

Western Rail Trail

Recipient: Iain Douglas county planner, Peter Hynes County Manager, Lisa Chambers TD, Dara Calleary TD, Enda Kenny TD, Minister Michael Ring TD, Minister for transport Shane Ross, Cllr Michael Smyth, Cllr Sea...

Letter: Greetings,

I have just signed the petition for Greenway on the closed for 40 years railway line from Swinford to Charlestown. I want a greenway on this closed railway not a Velo-Rail which is what the county plan proposed. Following extensive public consultation in 2012 The Swinford Vision for the Future survey was published. Over 1,000 people were surveyed in the Swinford/Charlestown area for this really important survey which Mayo county council partly sponsored. One of the main recommendations of the Survey was to create a greenway (walking and cycling trail) on the closed railway from Swinford to Charlestown, connecting two neighbouring Mayo towns with a traffic free pedestrian and cycling route. In 2013 Mayo county council received almost 300 submissions on the county plan asking for a greenway on this route; Mayo County Council refused to adopt this simple idea for the county plan despite massive public support and despite what the Swinford Vision for the Future survey asked for!

Mayo county council did not receive a single submission asking for a velorail yet this is what Mayo county planning executives put in the county plan, ask why they did this?.

Councillors need to ask the county planning executive why this happened. They need to ask the county planners why the closed railway was conveniently labelled as "disused" in the county plan when the National Transport Authority, Irish Rail and Department of Transport define the line as closed. The use of the wrong definition is important, because it means the county plan contains misleading and false information. Ask the county planners why they refused to use the correct definition of the closed railway line as closed.

Has any councillor or any TD got the courage to challenge what the county planning department did when the county plan was sent back to the chamber following submissions. Why didn't any councillors challenge the planning executives when false information about the closed railway line was deliberately kept in the county plan second draft? The use of the wrong definition of the railway line as disused rather than closed meant the county planners could keep the idea of a greenway on the route out of the county plan.

Ask the county management executives why they would not allow the greenway proposal into the county plan. They still need to answer this question and so far are refusing to do so.

Ask the county management why they have wasted public money threatening a greenway campaigner with solicitors letters from the county council solicitors King & McEllin in September 2016. Ask the council county manager how much money was wasted on this process. Yes your county council executive wasted money on sending threatening solicitors letters to a greenway campaigner because he had the audacity to challenge them about the way in which submissions asking for a greenway were handled. Do you know thousands of people want to see a greenway on this route but Mayo county council planning executive, unelected administrators are blocking the will of the people. Go ask your county manager. Why is this happening?

Comments

Name	Location	Date	Comment
	Sligo, Ireland	2017-06-15	I want to be able to cycle my bike in safety on a very scenic route
	Mayo, Ireland	2017-06-15	It will bring business back into the small towns
	Dublin 3, Ireland	2017-06-15	Im from beside the railway in swinford. Spent my childhood on those tracks having the best fun. I would love to see a greenway open. It really would be a great amenity for both young and old. It would also bring much needed tourism to the area.
	Sligo, Ireland	2017-06-15	It is an obvious use, on an already created footprint, of an existing infrastructure. Just a few tweaks and your ready to go. No brainer!
	Sligo, Ireland	2017-06-15	The Greenway generates tourism and visual enhancement for an area.
	Kildare, Ireland	2017-06-15	I visit this area quite a bit and it would be an amazing amenity for tourists.
	Arranmore Donegal, Ireland	2017-06-15	The development of the disused railway as a greenway for recreational and tourist use is a no brainer to help revitalise the west and vitalise its communities. Go for it now.
	St Mullins, Ireland	2017-06-15	Our New green ways and Blueways are the best tourist opportunity that Ireland has ever had. This is also a great opportunity to open up Ireland for our friends in wheelchairs.
	Manchester, Connecticut, US	2017-06-15	For the good of the county.
	Swinford, Ireland	2017-06-15	This is a "no brainer" of an idea to make use of the railway which has been closed & left derelict and rotting for over 40 years. It is being done all over the country on abandoned & closed railways. Everyone is familiar or has heard about the huge success of the "great western greenway" in the west of Mayo. Most recently, the "Deise Greenway" has opened in Waterford, google that and see all the new business's that has opened along its route, small cottage industries, B&B's, pubs and hotels having to take on more staff. Sligo Greenway Co Op have made huge progress in recent months, from Collooney to Bellaghy in Charlestown. Do you want to see that section of the greenway stop there? I sure don't, I want to see it continue onto Swinford. We DON'T want to be left behind!
	Galway, Ireland	2017-06-15	Im signing because its about time opportunities and life is brought to towns like swinford . Maybe if this was in place now i may not have had to close my family business of 30 years

