

Jack Kelly, [REDACTED]

Dear Sir/M

I would like to voice my concerns on the lack of lifeguard posts on prominent beaches on the Island of Achill.

I myself have been going to Achill since I was very young as my family own a mobile home at lavelles caravan park in the village of Dugort on the north side of the Island.

The park itself is located in close proximity to the 'Golden Strand' beach, which is arguably one of the nicest beaches in the county.

For many years there used to be a lifeguard post on that beach during the summer months, which allowed for many people to confidently use the beach for swimming and leisure activities. The lifeguard post gave the holiday goers much confidence in that there would be less concern in using the water and gave families that important sense of safety.

But in recent years, there was a change that saw the end of the lifeguard post on the beautiful golden strand beach. I personally saw a significant decline in the use of this beach as a place for recreation and leisure. This meant that nearby businesses such as Masterson's Bar and restaurant saw a large decline in sales and numbers of family groups.

In actual fact that very pub has now closed down and this decline is evident all along the western seaboard who relied on water users and family groups to keep their businesses afloat.

It has had a minimal affect on the ecology of the areas, which is a positive unintended consequence of this reality but the decline in business activity in these area hinder the overall social and economic development which help to keep villages and rural areas alive.

The Lifetime Involvement in Sports and Physical Activity (LISPA). endorsed by the National sports council of Ireland policy (2018-2027) - to engage the youth in physical activity from a early age in both organised and recreational play. If there remains to be a lack of functional lifeguard posts along the west of Ireland, this will act against this important policy.

Lets not forget that this policy ultimately puts forward a way of improving the welfare and health of young people. We need lifeguards to make this a reality and to improve the lives of local business and young who grow up in the west.

Yours truly J

ack Kelly