

Comharchumann Forbartha Árann Teo.

Buaiteoirí Gradaim Pobail na Gaeltachta

09/09/2020

Tag: Plean Forbartha Contae na Gaillimhe 2022-2028

A Chara,

Tá Comharchumann Forbartha Árann ag fáiltiú leis an deis seo ár gcuid tuairimí agus moltaí a chur isteach faoin bplean seo.

There is huge pressure on the islands in terms of Language, population decline, lack of employment and essential services etc.

It is very important that an Island Policy is formulated with input from the islanders and implemented and that this be part of the County Development Plan 2020-2028.

This document has been compiled arising from public meetings and needs that have been discussed, discussed and contacted by the public with the co-operative's office.

The following are recommendations from Comharchumann Forbartha Árann, in relation to the Island for the County Development Plan 2022 -2028.

Population: - *There is a significant decline in the island's population - a policy needs to be addressed to keep people on the islands and attract them to live on the islands again.*

Housing: - *Provide grant & supports for the construction of social housing on the island and the opportunity to renovate old houses to provide housing. That a separate fund be available.*

Services: *Assurance and high quality of services available between Air, Boat & Freight. There is a need to ensure that access for people with disabilities is available, a car park on the mainland (Ros a Mhíl), Galway County Council's Planning department - a regular officer again as a clinic. Community Bus*

Service seven days a week.

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Sewerage: *The sewerage system issue to be addressed for the village of Cill Rónáin and on the islands. This has been a concern for a number of years and a plan needs to be put in place to address this issue.*

Infrastructure: *invest in infrastructure on the island that would secure down to the islands from a specific fund - Kilronan Port (Marina, Pontoons, essential service such as electricity, water, fuel available on the pier, public toilets on the pier), Kilmurvey Pier, Greenway Development, Coastal erosion, public toilets, roads, stones, public lighting, upgrading of cemetery on the island and finding new spaces, traffic plan, Midday ferry to the island all year round.*

Pleanáil Teanga: *There is a need for assistance in the development of the Language Plan and implementation in particular to signage, events, and festivals.*

Co-operatives & Community Groups: *recognition and substantial supports for the organizations in their work. There has been a significant cutback for our groups over a number of years, which has not yet come back.*

Education: *The Air Service must be compatible with your educational needs. The proportion of some Teachers on islands should be increased from 1.0 to 2.5 (CL). Reimbursement of island allowance for teachers on offshore islands. Expand the number of Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht scholarships from 30 to 60 nationwide. Extra budget for island schools (a small island school is more expensive to run than a large school)*

Planning: *Various incentives need to be provided to attract families and businesses back to the island. Prioritize the needs of the island in all decisions / policies.*

Tax Relief: *The island needs a Tax incentive. Islanders are under additional pressure and tax costs due to our island location and additional costs. This tax relief is needed to attract people back to live on the island and create employment.*

Health: Implement a Health Publication on Islands Primary Care Services (April 2017). To assist and facilitate policies and access to be able to access these services on the islands.

Tourism: Specific funding should be made available for projects and investment in walking, maritime, heritage and language tourism on the islands. Investment in island tourism is required: marine tourism, tax relief, rates, supports unemployment for people working seasonally.

Employment: The creation of appropriate employment and services should always be the first step in sustaining the vitality of the islands.

Youth & Sport: Investment in sports capital and statutory costs is required as well as a fund to support students, clubs & schools to attend games, events on the mainland (which is constrained by our presence on islands and the additional costs)

Broadband: Sustainability requires high quality broadband to be able to attract multinational companies to the islands and create employment.

Galway County Council: Designated seat available for a representative from the three Aran Islands. A more involved role and specific island policy to address the issues relating to the islands and island residents.

Interdepartmental Committee: Liaison between partnership and the co-operation of all sections dealing with the islands in the provision of policies and supports. That the students have a wider input and contact on the ground with the committees / executives.

Childcare: Early Childhood Care and Education, subsidy program & capital supports - these allowances would be doubled for an island center due to population and additional costs associated with them on islands. Island facilities are restricted as they are unable to have the numbers attending that mainland facilities attract.

Travel: Living on islands is an additional burden and cost. We want travel and freight to the islands to be as free as on the islands across Europe.

Budgets / Funding: specific budget allocated to the islands to address the challenges offshore islands face.

Climate Change: Renewable energy to provide funding and supports to the co-operative to address this and develop skills in this area. Island businesses and island community have access and supports to implement home improvements.

Fisheries: Provide policy support to the fishing sector, supports for fishermen

Arts: Provide supports for the dissemination of Arts, Culture & Language services to the public and visitors to the island. This would include services, heritage, learning and support for the development of the Aran Center & Martin Ó Direáin Culture and Arts Center on the island.

Go raibh maith agat as ucht an deis seo a tabhairt dúinn,

Mise le Meas,


Cathy Ní Ghofáin

Bainisteoir