

Kenmare Town does not need a western bypass.

Kenmare is a tourist town – destination town – vehicles do not bypass Kenmare – a bypass is not required.

Kerry County Council commissioned consulting engineers Malachy Walsh & Partners to carry out a traffic survey for Kenmare Town. This survey was carried out by Malachy Walsh & Partners in August 2005.

On Thursday 11th August, 2005 a detailed survey was carried out in relation to traffic flow entering and leaving Kenmare Town on the various roads.

Survey 1 was carried out between 12.30 and 13.30

Survey 2 was carried out at evening peak hour between 5pm and 6pm.

Sneem / Ring of Kerry road to Bantry / Ring of Beara Road.

The midday survey showed the following figures;

114 vehicles entered Kenmare from the Sneem road. Only 9 of these vehicles (less than 8%) exited the town directly via the Bantry road.

The evening peak hour survey showed the following figures;

332 vehicles entered Kenmare from the Sneem road; only 42 vehicles (12.65%) exited the town directly via the Bantry road.

Bantry / Ring of Beara road to Sneem / Ring of Kerry Road

The midday survey showed the following figures;

190 cars came into Kenmare by the Bantry road; 13 cars (less than 7%) exited the town directly via the Sneem road.

The evening peak hour survey showed the following figures;

227 cars entered the town via the Bantry Road; 22 (less than 10%) exited the town directly via the Sneem road.

The above figures clearly show that Kenmare town does not need a western bypass.

During the two surveys a total of 863 cars were recorded coming in the Sneem and Bantry roads. Of these cars only 86 exited the town directly via the Bantry and Sneem roads. This is just under 10%.

The majority of the cars stopped in Kenmare Town; most would have spent money in the town. Building a bypass directly linking two of Ireland's major tourist routes would be detrimental to Kenmare Town's future.

Key issues and recommendations:

Messer's Malachy Walsh & Partners stated "it is understood that indicative eastern relief road has been included in Kerry County Council's (2004) Kenmare Local Area Plan which will join the N21 Killarney Road to the R569 Kilgarvan road. The implementation of the eastern relief road would provide Kerry County Council with the opportunity to revalue the introduction of long term traffic management measures in Kenmare town".

Unfortunately the eastern relief road has not been built. Kerry County Council have repeatedly told Kenmare Town that this relief road will have to be developer driven. With the current economic climate and the over development of Kenmare it is difficult to see any development in the foreseeable future. This would mean the badly needed eastern relief road for the town will not happen anytime soon. .

If a western bypass were to be imposed on the town it would only encourage tourists to bypass the town.

Tourism is Kenmare's major business, in fact virtually its only business. Encouraging tourists to bypass the town would have serious effects on the ratepayers and the commercial life of the town. Currently Kenmare Town has more unoccupied business premises than ever before. A bypass would certainly add to this problem resulting in the closure of further commercial operations and resulting in serious job losses for Kenmare Town.

Kenmare Town demands that all references to a western bypass is deleted from the new Kenmare Town plan.