



**Uimhir Thagarta Uathúil:** MH-C52-69

**Stádas:** Submitted

**Aighneacht:** Public park needed for Ashbourne

**Údar:** Jennifer Hussey

**Comhairliúchán:**

Material Amendments to Draft Meath County Development Plan  
2021-2027

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## Litir Chumhdaigh

I am local to Ashbourne most of my life and found the recent lockdowns very difficult with 3 young kids and nowhere to go within out 5km limit

### Tuairimí:

#### Chapter 2: Core Strategy

**Caibidil:** Volume 1 Written Statement Material Amendments» Chapter 2: Core Strategy

**Proposed Amendment Number:** Proposed Amendment Chapter 2.1

- The current lands (80 acres) identified for rezoning as public greenspace are perfect, this is a golden opportunity for our town. The park would be situated within 1.5 KM walking distance from almost all of the houses in the town, it would transform Ashbourne and reap rewards in multiple areas of life - personal, health, community and business.
- Any redirection of decisions on a park back to Local Area Level is a repeat of work already done. Extensive assessment work was done six years ago locally and potential lands were explored. To re-commence a process already exhausted would be a poor use of public resources and a severe delay for the expanding community in getting the greenspace it badly needs.
- MCC state that the necessary funds are not available to purchase and develop an 80 acre park. However, once the land is secured, multiple funding channels can be accessed. We are a very active and engaged community willing to work with the Council on the question of funding channels, as are our Councillors.
- COVID-19 and lockdown within 5km again highlighted how badly served Ashbourne is regarding OPEN and PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE GREENSPACE. Independent research conducted by Future Analytics determined that the town needs a minimum of 80 acres to address the historical and current shortfall in public greenspace. This is not our opinion, this is FACT.
- The park needs an entrance. Lands at Churchfields, gifted to the church by [Redacted\_Personal Information], have been identified as most appropriate in this regard - linked to the town centre, schools, main arteries of the town etc. To put houses where this perfect access point exists would be a mistake.

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**Documents Attached:** Níl

**Teorainneacha Gafa ar an léarscáil:** Níl