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A chara,
Faigh le seo aighneacht maidir le Dréacht Phlean Forbartha na Gaillimhe 2022 - 2028.

Is mise le meas

Kevin O Hara

[REDACTED]

Aighneacht Plean Forbartha Chontae na Gaillimhe 2022 - 2028

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Séard atá san aighneacht seo ná cnuasach smaointe agus tograí le forbairt Gaeltacht Chonamara a chur chun cinn ar mhaithe le hinmharthanacht fadtéarmach an cheantair.

Leis na moltaí seo beidh gá le comhairliúchán le muintir na háite roimhré agus beidh gá le tacaíocht agus toil leas sealbhóirí, úinéirí talún, an pobal áitiúil 7url a chinntiú.

Le hinmharthanacht na Gaeltachta a chinntiú, caithfidh daoine an rogha a bheith acu fanacht ina gceantar féin, fostaíocht agus tithíocht a bheith acu agus an deis acu a gclann féin a thabhairt aníos sa cheantar más mian leo é.

This submission is a collection of ideas and suggested proposals for the development of the Connemara Gaeltacht in order to support its long-term viability. Many of these proposals will require community consultation and the support and consent of stakeholders such as landowners, communities etc.

In order for the Gaeltacht to survive, individuals must feel that they have the choice to stay in the area in which they grow up, to work, own a house and raise a family in that area if they so wish

Is mise le meas,

Kevin O Hara

Croí-Straitéis & Tithíocht

Tá méadú ag teacht ar dhaonra Chontae na Gaillimhe ach níl an méadú sin scaipthe go cothrom ar fud an Chontae. Tá ceantair i ngiorracht do chathair na Gaillimhe ag fás go tapa, gan mórán áiseanna pobail ar fáil iontu, fad agus atá ceantair níos scoite amach á mbánú.

Ní thugann an gréasán lonnaíochtaí aitheanta mar atá ann faoi láthair a gceart do shráidbhailte Ghaeltachta Chonamara. Tá Bearna agus Maigh Cuilinn á gcuimsiú isteach i gcathair na Gaillimhe gan aon infheistíocht ceart in áiseanna nó infreastruchtúr iontu.

Moladh 1: Ag Neartú an Phobail

Caithfear an pobal i mBearna (Limistéar Cathrach na Gaillimhe) agus i Maigh Cuilinn (Príomhbhaile/Baile Eile) a neartú le háiseanna mar seo a leanas:

- Ionad Pobail ceart.
- Áiseanna taobh istigh & taobh amuigh do dhaoine óga.
- Nascanna cearta iompar poiblí, rothaíocht agus siúl len iad a cheangail le cathair na Gaillimhe.

Nuair a imíonn tú siar ó chúlchríoch chathair na Gaillimhe, níl ach trí sráidbhaile eile aitheanta i nGaeltacht Chonamara – An Spidéal, An Cheathrú Rua and an Tulaigh. Is beag an méadú atá tagtha ar dhaonra na gceantair siar ó na Forbacha idir na blianta 2011 – 2016.

Gan ach trí sráidbhaile eile aitheanta i nGaeltacht Chonamara, tá an baol ann go ndíreofar aon fás daonra sna ceantracha seo, rud a rachadh chun aimhleasa ceantracha eile, leithéidí Ros Muc, Ros an Mhíl, Leitir Móir, Cill Chiaráin, Carna.

Tá stádas agus tábhacht faoi leith ag Gaeltacht Chonamara do Chontae na Gaillimhe agus don tír trí chéile. Braitheann láidreach na teanga, cultúr agus oidhreach ar na gréasáin seanbhunaithe de bhailte fearainn, lonnaíochtaí beaga agus sráidbhailte, agus tá sé tábhachtach go dtugtar suntas do sin.

Moladh 2: Lonnaíochtaí a aithint

Tá ceantair ann atá aitheanta mar “Lonnaíochtaí eile” faoi láthair i bplean forbartha an Chontae, in ainneoin go bhfuil go leor de na háiseanna agus infreastruchtúr cuí acu le bheith aitheanta mar “Sráidbhailte Eile” m.sh. Carna, Cill Chiaráin, Ros Muc, Leitir Móir, Ros an Mhíl srl. Ba cheart breathnú ar na háiteanna seo ar mhaithe len iad a aithint mar sráidbhailte eile.

Tá sé tábhachtach go dtugtar an deis do cheantair agus sráidbhailte, atá ann leis na cianta, forbairt a dhéanamh ar mhaithe le hinmharthanacht an phobail áitiúil. Ardaíonn an páipéar saincheist na tithe aonair agus conas stop a chur leo. Cé gur gá a bheith ciallmhar faoina leithéid, ach go háirithe i ngiorracht cathair na Gaillimhe, níor cheart a leithéid a dhéanamh i nGaeltacht Chonamara. Ba cheart go mbeadh an deis ag daoine tithe a thógáil ar thalamh a mhuintir, in áit bheith brúite isteach i lonnaíochtaí aitheanta.

Moladh 3: Cead Pleanála

Tá sé tábhachtach d'inmharthanacht fadtéarmach na Gaeltachta go mbeadh cead ag daoine tithe a thógáil ar thalamh a mhuintir. Caithfear an córas pleanála a dhéanamh níos trédhearcaigh, ionas go bhfuil sé soiléir don uile dhuine cad is gá a dhéanamh le cead pleanála a fháil. Níor cheart go mbeadh ar dhaoine cur isteach ar chead pleanála arís agus arís eile.

Moladh 4: Tithíocht

Ba cheart do Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe a pholasáí maidir le tithíocht shóisialta agus tithíocht ar bheagán chostas, a athrú. Ba cheart go mbeadh an Chomhairle ag soláthar tithíocht sóisialta ar fud na Gaeltachta, i gcóimheas leis an daonra áitiúil. Ba cheart tacú freisin le daoine a bhfuil ceangal acu leis an gceantar, agus atá imigh ar imirce ach gur suim leo filleadh abhaile.

Le blianta beaga anuas tá sé de leithscéal ag an gComhairle Chontae nach féidir tithíocht shóisialta a chur ar fáil i gceantair gan seirbhísí mhaithe áitiúla. A mhalairt de chur chuige atá ag teastáil; ba cheart seirbhísí agus tithíocht a chur ar fáil sna ceantair seo de réir mar is gá agus i gcóimheas leis an daonra áitiúil.

Tá sé riachtanach go ndéanann an plean forbartha nua iarracht an fás daonra a scaipeadh ar fud an chontae. Ní féidir glacadh leis nach bhfuil i ndán do Ghaeltacht Chonamara ach a bheith mar chrios comaitéireachta ag cathair na Gaillimhe.

Maireachtáil i Limistéar Uirbeach & an Chomhfhorbairt Áite

Tá Bearna agus Maigh Cuilinn ag teacht faoi scáth limistéar uirbeach Cathair na Gaillimhe.

Is ceantair faoi leith iad Bearna agus Maigh Cuilinn agus tá méadú as cuimse tagtha ar an daonra iontu le blianta beaga anuas. In ainneoin an fás sa daonra, is beag infheistíocht atá déanta le seirbhísí pobail agus infreastruchtúr áitiúil a fheabhsú.

Moladh 1: Ag Neartú an Phobail

Caithfear an pobal i mBearna (Limistéar Cathrach na Gaillimhe) agus i Maigh Cuilinn (Príomhbhaile/Baile Eile) a neartú le háiseanna mar seo a leanas:

- Ionad Pobail ceart.
- Áiseanna taobh istigh & taobh amuigh do dhaoine óga.
- Nascanna cearta iompar poiblí, rothaíocht agus siúl len iad a cheangail le cathair na Gaillimhe.

Moladh 5: Comhcheangailteacht Uirbeach

Is gá na nithe seo a leanas a fhorbairt le comhcheangailteacht uirbeach a chur chun cinn:

- Iompar Poiblí: Seirbhís rialta go cathair na Gaillimhe, le Páirceáil & Taisteal (Park & Ride), scáthláin bus agus stadanna bus atá oiriúnach do chathaoireacha rotha.
- An bealach glas idir Maigh Cuilinn agus cathair na Gaillimhe agus ar aghaidh go dtí an Chlochán a chríochnú. Ba cheart don bhealach atá roghnaithe a bheith in oiriúint do agus aontaithe leis na húinéirí talún.
- Bealach glas Bhearna a fhorbairt ó Bhóthar na Trá agus é a shíneadh chomh fada leis an Spidéal. Ba cheart don bhealach atá roghnaithe bheith in oiriúint do agus aontaithe leis na húinéirí talún.

An Tuath & Comhforbairt na Tuaithe

Is faoin tuath atá formhór Ghaeltacht Chonamara, agus tá go leor den lonnaithe bunaithe ar thraidisiún na mBailte Fearainn. Tá sé ríthábhachtach go n-aithnítear é seo i bplean forbartha an chontae. Is nós leis na pleananna forbartha bheith ag iarraidh an tuath a chosaint ó fhorbairtí mhóra nach bhfuil in oiriúint don cheantar, ach is minic go bhfuil sé níos éasca cead pleanála a fháil d'éastáit tithíochta ná mar atá sé ag duine áitiúil teach a thógáil ar thalamh a mhuintir.

