

From: [REDACTED]
To: [forwardplanning](#)
Subject: Review of Dev Plan
Date: Friday 4 September 2020 15:28:08
Attachments: [SUBMISSION.docx](#)

We attach our submission to the above.
Pl acknowledge receipt.
Keep Ireland Open 43 Butterfield Drive Dublin 14.

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SUBMISSION TO Galway ISSUES PAPER

Information about Keep Ireland Open

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

We are members of Comhairle na Tuaithe.

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

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

Other county plans

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

Review of Plans in adjoining counties or within the Region

We presume that you will be monitoring the reviews of Plans which have commenced in Leitrim Roscommon, Cavan, Mayo, Tipperary, Westmeath, Offaly and in Clare which is imminent and that you will liaise with their planners to ensure that the plans are compatible, where appropriate.

As our submission is very focused on issues of walking/cycling, public rights of way and better access to the countryside rather than answering the questions therein, we are basing our submission on a critique of the 2015 Plan.

CRITIQUE OF EXISTING PLAN

We presume that you will use the 2015 Plan as the basis for the new one as it contains much excellent material. It does, of course, require expansion and updating.

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

- Planning & Development Acts
- Plans in adjoining counties
- Development Plan Guidelines
- National Heritage Plan
- Heritage Act

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

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

FORMAT

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

Development Management Standards and Guidelines

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 Chp 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 we submit that you should include the Chpttitle & its number on each page.

Chapter 4 Economic, Tourism and Retail Development

4.14 Economic Development and Tourism Policies and Objectives

Pol EDT 1 Economic Development

We submit that the last phrase should be replaced by: *Protect the landscape from inappropriate development by ensuring that developments and other activities associated with tourism or recreational activity do not cause damage, be detrimental to or detract from the traditional character or appearance of areas of scenic or visual amenities and ensure that the layout, design and associated infrastructure are of highest quality. Developments must be sensitively located, and be sympathetic in manner with the environment, heritage and amenities. They must ensure the protection and conservation of amenities, be compatible with their intensity, scale, and balance and ensure that are not located where they would be detrimental to environmentally sensitive landscapes. Ensure the highest quality standards of design 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 **Cavan** 9.7 RTO27, **Sligo** 4.4 TOU-3, **Roscommon** Pol 3.77, **Mayo** Vol 1 Chpt 2 Tourism TM-O1 & Vol 2 5.8, **Westmeath** 3.14 P 3 , (**Draft** 6.5 CPO.626 in 3rd line), **Monaghan** 4.7.2 TMP 2, **Donegal** 4.1.4 EDP - 14(b), (h), (k) 1st phrase & 9.1 1st 7th & 8th pts and many other plans.

We submit that We submit that **you should include an additional Pol:** *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.

12 Farm Diversification

13 Seveso 11 Directive

23 East Galway, Lough Derg and the Burren

We submit that you **should include an additional Pol or Obj**: *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, nature and pattern and is situated in areas of low environmental sensitivity. 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), **Roscommon** 3.2.1 Pol 3.2 last phrase, **Monaghan** 4.9 BRP 2 last phrase & 15.16 RCP 1 1st, 2nd & last pts & **Westmeath Draft** 9.11.1 CPO 9.34.

Chapter 5 Roads & Transportation

5.1 Land Use Integration and Sustainable Transport Strategy

National and Local Cycle Networks

Cycleways/Greenways

Text

Cycle Routes

Text

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

Support the proposed greenways as part of the primary cycle network and as part of a link to **Barna and Oranmore** in the city and **Maigh Cuilinn and Oughterard** in the County. Taken from **Galway City** 3.6 2nd para.

Public Transport Objectives

Objective TI 19 County Walking and Cycling Strategy

We submit that: the 1st phrase should be repositioned in proposed additional Cht: Walking and Cycling and should be merged with proposed Pol or Obj 17.

Chapter 6: Water, Wastewater, Waste Management & Extractive industry

6.10 Water Policies and Objectives

Water Policies

Policy W5 Water Quality

Water Objectives

Objective WS1 Protection of Ground Waters

2 EU Policies and Directives

9 River Basin Management Plan 2009 – 2015

11 Regionally and Locally Important Aquifers 13 Private Water Supply

6.11 Waste Water

Wastewater Objectives

Objective WW 1 EU Policies and Directives

6 Adherence to Environmental Standards

6.21 Mineral Extraction and Quarry Policies and Objectives

Mineral Extraction and Quarry Policies

Policy EQ 1 Environmental Management Practice

2 Adequate Supply of Aggregate Resources

Mineral Extraction and Quarry Objectives

Obj EQ1 Protection of Natural Assets

We submit that **this should be replaced by:** *Recognising that the industry can impose impacts on amenities, ensure the protection, conserving, preserving and safeguarding recorded monuments and areas in their vicinity, World Heritage Sites, Existing or Candidate 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, groundwater and important aquifers from inappropriate development. Applicants must recognise that the aggregates(stone and sand/gravel deposits and mines) concrete products industry have a particularly sensitive role in relation to the environment. Any development of aggregate extraction, processing, delivery must be carried out so that it minimises adverse effect on the environment and visual and natural amenities to the greatest possible extent must be carried out during all life cycle stages, whether in respect of new quarries or extensions to existing ones and development will be prohibited if the quality of the environment or landscape, particularly sensitive landscape, is adversely affected or there is a reduction of the visual amenity of areas of high amenity. All working should be landscaped either by the retention of existing vegetation or by screening. Based on **Roscommon** 3.57 & 9.34 1st para 1st & 5th pts, **Clare** 10.4.6 P13, **Mayo** Vol 1 Chpt 2 Extractive Industries EI 01, **Cavan** 3.8 EDP6, **Westmeath Draft** 9.15 CPO 9.58 2nd, 3rd, 9th & 10th pts and many other plans.

2 Management of Aggregate Extraction (a)to c) & (e).

4 - Compliance with article6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive

We submit that you should include additional Objs:

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 **Monaghan** 15.25 EIP 4, **Sligo** 4.3.4 P MEQ 2 last phrase and many other plans.

3 *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.

Chapter 7: Renewable Energies & Communications Technology

7.5 Energy and Renewable Energy Policies and Objectives

We submit that, while we accept that these two topics have something in common, it is preferable they are dealt with separately. As far as we are aware Galway County is the only development plan which combines these topics. If you agree this would require a rewriting of these Pols & Objs.

A Renewable Energy

1 Obj

*Produce a **Renewable Energy Strategy***

Note

Have done: **Clare, Mayo, Roscommon & Tipperary**

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

3*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. Ensure proper integration with their surroundings. Where impacts are inevitable what mitigation features have been taken into account.* Based on **Offaly** 3.7 EP 02, **Nth Tipp** 7.13.5(i) SERV 22 last phrase and many other plans.

4 *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 & DLR 8.2.10.1 2nd para last sentence 4th pt last phrase. See also **Monaghan** 15.20 3rd sentence & last pt.

B Wind Energy

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

5 *Undertake an analysis of suitable areas for wind energy and **prepare a map showing the Landscape Suitability for Wind Energy***

Development in accordance with national guidelines including section 3.5 of the Wind Energy Guidelines(2006) and any subsequent revisions and as recommended in the LCA. Based on **Sligo** 11.1 SO EN 2 & **Roscommon** 4.6 Obj 4.55 1st phrase.

Have done: Donegal & Nth Tipp

6 *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.

7 *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.

C Hydro Power

8 *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.

