

SUBMISSION TO OFFALY DRAFT PLAN

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.

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.

The Draft fails to comply with, have regard to or take into account:

Planning & Development Acts

Plans in adjoining counties

DoECLG Guidelines

Heritage Act 1995

National Heritage Plan

Eastern & Midland RSES

Development Plan Guidelines

We will refer to these in the course of our Submission.

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 Midland Region RSES .

We presume that you will be monitoring the provisions in Draft Plans in L aois, Tipperary Galway Roscommon , Westmeath and Longford which has commenced and that you will liaise with their planners to ensure that the plans are compatible, where appropriate.

Counties in **bold** are adjoining or in the Midland RSES

The mention of a section in the Draft, without comment, indicates our support.

We are concerned that many of the excellent provisions in the 2014 Plan have not been carried forward to the Draft without any apparent reason. We will be referring to them in the course of our Submission. Therefore, we would ask you to look again to see if they could be included.

FORMAT

Contents We submit that as well as the main Chpts you should include Sub-Sections.

Index We submit that you should provide an Index, as recommended in the Development Plan Guidelines (5.15), and that the page numbers where topics are primarily dealt with should be bolded. See Sth Tipp Clare DLR & Waterford.

Development Management Standards We submit that these should be dealt with at the end of each Chpt as this would make the plan more user friendly. At the very least the Pol Chpts and Chpt 13...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 the Chpt/Sec numbers should be placed on each page.

Chapter 3 Climate Action & Energy

3.14 Climate action and Energy Policies

Electricity Transmission and Distribution

CAEP- 02 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 mountains areas, by integrating with their surroundings 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 **St Dublin** 10.2.10 Obj 1, **Galway County** 13.9 DM Standard 31a) 1st sentence, **Westmeath** 10.14 P ELE1(Draft 10.29 2 10.157 last phrase) , **Longford** 5.5.1 3rd pt 1st phrase, **Roscommon** Pol 4.59 last phrase, **Laois** 6.6.3 ELEC 4 ii, **Meath** 11.15.4 2nd & 4th pts(Draft 6.15 INF POL 48), **Longford** 5.5.1 2nd pt and many other plans.*

We submit that **you should Include an additional Pol:** *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 **Louth** 9.2 EnCo 5, **Kildare** 8.12.2, **Meath** 8.1.10 EC POL 19 and many other plans.

Hydro Energy **CAEP - 29**

We submit that **you should include an additional 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 2nd pt.

Solar Energy

CAEP - 31 last phrase We submit that **this should be replaced by:** *Development must safeguard and protect the natural heritage and have no significant adverse impact on surrounding natural or built heritage features, biodiversity, views and prospects and scenic routes or on the visual character of the landscape and amenities. There is a presumption against their being located in sensitive areas such as Natura 2000 sites and must take into account possible cumulative effect and the potential for mitigation through screening with hedges.* Based on **Sth Dublin** 11.7.5 3rd pt, **Laois** 6.6.1.3 Ground Mounted Arrays last para last sentence 1st phrase, **Tipperary** Renewable Energy Strategy App 1 6.8 3 Pol RE10 1st para 2nd line, **Fingal** 7.3 Obj EN12 last phrase, **Kildare** 7 SE 2 5th pt, 8th pt 5th line pt 5th line & **Westmeath Draft** 10.2.4 10.41 2nd 6th & 8th pts.

CAEP - 32

We submit that **you should include an additional Pol:** *Make representations to the appropriate government department to make **Planning Guidelines** for ground mounted solar farms.*

Wind Energy

CAEP - 35 (a), (b), d) & e)

CAEP - 37

We submit that **you should include Maps** showing the degree of acceptability from prohibition to preferred including areas in adjoining counties considered unsuitable. See **Sth Dublin** Fig 10.4 and other counties

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

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 **Roscommon** 4.6 Obj 4.55 1st phrase and other plans

Have Done: Louth Nth Tipp Wicklow and many other plans.

2 Identify existing public rights of way and established walking routes and maintain and preserve them free from development.

Taken from Cavan 4.73 PIO 117.8.

3 Restrict large scale wind energy structures in the rural hinterland and mountain areas to protect their overriding visual and environmental values. Taken from **Sth Dublin** 10.27 Pol 9.

2 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 1st para 1st sentence.

Micro Renewal Energy

CAEP - 453. 15 Climate action and Energy Objectives

Wind Energy

CAEO - 03

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

1 Developments must be appropriately located. Taken from Sligo 11.1 SP EN 2 1st para 4th 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 sites 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. Where impacts are inevitable what mitigation features have been taken into account. Based on **Fingal** 12.10 DMS138 1st sentence 2nd phrase (ii), (iii), (v) & (vi), **Meath** 8.1 EC POL 3 last phrase & 11.15.1 2nd, 3rd & 6th pts, **DLR** 8.2.10.1 2nd para last sentence 2nd, 3rd & 4th pt 1st phrase, **Louth** 9.4 Pol EnCo 9 2nd phrase, **2014 Plan** 3.7 EP 02, **Nth Tipp** 7.13.5(i) SERV 22 last phrase and other plans.

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) 2nd phrase, **Meath** 11.15.1 1st para 4th pt (Draft 11.10 6th pt) & **DLR** 8.2.10.1 2nd para last sentence 4th pt last phrase.

Chapter 4 Biodiversity and Landscape

We submit that this **should be entitled *Natural Heritage* to better reflect its contents.**

4.16 Biodiversity and Landscape Policies

Designated and Non designated Sites

We submit that **this Pol requires a complete re-write as many topics are total unrelated.**

Geology, Eskers and Quarries

We submit that you should delete **Quarries** from the Title and include **BLP 13 & 14** in Chpt 5 Economic Development Policies: Aggregates and Mining

BLP 09 We submit that **this should be replaced by:** Work with stakeholders, to protect sites or features in areas of geological or geomorphological interest or importance from inappropriate development by prohibiting development at, or in their vicinity, or which threaten their existence, integrity or conservation value. Identify, protect, enhance, maintain, manage, conserve, and where appropriate, restore

*their character and promote their preservation (including sites that may become designated during the lifetime of the Plan, in the interest of protecting our geological heritage. Based on **Planning & Development Act 2000** First Sch Part IV 6, **DLR** 4.1.3.9 Pol LHB27, **Kildare** 13.9 NH 16, **Sth Dublin** 9.70 Pol 19, **Wicklow** Vol 1 10.3 Natural Heritage Strategy 3rd pt & 10.3.5 NH26, **Westmeath** 5.8 P2, 9.3 Obj NH30(Draft 12.13 12.28,) **Fingal** 5.3 COUNTY GEOLOGICAL SITES Text 4th sentence & 9.3 Obj NH30, **Roscommon** 7.2 Obj 23 1st phrase and many other plans.*

10 We submit that **this should be replaced by:** *Promote, encourage, facilitate and support access and public rights of way to geological and geo-morphological features of interest inter in consultation with landowners(when appropriate).* Based on **Fingal** 9.3 Obj NH 31, **DLR** 4.1.3.19 last para, **Westmeath Draft** 12.13 12.32 1st phrase and many other plans.