Moladh 3: Cead Pleanála

Tá sé tábhachtach d'inharthanacht fadtéarmach na Gaeltachta go mbeadh cead ag daoine tithe a thógáil ar thalamh a mhuintir. Caithfear an córas pleanála a dhéanamh níos trédhearcaigh, ionas go bhfuil sé soiléir don uile dhuine cad is gá a dhéanamh le cead pleanála a fháil. Níor cheart go mbeadh ar dhaoine cur isteach ar chead pleanála arís agus arís eile.

Moladh 4: Tithíocht

Ba cheart do Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe a pholasáí maidir le tithíocht shóisialta agus tithíocht ar bheagán chostas, a athrú. Ba cheart go mbeadh an Chomhairle ag soláthar tithíocht sóisialta ar fud na Gaeltachta, i gcóimheas leis an daonra áitiúil. Ba cheart tacú freisin le daoine a bhfuil ceangal acu leis an gceantar, agus atá imigh ar imirce ach gur suim leo filleadh abhaile.

Le blianta beaga anuas tá sé de leithscéal ag an gComhairle Chontae nach féidir tithíocht shóisialta a chur ar fáil i gceantair gan seirbhísí mhaithe áitiúla. A mhalairt de chur chuige atá ag teastáil; ba cheart seirbhísí agus tithíocht a chur ar fáil sna ceantair seo de réir mar is gá agus i gcóimheas leis an daonra áitiúil.

Moladh 6: Tírdhreach beo

Tá tírdhreach faoi leith ag Conamara agus caithfear aire a thabhairt don áilleacht nádúrtha seo. Ní féidir é a chaomhnú ann féin, áfach, caithfear é a chaomhnú mar tírdhreach beo le pobal bríomhar agus ní mar páirc náisiúnta mór amháin.

Moladh 7: Comhcheangailteacht faoin tuath

Le comhcheangailteacht ceart a chur chun cinn sa Ghaeltacht agus le cathair na Gaillimhe tá gá le:

- Iompar Poiblí: Seirbhís rialta go cathair na Gaillimhe, le Páircéal & Taisteal (Park & Ride), scáthlám bus agus stadanna bus atá oiriúnach do chathaoireacha rotha.
- An bealach glas idir Maigh Cuilinn agus cathair na Gaillimhe agus ar aghaidh go dtí an Chlochán a chríochnú. Ba cheart don bhealach atá roghnaithe bheith in oiriúint do agus aontaithe leis na húinéirí talún.
- Bealach glas Bhearna a fhorbairt ó Bhóthar na Trá agus é a shíneadh chomh fada leis an Spidéal. Ba cheart don bhealach atá roghnaithe bheith in oiriúint do agus aontaithe leis na húinéirí talún.
- Cosán coisithe le soilse sráide a thógáil ar na príomhbhóithre le bailte fearainn a nascadh le croílár na sráidbhailte, m.sh. idir na Doiriú agus Ros an Mhíl, Cladhnach agus an Cheathrú Rua, an Gort Mór go Ros Muc.
- Tá an-chuid mionbhusanna agus a leithéid in úsáid ag coistí agus eagraíochtaí deonacha sa cheantar faoi láthair. Ba cheart athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar na háiseanna iompair atá sa cheantar le leas níos fearr a bhaint astu ar thairbhe an phobail. Is acmhainn tábhachtach iad na mionbhusanna agus daoine ag iarraidh freastal ar ócáidí áitiúla, bíongó 7url.

Forbairt Gheilleagrach, na Fiontraíochta, na Turasóireachta & an Mhiondíola

Moladh 8: Ceangal Leathanbhanda & Comhartha fóin

Tá ard faoi leith tarraingte ag géarchéim COVID-19 ar an tábhacht agus deiseanna a bhaineann leis an gcianoibriú. Le teacht i dtír air seo tá gá:

- Go mbeadh fáil ar cheangal leathanbhanda mhaith agus éifeachtach ar fud Chonamara.
- Go mbeadh fáil ar comhartha mhaith don fón soghluaiste ar fud Chonamara.

Moladh 9: Calafort Ros an Mhíl

Tá deis ann calafort Ros an Mhíl agus an spás tionsclaíoch atá timpeall air a chur chun cinn mar lárionad forbartha straitéiseach, le freastal ar thionscal na mara, fuinneamh in-athnuaite 7url.

- Ros an Mhíl a choimeád mar calafort iascaireachta.
- Céibh Dhomhainmhara a fhorbairt ag Calafort Ros na Mhíl.
- Ros an Mhíl a ainmniú mar lárionad forbartha straitéiseach agus tascfhórsa a bhunú leis na féidearthachtaí a fhiosrú agus a fhorbairt.
- Tacú le háiseanna, deisiú báid 7url a fhorbairt sa chalafort.

Ní minic a dhírítear ar thionscal turasóireachta Ghaeltacht Chonamara taobh amuigh de na hoileáin Árann agus bealach glas an Chlocháin. Tá sé fíorthábhachtach go ndéantar forbairt ar thionscal na turasóireachta sa cheantar ach go háirithe maidir le turasóireacht ghníomhaíochta nó turasóireacht taobh amuigh.

Moladh 10: Turasóireacht Siúl

- An bealach glas idir Maigh Cuilinn agus cathair na Gaillimhe agus ar aghaidh go dtí an Chlochán a chríochnú. Ba cheart don bhealach atá roghnaithe bheith in oiriúint do agus aontaithe leis na húinéirí talún.
- Bealach glas Bhearna a fhorbairt ó Bhóthar na Trá agus é a shíneadh siar chomh fada leis an Spidéal. Ba cheart don bhealach atá roghnaithe bheith in oiriúint do agus aontaithe leis na húinéirí talún.
- Slí Chonamara a athbheochan cois chósta ón Spidéal go Ros an Mhíl agus é a nascadh le siúlóidí an Cheathrú Rua, Seanadh Mhachadh agus ar aghaidh go Ros Muc agus Carna.
- Sraith pointí eolais a fhorbairt mar bhealach caomhnaithe, ag nascadh leithéidí Toit Chonáin, Túr Martello Ros an Mhíl, Suíomh “An Mine” agus Dúmhadh na Leanbh i gCois Fharrage, le scéal oidhreachta agus stair na háite a insint agus leis na pointí ainmnithe ar Shlí an Atlantaigh Fhiáin a neartú.

Moladh 11: Bealach Gorm Maigh Cuilinn

- Bealach Gorm a fhorbairt ó chathair na Gaillimhe go Loch Baile Uí Choirc go Ross Lake tríd an gréasán lochanna agus canáil atá ann faoi láthair.

Moladh12: Ceantair Spóirt Uisce

An ceantar cois chósta ó Cois Fharráige go Carna a fhorbairt agus a bhrandáil mar cheantar gur ceart teacht chuige le Spóirt Uisce a dhéanamh.

- Tá an-chuid gníomhaíochtaí turasóireachta mara á fhorbairt sa cheantar cheana féin. Tacóidh an moladh seo leis an bpobal agus le comhlachtaí príobháideacha áiseanna agus deiseanna do spóirt uisce a fhorbairt agus margaíocht a dhéanamh orthu.
- Tá uisce oscailte foscúil ar fáil sa cheantar seo mar aon leis an iliomad cuanta agus bána, céibheanna beaga agus trána.
- Tarraingeoidh sé spóirt difriúil le chéile, ina measc an tumadóireacht, seoltóireacht, gaothshurfáil, iascaireacht, iomaireacht curach, seoltóireacht na mbád móra, cadhcáil. Tá siad seo ar siúl sa ceantar ach thabharfadh sé dlús tábhachtach dóibh agus don mhargaíocht.
- Tacóidh sé leo siúd atá ag seoladh na mbád móra agus na mbád traidisiúnta agus beadh deiseanna ann cúrsaí longtógáil a reáchtáil freisin.
- Ba cheart don Chomhairle Chontae trána a bhainistiú ar leasa lena luach mar áis caitheamh aimsire, agus Brait Gorma a choimeád.

Moladh 13: Síneadh a chur le Slí an Atlantaigh Fhiáin.

Ba cheart Slí an Atlantaigh Fhiáin a shíneadh le Gaeltacht Chonamara a chur san áireamh go hiomlán – i gcomhréir leis an bpobal áitiúil; mar shampla:

- Síneadh go Leitir Mealláin, pointí spéise ar nós Ceann Golam, Ionad na Feamainne.
- Síneadh go Ros Muc, pointí spéise ina measc Slí an Phiarsaigh.
- Síneadh le go mbeadh Túr Martello Ros an Mhíl mar phointe spéise.
- Ba cheart áiseanna bunúsacha ar nós boscaí bruscair, páirceáil, leithris a fhorbairt i gcomhar leis an bpobal áitiúil ag na pointí spéise ar fad.

