

## **Clare Rural House Design Guide released**

The diverse and dramatic character of the ancient landscape of Clare is one of its greatest assets. More specifically the Burren and North Clare have an ancient vernacular architecture built upon settlement patterns. The Burren's outstanding beauty makes the conservation of the landscape a critical consideration in deciding upon the location and design of new building or restoration of an existing structure.

In an effort to make these considerations clear, Clare County Council released the second edition of its 'Clare Rural House Design Guide' this month. The guide has been prepared to show the importance of good siting and sensitive design when building in the Clare countryside. Much of the unsatisfactory rural house design throughout the county has resulted from catalogue type housing, where new dwellings are randomly located on a site with no relation to orientation, aspect, site surrounds, regional characteristics and the individual needs.

While the guide is very much aimed at the people who will live in the houses themselves, it should also be a valuable resource for architects, builders and their agents.

There are sections on location, siting, materials, modern design, conservation and sustainability. As Liam Conneally, Acting Director of Planning stated, "it is the principle of the new House Design Guide to create a clearer understanding of the components of good house siting and design. Without a well informed public it is difficult to achieve the high quality building design that the landscape of Clare deserves".

The guide is packed with full colour pictures illustrating good and bad aspects of design supported by checklists and flow charts to lead the user to well informed design choices.

The Rural House Design guide is available at libraries throughout the county and at the offices of:

Clare County Council, Unit1 Westgate Retail Park, Kilrush Road, Ennis.

Tel: (065) 6846232

Email: [planoff@clarecoco.ie](mailto:planoff@clarecoco.ie)

Cost: €15 per copy