We submit that **you should include an additional Pol:** *Co-ordinate the continuing development of strategic **walking routes**, trails and other countryside recreational opportunities.* Taken from Cavan 8.5 NHEO11.

10 We submit that this should be deleted as it conflicts with Obj 6

11

Peatlands

All

We submit that you should include additional Pols:

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 **Laois** 5.10 OBJ12 & **Longford** 4.5 TOU 23 last pt.

2 ***Protect**, conserve and manage the character, appearance, heritage and amenity values of peatland landscapes including any ancient walkways through bogs and to conserve our archaeological heritage by promoting high environmental standards in **conjunction** with the BnM, NPWS, Coillte, IPCC and NGOs.* Based on **Laois** 7.19 LS44, **Meath** 9.7.6 1st para 2nd sentence, **2014 Plan** 2.12 TP 06, **Westmeath** 5.12 P O 3(Draft 12.17 12.56 and many other plans.

*3 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 1st phrase & **2014 Plan** 7.4 NHO 12*

Waterways, Lakes and Wetland Landscapes

All

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.
AND

Pols or 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 inland waterways including riparian/waterway corridors. In partnership with NPWS WI and other relevany stakeholders Based on **National Heritage Plan** 4.17, **Fingal** 9.2 Obj NH25 1st phrase, **Sth Tipp** 6.3.4 Pol AEH7 2nd phrase, **Longford** 6.2.2.7 ILW 3 2nd line, **DLR** 4.1.3.7 Pol LHB25 2nd sentence, **Westmeath Draft** 6.7 6.44 1st phrase & 12.16 12.48 1st phrase and many other plans.*

*2 Recognising the importance of rivers and riparian corridors and buffer zones for their natural amenity and scenic values, **provide** promote, develop and facilitate/accommodate **access for walking**, cycling tracks and other compatible activities along inland waterways including rivers and canals to facilitate the creation of linear parks, in co-operation with landowners, WI, NPWS, Government Departments, community groups and other councils. Based on **Nth Tipp** Pol ENV 16 1st phrase, **Laois** 7.19 LS17 1st phrase, **Louth** 7.4 TC 25, **Dublin City** 10.5.4 GIO18 2nd phrase, **Kildare** 14.12.1 CR 7 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 lake 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 **Sth Tipp** 6.3.4 Pol AEH7 & **Longford** 6.2.2.7 ILW 7,

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

7 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, canals(including towpaths and river banks and adjacent wetlands 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, amenity, natural heritage, geological or landscape character values 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 **Dublin City** 10.5.4 GI15 2nd sentence & GIO18 1st phrase, **2014 Plan** 4.20 Env P 23 & 7.3 NHP 13 1st sentence, **Roscommon** 7.4 Obj 7.30 & 7.4 Pol 7.8 1st phrase, **Laois** 7.16 35, **Galway County** 9.9 Pol NHB 4 & Obj NHB 9, **Kildare** 14.8.5 WC 3 & 14.9.2 WV 3, **Sth Dublin** 8.2.0 Obj 4 1st phrase, **Fingal** 9.2 Obj NH24 & 25 3rd line, **DLR** 4.1.3.7 LHB25 1st sentence 1st phrase & 1st para below Pol 4th pt, **Westmeath** 5.16 P RLC3(**Draft** 12.1612.49 & 55 1st sentence), **Longford** 5.3.2 SFRA 3, 6.2.2.7 ILW 3 1st phrase, 8 & 9 1st sentence, **Meath Draft** 8.13 HER POL 47 and many other plans.

8 **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 2nd sentence, **Kildare** 14.12.2 RW 2 and many other plans.

9 Normally only permit proposals for **development associated with water sports** adjacent to waterways(including inland lakes)where the proposed facilities are compatible with existing use of water including non-recreational uses, which will not result in damage to important features of archaeological heritage or Natura Sites, can be satisfactorily integrated into the landscape or will not have an unacceptable impact on visual or environmental amenities especially in areas of high amenity or scenic importance. Based on **Laois** 8.5 DM 34, 1, 2 1st phrase, 3 1st phrase & 4 and many other plans

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 demands. Taken from Carlow 8.11.9 2nd para 1st sentence & Kilkenny 7.3.4.1 2nd para.

11 **Adopt bye laws prohibiting** or restricting jet-skiing, water skiing and any other **noise generating activities** within one year of the adopt of the Plan. Adapted from Leitrim 3.10.3 4th para & Carlow 8.11.9 1st para 6th pt,

Note Mayo has adopted bye laws

12 When considering development applicants relating to activities such as the use of **jet-skis and power boats** have regard to the recommendations of any **national guidelines** which may come into force with respect their potential impacts on nature conservation. Taken from **Roscommon** 7.3 Obj 7.14.

13 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 2nd sentence & **Dublin City** App 23.9 2nd para last sentence.

14 Adopt a **regional approach** to the **protection** of watercourses in co-operation with neighbouring counties.
Taken from Leitrim 1.10.2 g) 1st phrase.

15 Require that **development along rivers set aside land for pedestrian routes** that could be **linked to** established **settlements**.
Taken from Carlow 8.11.10 Pol 5 2nd pt 1st phrase.

16 *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 1st sentence & 6.

**You should add: or by the use of compulsory powers*

17 *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 1st phrase and other plans.

18 ***Promote** the natural, historic and **amenity value** of watercourses to address the **long term management** and **protection** and strengthen **regional links**.* Taken from **Sth Dublin** 8.20 Pol 3.

CANALS

19 *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 2nd sentence page 45, **Longford** 6.2.2.7 ILW 10 1st sentence, **Kildare** 5.9.5 ECD 29 & **Westmeath** 5.16 P 4 5th line.

20 *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 8th para 1st phrase.

GRAND CANAL INCLUDING THE BARROW LINE

21 *Support and facilitate the development of an integrated network of Greenways and Trails(including bluewater trails long the Grand Canal for **cycling, walking** and nature study.* Based on **Laois** 7.15 WW3 & **Sth Dublin** 4.50 Pol 6 Obj 1 & 9.2.4 Obj 2 1st phrase.

