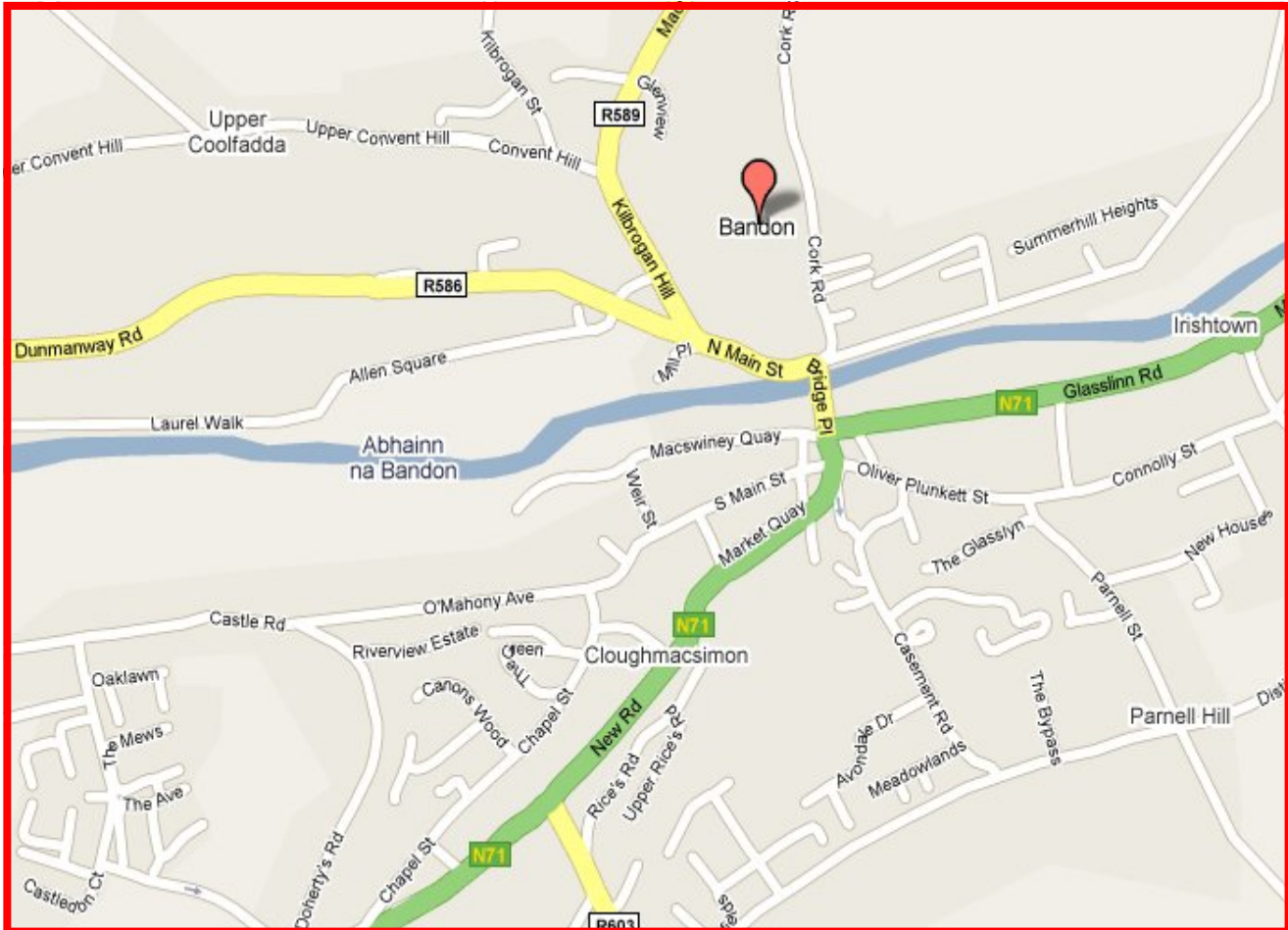


Submission to the Draft County Development Plan for Bandon Town

Submitted by the Labour Party Bandon Branch on 27th February 2010.



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General comments

We need to emphasise the natural advantages of Bandon both as a shopping town with a large rural hinterland, as a town in close proximity to Cork City and as a gateway to West Cork particularly in the context of tourist development.

We feel that the status of the town needs to be upgraded to Urban District status as other major West Cork towns and that an extension of the town boundaries needs to be done during the life time of the plan. Regeneration of some parts of the shopping areas is critical and marketing the town effectively is critical to its economic development.