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	Swinford, Ireland	2017-06-15	This is a "no brainer" of an idea to make use of the railway which has been closed & left derelict and rotting for over 40 years. It is being done all over the country on abandoned & closed railways. Everyone is familiar or has heard about the huge success of the "great western greenway" in the west of Mayo. Most recently, the "Deise Greenway" has opened in Waterford, google that and see all the new business's that has opened along its route, small cottage industries, B&B's, pubs and hotels having to take on more staff. Sligo Greenway Co Op have made huge progress in recent months, from Collooney to Bellaghy in Charlestown. Do you want to see that section of the greenway stop there? I sure don't, I want to see it continue onto Swinford. We DON'T want to be left behind!
	BALLYMOTE, Ireland	2017-06-16	If the TD's and County Councillors were doing what they are Paid to do and supporting and working for their Electorate,the Western Greenway would be Done 10-20 years ago.No more excuses for non delivery of this vital and Cost effective Regeneration for the Western Region.THERE IS NO REASON FOR NOT DOING WHAT IS RIGHT, AND THE TIME FOR ACTION IS NOW.
	Bunnanaddan,, Ireland	2017-06-16	Will help with regeneration of both towns
	Swinford, Ireland	2017-06-16	It's the way forward for closed railways and will help the area attract visitors
	Donegal, Ireland	2017-06-16	This would be a safe route to get kids out cycling and also help local tourism..
	Mayo, Ireland	2017-06-16	It's about time something was done!!
	Charlestown, Ireland	2017-06-16	It would be amazing for both town.
	mayo, Ireland	2017-06-16	It would be a great use for the railway line and it would be a great asset for the people of Swinford and Charlestown
	Swinford, Ireland	2017-06-16	It is a brilliant idea.
	Swinford, Ireland	2017-06-16	I like walking and it would be great to have a traffic free walk and cycle lane . Get people healthy and fit .
	Naas, Ireland	2017-06-16	I have seen, in Ireland and Europe, the economic benefits that having a greenway can bring to the towns and villages, Charlestown and Swinford deserve and need this opportunity too.
	Charlestown co mayo, Ireland	2017-06-16	I think its fantastic idea as we need toOpen it again

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	Swinford, Ireland	2017-06-16	Do councils ever do the simple things that will benefit the people? This would be an asset to the towns and the county. It would be used by so many people and would benefit all. Surely this opportunity is not going to pass us by.
	Swinford, Ireland	2017-06-16	Please support this petition, TELL EVERYONE. Let's not miss this one!
	Sligo, Ireland	2017-06-16	You need more stuff like this happening in small town to keep them alive a thriving
	Charlestown, Co. Mayo, Ireland	2017-06-16	Would be a brilliant idea to keep cyclists and pedestrians of our main roads creating a much safer environment
	London, England, UK	2017-06-16	i will use the greenway regularly when i holiday in mayo
	Co.Kildare, ireland, Ireland	2017-06-16	swinford needs more amenities
	Charlestown, Ireland	2017-06-16	It would be fantastic for the young and old alike in our wonderful parish### ☺ ## ☺ ##
	Charlestown, Ireland	2017-06-16	Its a facility which would enhance what the area has to offer Prevent the death of rural Ireland and get activity up and going again.
	Maynooth, Ireland	2017-06-16	I CARE
	Dublin, Ireland	2017-06-16	It is a fantastic idea for old and young and it would also regenerate those sad towns of Charlestown and Swinford. Think outside of the box please.
	Newbridge, Ireland	2017-06-16	I think public greenway cycling paths are an asset and a necessity for the mental and physical well-being of all citizens of Ireland and visitors, alike.
	Charlestown, Ireland	2017-06-17	This will provide much needed business using an asset which will never see trains again in my lifetime
	Boyle, Ireland	2017-06-17	It's time that the council listened to what the people want. Railway anoraks groups have far too much say in mayo county council, blocking tourism and leisure infrastructure and the jobs that go with them. On Waterford the council works to serve the people; in mayo the council works against them.
	Mayo, Ireland	2017-06-18	I'll go a step further. This proposed Charlestown-Swinford Greenway is only a small part of what should happen. A mile or so from the abandoned railway in Sonnagh, Charlestown is Ireland West Airport. The Greenway should in my opinion start at the airport, go to Charlestown, Swinford and on to Foxford and Ballina; linking directly with The Monasteries of the Moy and on to The Wild Atlantic Way. It's a perfect way to showcase East Mayo to tourists while linking with

