, **Monaghan** 4.6.1 AGP 7, **Westmeath Draft** CPO.47 on line 1 & 50 1<sup>st</sup> phrase & and many other plans.

**34**

**35 1<sup>st</sup> phrase** We submit that this should be replaced by: *Recognising the contribution that forestry related industries makes to well being, develop, promote, provide, protect, improve and encourage the provision of greater public access to new and existing forestry, both state and private, for recreational activities such as walking, hiking, cycling, and other non-noise generating activities and the provision of nature trails, as part of connected network of walking and cycle routes in cooperation/consultation with Coillte, the Forest Service, private landowners, local interest groups and other stakeholders and agencies.* Based on **Smarter Travel 2009-2020** Act 17 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence page 45, **Cavan** 3.9 2<sup>nd</sup> para 2<sup>nd</sup> para 5<sup>th</sup> pt 1<sup>st</sup> phrase & EDP14 1<sup>st</sup> phrase **Monaghan** 4.6.1 AGR P8, **Westmeath** 3.41 P 4, 6.21 P 10 & 6.23 P 12 1<sup>st</sup> phrase and many other plans.

**37**

**38** We submit that this should be merged with 3.35.

## 39 & 40

### 44 1<sup>st</sup> sentence

**2<sup>nd</sup> sentence** We submit that **should be replaced by:** *Retain existing rights of way and identify them and established walking routes before planting commences and maintain them as rights of way/walking Routes.* Taken from **Cavan** 3.9 EDP15 & EDO 31 & **Sligo** 4.3.2 P FOR 3.

We submit that you **should include an additional Pol:** *No new or replacement coniferous forests will allowed on summits generally above 250 mtrs.* Taken from Laois 7.19 LS37 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence.

### **A Commercial Forestry & C Amenity**

We submit that you **should include a Pol or Obj:** *Protect and encourage access to forestry and woodlands, in co-operation with Coillte, private landowners and other stakeholders for walking routes (including long distance and looped walks) mountain and nature trails and hiking.* Based on **Sligo** 6.7.4 P OR 23 & **Westmeath** 3.41 P 4.

**B Amenity Woodlands** We submit that you **should include a Sub Sec on this and that it should be positioned in Chpt 7 Natural Heritage and Landscape Character Assessment.**

### 3.4.4 Mineral Extraction & Quarries

**Last para** We submit that **this should be upgraded to a Pol and merged with 54 &**

### **Policies in relation to Mineral Extraction & Quarries**

#### **54 to 56**

**57** We submit that **this should be replaced by:** *Recognising that the development for aggregates/mineral extraction, processing and associated developments can impose adverse impacts on amenities, ensure the protection, conservation, preservation and safeguarding of recorded monuments and areas in their vicinity, World Heritage Sites(including Tentative Sites), NHA's, Euro Sites, Nature Reserves archaeological sites and features, natural heritage, natural environment, features of natural beauty or interest, designated sites(existing or propose), geological sites and areas of geological/geomorphological or*

*historic interest, groundwater ,and aquifers and areas of high scenic amenity from inappropriate development that might be detrimental to them. Applicants must recognise that the aggregates(stone and sand/gravel deposits and mines) concrete products industry have a particularly sensitive role Development must be carried out so that it minimises adverse effect on the environment and visual and natural amenities to the greatest possible extent must be carried out during all life cycle stages, whether in respect of new quarries or extensions to existing ones and development will be prohibited if the quality of the environment or landscape, particularly sensitive landscape, is adversely affected or there is a reduction of the visual amenity of areas of high amenity. All working should be landscaped either by the retention of existing vegetation or by screening. Based on **Galway County** 6.21 Obj EQ 1, **Mayo** Vol 1 Chpt 2 **Extractive Industries** EI 01 & Vol 2 57.2 last pt, **Longford** 4.6 MA 2m), **Donegal** 8.1.2 O 1 & 02 & 8.1.3 P2 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence 1<sup>st</sup> phrase, **Cavan** 3.8 EDP6 & 7, **Offaly** 2.8.6 3<sup>rd</sup> para & 2.9 RDP 14 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> sentences, **Westmeath Draft** 9.15 CPO 9.58 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> pts and many other plans.*

### **3.58, 60 & 61**

We submit that **you should include additional Pols:**

*Applications for new development for aggregate extraction, processing and associated processes, shall **identify existing public rights of way** and walking routes which may be impacted on or are adjacent to the development site. Taken from Taken from **Cavan** 3.8 EDO25.*

#### **Note**

Pending a complete listing of public rights of way, walking routes, as prospective rights of way, should be protected.

**2** *Restrict development of aggregate extraction, processing and associated concrete production which could impinge or impact **on** matters of public importance, **public rights of way** or walking routes and satisfactorily address the potential impact on recreational activities.. Based on **Monaghan** 15.25 EIP 4, **Sligo** 4.3.4 P MEQ 2 last phrase and many other plans.*

## **Objectives in relation to Mineral Extraction & Quarries**

### **3.5 TOURISM**

#### **Tourism Policies**

**77** We submit that this **should be this should be replaced by:**

*Protect the landscape from inappropriate development by ensuring that developments and other activities associated with tourism or recreational activity do not cause damage, be detrimental to or detract from the traditional character or appearance of areas of scenic or visual amenities and ensure that the layout, design and associated infrastructure are of highest quality. Developments must be sensitively located, and be sympathetic in manner with the environment, heritage and amenities. They must ensure the protection and conservation of amenities, be compatible with their intensity, scale, and balance and ensure that are not located where they would be detrimental to environmentally sensitive landscapes. Ensure the highest quality standards of design, landscaping and materials so that there are no significant adverse impact on Natura 2000 sites, built and natural heritage historic or archaeological sites, m or the countryside generally. They must be integrated, assimilated and absorbed into the landscape to take advantage of natural screening and topography. Based on **Cavan** 9.7 RTO27, **Sligo** 4.4 TOU-3, **Mayo** Vol 1 Chpt 2 Tourism TM-O1 7 Vol 2 5.8, **Longford** 6 TOU 1 & 7, **Westmeath** 3.14 P 3 last phrase, **Donegal** 9.1 7<sup>th</sup> pt & 8<sup>th</sup> pts, **Leitrim** 2.2 Pol 1d) 1<sup>st</sup> phrase and many other plans.*

#### **Chapter 4: Infrastructure**

##### **4.1 TRANSPORTATION AND MOVEMENT**

###### **4.1.2 Cycling and Walking**

We note that walking/cycling is also dealt with in **8.7 TOURISM AND OUTDOOR RECREATION**. Walking/Cycling is a broad topic and encompasses the reasons why people walk or cycle including travelling to work, schools and shops and for exercise and for recreation for both local people and our visitors. As walking/cycling is becoming an increasingly important part of peoples' lives we submit that it **merits a separate chapter**. At the very least it should be cross referenced.

###### **Policies on Walking and Cycling**

**10**

###### **Objectives on Walking and Cycling**

**18**

**20 1<sup>st</sup> phrase** We submit **that this should be replaced by:** *Implement the relevant policies of the DoTTs NCPF and support, promote, facilitate and encourage the development, enhancement and expansion of an integrated, coherent and **safe** cycle network as opportunities arises by facilitating the construction of cycleways. Support the development of the National Cycle Network and green routes and enhance and maintain these routes with better signposting, lighting and road surfaces separated from vehicular traffic. Encourage the development of off-road cycling. Ensure that the upgrading of roads will not impact negatively on the safety and perceived safety of cyclists. Ensure that any dedicated cycle routes which are developed away from the main public carriageway are well lit and that all surfaces are maintained to a high standard. Routes should, where possible, follow off-road tracks and quiet country roads.* Based on **DoTT's NCPF(2009)** Obj 5 & Pol 5.6, **Donegal** 5.1.2 P 36, **Offaly** 4.6 STAP 08 1<sup>st</sup> line & 7.14 LAO 03, **Westmeath** 8.13 O 8 1<sup>st</sup> sentence 1<sup>st</sup> phrase & last sentence 1<sup>st</sup> phrase & last phrase, **Leitrim** 3.10.8 Obj 113 and many other plans.

**21**

#### **4.6 ENERGY**

We note that these Pols and Objs relate to a myriad of subjects: various types of Renewal Energy, Induced Hydraulic Fracturing, Energy Efficiency, Electricity, electric cars and bicycles and Gas.

We submit that **this Sec needs to be rewritten.**

Our concerns are twofold:

**A Renewable Energy**

**Electrical Transmission** See additional **Sub Sec** below

We would ask you **to include the following:**

**Renewal Energy**

**A Renewable Energy: General**

## B Wind Energy

## C Hydro Energy

## D Solar Power

## A Renewable Energy

### Pols

1 *Developments must be **appropriately located**.* Taken from **Sligo** 11.1 SP EN 2 1<sup>st</sup> para 4<sup>th</sup> line.

2 *The development including any ancillary facilities or buildings, considered individually or taking into account their scale and layout, their incremental/cumulative effect due to other proposals, the degree to which impacts are highly visible over a vast area, their visual impact on scenic landscape as well as local visual impacts, impacts on archaeology, **should not create a hazard or nuisance**, including the risk land instability and take into account the character and appearance of the surrounding area, the openness and **visual amenity** of the countryside, landscapes designated for their nature conservation, Natura sites and amenity values and sites of historic or archaeological interest or in proximity to National Monuments. Development will be subject to suitable locations and will only be permitted where they will not have an adverse impact on the environment including natural heritage and the protection of amenities and landscapes. Ensure proper integration with their surroundings. Where impacts are inevitable what mitigation features have been taken into account.* Based on **Offaly** 3.7 EP 02 and many other counties.

3 *In assessing development proposals the Council will take into account public access to the countryside and the impact on **public rights of way** and walking routes.* Based on Fingal 12.10 DMS138 (iv) 2<sup>nd</sup> phrase, Meath 11.15.1 1<sup>st</sup> para 4<sup>th</sup> pt & DLR 8.2.10.1 2<sup>nd</sup> para last sentence 4<sup>th</sup> pt last phrase. See also **Monaghan** 15.20 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence & last pt.

## B Wind Energy

**Maps** showing the degree of acceptability from prohibition to preferred including areas in adjoining counties considered unsuitable: See Cork County Fig 9.2 & Sth Dublin Fig 10.4.

### Objs

**1 Undertake an analysis of suitable areas for wind energy and prepare a map showing the Landscape Suitability for Wind Energy Development** in accordance with national guidelines including section 3.5 of the Wind Energy Guidelines(2006) and any subsequent revisions and as recommended in the LCA. Based on **Sligo 11.1 SO EN 2 & 2014 Plan** Obj 4.55 1<sup>st</sup> phrase.

