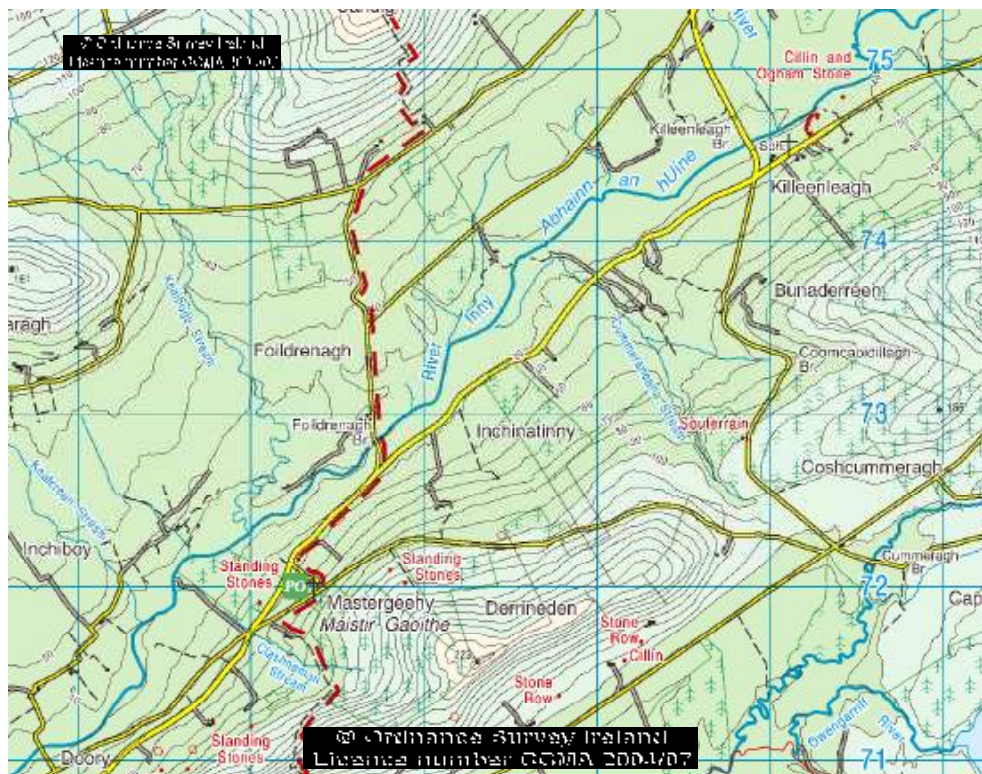


**MÁISTIR GAOITHE & AN CHILLÍN LIATH LOCAL AREA PLAN**

## 1.0 CONTEXT

## 1.1 Location

Máistir Gaoithe (Mastergeehy) and An Chillín Liath (Kileenleagh) are two small settlement nodes located inland on local roads off the N70 on the Iveragh Peninsula approximately 9km to the northeast of the town of Waterville and approximately 13 km south of Cahersiveen. There is an approximate distance of 4km between the two settlements. For the purposes of the local area plan, the two settlements will be treated together as they are in effect ancillary to each other and are closely linked in terms of function, services and community. Both settlements are located within the Gaeltacht Uíbh Ráthaigh



**Fig 1.1 Location of settlements**

## 1.2 Population

There are no population figures for the village of Máistir Gaoithe/An Chillín Liath itself. It is located within the EDs of Doire Ianna and Máistir Gaoithe. Between 2002 and 2006 the population fell from 292 to 285. It decreased marginally in the 2011 census to 271 people.

### **1.3 Functions & Facilities**

Máistir Gaoithe/An Chillín Liath provide essential rural services to a dispersed rural catchment area, which primarily relies on agriculture and forestry for employment.