“We feel that the status of the town needs to be upgraded to Urban District status as other major West Cork towns”

Town Centre

We believe that a regeneration programme is critical in the main shopping streets. This could include:

- Up grade streets and pavements
- A programme of imaginative lightning and street furniture with pedestrian areas. Paved areas and wider walkways would also make Bandon more attractive as a shopping town.
- Increased pedestration areas that would include tree and flower planting
- Dealing with the issue of derelict buildings and rigorously enforcing the Derelict Sites Act.
- An audit of unused buildings
- Support financially and engage with the Tidy Towns Committee
- Consider better use of top floor space on commercial premises
- Provide a plaza in the town both for general recreation and for markets and festivals
- The immediate installation of CCTV in the main streets.
- Need for enhanced urban renewal/ regeneration programmes needed.
- Protect protected buildings and promote through signage and promotional materials their historic importance.
- Work with Bandon Historical Society and Council Heritage Officer to produce appropriate plaques and printed guides.
- More signage around the town centre.



“Provide a plaza in the town
both for general recreation
and for markets and festivals”

Economic Development

- The employment of a Marketing Officer to promote the town in terms of a shopping/market town, gateway to the West and historic town dating back to medieval times.
- Enhance through better spaces and traffic controls the existing Farmers Market into a much bigger operation.
- Support and develop other possible markets such as arts and crafts
- Encourage the setting up of small co-operatives to run and upgrade such markets. Research expertise from UCC



should be sought and a package of grant aid made available

- Indigenous food production should be actively encouraged through tax schemes and other additional supports. New rural tax relief schemes need to be implemented
- Support financially through the Arts Office existing festivals that are better promoted nationally and European cities with direct flights.
- Encourage more hotel development that can incorporate conference facilities and leisure centre.

• Review the twinning policy and link Bandon in with towns on the continent which have direct flights from Cork Airport; links with Welsh towns now that the Cork-Swansea Ferry is operational; links with towns in the USA such as Bandon, Oregon.

• Promote Bandon as a historic town through programme to display its historic past such as the walled town, water mill, churches. Develop museum or the Library to include a genealogical research centre. The Bandon Historical Society and the Council's Monuments Committee to work to market historic sites, develop an international annual conference on genealogy, identify and market historic walks.

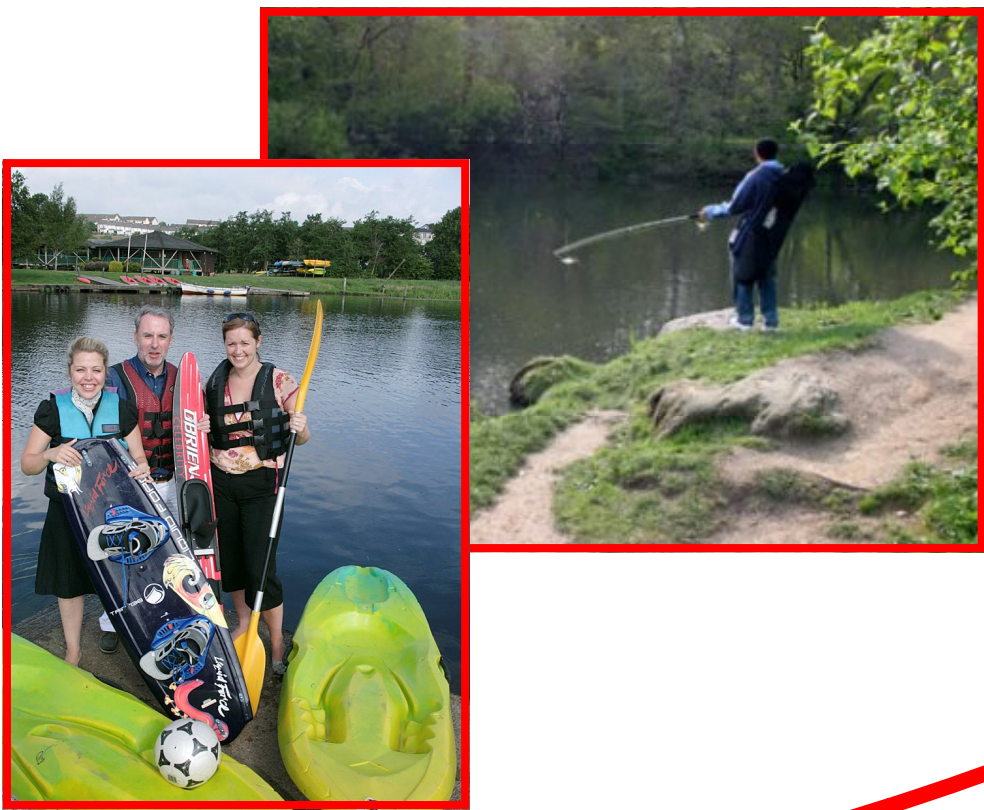
• Given the close links to the city and the major education institutions such as CIT and UCC to develop adult learning programmes as a regional centre for adult learning.



Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Chorcaí
Cork Institute of Technology

“review the twinning policy and link Bandon...Welsh Towns...Cork Swansea Ferry link”

- We need to ensure that high speed broadband using fibre optic cable is delivered as a priority both for commercial and education use. The Library or Learning Resource Centre would be an important support.
- The 'Green economy' requires careful study but has huge potential in supporting energy costs for commercial and domestic use and for creating employment for areas such as wind and water energy. We suggest that a Council task force linked to other relevant agencies make this a priority for the plan and that Bandon be considered as a pilot town for such developments.
- Public transport needs to be developed in the rural areas to encourage shoppers living in the rural hinterland to come to Bandon and also for eating out and late night entertainment. Can the rural bus transport be utilised as a support for this? West Cork Rural Transport enhanced particularly from smaller villages such as Kilbrittain, Ballinspittle, Ballinadee.
- Enhance shuttle service around the town linking into areas such as Old Chapel and off street parking sites.
- We need to include Bandon in the green corridors policy that links major commuter towns with the city.
- Community Employment schemes need to be introduced both for recreation works and social supports.
- Tourism to be enhanced. A new tourist office linked to the Library or Museum linked with enhancing the historic nature of the town.
- River as a source of employment, tourist and other, needs to be developed. Fishing as a recreational activity particularly if we developed an annual fishing competition would bring in visitors and income to the town.



“River as a source of employment, tourist and other, needs to be developed”

Traffic Management

- A traffic management plan needs to be developed to take large traffic out of the town and incorporate more pedestrian to develop the town as a market s / shopping town.
- The by-pass needs to be completed and if current difficulties cannot be resolved an alternative route identified and agreed.
- The roundabout and traffic lights system in the approaches to the town and inside Bandon needs review and improvement. For example the roundabout on the Clonakilty Road leading to the current by-pass.



- Pay parking needs to be reviewed after a year's operation. The limits need to be reduced and incentives for Saturday and holiday periods introduced. Monies made from the scheme needs to be put back into projects for the town.
 - Traffic calming measures need to be put in place to reduce speed on roads and estates.
 - There needs to be a lower speed limit inside in estates.
 - An audit of pedestrian crossings needs to be carried out.
- Assessment of an additional crossing point apart from the main bridge to regulate traffic between the two parts of the town.
 - Off street parking needs to be clearly marked and electronic posting of space availability in all access routes into the town.
 - More parking spaces for disabled drivers.



“Traffic calming measures need to be put in place to reduce speed on roads and estates”

Environmental Issues

- The commencement of the main sewage scheme is vital
- The Council's Flood Management Plan must be implemented immediately and the views of the newly formed Flood Committee taken on board
- Further initiatives need to be taken as regards recycling. We propose a pilot scheme for glass collection centres around the town and recycling bins for separating various materials set up around the town.
- Litter management needs to be a priority and supporting the Tidy Towns is important in that regard. We propose that skips be made available at least once a year, free of charge, to estates for disposing of old furniture, electrical goods etc.
- Litter wardens need to be strengthened and illegal dumping tackled vigorously.
- The Tidy Towns Committee needs financial and logistical supports.
- A programme of tree and flower planting on main streets and estates should be implemented.
- Cycle paths need to be implemented both for traffic safety and encourage leisure activity. Ant re-development of the river walk particularly to Innishannon should incorporate a cycle path.



weather conditions salt and grit need to be readily available and a local volunteer task force support Council staff to ensure that all paths are speedily dealt with.

- The Council needs to carry out an audit of Council housing stock and a maintenance programme agreed.
- A policy for social and affordable housing needs to be implemented particularly with so many vacant houses in the town.
- An accessibility audit for disabled persons needs to be carried out in terms of streets, footpaths, public buildings and a programme of improvements carried out. Working with disability groups on the audit would be essential.
- A system of rain harvesting should be implemented particularly for school buildings.