Moladh 14: Sráidbhaile an Spidéal a fhorbairt

- Leis na moltaí thuas beadh bealach glas cois chósta ag nascadh An Spidéal le cathair na Gaillimhe agus an deis ag daoine ansin leanacht orthu ar Slí Chonamara go Ros an Mhíl agus níos faide.
- Na foirgnimh folmha sa Spidéal, ina measc sean suíomh Ceol na Mara, a fhorbairt le cur le sráidbhaile an Spidéil.
- Bainistiú ceart ar an Trá ag an gCéibh Nua, le smacht a choimeád ar an bhfásra atá ann.
- Athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar na spásanna páirceála ar an bpríomhshráid, chun an brú tráchta a laghdú.
- Caighdeán an uisce ag Trá an Spidéil a fheabhsú le Brat Gorm a bhaint amach arís.

Moladh 15: Slí an Phiarsaigh

Bealach eolais a fhorbairt i Ros Muc agus an ceantar máguaird, i gcomhar leis an bpobal áitiúil, faoi Phádraig Mac Piarais agus Poblachtachas na hÉireann sa cheantar seo.

- Bheadh sé seo ag teacht le hIonad an Phiarsaigh atá ag an OPW sa cheantar.
- Thabharfadh seo cuairteoirí isteach go Ros Muc féin agus thabharfadh sé fáth do dhaoine níos mó ama agus airgid a chaitheamh sa cheantar.

Bonneagar & Iompar

Moladh 7: Comhcheangailteacht faoin tuath

Le comhcheangailteacht ceart a chur chun cinn sa Ghaeltacht agus le cathair na Gaillimhe tá gá le:

- Iompar Poiblí: Seirbhís rialta go cathair na Gaillimhe, le Páircéal & Taisteal (Park & Ride), scáthlár bus agus stadanna bus atá oiriúnach do chathaoireacha rotha.
- An bealach glas idir Maigh Cuilinn agus cathair na Gaillimhe agus ar aghaidh go dtí an Chlochán a chríochnú. Ba cheart don bhealach atá roghnaithe bheith in oiriúint do agus aontaithe leis na húinéirí talún.
- Bealach glas Bhearna a fhorbairt ó Bhóthar na Trá agus é a shíneadh chomh fada leis an Spidéal. Ba cheart don bhealach atá roghnaithe bheith in oiriúint do agus aontaithe leis na húinéirí talún.
- Cosán coisithe le soilse sráide a thógáil ar na príomhbhóithre le bailte fearainn a nascadh le croílár na sráidbhailte, m.sh. idir na Doiriú agus Ros an Mhíl, Cladhnach agus an Cheathrú Rua, an Gort Mór go Ros Muc.
- Tá an-chuid mionbhusanna agus a leithéid in úsáid ag coistí agus eagraíochtaí deonacha sa cheantar faoi láthair. Ba cheart athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar na háiseanna iompair atá sa cheantar le leas níos fearr a bhaint astu ar thairbhe an phobail. Is acmhainn tábhachtach iad na mionbhusanna agus daoine ag iarraidh freastal ar ócáidí áitiúla, bíonn 7url.

Moladh 16: Séarachas

Is cuid lárnach é córas séarachais d'aon fhorbairt ceart sa chontae. Tá sé in am tacú le forbairt Chonamara tríd gréasán de chóras cóireála séarachais a fhorbairt i gceantair Cois Fharraige, Cuan Chasla, Ros Muc, Cill Chiaráin agus Carna, mar aon leis an ionad cóireála sa Spidéal a chríochnú.

- Ba cheart an oiread agus is féidir den cheantar máguaird a thabhairt faoi scáth na córais seo.
- Ba cheart an teicneolaíocht do chórais ardbhrú a fhorbairt agus a úsáid ar fud Chonamara leis an spleáchas ar na dabhcha séarachais a laghdú.
- Ba cheart d'Uisce Éireann córais cóireála séarachais Údarás na Gaeltachta a thógáil ar lámh, ionas gur féidir iad a fhorbairt ar leasa an phobail áitiúil chomh maith leis na páirceanna tionsclaíocha.
- Ba cheart do na hionad cóireála séarachais bheith ar chaighdeán cóireála tánaisteach ar a laghad; níor cheart ionad cóireála séarachas poiblí ar chaighdeán príomhúil a cheadú.
- Ba cheart go mbeadh "stepback" 100m mar theorann timpeall na hionaid cóireála séarachais poiblí.

Moladh 17: Uisce Óil

Tá sé tábhachtach go bhfuil fáil ag tithe agus gnónna ar uisce glan, óil.

- Caithfear soláthar uisce óil do mhuintir na hOileáin Árann a fheabhsú le cinntiú nach n-eascraíonn ganntanas sa Samhradh.
- Ba cheart athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar na scéimeanna áitiúla uisce agus iad a thabhairt faoi scáth Uisce Éireann má tá sé oiriúnach.
- Ba cheart na codanna sin den chóras féin, ina bhfuil na píopaí imithe in aois, a aithint agus plean meántéarmach a aontú len iad a athnuachan.

Moladh 18: Cuarbhóthar na Gaillimhe

Tá sé fíorthábhachtach go dtógfar cuarbhóthar na Gaillimhe chomh luath agus is féidir, ach go ndéantar chuile iarracht freisin an cur isteach ar phobal na háite a laghdú chomh fada agus gur féidir.

- Caithfear réiteach a fháil ar an mbrú tráchta atá ag tachtadh Conamara agus cathair na Gaillimhe.
- Cuireann an brú tráchta síneadh mór le ham taistil mhuintir Chonamara agus iad ag dul chun na cathrach, agus is mór an cúis strus é.
- Faoi láthair cuireann an brú tráchta as d'infheistíocht gnó i gConamara agus cuireann sé bac ar fhorbairt Chonamara.
- Ba cheart gach iarracht a dhéanamh an cur isteach ar muintir na háite a laghdú chomh fada agus is féidir.
- Caithfear comhcheangailteacht áitiúil a choimeád sna ceantair trína bhfuil an cuarbhóthar ag dul, chomh fada agus is féidir.
- Ba cheart don chomhairle chontae & cathrach comhoibriú le cead pleanála do thithe oiriúnacha a éascú dóibh siúd a bhfuil a dtithe le leagan mar chuid den CPO.

Moladh 19: Bóthar nua an N336 ó Bearna go Ros na Mhíl/Scríb.

Níl an bóthar R336, mar atá ann faoi láthair, feiliúnach do líon na tráchta atá á úsáid faoi láthair.

- Ba cheart bóthar nua ó thuaidh den bhóthar mar atá faoi láthair a fhorbairt.
- Ba cheart go mbeadh an bóthar nua ó thuaidh de na bailte fearainn agus más gá ba cheart maolú a lorg ón Aontas Eorpach le codanna den bhóthar nua a chur tríd ceantair caomhnaithe.
- Ba cheart an bóthar nua seo a aithint mar bhóthar náisiúnta.
- Ba cheart go mbeadh lánaí rothaíochta cosanta agus cosán coisithe mar chuid den bhóthar nua, mar aon le nascanna leis na sean R336.
- Ba cheart áiseanna “Páirceáil agus Taiseal” (Park & Ride) a fhorbairt taobh leis an mbóthar nua agus seirbhís bus a chur ar fáil díreach isteach chun na cathrach le freastal orthu.

Moladh 20: Caighdeán ceart bóithre a chur chun cinn

Tá drochbhail ar go leor de bhóithre Ghaeltacht Chonamara. Caithfear plean fadtéarmach a aontú le dul i ngleic le caighdeán na mbóithre réigiúnacha agus áitiúla atá ag freastal ar an gceantar.

- Plean le caighdeán an gréasán bóithre atá ann faoi láthair a fheabhsú.
- Plean leis na droichid i gceantar Chonamara a thabhairt suas go caighdeán; ina measc Droichead Cladhnach, Droichid Ceantar na nOileáin 7url.
- Plean le réiteach a fháil ar ghearradh taobhanna na mbóithre ar bhóthair réigiúnacha agus áitiúla i nGaeltacht Chonamara.

Cúrsaí Comhshaoil, Fuinneamh In-athnuaite & Cumarsáid

Tá caighdeán uisce mar fhadhb shuntasach timpeallachta i gContae na Gaillimhe. Imríonn truailliú séarachais agus eutrophication tionchar mhór ar an gcaighdeán uisce. Faoi láthair níl aon chóras séarachais poiblí ann i gceantar chósta Ghaeltacht Chonamara. Glactar leis go sceitheann na dabhcha séarachas isteach sa screamhuisce agus sna haibhneacha le linn aimsir fliuch agus ar ndóigh faoi láthair tá séarachas ámh ag dul chun farraige ag Trá an Spidéil agus ag an Sruthán sa Cheathrú Rua.

Moladh 8: Ceangal Leathanbhanda & Comhartha fóin

Tá ard faoi leith tarraingte ag géarchéim COVID-19 ar an tábhacht agus deiseanna a bhaineann leis an gcianoibriú. Le teacht i dtír air seo tá gá:

- Go mbeadh fáil ar cheangal leathanbhanda mhaith agus éifeachtach ar fud Chonamara.
- Go mbeadh fáil ar comhartha mhaith don fón soghluaiste ar fud Chonamara.