22 *Ensure that **development** along or adjacent to the Grand Canal **contributes to the creation** of an open and integrated network of*

*walking and cycling routes that integrates into the Grand Canal Way Green Route. Taken from **Sth Dublin** 9.2.4 Obj 3.*

23 Protect, preserve, maintain, improve and enhance the national heritage, recreational and amenity value (including walking and cycling) of the Grand Canal corridor and its towpaths by ensuring that development along and adjacent to the canal protects and incorporates high value natural heritage features including watercourses, wetlands, woodlands and includes a buffer area to facilitate a fully functioning Green Infrastructure network. Based on **Sth Dublin** 9.2.4 Obj 5 & **2014 Plan** 7.3 NHP 14, 7.9 AHAP 01& 7.18.6 3rd sentence.

24 Promote and develop the towpaths along the Grand Canal, Barrow Line and Corbally Line Canal to expand recreation in co-operation with WI and adjoining councils. Based on **Action Plan for Rural Development** 2017 Pillar 3 Act 168 1st phrase & **Kildare** 5.19 EO52.

25 Investigate the possibility of **developing long distance walking routes**, within the lifetime of the Plan, along disused canals (Corbally Line, Blackwood Feeder and Mountmellick Line). Taken from **Kildare** 14.11.5 CR5.

LAKES

26 Promote, extend, develop and facilitate the provision of increased **access** to lakes and lakeshores to extend public walking and cycling routes. Based on **Galway County** 9.3.4.1 HL55 8th pt, **Westmeath** 3.16 P 6 1st phrase, 6.27 O 2, 7 & 13 O 8 & O 9. **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 1st phrase.

27 Support the provision of **walking and cycling links** between lakes and nearby villages. Taken from **Westmeath Draft** 6.7 6.48 1st phrase.

Trees, Forestry and Hedgerows **BLP 22 & 24**

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

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

A Commercial forestry

1 *Recognising the contribution that forestry 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 relevant stakeholders and agencies.* Based on **Smarter Travel 2009-2020** Act 17 2nd sentence page 45, **Westmeath** 3.41 P 4, 6.21 P 10 & 6.23 P 12 1st phrase, **Laois** 5.10 RUR4, **Nth Tipp** 4.5 EV27, **Meath** 9.7.8 OBJ7(Draft 9.7 RUR POL 30), **Sth Dublin** 4.3.9.x and many other plans.

2 *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. See also **Roscommon** 3.4.2 Pol 44 2nd sentence & **Westmeath** 3.41 P 59(Draft 9.14 9.52).

Note If this isn't done walking routes tend to become subsumed into the network of forest roads thus making it very difficult, over time, to establish the existence of these routes.

3 *Ensure that existing **public rights of way**, traditional walking routes are not obstructed.* Taken from **Roscommon** 3.4.2 Pol 3.44 1st sentence.

4 *Forestry **must not be visually obtrusive** in the landscape so as to ensure that development is appropriate in its character, nature and scale and that it is carefully managed to so that it doesn't detract substantially or result in damage to visual amenity or have a negative visual effect on the rural environment and character of the countryside or cause pollution to or degradation of wildlife habitats, natural waters or areas of geological importance. It must enhance and be in harmony with the landscape. Protect and safeguard scenic and exposed/elevated landscapes, nature conservation areas (including Natura Stes and NHA's), monuments, archaeological or other historical or heritage*

features. Based on Laois 5.10 Afforestation last sentence, Wicklow Vol 1 5.6 Forestry FYP2 1st to 3rd pts, Westmeath 3.41 PF3 1st phrase(Draft 9.14 9.47 last phrase & 50 last phrase), Meath 10.10 POL 16(Draft 9.7 ROR POL 29 last phrase) , Fingal 5.3 Obj RF86, Sth Tipp 9.20 1st para (i) & (ii), Nth Tipp 4.5.1 Pol ENV 26a), Roscommon 3.4.2 Pol 3.33 & 35 1st para 1st & 2nd pts, Kildare 10.4.5 last para 2nd sentence and many other plans.

*5 No new or replacement coniferous forests will allowed on summits generally **above 250 mtrs.** Taken from Laois 7.19 LS37 2nd sentence.*

B Amenity Woodlands

*6 Protect woodlands and groups of trees 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 1st line, Wicklow Vol 1 10.3.3 NH14, Fingal 9.2 Obj NH27, Laois 7.13 NH22 1st phrase, Kildare 13.10.1 GI8 1st phrase and many other plans.*

C Commercial Forestry and Amenity Woodlands

*7 Recognising the recreational potential of forestry, including Coillte's "open forest" policy, 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 Westmeath 3.41 P 4 and other plans.*

Green infrastructure

All

All Ireland Pollinator Policy Plan

All

Areas of High Amenity

All

Invasive Species

All

Protection of Key Scenic Views and Projects and Key Amenity Routes

4.17 Biodiversity and Landscape Objectives

Designated and Non Designated Sites

We submit that **these should be repositioned in proposed additional Sub Sec: Designated Sites**

Geology, Eskers and Quarries

As above Quarries should be deleted from the Title.

All

We submit that you **should include additional 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 1st sentence.

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 **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 **Laois** 7.22 ESK1 2nd sentence & **Roscommon** 7.3 Obj 7.19.

Waterways, Lakes and Wetlands

All

Trees, Forestry and Hedgerows

All

Green Infrastructure

All

Invasive Species

All

Landscape

All

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

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 **Fingal** 9.2 High Amenity Zoning last pt, **Dublin City** 10.5.2 GIO9 and other plans.*

2 *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 1st phrase & 30, **Kildare** 14.8.3 LU 1, 4 & 5 and many other plans.*

4 *Preserve the status of traditionally **open/unfenced landscapes** including commonages and other hill land. Based on **Galway County** 9.11 Obj LCM 3 1st sentence & **Wicklow** Vol 1 10.3.7 NH42 1st phrase.*

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, unspoiled 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 Longford 6.1.1 2nd para 1st sentence, **Fingal** Chpt 9 Obj 36, **Galway County** 10.11 Pol RA 2 1st phrase, **Nth Tipp** 4.2 Key Landscape Aims (ii) & 4.2.1 ENV 3 (d), **Louth** 3.10.7 1, **Sth Dublin** 9.20 Pol 7, **Kildare** 14.8.1 LA 1 1st phrase, **Westmeath** 6.23 P HAA1 & 5, **Meath** 9.8.6 OBJ 1 2nd phrase and many other plans.

