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# What happened in Kerry this week.

KERRY'S EYE 29TH OCTOBER 2020



## 'Remove dump from Kingdom's gateway'

An ugly Kerry County Council 'materials site' obstructing the stunningly beautiful East and South Kerry vista near Castleisland must be removed to encourage tourism, according to local campaigners.

In 2019, almost 2.5m tourists visited Kerry, the majority of whom drove right past the spectacular panoramic views at Glounsharoon on their way to attractions such as Dingle, Killarney and the majestic Ring of Kerry.

Now, locals in the Ahanboy Community Group are demanding that Kerry County Council do more to develop 'the gateway to Kerry' which they say is currently a 'dumpstered wasteland'.



**CALL TO DEVELOP CASTLEISLAND VIEWING SITE**



**'Remove dump from Kingdom's gateway'**

**Spectacular views of South and East Kerry**

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BY MICHAEL AHERN

In 2019, almost 2.5m tourists visited Kerry, the majority of whom drove right past the spectacular panoramic views at Glounsharoon on their way to attractions such as Dingle, Killarney and the majestic Ring of Kerry.

Now, locals in the Ahanboy Community Group are demanding that Kerry County Council do more to develop 'the gateway to Kerry' which they say is currently a 'dumpstered wasteland'.

However, in a reply to *Kerry's Eye* this week, the Council stated the deposit site is 'strategically' lo-

ated, would require funding to move and that any improvement works 'must be considered in the context of the road safety advice from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)'.

Speaking on behalf of the group, Seamus Fleming said that two thirds of the view is currently obscured by the Council's Materials Reservoir Dump and that the improvement works required at Glounsharoon would be 'bread and butter' for the Council.

Mr Fleming told *Kerry's Eye*: "I understand that we are in tough times, but there's still a huge opportunity to develop this site.

"I'm not talking about building the Taj Mahal at Glounsharoon or anything, but as you're coming from Abbeyfeale, the first thing you see here is the Council dump.

"The dump actually obscures the majestic views as you approach Kerry from the Limerick side - it's madness," he said, "the first thing you see is the dump."

The local group are calling for the Council to:

- relocate the dump to a more discrete site
  - resurface the area and incorporate it within the existing lay-by area
  - create a new climbing lane across the road from the viewing point to create room for a traffic island and right-turning lane to the viewing area
  - create a clean, open space surrounded by a small limestone wall that utilises the East Kerry vista for motorists as they enter Kerry.
- Just under a year ago, *Kerry's Eye* highlighted local demands for

Residents in Castleisland are asking that the Glounsharoon viewing point in Castleisland be developed for tourism and that the site gets cleaned up, pictured are l-r: James and Pat Shanahan, Michael John Kearney (Castleisland Chamber Alliance) with Seamus and Patrick Fleming.

a reduced speed limit along this stretch of the N21 which many regard as 'treacherous'.

Mr Fleming says some safety works have since been carried out on minor roads, but claimed 'it was like pulling teeth to get the job done'.

Commenting on the viewing point, he stated: "For some reason the Council and LAP (Local Area Plan) refuses to see the potential of this fantastic and incredible resource and it now has become a wasteland.

"With all the talk of developing tourism, this is the nonsense that is going on in Kerry.

"Glounsharoon should be developed to exploit its incredible tourism potential for the benefit of Kerry and all of Ireland.

"It is a no brainer," he added, "for

over 40 years now, this spot has not been harnessed for its true potential."

Mr Fleming also applauded efforts by Councillor Jackie Healy-Rae to get the project moving, while chairperson of the Castleisland Chamber Alliance Michael John Kearney said councillors and members of the municipal district have been working together with the community group to see the site 'brought up' to standard, so that it will hopefully 'be ready in time for next year's season'.

The Council have also stated that TII, which has responsibility for the design, construction and maintenance of the national road network, have expressed a desire to reduce the number of access points on to the national road at this location to 'improve safety'.