**2 Prepare a Wind Energy Strategy** within the one year of the adoption of the Plan.

**Have Done:** Galway County App IV, Longford App 5 and many other counties.

**3 All applicants should include a LIA dealing with possible impacts on any existing rights of way or established walking routes.** Taken from Kilkenny 10.5.3 **Landscape Impact Assessment** 1<sup>st</sup> para 1<sup>st</sup> sentence.

## **C Hydro Power**

### **Pol**

*In assessing hydro energy schemes proposals the Council will take into account the **impact on public rights of way** and walking routes.* Taken from Carlow 6.3.2 Pol 6 2<sup>nd</sup> pt.

## **D Solar Power**

### **Obj**

*Make representations to the appropriate government department to make **Planning Guidelines** for ground mounted solar farms*

### **Pol**

*Development must safeguard and **protect** the natural heritage and must have no significant adverse impact on the surrounding natural environment or on the visual character of the landscape and amenities, particularly on raised/elevated sites. There is a presumption against their being located in sensitive areas such as Natura 2000 sites and archaeological sites. Development must have regard to its effect on scenic routes, its possible cumulative effect and the potential for mitigation through screening with hedges.* Based on Laois 6.6.1.3 Ground Mounted Arrays last para last sentence 1<sup>st</sup> phrase, Tipperary Renewable Energy Strategy App 1 6.8 3 Pol RE10 1<sup>st</sup> para 2<sup>nd</sup> line, Fingal 7.3 Obj EN12 last phrase & Kildare 8.7 SE 1 last phrase, 2 5<sup>th</sup> pt, 8<sup>th</sup> pt 5<sup>th</sup> line & 10<sup>th</sup> pt 5<sup>th</sup> line & **Westmeath Draft** 10.2.4 CPO 10.139 & 141 2<sup>nd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> pts.

**Policies on Energy**  
**Include Pols on Electrical Transmission**  
**56**

**59 last phrase** We submit that **this should be replaced by:**

*Recognising that large-scale overhead powerlines can have a significant impact on the visual character of an area, ensure that energy corridors do not impact on the natural environment and minimise their visual impact and obtrusiveness by avoiding areas of high amenity, high landscape value, scenic importance, sensitivity or sites and areas of nature conservation and areas of archaeological interest, NHAs, SPAs, SACs and National Monuments and by preserving the natural environment. Where impacts are inevitable mitigation measures to minimise their visual obtrusiveness must be provided for in, in respect of Natura Sites, networks must comply with Art 6 of the Habitats Directive. Based on **Galway County** 13.9 DM Standard 31a) 1<sup>st</sup> sentence, **Westmeath** 10.14 P ELE1, **Draft** 10.29 8<sup>th</sup> para 3<sup>rd</sup> pt & CPO 10.157, **Leitrim** 3.11.4 Pol 127 last pt, **Monaghan** 15.22 EGP 2 last sentence last phrase, **Longford** 5.5.12nd pt & 3<sup>rd</sup> pt 1<sup>st</sup> phrase and many other plans.*

We submit that you **should include additional Pols:**

**1** *In rural areas the **undergrounding** or re-routing of transmission lines (including telephone and TV cables) shall be considered first as part of a detailed consideration and evaluation of all available options. Where technically feasible and environmentally appropriate, HV and other powerlines (including existing powerlines) and associated equipment should be placed underground to reduce the visual impact on the natural environment especially in sensitive areas or areas of high visual amenity to preserve significant landscape, impact on Euro sites and significant views from the visual intrusion of energy infrastructure and cooperate with other agencies as appropriate. Protect areas of recognised landscape importance and significant views from visually intrusive large scale energy transmission infrastructure by using alternative routing. Development must be consistent with international best practice. Integrate with surface treatment schemes where possible. Demonstrate that where impacts are identified mitigation features have been provided/included where impacts are inevitable.* Based on **Monaghan** 15.22 EGP 2 1<sup>st</sup> sentence 1<sup>st</sup> phrase and many other plans.

**2** *It must be demonstrated that proposed **routes have been identified with due consideration for environmental impacts.** Taken from **Westmeath Draft** 10.29 6<sup>th</sup> para 2<sup>nd</sup> pt.*

**3** *It must be demonstrated that the proposed **development** is consistent with **international best practice**.* . Taken from **Westmeath Draft** 10.29 6<sup>th</sup> para last pt.

**4** ***A VIA shall be submitted.*** Taken from **Galway County**13.9 DMStandard 31a) last sentence.

## **4.7 TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

### **Policies on Telecommunications**

#### **66 to 68**

**70** We submit that **this should be replaced by:** *Ensure that Public Rights of Way and established walking routes will be identified prior to any new telecommunication developments(including associated processes) which will be prohibited if they impinge or impact thereon or on recreational amenities or public access to the countryside.* Based on **Cavan** 4.8 PIO123 and other plans.

**71**

We submit that **you should include an additional Pol:** *The Council shall, in **assessing an application**, take into account the impact on established **walking routes**.* Taken from **Mayo** Vol 2 55.3 4<sup>th</sup> pt.

### **Objectives on Telecommunications**

**58 & 70**

## **Chapter 6: Built Heritage and Archaeology**

We submit that Heritage should be sub-divided into:

- A Heritage – General;
- B Natural Heritage(including bio-diversity);
- C Archaeological Heritage;
- D Built Heritage.

**And that consequentially** we submit that **the Chpt should be re-entitled: HERITAGE**

### **Policies for Heritage**

**1** ***Publish a list with maps of heritage sites which are open to the public.*** Taken from **Westmeath Heritage Plan** 4.2.

You should add: *and post on the Council's web-site.*

**2** Prepare and implement a **strategy for access** to heritage routes by identifying and supporting the development of a network of heritage trails, with a focus on publicly accessible heritage sites and attractions in co-operation community groups, landowners and other stakeholders incorporating features of heritage interest. Based on Heritage Plans from the following counties: **Leitrim** 5.4, **Sligo** 27, **Westmeath** 4.4 & 3.2.10 and many other plans.

We submit that **you should include a Sub Sec: County Heritage Plan**

**Pol or Obj: The Council will work with the Heritage Forum** In order to **deliver the objectives** and actions of the Plan to protect the natural heritage and implement, promote and support and actively work in partnership with all relevant stakeholder, the Heritage Council, OPW, NPWS, NMS, community groups and the public, the aims and objectives contained in the Plan and any revision thereof. To which you should add: See our web-site (insert address). Based on Laois 7.2 last sentence & 7.4 OBJ11 1<sup>st</sup> phrase, Fingal 9.1 Obj NH01 & Meath 9.4 last para 1<sup>st</sup> sentence. See also **Westmeath** 5.3 P 10, **Mayo** Vol 1 Chpt 4 **Heritage** GH-01, **Galway County** 9.9 Pol NHB 6, **Sligo** 7 O H I, **Cavan** 8.2 2 NHEP3 1<sup>st</sup> sentence & **Monaghan** 6.2 Obj HLP1.

## **6.7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE**

### **Policies for Archaeological Heritage**

**9** We submit that **this should be replaced by:** Council recognises the importance of promoting, encouraging and securing/ensuring the **protection**, conservation, preservation, enhancement, safeguarding and appropriate management of sites, settings and features of archaeological/historic interest including the protection of their intrinsic value, character, integrity, context and settings of National/Recorded Monuments, caves or newly-discovered archaeological sites and/or sub-surface archaeological remains, known and unknown, including those identified in the RMP, RHM & SMR and sites and features of historic interest and National Monuments that are the subject to Preservation Orders, in the ownership or guardianship of the State or the Council and by implementing the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000(as amended). Development, either above or below ground, taking place within or adjacent to sites should not seriously detract from, impact upon or damage features of historic or archaeological interest, shall respect their character and settings. Proposed developments which would be seriously injurious to the

*settings, character of sites or RPMs, including in particular, those within a 20m radius of National Monuments, will not be permitted and those within 75m will be discouraged. Ensure that development, within adjacent to or in the vicinity of an archaeological monument shall not detrimental to its character be or setting by reason of its bulk or detailing and shall be sited and designed in a manner which minimises its impact settings, is resisted. Extend this protection to cover additions or alterations that may arise during the adoption of this Plan and to newly discovered remains. Protect and preserve all archaeological sites and monuments included in the RMP, any sites of and features of historic or archaeological interest and any subsurface arch features that may be discovered during the development. Protect, where appropriate, the character and setting of any unrecorded archaeological site from inappropriate development.* Based on **2000 Planning & Development Act** Sec 10(2)(c) 1<sup>st</sup> phrase & First Sch Part IV 6, **DPG** 4.26 1<sup>st</sup> para 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence last phrase, 4.27 1<sup>st</sup> pt & 4.28 2<sup>nd</sup> para last sentence, **Westmeath** 5.33 O1 & 8, **Offaly** AAHP 04 3<sup>rd</sup> pt & 7.19 AAH P08 1<sup>st</sup> sentence, **Donegal** 7.3.3 P 1 1<sup>st</sup> sentence 1<sup>st</sup> phrase & 4, **Cavan** 7.5 BHO18 1<sup>st</sup> sentence, **Mayo** Vol 1 Chpt 4 Archaeological Heritage AoH 01a) & h) & Vol 2 App 5 last para, **Leitrim** 3.9.8 Obj 93 & 1<sup>st</sup> para 1<sup>st</sup> sentence, **Sligo** 7.2 P AH 1 & 7.2.3 P AH 3 1<sup>st</sup> sentence, **Longford** 6.2 HER 1, 1 ARC 1 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> sentences, 2, 3, 11 12, **Leitrim** 3.9.8 Pol 106 & 1<sup>st</sup> para 1<sup>st</sup> sentence & Obj 96, **Galway County** 9.7 ARC 4, 5, Obj ARC 1 down to Historic Monuments & 7 and many other plans.

**10 & 11**

## **Objectives for Archaeological Heritage**

**21**

**22** We submit that **this should be merged with Pol 9.**

**23 to 27**

We submit that **you should include additional Objs:**

**1** *Recognising the importance of archaeology and National Monuments as part of our heritage and important elements in long term economic development, promote, enhance, facilitate, encourage, support, improve and protect **public access** to National Monuments, Archaeological Sites, castles, sites of historic interest and to archaeological landscapes, in the direct ownership, guardianship or control of the Council, and/or the State or private ownership, including those listed in the RMP, in co-*

operation with landowners. Based on **Leitrim** 1.10.2h), **Mayo** Vol 1 Chpt 4 **Access to Heritage & Amenities**, **Longford** 6.2.1 ARC 4 & 8, **Sligo** 7.2 P AH 6 and many other plans.