D Solar Power

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

10 *Development must safeguard and **protect** the natural and archaeological heritage and must have no significant adverse impact on the surrounding natural environment on the visual character of the landscape particularly on raised/elevated sites, or historic amenities.*

There is a presumption against their being located in sensitive areas such as Natura 2000 sites. Development must have regard to its effect

on scenic routes, its possible cumulative effect and the potential for mitigation through screening with hedges. Based on Tipperary Renewable Energy Strategy App 1 6.8 3 Pol RE10 1st para, Westmeath Draft 10.24 CPO 10 13.9 & 141 2nd, 3rd, 6th & 9th pts and many other plans.

Electricity Transmission (including telephone & TV cables & Gas Infrastructure)

Pols

*1 Recognising that large-scale overhead powerlines can have a significant impact on the visual character of an area, ensure that **energy corridors do not impact** on the natural environment and minimise their visual impact and obtrusiveness by avoiding areas of high amenity, high landscape value, scenic importance, sensitivity or sites and areas of nature conservation and areas of archaeological interest, NHAs, SPAs, SACs and National Monuments and by preserving the natural environment. Where impacts are inevitable mitigation measures to minimise their visual obtrusiveness must be provided for in, in respect of Natura Sites, networks must comply with Art 6 of the Habitats Directive. Based on Westmeath 10.14 P ELE1, Leitrim 3.11.4 Pol 127 last pt, Roscommon Pol 4.59 last phrase and many other plans.*

*2 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 feature have been provided/included where impacts are inevitable. Based on Monaghan 15.22 EGP 2 1st sentence 1st phrase, Galway City Pol 914 last para 4th pt and many other plans.*

7.7 Information and Communications Technology Policies and Objectives

Information and Communications Technology Policies

2 Installation of Information and Communications Technology in High Amenity Areas

Information and Communications Technology Objectives

Objective ICT 1 Facilitate the Delivery of Telecommunications, Broadband and Digital Infrastructure

2 Assimilation of Telecommunications Infrastructure into the Landscape

3 Co- Location of Telecommunications Infrastructure

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

1 *Ensure that **Public Rights of Way** and established walking routes are be identified prior to any new telecommunication developments(including associated processes) which will be prohibited if they impinge or impact thereon or on recreational amenities, natural environment or public access to the countryside.* Based on **Roscommon** 4.7 Pol 4.70, **Cavan** 4.8 PIO123, **Westmeath Draft** 10.30.2 CPO 173 and many other plans.

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.

Chapter 8 Climate Change & Flooding

We presume that this will be updated.

Chapter 9 Heritage, Landscape & Environmental Management

9.3 General Heritage Policies

Policy 1 GH 2

We submit that **the rest of these Pols should be deleted as the issues include therein are fully covered in other sections in the Plan.**

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

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.*

Have done: Westmeath

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

We submit that you **should include an additional sub Sec: County Heritage Plan: Pol or Obj**

The Council will work with the Heritage Forum In order to deliver the objectives and actions of the Plan to protect the natural heritage and implement, promote and support and actively work in partnership with all relevant stakeholder, the Heritage Council, OPW, NPWS, NMS, community groups and the public, the aims and objectives contained in the Plan and any revision thereof. To which you should add: See our web-site (insert address). Based on Laois 7.2 last sentence & 7.4 OBJ11 1st phrase, Fingal 9.1 Obj NH01 & Meath 9.4 last para 1st sentence. See Also **Westmeath 5.3 P 10, Mayo Vol 1 Chpt 4 Heritage GH-01, 2015 Plan 9.9 Pol NHB 6, Sth Tipp 6.5 Pol AEH 14, Sligo 7 O H I, Clare 14.3.1 1, Cavan 8.2 2 NHEP3 1st sentence & Monaghan 6.2 Obj HLP1.**

9.5 Architectural Heritage Policies and Objectives

Architectural Policies

Policy AH 1 - Architectural Heritage

2 Traditional Skills

Architectural Heritage Objectives

Objective AH 1 Legislative Context

2 Protected Structures

3 Architectural Conservation Areas

4 Works Relating to Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas

5 Demolition

6 Vernacular Architecture

8 Energy Efficiency and Traditionally Built Structures

10 Designated Landscapes

9.7 Archaeological Heritage Policies and Objectives

Archaeological Heritage Policies

Policy 1 ARC 1 Legislative Context

2 Archaeological Sites 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 **Leitrim** 1.10.2h), **Mayo** Vol 1 Chpt 4 Access to Heritage & Amenities Archaeological Heritage AoH 01g 1st phrase, **Roscommon** 3.5 Pol 3.75 1st phrase, **Sligo** 4.4 P TOU 8 & 2 P AH 6 and many other plans.

3 Consultation

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

including in particular, those within a 20m radius of National Monuments, will not be permitted and those within 75m will be discouraged. Ensure that development, within adjacent to or in the vicinity of an archaeological monument shall not detrimental to its character be or setting by reason of its bulk or detailing and shall be sited and designed in a manner which minimises its impact settings, is resisted. Extend this protection to cover additions or alterations that may arise during the adoption of this Plan and to newly discovered remains. Protect and preserve all archaeological sites and monuments included in the RMP, any sites of and features of historic or archaeological interest and any subsurface arch features that may be discovered during the development. Protect, where appropriate, the character and setting of any unrecorded archaeological site from inappropriate development.

Based on **2000 Planning & Development Act** First Sch Part IV 6, **DPG** 4.26 1st para 2nd sentence last phrase 4.28 2nd para last sentence, **Westmeath** 5.33 O1 & 8(Draft 14.3 CPO 14.5 1st phrase), **Offaly** 7.19 AAH P08 1st sentence, **Cavan** 7.5 BHO18 1st sentence, **Mayo** Vol 2 App 5 last para, **Sligo** 7.2 P AH 1 & 7.2.3 P AH 3 1st sentence, **Donegal** 7.3.3 P 4, **Roscommon** 6.7 Pol 6.9 & Obj 6.22, **Sth Tipp** 6.4.3 Pol AEH13, **Leitrim** 3.9.8 Obj 93 & Pol 106 & 1st para 1st sentence and many other plans.

5 Archaeological Heritage 1st phrase

We submit that **this should be merged with 4 above.**

2nd phrase

6 Archaeological Landscapes

Archaeological Heritage Objectives

Objective ARC1 Protection of Archaeological Sites

We submit that **this should be merged with Pol 4.**

2 Development Management

Protection of New archaeological Sites

We submit that **you should insert after sites in line *In situ*.**

Taken from Limerick County 7.5.2 Obj EH 026,.

4 Burial Grounds 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 Donegal 7.3.3 P 6, Leitrim 3.4.5 Pol 28, Westmeath Draft 4.11.7 CPO 4.48 and many other plans.*

5 Battlefield Sites

6 Underwater Archaeological Sites

7 Recorded Monuments We submit that **this should be merged with Pol 4.**

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

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

2 *Traditional access routes will be **designated as public rights of way.** In other cases, routes will be acquired by agreement with landowners or by way of compulsory powers. Taken from Laois 7.4 OBJ2 2nd & 3rd sentences. See also **Westmeath** 5.33 P 5.*

Map of Architectural Conservation Areas AH 1

9.9 Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Policies and Objectives

Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Policies

NHB 1 Natural Heritage and Biodiversity

We submit that:

A The reference to from *including in line 2 to Wild Fowl Sanctuaries* should be repositioned in an additional Sub Sec: Designated Sites

B The reference to *Conamara National Park* in line 4 should be positioned in an additional Sub Sec: National Parks

C The reference to *active and passive recreation* in line 7 should be repositioned in a proposed additional Pol or Obj 2

D We support the rest of the Pol.

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

1 *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 archaeology 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 **Offaly** 2.11 4th para, **Sligo** 7.1 P NH 1, **Cavan** 8.2 NHEP1, **Leitrim** 1.10.2 b & 3.8.1 1st para 3rd pt & 2nd para i to iii, **Mayo** Vol 1 Chpt 4 Natural Heritage NHa) 01, **Donegal** 7.1 Aim and many other plans.

