

Waterville/ Ballinskelligs/ Inny Valley Catchments Sustainability Plan, 2nd Community Consultation, 23rd July 2020, Discussions

1. General response to the presentation?

- + Presentation is very good, very detailed, a comprehensive summary of views, matches local knowledge and experience,
- + Request that the issue of coastal erosion be included in the study, as it is a problem,
- + Could communications be improved as some people are not aware, or are aware late, of the project?
- + Angling is a main priority issue for Waterville,
- + The catchments is underdeveloped. Blueway activities could be developed on the beach, there are a lot of activity options for the lake and vicinities that could be developed, include new walks/ develop existing walks, small investment for the lake could go a long way,
- + Good to see 30% responses from farmers,
- + A query on how water quality is monitored on the beaches - concern for Ballinskelligs as there is no sewage treatment plant, this could be investigated,
- + There is optimism that arising from COVID, now could be a great time to develop a plan as a sense of community has returned,

2. What would be the consequences if we do nothing?

- We won't progress in the right way,
- The negative trend in water quality will continue,
- Coastal erosion could have significant impact,
- Loss of ecosystems due to deterioration of water quality, impacts will be wide ranging, habitat and biodiversity will be negatively impacted, fish stocks will deplete,
- All the factors contributing to the problems will continue to accelerate,
- Potential for tourism and angling will be negative,
- Farming will be impacted in a huge number of ways, farmers will be blamed if situation worsens, farmland/ practices need to be managed, managing the river and farmland go hand in hand, balance agriculture and biodiversity, there will be further reduction in farming,

3. What are some of the key priorities that should be included in a plan?

- Water Quality:
 - Improving the water quality of The Inny should be number one priority,
 - Actions aimed at bringing water quality to highest levels,
 - Continue investigating the causes of declining water quality,
 - Examine the issue of sewage treatment/ risk factors for Ballinskelligs Bay,

- Leisure Amenities:
 - Develop Blueway activities and other activities such as walking and angling, develop amenities to attract visitors,
 - Being on The Kerry Way is a major plus, loops can be developed, including linking with The Kerry Way, develop walks, install maps & signage,

- Farming & Forestry:
 - What are the farm practices that need to be improved? Eg spreading slurry, there are fewer farming now along the Inny, and practices have improved,
 - Maintenance of streams and riverbanks must be included in the plan,
 - Move away from clear-fell model of forestry to a sustainable form/ continuous green cover/ native woodlands rather than spruce,
 - Develop schemes to support farmers/ landowners to undertake actions to address the issues,

- Erosion:
 - Include research on the coastal erosion along the Cliff Road in Waterville,
 - Include measures to address riverbank erosion caused by floods,

- Balanced Development.
 - Future plans for the rivers and lakes need to accommodate a balance of all interests, one interest should not dominate,

- Education and communications,

