

**DUBLIN 15 COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**COMHAIRLE POBAIL, BAILE ATHA CLIATH 15**  
**CLONSILLA HALL, CLONSILLA ROAD, CLONSILLA, DUBLIN 15**  
**TELEPHONE/FAX: 8200559**  
**E-mail: [d15comcoun@eircom.net](mailto:d15comcoun@eircom.net)**  
Web site: [www.dublin15cc.com](http://www.dublin15cc.com)  
**A CHUIMSIONN: BAILE BLAINSEIR - CAISLEAN CNUCHA - CLUAN SAILEACH-MULLACH EADRAD**  
**Representing: Blanchardstown-Castleknock-Clonsilla-Mulhuddart**

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Ruth Minogue  
ERM  
22 Earlsfort Terrace  
Dublin 2

Emailed to: [ruth.minogue@erm.com](mailto:ruth.minogue@erm.com)

16<sup>th</sup> March 2006

Dear Ms Minogue,  
Re; Draft Strategy – Towards a Liffey Valley Park

The Dublin 15 Community Council welcomes the publication of the Draft Strategy, we are pleased to see that many of the recommendations we made at the first round of public consultations have been incorporated in the Draft Strategy.

Enclosed please find some elaboration of the points submitted earlier today via your website:

1. Liffey Valley report fails to address the issue of designating the area a National Park or provide a clear roadmap of how this objective will be achieved.

I see no reference to making this a "national park" other than the title of the report "towards a Liffey Valley Park" and the key role proposed for the OPW.  
I think any future public consultation workshop should seek to understand the relationship between the OPW and Kerry county council (Killarney national park) and Donegal county council (Glenway National Park).

Any proposals needs to be evaluated in this context to see where the similarities and differences exist, and to develop a roadmap that will achieve National Park status regardless of whether the land is in public or private ownership..

2. Management proposals lack accountability, and are a coordination body reliant on voluntary efforts by individual county councils.

In our original submission we made the following recommendations:

*The study should consider how to manage this extensive area across a number of local authorities. We believe the management of the **Liffey Valley Park** needs to be placed on a statutory basis with the board of management containing:*

- *Senior officials from the Local Authority (either county managers or director of services – Parks).*
- *Elected public representatives.*
- *Local residents / community*
- *Tourism Industry representative*

*The county enterprise board may offer a suitable management model.*

*The Special Amenity Area Order may offer a suitable statutory model.*

You appear to have taken some of what we recommended, in proposing a steering committee of Senior officials from the Local Authority and the OPW. This essentially to co ordinate policy, however this will be voluntary and subject to approval in each local authority area.

A lot will depend on the attitude of the OPW, we look forward to exploring this in any public consultation workshop discuss the OPW vision for the area and what deficiencies may exist in the report.

The caliber of the Senior officials from the Local Authorities on the steering committee will be critical to the effectiveness of this management body – We believe this needs to be director of services level to make things happen, particularly as these meetings will probably occur on a quarterly basis.

**We are concerned at the effectiveness of the proposed model.**

3. Experience with the existing Liffey Valley management advisory committees have demonstrated little progress with only 5 meetings in the last 15 years.

Co-operation between Local Authorities has not been successful as experienced in the management of the Liffey Valley Special Amenity Area. The Joint Management Advisory Committee comprising representatives of Fingal and South Dublin County Councils, set up after the S.A.A.O was confirmed in 1990, met only five times since then and achieved nothing. This does not augur well for the future administration of the Liffey Valley by the Local Authorities.

We are concerned at the effectiveness of the proposed model.

4. Proposals dilute the community involvement in the existing Liffey Valley management advisory committees, proposed structures need to be amended to include at least 1 community representative (elected by the county community forum) in the main management committee.

There is no place in the proposed organizational structure for the Liffey Valley Park for representatives from the residents/communities who live along the river valley. There are the major stakeholders in this project and their exclusion indicates the abandonment of the philosophy underlying Local Agenda 21.

5. Community representation needs to be given equal status with the commercial interest's representative.

The proposed consultative mechanism, which could include Local residents / community and Tourism Industry representatives but it's via the county development boards. It appears that this would squeeze out Community representation currently on the advisory group and would make it difficult for the Liffey Valley Alliance action group to participate.

The Dublin 15 Community Council looks forward to participating in the proposed workshops as advertised in the national press.

Kieran O'Neill  
Chairperson  
Dublin 15 Community Council

[http://www.erm.com/ERM/Loc/erm\\_ireland.NSF/\(Page\\_Name\\_Web\)/LiffeyValleyPark-FeasibilityStudy\\_DraftStrategy](http://www.erm.com/ERM/Loc/erm_ireland.NSF/(Page_Name_Web)/LiffeyValleyPark-FeasibilityStudy_DraftStrategy)