

Hugh A Campbell, Dip.Arch, FRIAI., ARIBA.

CHARTERED ARCHITECT,

Redacted - Personal Information
To Kerry County Council, Rathass, Tralee.

RECEIVED

23 FEB 2022

PLANNING AUTHORITY
RECD. AT PUBLIC COUNTER

Dear Sirs,

My Wife and I would like to make some observations on the Draft Development Plan 2022/28, as follows. Reference numbers relate to those used in your published Draft.

Shopfronts and Signage/Ref.1.6.2 (Vol.2)

These aspirations are excellent, but we would like to see them strengthened, so as to include the construction and design aspects. If we are going to refer to our Heritage with some of our new shopfronts, let us be historically accurate and correct. Many of the newer shopfronts are simplified to the point of absurdity, or with a combination of Georgian, Edwardian and Victorian features. Each of these styles are present in some of the older shopfronts, and can be used, but not with two or more of them combined in one front.

Additionally, the old shopfronts were constructed of outdoor materials with proper flashings to deal with the rain water which the wind will cause to run down behind them, and rot the timbers.. The materials used should be of best quality and suitable for exposure to our Climate, properly prepared, painted and treated regularly.

It is because things were done thus in older times, that we still have our old period shopfronts to copy, unlike many of the more recent

ones, which are badly designed and constructed with cheap materials, and are already rotting away. We appreciate that many of these

shortcuts taken are to save money, but this is a false economy. We do not need or want either rotting or historically incorrect "theme park" architecture.

In the case of shopfronts it should be possible to ask Applicants for Planning Permission to provide full details of materials, finishes and construction, including weathering, as one would with a septic tank.

Heritage and Built Environment/Ref 1.9 and following.(Vol.2)

The Draft contains much about exploiting Kerry's Heritage.. Amongst this are passing references to several buildings, which we believe deserve more prominence

They include three Churches by Augustin Pugin, one of the most prominent and prolific Architect of his early to middle nineteenth century time. These are the Gothic Revival Churches of the Dominicans, and St.Johns Parish, in Tralee,and the Cathedral in Killarney. Pugin built numerous churches, world wide, including in the UK. Many people make tours of these churches, thus adding to tourism, and giving them more prominence would encourage this.

Also, there are two buildings in Tralee by the Father and Son Morrison Architects, also noted and prolific Architects, about whose work, including that in Tralee, much has been written, including a book by the Irish Architectural Heritage.The Tralee Courthouse is well known, but not so much is Tralee Gaol at Ballymullen, currently occupied by Kelliher's Electrical The work of these Architects has a following also, and many of these would be interested to know that they came from the same stable as Trinity College Dublin, and Ballyfin House Hotel,

regarded by many as the finest Hotel in Ireland, as created by the late Fred Krehbiel, also of Churchill House, Tralee.

Tralee Street Market/Ref 1.4.1.4 and others (Vol 2)

This is a reference to the old Tralee Mart, now moved elsewhere, but there are a number of other references to the Street Market, which has become a a virtually homeless orphan, located in one of the wettest, windiest and soulless locations in Tralee, where nobody in their right mind would wuld voluntarily visit during much of the year.

These references are confusing and do not indicate any serious aspiration for what many visitors and people in Kerry believe necessary. Previous proposals for a proper, covered Street Market which would allow traders to park their vehicles close to their trestles or stalls provided, have been opposed by a very few vocal shopkeepers who maintain that everything sold on a market stall is straight off their bottom line.. This is far from fact.

One has only to look at cities and towns of all sizes in the UK and most of Europe to see that proper street markets act as a draw to the town, for both tourists and locals, who will do all their shopping in that town, rather than going elsewhere. The net result is that the increase in total town sales, due to the additional footfall, drawn by the presence of the market far exceeds that taken out of the town by a Street Market. Kenmare is an example of this. Many people in Killarney and other surrounding towns do their shopping in Kenmare on Market days.

It goes without saying that the location should be attractive and fairly central , as well as providing reasonable comfort for both traders and shoppers.

We would like to see a more positive approach to this, rather than minimal compliance with the Law.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hugh Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Hugh Campbell, Architect. (Formerly of O'Sullivan Campbell)

Heritage and Built Environment/ Ref 1.9 and others (Vol 2)

Geologically, Kerry has three main rock types

Shales, Sandstone, and Limestone.

It would be nice to see materials used, indigenous to the particular area , rather than rock transported from other places, where it is being used as features or facings on building and garden walls. Worse still, the use of two or more rock types on the two or more parts of adjoining buildings or garden walls, should not be permitted.

Also, could we make some of the vast amount of signage on our roads, a little less urban, and spend more money, if necessary, on removing some of the highly inappropriate and ugly signs on, and adjacent to many of our best Georgian buildings.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jean Campbell B.Sc., (Hons Geology 1st class)