

An Article from “The Tipperary Voice” Newspaper

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Ten – year project Suir to transform Carrick

Two roads, three schools and a fourth bridge in new town plan

Carrick-on-Suir is a town sometimes forgotten in South Tipperary. It has never had a sitting TD, rarely is it spoken of in terms of development and it is often associated with high unemployment.

All that is due to change over the next ten years with development and expansion plans, which will see the town change beyond recognition.

Already South Tipperary County Council says it is the fastest growing town in the region and Carrick-on-Suir Town Development Plan 2007 is set to prove that.

Not only is the Coolnamuck Development Park in the final stages of planning but the construction of a new hotel and apartment complex has been approved for the former Goldcrop area of the North Quay, under Dillon (New) Bridge.

A fourth bridge at the Clonmel Road is proposed. This will have the backing of the Department of Education and Science and South Tipperary County Council and will span the river directly opposite the entrance of Clairin and Lissadel.

The bridge will lead to a completely new part of the town, consisting of a secondary school, a Gaelscoil, shops, a boat club, a nursing home and a new road to Dungarvan via Millville and Rathgormack.

This road will more than likely be a public-private venture incorporating the new Technology and Research Park on lands just outside the town.

The aim of building the bridge and road in Carrick-beg is to divert traffic from the narrow streets on the south side of the river.

A second secondary school will be built at the start of the new section of the N24, joining the Piltown-Fiddown bypass. This section running from the Skew Bridge near Dove Hill, to the Three Bridges is expected to be finished by 2012.

The centre of the town is not being ignored. Plans to reinvigorate Greystone Street as far as the turn off to the Quay at the Bogfield are advanced. There will include a multi-story car park, possibly on the old ESB site, to take traffic away from the town centre.

The West Gate will be the new entrance to the independent shopping area of the Main Street, as opposed to the present flow from New Street. The Greystone Street development will include riverside housing and at least some of the housing estates in town are set for a major transformation, with Ballylynch earmarked for a major redevelopment. Sports and community organisations will be heavily involved throughout.

New Mayor welcomes plans

Mayor of Carrick-on-Suir David Shee, is happy with the Carrick-on-Suir Draft Development plan 200 and says, “It is not pie in the sky, there are possibilities that in the next few years there could be an explosion of interest in the town.”

He said: “It is good to see plans put in place for developing the routes around the town and now it is a matter for the government to act on them”.

“The plan is there. This town has to provide the basics so people can become interested in investing in the town and this does mean the provision of the bridge and excellent educational facilities. I am aware the schools have been in talks about the new proposals,” he added.

Mayor Shee did admit that some of Carrick-on-Suir’s future development hinges on the proposed Bio-Technology park in Coolmamuck, but other developments like the interest Tesco and Dunnes Stores have in coming to Carrick is more to do with the size of the town at present.

He said “The roads issue will have to be looked at carefully as it was the strategy of one of the coalition partners to cut back on road building. It is still unclear what deals have been made within the Government on certain issues.”

David concluded, “The plan is there to make sure that if Carrick does see a rapid transformation, we have accounted for all possible eventualities and potential expansion. It is a plan that if there is a party interested in investing in the town, we can show them what we have envisaged for a project of their type.”