2 *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 **2015 Plan** 9.9.Pol NHB 1 2nd last line, **Mayo** Vol 1 Chpt 4 Access to Heritage & Amenities AC 01a & b, **Sligo** 4.4 P TOU 5 1st para & 2nd para 2nd sentence & 6.7.4 POR 16 1st phrase, **Sth Tipp** 6.3.7 Pol AEH10, **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.

3 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.

4 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.

5 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. See also **Sligo** 7.4 P CAP 7.

2 Policy NHB 2 Non- Designated Sites

3 Green Infrastructure

4 Water Resources last phrase

We submit that **this should be repositioned in Objectives and merged with NHB 9.**

5 Geological and Geo-Morphological Systems We submit that this should :

A be repositioned in Objectives

B 1st phrase should be merged with NHB 4.

C 2nd phrase should be merged with additional Obj 1.

6 National Biodiversity Plan, Galway County Heritage Plan and Galway County Biodiversity Plan

We submit that you should delete the last phrase as it is invidious to single out a particular Pol as the implementation of other Pols will also have financial implications.

We submit that the references to *the County Heritage* Plan in line 2 should be repositioned in a proposed additional Sub Sec: County Heritage Plan to be placed after 9.3 General Heritage Policies and merged with Pol 2.

7 Invasive Species

8 National Parks and Wildlife Service Management Plan

Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Objectives

Objective NHB 1 Protected Habitats Species

2 Biodiversity and Ecological Networks

3 Water Resource

We submit that this should be repositioned in 9.9 Obj NH 9 Inland Waterways as an additional Obj.

4 Geological and Geo-Morphological Systems

We submit that you should include additional Objs:

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

2 *Co-ordinate the continuing development of strategic walking routes, trails and other countryside recreational opportunities.* Taken from Cavan 8.5 NHEO11.

3 *Work with stakeholders, to protect sites or features 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 interest of protecting our geological heritage. Based on **Planning & Development Act 2000** First Sch Part IV 6 & 7, **2015 Plan** Obj NHB 4, **Leitrim** 3.8.3.8 Objs 71 & 72, **Cavan** 8.5 NHEO12, **Westmeath** 5.8 P2, **Mayo** Vol 1 Chpt 4 Natural Heritage NH-01e), **Monaghan** 6.12 GEP 3 & 4, **Offaly** 7.2.13 last para 1st sentence, 3 NHP16, **Roscommon** 7.2 Obj 7.23 1st phrase & many other plans.*

5 Control of Invasive and Alien Species

6 Protection of Bats and Bat Habitats

7 Eskers

We submit that **this should be replaced by:** *Assess applications for quarrying activity in proximity to eskers having regard to their potential to impact on the landscape and amenity value designated status of the eskers and conserve them from inappropriate development. Based on **Roscommon** 7.3 Obj 7.19.*

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. Ensure that any plan or project affecting eskers is adequately assessed with regard to their potential impact on the environment.* Taken from Laois 7.22 ESK1. See also **2015 Plan** 9.9 Obj NHB 4, **Offaly** 7.10 & **Westmeath** 5.10 P 1.

Objective NHB 8 Coastal Zone a) & b)

c) We submit that **this should be replaced by:** *Prohibit inappropriate development where such development which could cause damage to, or degradation of, beaches, estuaries or sand dunes, protected/designated landscapes, amenity areas and their recreational and amenity values or where it might affect the character, quality and distinctiveness of seascapes. Protect, conserve, safeguard and preserve the character,*

visual, environmental and amenity values, quality and distinctiveness of coasts, landscapes and seascapes as valuable local, enhance their visual and scenic qualities by protecting the skyline and seek to maintain the status of designated Blue Flag beaches and Green Coasts and to increase the number of beaches and coasts holding this status. Strictly control the nature and pattern of development and ensure that it is designed and landscaped to the highest standards and sited so as not to detract from the visual amenities. Development must accord with its surroundings in scale, density, height, massing, layout and must not have a detrimental impact on skylines or important views. Development shall be prohibited where development poses a significant or potential threat to coastal features and/or where the development is likely to result in altered patterns of erosion or deposition. Protect the structure and function of sand dunes and prohibit development that would damage their visual integrity. Based on **NPF National Policy Obj 41a, Donegal 7.1.3 P8, 10.3 P9 &10, 2015 Plan 10 1st & 3rd sentences, Clare 12.3.15.14a)** and many other plans

d) & e)

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

1 Promote, plan, develop and support, in conjunction with the Councils in adjoining counties and other partner agencies the development and use of a strategic waymarked *coastal path/greenway* along the entire coastline. Based on **Galway City 4.5.1 1st para 1st phrase** and other plans.

Notes

1 In England, the Cornwall/Devon cliff path brings in annual revenue of £325M and in Wales there is a coastal path around entire 870 mile-long coastline which attracts 100,000 tourists annually.

2 Promote and support the development of an *inter-county coastal path linking, Galway Mayo and Sligo.* Taken from **Mayo Vol 1 Chpt 4 Access to Heritage and Amenities AC 03.**

3 Provide, support, actively promote, maintain, protect, improve and enhance public *access* to the coast, beaches, seashore, coastal heritage and scenic landscapes in co-operation with landowners, relevant stakeholders and local groups and with statutory and relevant organisations for recreational activities including walking and cycling and examine the designation of traditional walking routes thereto as public rights of way. Where feasible, develop walkways/cycleways between the

coast and green spaces in built-up areas. Based on **Sligo** 4.4 P TOU 8 & 6.7.4 P OR 16, **Leitrim** 3.3.3 Pol 19 and many other plans.

4 *Work to protect beaches, within dunes and in other vulnerable areas manage and **control car parking and vehicular movements**.* Based on **Sligo** 4.4 P CZT 1 2nd para 1st phrase and other plans.

5 ***Prohibit development of facilities for fishing and leisure developments** where the siting of such installations and their supporting infrastructure would have a ***significant adverse impact** on the natural heritage or detract from the visual amenity and the environmental quality and stability of an area or **public access to beaches**.* Taken from Fingal 9.5 Obj NH66.

**material would be better*

7 *Introduce **bye-laws** restricting or prohibiting **jet-skiing and water skiing**.* See Louth Harbour Bye-Laws 200
Has Done: DLR & Meath

6 ***Protect established rights of way to coastal areas.*** Taken from Louth 2.7 CON33.

7 ***In assessing proposals for Water Sports Development** ensure that the following criteria are satisfied: that *proposals are fully compatible with existing use, will not result in damage to nature conservation or archaeological features, can be fully integrated into its seascape landscape, or will not have an unactable impact on visual amenity or important scenic areas, or unduly restrict access.* Taken from DLR 8.2.10.5 st para & 1st pt 1st phrase, 2nd pt, 3rd pt 1st phrase & 6th pt.*

Objective NHB 9 Inland Waterways We submit that **this should be replaced by:** *Recognising the importance of inland waterways, both navigable and non navigable, work with State Agencies, landowners, local communities and other relevant groups/stakeholders to protect, manage, maintain, preserve, conserve, improve and enhance waterbodies and watercourses, rivers(named),streams river valleys, lakes, springs, turloughs, surface water and groundwater quality as well as surface water, aquatic and wetland habitats and freshwater and water dependent species and associated undeveloped riparian strips/zones, buffer zones distinctive linear sections of water corridors, canal and river banks, river and stream valleys and riverine wetland areas from degradation and damage and the visual impact of dispersed and highly visible development that could adversely affect them by compromising*

their visual integrity, recreational, 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 filling culverting or realignment and in certain instances by uncovering existing culverts. Based on **Offaly** 7.3 NHP-13 1st phrase, **Roscommon** 7.4 Obj 7.30 & 7.4 Pol 7.8 1st phrase, **Monaghan** 8.11 WPP 15, **Leitrim** 4.1.1 4th para 8, **Cavan** 8.9 NHEP21 1st phrase, **Sligo** 7.1.6 Riparian zones 1st para 2nd sentence & P2 INW 2 last phrase, **Offaly** 4.20 Env P 23 & 7.3 NHP 13 1st sentence, **Westmeath** 5.16 P RLC3(Draft 12.16 CPO 12.55 1st phrase) and many other plans

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.