Protection of Key Scenic Views and Amenities

All

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

A DESIGNATED SITES

This topic can be dealt with in a number of different ways. Probably the best way of dealing with it. is to consider dividing Assuming you agree we have divided this topic into the following sections:

A Special Areas of Conservation

B Special Protection Areas

C Natura Sites

D Natural Heritage Areas

E Combined Euro Natura Sites & NHAs

F Other Sites

A Special Areas of Conservation

Pols or Objs

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 **Roscommon** 7.1 Special Areas of Conservation 2nd para 1st sentence, **Fingal** 9.2 Obj NH16 and many other plans

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.

B Special Protection Areas

3 Development in, near or which could **adversely affect a SPA** should avoid any significant adverse impact on the features for which the site has been designated or which could affect its integrity. Council will take appropriate steps to avoid the deterioration or disturbance of habitats or species contrary to the Habitats Directive and in particular will protect plant and animal species. Based on **Roscommon** 7.1 Special Protection Areas last para 1st sentence and many other plans.

4 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. Taken from Waterford City 10.4.2 Objs 6th pt.

C Natura Sites

5 All developments, plans and projects that have the potential to have a negative/adverse impact on the integrity or coherence 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(as transposed into Irish law by the EU Habitats Regulations 1997 and subsequent amendments) and S.177A of the Planning and Development Act(2000 – 2010) or any superseding legislation to ensure the protection, management, enhancement and improvement of the network 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, which could have significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts,(either individually, cumulatively or in combination with other plans) on the conservation objectives and qualifying interest of a Site, due to their size, scale or land take unless there imperative reasons such as overriding public interest of a social economic nature and adequate compensatory measures have been identifies and put in place to ensure and that it can be established that there is no feasible alternative or less damaging solutions. 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 **Sth Dublin** 9.3.1 Objs 1 & 2, **Kildare** 13.5 NH4, & 5, **2014 Plan** 7.3 NHP-04 1st phrase, **Louth** 5.4 Pol HER 5, **Longford** 6.2.2.3 NHB 6 1st & 2nd paras, **Westmeath** 5.5 P-NAT2(Draft 12.8 12.4 & 5) and many other plans.

D Natural Heritage Areas

6 *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 proposed for designation. Ensure the protection of the ecological, 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 **Sth Dublin** 9.3.2 Text & Obj 2, **Roscommon** 7.1 Natural Heritage Areas 2nd sentence, **Laois** 7.10 OBJ1, **Kildare** 13.5 NH 7 1st phrase & 8 1st phrase, **Westmeath** 5.6.1 P- NHA-1 & 4 and many other plans.*

7 *Assess all proposed **developments** in order to determine if they are **likely to impact** directly, indirectly or cumulatively on designated natural heritage sites in accordance with relevant legislation. Taken from Waterford City 10.4.2 Objs 6th pt & Carlow 9.1.1 Pol 2 5th pt.*

E Combined Natura Sites and NHAs

8 ***Protect**, conserve, preserve, enhance, maintain and, where necessary restore the 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 **Nth Tipp** 8.4.10 4th para 1st pt 1st phrase, **Sth Tipp** 6.3.3 2nd para 1st phrase & HERT 29, **Roscommon** 7.1 Strategic Aim for Designated Sites 1st para & Pol 1, **Meath** 9.7.2.2 POL 5, **2014 Plan** 7.3 NHP-01 & 03, **Longford** 6.2.2.3 NHB 6 1st para Preamble and many other plans.*

9 Maintain or restore the favourable **conservation condition** of designated or proposed site **under the control of the Council**. Taken from **Roscommon** 7.1 Obj 1.

F Other Sites

10 Protect, conserve, . protect the integrity of and maintain the favourable conservation status and conservation value of **Ramsar Sites, Statutory Nature Reserves, Biogenetic Reserves, and Wildfowl Sanctuaries** under National and European legislation and International Agreements and maintain and /develop **linkages** between them. Prohibit development which would damage or threaten their integrity. Based on **Fingal** 9.2 OBJ NH17 1st phrase, **Kildare** 13.5 NH 8 1st phrase, **2014 Plan** 7.4 NHO-02 and other plans.

B Natural Heritage

Pols or 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 2nd last line, **Wicklow** Vol 1 10.3.7 NH40, **Laois** 4.3 NRA6 1st phrase & 9 & 5.11 TM29 1st phrase, **Sth Dublin** 9.40 Pol 16, **Sth Tipp** 6.3.7 Pol AEH10, **Longford** 6.2.2 NHB 3, **Fingal** 5.1 NH01, **Roscommon** Pol 3.7.5 1st 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. See also **DLR** 4.1.1.1 Pol LHB1& **Kildare** 14.12.2 CR 11.

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 which could or might have a negative impact on natural amenity and recreational assets, 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 ©, **2014 Plan** 7.4 NHO 02 1st phrase, **NPF** Pol Obj 60, **Kildare** 13.4 NH 1, **2014 Plan** 2.11 4th para, **Louth** 5.7 HER 10 & 14.10 LO 4, **Meath** 4.6.8 POL 29, **Galway County** 9.3 Pol GH3 & 4 & 9.9 Pol NHB1, **DLR** 4.1.3.1 Pol LHB19 1st sentence, **Longford** 6.2.2 NHB 1 1st sentence & 2, **Wicklow** Vol 1 10.3 Natural Heritage Strategy 4th pt and many other plans.

4 Impose “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 5th pt.

5 Adopt a regional approach to the protection, conservation and management of the environment in co-operation with neighbouring counties. Taken from Leitrim 1.10.2 g) 1st phrase.

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.

C Wetlands

Pols or Objs

1 *In partnership with the NPWS, WI and other stakeholders facilitate **public access** to wetlands and support and protect the amenity potential of wetlands.* Based on **Meath** 9.7.10 POL21 and other plans.

2 **Protect**, conserve, preserve, manage and enhance wetlands(including fens) 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 **2014 Plan** 7.3 NHP 11, **Fingal** 5.3 Obj RF 98 1st sentence & 7.2 Obj SW01, **DLR** 4.1.3.7 1st para 6th pt, **Longford** 5.3.2 SFRA 3, **Galway County** 8.7 Obj FL3, **Sth Dublin** 7.2.0.9, **Galway County** 9.9 Pol NHB 4, **Westmeath Draft** 12.15 12.41 and many other plans.

Chapter 5 Economic Development

5.8 Enterprise Policies

Communications Infrastructure

ENTP 33

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

1 *Require the identification of **Public Rights of Way** and established walking routes 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 or on the natural environment.* Taken from **Sth Dublin** 7.4 Obj 6.

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

2 *The Council shall, in **assessing an application**, take into account the impact on established **walking routes**.* Taken from Mayo Vol 2 55.3 4th pt.

