

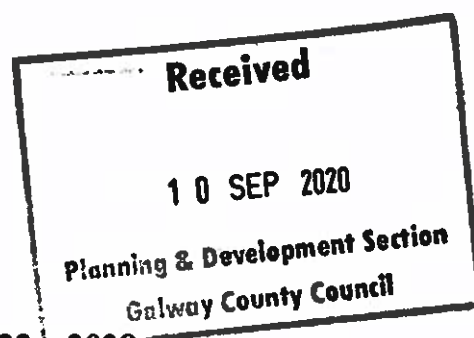
# Clarinbridge Oyster Co – Society Ltd

Clarinbridge,

Co. Galway

05/09/2020

County Galway Development Plan 2022 ~~2028~~



## Core strategy and Housing

You say to meet your housing targets you need to ensure sufficient land is available in the right places with good infrastructure Services.

Does that statement mean there will be no more building in areas prone to flooding close to rivers, waterways or the coastline of Galway County. The three flash flood events that occurred in the past 10 days. (Clifden) being one should serve as a warning to Galway Local Authority and County Councillors of the vagaries of our climate and the stop <sup>OVCC</sup> ~~one~~ and for all building on floodplains, and the land areas selected should be thoroughly investigated before being zoned.

## Rural Place - Making and the Countryside

There is an urgent need to protect our countryside, from excessive building, ugly monstrosities of houses which everybody seems to want nowadays. Is there any Architect or Planner in Galway Local Authority who understands the Galway landscape, it seems not. Protecting our landscape is vital for tourism.

As regards the development of villages, every village has strengths and weaknesses which need to be looked at in order for orderly Development to take place. Many villages have had their post offices and Garda barracks closed, causing stress and hardship to the elderly. Some Galway County Councillors have suggested when building houses in those villages that the developers be allowed to build the wastewater treatment systems to service the houses. No way should this happen, Private Treatment Plants do not work, we have them here in Clarinbridge, they do not work. Galway County Council environment section agrees with us that private Plants do not work. There is a private treatment plant at the rear of the Bridge shopping Centre in Clarinbridge, it smells all the time particularly when it rains, if the back door of Londis Supermarket is open the smell pervades the supermarket, in the times we are living in, how terrible is that. Are these Plants ever inspected?.

## Urban Living and Placemaking

You state that Oranmore Daile Chláir and Bearnna now form part of the MASP area. These towns are now so close to Galway City that any more development will lead to urban sprawl. Oranmore was a nice little village with a castle on the edge of Galway Bay (Oranmore) Bay, but it has now become a glorified housing estate, with no wastewater treatment system (pumphouse) only Oranmore Bay, and Mutton Island. Mutton Island must surely now be at saturation point with all the development has and is going in Galway city and surrounds. The many houses now built at Doughisca on the old Galway road, heading towards Merlin Park, who allowed houses there to be built on the edge of the road with a drop down from the road. Hopefully there will be no accident on that side of the road, dropping into the back gardens of houses close to the edge of the road.

## Wastewater Treatment

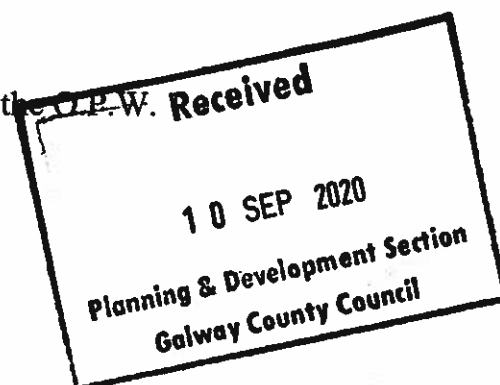
Last year 2019 certainly informed us of the poor state of our wastewater systems and our water treatment plants in Ireland and Galway. Kinvara had a new system installed three years ago, there was problems with it from day one.

There is no Wastewater Treatment System in Clarinbridge, yet there is house building going on destroying some of the woodland of Clarinbridge in the process. Our information is that it will take Irish Water sixty years to rectify the poor infrastructure, assuming that funding is available.

There is only 20 pristine clean rivers in Ireland. Here is Clarinbridge the three rivers, Clarin, Dunkellin and Balinamanagh that flow into Dunbulcaun Bay are poor water quality as is the Bay itself. Our once wonderful Oyster Fisheries, famous all over the world, its 1000's of years of heritage have been seriously damaged by pollution and drainage of the Clarin river in 2011. The Balinamanagh river (2014) and the Dunkellin scheme. None of these schemes gave any consideration to the damage that would be done to the native Oyster or the biodiversity of the bay.

Now the dreadful situation re Derybrien and Gort Lowlands flood situation. We have been given to understand that this scheme will have a catastrophic effect on Kinvara Bay and surrounds and Shellfish farmers who are legally there having obtained licences from the Dept. of agriculture and Marine. Our area of south Galway is being used as a dumping ground for drainage works from East and south Galway, causing pollution and damage to our Oyster fisheries. We are being punished for events we had no hand act or part in.

After the serious flooding in south Galway in the mid-nineties, the O.P.W. Commissioned Jennings O'Donovan (Sligo) to draw up a plan.



2 items of note from that plan

1. No buildings or houses in areas of serious flooding
2. Planning permissions sought by applicants in the area be referred to the O.P.W. before decisions be made on them by Galway County Council.

These recommendations were never taken on board by anybody.

After the 2016 flooding there was an article on the Irish Independent which stated there was no legal onus on Local Authorities to notify applicants for planning permissions about areas they wanted to build on, surely this is morally wrong and possibly incorrect, because under the Aarhus convention ratified by the EU, including Ireland in 2001 people have an entitlement to know what goes on in their environment.

In Galway County, the big issues are Flooding, Pollution, Environment and Drainage and Planning, far more important than the Galway City Ring Road.

### City Ring Road

Building this road will not reduce traffic into Galway <sup>and</sup> ~~because~~ public transport is not good enough; people are too much in love with their cars. This road will add to urban sprawl, because with the new road house building will follow

Yours sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

Mary Mullins

Secretary [Redacted]