Moladh 16: Séarachas

Is cuid lárnach é córas séarachais d'aon fhorbairt ceart sa chontae. Tá sé in am tacú le forbairt Chonamara tríd gréasán de chóras cóireála séarachais a fhorbairt i gceantair Cois Fharráige, Cuan Chasla, Ros Muc, Cill Chiaráin agus Carna, mar aon leis an ionad cóireála sa Spidéil a chríochnú.

- Ba cheart an oiread agus is féidir den cheantar máguaird a thabhairt faoi scáth na córais seo.
- Ba cheart an teicneolaíocht do chórais ardbhrú a fhorbairt agus a úsáid ar fud Chonamara leis an spleáchas ar na dabhcha séarachais a laghdú.
- Ba cheart d'Uisce Éireann córais cóireála séarachais Údarás na Gaeltachta a thógáil ar lámh, ionas gur féidir iad a fhorbairt ar leasa an phobail áitiúil chomh maith leis na páirceanna tionsclaíocha.
- Ba cheart do na hionad cóireála séarachais bheith ar chaighdeán cóireála tánaisteach ar a laghad; níor cheart ionad cóireála séarachais poiblí ar chaighdeán príomhúil a cheadú.
- Ba cheart go mbeadh "stepback" 100m mar theorann timpeall na hionaid cóireála séarachais poiblí.

Moladh 21: Ceantar Speisialta Caomhnaithe

Faoi láthair tá codanna mhóra de Ghaeltacht Chonamara aitheanta mar cheantair speisialta caomhnaithe nó a leithéid.

- Tá sé tábhachtach an timpeallacht nádúrtha a chaomhnú mar atá déanta le an-chuid talamh portaigh agus Cuan Cill Chiaráin.
- Tá sé tábhachtach go gceadaítear do thograí straitéiseacha infreastruchtúr, m.sh. ligean do dhroichid agus do bhóithre dul tríd na ceantair seo mura bhfuil an dara rogha ann. Ar ndóigh, ba cheart aon obair den chineál sin a dhéanamh go cúramach leis an méid is lú dochair agus is féidir a dhéanamh don ghnáthóg.

Moladh 22: Spás Poiblí

Ba cheart crainn agus plandaí dúchasacha a chur ag fás i spásanna pobail/poiblí chomh fada agus gur féidir. In áit faiche gearrtha ba cheart plean bithéagsúlachta a chur i bhfeidhm. Ba cheart tacú le grúpaí áitiúla ar nós Coistí na mBailte Slachtmhara chun é seo a chur chun cinn ina gceantair féin.

Moladh 23: Fuinneamh in-athnuaite

Faoi láthair tá an-chuid muilte gaoithe lonnaithe i gConamara.

- Tá sé tábhachtach go dtógfar na muilte gaoithe seo ar fud na tíre. Níor cheart dlús mór acu a lonnú i gceantracha ar nós Conamara.
- Ba cheart go mbeadh ciste suntasach airgid ar leasa forbairt phobail áitiúil mar choinníoll ar aon togra mór fuinneamh in-athnuaite.
- Ba cheart fuinneamh in-athnuaite muir-lonnaithe a chur chun cinn in áiteanna nach mbeadh radharc orthu ón gcósta.
- Ba cheart calafort Ros an Mhíl a fhorbairt mar lárionad barr feabhais ar an gcósta thiar don tionscail fuinneamh in-athnuaite muir-lonnaithe.

Moladh 24: Fuinneamh

- Ba cheart na hacmhainní cuí a chur a fáil do na Comharchumainn Gaeltachta lena gceantar féin a fhorbairt mar “Energy Communities” mar atá á moladh ag SEAI.
- Ba cheart tacú le hinsliú tithe, PV Panels agus modhanna eile le fuinneamh a shábháil mar atá ag an SEAI.

Moladh 25: Bailiúchán Bruscair

Caithfidh Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe ról níos gníomhaí a ghlacadh i mbailiúchán bruscair sa Chontae:

- Ba cheart do na leoraithe bruscair an bruscar a bhailiú ó taobh amuigh de na tithe agus ní ó bhun an bhóthair.
- Ba cheart seirbhís bailiúcháin d’earraí móra a bhunú mar atá acu i gcathair na Gaillimhe.
- Ba cheart go mbeadh áit i ngach réigiún inar féidir earraí móra, earraí contúirteacha 7url a thabhairt ar lámh don chomhairle, ionas nach mbeadh ar dhaoine dul chomh fada le cathair na Gaillimhe le fáil réidh le hearraí.

Oidhreacht Ailtireachta & Seandálaíochta

Faoi láthair níl mórán cosaint ann d'oidhreacht seandálaíochta i nGaeltacht Chonamara. Tá ardmholadh ag dul do ghrúpaí áitiúla a bhfuil obair déanta acu chun an oidhreacht seandálaíochta atá ann a chaomhnú, m.sh. Dumhach na Leanbh i gCois Fharráige agus an leac ag suíomh "An Mine". Tá an-chuid de na struchtúir caomhnaithe atá ann i nGaeltacht Chonamara suite cois chósta, áit a bhfuil baol mór ann ó chreimeadh na farraige.

Moladh 26: Caomhnú an Oidhreacht Seandálaíochta

I gcomhar le grúpaí áitiúla agus úinéirí talún, ba cheart plean oibre caomhnaithe a leagan amach do struchtúir seandálaíochta:

- Ba cheart oibriú i gcomhar leis an úinéir talún.
- Ba cheart don Stát leithéid Túr Martello, Ros an Mhíl a cheannach agus a úsáid mar chuid de Slí an Atlantaigh Fhiáin, le stair chalafort Ros an Mhíl agus oidhreacht mara an cheantair a insint.
- Ba cheart suíomhanna ar nós Dumhach na Leanbh ag Trá Sáilín agus Reilig an Chaisleáin sna Minna a fhorbairt agus a chaomhnú.
- Ba cheart suíomhanna ar nós Toit Chonnáin ag Caorán na gCearc a chosaint ó chreimeadh chósta.
- Ba ceart na suíomhanna thuas agus tuilleadh mar iad a nascadh mar shiúlóid oidhreacht/cultúrtha fad Slí Chonamara.

Forbairt Shóisialta, Forbairt Pobail & Forbairt Chultúrtha

Moladh 27: Áiseanna Pobail

Ba cheart go mbeadh an cineál seo áis ar fáil i ngach ceantar agus a líon agus méid ag teacht le daonra an ceantar:

- Ionad Pobail, le seomraí cruinnithe, halla spóirt agus an féidearthacht feidhmiú mar lárionad do hgrúpaí agus gníomhaíochtaí difriúla.
- Áiseanna spóirt taobh istigh agus taobh amuigh, m.sh. cúirt cispheile, halla spóirt, raon reatha, clós spraoi 7url.
- Áiseanna do chaifé óige, spás óige. Spás taobh istigh do dhaoine óga ar nós caifé óige, club obair bhaile/staidéir, spás le scíth a ligean, Fighting Words, bord púil 7url.
- Dá mbeadh na háiseanna seo feiliúnach d'fhéadfaí iad a úsáid freisin mar mhol mheabhairshláinte le tacaíocht a thabhairt don phobal; is áis a bheadh iontu do sheirbhísí teagmhála d'eagraíochtaí atá lonnaithe sa chathair.
- Leithris poiblí oiriúnacha do dhaoine le cathaoireacha rotha, ach go háirithe sa Spidéal, Ros an Mhíl, An Cheathrú Rua, Ros Muc, Leitir Móir, Cill Chiaráin agus Carna.
- Athchóiriú ar an sean linn snámha faoin aer, atá lonnaithe i Ros Muc.

Moladh 28: Seirbhísí Riachtanacha

- Tá sé fíorthábhachtach d'inmharthanacht an cheantair go bhfuil áiseanna riachtanacha ar fáil go háitiúil. Tá sé riachtanach do Chonamara nach ndúntar leithéidí scoileanna, oifig an phoist, ionaid leighis 7url. Nuair a dhúnann a leithéid de sheirbhís i gceantar, cuireann sé go mór le bánú an cheantair agus brúnn sé daoine i dtreo na sráidbhailte ina bhfuil na seirbhísí ar fáil.
- Ba cheart ionad cúraim príomhúil a fhorbairt sa Spidéal.
- Ba cheart do sheirbhísí riachtanacha ar nós an mbanc, leabharlann, banaltra, oifig Leasa Shóisialta 7url a bheith ar fáil ar bhun páirtaimseartha sna ceantair difriúla, ag baint leasa as ionad pobail atá ann cheana féin.
- Dá mbeadh seirbhísí riachtanacha mar seo ar fáil don phobal ina gceantar féin trí mheán na Gaeilge, chabhródh sé go mór le hinmharthanacht an phobail áitiúil agus an Ghaeltacht.

Moladh 29: Ceol, Drámaíocht & Scríbhneoireacht

Tá cáil ar Ghaeltacht Chonamara mar gheall ar a n-oidhreacht agus cultúr. Tá cultúr an cheoil, na drámaíochta agus na scríbhneoireachta mar chuid lárnach de seo.

