

Waterford City & County Council

Tramore Local Area Plan 2023-2029

Pre-draft Public Consultation Issues Paper

Submission Themes

March 2023



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council

CULTURE AND TOURISM

- **General Issues**
 - Tramore need additional tourist accommodation – hotel and/ or hostel!
 - Supports the development of coastal path from the town centre through the Doneraile and out to the Metalman.
 - Tramore to develop as an Eco Tourism Destination and the town could be an international and national eco conference location.

- **Lafcadio Hearn Japanese Gardens**
 - Facilitate the further development of the Lafcadio Hearn Japanese Gardens as an international visitor attraction by supporting the planned expansion of visitor facilities at this location.
 - Supportive measures to facilitate the 30,000 plus visitors who come to the Gardens every year, through designation of dedicated street parking for coaches & visitor cars to this attraction.
 - The Council will assist in the provision of appropriate signage to assist visitors making their way to the Town Centre on exiting the Gardens as they represent a significant economic opportunity for traders in that location (to connect the gardens more with the town).
 - Support the enlargement the Lafcadio Hearn Japanese Gardens and the provision of weatherproof/ indoor areas.
 - Parking at the gardens needs attention.

- **Tramore Amusement and Leisure Park**
 - The biggest tourist attraction in the south east, by far, with over 500,000 annual visitor.
 - Keen to play a central role in any discussions around the lake, park etc. In fact, we have already discussed the biodiversity elements of the plan and would be interested in looking at allocating, maybe one of the smaller islands on the Park's Lake as a bee sanctuary/island.
 - Tramore should be positioned as the start of any future Copper Coast route, with the prom/beach area being the sensible orientation point to begin your journey of exploration.

- **Camper Vans and Glamping site.**
 - LAP needs to identify and support the development of a fully serviced location for camper van parking within the town.
 - A number of submissions called for this location to be situated at the Backstrand or close to the Boating Lake or at Ocean View.
 - Massive economic potential for the town.
 - Ban camper vans parking overnight on Lr Branch Road & properly signposted with fines. A fully serviced & regulated site for them needs to be provided urgently.

Culture

- Revive the ‘Banksy’ street art competition, which was very successful pre Covid, drawing in artists from significant distances, including some from abroad. The use of the old railway station building for an arts project that would give qualified artists space to develop.

HOUSING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

- **General Issues**
 - Theatre – A number of submissions raised the need for a theatre/ cultural/ live venue/ community venue in Tramore.
 - There is a serious need to provide a Community Hall/ Space for the growing population of Tramore. The plan could support the development of a rediscovery centre in Tramore like the one in Ballymun Co. Dublin as well as the development of a Community Co-Op.

- **Outdoor Gym possible locations:**
 - The Canon’s Field
 - The Doneraile (at the former site of the canon.)
 - The Prom -near the toilet block.
 - The Ring Road.
 - Eco Park
 - Around the Boating Lake

- **Education**
 - The DES state that it is critical that explicit provision for school development to cater for such development be made in existing “built-up” areas, within Tramore.
 - The Draft LAP should be explicit in its support for the provision of adequate and suitable school accommodation, including the development of new schools and the expansion or alteration of existing ones.
 - The Department also anticipates that additional Special Education Needs provision at both Primary and Post Primary level will be required in the future throughout the country and this may result in schools requiring additional accommodation to meet this growing need.
 - Members of the public stated that renovation of old Stella Maris / CBS schools into new secondary schools to provide for alternative to the current Ardscoil na Mara.

- **Allotments**
 - Several submissions called for allotments to be included as a specific community amenity in the Local Area Plan and that there is a dedicated permanent site, with allowance made for expansion of said site based on future demand from residents of Tramore. The submissions outlines that there is significant local demand for plots, there is identified interest from various sectors of the community for a community garden and users expressed an interest in lifelong learning opportunities.
 - Location for Allotments. Open Space on Galleys Hill (Covid Memorial Garden).