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

1 *In partnership with the NPWS, WI, Councils, community groups and other relevant stakeholders, provide, protect, promote, encourage, develop, maintain, facilitate, increase and improve **public access** to the inland waterways including riparian/waterway corridors.* Based on **National Heritage Plan** 4.17, **Sth Tipp** 6.3.4 Pol AEH7 2nd phrase, **Leitrim** 3.10.3 Obj 100 & 3.10.4 Pol 106, **Clare** 14.3.11 14 d) 1st phrase and many other plans.

2 *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.* Based on **Nth Tipp** Pol ENV 16 1st phrase, **Leitrim** 3.6.3 Obj 29 and many other plans

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

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

5 *Require that **land adjacent** to river and canal banks and lakeshores be reserved/**preserved for public access** as an undisturbed buffer zone between new development and river corridors and other water*

*bodies to encourage increased public access and recreational opportunities. Based on **Sth Tipp** 6.3.4 Pol AE and other plans*

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 ***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 and many other plans.

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

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

10 *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.*

11 *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.

12 *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*

13 *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 **Leitrim** 3.10.3 2nd para 1st phrase & **Westmeath** 3.16 P 8 1st phrase.*

10 Protection of the Coastal Zone

We submit that this **should be repositioned in Obj 8 Coastal Zone** and that

A 1st sentence should be merged with c)

B 2nd sentence should be a)

C last sentence should be included as an additional Obj.

11 Trees, Parkland/Woodland Stonewalls and Hedgerows

a) & b)

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

1 *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 **Monaghan** 6.15 4th para 1st sentence & TWP 2 1st phrase & **Sligo** 7.1.5 P WTH 1 1st sentence.*

*2 Protect and encourage **access to woodlands**, in co-operation with Coillte, private landowners and other stakeholders for walking routes (including long distance and looped walks) mountain and nature trails and hiking. Based on **Sligo** 6.7.4 P OR 23 & **Westmeath** 3.41 P 4.*

13 NPWS and Integrated Management Plans

14 Protection of Riparian Zones

We submit that **this should be repositioned in 9.9.9 Inland Waterways as an additional Obj.**

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 it. Assuming you agree we have divided this topic into the following sections:

A SACs

B SPAs

C Natura Sites

D NHAs

E Combined Euro Natura Sites & NHAs

A SACs

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 **Clare** 14.34 CDP 14.4a) b) 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 SPAs

*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 its integrity. Assess prosed developments in order to determine if they are likely to impact directly, /indirectly or cumulatively on designated Sites in accordance with relevant legislation. Council will take appropriate steps to avoid the***

deterioration or disturbance of habitats contrary to the Habitats Directive. Based on Roscommon 7.1 Special Protection Areas last para 1st sentence, Clare 14.3.2 SPAs 2nd para 1st sentence, Cavan 8.4.1 2nd para 1st sentence and other plans.

C Natura Sites

4 All plans and projects that have the potential to have a negative /adverse impact on the integrity of a Natura Site will be subject to Habitats Directive Assessment and should be in accordance with best practice and guidance. Comply fully with Art 6(3) & (4) of the Habitats Directive(as transposed into Irish law by the EU Habitats Regulations 1997 and subsequent amendments) to ensure the protection, management and enhancement of Euro Sites, including any additional Sites that may be proposed during the lifetime of the Plan, by assessing and screening and, where warranted, by prohibiting developments or projects within, near or immediately adjacent to the county which could have significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary impacts, (either individually, cumulatively or in combination with other plans or projects or upon the integrity and conservation objectives and qualifying interest of a Site due to their size, scale or land take where the overall integrity of the site could be threatened or compromised unless there imperative reasons such as overriding public interest of a social economic nature and adequate compensatory measures to ensure the overall coherence of the Site and that it can be established that there is no feasible alternative solution. Sites should be afforded the highest level of protection in accordance with the relevant Directives and legislation. Promote the favourable conservation status of habitats and protective species including those listed under the Birds Directive, the Wildlife Acts and the Habitats Directive. Based on Donegal 7.1.2 NH-O-2, Cavan 8.4.2 NHEP9, Offaly 7.3 NHP-04 1st phrase Westmeath 5.5 P-NAT2, Leitrim 3.8.3.1 Pol 76, 8.19 Pol NH10 Pols 76 to 78, Clare 14.3.2 CDP 14.2a and many other plans.

D NHAs

5 Recognising their importance, and in accordance with relevant legislation, protect, enhance and conserve the character and integrity of designated or proposed NHAs including those that may be designated during the lifetime of the Plan and maintain their conservation value, by avoiding/resisting proposed development in, near or adjacent to Sites which could result in their deterioration or which are likely to have a significant adverse effect (direct, indirect or cumulative) on features for which the sites were designated or prosed for designation. Ensure the protection of visual, recreational, environmental and amenity values.

Ensure that any development is designed and sited as to minimise its impact on landscape values. Maintain the conservation value of Council owned land within designated or proposed Sites and promote the conservation value of adjoining council-owned land. Based on Roscommon 7.1 Natural Heritage Areas 2nd sentence, Monaghan 6.10 Heritage, Conservation and Landscape Policies HLP 14 1st sentence 1st phrase, Westmeath 5.6.1 P- NHA-1 & 4, Leitrim 3.8.3.4 Pol 79 and many other plans

4,

6 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

7 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 Cavan 8.4.2 NHEP9, Monaghan 6.10 Heritage, Conservation and Landscape Policies HLP 13 1st phrase, Nth Tipp 8.4.10 4th para 1st pt 1st phrase & HERT 29, Sth Tipp 6.3.3 2nd para 1st phrase, Roscommon 7.1 Strategic Aim for Designated Sites 1st para & 7.1 Pol 1, Offaly 7.3 NHP-01 & 03, Sligo 7.1.1 P- DNSC - 1, Mayo Vol 1 4 Natural Heritage NHO-3 and many other plans.

8 Apply the precautionary principle in relation to proposed developments in environmentally sensitive areas to ensure that all potential adverse impacts on a designated NHA or Natura 2000 Site arising from any proposed development or land use activity are avoided, remedied or mitigated. Taken from Limerick City 11 Pol LBR 8.

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.

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 **Offaly** 7.4 NHO-02, **Sligo** 7.1.1 P-DSNC-1 and many other plans.

Map of Designated Environmental Sites

Eco Map

Map of Designated Environmental Sites

Chapter 9.10 Landscape Conservation and Management

9.10.2.3 Landscape Sensitivity

Text

We submit that you should include an additional Sub Sec: Wetlands Pals or Objs

Protect, conserve, preserve, manage and enhance wetlands(including fens and turloughs) from infilling, fragmentation, degradation and protect and conserve their quality, character and features. Resist development (including land reclamation) which would destroy, fragment and degrade wetlands, coastal wetlands, estuarine marshland and control adjacent development by the use of buffer zones. Based on **Clare** 14.3.18 19, **Offaly** 7.3 NHP 11, **Cavan** 8.5.2 NHEP16 & NHEO16 & **2015 Plan** 8.7 Obj FL3 & 9.9 Pol NHB 4.