- Ba cheart lárionaid barr feabhais a bhunú sa Ghaeltacht le seomraí ranga agus spás stáitse atá in oiriúint do mhúineadh uirlisí agus canadh i ngrúpaí beaga agus inar féidir taispeántais a chur ar siúl.
- D'fhéadfadh ceoltóirí áitiúla na háiseanna seo a úsáid le ranganna a reáchtáil chun an chéad ghlúin eile a mhúineadh. D'fhéadfaí ranganna agus cúrsaí a reáchtáil do chuirteoirí, scoileanna samhraidh agus a leithéid.
- D'fhéadfadh clubanna leabhair, ceardlanna scríbhneoireachta agus eile leas a bhaint as an spás.
- D'fhéadfadh na lárionaid barr feabhais seo a bheith comhnasctha le hallaí/ionad pobail atá ann cheana.
- Neartódh sé seo cultúr an cheoil, na drámaíochta agus na scríbhneoireachta sa cheantar agus bheadh sé mar áis siamsaíochta freisin.

Moladh 30: Na báid traidisiúnta

Tá ceangal faoi leith ag an gcurach agus ag na báid mhóra le hIarthar na hÉireann ach caithfear tacú leo siúd atá ina mbun.

- Ba cheart tacú le cothabháil na húicéirí.
- Ba ceart tacú le rásaí na húicéirí agus na gcurach; is féidir leis na himeachtaí seo an turasóireacht a thiomáint agus is ócáidí tábhachtacha traidisiúnta iad.
- Is deis iontach siamsaíochta atá ann do gach duine idir óg agus aosta.
- Is deis é tacú le hoidhreacht an cheantair agus le scileanna seoltóireachta a mhúineadh don chéad ghlúin eile. Ba cheart cúnamh a thabhairt ionas gur féidir le daoine scileanna na mbád a mhúineadh.

Moladh 31: Gluaiseacht na Seid

Ba cheart tacú leis an ngluaiseacht pobail – Seid na bhFear/na mBan. Is bealach iontach é leis an bpobal áitiúil a chumasú.

- Cuireann sé áiseanna siamsaíochta pobail ar fáil.
- Ceardlanna traidisiúnta a fhoghlaim agus a mhúineadh.
- Spiorad pobail a chur chun cinn agus cuir i gcoinne uaigneas na tuaithe.

Gaeltacht na Gaillimhe

Tá freagracht faoi leith ag Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe tacú le hinmharthanacht Ghaeltacht Chonamara.

Tá sé tábhachtach a rá go bhfuil na riachtanais céanna ag Gaeltacht Chonamara agus atá ag aon chuid eile den chontae. Má tá sé de sprioc ag Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe an Ghaeltacht a slánú, caithfear polasaithe gníomhacha a fhorbairt le tacú le pobal beo beathaíoch a chur chun cinn sa Ghaeltacht. Faoi láthair, ní mar seo atá agus tá pobal na Gaeltachta faoi bhrú agus ag fulaingt mar gheall ar easpa seirbhísí riachtanacha, fostaíochta, áiseanna pobail, tithíochta agus iompair.

Le go mbeidh todhchaí ag an nGaeltacht, caithfidh an deis a bheith ann do dhaoine fanacht ina gceantar féin, post agus teach a bheith acu agus a gclann féin a thógáil ann más mian leo sin a dhéanamh.

Faoi láthair tá polasaithe Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe agus an Stát trí chéile ag teipeadh ar phobal Ghaeltacht Chonamara. Is cinnte go bhfuil blianta cinniúnacha don Ghaeltacht san áireamh in amchlár an phlean forbartha seo, ó 2022 – 2028.

Moladh 32: An Ghaeilge

- Ba cheart LAP dá gcuid féin a fhorbairt do sráidbhailte Gaeltachta agus don Gaeltacht.
- Ba cheart aon chomharthaíocht a úsáideann an Comhairle Chontae sa Gaeltacht a bheith as Gaeilge.
- Ba cheart go mbeadh seirbhísí iomlána an Chomhairle Chontae ar fáil go dátheangach.
- Ba ceart seirbhísí a chur ar fáil ar bhonn lán/páirtaimseartha sa Ghaeltacht agus iad a bheith ar fáil i nGaeilge.
- Ba cheart don Chomhairle Chontae tacú le húsáid na Gaeilge mar theanga phobail sa Ghaeltacht.

An Oidhreacht Nádúrtha, an Tírdhreach & Bonneagar Glas

Is fíor a rá go bhfuil a ndóthain déanta ag rialacha pleanála agus aitheantas mar cheantracha caomhnaithe speisialta chun codanna suntasacha d'infreastruchtúr glas an cheantair a chaomhnú.

Moladh 10: Turasóireacht Siúl

- An bealach glas idir Maigh Cuilinn agus cathair na Gaillimhe agus ar aghaidh go dtí an Chlochán a chríochnú. Ba cheart don bhealach atá roghnaithe bheith in oiriúint do agus aontaithe leis na húinéirí talún.
- Bealach glas Bhearna a fhorbairt ó Bhóthar na Trá agus é a shíneadh siar chomh fada leis an Spidéal. Ba cheart don bhealach atá roghnaithe bheith in oiriúint do agus aontaithe leis na húinéirí talún.
- Slí Chonamara a athbheochan cois chósta ón Spidéal go Ros an Mhíl agus é a nascadh le siúlóidí an Cheathrú Rua, Seanadh Mhachadh agus ar aghaidh go Ros Muc agus Carna.
- Sraith pointí eolais a fhorbairt mar bhealach caomhnaithe, ag nascadh leithéidí Toit Chonáin, Túr Martello Ros an Mhíl, Suíomh “An Mine” agus Dúmhach na Leanbh i gCois Fharrage, le scéal oidhreachta agus stair na háite a insint agus leis na pointí ainmnithe ar Shlí an Atlantaigh Fhiáin a neartú.

Moladh 11: Bealach Gorm Maigh Cuilinn

- Bealach Gorm a fhorbairt ó chathair na Gaillimhe go Loch Baile Uí Choirc go Ross Lake tríd an gréasán lochanna agus canáil atá ann faoi láthair.

Moladh 22: Spás Poiblí

Ba cheart crainn agus plandaí dúchasacha a chur ag fás i spásanna pobail/poiblí chomh fada agus gur féidir. In áit faiche gearrtha ba cheart plean bithéagsúlachta a chur i bhfeidhm. Ba cheart tacú le grúpaí áitiúla ar nós Coistí na mBailte Slachtmhara chun é seo a chur chun cinn ina gceantair féin.

Moladh 23: Fuinneamh in-athnuaite

Faoi láthair tá an-chuid muilté gaoithe lonnaithe i gConamara.

- Tá sé tábhachtach go dtógfá na muilté gaoithe seo ar fud na tíre. Níor cheart dlús mór acu a lonnú i gceantracha ar nós Conamara.
- Ba cheart go mbeadh ciste suntasach airgid ar leasa forbairt phobail áitiúil mar choinníoll ar aon togra mór fuinneamh in-athnuaite.
- Ba cheart fuinneamh in-athnuaite muir-lonnaithe a chur chun cinn in áiteanna nach mbeadh radharc orthu ón gcósta.
- Ba cheart calafort Ros an Mhíl a fhorbairt mar lárionad barr feabhais ar an gcósta thiar don tionscail fuinneamh in-athnuaite muir-lonnaithe.

Moladh 33: Speiceas Ionracha

Ba cheart leanúint le scriosadh speiceas ionracha ar nós Japanese Knotweed agus Giant Hogweed, mar atá éigeantach faoin dlí. Ba cheart freisin plean a chur le chéile le dul i ngleic le speiceas ionracha eile ar nós rhododendrons, lena scaipeadh a mhaolú.

Talmhaíocht, Iascaireacht, an Tionscal Mara & Foraoiseachta

Moladh 9: Calafort Ros an Mhíl

Tá deis ann calafort Ros an Mhíl agus an spás tionsclaíoch atá timpeall air a chur chun cinn mar lárionad forbartha straitéiseach, le freastal ar thionscal na mara, fuinneamh in-athnuaite 7url.

- Ros an Mhíl a choimeád mar calafort iascaireachta.
- Céibh Dhomhainmhara a fhorbairt ag Calafort Ros na Mhíl.
- Ros an Mhíl a ainmniú mar lárionad forbartha straitéiseach agus tascfhórsa a bhunú leis na féidearthachtaí a fhiosrú agus a fhorbairt.
- Tacú le háiseanna, deisiú báid 7url a fhorbairt sa chalafort.

Moladh 34: Feirmeoirí Beaga

Tá sé mar chuid d'oidhreacht Ghaeltacht Chonamara go mbíonn an-chuid feirmeoirí beaga le roinnt beithígh acu. Tá ról lárnach ag na feirmeoirí beaga i gcothabháil na talún agus i dtraidisiún agus oidhreacht an cheantair. Tá sé tábhachtach go dtacódh Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe le feirmeoirí Chonamara chomh fada agus is féidir.

