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## Chilly viewing point gets the cold shoulder

This majestic scene from Glounsharoon greets visitors to Kerry but the viewing point is said to be too chilly for tourists. Credit: Photo by John Reidy

KEVIN HUGHES June 29 2011 10:17 AM


### *Viewing point is said to be too chilly for tourists*

IT seems that one of Kerry's prime viewing points may be a little too chilly for tourists but there are no plans to install a sheltered viewing park at the site.

That's according to Kerry County Council's Roads Department who were responding to a request from Cllr Bobby O'Connell to install a suitable viewing area at Gleansharoon near Castleisland.

An elevated viewpoint on the N21 at Ahaneboy, the area provides tourists travelling from Dublin and Limerick with their first panoramic view of the county and offers views of Tralee Bay, Dingle and the Macgillycuddy Reeks. The current site has parking for 20 cars but Cllr O'Connell told a county council area meeting that proper facilities should be installed, particularly as the area could be considered "the gateway to Kerry".

The Roads Department agreed that the site provided great views but said there is no money for development and, anyway, it's too chilly for tourists to stop there.

"Tourists only park for a brief visit as the weather is seldom warm even in summertime," the council said. "There is parking for 20 cars but there is no scope for further investment at this location in the current financial climate." 

The comment certainly didn't satisfy Cllr O'Connell who remarked: "We have the same climate as the rest of the country".

Both Cllr Brendan Cronin and Cllr Michael Gleeson also took exception to the response stating that Kerry was primarily a tourist county and this was one of the most majestic views in the county.

Speaking after the meeting, Cllr O'Connell expressed his disbelief at the weather comment and said that temperatures did not vary much between Castleisland Valley and the top of the hill.

"This excuse should not be used as a deterrent. This is one of the finest views in the whole of the south of Ireland, providing tourists a postcard of the layout of the county and it should be exploited," he said.