**2 Promote, provide and encourage signage to archaeological sites and National Monuments listed in the RMP.** Based on DLR 6.1.2.1 1<sup>st</sup> para, Kildare 12.8.4 AH 9 & Laois 7.4 OBJ 2 last sentence.

**3 Protect and preserve in situ all archaeological sites and features of historic interest discovered/identified subsequent to the publication of the RMP.** Based on **Galway County** 9.7 Obj ARC3 and other plans.

Secure the **preservation in situ**, or if this is not possible, preservation by record of all archaeological remains and sites of importance such as National Monuments, Recorded Monuments, their setting and context. Taken from **Leitrim** 3.9.8 Pol 106.

## **6.8 RATHCROGHAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPLEX** **All Text Pols, Objs & Development Standards**

### **6.8.2 UNESCO World Heritage Sites** **Policy for UNESCO World Heritage Sites**

**Pol 6.15** We submit that this that this should be replaced by:  
*Recognising and respecting potential Sites support, pursue, progress, facilitate and promote their designation as UNESCO WHS in collaboration/partnership with the appropriate Government Department, landowners, local communities and other stakeholders, to assist in the preservation of the natural heritage.* Based on **Action Plan for Rural Development** 2017 Pillar 3 Act 190, Wicklow Vol 1 10.2.2 BH 6, Dublin City 11.1.5.15 CHC13, Louth 5.9.9 HER 32, Meath 9.6.8 POL 5 & Clare 14.3.20 23a),

We submit that **you should include additional Pols:**

**1 Protect, preserve protect them and maintain the Outstanding Universal Value of sites included in tentative list of WHS from inappropriate development.** Based on **Mayo** Vol 1 Chpt 4 **Archaeological Heritage** AoH 01h) and many other plans.

**2 Support and promote the candidature of (Named ) for inclusion in the “Tentative List”.** See Kerry 5.12 T 55.

We submit that **you should include an additional Sub Sec:**

## **Mass Rocks**

### **Pol or Obj**

*Preserve, **protect** and, where necessary, enhance mass rocks and holy wells.* Taken from Nth Tipp 8.4.5(iii).

## **Chapter 7: Natural Heritage and Landscape Character Assessment**

### **7.1 DESIGNATED SITES**

#### **Strategic Aim for Designated Sites**

**1st para** We submit that this **should be upgraded to a Pol and merged with Pol 7.1.**

**2nd para** We submit that this **also be upgraded to a Pol and re-positioned in proposed additional Pol 5.**

#### **Special Areas of Conservation**

**Last para 1<sup>st</sup> sentence** We submit that **this should be upgraded to a Pol and merged with proposed additional Pol 1.**

#### **Special Protection Areas**

**2<sup>nd</sup> para 1<sup>st</sup> sentence** We submit that **this should be upgraded to a Pol and merged with proposed additional Pol 3.**

#### **Natural Heritage Areas**

**2<sup>nd</sup> sentence** We submit that **this should be upgraded to a Pol and merged with proposed additional Pol 5.**

#### **Polices for Designated Sites**

**7.1** We submit that **this should be replaced by:** *Protect, conserve, preserve, enhance, maintain and, where necessary restore the biodiversity and integrity of all Sites, including areas adjacent thereto, designated or proposed, under National and European legislation and in other relevant International Conventions and Agreements and Processes by prohibiting development which might damage or be harmful to or result in serious dereliction or disturbance or which could have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of a Site and maintain and develop linkages between them. Support in co-operation with statutory authorities the management of proposed or designated sites to achieve conservation objectives. Protect and maintain the favourable conservation status/value and where necessary the restoration of designated or proposed sites. When assessing development proposals*

*ensure the protection and conservation and enhancement of wildlife habitats. Based on **Monaghan** 6.10 Heritage, Conservation and Landscape Policies HLP 13 1<sup>st</sup> phrase, **Offaly** 7.3 NHP-01 & 03, **Sligo** 7.1.1 P- DNSC - 1, **Longford** 6.2.2.3 NHB 6 1<sup>st</sup> para Preamble, **Mayo** Vol 1 4 Natural Heritage NHO-3 and many other plans.*

## **2, 3 & 5**

We submit that **you should include additional Pols:**

*1 Actively promote the conservation and **protection** of proposed or designated **SACs** and protect their integrity. Development in, near or which could adversely affect a Site should avoid any significant impact on features for which the site is designated or proposed and only consider development proposals within or affect a Site if it can clearly demonstrate that the development will not have a significant adverse effect on it. Identify and afford appropriate protection to new Sites.*

*Based on **2014 Plan** 7.1 Special Areas of Conservation 2<sup>nd</sup> para 1<sup>st</sup> sentence, Clare 14.34 CDP 14.4a),b) & Fingal 9.2 Obj NH16,*

***2 Protect** those sites identified as **candidate SACs** as well as other sites that may be identified during the lifetime of the Plan. Taken from **Leitrim** 3.8.3.2 Obj 62.*

***3 Development** in, near or which could **adversely affect a SPA** should avoid any significant adverse impact on the integrity of the site. Assess proposed developments in order to determine if they are likely to impact directly, /indirectly or cumulatively on designated Sites in accordance with relevant legislation. Council will take appropriate steps to avoid the deterioration or disturbance of habitats contrary to the Habitats Directive. Based on Waterford City 10.4.2 Objs 6<sup>th</sup> pt, **2014 Plan** 7.1 Special Protection Areas last para 1<sup>st</sup> sentence & Clare 14.3.2 SPAs 2<sup>nd</sup> para 1<sup>st</sup> sentence.*

***4 All plans, projects or programmes** that have the potential to have a negative /adverse impact on the integrity of a **Natura Site** will be subject to Habitats Directive Assessment and should be in accordance with best practice and guidance. Comply fully with Art 6(3) & (4) of the Habitats Directive to ensure the protection, conservation value, management and enhancement of Euro Sites, including any additional Sites that may be proposed during the lifetime of the Plan, by assessing and screening and, where warranted, by prohibiting developments or projects within, near or immediately adjacent to the county which could have significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts,(either individually,*

*cumulatively or in combination with other plans or projects or upon the conservation objectives of a Site due to their size, scale or land take where the overall integrity of the site could be threatened or compromised unless there imperative reasons such as overriding public interest of a social economic nature and adequate compensatory measures to ensure the overall coherence of the Site and that it can be established that there is no feasible alternative solution. Sites should be afforded the highest level of protection in accordance with the relevant Directives and legislation. Promote the favourable conservation status of habitats and protective species including those listed under the Birds Directive, the Wildlife Acts and the Habitats Directive. Based on Donegal 7.1.2 NH-O-2, Cavan 8.4.2 Natural Heritage Areas Protected Areas Policies NHEP9, Offaly 7.3 NHP-04 1<sup>st</sup> phrase Longford 6.2.2.3 NHB 6 1<sup>st</sup> para & 2<sup>nd</sup> para, Westmeath 5.5 P-NAT2(Draft 12.8 CPO 12.4 & 5) , Leitrim 3.8.3.1 Pol 76 to 78 and many other plans.*

**5** *Recognising their importance, and in accordance with relevant legislation, **protect**, enhance **and** conserve the character and integrity of designated or proposed **NHAs** including those that may be designated during the lifetime of the Plan and maintain their conservation value, by avoiding/resisting proposed development in, near or adjacent to Sites which could result in their deterioration or which are likely to have a significant adverse effect (direct, indirect or cumulative) on features for which the sites were designated or prosed for designation. Ensure the protection of visual, recreational, environmental and amenity values. Ensure that any development is designed and sited as to minimise its impact on landscape values. Maintain the conservation value of Council owned land within designated or proposed Sites and promote the conservation value of adjoining council-owned land. Based on 2014 Plan 7.1 Natural Heritage Areas 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence, Westmeath 5.6.1 P- NHA-1 & 4(Draft 12.10 CPO 12.19), Draft 12.10 CPO 17.20), Leitrim 3.8.3.4 Pol 79 and many other plans.*

## **7.2 SITES OF GEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE**

### **Policy for Sites of Geological Importance**

**6**

#### **Objectives for Sites of Geological Importance**

**7.3** *We submit that this should be replaced by: Work with stakeholders, to protect sites of geological or geomorphological interest or importance from inappropriate development by prohibiting development at or in their vicinity or which threaten their existence, integrity and conservation value. Identify, protect, preserve, enhance,*

*maintain, manage, conserve, and where appropriate, restore their character (including County Geological Sites and sites that may become designated). Based on **Planning & Development Act 2000** First Sch Part IV 6, **Offaly** 7.3 NHP16 & 7.2.13 last para 1<sup>st</sup> sentence, **Leitrim** 3.8.3.8 Objs 71 & 72, **Cavan** 8.5 NHEO12, **Westmeath** 5.8 P2, **Mayo** Vol 1 Chpt 4 Natural Heritage NH-01e), **Monaghan** 6.12 GEP 3 & 4 and many other plans*

**4**

We submit that **you should include additional Objs:**

**1** *Promote, encourage, facilitate and support **access and public rights of way** to geological and geo-morphological features of interest inter in consultation with landowners (where appropriate). Based on **Monaghan** 6.12 GEP 1 1<sup>st</sup> phrase and many other plans.*

**2** *Co-ordinate the continuing development of strategic **walking routes, trails and other countryside recreational opportunities**. Taken from **Cavan** 8.5 NHEO1.*

### **7.3 NATURE CONSERVATION IN THE WIDER COUNTRYSIDE Objectives for Nature Conservation 5 to 13**

**14** We submit that **this should be re-positioned in 7.4 INLAND WATERWAYS as a Pol or Obj**

**15 to 18**

**19** We submit that **this should be re-positioned in additional Sub Sec: Eskers below and replaced by proposed Obj 3.**

**20 to 29**

#### **Eskers Objs**

**1** *Increase cycling and **pedestrian access** and maintain esker heritage. Taken from **Westmeath** 5.10 2.*

**2** ***Protect, preserve and conserve the landscape and natural heritage and geo-diversity values of esker systems from inappropriate***

*development.* Taken from Laois 7.22 ESK1 1<sup>st</sup> sentence. See also **Offaly 7.10 & Westmeath 5.10 P 1.**

**3** *Ensure that any plan or project affecting eskers is adequately addressed with regard to their potential impact on the landscape and the environment and that **planning applications** for quarrying activity in proximity to eskers having regard to their potential to impact on the landscape, the environment and amenity value designated status of the eskers and conserve them from inappropriate development.* Based on **Galway County 9.9 Obj NHB 4 & 7, 2014 Plan 7.3 Obj 7.19** and other plans.