- **Station House**
 - Tramore Development Trust seeks a specific local development objective which supports the development of the former station house as a one stop shop for residents and visitors to Tramore.
 - One submission calls for a Tramore Museum to be set up in the Old Station House.

- Further submission requests an Indoor/ Outdoor public area or performance space in and around the Railway Station House (**TRDO 8**). The back and side of the existing building could be sheltered off as required – parking near the sea front and Majestic Hotel- Green space to sit and listen to music etc in front of splash world etc- Public amenities close by and food outlets etc. However, the public loos on strand road need upgrading, at least to be as good as the ones down the end of the prom.
- The Station House could be reinvented as a community type hub (**TRDO9**). Now more than ever, Tramore needs an office-based hub, for voluntary and community groups- Tramore Tidy Towns, Tramore Area Museum Society, Eco group. Save the dunes group, to name a few- all small set ups, but could thrive if they had a home base to work from. Most of these groups can get local government grants, etc. to support some of their activities if they have a postal address and a sense of Local permanency. To make a commercial entity in part of it as a computer hub, could also be developed for Tourists to charge and recharge phones, send emails, access local information, especially when the local library is not open. Small towns need somewhere like this, close to the bus stop, near the sea front- etc.
- **Boating Lake**
 - A number of submissions stated that the area around the boating lake is ideally placed to provide this which will support the well-being of the town. This could include an outdoor gym, inclusion park, running track and skate park.
 - Sensory Garden which would specifically cater for the needs of people of all ages suffering from Autism and other sensory issues as well as older people – possible location would be at the boating lake opposite the Majestic Hotel.
 - Bowling Green.
- **Pocket Parks**
 - Moonvoy Public Amenity.
 - Gallwey’s Hill – area to be taken over by the Council via CPO and transformed into a small park. This amenity space could provide a small seating/picnic area. In a social media generation, that area could quickly become an attractive area for visitors to share the best view of the town across a wide network which you would hope would have the knock-on effect of attracting more people to the town.
 - Need for a dog park.
- **Skate Park**
 - Restoration of the skatepark: its removal under obscure “maintenance reasons” has caused a great loss for the younger population of Tramore
- **Coastal Walk to Dungarvan and Guillamene and Newtown Cove**
 - Large financial investment put into swimming facilitates in Newtown and Guillamene over the last number of years. More detailed plans be put in place for the area in the Draft LAP.
 - Support for such a development should be dependent on a route being found which would not negatively impact on the European Site.

- **Other**
 - Clubhouse to store our trainer boats at a location either in the Boat Cove in Tramore or at the far (easterly) end of the beach car park in Tramore in Summer and possibly Saleens Car Park in Winter. In addition, the submission supports the provision of an outdoor gym in Tramore.

- **Housing**
 - Multigenerational housing units in new developments to accommodate younger and older members of society. Integration of community spaces within new housing estates – garden allotments, parks, sports facilities, BBQ areas etc. Integration of small scale local commercial spaces within new housing estates

TRANSPORT AND MOVEMENT

- **Speed limits and Traffic Calming**
 - Reduce speed limits in the town to 30km p/h.
 - Traffic Calming at the following locations:
 - Kilmeaden Road between the roundabout on the ring road and Monvoy Bridge needs speed bumps or some other traffic calming measures, and a pedestrian crossing.
 - Speed bumps or other traffic calming measures are needed within the Monvoy Valley housing estate to slow down traffic in the vicinity of children playing.
 - Pond Road, Waterford Road, Upper Branch Road. (Rosebank Terrace).