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			existing attractions that have previously been put in place. My idea would be ideal for tourists who could fly into Ireland West and then head of to explore the west coast on their bicycles which could be hired at the Airport.... It's a win win for the area, and projects which were pushed by Minister Ring, Leas Taoiseach Kenny and Senator Mulherin would potentially see a huge boost, not to mention the benefits to the communities of Charlestown, Swinford and their hinterlands.
	Swinford, Ireland	2017-06-18	Brilliant idea
	mayo, Ireland	2017-06-19	it's not too often much to ask for pedestrians and cyclists roads are so dangerous for cycling / walking on and we need more of these greenaway.
	swinford co.mayo, Ireland	2017-06-19	It's would be great
	Wallasey, England, UK	2017-06-19	It would be a real benefit for community. It would also attract more visitors to the area. at the moment it's a wasted resource.
	Mayo, Ireland	2017-06-19	We have a little girl confined to a wheelchair. We've moved down from Dublin to build a proper house for her. We got out for more walks in Dublin than in Mayo. It's not safe to bring a wheelchair on a rural road. We need a Greenway, Swinford needs a greenway.
	Swinford, Ireland	2017-06-19	I'm signing because I think a green way is really badly needed
	Foxford, Ireland	2017-06-20	I would love to see the whole of Mayo linked by various loops of a Greenway system...Westport to Achill is Superb
	Swinford, Ireland	2017-06-20	This development would bring badly needed new tourism opportunities to the area.
	CHARLESTOWN, Ireland	2017-06-20	This would be an amazing for our community
	Dublin, Ireland	2017-06-20	Greenways and cycling are fantastic ways to bring tourists into your area and create and sustain local jobs. Ask the people of Dungarvan or Newport.
	Manchester, England, UK	2017-06-20	I believe I would use it on my frequent trips to Mayo
	Dublin, Ireland	2017-06-20	It would be a great idea to use the old line as part of the national Greenway network.
	Omagh, Northern Ireland, UK	2017-06-22	It makes a lot of sense helps get people exercising improving their health and it also creates a great community shared space along which lots of activities can take place

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	Hoddesdon, England, UK	2017-06-23	It's a great simple idea , great for the community
	Swinford, Ireland	2017-06-23	It's needed to revitalise east mayo town
	Kilcock, Ireland	2017-06-23	Time it was put to use
	Sligo, Ireland	2017-06-24	Greenways keep communities alive!
	Dublin, Ireland	2017-06-24	Because for the sake of our children and future generations we must do all we can to encourage physical activity and an appreciation of nature.
	swinford, Ireland	2017-06-24	i think it's the best way to reuse the railway line and because it's safer for cyclists and walkers
	Swinford, Ireland	2017-06-25	I wish to add my name to the petition to request the creation of a greenway on the closed railway from Swinford to Charlestown
	Swinford, Ireland	2017-06-25	Only a small contribution to say Yes by Mayo County Council - good for communities - locals and visitors alike. Another way to promote Swinford and help to keep us all healthy.
	Swinford, Ireland	2017-06-25	It will be great to have a greenway close to home
	Leigh on Sea Essex, England, UK	2017-06-26	This would be brilliant. A safe place for all of us to walk and ride.
	Charlestown, Jersey	2017-06-26	It's a very positive passtime, for health reasons, for the young and old alike!! Do it!!!
	Swinford, Ireland	2017-06-26	We love cycling and walking and skating with our children. It would be great to be able to do that in a safe way and not have to worry about traffic.
	Swinford, Ireland	2017-06-26	Safer for my kids to enjoy cycling, skating, walking and for me as well.
	Tullamore, Ireland	2017-06-26	Open our country to non car usage
	Charlestown, Ireland	2017-06-26	It's the best use for it

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	Tubbercurry, Ireland	2017-07-02	There are so few places to walk around here
	Kilkenny, Ireland	2017-07-04	I have very fond memories of this beautiful area