

Sheila Healy

From: Ivo Brett [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday 10 January 2021 23:27
To: cdp
Subject: Longford CDP comments

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to firstly commend Longford County Council for producing such a comprehensive and far reaching County Development Plan. I broadly welcome the plan and have the following comments.

The county trails as outlined in Appendix 5 on Tourism is very comprehensive.

- In particular there is a very good proposal to connect lake-side roads on the eastern shores of Lough Ree. A walking/cycling route adjacent to the Lake would provide a really unique and impressive experience. Furthermore if connected across the Inny River into Westmeath this could provide a very impressive missing link between the Royal Canal Greenway and the Dublin Galway Greenway at Athlone.

- The proposal to turn the BnM rail lines into walkways and cycleways is also a very good idea and will provide a really great local amenity and a very attractive eco tourism product/offering.

- The proposed trail from Clondra to Newtownforbes is also a welcome proposal as it would provide a very important link between these two townlands and would allow residents of the Newtownforbes area to access the mid Shannon wilderness park.

- parking for the various walkways and cycleways should also be considered as there is no doubt that these will be popular for visitors arriving by car.

- consideration should be given to the barriers at access points of these walkways/cycleways to balance the need for accessibility but also protecting these from motorbikes and horses which can destroy the trail surfaces.

In relation to hydro electric generation, I feel that it is important to recognise that there are existing sites on local rivers such as weirs and mill buildings which have a history of harnessing the power of these waterways. Special consideration should be given to such sites to promote the use and generation of sustainable energy at these locations.

Yours sincerely

Ivo Brett
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