5.10 Rural Economic Development Policies

Agriculture

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

1 *Recognise and support the role of **farmers as custodians** of the natural resources of the countryside and of rural landscapes.* Taken from Cavan 3.5 EDO6 1st sentence 1st phrase.

2 *Promote, at national level, the adoption of **a Land Use Strategy**.*

Note: All EU countries(including Ireland) are under increasing pressure from the EU to comply with various EU Directives. In response to this Scotland adopted a Strategy in 2011. See the 2014 Report of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Agriculture, Food and Marine page 10.

3 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, ensure that they do not have an undue negative impact on the visual/scenic amenity of the countryside and its appearance and character and integrate into the landscape. 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 **Laois** 5.10 RUR13, **2014 Plan** 10.6 RDO4 and other plans.

Aggregates and Mining

REDP 16

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

1 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. They shall be kept free from development as a Rights of Way/Walking Route. 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 **Kildare** 10.7.8 EI 5 last pt, **Westmeath** 3.43 P 11 last pt(**Draft** 9.15 9.58 110th pt) and many other plans.

3 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), existing and proposed NHA's, Euro Sites, Nature Reserves archaeological sites and features, natural heritage, natural environment, features of natural beauty or interest, designated and prescribed sites, geological sites and areas of geological/geomorphological or historic interest 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 compromised or there is a reduction of the visual quality of areas of high amenity. All working should be landscaped either by the retention of existing vegetation or by screening. Based on **Sth Dublin** 4.7.0 Obj 1 & 2, **Galway County** 6.21 Obj EQ 1, **Roscommon** 3.4.4 last para 1st phrase, 3.57 & 9.34 1st para 1st sentence 1st & 5 pts, **Laois** 8.5 DM69 f), **Meath** 10.12 RD POL 27(Draft 9.9 HER POL 40 in line 1, 41 1st phrase & 44 1st to 3rd & 6 to 8pts)), **Longford** 4.6 MA 2m), **Kildare** 10.7.8 3 & 5, **2014 Plan** 2.8.6 3rd para & 2.9 RDP 14 1st sentence, **Wicklow** Vol 1 5.6 Wicklow Extractive industry Strategic Obj, EX1 & Vol 3 App 13 Extractive 1st para, **Westmeath Draft** 9.15 9.58 2nd & 3rd 9th & 10th pts and many other plans.*

*.4 Require that **development proposals** on or in proximity to a quarry site should investigate the nature and extent of the risks **associated with the development together with appropriate mitigation**. Taken from **Roscommon** 3.4.4 Pol 3.56.*

5.11 Rural Economic Development Objectives

Aggregates and Mining
Agriculture
RDPO 14

Peatlands After-use
RDPO 05 & 07

Chapter 6 Tourism and Recreational Development

6.6 Public Rights of Way

1st para We submit that **this should be replaced by:** *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 and natural beauty such as rivers lakes, bogs, forests and places of natural beauty.* Based on **Fingal** Chpt 5 5.3 Public Rights of Way 2nd para, **Westmeath Draft** 12.24 2nd para 1st sentence and many other plans.

2nd para We submit that **this should be replaced by:**
*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 **Wicklow** Vol 1 10.3.8 2nd para 2nd & 4th sentences & last sentence 1st pt and other plans.

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

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

2 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.

3 It is suggested that the list of public rights of way 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 & Wexford 15.9 RS 3.

Table 6.1 Public Rights of Way

Figure 6.19

6.7 Tourism Policies

TRP 31 We submit that **this should be replaced by:**

Recognizing the importance of maintaining established public rights of way preserve, protect, promote, enhance, maintain and improve them, for the common good, all public rights of way particularly those giving access to mountains, lakes, river banks, geomorphological features of heritage value and other places of natural beauty or recreational utility by ensuring that development doesn't impinge thereon. Based on Sth Dublin 9.40 Obj 1 1st phrase, DLR 4.1.2.3 LHB14 1st pt, Galway County 10.13 PRW1, Roscommon 8.6 Obj 8.5 & 8.7.1 Pol 8.36 4th line, Meath Draft 8.16 HER POL 51, Westmeath Draft 12,24 4th para 1st phrase & 12.30 1st phrase and many other plans

32 We submit that **this should be replaced by: 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 DLR 4.1.2.13 LHB14 4th pt and many other plans.

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

1 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.

2 *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 **Wicklow** Vol 1 10.3.8 NH47 last sentence, **Sth Dublin** 9.4.0 Action, **Westmeath** 7.15 O 3 1st sentence and excluding 2nd phrase(Draft 12.24 in line 1 & 12.50 ,**Sth Tipp** 6.3.7 Pol AEH10, **Longford** 6.4 AM 6 1st sentence 1st line, **DLR** 4.1.2.13 LHB14 2nd & 3rd pts and many other plans.

3 *Ensure the provision of, and where necessary, improve **signposting** and waymarking on all public rights of way.* Based on **Westmeath** 7.15 O 4(Draft 12.24 12 51) & **Fingal** 5.2 Obj RF120.

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.

4 ***Designate Pilgrim Paths such as Clonmacnoise 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.

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

6 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 1st sentence 2nd phrase.

7 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 6th pt, **Laois** 7.21 PRW5 2nd phrase, & **Kildare** 14.12.2 RW 4.

8 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 **DLR** 4.1.2.3 LHB14 5th pt (i) & (ii), **Fingal** 5.2 Obj RF118 2nd phrase, **Laois** 7.21 PRW6 and other plans.

9 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 4th para 3rd sentence.

10 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 1st sentence.

11 Protect and promote **Greenways and consider designating them as public rights of way**. Taken from **Laois** 7.21 PRW5 1st phrase.

12 Seek to identify and protect over the lifetime of the Plan further existing public rights of way which give access to the mountains, lakeshores, riverbanks or other place of natural beauty or recreation utility (accompanied by mapping. Take from **Meath Draft** 8.16 HER OBJ 45.

13 Where appropriate, **links** to established Public Rights of Way in **adjoining counties** will be identifies. Taken from **Westmeath Draft** 12.24 12.50 last sentence.

6.7 Tourism Policies

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

1 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, maintenance 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 and materials so that there are no significant adverse impact on the coastal areas, Natura 2000 sites, historic or archaeological sites, maritime heritage or the countryside generally.. They must be integrated, assimilated and absorbed into the landscape to take advantage of natural screening and topography. Based on **Sth Dublin** 4.50 ET Pol 5 Obj 1 last phrase, **Roscommon** 3.5 Pol 77, **Longford** 6 TOU 1 & 7, **Kildare** 5.22 ECD40, **Fingal** 5.3 Rural Tourism Obj RF112 1st sentence, **Wicklow** Vol 1 7.4 T2, **Westmeath** 3.14 P 3 last phrase, **Meath** 4.6.8 ED POL 27 1st phrase and many other plans.