The settlement in Máistir Gaoithe has declined over the years with the closure of the school in the early 1970s and the church in the early 1990s. These facilities are now located in An Chillín Liath. “Forbairt na Dromoda” is based in An Chillín Liath. This has a public house (Inny Tavern), shop, the Dromid hostel, a community hall/day care centre and industrial/commercial units all in one complex. All that remains in Máistir Gaoithe is the Post Office and a small number of dwelling houses.

Máistir Gaoithe is now essentially a rural area with a high density of dispersed rural housing. It is a dispersed settlement rather than a village in the traditional sense.

The Kerry Way walking route passes through the area. This route provides further opportunities for developing this niche tourist market.

### **1.4 Infrastructure**

An Chillín Liath is supplied with water from a group water scheme. There is no existing wastewater treatment plant in the village and there are no plans to install one.

### **1.5 Built Form**

An Chillín Liath is a dispersed rural settlement located between the road and the River Inny. It comprises of the church, school, the community services centre, located at the core. There is no developed streetscape; rather, the village is comprised of detached dwellings with varied setbacks. The “Ionad an Dromada” development consists of a number of well designed buildings (see below).



### **1.6 Built Heritage & Archaeology**

There is one Recorded Protected Structures; the old National School in Máistir Gaoithe (Duchas Ref. No. 21308901). There are a number of recorded monuments in the area but only one within the existing settlement of Máistir Gaoithe; a standing stone located approximately 60metres to the north of the old school. (Ref No. KE089-020)

### **1.7 Natural environment and Amenity**

An Chillín Liath is located on flat low lying ground on the south bank of the Inny river. Much of the surrounding countryside is covered with coniferous plantations. Just over 4 km to the south the land rises significantly to peaks of over 650 metres and there are a number of lakes including Lough Derriana. All this area is part of the Killarney National Park candidate Special Area of Conservation.

### **1.8 Vehicular and Pedestrian Traffic**

Tourist traffic during the summer months creates a busy atmosphere but during the winter months, because of its relatively isolated location traffic is mainly local. There is no footpath network in the village.

### **1.9 Employment**

There is a commercial unit in Ionad an Dromada occupied by Ivertec Ltd. Ivertec Ltd is a developer of information management software and services to all levels of the education sector. Sceilg Ola which is a fuel company operates from the area.

### **1.10 An Gaeltacht**

Máistir Gaoithe and An Chillín Liath are located within the Gaeltacht Uíbh Ráthaigh and the preservation and promotion of the Irish language is critical in its future development

### **1.11 Growth and Residential Development**

This area is comprised of scattered one off housing. There has been a considerable level of ribbon development on the approach roads over the years and this has largely been confined to the northern or landward side of the road. All new residential dwellings will have to comply with the rural settlement policies as contained in the County Development Plan.

The development boundary for Máistir Gaoithe & An Chillín Liath defines the existing extent of the area where new development may be considered, whilst also allowing for some expansion for development adjacent to the settlement core.

## 2.0 DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

*The overall vision for Máistir Gaoithe and An Chillín Liath is to maintain the character of this distinctive dispersed settlement pattern, to promote the area as an attractive place to live in and to visit, while preserving and enhancing the use of Irish as the daily communal language.*

The development strategy therefore is to:

- Ensure that any future developments should be sensitive to the existing character of the area and should be appropriate in scale. Developments which are open on a year round basis should be encouraged.
- Promote the redevelopment of commercial/retail outlet serving the local community at an appropriate location
- Preserve and promote the use of Irish language
- Ensure that all residential development shall cater for the needs of the local population who wish to live in the area on a permanent basis.
- Encourage the sustainable development of ecotourism and other niche markets along with the sustainable extension and diversification of tourist facilities as a possible source of employment
- Ensure that all proposed developments are compatible with the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites in the area.

## 3.0 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Objective No.	Infrastructure and Community Facilities It is an objective of the Council to:
ICF-1	Encourage the provision of facilities along the Kerry Way Walking Route at appropriate locations in a sustainable manner