9.11 Landscape Conservation and Management Policies and Objectives

Landscape Conservation and Management Policy

Pol LCM 1 Preservation of Landscape Character

Landscape Conservation and Management Objectives

Obj LCM 1 Landscape Sensitivity Classification

2 Landscape Sensitivity Ratings

3 Open/Unfenced Landscape

4 Review of Landscape Character Assessment

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

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

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

3 ***Protect**, conserve, preserve, maintain, safeguard, identify and enhance the visual integrity,, scenic quality, general amenity and the visual quality of areas of intrinsically important and outstanding, highly **sensitive**, designated, natural, unspoilt and open **landscapes**(named), scenic areas, high amenity areas and the environs of archaeological or historic sites(named) from intrusive, inappropriate, injurious or unsympathetic new, or additions to, existing developments and reinforce their character and promote their distinctiveness by prohibiting development where it could unduly impinge or impact on or be detrimental to such landscapes or would be injurious to, or detract from natural amenities or introduce incongruous landscape elements.* Based on Laois 7.19 LS01 1st phrase & 30, Kilkenny 8.2.10 DMS 6th pt, Kildare 14.8.3 LU 1, 4 & 5 & Wexford 14.4.3 LO3.

4 ***Protect**, conserve, preserve, maintain, safeguard, identify and enhance the visual integrity,, scenic quality, general amenity and the visual quality of areas of intrinsically important and outstanding, highly **sensitive**, designated, natural, unspoilt and open **landscapes**(named), scenic areas, high amenity areas and the environs of archaeological or historic sites(named) from intrusive, inappropriate, injurious or unsympathetic new, or additions to, existing developments and reinforce their character and promote their distinctiveness by prohibiting development where it could unduly impinge or impact on or be detrimental to such landscapes or would be injurious to, or detract from natural amenities or introduce incongruous landscape elements.* Based on **Sligo** 7.4.4 1st sentence & P-LCAP-2 1st phrase, **Monaghan** 6.5 HLP

9, **2015 Plan** 10.11 Pol RA 2 , **Nth Tipp** 4.2 Key Landscape Aims (ii) & 4.2.1 ENV 3 (d), **Westmeath** 6.23 P HAA1 & 5, **Cavan** 8.7 NHEO25 1st sentence & 2nd sentence 1st phrase and many other plans.

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

Map Landscape Value Rating LCM1

Map Landscape Sensitivity and Character Areas LNM2

We submit that you include an additional Sub Sec:

Fencing Of Hitherto Open Land

Text

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

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

Pol or Obj

As new **fencing of land open to or used by the public** during the ten years preceding is not exempt development in accordance with Art 9(l)(a)(x) of the Planning and Development Regulations the following criteria will be used when considering planning applications for new fencing of hitherto open land : Fencing, particularly in upland, highly scenic or amenity areas, will not normally be permitted unless such

fencing is essential to the viability of the farm. The nature of the material to be used, the height of the fence, and in the case of a wire fence the type of wire to be used will be taken into account. Stiles or gates at appropriate places will be required. Barbed-wire will not be used for the top line of wire. Based on **Mayo** Vol 2 40.3.1, **Sligo** 7.4 P LCAP 6 2nd to last sentences 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.

9.13 Focal Point and View Objective

9.14 World Heritage Sites

Text

9.15 World Heritage Objective

We submit that you add after **Protect** in line 1: **preserve and maintain**. Based on **Mayo** Vol 1 Chpt 4 Archaeological Heritage AoH 01h) and other plans.

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

1 *Recognising and respecting potential Sites (name local Sites), support, pursue, progress, facilitate and **promote their designation as UNESCO WHS in collaboration/partnership with the appropriate Government Department, landowners, local communities and other stakeholders, to assist in the preservation of the natural heritage.*** Based on **Action Plan for Rural Development 2017 Pillar 3 Act 190, Roscommon 6.8.2 Pol 6.15, Clare 14.3.20 23a)** and many other plans

2 ***Support and promote the candidature of (named site) for inclusion in the "Tentative List".** See Kerry 5.12 T 55. See also **Roscommon 6.8.2 Pol 6.15.***

Map of Focal Points/Views FPV 1

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

A Wetlands

Pols or Objs:

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

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

2 Protect, conserve, preserve, manage and enhance wetlands (including fens and turloughs) from infilling, fragmentation, degradation and protect and conserve their quality, character and features. Resist development (including land reclamation) which would destroy, fragment and degrade wetlands, coastal wetlands, estuarine marshland and control adjacent development by the use of buffer zones. Based on Clare 14.3.18 19, Offaly 7.3 NHP 11, Cavan 8.5.2 NHEP16 & NHEO16, 2015 Plan 8.7 Obj FL3 & 9.9 Pol NHB 4 and many other plans.

B Peatlands

Pols or Objs

1 Plan and prepare for the future use of large industrial bog sites by supporting collaboration between Councils, Bord na Mona Transmission Team and relevant stakeholders in the development of integrated peatland management having regard to relevant policies and strategies such as the BnaM bio-diversity Plan 2016-2021 and the additional national Climate Mitigation and Adaption Plans. This shall include support for the rehabilitation and/or re-wetting of suitable peatland habitats. 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, Westmeath Draft 12.17 CPO 12.61). See also Nth Tipp 4.8 1st para 5th line.

2 Protect, conserve and manage the character, appearance, heritage and amenity values of peatland landscapes by promoting high environmental standards in conjunction with the BnM, NPWS, Coillte, IPCC and NGOs. Based on Donegal 7.1.2 O 11, Clare 14.3.15 16 2nd phrase, Offaly 2.12 TP 06, Leitrim 3.8.3.2 Obj 63 & 74, Westmeath 5.12 P O 3(Draft 12.17 CPO 12.56) and many other plans.

3 Exercise control of peatland extraction, both individually and cumulatively, which could have significant impacts on the environment. Based on Westmeath Draft 12.17 CPO 12.58.

C 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).

D Special Amenity Area Orders

Obj

*Actively propose the designation of *(local area) as a Special Amenity Area and seek an Order to that effect as per section 202 of the Planning and Development Act 2000(as amended) and undertake a feasibility study to report on other areas considered worthy of designation, to report within one year of the adoption of the Plan. Based on Cavan 8.8 last sentence and many other plans.*

*several areas come to mind: Twelve Bens Omey Island, innisman, innismore

Note Orders have already been made covering the Liffey Valley, the Howth peninsula (both in Dublin) and Bray Head (in Wicklow). By all accounts they are working very well.

Chapter 10: Cultural, Social & Community Development

10.6 Islands

Text We note that the only islands mentioned are sea islands whereas there are many lake islands particularly on Lough Corrib.

10.7 Islands Policies and Objectives

Obj IS2 Development Proposals on the Islands

b)

c) We submit that **this should be replaced by:** *Ensure that new development is sympathetic to the individual form and traditional building patterns so as to protect and enhance the exceptional landscape character and values and archaeological heritage of islands and to safeguard their integrity.* Based on Fingal 9.2 & **2015 Plan** 4.14 Obj EDT 21.

3 Framework Plan for the Islands

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

Islands in Rivers and Lakes

Objs

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

Both Sea and Lakes and Rivers

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

3 Protect and enhance the landscape character and heritage of the Islands. Taken from **Donegal** 7.1.3 P16 1st sentence 1st phrase.