We submit that **you should include additional Sub Secs:**

#### **A Peatlands**

##### **Objs**

**1** *Plan and prepare for the **future use of large industrial bog sites** when peat harvesting finishes as there is potential for the development of amenities in conjunction with NPWS, Coillte and ESB/Bord na Mona.* Based on **Longford 4.5 TOU 23** last pt and other plans.

**2** *Explore the potential for the development of and work in partnership with relevant stakeholders towards achieving **a National Peatlands Park**.* Based on **Action Plan for Rural Development 2017 Pillar 3 Act 187 1<sup>st</sup> phrase & Offaly 7.4 NHO 12,**.

**3** ***Protect**, conserve and manage the character, appearance, heritage and amenity values of peatland landscapes, including any ancient walkway through bogs by promoting high environmental standards to conserve their archaeological heritage ,in **conjunction** with the BnM, NPWS, Coillte, IPCC and NGOs.* Based on **Donegal 7.1.2 O 11, Offaly 2.12 TP 06, Leitrim 3.8.3.2 Obj 63 & Obj 74, Westmeath 5.12 P O 3, Draft 12.17 CPO 12.56** and many other plans.

**4** ***Exercise control of peat extraction** , both individually and cumulatively, which could have significant **impact** on the **environment**.* Taken from **Westmeath Draft 12.17 CPO 12.17 CPO 12.58.**

#### **B Wetlands**

##### **Objs**

**1** *In partnership with the NPWS, WI and other stakeholders facilitate **public access** to wetlands and support and protect the recreational and*

*amenity potential of wetlands.* Based on Kerry 10.6 NE-29, Meath 9.7.10 POL21 & Kilkenny 8.2.6 last para last sentence,

**2** *Protect, conserve, preserve, manage and enhance wetlands(including fens and turloughs ) from infilling, fragmentation, degradation and protect and conserve their quality, character and features. Resist development (including land reclamation) which would destroy, fragment and degrade wetlands, coastal wetlands, estuarine marshland and control adjacent development by the use of buffer zones.* Based on **Offaly** 7.3 NHP 11, **Cavan** 8.5.2 NHEP16 & NHEO16, **Longford** 5.3.2 SFRA 3, **Galway County** 8.7 Obj FL3 & 9.9 Pol NHB 4, **Westmeath Draft** 12.15 CPO 12.41 and many other plans.

## **7.4 INLAND WATERWAYS**

### **Table 7.2 Inland Waterways**

We submit that you **should include a Table of:**

Existing or potential **riverside and lakeside walks/cycle routes.** See Kildare 5.9.5 ECD 29 & Limerick County 7.1 1<sup>st</sup> para 4<sup>th</sup> line.

### **Map 14 Inland Waterways**

### **Policies for Inland Waterways**

#### **7 & 8**

We submit that **this should be replaced by:** *Reserve land adjacent to canal and river banks and other waterbodies **to promote and facilitate the creation of waterside linear parks** to link with existing parks and open spaces and to facilitate the provision of **walking/cycling routes** along canals and watercourses.* Based on **Westmeath** 3.16 P 8 & 6.2.7 O 5, **Leitrim** 3.10.3 2<sup>nd</sup> para, **Offaly** 7.3 NHP-13 1<sup>st</sup> phrase and many other counties.

### **Objectives for inland Waterways**

**30** We submit that **this should be replaced by:** *Recognising the importance of inland waterways, both navigable and non navigable, work with State Agencies, landowners, local communities and other relevant groups/stakeholders to protect, manage, maintain, preserve, conserve, improve and enhance waterbodies and watercourses,*

*rivers(named),streams river valleys, lakes, springs and associated undeveloped riparian strips/zones, buffer zones distinctive linear sections of water corridors, canal and river banks, river and stream valleys and riverine wetland areas from degradation and damage and the visual impact of dispersed and highly visible development that could adversely affect them by compromising their visual integrity, recreational, natural heritage, geological or landscape character value and the natural characteristics and features and recognise and promote them as natural environmental assets, and maintain them free from inappropriate development. Keep them in an open state and in a natural condition by discouraging land filing culverting or realignment and in certain instances by uncovering existing culverts.* Based on **Monaghan** 8.11 WPP 15, **Galway County** 9.9 Pol NHB 4 & 9, **Leitrim** 4.1.1 4<sup>th</sup> para 8, **Cavan** 8.9 NHEP21 1<sup>st</sup> phrase, **Sligo** 7.1.6 **Riparian zones** 1<sup>st</sup> para 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence & P INW 2 last phrase, **Offaly** 4.20 Env P 23 & 7.3 NHP 13 1<sup>st</sup> sentence, , **Sligo** 7.1.6 2<sup>nd</sup> para 1<sup>st</sup> sentence, **Westmeath** 5.16 P RLC3(**Draft** 12.16 CP12.49), **Draft** 12.16 CPO 12.48 on 3<sup>rd</sup> line & 55 1<sup>st</sup> phrase, **Longford** 5.3.2 SFRA 3, 6.2.2.7 ILW 3 1<sup>st</sup> phrase, 8 & 9 1<sup>st</sup> sentence and many other plans

**32** We submit **that this should be replaced by:** *In areas adjacent to inland waterways, lakes, canals, rivers, where planning permission is sought, the applicant must ensure that full public access to waterways is retained or conditions may be attached requiring retention of this access to facilitate creation or extension of walking/cycle routes.* Taken from **Longford** 6.2.27 ILW 5 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence.

We submit that **you should include additional Objs:**

**1** *In partnership with the NPWS, WI, Councils, community groups and other relevant stakeholders, provide, protect, promote, encourage, develop, maintain, facilitate, increase and improve **public access** to the shoreline around lakes and to rivers and riparian/waterway corridors.* Based on **National Heritage Plan** 4.17, **Longford** 6.2.2.7 ILW 3 2<sup>nd</sup> line, **Leitrim** 3.10.3 Obj 100 & 3.10.4 Pol 106, **Westmeath Draft** 12.16 CPO 12.48 1<sup>st</sup> phrase and many other plans.

**2** *Recognising the importance of rivers and river corridors and buffer zones for their natural amenity and scenic values, **promote**, develop and facilitate increased **access for walking**, cycling tracks and other compatible, extend activities along inland waterways including rivers and*

*canals in co-operation with landowners, WI, NPWS, Government Departments, community groups and other councils. Based on Offaly 7.16 ROWP 03, Leitrim 3.6.3 Obj 29, Westmeath 3.16 P 6 1<sup>st</sup> phrase, 6.27 O 2, 7.13 O 8 & O 9 and many other plans.*

**3** *Support and facilitate the development of **Greenways and Trails** along (named) rivers. Taken from Sth Dublin 4.5.0 Pol 6 Obj 1.*

**4** ***Identify existing** accesses to lakes shores and riverbanks within the life time of the Plan. Taken from Mayo Vol 1 Chpt 4 Access to Heritage & Amenities AC 01a.*

**5** *Require that land adjacent to river and canal banks and lakeshores be reserved/**preserved for public access** as an undisturbed buffer zone between new development and river corridors and other water bodies to encourage increased public access and recreational opportunities. Based on Longford 6.2.2.7 ILW 7 and other plans.*

**6** ***Protect** and maintain the amenity and recreational value of **walking and cycling routes** by prohibiting the intrusion of development along these routes. \*Seek to ensure that new development will not have a negative impact on established walking routes and public rights of way along inland waterways.*

It would be better if Seek to was omitted. Based on Westmeath 5.16 P RLC14 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence and many other plans

**7** *Protect, enhance and improve **existing public rights of way** and, where possible, provide additional access to inland waterways including lake shores, river banks, through the acquisition of land for public rights of way and parking and lay-by facilities, through agreement with existing landowners\*. Taken from Longford 6.2.2.7 ILW 5 1<sup>st</sup> sentence & 6. \*You should add: or by the use of compulsory powers.*

**8** *Reserve land adjoining or adjacent to canal and river banks, streams, lakes and other waterbodies **to promote and facilitate the creation of waterside linear parks** to link with existing parks and open spaces and to facilitate the provision of **walking/cycling routes** along canals and watercourses and to facilitate and encourage public access for non-noise generating recreational activities. Based on Westmeath 3.16 P 8 & 5.16 P RLC14 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence & 6.2.7 O 5, Leitrim 3.10.3 2<sup>nd</sup> para and many other plans.*

**9** Normally only permit proposals for **development associated with water sports** adjacent to lakes where the proposed facilities are compatible with existing use of water including non-recreational uses, will not result in damage to features of archaeological heritage or nature conservation sites and can be satisfactorily integrated into the landscape, will not have an unacceptable impact on visual amenities and will not result in over intensification of use leading to excessive noise. Taken from Laois 8.5 DM 34 & Carlow 8.11.9 2 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> phrase, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & last pts.

**10** As Water sports cover a wide range of activities from tranquil uses such as sailing, canoeing, rowing and sail boarding to powered activities such as water-skiing and powerboat uses, the Council may require management plans for particular areas to address the compatibility of such varying uses and may introduce **bye-laws** restricting or prohibiting **jet-skiing and water skiing**. Taken from Carlow 8.11.9 2<sup>nd</sup> para 1<sup>st</sup> sentence & Kilkenny 7.3.4.1 2<sup>nd</sup> para. See also **Leitrim** 3.10.3 4<sup>th</sup> para,

**Note** Mayo has bye laws

**11** Seek to enhance **public access** to inland waterways as a condition of any development granted. Taken from **Roscommon** 7.4 Obj 7.32 1<sup>st</sup> phrase.

## **CANALS**

**12** Provide public access to canal corridor, where feasible , In co-operation with WI, NPWS and community groups, encourage, promote and use the potential of **canal towpaths** for designated walking and cycle routes, both as recreational amenities and the promotion of links with any designated walking cycling routes, existing or proposed. Based on **Smarter Travel 2009-2020** Act 17 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence page 45, **Longford** 6.2.2.7 ILW 10 1<sup>st</sup> sentence, **Westmeath** 5.16 P 4 5<sup>th</sup> line and many other plans

**13** Ensure the conservation of canal corridors and require that **developments abutting the canal** relate to the context of the adjacent environment and contribute to its overall amenity. Taken from **Galway City** Pol 4.3 8<sup>th</sup> para 1<sup>st</sup> phrase.

