

Comments on Issues Paper of Draft Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028

1. Reduce car hierarchy in towns and villages. Promote temporary street closures for events / community activities. Establish public strategy guide for same.
2. Provide a frequent and direct bus service from Oranhill and Oranmore Village to Parkmore Business Park
3. Provide Bus Service from Galway City to Renville Park
4. Provide Bus Service from Oranmore Train Station to Oranmore / Galway City
5. Provide Bus Shelters within Oranmore Village with timetables / digital trackers
6. Make bus stops accessible within a 5 minute walk of residential development proposals
7. Provide a Cycleway from Oranmore to Renville Park
8. Promote the planting of trees in green areas / wetlands / ancillary external spaces.
9. Continue to improve broadband services to provide access throughout the county
10. The population of Oranmore has tripled in the last 30 years, investment should be directed to provide sustainable infrastructure for the young population which continues to expand here.
11. Promote Oranmore as a tourist destination for day trips from Galway City. The lack of bus parking in the village has been frequently put forward by businesses as prohibitive to economic tourism opportunities.
12. Encourage, assess and establish open and transparent Community Development Groups to seek community participation and feedback and ownership. Frequently assess in accordance with relevant needs in their areas to identify overlooked areas that could be addressed/ developed.
13. Impose the underused vacant property tax / compulsory possession orders on vacant urban centre buildings and land for sale / social use including commercial units for rent at reasonable cost to start ups / small businesses group working hubs.
14. Make family homes more of a priority in central urban areas to create a sustainable village model without a multitude of vacant properties.
15. Prevent mass lot sales/ ownership of streets / commercial units / shopping centres. Encourage single unit sales to provide more local opportunity.
16. Promote county wide consistent signage to highlight pre-existing walking / running circuits such as around the village of Oranmore. Possible use of Galway 2020 font.
17. Support promotion of the arts by providing insurance and creative spaces. Offset vacant tax levy against provision of space for community / small business use where possible.
18. Create more areas for teenagers to engage in activities such as sports or the arts. Promote involvement with local community groups by developing focus groups to establish needs and strategies.
19. Provide more green space within urban centres / retain naturalised green amenity areas claimed during the Covid lockdown such as the field adjacent to Oranmore Aldi by the river.
20. Ensure protected views are protected to points of interest. Include view from the bridge in Oranmore to the Castle, currently obscured by landfill.
21. Limiting the floor area allowance of rural housing to prevent inappropriate mass one off dwellings in the landscape. Apply more robust acceptable design standards particularly in relation to density by allowing shared wastewater services.
22. Promote Oranmore and Renville as key tourist attractions (sea ferries from Galway docks, bus routes, cycle routes from the city to Renville Park).

23. Encourage connected cycle lanes and pedestrian routes between adjacent developments / estates/ Such cycle routes should aim to connect residential developments with amenities. The routes should be well lit and off road where possible for safety a la Westport, Co.Mayo.
24. Explore mass renewable energy options including tidal energy, district heating and cooling model (Copenhagen, Denmark), off-shore wind farms, etc.
25. Encourage local produce production of food and provide facilities for sale (markets, English market, Cork, etc)
26. Make application of the Oranmore centre AHA more robust and expand on requirements and boundaries similar to Clarinbridge Local Area Plan.
27. Further develop list of protected structures (include Furze Lodge, Renville) and other examples of historic architecture. Encourage restoration in public ownership of protected buildings with grants for redevelopment. For those in public ownership possibly allow an extended lease agreement for private occupation with low/ no rent but maintenance, development, promotion and upkeep by the occupier.
28. Include protected buildings in heritage week tours / talks. Make more accessible to the public. Encourage local community groups such as Oranmore Historical Society. Encourage public participation in practical restoration of publicly owned protected buildings through workshops. See SPAB Ireland.
29. Establish Renville Park and buildings as an ACA. Establish Ardfry House and environs as an ACA.
30. Identify, list and protect buildings and landscapes of importance to retain character with any proposals in agreement with the Council only in keeping with the original purpose and style as applied in the Clarinbridge Local Area Plan.
31. Expand the city boundaries to encourage housing development in appropriate areas.
32. Develop an updated local area plan for Oranmore. Expand village boundaries to provide more opportunity for housing/ mixed use development.
33. Oranmore requires more indoor amenity spaces for sports / music, arts, theatre, etc.
34. Encourage multi-storey/ underground car parking to reduce land space requirements