Moladh 35: Iascairí beaga

Tá dualgas ar an gComhairle Chontae aire a thabhairt do na céibheanna beaga atá scaipthe ar fud Chonamara. I go leor cásanna tá úsáid laethúil á bhaint as na céibheanna agus droch-chaoi ar an-chuid acu.

Moladh 36: Lucht Bainte Feamainne

Is tionscal traidisiúnta é baint na feamainne i gConamara agus is slí beatha é a chuireann ar chumas dhaoine cur fúthu ina gceantar dhúchais féin. Tá an-chuid éiginnteacht faoi thodhchaí bhainistiú an tionscail amach anseo.

Ba cheart do Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe tacú le lucht bainte feamainne traidisiúnta chun:

- A gcuid cearta Folios a chlárú.
- A gcuid cearta Profit a prendre a chlárú.
- Cinntiú go bhfuil an fheamainn á bhaint go cothrom agus ar bhealach inmharthana ar leasa an bhainteoir aonair agus ar leasa an phobail áitiúil.

Core Strategy & Housing

While the overall population of County Galway is increasing, this growth is not balanced across the county. Areas on the outskirts of Galway City are growing in population while those further removed are suffering, losing vitality and critical mass with an aging population.

The Connemara Gaeltacht is poorly served by the current structure of designated towns and villages. Bearna and Maigh Cuilinn are being subsumed into Galway City without any parallel development of services and infrastructure.

Proposal 1: Strengthening Communities

Communities in major settlements such as Bearna (now part of the Galway Metropolitan Area) and Maigh Cuilinn (designated as a key town but merging into Galway City) need to be supported by the development of:

- proper community centres
- indoor and outdoor facilities for teenagers
- proper public transport, cycle and walking links with Galway City.

Once outside the immediate catchment of Galway City there are only three designated villages in the Connemara Gaeltacht – An Spidéal, An Cheathrú Rua and an Tulaigh. As one moves West from na Forbacha in general the population growth from 2011 to 2016 is either marginally positive or negative.

The designation of these three villages in the Gaeltacht region to the exclusion of all the other potential settlement areas such as Ros Muc, Ros an Mhíl, Leitir Móir, Cill Chiaráin, Carna runs the danger of concentrating future population in these village areas to the detriment of the rest of the Gaeltacht area.

The Connemara Gaeltacht has a unique status not only in County Galway but nationally as arguably the strongest Gaeltacht in the country. The strength of language, culture and heritage is dependent on the rural network of townlands, small settlements and villages.

Proposal 2: Recognising Communities

The areas currently designated as “Other Settlements” in the County development plan meet many of the criteria to be recognised as “Other Villages” containing churches, primary schools, shops, pubs etc, eg Carna, Cill Chiaráin, Ros Muc, Leitir Móir, Leitir Mealláin, Ros an Mhíl etc. Public consultations should be carried out in each locality to gauge support for redesignation.

This settlement pattern does not easily conform to the standards and designations mandated on a national level, but it is crucial that the existing, recognised areas of the Connemara Gaeltacht are supported and allowed to develop. The issues paper raises the issue of how best to limit one-off housing and while that may be appropriate in the immediate area of Galway City it is inappropriate in Connemara.

Proposal 3: Planning Permission

Without planning permission being granted for one-off housing in Connemara, the Gaeltacht as we know it will continue to age and to disappear. It is vital for the long-term survival of the Connemara Gaeltacht that people be allowed to build one-off housing on family land.

Proposal 4: Provision of Houses

Galway County Council should change its policy on the provision of social and affordable housing. The council should be in a position to provide social and affordable housing throughout the Gaeltacht in a ratio in keeping with the local population. People with connections to the area, returning from abroad should also be supported to do so.

In recent years the lack of local services has been used by the Council as a reason not to develop social housing in smaller villages. Instead the Council should address the lack of local services and provide the social housing at a level in keeping with the population of the local area.

It is crucial that the new County development plan seeks to spread the future population growth throughout the county. It would be unacceptable to continue the trend towards Gaeltacht Chonamara becoming simply a commuter belt to the west of Galway city.

Urban Living and Placemaking

With regard to the Connemara Gaeltacht both Bearna and Maigh Cuilinn fall within the direct remit of the Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan.

Both these areas have a very strong sense of identity and have developed very rapidly from what were once small villages. The growth in population has not been matched with an improvement in community services and infrastructure supports.

Proposal 1: Strengthening Communities

Communities in major settlements such as Bearna (now part of the Galway Metropolitan Area) and Maigh Cuilinn (designated as a key town but merging into Galway City) need to be supported by the development of:

- proper community centres
- indoor and outdoor facilities for teenagers
- adequate public transport, cycle and walking links with Galway City

Proposal 5: Urban Connectivity

In order to develop the proper connectivity with Galway City the following is key:

- Public Transport: Frequent, reliable bus links to Galway City, with designated park & ride, sheltered bus stops and wheelchair accessible buses/stops.
- Completion of the Moycullen Greenway to Galway City, along a route that makes sense to and with the consent of local landowners.
- Development of the Bearna Greenway/route to Galway City, along a route that makes sense to and with the consent of local landowners and the possible extension of said route to An Spidéal.

Rural Place Making and the Countryside

Gaeltacht Chonamara is predominantly rural and its settlement pattern is based to a large extent on the “Baile Fearann” or townlands. It is crucial that this is recognised and allowed for in the development plan. Successive development plans have sought to “protect the countryside from excessive and inappropriate development” and yet it seems that it is easier for developers to build housing developments than for local people to get planning permission for a house on family land.

Proposal 3: Planning Permission

Without planning permission being granted for one-off housing in Connemara the Gaeltacht as we know it will continue to age and to disappear. It is vital for the long-term survival of the Connemara Gaeltacht that people be allowed to build one off housing on family land.

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Galway County Council should change its policy on the provision of social and affordable housing. The council should be in a position to provide social and affordable housing throughout the Gaeltacht in a ration in keeping with the local population. People with connections to the area, returning from abroad should also be supported to do so.

In recent years the lack of local services has been used by the Council as a reason not to develop social housing in smaller villages, instead the Council should address the lack of local services and provide the social housing at a level in keeping with the population of the local area.

Proposal 6: A living landscape

It is important to recognise that while Connemara’s landscape and countryside is truly unique, and should be preserved it must be done in such a way as to preserve a living landscape with a vibrant community and not as a national Park.

Proposal 7: Rural Connectivity

In order to develop proper connectivity within the Gaeltacht and with Galway City:

- Public Transport: Frequent, reliable bus links to Galway City, with designated park & ride, sheltered bus stops and wheelchair accessible buses/stops.
- Development of the Bearna Greenway/route to Galway City, along a route that makes sense to and with the consent of local landowners and the extension of said route to An Spidéal.
- The development of pedestrian pavements with streetlights linking outlying townlands with the core “village” centre in areas such as Na Doiriú to Ros an Mhíl, Cladhnach to An Cheathrú Rua, An Gort Mór to Ros Muc.
- The current ad-hoc provision of local minibuses by local committees and groups throughout the region should be reviewed and streamlined to identify gaps. Local minibuses provide an important transport option for people to attend local events, bingo etc.

Economic, Enterprise, Tourism and Retail Development

Proposal 8: Rural Broadband & Mobile signal

The COVID19 pandemic has highlighted the potential of remote working for rural Ireland, including the Connemara Gaeltacht. In order for this to be sustainable and viable:

- Reliable, high speed broadband access should be made available throughout Connemara
- Reliable and effective mobile phone signal should be made available throughout Connemara

Proposal 9: Ros an Mhíl Harbour

Ros an Mhíl harbour with its associated land bank offers the opportunity to develop Ros an Mhíl as a strategic development area, servicing the marine industry, renewable resources industry etc

- Commit to maintain Ros an Mhíl harbour as a Fishery Harbour Centre
- Development of a deepwater quay at Ros an Mhíl
- Designation of Ros an Mhíl as a strategic development area with taskforce established to help develop associated industries
- Support the development of boat repair facilities at Ros an Mhíl, such as lifting cranes etc, so that boats can be lifted onto land on site.

Tourism in Gaeltacht Chonamara is largely ignored in current plans, except for the Galway-Moycullen greenway and the Aran Islands. It is vital for the sustainability of the Gaeltacht region that the tourist trade is developed there, in particular in terms of outdoor, activity based tourism.

Proposal 10: Walking Tourism

- Completion of the Moycullen Greenway to Galway City, along a route that makes sense to and with the consent of local landowners.
- Development of the Bearna Greenway/route to Galway City, along a route that makes sense to and with the consent of local landowners and the extension of said route along the coast to An Spidéal.
- Redevelopment of Slí Chonamara running along the coast from An Spidéal to Ros an Mhíl, linking to Seanadh Mhachadh and onwards to Ros Muc and Carna.
- Development of info boards and conservation trail along this route preserving locations such as Midden Caorán na gCearc, Túr Martello Ros an Mhíl and linking in with sites such as “An Mine” and Dúmhach na Leanbh i gCois Fharráige to tell the story of the heritage and history of the area and strengthen Wild Atlantic Way viewing points.