## **LAKES**

**14** *Maintain the amenity value of major lakes and their environs by restricting and regulating development that would prejudice use of these areas.* Taken from **Cavan** 8.8.1 NHEO33 1<sup>st</sup> phrase.

**15** *Support the provision of walking and cycling links **between lakes and nearby settlements**.* Taken from **Westmeath Draft** 6.7 CPO 8.48 1<sup>st</sup> phrase.

## **LOUGH REE**

**16** *Develop a **walk around Lough Ree** on co-operation with Longford & Roscommon County Councils and other relevant bodies within 3 years of the implementation of the Plan.* Taken from **Westmeath** 3.20.1 O WB7.

## **RIVER SHANNON**

**17** *Promote and develop the towpaths along the Shannon Navigation to expand recreation and in co-operation with WI.* Taken from **Action Plan for Rural Development** 2017 Pillar 3 Act 168 1<sup>st</sup> phrase. See also **Offaly** 7.3.NHP 07 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence.

**18** *Protect and preserve the landscape of the River Shannon and floodplains, including the callows and views of special interest, from inappropriate development.* Taken from **Offaly** 7.9 AHAP 01 & 7.13 LAP 05.

We submit that **you should include an additional Sub Sec: Islands**

### **Pols/Objs**

**1** *Support and promote, with the co-operation of private landowners, **public access** to islands.* Taken from **Sligo** 4.4 P TOU 8.

**2** *Protect and enhance the landscape character and heritage of the Islands.* Taken from **Donegal** 7.1.3 P16 1<sup>st</sup> sentence 1<sup>st</sup> phrase.

## **7.6 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT**

### **Landscape Values**

#### **Text**

#### **Objs All**

We submit that **you should include additional Objs:**

**1** *Provide and increase managed **public access** to interesting and*

*attractive landscapes or to semi-natural and landscape amenity areas for recreational purposes. Based on Cork City Obj 10.3, Fingal 9.2 & High Amenity Zoning last pt & Dublin City 10.5.2 GIO9*

**2** *Where possible, secure **access to commonage** and other hill land. Taken from **Sligo** 7.4 P CAP 7.*

**3** ***Preserve**, maintain, enhance important landscapes and protect the amenity value, visual integrity of **upland areas** Discourage inappropriate development in open countryside and prohibit developments which are likely to have material adverse visual impacts, either individually or cumulatively, on the character of the uplands. Ensure that development will not materially interfere or detract from scenic uplands and that particular regard is had to potential impacts of new developments and require that proposed developments demonstrate that every effort has been made to reduce visual impacts(including excessive bulk and inappropriate siting) and that visually prominent sites have been avoided to minimise visibility from scenic routes, walking trails, public amenities, settlements and roads. Have particular regard to the potential impacts of development on sensitive upland areas and consider the difficulty of establishing and maintaining screening vegetation. Based on Laois 7.19 LS01 1<sup>st</sup> phrase & 30, Kilkenny 8.2.10 DMS 6<sup>th</sup> pt, Kildare 14.8.3 LU 1, 4 & 5 & Wexford 14.4.3 LO3.*

**4** ***Preserve** the status of **traditionally open/unfenced landscapes** including commonages and other hill land. Based on **Galway County** 9.11 Obj LCM 3 1<sup>st</sup> sentence and other plans.*

**5** ***Protect**, conserve, preserve, maintain, safeguard, identify and enhance the visual integrity,, scenic quality, general amenity and the visual quality of areas of intrinsically important and outstanding, highly **sensitive**, designated, natural, unspoilt and open **landscapes**(named), scenic areas, high amenity areas and the environs of archaeological or historic sites(named) from intrusive, inappropriate, injurious or unsympathetic new, or additions to, existing developments and reinforce their character and promote their distinctiveness by prohibiting development where it could unduly impinge or impact on or be detrimental to such landscapes or would be injurious to, or detract from natural amenities or introduce incongruous landscape elements. Based on **Sligo** 7.4.4 1<sup>st</sup> sentence & P-LCAP-2 1<sup>st</sup> phrase, **Longford** 6.1.1 2<sup>nd</sup> para 1<sup>st</sup> sentence, **Monaghan** 6.5 HLP 9, **Galway County** 10.11 Pol RA 2, **Westmeath** 6.23 P HAA1 & 5, **Cavan** 8.7 NHEO25 1<sup>st</sup> sentence & 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence 1<sup>st</sup> phrase and many other plans.*

**6** Adopt a **regional approach** to the **protection** of the **landscape** in co-operation with neighbouring counties. Taken from **Leitrim** 1.10.2 g) 1<sup>st</sup> phrase.

We submit that **you should include an additional Sub Secs:**

## **A Fencing Of Hitherto Open Land**

### **Text**

**1** *It is a requirement of the Planning Regulations 2001 Art 9(l)(a)(x) that the **fencing or enclosure of land open to or used by the public** during the ten years preceding such fencing or enclosure for recreational purposes or as a means of access to any seashore, mountain or other place of natural beauty or recreational utility, requires planning permission.* Taken from **Kilkenny** 6.2 **Fencing** 1<sup>st</sup> sentence. See also **Mayo** Vol 2 40.3.

**2** **Wire fencing** constitutes visual pollution and destroys the “away from it all” feeling which makes upland areas such an attraction. Taken from **Kilkenny** 6.2 **Fencing** 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence.

**3** *There has been a **large increase in the amount of new fencing in upland areas**. Barbed wire has been used in most of this new fencing, which, in the absence of stiles or gates, makes access for recreational users of our countryside almost impossible. Traditional hill-sheep farming rarely required fencing, but since the introduction of AEOS, sheep-farmers must, in certain circumstances, stock-proof their land. The challenge is to ensure that such fencing will be done in a manner that will meet the requirements of AEOS without impinging on access for walkers and other recreational users.*

### **Pol**

As new **fencing of land open to or used by the public** during the ten years preceding is not exempt development in accordance with Art 9(l)(a)(x) of the Planning and Development Regulations the following criteria will be used when considering planning applications for new fencing of hitherto open land : Fencing, particularly in upland, highly scenic or amenity areas, will not normally be permitted unless such fencing is essential to the viability of the farm. The nature of the material to be used, the height of the fence, and in the case of a wire fence the type of wire to be used will be taken into account. Stiles or gates at appropriate places will be required. Barbed-wire will not be used for the

*top line of wire.* Based on **Mayo** Vol 2 40.3.1, **Sligo** 7.4 P LCAP 6 2<sup>nd</sup> to last sentences and other plans.

**Note** As fencing may have a cross-county dimension it is important that this development plan should be in conformity with those in adjoining counties.

## **B National Park**

### **Text**

*National Parks provide major recreational amenities allow access to wilderness and highly scenic areas which would otherwise might have limited access rights.*

### **Pol/Obj**

**Promote** and develop opportunities to enable the designation of **Lough Ree** as a National Park recognising its untapped wealth of historic and natural values that it, its islands and environs present. Taken from **Longford** 4.5 TOU 18.

### **ALSO**

**Westmeath** 3.16 O 5,

Promote the designation of Lough Ree as a National Park

### **Note**

Lough Ree

Cos: Longford, Roscommon & Westmeath

## **C Amenity Woodlands**

### **Pols**

**1 Protect**, preserve woodlands and groups of trees and ancient woodlands from inappropriate development that would impact adversely on them and affect their amenity value. Manage and promote the preservation and enhancement of the existing network of woodlands as they contribute to the environment including landscape character and landscape conservation. Where appropriate, protect mature groups of trees that are not protected under TPOs. Based on **Longford** 6.2.2.7 1<sup>st</sup> line, **Monaghan** 6.15 4<sup>th</sup> para 1<sup>st</sup> sentence & TWP 2 1<sup>st</sup> phrase, **Sligo** 7.1.5 P WTH 1 1<sup>st</sup> sentence, **Westmeath Draft** 12.14 and many other plans.

**2** *Continue to co-operate with relevant stakeholders to improve **public access** to State forests for amenity purposes.* Taken from **Cavan** 8.5.3 NHEP17 Woodlands.

**3** *Recognise the recreational potential of **Coillte's "open forest"** policy allowing access to woodland areas.* Taken from **Carlow** 3.15.12 ED Pol 18 2<sup>nd</sup> pt. Also See **Leitrim** 3.8.3.10 2<sup>nd</sup> para under Table.

**4** *Continue to co-operate with relevant stakeholders to improve **public access** to State forests for amenity purposes.* Taken from **Cavan** 8.5.3 NHEP17 Woodlands.

## **E Natural Environment and Heritage**

### **Pols/Objs**

**1** *Recognizing the role played by natural amenities and landscapes as major resources as part of our heritage, identify, provide, support, maintain, actively promote, encourage, protect, preserve, improve, safeguard and enhance **public access** to heritage sites and features, natural heritage and amenity areas, including Natura 2000 sites, nature reserves, mountains, uplands, moorlands, forests, rivers, lakes, valleys, scenic areas, areas of natural beauty and other natural amenities for active recreational activities such as mountaineering and hill-walking, which have been traditionally used for outdoor recreation, and to the countryside generally, by creating a meaningful network of access routes as the opportunity or need arises. This will be done in co-operation, consultation and consensus with state agencies, landowners, community groups other interested bodies.* Based on **Galway County** 9.9.Pol NHB 1 2<sup>nd</sup> last line, **Mayo** Vol 1 Chpt 4 **Access to Heritage & Amenities** AC 01a & b, **Sligo** 4.4 P TOU 5 1<sup>st</sup> para & 2<sup>nd</sup> para 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence & 6.7.4 POR 16 1<sup>st</sup> phrase, **Longford** 6.2.2 NHB 3, **2014 Plan** 3.7.5 1<sup>st</sup> phrase and many other plans

**2** ***Designate** traditional **walking routes** to the uplands as **public rights of way**.* Taken from **Sligo** 6.7.4 POR 16 last phrase.

