

From: Owen Jennings [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 November 2017 12:58
To: National Planning Framework
Subject: National Planning Framework Policy public submissions

Dear Sir/Madam,

I plead with the government to utilise all disused state assets for the greater benefit of taxpayers in the country. For example, a greenway on the disused railway line from Athenry to Collooney (through Ballyglunin, Tuam, Milltown, Ballindine, Claremorris, Kiltamagh, Swinford, Charlestown, Tubbercurry) will not only protect this publicly owned route in perpetuity it will help fulfill National Policy objective number 6 and in particular national policy objective 23 as detailed in National Planning Framework draft policy document. I am asking that the Western Rail Trail becomes a named and specified project as part of the Finalised National Planning Framework policy document.

Mere mentions of 'possible' freight services on any part of this line will only ensure that the rails rust and the rail sleepers rot in the ground. Please be absolutely unambiguous in the National Planning Framework with regard to this railway line. Either there is capital funding for a reopening of railway services or there must be an alternative considered such as the proposed greenway. Adverse possession is a dangerous threat to unused rail alignments and this has historically affected other disused rail routes throughout the country.

I greatly appreciate you considering my thoughts on this matter.

Kindest regards,
Owen Jennings
Cartographer and concerned citizen