Proposal 11: Maigh Cuilinn Blue Way

- Development of a Blueway from Galway City to Ballyquirke lake to Ross Lake in Maigh Cuilinn using the existing network of lakes and canals.

Proposal 12: Water Sports region

Development and marketing of the area from An Spidéal to Carna as a watersports centre of excellence.

- This area is already developing marine tourism industries, this proposal would support the development by community and private industry of further watersports facilities and the marketing of same
- It has a varied landscape providing sheltered open water and protected bays and inlets, multiple small piers and sandy beaches.
- It could bring together different sports including sub aqua, windsurfing, sailing, currach rowing, angling, galway hookers, kayaking, paddle boarding.
- It could support those sailing traditional boats and facilitate courses by boat builders.
- Existing beaches should be maintained and managed by the County Council to maintain their amenity value and ensure Blue Flag status where relevant.

Proposal 13: Extension of Wild Atlantic Way

The highly successful Wild Atlantic Way should be developed to fully include Gaeltacht Chonamara – in conjunction with consultation with the local community; for example:

- Extension to Leitir Meallan, viewing points such as Ceann Golam, Ionad na Feamainne.
- Extension to Ros Muc, viewing points to include Slí an Phiarsaigh.
- Extension to include Túr Martello Ros an Mhíl as a viewing point.
- Facilities such as bins, parking, toilets etc should be developed in conjunction with the local community to support all viewing points etc.

Proposal 14: Development of An Spidéal as the gateway to the Gaeltacht

- With the above proposals An Spidéal would be accessible via a coastal cycle/walking route from Galway city and people could travel onwards along the coast towards Ros an Mhíl and further into the Gaeltacht.
- The development of the old Ceol na Mara site to benefit and revive the vibrancy of the village.
- Proper management of the beach at “An Chéibh Nua” to control the amount of vegetation growing on it.
- Review of the layout of parking spaces on the Main St, to improve parking and to reduce traffic congestion when buses/lorries are passing.
- Improvement of water quality at Trá na mBan to regain Blue Flag status.

Proposal 15: Slí an Phiarsaigh

Development of an information trail in Ros Muc and surrounding area, in conjunction with the local community about Pádraig Mac Piarais and Irish republicanism in the area.

- This would compliment and enhance the existing OPW centre at Pearse’s Cottage
- This would bring tourists into Ros Muc itself and encourage a longer stays in the area.

Infrastructure and Transport

Proposal 7: Rural Transport

In order to develop proper connectivity within the Gaeltacht and with Galway City:

- Public Transport: Frequent, reliable bus links to Galway City, with designated park & ride, sheltered bus stops and wheelchair accessible buses/stops.
- Development of the Bearna Greenway/route to Galway City, along a route that makes sense to and with the consent of local landowners and the extension of said route to An Spidéal.
- The development of pedestrian pavements with streetlights linking outlying townlands with the core “village” centre in areas such as Na Doiriú to Ros an Mhíl, Cladhnach to An Cheathrú Rua, An Gort Mór to Ros Muc.
- The current ad-hoc provision of local minibuses by local committees and groups throughout the region should be reviewed and streamlined to identify gaps. Local minibuses provide an important transport option for people to attend local events, bingo etc.

Proposal 16: Sewage networks

Sewage provision is a vital component of balanced development in the county. It is time to support the development of rural Connemara by developing sewage treatment schemes in Cois Fharrage, Cuan Chasla, Ros Muc, Cill Chiaráin and Carna and the completion of the plant at An Spidéal.

- These plants should service as much of the local area as possible.
- The use of high pressure technology should be developed and rolled out across Gaeltacht Chonamara to reduce the dependency on septic tanks.
- Údarás na Gaeltachta sewage treatment plants in Connemara should be taken in hand by Uisce Éireann and developed to serve the local community as well as business/industrial parks.
- Wastewater treatment plants should be built to at least a secondary treatment standard and primary treatment only should be deemed insufficient.
- A 100m stepback distance from wastewater treatment plants should be adopted as the required standard.

Proposal 17: Drinking Water

It is important that houses and businesses have access to reliable, clean drinking water.

- Excess capacity should be generated on the Aran Islands and the water supply should be improved so as to guarantee supply throughout the year.
- Existing group schemes should be reviewed and brought under the umbrella of Uisce Éireann, where appropriate.
- Leaking and deteriorating sections of the pipe network should be mapped and a medium-term plan agreed for their replacement.

Proposal 18: N6 Galway City Ring Road

The completion of the proposed Galway City Ring Road with minimal impact on local communities.

- It is vital that the rush hour traffic issues affecting people from Connemara travelling to Galway City for work are improved as the current tailbacks are intolerable.
- Currently Connemara is effectively landlocked by the traffic jams in Galway City which effects anybody seeking to travel to or from Connemara through Galway City.
- All efforts should be made to minimise the amount of houses that must be demolished/affected during this development.
- Local connectivity in affected areas should be maintained.
- Those whose houses are affected should be facilitated in terms of planning permission to relocate across City/County boundaries to build similar houses to those demolished.

Proposal 19: New N336 Bearna to Ros an Mhíl/Scríb

The current R336 is inappropriate for the volume of traffic that uses it.

- A new road parallel to the existing road but further to the North should be developed.
- This road should run to the North of the existing townland developments and if necessary a derogation should be sought from the EU to put portions of the road through the SAC.
- This new road should be designated as a National road as befits its importance and traffic load.
- The new road should include cycle tracks and pedestrian pavements with access roads to service the existing coastal road.
- Park and ride facilities should be developed along the access points on the new road to facilitate park and ride with an express bus link to Galway City.

Proposal 20: Improving of Standards in Existing Road Network

The current condition of roads in Gaeltacht Chonamara is unsatisfactory. The above proposals of Galway Ring Road and the N336 will address some of the issues, however a long term plan deal with the condition of Regional and Local roads needs to be key to any new transport strategy.

- A plan to upgrade the existing road network to a suitable standard.
- A plan to upgrade existing bridges in the Connemara Gaeltacht to a suitable standard including Droichead Cladhach, Droichid Ceantar na nOileáin etc.
- A plan to address the annual issue of verge cutting on regional and local roads.

Environment, Renewable Energies and Communications

Proposal 8: Rural Broadband & Mobile signal

The event of the COVID19 pandemic has highlighted the potential of remote working for rural Ireland, including the Connemara Gaeltacht. In order for this to be sustainable and viable:

- Reliable, high speed broadband access should be made available throughout Connemara
- Reliable and efficient, mobile signal should be made available throughout Connemara

Water quality is a key environmental issue in Co Galway Eutrophication and pollution from waste water discharge are key factors. Currently the coastal region of the Connemara Gaeltacht has no public sewage network. It is accepted that during wet weather septic tanks leach into the groundwater and of course currently in An Spidéal and an Sruthán in An Cheathrú Rua untreated sewage is pumped into the sea.

Proposal 16: Sewage networks

Sewage provision is a vital component of balanced development in the county. It is time to support the development of rural Connemara by developing sewage treatment schemes in Cois Fharráige, Cuan Chasla, Ros Muc, Cill Chiaráin and Carna and the completion of the plant at An Spidéal.

- These plants should service as much of the local area as possible.
- The use of high pressure technology should be developed and rolled out across Gaeltacht Connemara to reduce the dependency on septic tanks.
- Údarás na Gaeltachta sewage treatment plants in Connemara should be taken in hand by Uisce Éireann and developed to serve the local community as well as business/industrial parks.
- Wastewater treatment plants should be built to at least a secondary treatment standard and primary treatment only should be deemed insufficient.
- A 100m stepback distance from wastewater treatment plants should be adopted as the required standard.

Proposal 21: Special Areas of Conservation

Currently large sections of the Connemara Gaeltacht are designated as Special Areas of Conservation or other similar designations.

- It is important to conserve and protect our natural habitat as has been done with the designation of extensive tracts of bogland and Cuan Cill Chiarán.
- It is important that where crucial developments/infrastructure such as roads, bridges etc pass through or border these areas that any development or repair work is done sensitively. Ultimately however these developments, where judged to be essential for the benefit of the community should be permitted but with the appropriate care and mitigation measures.

Proposal 22: Rewilding of public spaces

Community or public spaces should be planted with native trees/plants where appropriate and encouraged to move away from mown grass in favour of implementing the Pollinator/Biodiversity Plan. Local action groups and Tidy Town organisations could spearhead this with support from the council.

Proposal 23: Renewable Energy

Currently Connemara has a high concentration of land based wind turbines.

- It is important that regions such as Connemara are not designated for further wind turbine development. Such developments should be spread across the country.
- Any renewable energy development should have a significant community development fund associated with it.
- Marine based renewable energy should be encouraged, with such developments over the horizon from the land.
- Ros an Mhíl harbour should be developed as a centre of excellence for the servicing and development of marine based renewables.

