

Support Document for Retention of Holiday Home

I submit the following information in support of Colm Quigley's application for retention of two modest holiday cottages in Garrykennedy, Tipperary,

My expertise to consult is as a standing councilwoman of the Killaloe Community Council involved with tourism, the environment and wetland conservation.. I note that dedicated environmentalist Andrew St. Ledger was in support of this application and was acting as a joint consultant until his recent untimely death..

It should be noted at the outset that the project was inspired by several factors that came about as a synchronicity of events.

The first was fallen trees on the land that came down during a storm and required removal. Mr. Quigley's land is located at Parker's Point, a treacherous coastal area on Lough Derg that frequently suffers the brunt of excessively high winds.

The fallen trees were, in fact, the inspiration for the siting of the cabins as once removed and turned to firewood a natural clearing emerged.. It had been the case that coppicing had been neglected in previous years, and Andrew St. Ledger was requested to offer consultancy in his capacity as biodiversity officer of CELT. He provided advice on forest management of the land.. Another recommendation was that we consult with Birdwatch Ireland.

In conversation with John Lusby of Birdwatch I learned that there is a particular concern about the declining barn owl population in the Midlands and Southwest. Addressing that Mr. Quigley has engaged in provision of nestboxes for both owls and other birds. The campus location away from main roads is ideal for nests.. There is hope that provision of the bird boxes will contribute to a positive impact on wild bird populations.. Twitcher guests, who come specifically to engage in bird surveys, provide valuable information for statistical records for Birdwatch Ireland.

Colm Quigley is committed to doing all that he can to support local wildlife in our area. He acknowledges the ALAN concerns tabled in correspondence and notes that there is no street lamp lighting at all on the campus, and that cabins are not lit in any way until after dark and invariably the guests have curtains closed for privacy at that time.

The second contributing factor was the Pandemic. It was clear that the national appetite after the country began opening up was for 'staycations' as opposed to vacations as the economy was crippled and resources scarce. As a self-employed heavy equipment operator Mr.Quigley was suffering the ill effects of the lockdowns. Local businesses that were not forced to close needed as much support as could be offered. Providing accomodation and bringing tourists into the area was, and remains the objective.

As everyone on the Council is painfully aware there is a critical shortage of accomodation in the area covering Nenagh to Killaloe/Ballina. The cabins regularly provide overflow accomodation for guests from Larkin's Restaurant and Guest House in the nearby village cited a mere 2km away. Although the cabin accommodation is self catering, guests are encouraged to visit local restaurants and attend events. Larkins restaurant can attest to the use their quests have made of |Mr. Quigleys Chalets throughout the season.

The burgeoning list of nearby special events is essential for the improvement of the local economy which is just beginning to reach its pre-Pandemic status. These events are heavily advertised by both the Tipperary and Clare County Councils. and bring much needed business to the area. Both counties have many local businesses still struggling in recovery after the blows of the Pandemic that need to be supported with concerted efforts. It is a fact that shortage of accomodation adversely affects these efforts. The cabins are located equi-distant between Nenagh and Killaloe/Ballina and all guests avail of our local amenities, restaurants, pubs, shops, music, fishing, water sports, art galleries, and the many special events promoted by the Councils..

These events include:

Nenagh Arts Centre events

Nenagh Golf Club Invitationals

Nenagh Castle Fest

Nenagh Leisure Centre

Abbey Court Special Events

Féile Brian Ború

SCS Killaloe/Ballina Music Festival

Ballina/Killaloe International Barbeque Festival

Kaleidoscope Night

Lua Festival

Quest

Invitational Sporting Events

In addition, Mr. Quigley offers much needed accomodation for short term attendees at weddings, funerals, other family gatherings, at trade shows and exhibitions, as well as temporary workers who come to the area to work on construction projects. Latterly we have also been able to provide accomodation for Tipperary County Council to those on the housing list.needng emergency accommodation..

Kind regards,

Susanne McAllister