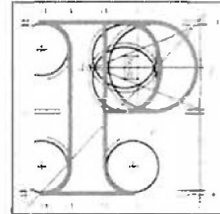


Our Case Number: ACP-324410-26



**An
Coimisiún
Pleanála**

Fáilte Ireland
c/o Yvonne Jackson
National Tourism Development Authority
88 - 95 Amiens Street
Dublin 1
D01 WR86

Date: 02 September 2026

Re: Proposed West Clare Railway Greenway Section 1: Kilrush to Kilkee Project
Kilrush to Kilkee via Moyasta, Co. Clare

Dear Sir / Madam,

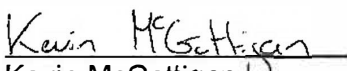
An Coimisiún Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed road development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

Please note that the proposed road development shall not be carried out unless the Commission has approved it or approved it with modifications.

If you have any queries in relation to this matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Commission at laps@pleanala.ie

Please quote the above mentioned An Coimisiún Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Commission.

Yours faithfully,


Kevin McGettigan
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737263

HA02C

Teil
Glaao Áitiúil
Láithreán Gréasáin
Ríomhphost

Tel
LoCall
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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

From: Yvonne Jackson <Yvonne.Jackson@failteireland.ie>

Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 2:52 PM

To: LAPS <laps@pleanala.ie>

Subject: Case Ref: HA03.324410 Submission Fáilte Ireland

You don't often get email from yvonne.jackson@failteireland.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This is an **External Email** and may have malicious content. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the ICT Helpdesk.

Dear Secretary,

Fáilte Ireland would like to take the opportunity to make a submission to **Case Ref: HA03.324410** re the proposed **West Clare Railway Greenway Section 1: Kilrush to Kilkee via Moyasta, Co. Clare**

The attached submission has been prepared by Fáilte Ireland, the National Tourism Development Authority.

I would be grateful if you could send a reply email acknowledging receipt of submission.

Regards,

Yvonne

Yvonne Jackson

Product Development-Environment & Planning Support | Fáilte Ireland

88-95 Amiens Street, Dublin 1, D01 WR86

M +353 (0)86 0357590



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**Fáilte
Ireland**

**Turasóireacht Náisiúnta
An tÚdara Eorbartha**
National Tourism
Development Authority

The Secretary
An Coimisiún Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,

By email: laps@pleanala.ie

19th August 2026

Re: Case reference: HA03.324410

Proposed West Clare Railway Greenway Section 1: Kilrush to Kilkee via Moyasta, Co. Clare

Dear Sir/Madam,

I refer to the above application which is currently registered with An Coimisiún Pleanála.

From a tourism perspective, Fáilte Ireland is extremely supportive of this scheme which would provide high-quality greenway between Kilrush and Kilkee. The West Clare Railway Greenway will mainly be used for recreational purposes by pedestrians, cyclists, and people with impaired mobility. The project aims to provide a recreational greenway, following the route of the former West Clare Railway. This recreational greenway has the potential to connect towns and villages along the route, including Ennis, Corofin, Ennistymon, Lahinch, Miltown Malbay, Quilty, Mullagh, Doonbeg, Kilkee, Moyasta, and Kilrush.

Greenways are key tourism infrastructure and play an important role in Irish tourism. They boost the appeal of Ireland in the international travel market, add value to the existing high tourism offering and support the development of rural communities and job creation in the rural economy, as well as the protection and promotion of natural assets and biodiversity. The development of Greenways will assist in Ireland being recognized internationally as a year-round activity destination and not only supports Ireland's tourism industry but also provides recreation options for local people and families.

The West Clare Railway Greenway Project will be a unique way for visitors to experience this potential flagship tourism scheme of regional and national significance which will also act as vital connector linking towns, communities and attractions. In particular, this Section 1 Kilrush to Kilkee via Moyasta (currently under consideration) will link two distinct tourism destinations, Kilrush and Kilkee.



With Kilrush acting as the gateway to the Shannon Estuary, Scattery Island and Vandeleur Walled Gardens. Kilrush Marina also operates a 120 berth fully serviced Marina situated in its own non tidal and sheltered lagoon. West Coast Aqua Park open seasonally is a floating inflatable water park also located at Kilrush Marina.

Kilkee offers a beautiful golden sandy blue flag beach, seaside walks, breathtaking cliffside views, epic diving and natural sea pools at the Pollock Holes. By linking these key visitor hubs via the proposed greenway, it will facilitate and promote slow tourism, which will encourage visitors to explore at a relaxed pace, engage deeply with local culture and nature, and extend their stays.

Research undertaken by Fáilte Ireland identified that visitors have particular preferences in relation to the types of trails and services which they require when cycling as a holiday experience. These expectations and preferences can be grouped under what Fáilte Ireland refers to as- The 4 S' for Cycling Tourism, and these are essentially what greenways provide:

- Scenery - beautiful scenery and landscape which needs to be varied
- Segregated – traffic free
- Safe – flat surfaces and good services
- See and do – lots of activities, attractions and interesting villages

Fáilte Ireland welcomes the integration of the 4 S' during the site selection stage of the project, which will assist in ensuring that the West Clare Railway Greenway Project will act as an internationally recognized best-in-class integrated and motivating visitor experience.

The Cliff Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan (CCDEDP)

The Cliff Coast Destination and Experience Development Plan (CCDEDP) 2025–2030 is a five-year sustainable tourism development plan for North Kerry and West Clare. One of the key objectives is to create the conditions to attract leisure visitors on a year-round basis to North Kerry and West Clare. It focuses on embedding sustainability, increasing destination awareness, integrating land and water-based trails, developing authentic ecotourism experiences, boosting the economic impact of tourism, and fostering deeper collaboration among stakeholders.

The implementation of the CCDEDP is based on stakeholder commitment to project delivery and is structured around an action plan approach. Catalyst Project 2 – Greenways are included in the action plan with an objective to;

“Maximise the investment in Greenways in North Kerry and West Clare for local communities and identify future Greenway projects to strengthen the network of trails that motivate visitors to explore new communities and local experiences”.

Also, under Catalyst Project 2 – Greenways, the plan commits to:



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National Tourism
Development Authority

“Develop the town based trail head experiences in Kilkee and Kilrush in preparation for the launch of initial phase of the West Clare Greenway”

Furthermore, the proposed development would be consistent with the development plan objective CDP 9.8 (d) of the Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 which reads as follows;

‘To sustainably develop greenways, blueways and peatways and walking and cycling trails including the West Clare Railway Greenway to achieve greater accessibility to the countryside and the marine environment by sustainable modes and to achieve maximum benefit and connectivity at the local, regional and national level’.

National Tourism Policy - ‘A New Era for Irish Tourism’

This project also aligns with National Tourism Policy Statement published in December 2025, ‘A New Era for Irish Tourism’ by the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment. This policy document highlights that greenways (along with blueways and walking trails) have already brought a *“transformative shift”* to tourism in many less-developed regions and includes under Policy Objective 3.4.1 for a *“renewed focus on solutions to link key tourist attractions, including ... Blue Flag beaches on the coast with towns and villages”*. This is particularly relevant for this project with long standing and currently held blue flags achieved in both Kilrush (Cappa Pier & Kilrush Marina) and in Kilkee under the most recent blue flag awards in May 2026.

Therefore, from a tourism perspective we are extremely supportive of the project and look forward to the development of this project along with future sections through the planning process in line with all proper planning and environmental requirements being met.

Yours sincerely,

Shane Dineen-Manager Environment & Planning, Fáilte Ireland