2 Tourism and recreational development shall be assessed against the nature and scale appropriate to the character of the area and shall be located to be visually sympathetic to its surroundings. Taken from **Wicklow** Vol 3 App 1 4 Tourism & Recreation, General criteria for tourism and recreational development 1st pt 1st sentence & 2nd pt 1st sentence.

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

Sport and Recreation

Sport and Recreation Policies

1 Support development, in co-operation with various stakeholders to promote, preserve, improve, encourage **public access** to lakes, 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), Galway County
10.11 Pol RA 1, **Meath** 4.6 POL 40 & **Westmeath** 3.14 P 7 down to
recreation on line 3 & 7.13 P 1 3rd line and many 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 1st sentence 1st
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. It will
normally only permit development where it won't result in damage to
sites of nature conservation or important features of archaeological
heritage, will not cause harm to the appearance and character of the
landscape and can be readily absorbed into its surroundings by taking
advantage of existing vegetation and/or topography, where the
enjoyment of the countryside isn't adversely affected by the nature,
scale, extent, frequency or timing of the proposed activities including any
noise likely to be generated and any ancillary development shall be
small in scale, designed to a high standard and sympathetic to
environment in its setting, layout and landscaping. Based on
Wicklow Vol 1 7.3 Strategic Objs 8th & last pts and other plans

2 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.

5 Development proposals for Noise Generating Sports will not normally
be permitted unless there is no conflict with the enjoyment of areas used
for informal recreation. Taken from **Kilkenny** 7.7.2 last para 3rd pt.

6 Adopt Bye-laws banning the use of motor bikes and quads (except
for bona fide agricultural purposes) in privately- owned areas of rough
grazing (including commonage) and motorised para gliders.

Note **Louth** & **Sligo** have adopted

*7 Support the maintenance of and enhanced **access** to **state lands** such as National Parks, Forest Parks , Woodlands etc for recreation. Taken from **RSES EMR 6.5 RPO 6.16.***

Chapter 8 Sustainable Mobility and Access Ability

8.7

Walking and Cycling

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

WALKING

Table We submit that you should include a Table with maps of **Way-marked Ways** of medium/long-long distance walking routes, Greenways, Sli na Slainte, heritage/historic walking trails, pilgrim paths, paths to mass rocks and holy wells, looped walks, hillwalks, forest walks and other defined walking trails with accompanying maps and a data base should be set-up and up-dated as new trails emerge. See **DLR App 8, Louth Map & 2014 Plan 7.15.3 2nd para.**

To this you should add: *Following the adoption of the Plan a temporary register of additional routes shall be maintained and should be included in the web site pending inclusion in the next Pla*

Pols or Objs

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 **Sth Dublin 9.4.0.3 1st sentence 1st phrase& 2nd sentence, DLR 4.1.2.16 Pol LHB17 1st sentence 1st phrase and 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, upgrade and facilitate **Slí na Sláinte** routes. These should be waymarked/signposted, where feasible.*

A Table should be included. Based on **Kildare 6.5 WCO 5 last pt,**

DLR 4.1.2.16 Pol LHB17 last phrase,

Text below Pol 2nd sentence & **Westmeath 8.13 O 13 last phrase.**

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 2nd 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 **DLR** 4.1.2.16 para under Pol 2nd & 3rd sentences, **Laois** 5.13 TM21 1st sentence, **Meath** 4.6.8 ED OBJ 9(Draft 4.28.5 ED OBJ 76) & **Westmeath** 3.14 P-GT 7 5th line.*

***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** Ensure the **protection** of and co-ordinate the continuation of **strategic walking routes** and trails. Taken from Cavan 9.6.1 RTO3 10 1st phrase.*

***10** Preserve and **protect** the integrity of existing public walking and access routes(including long distance walking routes) which contribute to the general amenity by prohibiting the intrusion of development along these routes particularly those in scenic and high amenity areas and along inland waterways. Based on **Louth** 6.5.11 EDE 22, **DLR** 4.1.2.14 LHB15, **Kildare** 14.12.2 RW 2 and many other plans.*

11 Protect listed walks from development that creates or has the potential to create dis-amenities. Taken from Cavan 9.6.1 2nd para.

12 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 2nd & 3rd sentences.

13 Protect access routes to upland walks and public rights of way. Taken from Laois 5.10 RUR14.

CYCLING

We submit that you should include a Table of **Cycle routes with maps**. See Louth M 7.2, Roscommon 8.7.1 Table 8.2 Map 17 and other counties

To this 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.*

14 Promote, facilitate, support 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 3rd pt 4.2.3, **DoTT's NCPF(2009)**

OO Breadth of Interventions page 7 6th pt on right hand col & 7th & 8th pts, Pol 3.4, Obj 5 & Pol 5.6, **2014 Plan** 4.6 STAP 08 1st line & 7.14 LAO 03, **Westmeath** 8.13 O 8 1st sentence 1st phrase, 2nd sentence last phrase(**Draft** 10.4.1 10.15), last sentence 1st phrase & last phrase, **Sth Tipp** 7.1.4 4th para,

Kildare 6.5.2 ST 17 1st phrase and many other plans.

15 Cycle routes should be designed using current thinking and best practice from experience in other locations, lower speed limits and

priority over motorised transport to ensure road safety for pedestrians and cyclists. Taken from **Roscommon** 8.7.1 42 2nd sentence.

16 *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*

Has: Fingal(part time) & Meath

17 *Promote and facilitate the **development of cycle routes** in accordance with the **National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010**.*

Taken from **Louth** 6.5.11 EDE 21.

18 *Support the development, maintenance and enhancement of trails and routes in co-operation with 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 **Westmeath** 8.13 O 8 1st sentence last phrase, **Kildare** 14.12. 1 CR12 and many other plans.

19 *Produce **cycle maps**.* Taken from **NCPF 2009** Pol 6.2 1st sentence & **Westmeath** 8.13 O 8 last sentence 2nd phrase.

20 *Support community, authority or agency led projects that would deliver identified **strategic cycling links**.* Taken from **Laois** 6.1.1 TRANS38 1st phrase.

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

22 *Support the **policies** of the **National Cycle Framework 2009**.*

Taken from Limerick County 6.10.3 Obj COM 026.

