

Peter Browne

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Submission to NPF 2040

To whom it concerns,

I have lived in Castleisland for over 50 years and have seen the Town progress slowly and driven by indigenous local business people who have shown themselves to be quite resolute. Castleisland was always a great Market town as its unique infrastructure in Kerry & the Southwest led it to be a natural trading centre. In more recent times the town has struggled not from within but because Public resources are not being made available in Castleisland whilst other urban centres receive much more relative to their status within the county.

In the past Regional Planning Guidelines of the SWR authority had highlighted the Towns natural infrastructure and earmarked it as a place for investment as the public purse would naturally see a good ROI. C 2006 A delegation from the Business Community in Castleisland led by myself & supported by the RPGs made a presentation to KCC & was successful in have Castleisland included in the Tralee-Killarney-Castleisland Linked Hub (for a while)

However in more recent times successive KCC Dev Plans have relegated the town's status whereby it now lags behind Tralee, Killarney, Listowel, Killorglin, Kenmare & Dingle in terms of Public investment. I expect this shift is from political pressure on KCC within the county; Castleisland does not have a TD. However there is an obligation to spend public monies wisely so considering the Castleisland has

- Excellent infrastructure (adjacent to N21 & N23)
- Nearest town to renewable wind energy (c 600 MW being produced just north of the town)
- Nearest town to Kerry Airport c 8Km
- Nearest town to Munster Joinery (1100 staff; support services could be provided here)
- Tourism. This area is steeped in Music, Culture & Heritage but find it very difficult to wrench assistance from Bord Failte and other state agencies who just pile money into Killarney & others even though their bed nights are at full capacity anyway.
- Gateway to Kerry. Castleisland has beautiful Viewing Area at Glounsharoon overlooking most all of Kerry. This area is grossly underdeveloped and should receive immediate investment to accommodate Bus parking and associated facilities. Local business has ensured that this park has been included in all the local area plans and county development plans for the last 25 years but KCC have failed to recognise its significance. In last 12 months

KCC have engaged with the Local Chamber Alliance but promises for minor improvements have not even been fulfilled.

I believe our town is a sleeping giant and can considerably assist in growth of Kerry in terms of Tourism, Industry & Logistics (carbon footprint), I am asking this body, the National Planning Framework to recognise the Town's assets and allow this area to be a key-driver in the growth of Kerry and the Southwest.