

[REDACTED]

Sent: 10 January 2020 09:20
To: 'Eleanor Lee'
Subject: RE: Submission on Development Plan

A Chara,

I wish to acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of your submission regarding the County Development Plan review.

Mise le meas,

[REDACTED]
Planning, Development and Environment.

-----Original Message-----

From: Eleanor Lee [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 January 2020 16:55
To: Planning - Plan Review
Subject: Submission on Development Plan

Attached please find a submission on the Wicklow Development Plan form Coollattin Canadian Connection.

Many thanks
Eleanor & Kevin Lee



Coollattin Canadian Connection

Kevin & Eleanor Lee [REDACTED]

Contact details:

Website: www.coollattincanadianconnection.com

Twitter: @coollattincn

Facebook: The History of the Coollattin Estate
[REDACTED]

Submission on Co Wicklow's Development Plan 2021-2027

'How can we know who we are and where we are going if we don't know anything about where we have come from..'

David McCullough

Portraits in History

Kevin and Eleanor Lee would like to commend Wicklow County Council on their work on the Development Plan 2021-2027.

It is with the insight, experience and vision gleaned from our engagement with our Coollattin Canadian Connection initiative over the past number of years that we feel equipped to make a submission to this Development Plan.

Our heritage is at the historic and living heart of Ireland. Other than natural landscapes, wildlife, national parks etc, we feel that genealogy tourism also plays a major part in bringing visitors to our shores. As Coollattin Canadian Connection taps into a very unique niche market, we need the Co Wicklow Development Plan to recognise the vital role that genealogy tourism plays in our local economy, community and society.

Our heritage is the story of Ireland and its people. Genealogy tourism needs to be cared about, cared for and protected. As our country grows and develops, our heritage needs to be remembered and celebrated in the hearts and lives of the diaspora whose ancestors left these shores in their thousands seeking a better life abroad for themselves and for their families.

One of the key strategic objectives of the Ireland's Ancient East initiative is to differentiate Ireland's East on the basis of the quality of its heritage experience and a clear memorable narrative.

When the descendants of emigrants return to their homeland, Coollattin Canadian Connection helps to illuminate their understanding, inspire and inform them of their roots and whereabouts their ancestors came from with indeed a clear memorable narrative. It is about connectedness. Belonging. Wellbeing. Identity and a sense of place.

Genealogy tourism is local. It celebrates the rich history of the area. It is a major developer in the cultural, economic and social development of our place. Clearly Wicklow is a particularly attractive location for day-trippers. Our genealogy tourism initiative further enhances the visitor experience and increases dwell time. The development of rural based tourism is a mechanism for stimulating the rural economy. Genealogy tourism supports local. It supports local service providers, creates and sustains jobs and is about giving back. It allows local communities to ponder and engage with real peoples' stories of emigration from these shores.

Genealogy tourism is all about partnerships.

It would be good to see support with investment and innovation in heritage research, initiatives around heritage tourism and genealogy, publications and new initiatives around the built environment into the future for example the development of a Famine Village/Interpretive Centre in South Wicklow.

We thank Wicklow County Council for the partnership we have with them and the support which they have afforded us from the beginning of our initiative.

We applaud the fact that one of Wicklow's Historical and Cultural Heritage objectives is to protect and facilitate the conservation of structures, sites and objects which are part of the county's historical and cultural heritage. Coollattin House and The Building Yard in Coollattin would both be part of this cultural heritage.

Genealogy tourism fosters a profound respect for our land and our people. It celebrates family stories, hardships endured, enlightenment and the resilience of the human spirit.

We collectively have the responsibility to protect, nurture and celebrate genealogy tourism in bringing the visitors to our shores in their droves.

Every good wish for the future.

Eleanor & Kevin Lee