- **Walking**
 - Need for pedestrian lights on the Donerail.
 - More age friendly public seating at the bottom of Main Street along with more trees.
 - Handrails located at steep sections of Gallwey's Hill, Stand Road, Train Hill and Queen Street.
 - Improved pedestrian safety around The Grand Hotel allowing safe access to the library.
 - Signage is required for safe walking routes around the town. Tramore's Green Ring (Development Plan Objective) – objective to support its implementation.
 - Break up the cul-de-sacs between housing estates. This would have a dramatic effect on the walkability / bikeability of the town.
 - Broaden all footpaths on narrower streets.
 - Improved footpaths at the following locations:
 - On opposite side of Upper Cliff Road to the junction of Newtown Hill.
 - On opposite side of Church Road leading to Grand Hotel and Library.
 - Footpath leading from Bizzy Kids Creche/ Newtown. Footpath on the street between the credit union and O'Neil's pub – too narrow and dangerous – make street one-way.
 - Improved footpath on road leading to Newtown Wood. Improved footpath needed on the Newtown Road between the roundabout at the Cove Stores shop and Church road – too narrow.
 - Drainage work may be needed as the path is covered in algae all year round. Improved footpath needed on Broad street between Gallwey's Hill and the Seagull Bakery are extremely narrow on one side and completely lacking on the other.
 - Footpath needed at Hotel Square – no path provided – the whole street is a car park. Improved footpath needed on Market Street between the library and Cahill's shop – too narrow.
 - Footpath needed along the road leading into Splashworld from the Pebble Beach side. A simple gravel path could be extended from the end of the path which comes out of the boating lake area nearer to Pebble Beach.

- Summerhill - Tramore church (especially by the side of the graveyard).
- New or improved pedestrian crossings at the following locations:
 - No pedestrian crossing on road leading to Newtown Woods.
 - Increased zebra crossings/ proper pedestrian crossings along the ring road (outside Clarinwood housing estate and the next roundabout near Cluain Mor/Ard na Groi).
 - Possible reconfiguration of roundabouts to facilitate safer crossings for people/ bikes. Improved pedestrian crossings also needed leading down to the Cove from Newtown Road and around the Cove Stores Shop.
 - Need for a pedestrian crossing from the footpath on Newtown Road onto Love Lane leading off to the Coastguard station and the Doneraile walk.
 - Improved pedestrian crossing on Strand Road, no crossing point except right down at the Prom.
 - Pedestrian crossing points needed at the roundabout at the junction between Strand Road and Turkey Road/Lower Branch Road as it can be very hard to cross the road here when the traffic is busy.
 - Upper Cliff Road and Lodges Lane.
- **Cycling**
 - Secure Bike parking at the following locations e.g. Suprvalu car park, top of main street and on the Prom at the town end - make street one-way.
 - Segregated cycle lanes on the Ring Road which would provide a safe environment for all users especially Children.
 - Bike track from Pickardstown along ring road to Newtown is needed. Introduction of self-service bicycle rentals.
- **Public Transport**
 - A free, regular and reliable local public transport system to serve Tramore in the form of regularly circulating mini-buses (suggested stops would include Promenade, Riverstown, Gaelscoil Philib Barun, Ardscoil, Ring road estates, Retirement village / Golf club, Newtown Hill, Priests road, Holy cross church, Main street, Queens St., The service could be supplemented during summer months to include Guillamene / Newtown Cove).
 - Increased reliability and frequency of public transport into town is required. Improve pedestrian access to Lidl from the back of Bank of Ireland.
 - Need for a bus service direct to UHW.
 - Park and Ride system in Tramore.
 - Orbital bus route of the village.
- **Roads**
 - Pedestrianise the lower prom and close it off to cars – only allowing motorbike and bikes (filtered permeability).
 - Review the one-way system around Tramore – Specific Development Objective to change the traffic flow system on part of Lodges Lane from two-way to one-way.

- Visitors to Lafcadio find it very confusing as they come up through Branch Road as far as Tramore House main entrance (the back of Lafcadio) believe they can continue up the road not realising its one way after that. Totally inadequate signage.
- Congestion problems overflowing into Moonlaun during school drop off and pick-up times.
- **Parking**
 - Review the need for resident parking in the town.
 - Parking is congested on Upper Branch Road- where it meets Queen Street – due to a number of new business and revised traffic flow in the town.
 - Double yellow lines outside peoples front doors can't access houses.
 - A number of largely unused parking spaces at the back of Tivoli Terrace in the Lakelands/Pebble Beach area which could solve the immediate problem of parking for Tivoli Terrace residents and alleviate a huge amount of the parking issues in the area.
 - On street charge points for EVs.