10.11 Recreation and Amenity Policies and Objectives

Recreation and Amenity Policies

Policy RA 1 Promotion of Recreation and Amenity We submit that **this should be replaced by:** *Support development, in co-operation with various stakeholders to promote, preserve, improve, encourage public access to lakes, beaches, coastal, riversides, uplands and other areas that have been traditionally used for outdoor recreation and extend recreational amenities including riverside and canal walks and walking and cycling routes.* Based on **2000 Planning and Development Act** Sec 10(2)(j), **Sligo** 4.4.6 8th pt & 6.7.4 P OR 14 1st sentence 1st phrase & **Westmeath** 3.14 P 7 down to *recreation* on line 3.

2 Protection of Sensitive Areas

We submit that **this should be repositioned in Landscape Conservation and Management Objectives and merged with proposed additional Obj 4.**

3 Walking and Cycle Routes

Recreation and Amenity Objectives

5 Clifden Greenway

6 Walking Routes/Rights of Way We submit that this should be re-written as well as the topics mentioned in the Title which are entirely unrelated there is also a reference to inland waterways.

7 Walking and Cycle Routes

We submit that **these should be re-positioned in Walking and Cycling** and that **A down to (2013) should be repositioned in proposed Pol or Obj**

XXXB The rest of the Obj should be repositioned in Pol or Obj

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

1 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.

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

3 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.

4 Protect and preserve recreational attractions such as scenic beauty, woodlands and waterways, coastal areas and beaches, 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 & Carlow 8.11.2 Outdoor Recreation in the Countryside 1st, 3rd, 4th last phrase & 5th pt.

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 Sligo and other counties have adopted bye-laws.

10.12 Public Rights of Way

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 such as rivers lakes, bogs, forests and places of natural beauty and are also an important economic and tourism asset.* Based on **Monaghan** 5.11 2nd sentence & 7.4.1 last sentence 1st phrase, **Sligo** 6.7.4 Public rights of way 1st para 2nd sentence and many other plans.

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

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

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

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

5 ***Section 14 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 sets out the formal process for designating rights of way in development plans.** The scope of these statutory provisions is grounded on identification of existing routes over which PROWS are deemed to exist. The inclusion of PROW objectives for their preservation provides greater protection for such routes under development management provisions of*

planning legislation whilst also restricting the scope of certain exempt development. Taken from Wicklow Vol 1 10.3.8 3rd para.

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

7 The county development plan will include a **list of public rights of way** in accordance with the **2010 Planning and Development (Amendment) Act Sec 7(b)(ii)(o)**. The list must be drawn up in accordance with the wording in the Act.

Notes:

1 The wording in the Planning Act is quite clear: Each new development plan must fulfil the above requirement and no deferment will be permitted. See DOCELG letter to all Councils of 25/10/12 (PL 09/12).

2 Counties who have complied so far: Cavan 8.10 Table 8.4, Clare App 6, DLR App G, Donegal Part B App 3 T 15, Meath App14, Kerry Vol 2 App 6, Kilkenny App D, Roscommon 8.7 Map 19, Sligo 6.7.4 Public rights of way Table 6.A, Sth Tipp 6.3.7 3rd para, Westmeath App 8 & Wicklow Vol 1 Table 10.3

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

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

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

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

Once the list is compiled, advertise and put it on display. The public will be invited to make submissions on the validity of the public rights of way.

Endeavor to verify and list the public rights of way and begin the formal process for designating rights of way under Section 14 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

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

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

Public Rights of Way Policy and Objective

Public Rights of Way Policy

PRW1 Preservation of Public Rights of Way We submit that this should be replaced by: *Recognizing the importance of maintaining established public rights of way preserve, protect, promote and improve them for the common good all public rights of way particularly those giving access to seashores, mountains, lakes, river banks and other places of natural beauty or recreational utility by ensuring that development doesn't impinge thereon.* Based on DLR 4.1.2.3 LHB14 1st pt, Kilkenny 7.3.5 2nd para & DMS, Kerry 9.10 SC 50 & Cork County 13.4.6 2nd sentence 1st phrase.

Public Rights of Way Objective

Obj PRW 1

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

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(**Draft** 12.24 CPO 12.80 2nd sentence).

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 the coast, uplands, seashores, lakeshores, river banks, forests, heritage and scientific sites, areas of historic,

archaeological and recreational importance and National Monuments, to create a meaningful network. Promote their greater use. Provide linkages from built up areas to the countryside and the coast and link with public rights of way in adjoining counties. Based on **Galway City** 4.5.1 4th para 4th sentence 1st phrase, **Mayo** Vol 1 Chpt 3 Pedestrians & Cyclists Pc 01 1st sentence 2nd line, Vol 2 40.1 2nd sentence, **Westmeath** 7.15 O 3 1st sentence and excluding 2nd phrase **Leitrim** 3.10.7 Obj 108 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, **Sligo** 6.7.4 P OR-19 and many other plans.

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

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

4 *Designate the Pilgrim Path at Maumeen 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 *Recognizing the importance of maintaining established public rights of way preserve, **protect**, promote and improve them for the common good all public rights of way particularly those giving access to mountains, lakes, river banks and other places of natural beauty or recreational utility by ensuring that development doesn't impinge thereon.* Based on DLR 4.1.2.3 LHB14 1st pt, Kilkenny 7.3.5 2nd para & DMS, Kerry 9.10 SC 50, Cork County 13.4.6 2nd sentence 1st phrase.

8 Prohibit development and keep free from obstruction public walking routes and public rights of way, particularly those at seashores, mountains, lakeshores, riverbanks or other places of natural beauty or recreational activity and take legal action if necessary, to prevent any attempt to close them off. Based on Carlow 5.3.2 Pol 8 7th pt, DLR 4.1.2.13 LHB14 4th pt & Wexford 15.9 Obj RS36. See also **Leitrim** 3.10.7 Obj 110.

9 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, Carlow 8.12 Pol 6 7th pt & Kildare 14.12.2 RW 4.

10 Existing Public Rights of Way and established walking routes shall be identified prior to any new forestry planting, new **infrastructural, energy/telecommunications or golf course developments.** Taken from Kildare 14.12.2 RW 3. See also **Cavan** 8.10 NHEO.

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

(i) the footpath/bridleway being diverted by the minimal practical distance and the route continues to be segregated from vehicular traffic;
(ii) Appropriate legal procedures have been undertaken to extinguish the existing right of way and to establish the new right of way to replace it.
(iii) the diverted route is of at least equal character and convenience.
Based on **Mayo** Vol 2 40.2, **Leitrim** 4.5.12, Laois 7.21 PRW6 and many other plans

12 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.

13 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.

14 Protect and promote Greenways and consider designating them as public rights of way. Taken from Laois 7.21 PRW5 1st phrase. See also **Sligo** 6.7.4 P OR 20.

Proposed Additional Chapter: Walking and Cycling

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

Roscommon 8.7.1 T 8.2 & M 17 and many other counties.