WALKING & CYCLING

23 *Support, promote, establish and actively encourage the provision, development, extension and design of off road **interlinked cycleways and walkways**, (mention routes), including medium and long distance walkways and particularly those with historic associations in, conjunction with the Irish Sports Council, IW and other stakeholders to link with a strategic network of trails from residential areas, open spaces and existing or new public rights of way to facilitate the creation of a secure and safe greenways network to provide access to scenic, mountain, lakeshore and river features and to link with adjoining counties, including*

cross border counties in partnership with their councils, the state, private and voluntary sectors. Based on **Westmeath** 3.16 O 3, **Louth** 6.5.11 EDE 23 1st sentence, **Roscommon** 8.7.1 Pol 8.39, **Longford** 5.1.3 PED 3 2nd sentence 1st & last phrase, **2014 Plan** 2.12 TP 05, **Wicklow** Vol 1 7.4 T29 and many other plans.

24 Encourage and support the enhancement and extension of existing walking and cycle routes by **utilising links from residential areas**, parks and open spaces and existing and new public rights of way to facilitate the **creation** of a secure green **network** to provide access to **scenic** mountain, lakeshore and river features. Taken from **Cavan** 9.6.1 RTO 19 1st phrase.

25 Support, promote, facilitate and continue to develop a comprehensive, integrated and connected **network of greenways**, within the County and adjoining counties in accordance with the “Strategy for the future Development of National and Regional Greenways”, in parks and public open spaces and work with the NTA, adjoining councils and all stakeholders to develop a co-ordinated approach to the selection, delivering and servicing of future greenway, in order to achieve improve external linkages, to achieve maximum impact and connectivity and to provide alternative routes for pedestrians and cyclists. Based on **NPF** App 1 Obj 22, **Kildare** 5.19 EO 49, **DLR** 4.2.2.7 Pol OSR8, **Laois** 4.2 OBJ6, **Westmeath Draft** 10.4.2 10.77 & 23 and many other plans.

26 Engage in the **CPO** process, when required, to facilitate the timely delivery of the **Greenway** programme. Taken from **Meath Draft** 5.7.6 MOV OBJ 31.

27 Walking and Cycling will be promoted, developed, facilitated and encouraged in accordance with initiatives contained in “Smarter Travel 2009” by improving existing cycleways and by developing a network of safe, maintained, comfortable, convenient and guarded cycle routes and footpaths on existing 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, including regional, local distributor and local collector roads and on roads being up-graded, 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 **Smarter Travel 2009 - 2020 Cycling and Walking** 1st para 2nd sentence last phrase, **Laois** 6.1.1 TRANS40 & 41, **Kildare** 6.5 WC 2, **7 Louth** 7.4 TC 22, **Roscommon** 8.7.1 pol 8.37 2nd line, 42 1st sentence, **Wicklow** Vol 1 9.1.3, **Dublin City** 8.5.4 MTO10, **Westmeath Draft** 10.4 Pol/Obj i0.10 on line 2 and many other plans.

28 Signpost and waymark walking and cycle routes with appropriately designed quality signage and information boards. Based on **Wicklow** Vol 1 7.4 T29 2nd line, **Nth Tipp** 6.11.3 3rd line, **Kildare** 14.12 CR 10, **Roscommon** 8.7.1 Pol 8.37 and many other plans.

29 Provide, create, promote, plan, support, maintain, enhance, encourage, extend, facilitate and support the development and improvement of walking, rambling and cycling 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 countryside 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** 3rd pt, **Dev Smarter Travel 2009 - 2020** Cycling and Walking 1st para in line 6, **Laois** 4.3 NRA21 1st phrase, 5.11 TM20 & 7.19 LS5, **Kildare** 14.12.1 CR 4, **Meath** 4.6.8 2nd para 1st & 2nd sentences, 4.6 POL 40 1st sentence 2nd line & 4.6.8 ED OBJ9, **Westmeath** 3.14 P 7 5th line, **Longford** 4.5 Tourism Product 2nd para, 5.1.3 PED 3 & 5, **Sth Dublin** 4.5.0 Pol 6.1, 6.3.0 Pol 3.1 & 9.4.0. Pol 16.5, **Roscommon** 8.7.1 pol 8.36 1st sentence, **Louth** 7.4 TC 24, **Wicklow** Vol 1 7.4 T29 1st phrase & 9.1.3 TR11 1st phrase, **Sth Tipp** 6.6 SE AHO 5 & **2014 Plan** 7.14 LAO 03.

30 *Encourage and **support sensitive development** which provides for the provision of **access** to natural habitats and heritage features.* Taken from **Meath** 4.6 Obj 42 1st phrase.

31 *Seek opportunities for the development of suitable walking routes, cycle tracks and bridle paths along **historic access routes**. Explore the potential of inter-county trails(named). Augment existing networks and trails at key heritage sites.* Based on **Action Plan for Rural Development 2017** Pillar 3 Action 200, **Longford** 4.5 Mid-Shannon Wilderness Park(sic) last para, 5.1.3 PED 3: 2nd sentence 1st phrase and other plans.

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

33 ***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, **DLR** 2.2.7.1 1st para under Pol 3rd sentence, **Kildare** 14.12.1 CR 3 1st sentence 1st phrase & 2nd sentence, **2014 Plan** 4.7 STAO 1 and other plans.

Notes

1 **Done:** **Laois Louth** and many other counties

2 Fingal has adopted a Cycle Strategy.

34 *Provide 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 **Laois** 5.11 TM20, **Nth Tipp** 7.5.7 Obj INF 28 7th line, **Kildare** 14.12.1 CR 14 1st phrase, **Longford** 6.4 AM 3 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

35 Establish new Walkways and cycle routes on a **legal and permanent basis**. Taken from **Sth Dublin** 2.2.14 2nd 15th para 1st line.

36 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 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, **Laois** 5.11 TM25 3rd phrase, **Westmeath** 3.14 O 6, **Sth Dublin** 4.5.0 Action and many other plans.

37 Ensure that **walking and cycling routes** and the public footpaths network are **maintained** and where feasible improved. Based on **Roscommon** 8.7.1 Pol 8.37, **Meath** 4.6.8 2nd para 1st sentence and many other plans.

38 **Protect** the integrity, extent, scenic quality, visual setting and functionality of **Greenways** and walking and cycle routes. Based on **Louth** 6.5.11 EDE 22 and other plans.

39 Protect the routes of, and **prohibit development** which would hinder the creation and development of **future Greenways**, walking and cycling routes including those identified in the Plan. Taken from Donegal 11.3 P 13 2nd pt.

40 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.

41 **Protect** established **walking and cycling routes** and keep them free from development which would adversely impact upon them. Taken from Cavan 9.8.1 RTO18 1st phrase.

