

Athboy Fairgreen Playground Development

Re: Part 8 Planning Application Cover Letter for the above proposed development

Description: In accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000- 2022 (Part XI) and Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2024 (Part 8), Meath County Council proposes to undertake the following development in the Townland of Townparks, Athboy, County Meath. The proposed development will consist of:

- **A new playground which is accessible to pedestrians via the existing entrances and footpaths along the Fair Green in Athboy.**
- **1.2m high safetop weldmesh fencing, galvanised and powder coated green, will be installed to the perimeter of the play area as shown.**
- **5 no small/semi mature trees to be relocated within the park – no mature trees to be removed**
- **All associated site works**

The proposal seeks to relocate the existing playground (at Town Parks, Clifton, Athboy) to the Fairgreen, Athboy. There are a number of issues with the location of current playground due to lack of visibility to / from public area and lack of passive surveillance, which has led to reports / complaints of anti-social behaviour etc at this site.

The proposed playground will comprise of some of the play equipment shown on the indicative equipment drawing contained with the Part 8 application documents. In order to maximise existing playground equipment stock, Meath County Council will assess the usability of the existing playground equipment in the existing playground site and anything that is certified suitable for reuse will be transferred to the new proposed location in the Fairgreen (subject to planning approval being achieved). The Playground will be enclosed with a 1.2m high metal fence.

The proposed works include removing the existing soil for the footprint of the proposed playground and building back up with precast stone foundation and surfacing. A permeable surface will be provided for surface water drainage.

5 no small/semi mature trees will need to be relocated within the boundary of the Fairgreen. Location of same to be agreed with the trustees of the Fairgreen, Mature trees within the Fairgreen will not be impacted by the proposed development.

The proposed development has been subject to an Appropriate Assessment Screening in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) and the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2022. In accordance with Article 81 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2024, Meath County Council has concluded from a preliminary examination under Article 120(1)(b)(i), that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development and that an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required.

In conclusion, the provision of a play ground in the heart of the town in the Fairgreen will provide a much needed community facility.