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 **Mayo** Vol 1 Chpt 3 Strategy Pedestrian & Cyclists PC-01 and many other plans.*

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

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

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

4 *Support the provision of proposed long distance walking trails that **provide access to scenic uplands**, riverine and coastal 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 **Westmeath** 3.14 P-GT 7 5th line and many other plans.*

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

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

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

CYCLING

Table

We submit that you should include a Table of **Cycle routes with maps**

With Maps: See **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.*

11 *Implement the relevant policies of the DoTTs NCPF and support, promote, facilitate and encourage the development, enhancement and expansion of an integrated, coherent and **safe** cycle network as opportunities arises by facilitating the construction of cycleways. Support the development of the National Cycle Network and enhance and maintain these routes with better signposting, lighting and road surfaces separated from vehicular traffic. Encourage the development of off-road cycling. Ensure that the upgrading of roads will not impact negatively on the safety and perceived safety of cyclists. Ensure that any dedicated cycle routes which are developed away from the main public carriageway are well lit and that all surfaces are maintained to a high standard. Routes should, where possible, follow off-road tracks and quiet country roads. Based on **DoTT's NCPF(2009)** Obj 5 & Pol 5.6, **Roscommon** 4.1.2 Obj 4.20 1st phrase, **Clare** 8.2.9 13a), **Donegal** 5.1.2 P 36, **Offaly** 4.6 STAP 08 1st line & 7.14 LAO 03, **Westmeath** 8.13 O 8 1st sentence 1st phrase & last sentence 1st phrase, **Sth Tipp** 7.1.4 4th para, **Leitrim** 3.10.8 Obj 113 and many other plans.*

12 ***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 cyclists. Taken from **Roscommon** 8.7.1 42 2nd sentence.*

13 *Assign an officer at appropriate senior level as a "**Cycling Officer**". Taken from **DoT's NCPF(2009)** Pol 17.3.*

To which you should add before officer, full-time and that any vacancy should be filled as soon as possible.

Has: DLR Leitrim Fingal(part time) Meath

14 *Support the development, maintenance and enhancement of trails and routes in co-operation with the Sports Council, NTA, NTO, NWMWAC, Heritage Council and other bodies to **develop cycle touring routes** including those linking with adjoining counties particularly in areas of high amenity. Based on Kerry 5.5 T26 1st phrase, Kildare 14.12.1 CR 9 & Carlow 5.3.2 Pol 8 last pt.*

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

16 *Support the implementation of the **policies of the National Cycle Framework 2009**. Based on Limerick County 6.10.3 Obj COM 026.*

17 Implement the recommendations and proposals of the *National Cycle Network Scoping Study (2010)*. Taken from **2015 Plan** 5.4 Obj TI 19 1st phrase.

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

WALKING AND CYCLING GREENWAYS

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

20 Support the implementation of the *Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways*. Taken from **Westmeath Draft** 10.3.11 Pol CPO 10.3 1st para last pt.

21 Continue to *support the development of of a Cycle-way and Walkway from Dublin to Galway* cycleway scheme as set out tin the DOT /NRA National Cycleway Network - Scoping Document by completing the connection to the west of the River Shannon in Athlone and working with neighbouring counties and national bodies to complete and promote the entire route. Based on **Roscommon** 4.1.7 Pol 4.10 & **Westmeath Draft** 6.8 CPO.57.

22 Examine the possibility of identifying a route linking *Ballindine in Mayo, Milltown and Tuam and its Environs in Galway to the NCN and/or Tuam/Athenry cycle route*. Taken from **2015 Plan** 5.1 Cycle Routes 8th pt.

23 Support the proposed greenways as part of the primary cycle network and as part of a link to *Barna and Oranmore in the city and Maigh Cuilinn and Oughterard in the County*. Taken from **Galway City** 3.6 2nd para.

WALKING & CVCLING

24 Support, promote, secure and actively encourage the provision, development, extension and design of off road regional and Regional *interlinked cycleways and walkways, hiking, walking and cycling routes*(and trails (mention routes), including medium and long distance walkways and those with historic associations in conjunction with the Irish Sports Council, IW and other stakeholders to link a strategic network of trails in adjoining counties(including cross border ones), in

accordance with national policy and guidelines and in partnership with their councils, the state, private and voluntary sectors. Based on Roscommon 8.7.1 Pol 8.39, Cavan 9.6.1 RTO16, Westmeath 3.16 O 3, Mayo Vol 1 Chpt 3 Pedestrians & Cyclists PC-01 7th line and many other plans.

25 *Support the development of a comprehensive **integrated network of National and Regional Greenway/Bluways Networks** and maximise connectivity to existing greenways and link with cycling and walking infrastructure. Work with the NTA, WI and other stakeholders to develop a co-ordinated approach to the selection, delivery and servicing of future greenways, bueways, trails and routes. Based on NPF App 1 Obj 22 1st phrase & Kildare 5.19EO49 & Westmeath Draft 104.2 CPO 23 & 12.12 CPO 12.73.*

26 *Walking and Cycling will be promoted, facilitated, prioritised and encouraged by improving existing cycleways and developing a network of safe, guarded cycle routes and footpaths and on routes reserved exclusively for pedestrians and cyclists on existing roads, on all new regional, local distributor and local collector roads. Ensure, where possible, that cycleways and footpaths are effectively separated from major vehicular carriageways. Provide, promote, improve and extend the network of off road cycle and walking routes on all new road improvement schemes to ensure personal **safety**, particularly at night and a more convenient, pleasant, attractive environment. Support the installation of infrastructure measures e.g new/wider pavements, road crossings, retrofitted, if necessary, which would facilitate and encourage safe walking and cycling. Based on Cavan 9.6.1 RTO20, Leitrim 3.6.3 Pol 46, Roscommon 8.7.1 Pol 8.42 1st sentence and many other plans.*

27 *Support the provision of the **signposting and waymarking of walking and cycle routes** with appropriately designed quality signage and information boards, during the lifetime of the Plan. Based on Sligo 4.4 P TOU 4 1st phrase, Nth Tipp 6.11.3 3rd line, Roscommon 8.7.1 Pol 8.37 2nd line, Leitrim 3.6.3 2nd para 3rd sentence and many other plans.*

28 *Recognising their importance, create, **provide**, promote and prioritise their development and improve, plan, support, maintain, enhance, encourage, extend and facilitate the recreation potential of walking, rambling and cycling in conjunction the Irish Sports Council and other agencies by identifying/defining more dedicated walking and cycling routes(named) to enable the creation of a high quality, coherent,*

*pleasant, integrated and comprehensive dedicated off road countrywide network of local and regional cycling/walking routes, footpaths and greenways that link communities to key destinations and amenities, including 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/connections or other areas of interest. Expand and extend existing routes by utilising links from residential areas to provide access to coasts, 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. Strive to achieve National Trails accreditation and other standards set by Sports Ireland , in partnership with local communities and landowners .Based onDPG 3.5 Box 3 B Infrastructure 3rd pt, **National Physical Activity Plan** App 1 36, **Donegal** 5.1.2 O 13 & P 35 1st sentence 1st phrase, **Cavan** 9.6.1 RTO03, **Westmeath** 3.14 P 7 5th line (**Draft** 6.8 CPO6.59), **Roscommon** 8.7.1 pol 8.36 1st sentence, **Sligo** 8.3 P CW 9, **Sth Tipp** 6.6 SEAHO 5, **Offaly** 7.14 LAO 03 and many other plans.*

29 *Seek opportunities for the development of suitable walking routes and cycle tracks along **historic access routes**. Explore the potential of inter- county trail including the Brefne Trail. Based on **Action Plan for Rural Development 2017** Pillar 3 Action, **Leitrim** 3.6.3 Obj 29 and other plans.*

30 *Encourage and support the enhancement and extension of existing walking and cycling routes by utilising **links** from residential areas, open spaces and existing or new public rights of way to facilitate the creation of a secure a safe green network to provide access to scenic, mountain, lakeshore and river features. Taken from **Cavan** 9.6.1 RTO19 1st phrase.*

31 *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 **Nth Tipp** 7.5.7 Obj INF 28 7th line 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.

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

30 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 through the Action Plan for Rural Development 2017, DoTTS, NTA, Heritage Council and associated transport agencies and LEADER. Based on **Action Plan for Rural Development 2017 Pillar 3 Action 167, Galway City 4.7 Community Spaces Medium/Long Term 3rd pt 8th sub pt, Westmeath 3.14 O 6** and many other plans.