**3** *Recognising the important role of the environment through diversity, quality, integrity and quality of life by promoting the protection, conservation and enhancement of the natural environment by **prohibiting** intrusive **development** that would detrimentally impact on natural heritage or archaeological or built heritage, which could or might have a negative impact on natural amenity and recreational assets or*

*natural heritage features or might unduly damage or take away from its character and by implementing the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000(as amended). Promote appropriate enhancement of the natural environment as an integral part of development. Engage with stakeholders, including local communities and statutory authorities to identify, protect, conserve, preserve, manage, enhance, safeguard, facilitate, maintain and, where appropriate, restore, visual and scenic amenities, the quality and character of the natural heritage features and the natural environment including rivers, streams, wetlands and woodlands, scenic areas and the general amenity of the countryside and in recognition of its importance as a non-renewable resource, from intrusive development that would detrimentally impact on it, while maximising the recreational amenity and quality of life by the provision of visual relief from the built environment. Avoid unnecessary harm and reduce its effect where it cannot be avoided by replacing like with like. Based on **DPG 3.5 Box 3 Environment, Heritage & Amenities** last pt, **2000 Planning & Development Act** Sec 10.2 ©, **NPF Pol Obj 60, Offaly 2.11 4<sup>th</sup> para & 7.4 NHO 02, Sligo 7.1 P NH 1, Cavan 8.2 NHEP1, Galway County 9.3 Pol GH4 & 9.9 Pol NHB1, Leitrim 1.10.2 (b) & (h), 3.8.1 1<sup>st</sup> para 3<sup>rd</sup> pt & 2<sup>nd</sup> para i to iii, Mayo Vol 1 Chpt 4 Natural Heritage NH 01, Longford 6.2.2 NHB 1 1<sup>st</sup> sentence & 2** and many other plans.*

**4 *Protect*** all natural heritage sites designated or proposed for **designation** under National and European legislation and international Agreements and to maintain and develop linkages between them. Taken from Cork County 12.2 HE 2-1.

**5 *Impose*** the “Polluter Pays” and the “**Precautionary Principles**” which are an integral component of planning policies on environmental and heritage matters. Where uncertainty exists regarding the potential impact of a proposed development on natural heritage, full account shall be taken of these Principles. Taken from Carlow 9.1 Heritage **Pol 1 5<sup>th</sup> pt.**

**6 *Preserve the open character of commonage land*** and other hill land and **secure access** over paths and tracks through consensus with landowners, particularly in mountain areas. Taken from Wicklow Vol1 10.3.7 NH42.

## **Chapter 8: Social, Community and Cultural Development**

## 8.6 SPORTS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

### Objectives for Sports, Recreation and Open Space

5 We submit that **this should be repositioned in a proposed additional Sub Sec: Public Rights of Way** and merged with Pol/Obj 14.

We submit that **you should include additional Objs:**

1 *Support development, in co-operation with various stakeholders to promote, preserve, improve, encourage **public access** to lakes, beaches, coastal, riversides, uplands and other areas that have been traditionally used for outdoor recreation and extend **recreational amenities** including riverside and canal walks and walking and cycling routes.* Based on **2000 Planning and Development Act Sec 10(2)(j), Sligo** 4.4.6 8<sup>th</sup> pt & 6.7.4 P OR 14 1<sup>st</sup> sentence 1<sup>st</sup> phrase, **Galway County** 10.11 Pol RA 1, **Westmeath** 3.14 P 7 down to *recreation* on line 3 & 7.13 P 1 3<sup>rd</sup> line and other plans.

2 *Promote and encourage the **recreational use** of rivers and the development of blueways which provide opportunities for walkers, cyclist and canoers.* Taken from Wicklow Vol 1 7.4 T34 1<sup>st</sup> sentence 1<sup>st</sup> phrase.

3 *Protect and preserve **recreational attractions** such as scenic beauty, woodlands and waterways, natural heritage, the character and distinctiveness of scenic landscape and the environmental quality.* Taken from Wicklow Vol 1 7.3 **Strategic Objs** 8<sup>th</sup> & last pts.

4 *Ensure that **golf course development** does not impinge on existing public rights of way and walking routes by identifying them prior to development.* Taken from Sth Dublin 11.5.5(ii) last para & Kildare 14.12.2 RW 3.

**Note** Recreational users and golfers don't mix! While there are rights of way over golf courses, they aren't satisfactory as walkers run the risk of being hit by golf balls and golfers are distracted by people talking and moving about.

### Public Rights of Way

#### Text

**1** *Public Rights of Way have existed over the centuries constitute an important **recreational amenity**. They enable the enjoyment of high quality landscape, natural and archaeological heritage and provide links to valuable amenities such as rivers lakes, bogs, forests and places of natural beauty. Based on **Monaghan** 5.11 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence & 7.4.1 last sentence 1<sup>st</sup> phrase, **Sligo** 6.7.4 Public rights of way 1<sup>st</sup> para 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence, **Galway County** 10.12 1<sup>st</sup> phrase and many other plans.*

**2** *A PROW or highway is a physically defined route over which the public have a **right of passage** even if the route is not in public ownership. It is described as “a user as of right” and confers an unrestricted right of the general public to pass and repass at all times of the day or night and at all seasons without notice to, or permission from the landowner. The most common characteristic of a PROW is that it follows a defined route which may be sub-divided amongst different branches. Based on **Sligo** 6.7.4 Public rights of way 1<sup>st</sup> para last sentence and other plans.*

**3** *The **listing** and mapping of public rights of way will **preserve Public Rights of Ways for recreational purposes**. Taken from Kerry 9.10 2<sup>nd</sup> para last sentence.*

**4** *The preservation of of a public right so way which give access to seashore, mountain, lakeshore, riverbank and other place of natural beauty or recreational utility which public right of way shall be identified both by marking them on at least one of the maps forming part of the development plan and by indicating their location on **a list appended to the development plan**. Taken from **Planning and Development(Amendment) 2010** & **Cavan** 8.10 1<sup>st</sup> para last sentence.*

**5** ***Section 14 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 sets out the formal process for designating rights of way in development plans**. The scope of these statutory provisions is grounded on identification of existing routes over which PROWS are deemed to exist. The inclusion of PROW objectives for their preservation provides greater protection for such routes under development management provisions of planning legislation whilst also restricting the scope of certain exempt development. Taken from Wicklow Vol 1 10.3.8 3<sup>rd</sup> para.*

**6** *The listing of public rights of way is an urgent matter as the lack of certainty on access has not only affected the rights of local people but has been the major cause of **the failure of walking tourism** to reach its full potential in this country.*

**7** It is suggested that the list should be compiled by following this modus operandi: *Place an advert in local papers seeking submissions from the public to identify public rights of way which give access to seashores, mountains, lakeshores, riverbanks or other places of natural beauty or recreational utility.*

*Identify existing rights of ways, paths, and access points to seashores, mountains, lakeshores, riverbanks or other places of natural beauty or recreational activity.*

*Identify access points to seashores, mountains, lakeshores, riverbanks or other places of natural beauty or recreational activity which the Council have maintained or repaired with a view to identifying public rights of way.*

*Carry out a desktop analysis of public records, maps, aerial photographs and newspaper accounts to identify reputations of public rights of way.*

Once the list is compiled, advertise and put it on display. The public will be invited to make submissions on the validity of the public rights of way. Endeavor to verify and list the public rights of way and begin the formal process for designating rights of way under Section 14 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

*Vary the Plan to include the list and map showing the public rights of way.* Taken from **Cavan** 8.10 NHEO45.

**8** If an **Interim list** is included in the Plan the following should be appended to the list or provided in the written statement: *This is not an exhaustive list and the omission of a right of way from this list shall not be taken as an indication that such a right of way does not exist.* Taken from **Sligo** 6.7.4 Public rights of way para below Table, **Cavan** 8.10 last para last sentence and many other plans.

### **Pols/Objs**

**9** *Identify and map, on an ongoing basis, public rights of way and incorporate them in the Plan by way of a **Variation**. Where appropriate links to established public rights of way in adjoining counties will be identified.* Taken from **Westmeath** 7.15 O 1.

**10** *In accordance with the provisions of either Sections 206 or 207 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 encourage and facilitate **the creation of additional rights of way** and extend existing ones for pedestrian or amenity reasons, by investigating named areas to facilitate*

*the development of waymarked ways and looped walks, by undertaking a review/survey of green links and cycling routes and by bringing forward proposals within two years of the adoption of the Plan, either by agreement or by the use of compulsory powers, for the creation of public rights of way, particularly in areas of high amenity and recreational importance and to uplands, lakeshores, river banks, forests, heritage and scientific sites, areas of historic, archaeological and recreational importance and National Monuments, to create a meaningful network. Promote their greater use. Provide linkages from built up areas to the countryside and the coast and link with public rights of way in adjoining counties. Based on **Galway City** 4.5.1 4<sup>th</sup> para 4<sup>th</sup> sentence 1<sup>st</sup> phrase, **Mayo** Vol 1 Chpt 3 Pedestrians & Cyclists Pc 01 1<sup>st</sup> sentence 2<sup>nd</sup> line & Vol 2 40.1 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence, **Westmeath** 7.15 O 3 1<sup>st</sup> sentence and excluding 2<sup>nd</sup> phrase, **Longford** 6.4 AM 6 1<sup>st</sup> sentence 1<sup>st</sup> line, **Leitrim** 3.10.7 Obj 108 and many other plans.*

**11** *Ensure the provision of , and where necessary, improve **signposting** and waymarking on all public rights of way. Based on **Westmeath** 7.15 O 4, **Sligo** 6.7.4 P OR-19 and other plans.*

**Note** It is most important that public rights of way are marked on the ground because:

- 1 Walkers need to know of their existence to encourage usage
- 2 Signage would alert local residents to planning applications affecting the integrity of rights of rights of way
- 3 Directional signage during the course of the route would prevent involuntary trespass on private property and prevent walkers getting lost which might impinge on walker safety.

**12** ***Designate Pilgrim Paths as public rights of way.***

**Note** We submit that as these Paths have been walked for many centuries their case for designation is surely irrefutable.

**13** ***Identify mass paths** and routes to holy wells, mass rocks and penal mass stations and consider designating them as public rights of way.*

**14** *Encourage the provision, for the common good of a **network** of Public Rights of Way to traditional outdoor amenities, including heritage sites and features of archaeological interest, national monuments, mountains, hills, rivers, forests, lakes, geological and geomorphic systems, water corridors, places of natural beauty and other natural amenities. Taken from **Westmeath** 7.15 P 1 1<sup>st</sup> sentence 2<sup>nd</sup> phrase.*

**15** *Recognizing the importance of maintaining established public rights of way preserve, **protect**, promote, enhance and improve them for the common good all public rights of way particularly those giving access to mountains, lakes, river banks and other places of natural beauty or recreational utility by ensuring that development doesn't impinge thereon.* Based on **Galway County** 10.13 PRW1 and many other plans.