DISUSED RAILWAYS

42 Actively encourage, **support, promote** 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 and bridle paths to improve access to rural tourist attractions, with related signage and waymarking. Based on **Smarter Travel 2009-2020** Act 17 2nd sentence page 45, **Kildare** 14.12 CR5, **Louth** 6.5.11 EDE 20, **Westmeath** 8.13 O 4 1st sentence, **2014 Plan** 7.16 ROWP 04 and many other plans.

Note

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.

3 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 for local people and visitors.

4 Substantial Government Grants are available for capital costs

43 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 **2014 Plan** 7.17 ROWO 02, **Sth Tipp** Pol INF3 last sentence and many other plans.

44 While it should be possible to provide most routes along the 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 8.7.6.5.

45 *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 2nd sentence 1st phrase

Note

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

8.8 Sustainable Mobility and Accessibility Objectives

SMAP - 06

Chapter 9 Social Inclusion, Community and Cultural Development

9.27 Social Inclusion, Community and Cultural Development Policies

SICCOP 36 *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 value 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 **Roscommon** 8.8 Pol 46, **Laois** 4.2.4 BG3, **Meath Draft** 7.7.9 SOC POL 46 and many other plans.

Chapter 10 Built Heritage

We submit this **should be re-e-entitled *Heritage* to better reflect its proposed contents.**

Pols or Objs

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.* See **Co Heritage Plan Action 3 Heritage and Tourism.**

2 *Prepare and implement a **strategy for access** to heritage routes by identifying, promoting 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 in **Sth Dublin** 2.4.(i), **Westmeath** 3.9, **Wicklow** 2.1 and many other plans.

3 Appoint a **Heritage Forum** on a permanent basis to assist the heritage officer in implementing the actions and objectives of the heritage plan.

Cos who have one: Kildare Laois Meath Roscommon Westmeath and many other counties.

4 Support the objectives and Actions of the County Heritage Plan. Taken from **Sth Dublin 9** Pol1 Obj 2.

10.11 Built Heritage Policies

We submit that **you should amend the title as above.**

Protected Structures

All

Architectural Conservation Areas

All

Vernacular Building

All

Industrial Heritage

All

Country House and Demesne Gardens

All

Protected Species

All

XXXArchaeological Heritage

Monastic Sites

All

Funding

All

Community Archaeology

Built Heritage Objectives

We submit that **you should amend the Title as above.**

Protected Structures

All

Architectural Conservation Areas

All

Vernacular Buildings

All

10.11 Built Heritage Policies

Archaeological Heritage

BHP - 33 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) and other statutory and other relevant policy decisions. Development, either above or below ground, taking place within or adjacent to sites should be designed to ensure that it will 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 and features. 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 e 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) 1st phrase & First Sch Part IV 6, DPG 4.26 1st para 2nd sentence last phrase & 4.28 2nd para last sentence, Sth Dublin 9.1.0 Pol 2 & Obj 2 & 3, Galway County 9.7 Pol ARC 1 & 4, Obj ARC 1 down to Historic Monuments & 7, Laois 7.4 OBJ3, 7.9 2nd para 1st sentence 1st phrase, 7.9 2nd para 1st sentence 1st phrase & BH3, Westmeath 5.33 O1 & 8, 2014 Plan 7.19 AAHP P08 1st sentence & AAHP 04 3rd pt, Fingal 10.1 Statement of Policy 1st para 1st pt & 10.2 Obj CH03 1st phrase & 7 h), Wicklow Vol 1 10.2.2 Archaeology last sentence, Longford 6.2 HER 1 & 1 ARC 1 1st sentence, 3rd sentence, 2, 3, 11 & 12, Louth 5.9.1 HER 21 1st sentence, Roscommon 6.7 Pol 6.9 & Obj 6.21 1st phrase & Obj 6.22, Sth Tipp 6.4.3 Pol AEH13, Meath 9.6.9 OBJ 7 and many other plans

BHP - 34 We submit that **this should be replaced by:** *Recognising the importance of archaeology and National Monuments as part of our heritage, 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 Laois 7.4 1 OBJ1 & 2 1st sentence & 7.9 ARC 12, Roscommon 3.5 Pol 3.75 1st phrase, North Tipp 8.4.6 Pol HERT 26 6th line, Galway County 9.7 Pol ARC 2, Sth Dublin 9.4.0 Pol 16 Obj 4 Meath 9.6.9 POL 6, 2014 Plan 7.19 AAHP-07, DLR 6.1.2.1 Pol AH1 & last para, Wicklow Vol1 10.2.2 BH4, Longford 6.2.1 ARC 4 & 8, Kildare 12.9.1 AH 8 and many other plans.*

BHP - 34 to 39

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

1 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

We submit that **you should include an additional Sub Sec: Mass Rocks/Holy Wells**

Pol or Obj

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

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Chapter 11 Water Services and Environment

11.6 Environment Policies

Noise

All

Light Pollution

All

Chapter 13 Development Management Standards

13.2.3 Green Infrastructure

13.2.4 Energy

13.5 Failure to Comply with previous permissions

13.8 Assessments required for Certain Projects

13.8.4 Other Assessments

13.9 Development Management Standards

DMS 25 Riparian Zones

61 Motor Fuel Stations 2nd & 3rd paras

62 Commercial Developments in the Open Countryside

We submit that **you should include additional paras**

1 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 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 size, scale 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 **Nth Tipp** 6.10 ENCON 12b) & d) & 6.17 Pol ECON 31 c, **DLR** 3.2.2.3 Pol RET-3 last sentence last phrase, **Laois** 5.9 RET18 last phrase & 8.DM25(1), (2), (3) last phrase & (4), **Roscommon** 3.2.1 Pol 3.2 last phrase, **Westmeath** 3.2.8 1st pt and many other plans.

2 Economic **development** that **urban in nature** should be in the first instance **located in urban areas**. Taken from **RSES EMR** 4.8 RPO 4.55. 13.9.8.

Tourism and Recreation

82 Tourist facilities

13.9.10 Built Heritage

93 Protected Structures

94 Architectural Heritage Assessment Report

95 Architectural Conservation Areas

96 Archaeological Sites

13.9.13 Energy and Conservation

109 Wind Farms

110 Solar Farms

111 Telecommunications

13.9.14 Extractive

112 Quarries and Ancillary Developments

We submit that **you should include an additional DMS:**

113 Mining

Fencing Of Hitherto Open Land

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 1st sentence. See also DLR 8.2.7.5 1st para & Sth Dublin 11.5.5(iii) 1st sentence,

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 2nd 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.

4 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(1)(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 **Fingal** Chpt 5 Obj RF1 and many 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.

KEEP IRELAND OPEN

Oct 2020