

Submission on behalf of Killarney Access Group for the Kerry County Development Plan 2022 – 2028

There are approximately 20,000 people with a disability in Kerry, comprising around 14% of the population, significantly higher than the national average of 10% of the population.

Given these statistics, the Kerry County Development Plan is very thin on proposals to address a socially inclusive society that targets equality of opportunity and a better quality of life for all citizens through improved integration and great accessibility

Tourism and Outdoor Recreation

Facilitate the sustainable development of tourism related developments and initiatives by ensuring that all new and existing facilities have due regards for people with disabilities and mobility issues.

In the chapter on niches and innovative tourism the KCDP talks about dark skies, film and photography as ways of promoting the County, what about promoting the County and in particular Killarney as an accessible town, Killarney MDC held a very high profile workshop on promoting Killarney and its facilities under Accessible Tourism – has this fallen off the agenda again.

To develop and promote a more cycle and pedestrian friendly network throughout Killarney – this cycle network should not be on pedestrian walkways – this is not best practice (National Cycling Policy Framework) and unfortunately Killarney MDC seem to have ignored these guidelines.

All new playgrounds and play areas to be fully inclusive of all children and the necessary equipment supplied and fitted at the initial stages the same as all the other play equipment – not an afterthought when someone highlights it.

Urban Design

We need more seating on our beautiful walkways and streets – see Sustainable Communities Figure 6.3 – places to stop and rest and places that are easy to cross. Sadly Killarney MDC has been actively removing seats from our town and walkways.

Pedestrian Crossings are poorly placed and dangerous for use in so many instances

Street Furniture has had a negative impact on people with disabilities who are trying to negotiate our streets safely and independently. It has always been the accepted understanding that our footpaths were primarily for pedestrian traffic, somewhere along the way this seems to have been forgotten or ignored by our District Councils.

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Transport

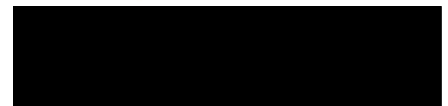
We need to improve access for all vulnerable road users and people with disabilities by ensuring that all modes of transport are accessible, convenient and affordable with good connectivity.

Our Train Station and Bus Station in Killarney are not connected even though they are situated side by side. This is simply not acceptable any longer from a Public Service Company. This ridiculous scenario has caused huge hardship for so many people in Killarney and beyond who use this public service. This has to be addressed immediately now that "Smarter Travel" is the new buzz word, sustainable travel means accessible travel.

Libraries

Unbelievably, Killarney Library does not have any toilet facilities for wheelchair users.

Mary O'Shea



Redacted - Personal Information