**16** ***Prohibit development** and keep free from obstruction public walking routes and public rights of way, particularly those at mountains, lakeshores, riverbanks or other places of natural beauty or recreational activity and take legal action if necessary, to prevent any attempt to close them off.* Based on Carlow 5.3.2 Pol 8 7<sup>th</sup> pt, DLR 4.1.2.13 LHB14 4<sup>th</sup> pt & Wexford 15.9 Obj RS36.

**17** *Look favourably on planning applications which include proposals to **improve the condition and appearance** of existing rights of way.* Taken from DLR 4.1.2.13 LHB14 6<sup>th</sup> pt, Laois 7.21 PRW5 2<sup>nd</sup> phrase, Carlow 8.12 Pol 6 7<sup>th</sup> pt & Kildare 14.12.2 RW 4.

**18** *Existing **Public Rights of Way** and established walking routes **shall be identified** prior to any new forestry planting, new **infrastructural**, energy/telecommunications or golf course **developments**.* Taken from Kildare 14.12.2 RW 3.

**19** *Development will **not be permitted** where a public right of way **might be prejudiced**, unless specific arrangements are made for suitable **alternative linkages** and that the developer can demonstrate that the level of amenity is maintained by:*

*(i) the footpath/bridleway being diverted by the minimal practical distance and the route continues to be segregated from vehicular traffic;*

*(ii) Appropriate legal procedures have been undertaken to extinguish the existing right of way and to establish the new right of way to replace it.*

*(iii) the diverted route is of at least equal character and convenience.* Based on **Mayo** Vol 2 40.2, **Leitrim** 4.5.12 and many other plans.

**20** *Where, in the interests of proper planning and development, the **extinguishment** of an existing right of way becomes expedient, the Council may require the provision of a suitable alternative.* Taken from **Galway City** 4.5.1 4<sup>th</sup> para 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence.

**21** *The Council will utilise its relevant statutory powers to **preserve** as practicable the **character** of listed public rights of way for amenity purposes.* Taken from Wicklow Vol 1 10.3.8 NH46 1<sup>st</sup> sentence.

**22** *Protect and promote **Greenways and consider designating them as public rights of way.*** Taken from Laois 7.21 PRW5 1<sup>st</sup> phrase.

**Map 19 Preservation of Public Rights of Way** We submit that this should be re-positioned in after page 196.

### **8.7.1 Walking and Cycling**

#### **TABLE 8.2 WALKING AND CYCLING TRAILS**

##### **Heritage/Historic walking trails**

We submit that you should add the Brefne trail AND

**You should add:** *Following the adoption of the Plan a **temporary register of additional routes** shall be maintained and should be included on the web site pending inclusion in the next Plan.*

#### **Policies for Walking and Cycling Routes**

**36 1<sup>st</sup> sentence** We submit that:

**A** the reference to *public rights of way* on 4<sup>th</sup> line should be re-positioned in page 31 of our submission as part of Public Rights of Way

**B** <sup>st</sup> sentence *safeguard preserve* on 1<sup>st</sup> line should be merged with proposed additional Pol 23.

**C** the rest should be should be replaced by: *Provide, promote, improve, plan, support, maintain and further enhance, develop, encourage, extend, facilitate and support the development of walking, rambling and cycling to achieve National Trails accreditation in conjunction/co-operation the Irish Sports Council, walking and cycling groups, landowners, farmers local groups and communities by identifying/defining more dedicated walking and cycling routes(named) to enable the creation of a high quality, coherent, pleasant, integrated and comprehensive dedicated off road countrywide joined up network of local and regional cycling/walking routes, footpaths, greenways, particularly in rural areas between settlements, that link communities to key destinations and amenities, including looped walks, local walks, community walks, medium/long distance walks and established rights of way, through open spaces, strategic green corridors(including river*

*corridors) and other off-road routes), particularly those with historic associations or other areas of interest and maximise their potential. Expand and extend existing routes by utilising links from residential areas to provide access to mountains, lakeshores, rivers and scenic areas. Bring mountain amenities closer to residential communities by promoting the establishment of a network of formal footpaths, off road paths and cycleways that are attractive and facilitate casual walkers and cyclists. Investigate the provision of dedicated cycle and pedestrian routes along routes of high amenity. Based on **DPG 3.5** Box 3 B Infrastructure 3<sup>rd</sup> pt, **Dev Smarter Travel 2009 - 2020** Cycling and Walking 1<sup>st</sup> para in line 6, **Cavan 9.6.1** RTO3 1<sup>st</sup> phrase, **Longford 5.1.3** PED 3, 5, **Sligo 8.3** P CW 9, **Leitrim 3.10.7** Obj 109, **Donegal 5.1.2** T-0-13 & T-P-35 1<sup>st</sup> sentence. **Westmeath Draft 6.8** CPO 59 and many other plans.*

**37** We suggest that **you could leave this as it is or delete it as there are a number of different walking and cycling topics and a reference to public rights of way all of which will be referred to separately in our submission.**

**38 & 39** as 37 above

**40**

**41 1<sup>st</sup> phrase** We submit that **this should be replaced by:** *Recognising their importance protect, preserve and safeguard the integrity of established and future walking and cycling routes such as those identified in Table 2, by prohibiting development which would adversely impact upon them or their settings particularly in scenic areas and ensure their maintenance. Based on **Donegal 9.1** 12<sup>th</sup> pt, **Cavan 9.6.1** RTO3 & 18 1<sup>st</sup> phrase and other plans.*

**42 1<sup>st</sup> sentence** We submit that **this should be replaced by:** *Walking and Cycling will be promoted, facilitated, prioritised and encouraged by improving existing cycleways and developing a network of safe, guarded and maintained cycle routes and footpaths and on routes reserved exclusively for pedestrians and cyclists. on existing roads, on all new regional, local distributor and local collector roads Ensure, where possible, that cycleways and footpaths are effectively separated from*

*major vehicular carriageways. Provide, promote, improve and extend the network of off road cycle and walking routes on all new road improvement schemes to ensure personal safety , particularly at night and a more convenient, pleasant, attractive environment. Support the installation of infrastructure measures e.g new/wider pavements, road crossings, retrofitted, if necessary, which would facilitate and encourage safe walking and cycling. Based on Cavan 9.6.1 RTO20, Westmeath Draft 10.41 CPO 10.10 1<sup>st</sup> phrase and many other plans.*

## **2<sup>nd</sup> sentence**

### **Objectives for Walking and Cycling Routes**

**8.7** We submit that **you should add: and put on your website.**

**8** We submit that **this should be deleted as the rights of way have already been mapped.**

We submit that **you should include additional Objs:**

#### **WALKING**

**1** *Promote and facilitate the continuing development of a regional and local **network of Ways and Permissive Access Routes** that provide a network of long distance walking, running and hiking trails and routes. Encourage the re-routing of existing trails off public roads. Based on Mayo Vol 1 Chpt 3 Strategy Pedestrian & Cyclists PC-01 and many other plans.*

**Note** *In contrast to public rights of way, **long distance walking routes exist on a permissive access basis** and are not to be confused with designated public rights of way as consent can be withdrawn at any time by the landowner. Taken from Sligo 6.7.4 Permissive Trails.*

**2** *In view of the obesity and diabetes crisis, support, improve, develop, expand, upgrade and facilitate **Slí na Sláinte** routes. These should be waymarked/signposted, where feasible. Based on Westmeath 8.13 O 13 last phrase and many other plans.*

**3** *Promote walking through the development and expansion of a network of **safe walking trails** within towns and villages and their environs. Such routes can link with existing waymarked trails, Sli na Slanite and the Green Infrastructure Network and existing or new public rights of way. Taken from Fingal Chpt 5 Obj RF113.*

**4** Support the provision of proposed long distance walking trails that **provide access to scenic uplands** and riverine features. Taken from Fingal Chpt 5 Obj RF115.

**5** Research and map existing network of traditional paths used for leisure purposes to determine their **legal status**. Taken from Carlow 8.11.10 Obj 3 2<sup>nd</sup> pt.

**6** Employ a full time **Walks Officer** at an appropriate senior level.  
**Note** Many counties employ one.

**7** The Council will co-operate with relevant agencies, both public and private, including the National Trails Office, NWMWAC, Coillte, the Heritage Council, adjoining councils and local landowners, to **support** the development, maintenance, facilitation and enhancement of medium and long distance **hiking/walking routes**, community walks and off-road trails particularly in the uplands. This will include consultation with adjoining councils with a view to promoting routes extending beyond the county boundary. Based on **Westmeath** 3.14 P-GT 7 5<sup>th</sup> line and many other plans.

**8** Lobby the appropriate Government Department to agree and implement a scheme to **indemnify private landowners** with regard to recreational users of their land. Taken from **Action Plan for Rural Development** 2017 Pillar 3 Act 176.

**9** Preserve, **protect** and, where possible, enhance the integrity of existing/established public walking and access routes (including long distance walking routes) and potential routes, which contribute to the general amenity by prohibiting the intrusion of development along these routes at creates or has the potential to create dis-amenities, particularly those in scenic and high amenity areas and along inland waterways and access routes to upland walks and public rights of Based on **Sligo** 6.7.4 P OR 22 1<sup>st</sup> sentence, **Cavan** 9.6.1 2<sup>nd</sup> para last phrase and many other plans.

**10** Take the potential impact of proposed development into account when **considering/assessing applications** for permission in the vicinity of established walking routes that might impinge on walking routes (including long distance) or potential walking routes. Taken from **Sligo** 6.7.4 Established walking routes 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> sentences.

## **CYCLING**

**11** *Promote, facilitate and encourage the development, enhancement and expansion of **safe** cycle routes by facilitating the construction of cycleways. Support the development of the National Cycle Network and The National Cycle Network Scoping Study(2010) and enhance and maintain these routes with better signposting, lighting and road surfaces separated from vehicular traffic. Encourage the development of off-road cycling. Ensure that the upgrading of roads will not impact negatively on the safety and perceived safety of cyclists. Ensure that any dedicated cycle routes which are developed away from the main public carriageway are well lit. Routes should, where possible, follow off-road tracks and quiet country roads.* Based on **FI's Strategy for Development of Cycling Tourism Executive Summary(2007)** 01 the Mori Survey 3<sup>rd</sup> pt 4.2.3, **DoTT's NCPF(2009)** OO Breadth of Interventions page 7 6<sup>th</sup> pt on right hand col & 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> pts, Pol 3.4 & 5 & Obj 5, **Donegal** 5.1.2 P 36, **Offaly** 4.6 STAP 08 1<sup>st</sup> line & 7.14 LAO 03, **Westmeath** 8.13 O 8 1<sup>st</sup> sentence 1<sup>st</sup> phrase, 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence last phrase(D last sentence 1<sup>st</sup> phrase, last phrase (**Draft** 10.4.1 CPO 10.15 last phrase) & 5.5 2<sup>nd</sup> para, **Leitrim** 3.10.8 Obj 113 and many other plans.

