

Chapter 1: Introduction and Context

Carlow Barrow Users Group opposes Amendment No.4, the insertion of additional Strategic Objective (page 15) Section 1.6 'Strategic Themes and Objectives', Chapter 1: Introduction and Context:

(Amendment No. 4) Insert additional Strategic Objective (page 15) Section 1.6 'Strategic Themes and Objectives', new text in green as follows:

SO 14: Support and promote tourism in the county as a key economic driver in a sustainable manner that is compatible with the sensitivity of rural areas, the existing quality of life, and the protection and enhancement of the county's natural environment.

REASON:

The overwhelming number of submissions to the CDP consultations from individuals and groups in County Carlow against the writing of a Barrow Blueway into the Plan for 2022-28 have not been considered or represented in the final draft (See diagrams on page 2 and 3 of percentages of submissions to the consultation process 1 and 2). Also, the Material Amendments and in lieu of the public's contributions outlined in their submissions to the Plan and those specifically calling for changes to Section 11.6 Greenways and Blueways, have been dismissed despite the public having a right to participate in environmental decision-making.

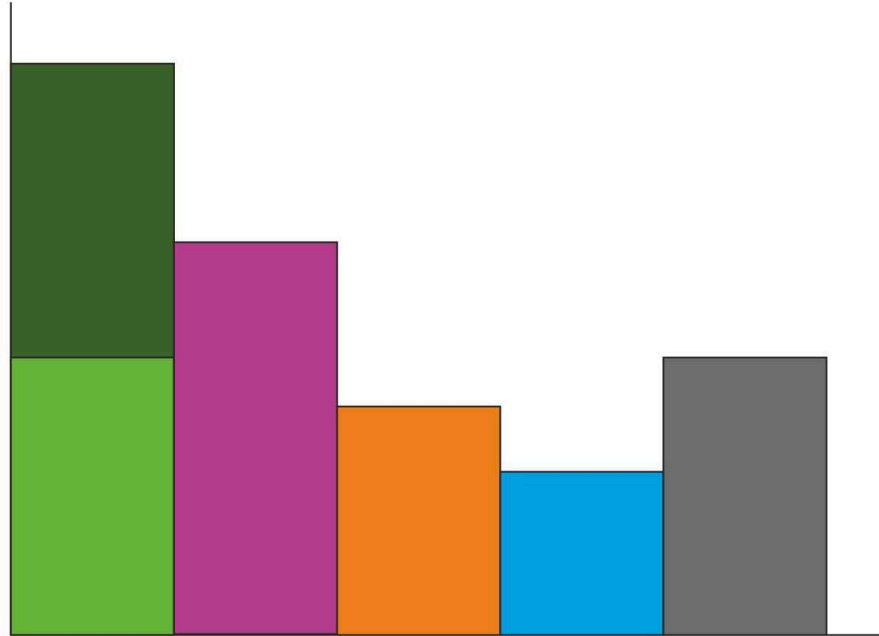
*Carlow Barrow Users Group do NOT agree with the inclusion of Amendment No. 4 and/or wording in Section 11.6 Greenways and Blueways or elsewhere in the Draft County Development Plan 2022-28 that will support or facilitate a new proposal for a Waterways Ireland branded Blueway in the River Barrow SAC in Carlow, AND which orientates the CDP 2022-28 and the key tourism strategy on a plan that has already been refused planning by Carlow's Planning Authority and finally by An Bord Pleanala in 2019. **The Carlow County Development Plan cannot base a tourism plan on a proposal that has been deemed to be against planning law, and make this a key economic driver for Carlow for 2022-28.***

Remove Amendment No. 4, to support tourism a key economic driver for Carlow and instead the CDP should support the majority of public submission to the CDP consultation process which were in support of environmental and ecological concerns, especially in this time when we are navigating a pandemic and dealing with the increasing difficulties of climate change and loss of biodiversity and biomass.

The Council has not engaged with the public and the public submissions to this CDP 2022-28 in relation to environmental planning for Carlow and as such is in breach of the Aarhus Convention.

Also if Amendment 4 is based on facilitating a Waterways Ireland Barrow Blueway on the River Barrow SAC which has already been refused planning, this ignores section 12(11) of The Act that "states that in making the Plan members shall be restricted to considering the proper planning and sustainable development of the area to which the Development Plan relates, the statutory obligation of a Local Authority in the area..." and as such Amendment 4 should not be included in the Final Plan.

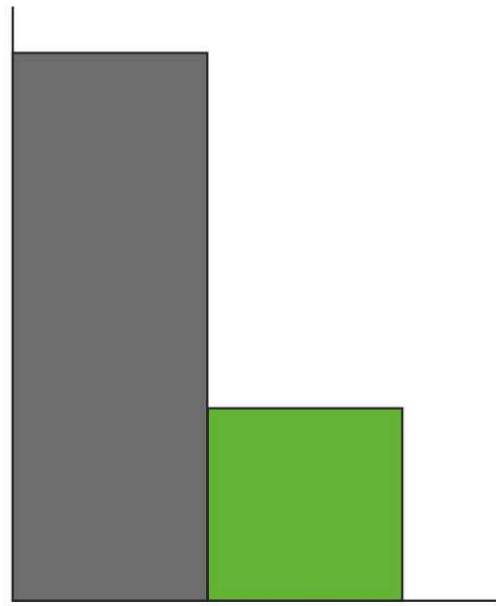
CDP Submissions Vol 2 (Oct 1st 2021)



- 35% Environment individual submissions
- 17% are direct submissions against the Blueway and Protect the Barrow SAC
- 24% zoning
- 14% State agencies about the Environment & Planning
- 10% Carlow Community & Business Issues
- 17% Other State & other Business

“The public has the right to participate in environmental decision making.”
Aarhus Convention

CDP Submissions Vol 1



- 26% Protect the Barrow Track, No Blueway
- 74% Other