Proposal 24: Energy Communities

- The existing network of Gaeltacht Comharchumann should be resourced to develop their own catchment areas as energy communities in keeping with SEAI objectives.
- Encouraging the refitting of houses, installation of PV panels etc in keeping with SEAI objectives

Proposal 25: Waste Collection

Galway County Council should take a more proactive role in the waste collection service in the County:

- Ensure that bin lorries will collect bins from outside houses and not from the bottom of the road as currently happens in certain areas.
- A bulky goods collection service should be established along the lines of the one operating in Galway City.

Architectural and Archaeological Heritage

The current level of protection for archaeological heritage in the Connemara Gaeltacht is inadequate. Local groups are to be commended for works such as those that have taken place in Cois Fharráige at Dúmhach na Leanbh and the info board at suíomh “An Mine”. Many of the Protected Structures in the Connemara Gaeltacht are located along the coast and are in danger of being destroyed by storms.

Proposal 26: Preservation of Archaeological Heritage

In conjunction with local community groups designated and undesignated structures should be identified and an action plan drawn up for each in discussion with the relevant landowner.

- All developments are only possible with the consent and permission of the landowner, who should be approached and consulted on how best to proceed.
- Structures such as Túr Martello, Ros an Mhíl should be bought into State ownership and developed as a historical site as a viewing point on the Wild Atlantic Way to tell the story of Ros an Mhíl harbour and the seafaring tradition of the region.
- Sites such as Dumhach na Leanbh at Trá Sáilín and Reilig an Chaisleáin at Na Minna should be developed and protected as has been done at an Teach Mór.
- Sites such as the Midden at Caorán na gCearc should be protected from storm damage.
- These and other sites could be incorporated into a heritage/cultural walking tour along Slí Chonamara.

Social, Community and Cultural Development

Proposal 27: Community Facilities

The following facilities should be present in every settlement with the size and facilities reflecting the local population:

- Community Centre, to include a meeting room/sports hall and the capacity to serve as a multifunction centre if required for occasional use by different disciplines.
- Indoor and outdoor facilities for sports playing such as basketball court, sports hall, running track, children's playground etc.
- Facilities for a youth café, youth space etc. Designated indoor space for activities for young people such as a youth café, homework club, chill out space, pool table, fighting words etc.
- Multipurpose use of facilities could see the likes of mental health hubs/supports developed in the local community, supporting outreach by organisations based in Galway City such as Jigsaw etc.
- Public Toilets to include accessible toilet facilities for people in wheelchairs, especially in An Spidéal, Ros an Mhíl, An Cheathrú Rua, Ros Muc, Leitir Móir, Cill Chiaráin and Carna.
- Restoration of the old swimming pool in Ros Muc.

Proposal 28: Essential Services

- It is important for the vitality of the area that local facilities such as schools, post offices, medical centres etc do not continue to close, something which encourages the cluster affect and encourages rural isolation.
- A primary care centre should be developed in An Spidéal.
- Essential services such as banking, library, medical checkups, social welfare should be provided on a part time basis in communities, utilising existing community centres on a designated day a week etc.
- The provision of essential services such as these in the local area, through Irish supports the identity of the community and is vitally important for the preservation of the language.

Proposal 29: Music, Drama & Literature

Gaeltacht Chonamara is renowned for its rich heritage. Drama, music and literature are key components of this culture.

- Designated centres of excellence should be established in the Gaeltacht, with the necessary teaching rooms and performance space to facilitate the teaching of instruments and singing in small groups and performance of shows.
- It is envisaged that local musicians would use these facilities to teach the next generation. They could also host classes and sessions for visitors, facilitating summer schools etc.
- These centres of excellence could combine with existing community centres, halls etc if appropriate.
- This would strengthen the continuation of the musical, drama and literary traditions and also provide recreational facilities etc.
- They could host local book clubs, writing workshops etc.

Proposal 30: Traditional boats

The currach and Galway Hooker have become iconic images of the west of Ireland and yet their survival is by no means assured.

- The maintenance and upkeep of Galway Hookers should be supported.
- Both Galway Hooker and Currach races have the potential to drive tourism and provide an important local event and they should be supported by the County Council.
- Actively engaging with the sea at any age provides a calming element, strengthening traditions and developing new skills. Courses and training schemes in conjunction with the current generation of sailors could introduce the next generation to sailing.

Proposal 31: The Shed movement

As a community facility to empower the local community to pursue the interests of its members the Men's/Women's shed movement should be supported and encouraged. It has enormous potential:

- To provide community recreational facilities
- To develop and pass on traditional crafts
- To develop a sense of community and to guard against rural isolation.

The Galway Gaeltacht

Galway County Council has a unique mandate and responsibility towards the Connemara Gaeltacht.

It is important to note that the requirements of the Gaeltacht are the same as any other part of the county. In order to preserve the Gaeltacht, Galway County Council must proactively support the development of sustainable, vibrant communities in the Gaeltacht. Currently this is not the case, with Gaeltacht Communities under pressure in terms of essential services, employment, community facilities and transport.

In order for the Gaeltacht to survive, individuals must feel that they have the choice to stay in the area in which they grow up, to work, own a house and raise a family in that area if they so wish.

Currently the combined policies of Galway County Council and the State are failing the community of the Connemara Gaeltacht and the period of this development plan 2022 – 2028 could well define the future of the region.

Proposal 32: An Ghaeilge

- LAPs should be developed for Gaeltacht settlements and for the rural Gaeltacht area.
- Signage used by the County Council in the Gaeltacht should be in Irish.
- All public services provided by Galway County Council should be available bilingually.
- All public services provided in the Gaeltacht should be provided by somebody who is proficient in Irish.
- The use of Irish as a living, spoken language in the community should be supported by the County Council.

Natural Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure

It is fair to say that with existing planning laws and designated Special Areas of Conservation significant sections of the Green Infrastructure throughout the Connemara Gaeltacht are already preserved.

Proposal 10: Walking Tourism

- Completion of the Moycullen Greenway to Galway City, along a route that makes sense to and with the consent of local landowners.
- Development of the Bearna Greenway/route to Galway City, along a route that makes sense to and with the consent of local landowners and the extension of said route along the coast to An Spidéal.
- Redevelopment of Slí Chonamara running along the coast from An Spidéal to Ros an Mhíl, linking to Seanadh Mhachadh and onwards to Ros Muc and Carna.
- Development of info boards and conservation trail along this route preserving locations such as Midden Caorán na gCearc, Túr Martello Ros an Mhíl and linking in with sites such as “An Mine” and Dúmhach na Leanbh i gCois Fharraige to tell the story of the heritage and history of the area and to strengthen the Wild Atlantic Way viewing point in the area.

Proposal 11: Maigh Cuilinn Blue Way

Development of a Blueway from Galway City to Ballyquirke lake to Ross Lake in Maigh Cuilinn using the existing network of lakes and canals.

Proposal 21: Special Areas of Conservation

Currently large sections of the Connemara Gaeltacht are designated as Special Areas of Conservation or other similar designations.

- It is important to conserve and protect our natural habitat as has been done with the designation of extensive tracts of bogland and Cuan Cill Chiarán.
- It is important that where crucial developments/infrastructure such as roads, bridges etc pass through or border these areas that any development or repair work is done sensitively. Ultimately however these developments, where judged to be essential for the benefit of the community should be permitted but with the appropriate care and mitigation measures.

Proposal 22: Rewilding of public spaces

Community or public spaces should be planted with native trees/plants where appropriate and encouraged to move away from mown grass in favour of implementing the Pollinator/Biodiversity Plan. Local action groups and Tidy Town organisations could spearhead this with support from the council.

Proposal 33: Invasive species

Mapping and eradication of invasive species such as Japanese knotweed and Giant Hogweed are already underway and are a statutory obligation. An action plan for invasive species such as rhododendrons should be put in place to eradicate/slow its spread in bogland in the Connemara Gaeltacht.

Agriculture, Fishing, Marine and Forestry

Proposal 9: Ros an Mhíl Harbour

Ros an Mhíl harbour with its associated land bank offers the opportunity to develop Ros an Mhíl as a strategic development area, servicing the marine industry, renewable resources industry etc

- Commit to maintain Ros an Mhíl harbour as a Fishery Harbour Centre
- Development of a deepwater quay at Ros an Mhíl
- Designation of Ros an Mhíl as a strategic development area with taskforce established to help develop associated industries.
- Support the development of boat repair facilities at Ros an Mhíl, such as lifting cranes etc, so that boats can be lifted onto land on site.

Proposal 34: Small Farmers

The bulk of farming activity in the Connemara Gaeltacht is farmers rearing a small number of cattle. These farmers help to maintain the land, keeping alive the tradition and heritage of the area. They should be supported where possible by the County Council.

Proposal 35: Small Fishermen

Facilities such as small piers throughout the Connemara Gaeltacht need to be developed and maintained by the County Council. Many of these piers are used daily and are in a terrible condition.

Proposal 36: Seaweed Harvesters

Seaweed harvesting is a traditional industry that provides a source of income in many communities in Gaeltacht Chonamara. It is an industry in flux as the licencing legislation appears to be under review. Galway County Council should support traditional seaweed harvesters to:

- Register their Folio rights
- Register their profit a prendre rights
- Ensure that harvesting is carried out fairly and in an environmentally sustainable manner for the benefit of the individual harvester and the local community.