

The following observations are made by IWAI Kildare regarding KCC's draft County Development Plan.

Part 4 Resilient Economy & Job Creation

p38, REO137: Corbally Harbour: When the large silt build-up (i.e. the island) in the harbour is removed, this will make an ideal space for vessels large and small. It will also be a tourist destination for those boating, cycling and walking between Sallins and Corbally, and will be an ideal stop-over for refreshments when the Greenway extends further south to Newbridge. There are several business opportunities, such as hiring kayaks and canoes, barge trips between Naas and Corbally Harbours, providing refreshments, a place for boats and barges to stay awhile in the Kildare countryside.

p42, REP27: The Kildare Branch of the Inland Waterways Association of Ireland (IWAI), welcomes and supports this objective.

p42, REO154: Users of the local waterways would undoubtedly like to work with KCC, Waterways Ireland, and local and touring boats in creating ways for berthing and in creating additional mooring locations.

As well as the Naas Harbour Quarter (described in Naas LAP), the economies of many other local areas would benefit from extra moorings; examples include Lullymore, Robertstown north of the canal, Rathangan on both sides of the bridge, Sallins extending to Soldier's Island, and both sides of Newbridge Road where it blocks the Corbally Canal.

p42, RE O155 Circular Boating Route: The Green and Silver Route is 356 km long with a total of 93 locks. It is a spectacular boating experience through urban and rural waterways commemorating an original journey made back in 1946. The engineering challenges faced by the builders of the Grand and Royal Canals over 220 years ago are striking; they built aqueducts, lifting and swivel bridges, single and double locks, and harbours; and they succeeded in creating canals through the bog.

Part 5 Sustainable Mobility & Transport

p17, TMO21: Said Grand Canal Greenway runs from Dublin to the River Shannon.

p31, TMO89: As is our practice, IWAI Kildare continues to welcome the opportunity to work with KCC, Waterways Ireland and boat owners, to ensure any new crossings across the canals do not impede the passage of boats navigating the waterways.

Part 8 Urban Centres & Retail

p22, RETO27: Kildare IWAI undoubtedly supports this aspiration.

Part 9 Our Rural Economy

p12: Kildare IWAI commends Kildare County Council's wish to regenerate old routes on water and land for recreation use, being another way to encourage locals and visitors biking, boating and walking to explore the Kildare countryside and its attractions.

Part 10 Community Infrastructure & Creative Places

p20, AHO40: As is our practice, IWAI Kildare continues to welcome the opportunity to work with KCC, Waterways Ireland and boat owners, to ensure any new crossings across the canals do not impede the passage of boats navigating the waterways.

Part 11 Built & Cultural Heritage

p38 Note: On Map, Naas Harbour is shown as designated within Naas Conservation area

Part 12 Biodiversity & Green Infrastructure

p38: We commend Kildare County Council's wish to regenerate old routes on water and land for recreation use – another way to encourage locals and visitors biking, boating and walking to explore the Kildare countryside and its attractions.

It is encouraging that KCC recognise the opportunities presented by the ceasing of commercial activities and the re-wetting of the Bogs to reduce carbon emissions for not just the Planet, but also for People.

This is an opportunity to introduce eco-friendly living on canals.

Part 13 Landscape Recreation & Amenity

p29 13.6.1: This is a very positive initiative, which is welcomed and supported by Kildare IWAI.

p32 LRO39: IWAI Kildare welcome the use of former commercial bogs as not just a way of lowering carbon emissions from this island, but also as a way to provide healthy recreation for our citizens. It is yet another way to encourage locals and visitors biking, boating and walking to explore the Kildare countryside and its attractions.

p32 LRO4: This area is not directly in Kildare IWAI's typical 'territory'; however, as it is connected to the Barrow Line, we are keen to encourage this endeavour.

p33, LRO50: IWAI Kildare is pleased to see this statement.

p33, LRO51 (a) Naas to Corbally Harbours and (b) Corbally Harbour to Newbridge.

IWAI Kildare welcome the extending of the Grand Canal Greenway to Corbally Harbour, and extending this recreational facility to the people of Newbridge, Kilcullen and Athgarvan.

p33, LRO52: The extension to Corbally Harbour with moorings, slipways, cafe and a service block, will create an ideal tourist destination for those navigating Kildare Canals and encourage people to stay awhile and explore the amenities available to visitors in Kildare. It will also encourage local people to set up small businesses hiring kayaks and canoes, providing barge trips and refreshments.

p36, LRA11: We commend Kildare County Council's wish to regenerate old routes on water and land for recreation use; this is yet another way to encourage locals and visitors biking, boating and walking to explore the Kildare countryside and its attractions.

We welcome the extension of the Grand Canal Greenway to Corbally Harbour and also the extension of this recreational facility to the people of Newbridge, Kilcullen and Athgarvan.

Appendix 2 Wind Energy Strategy

p36: We commend KCC for ensuring Wind Farms do not impinge on the waterways in Kildare.

p52: Particular attention should be given to how perspective schemes would be observed from scenic routes, scenic viewpoints and hilltop views, in particular those associated with the Royal and Grand Canals, and River Barrow.

We commend KCC for taking into consideration the views across Kildare waterways in any development proposed in the areas around them.

Appendix 3 Open Space & Outdoor Recreation Strategy

p26: IWAI Kildare is pleased to see this statement, and specifically the inclusion of Corbally Greenway and Peatways on this list.