CLIMATE ACTION, GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE, BIODIVERSITY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

- **Renewable Energy**
 - Windmills it is worth noting that the imminent construction of visible and massive wind turbines has a very significant potential to negatively affect tourism.
- **Climate Change, Biodiversity and BGI**
 - Afforestation of Green Spaces in the town by the creation of pocket forests, on the many semi-barren and underutilized lawn spaces.
- Zoning for natural spaces: the long-term protection of any areas earmarked for natural preservation needs to be put in place.
- Firm protection of existing trees and hedgerows in new developments and the creation of Green Corridors between housing estates.
- Wildlife-friendly boundary walls: the walls surrounding most housing estates exclude the transit of wild animals such as hedgehogs.
- Creation of green corridors between housing estates – planted with natural/ naturalised planting.
- Wildlife-friendly public lighting: any upgrades and retrofitting to public lighting in the town should be made with wildlife-friendly LED lights.
- Living / Green roofs in public buildings: the retrofitting of green roofs in structures that allow it as well as the incorporation of them into any new public buildings would increase the areas planted with wildflowers accessible for pollinators and birds and give a distinctive look to the town that could help with tourism.
- Management of green infrastructure: over-mowing, spraying and over-pruning of trees in green spaces are continued practices in the town that need to be reviewed in accordance to best practices for sustainable horticulture. This is particularly blatant in the management of green spaces within housing estates.
- New buildings to include swift bricks built in under the eaves, as the niches available in old buildings may be destroyed.
- 'Hedgehog highways' (small arches in walls and fences) should be mandatory when putting in boundaries between new houses.
- TRDO4 Sand Dunes/ Back Strand Habitats Directive must be maintained – however solutions should be given to fixing the breach in "Malcom's Embankment" and allowing sufficient automatic drainage , to preserve the bird sanctuary etc.
- The existence & importance of native woodlands within Tramore need to be highlighted and protected e.g. Newtown Woods is of regional importance according to past reviews by Foras Forbartha. The Draft LAP needs to afford them whatever status designation that will prevent them from ever being built over or removed.
- A suitable officer 'wildlife ranger' is employed to the SPA and SAC.
- Additional protection should be added to the beach/ bac Backstrand area to protect against storm surges. Erect signage on the Backstrand banning camping, quads, bikes, motobikes etc. Restrict car access to the Backstrand.
- Incorporate the creation of new ponds, the resurrection of 'ghost ponds' (a 'ghost pond' is an old pond lost to in-filling) and the maintenance of existing ponds, including currently unmanaged ponds as an objective within the LAP. Establish a minimum of one new local

freshwater pond in Tramore (ponds can range between one metre squared up to five hectares in area and need to contain water for a minimum of four months of the year). Incorporation of clean, freshwater ponds into new developments as well as existing public amenity and green space areas as part of an integrated green infrastructure network strategy for the incorporation of biodiversity enhancement and climate change mitigation measures. Incorporation of SuDs ponds as a nature-based solution for local surface water management and flood defence measures. The submission requests that the following Specific Development Objectives for Tramore be expanded on to include reference to ponds:

- TRD06 - new parks, amenity space - could benefit from a clean, freshwater pondscape for wildlife, amenity and climate mitigation. TRD012 14 -15 - Ponds for flood mitigation, amenity value, and biodiversity (as well as climate mitigation).
- The submission calls for a renewable (hydrogen) development centre at Riverstown Business Park. The submission calls for the Albedo initiative to start in Tramore (Albedo is an expression of the ability of surfaces to reflect sunlight (heat from the sun). Light-coloured surfaces return a large part of the sunrays back to the atmosphere (high albedo). Dark surfaces absorb the rays from the sun (low albedo).

LANDSCAPE, COAST/ MARINE

- Preserve and protect the Iconic Views of Tramore Beach from the Gallwey's Hill/Church Road area of the Town.



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council