

From: Jim Grady [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 November 2017 12:33
To: National Planning Framework
Subject: National Planning Framework Policy public submissions

A Chara,

A greenway on the closed railway from Athenry to Collooney will not only protect this publicly owned route in perpetuity it will help fulfill National Policy objective number 6 and in particular national policy objective 23 as detailed in National Planning Framework draft policy document.

I am asking that the Western Rail Trail becomes a named and specified project as part of the final National Planning Framework policy document. As someone who has been involved in tourism in east Clare over the last number of years, I realise the importance of proper tourist infrastructure, and attractions in the west of Ireland. A greenway linking the Sligo/East Mayo, East Galway region would be a way of spreading the economic benefit of the wild Atlantic Way to more disadvantaged areas. It would also offer a major opportunity to increase short visit /weekend tourists through Knock Airport. Many of these are looking for activity based breaks in a rural setting. The opening of this Greenway from Collooney to Athenry would encourage me to develop an agri-tourism destination in Charlestown, when I originally come from.

Hopefully, you will see the economic and social benefits of opening this Greenway.

Yours Sincerely,

Jim Grady