31 Ensure that walking and cycling routes and the public footpaths network are maintained. Based on **Roscommon 8.7.1 Pol 8.37, Mayo Vol 1 Chpt 3 Pedestrians & Cyclists 1st sentence** and many other plans.

32 Establish a register of walking and cycling routes. Taken from **Roscommon 8.7.1 OBJ 8.7.**
To which you should add: *and put on your website.*

33 Support the National Policy document : Smarter Travel: A Sustainable Transport Future. Taken from **Leitrim 3.6.1 Pol 44 1st phrase** and many other plans.

DISUSED RAILWAYS

34 Actively encourage, support, promote, retain and facilitate the development of the disused greenways, bridle paths walkways and cycleways and other recreational activity to develop a network including medium and long-distance walking and cycling routes with related signage and waymarking. Based on **Smarter Travel 2009-2020 Act 17 2nd sentence page 45, Cavan 4.4 P1069, Leitrim 3.6.3 2nd para 4th sentence & Obj 29, Roscommon 8.7.1 Pol 8.39 1st sentence 1st phrase , Westmeath 8.13 O 4 1st sentence, Clare 8.2.9 13 b) 2nd phrase** and many other plans.

35 *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.

Notes

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

2 Progress so far:

Completed:

Rathkeale Co Limerick to the Kerry border

Westport Co Mayo to Achill Sound

Waterford City to Dungarvan

In progress:

Galway City to Clifden

Listowel to Limerick Border

Tralee to Fenit

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

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

37 ***Protect and** preserve routes of former railway lines(named) for recreational development free from development by protecting, enhancing, conserving, safeguarding and preserving potential greenway routes as long distance walking and cycling routes along or near these rail lines which could compromise their development as walking/cycle routes in the future. Along these corridors other uses shall not be considered. Where these corridors have been compromised by development, adjacent land which could provide opportunities to bypass such an impediment and reconnect these routes for walking/cycling shall be protected for this purpose.* Based on **Donegal** 5.1.2 P 24 all except last sentence, **Mayo** Vol 1 Chpt 4 Natural Heritage NH 01f), **Clare** 8.2.9 13b) b) 1st phrase, **Offaly** 7.17 ROWO 02, **Sth Tipp** Pol INF3 last sentence and many other plans.

38 *While it should be possible to provide most routes on existing track alignment, there may be a need for **diversions** and deviations following detailed survey and design work and consultation with landowners. The*

aim is to include these routes in a map in the Plan. Meanwhile adequate protection needs to be given to abandoned rail lines so as to avoid inappropriate development that could compromise their viability. Taken from Cork County 8.7.6 1st sentence 1st phrase, 2nd & last sentences.

Chapter 11: Agriculture, Fishing, Marine Resources & Forestry

11.3 Agriculture and Food

We submit that **you should include an additional para: *Commonage* and other rough grazing land should be regarded primarily as *an important recreational, environmental and amenity resource.*** Based on **Galway City 4.6.2 1st para 1st sentence 1st phrase** and other plans.

11.5 Agricultural Policies and Objectives

Agriculture Objectives

We submit that **you should include Text: *Commonage* and *rough grazing land should be regarded primarily as an important recreational, environmental and amenity resource.*** Based on

Galway City 4.6.2 1st para 1st sentence 1st phrase and other plans.

Obj AFF 5 Compliance with the EU Habitats Directive

6 Drainage and Reclamation of Wetlands

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

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, eco-systems, 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 it does not have an undue negative impact on the visual/scenic amenity of the countryside and identify mitigating measures where required. Integrate into the landscape, including the minimal use of signage. 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. Based on **Offaly 10.6 RDO4** and many other plans.

11.8 Forestry

We submit that you **should prefix the Title with *Commercial* to better reflect its contents.**

11.9 Forestry Policies and Objectives

Forestry Policies

AFF 9 Forestry Recreation We submit that this should be replaced by: *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 the enjoyment of recreational activities such as walking, hiking, cycling, and other non-noise generating activities and the provision of nature trails, as part of connected network of walking and cycle routes in cooperation/consultation with Coillte, the Forest Service, private landowners, local interest groups and other stakeholders and agencies in or near villages or towns Support and promote the FS Neighbourhood Scheme*". Based on **Smarter Travel 2009-2020 Act 17** 2nd sentence page 45, **Cavan 3.9 2nd para 2nd para 5th pt 1st phrase & EDP14 1st phrase, Monaghan 4.6.1 AGR P8, Westmeath 3.41 P 4 & 6.23 P 12 1st phrase, Clare 9.3.9 10c), Nth Tipp 4.5 EV27** and many other plans.

10 Forestry and Climate Change

Forestry Objectives

Objective AFF 117 – Sustainable Management

18 Sustainable Afforestation

19 Afforestation and Landscape 1st sentence We submit that **this should be replaced by: *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 result in damage to visual amenity or have a negative visual effect on the rural environment and character of the countryside and that it must enhance and be in harmony with the landscape. Protect scenic and exposed/elevated landscapes, nature conservation areas, geological sites, monuments NHAs, Natura Sites archaeological or other historical or heritage features, cause pollution or degradation to wildlife habitats, natural waters or areas of ecological importance. It should be planted and, managed and harvested in accordance with the Forest Service Guidelines for Landscape, Forest Harvesting and Environmental Archaeology, Biodiversity and Water quality Based on **Cavan** 3.9 EDP13 1st phrase, **Monaghan** 4.6.1 AGP 7, &15.15 AGP 4, **Donegal** 7.1.2 O 9 last phrase, **Westmeath** 3.41 PF3 1st phrase (**Draft** 914 CPO9.47 last phrase & 9.50 last phrase), **Sth Tipp** 9.20 1st para (i) & (ii), **Nth Tipp** 4.5.1 Pol ENV 26a), **Sligo** 4.3.2 P FOR 1 2nd phrase, **Roscommon** 3.4.2 Pol 3.33, 9.35 1st para 1st & 2nd pts and many other plans.

2nd sentence

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

1 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.

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.

2

Ensure that existing public rights of way, traditional walking routes are not obstructed. Taken from **Sligo** 4.3.2 P 3 2nd sentence & **Roscommon** 3.4.2 Pol 3.44 1st sentence.

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

4 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, orienteering and hiking and other similar facilities. Based on **Sligo 6.7.4 P OR 23 & Westmeath 3.41 P 4** (Draft 9.14 CPO.51).

Note This Obj also applies to Amenity Woodlands

Chapter 13: Development Management Standards & Guidelines

13.6 Guidelines for Rural Enterprise and Rural Tourism

DM Standard 13: Tourism Infrastructure Development and Holiday Villages

1st para

13.9 Guidelines for Infrastructure and Services

DM Standard 31: Electricity Transmission Lines

a) Landscape Sensitivity 1st sentence

b) Amenity Impacts

DM Standard 32: Telecommunication Masts

1st para

a) Landscape Sensitivity

c) Landscape Impacts

d) Co- Location

f) Redundancy

13.10 Guidelines for Agriculture, Mariculture, Forestry and Extractive Development

DM Standard 36: Forestry Development

37: Extractive Development

a) Guidelines

b) Land Ownership

f) Mitigation

i) Environmental Impact Study

j) Proximity

k) Landscape and Screening

l) Heritage and Biodiversity

13.11 Guidelines for Heritage, Landscape and Environmental Management

Standard 39: Compliance with Landscape Designations

40 Environmental Assessments

All

41 Field Patterns, Stone Walls, Trees and Hedgerows

All

42 Coastal Management and Protection

All

43 Protected or proposed Protected Structures

All

44 Architectural Conservation Areas

All

45 Archaeological Conservation and Preservation Urban and Rural Areas

All

47 Mariculture

KEEP IRELAND OPEN

Sept 2020

