



23 FEB 2022

To whom it may concern,

23-02-2022

I wish to make the following submissions for the new County Development Plan:

1. Renewable Energy Zoning

The County Development Plan states Kerry produces 18% of all wind electricity in the country, while having 6.8% of land mass and 3% of the population. This is an over concentration of wind farms. The cumulative effect of wind farms in an area, especially in North Kerry, needs to be taken into account for any future development and for any application for extending, "repowering" or renewing. The Board of an Board Pleanala quotes Kerry County Council's planning zoning which identifies areas as suitable for wind farms as reasons for permitting applications for planning. Therefore, Kerry County Council is facilitating the development of more wind farms by zoning them as suitable for repowering, or by zoning any part of Kerry as open to consideration for more wind farms. All of this zoning should be removed from the development plan.

2. Landscape Charter Assessment / Tourism

The still applicable Landscape Character Assessment (2012) states that North and East Kerry's landscapes are not important for scenery, tourism or recreation and no change to this is mentioned in the plan. This contradicts the development plan stated aims to encourage tourism in the whole of the county and to promote the Wild Atlantic Way and the county's heritage and scenic sites as a destination for both national and international tourists. The development plan states that Kerry County Council will "support existing and new major attractions in County Kerry" this must apply to the whole of the County for example the North Kerry Greenway, Rattoo Round Tower/Monks road, and ensuring our Blue Flag beaches keep their designation. After Dublin Kerry a prime destination had the highest tourist performance in the southwest in 2019,

3. Biodiversity/Climate Change

The Kerry County Council must take into account the aims of the plan when considering any application that could impact on the wetlands, rivers and water courses in the County, both with respect to encouraging tourism into the county and the protection of the county's wildlife and habitats. Kerry County Council must ensure that any developments in ecologically sensitive areas fully comply with EU Directives and that this requirement is applied to all aspects of any future development plans. Protection must be afforded to all rivers, lakes and watercourses both to ensure a clean water supply to business and homes but also to ensure that rivers and lakes comply with EU standards. Protection must also be given to our bogs and wetlands which stores vast quantities of Carbon underground. (Wet lands, blanket bogs and peatlands cover only 3% of land on earth but store twice as much carbon as all the world's forests combined). These measures will encourage tourists such as bird watchers, anglers and walkers to the County and help to protect and encourage the diverse aquatic, birdlife and pollinators which are the mark of healthy, sustainable habitats.

Many thanks

Yours Sincerely

Mary Behan