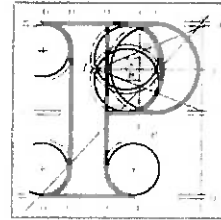


Our Case Number: ACP-324568-26



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Fáilte Ireland
c/o Shane Dineen
Áras Fáilte
88-95 Amiens Street
Dublin 1

D01 WR86

Date: 01 October 2026

Re: Proposed Development of the Barnesmore Gap Greenway Project
County Donegal

Dear Sir / Madam,

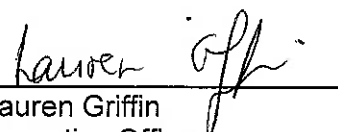
An Coimisiún Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above-mentioned proposed road development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

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 the meantime, 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,


Lauren Griffin
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737244

HA02

Tel
Glao Áitiúil
Láithreán Gréasáin
Ríomhphost

Tel
LoCall
Website
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(01) 858 8100
1890 275 175
www.pleanala.ie
communications@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Lauren Griffin

From: Lauren Griffin
Sent: Thursday 1 October 2026 10:46
To: 'planning.applications@failteireland.ie'
Subject: RE: Case Ref: HA05E.324568 Submission Fáilte Ireland

A Chara,

The Commission acknowledges receipt of your email; official correspondence will issue in due course.

Kind regards,
Lauren

From: planning applications <planning.applications@failteireland.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 30 September 2026 10:56
To: LAPS <laps@pleanala.ie>
Subject: Case Ref: HA05E.324568 Submission Fáilte Ireland

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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 Sir/Madam,

Fáilte Ireland would like to take the opportunity to make a submission to Case Ref:HA05E.324568 re the proposed Barnesmore Gap Greenway.

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,

Shane Dineen
Environment & Planning Manager | Fáilte Ireland
M +353 (0)86 7966200



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Lauren Griffin

From: LAPS
Sent: Wednesday 30 September 2026 11:18
To: Lauren Griffin
Subject: FW: Case Ref: HA05E.324568 Submission Fáilte Ireland
Attachments: Submission Ref HA05E.324568.pdf

From: planning applications <planning.applications@failteireland.ie>

Sent: Wednesday 30 September 2026 10:56

To: LAPS <laps@pleanala.ie>

Subject: Case Ref: HA05E.324568 Submission Fáilte Ireland

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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

30th September 2026

Re: Case reference: HA05E.324568

Proposed Development of the Barnesmore Gap Greenway Project

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

From a tourism perspective, Fáilte Ireland is supportive of this scheme which would provide high-quality greenway between Donegal Town and Ballybofey/Stranorlar. The provision of a greenway will provide enhanced access to the wider region, enticing users to explore its surrounding towns and villages and further develop the tourism potential within the region. The proposed development also provides the opportunity to highlight the historical and educational significance of such places, whilst promoting the scenic nature of the surrounding area. At Donegal Town the proposed greenway will connect with the international EuroVelo Route 1 which follows the northern, western and southern coastlines around Ireland, and the route also forms part of the proposed National Cycle Network across Ireland.

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 Barnesmore Gap Greenway has the potential to help strengthen the destination's appeal by the provision of enhanced visitor infrastructure, improve accessibility and diversifying the product offering in this area of the county.



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

Wild Atlantic Way Regional Tourism Development Strategy

The Wild Atlantic Way Regional Tourism Development Strategy sets out the long-term strategy for sustainable tourism across the Wild Atlantic Way region, supporting balanced growth, resilience and stronger visitor experiences. It is a strategic product development objective of the strategy to;

“Develop a network of greenways and blueways to provide new and upgraded trail experiences and support the private sector in the delivery of activity experiences. Develop a framework for safe, on-road, sustainable cycling to support long distance “grey routes” including Euro Velo 1 and in destinations with no greenway offering.”

We note that the proposed greenway will connect with the international EuroVelo Route 1 at Donegal Town which follows the northern, western and southern coastlines around Ireland, and the route also forms part of the proposed National Cycle Network across Ireland.

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 flag achieved in Murvagh beach just south of Donegal Town under the most recent blue flag awards in May 2026.

Therefore, from a tourism perspective we are supportive of the project in line with all proper planning and environmental requirements being met.



**Fáilte
Ireland**

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

Yours sincerely,

Shane Dineen

Shane Dineen-Manager Environment & Planning, Fáilte Ireland