



**Provision for protection of public rights of way – County Development Plan:
Submission from Enniskerry Walking Association.**

The Council should recognise that registering and protecting public rights of way is:

- (1) An important legal obligation under the Roads Act and Planning Acts
- (2) Crucial for promoting public health and recreation
- (3) An opportunity to increase sustainable tourism and help reduce pedestrian deaths
- (4) Necessary to allow the public safe access to mountain and coast.

We note that that the Council has only registered 7 rights of way in the entire county. In comparison, Dun-Laoghaire Rathdown has 51 in a much smaller and largely urban area.

We believe the new county development plan should include a specific commitment to actively identify and register public rights of way in the county. The starting points for this process should be the report commissioned by Wicklow County Council in 1986, which identified 110 rights of way in North-East Wicklow, and the report of a sub-committee of the Council set up in 2003 to draw up a list of public rights of way.

It is clear that rising population, increased recreational walking and the expansion of eco-tourism create a greater necessity for a register of public rights of way in the county.

N. Lenoach,

Chairperson, Enniskerry Walking Association.