**12** *Assign an officer at appropriate senior level as a "**Cycling Officer**".* Taken from **DoT's NCPF(2009)** Pol 17.3.  
To which you should add before *officer, full-time* and that *any vacancy should be filled as soon as possible.*

#### **Note**

**Leitrim** and many other counties have one

**13** *Support the development, maintenance and enhancement of trails and routes in co-operation with the Sports Council, NTA, NTO, NWMWAC, Heritage Council and other bodies to **develop cycle touring routes** including those linking with adjoining counties particularly in areas of high amenity.* Based on Kerry 5.5 T26 1<sup>st</sup> phrase, Kildare 14.12. 1 CR 9 & Carlow 5.3.2 Pol 8 last pt.

**14** *Develop a **Cycling Strategy** during the lifetime of the Plan.* Taken from Cork City Obj 5.7.

**15** *Ensure that new development does not prejudice the **expansion of cycling corridors** that would compromise their future delivery.* Taken from **Monaghan 7 Transport Policies** TP 4.

**16** *Support the **policies** of the **National Cycle Framework 2009.*** Taken from Limerick County 6.10.3 Obj COM 026.

## **WALKIING & CYCLING**

**17** *Support a comprehensive **network of national** Greenway/Bluways Networks, maximise pedestrian and cycle connectivity and work with the NTA, WI and other stakeholders to develop a co-ordinated approach to the selection, delivery and servicing of future greenways, bueways, trails and routes.* Based on **NPF** App 1 Obj 22 1<sup>st</sup> phrase, **Westmeath Draft** 10.4.2 CPO 23 & Kildare 5.19EO49.

**18** *Support the provision of better **signposting and waymarking of walking and cycle routes with appropriately designed quality signage and information boards, during the lifetime of the Plan.*** Based on **Sligo** 4.4 P TOU 4 1<sup>st</sup> phrase, **2014 Plan** 8.7.1 Pol 8.37 2<sup>nd</sup> line, **Leitrim** 3.6.3 2<sup>nd</sup> para 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence, **Westmeath Draft** 01.4.1 CPO 10.15 on line 1 and many other plans.

**19** *Seek opportunities for the development of suitable walking routes and cycle tracks along **historic access routes.** Explore the potential of inter-county trails such as the Brefne and Tain .* Based on **Action Plan for Rural Development** 2017 Pillar 3 Action 200, **Leitrim** 3.6.3 Obj 29 & **Longford** 4.5 Mid-Shannon Wilderness Park(sic) last para.

**20** *Develop and promote a **Walking and Cycling Policy/Strategy** within two years of the adoption of the Plan, working in partnership with statutory bodies, private and voluntary sectors, landowners and other stakeholders. The Strategy should list trails, evaluate these routes and make recommendations for their promotion and would address, inter alia, the possibility of cycle-ways in recreational areas and along river banks, car parking for walkers and cyclists and improved signage and maps.* Based on **National Physical Activity Plan for Ireland** App1 32, Kilkenny 7.3.2. 7<sup>th</sup> para & 2<sup>nd</sup> Obj 7C, Limerick County 6.10.3 Obj COM O27 b), DLR 2.2.7.1 1<sup>st</sup> para 3<sup>rd</sup> & last sentences, Kildare 14.12.1 CR 3 1<sup>st</sup> sentence 1<sup>st</sup> phrase & last sentence. See also **Offaly** 4.7 STAO 1.

**21** *Provie adequate **car parking** and/or lay-bys for walkers and cyclists, (from your local knowledge name important locations) and other appropriate points to facilitate access to amenity/scenic areas from 9am until dark.* Based on **Sligo** 4.4. P TOU 4 last phrase, **Longford** 6.4 AM 3, **Donegal** 5.1.2 P 35 last sentence and many other plans.

**Notes**

- 1 The absence of car parks can cause unnecessary friction between landowners and recreational users.
- 2 The primary responsibility for the provision of car parking lies with councils.

**22** *Establish new Walkways and cycle routes on a **legal and permanent basis**.* Taken from Carlow 5.3.2 Pol 8 12 pt 1<sup>st</sup> line & Sth Dublin 2.2.14 2<sup>nd</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> para 1<sup>st</sup> line.

**23** *Develop a strategy to underpin the **funding** for the development and extension and enhancement of walking/cycling trails, greenways, including off-road trails, inter-county waymarked walking and cycle routes, the Royal Canal and the Tain Trail, through the Action Plan for Rural Development 2017, DoTTS, NTA, Heritage Council and associated transport agencies and LEADER.* Based on **Action Plan for Rural Development 2017** Pillar 3 Action 167, **Galway City 4.7** Community Spaces Medium/Long Term 3<sup>rd</sup> pt 8<sup>th</sup> sub pt, **Westmeath 3.14 O 6** and many other plans.

**24** *Ensure that **walking and cycling routes** and the public footpaths network are **maintained** and where feasible improved.* Based on **Mayo** Vol 1 Chpt 3 Pedestrians & Cyclists 1<sup>st</sup> sentence, **Cavan 9.6.1 RTO3** last phrase and many other plans.

**25** *Recognising their importance **protect**, preserve and safeguard the integrity of established and future walking and cycling routes by prohibiting development which would adversely impact upon them or their settings particularly in scenic areas and ensure their maintenance.* Based on **Monaghan 5.9 Cycling and Walking Policies** CFP 12 last phrase, **Donegal 9.1 12<sup>th</sup> pt** & **Cavan 9.6.1 RTO3**.

**26** *Ensure that development proposals **protect the routes of potential linkages** such as linear paths footpaths trails, greenways and cycleways through a site where the Council considers that an opportunity to provide a linkage to or between adjoining areas.* Taken from **Donegal 5.1.2 P31**.

**27** *Support the policies of DoTT's **Smarter Travel**.* Taken from Limerick County 6.10.3 Obj COM 026.

## **DISUSED RAILWAYS**

**28** *Actively encourage, **support, promote, retain** and facilitate the development of disused railways (named) for **greenways**, walkways and cycleways and other recreational activity to develop a network including medium and long-distance walking and cycling routes with related signage and waymarking.* Based on **Cavan** 4.4 P1069, **Leitrim** 3.6.3 2<sup>nd</sup> para 4<sup>th</sup> sentence, **2014 Plan** 8.7.1 Pol 8.39 1<sup>st</sup> sentence 1<sup>st</sup> phrase, **Westmeath** 8.13 O 4 1<sup>st</sup> sentence and many other plans.

**29** *Where feasible, provide separate trails for walkers and cyclists in the interests of safety and convenience with appropriate surfaces for each type of user.* Taken from **Sligo** 8.3 P CW 8 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence 1<sup>st</sup> phrase.

### **Notes**

1 The separation of walkways and cycleways is the practice in other countries particularly in Austria, Germany and Switzerland.

2 Progress so far:

Completed:

Rathkeale Co Limerick to the Kerry border

**Westport Co Mayo to Achill Sound**

Waterford City to Dungarvan

In progress:

**Galway City to Clifden**

Listowel to Limerick Border

Tralee to Fenit

**Donegal** 01.12 provides rough walkways along the old Loughmore to Barnesmore, Cloghan to Glenties and Barnesbeg Gap to Glenties Lines.

**30** *As well as being a magnificent recreational resource, the opening up of these old rail lines can provide excellent amenities for walkers, cyclists and horse riders **substantial Government Grants** are available for capital costs.*

**31** ***Protect and preserve** routes of former railway lines(named) for recreational development free from development by protecting, enhancing, conserving, safeguarding and preserving potential greenway routes as long distance walking and cycling routes along or near these rail lines which could compromise their development as walking/cycle routes in the future. Along these corridors other uses shall not be considered. Where these corridors have been compromised by development, adjacent land which could provide opportunities to bypass such an impediment and reconnect these routes for walking/cycling shall be protected for this purpose.* Based on **Donegal** 5.1.2 P 24 all except

last sentence, **Mayo** Vol 1 Chpt 4 Natural Heritage NH 01f), **Offaly** 7.17 ROWO 02 and many other plans.

**32** *While it should be possible to provide most routes on existing track alignment, there may be a need for **diversions** and deviations following detailed survey and design work and consultation with landowners. The aim is to include these routes in a map in the Plan. Meanwhile adequate protection needs to be given to abandoned rail lines so as to avoid inappropriate development that could compromise their viability.* Taken from Cork County 8.7.6 1<sup>st</sup> sentence 1<sup>st</sup> phrase, 2<sup>nd</sup> & last sentences.

## **GREENWAYS, BLUEWAYS AND PEATWAYS**

### **33 Pol or Obj**

**Support** the delivery of strategic **greenways**, **blueways** and **peatways** in accordance with the “Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways”. Taken from **Westmeath Draft** 12.22 CPO 12.74.

## **Map 17 Existing Walking/Cycle Routes**

### **18 National Cycle Network**

## **8.8 BURIAL GROUNDS**

### **Policies for Burial Grounds**

**46** We submit that **this should be replaced by:** *Protect, preserve, enhance, conserve and maintain archaeological/historic graveyards and their settings and historic burial grounds(including those identified in the RPM) and those in the guardianship of the Council through improved access and preserve their heritage and cultural values. Encourage and promote local involvement and community stewardship in the care, upkeep, maintenance, management rehabilitation and conservation of these graveyards in accordance with legislation, best conservation and heritage principals and best practice guidelines. Maintain all burial grounds in the Council’s charge in good condition.* Based on **Donegal** 7.3.3 P 6, **Leitrim** 3.4.5 1<sup>st</sup> para 1<sup>st</sup> sentence & Pol 28 1<sup>st</sup> phrase, **Westmeath Draft** 4.11.7CPO 4.4.8 and many other plans.

## **Chapter 9: Development Management Guidelines and Standards**

### **Pol/Obs**

## **9.25 COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

### **25.3 Cycling and Walking**

## **9.33 TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**1<sup>st</sup> para 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> pts**

## **9.34 EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY**

**1st para 1<sup>st</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> pts**

## **9.35 FORESTRY**

**Last para**

**KEEP IRELAND OPEN**

**July 2020**