



fairyhouse

1848

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Senior Executive Officer
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Material Amendments to Draft Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027 Submission by Horse Racing Ireland (HRI) Fairyhouse Racecourse

We write to make a submission on the Material Amendments to the draft Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027. HRI welcomes to the opportunity to contribute to the new Development Plan that will guide and encourage investment in Meath until 2027.

HRI is the national authority for thoroughbred racing in Ireland, with responsibility for the governance, development, and promotion of racecourses including Fairyhouse and Navan. As noted in the current and draft Development Plan, the equine industry important both economically and culturally to Meath. Accordingly, we have a keen interest in the continued success of the equine industry in Meath.

This submission relates to Fairyhouse Racecourse and builds on our ongoing and helpful dialogue with professional officers and elected Councillors from Meath County Council.

HRI Comments on Material Amendments

We have reviewed the Material Amendments to the draft Development Plan. We believe that the material amendments provide important clarification on key objectives and policies that will contribute to the prosperity of Meath. Below we provide our commentary, which we hope is of assistance.

Proposed Amendment Chapter 4.5

Meath County Council proposes to amend Objective ED OBJ 58 in Section 4.7.4.2 Ratoath as follows (insertions in **bold**):

“To support the development of an equestrian hub at Ratoath **within the Strategic Employment Site** that maximises the internationally recognised equine facilities at Tattersalls and Fairyhouse and ensures the County continues to be a leader in the Irish and International sport horse industry, including breeding, racing, competing, and training **as well as facilitating the diversification of these businesses to enable their continued expansion and employment generation.**”

We confirm that HRI supports this proposed amendment. It provides the necessary clarification that Fairyhouse and Tattersalls forms part of the Strategic Employment Site in Ratoath.



Directors – Mr. N Hartery, Mr. B Kavanagh, Mr. R Horan, Mr. P Dermody
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fairymouse

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HRI is committed to the continued investment in the equine industry. It is a Strategic Objective of HRI to develop best in class customer and industry facing facilities while remaining economically viable. Another Strategic Objective is to secure a sustainable funding structure for the industry, including through an increase in commercial non-governmental revenue.

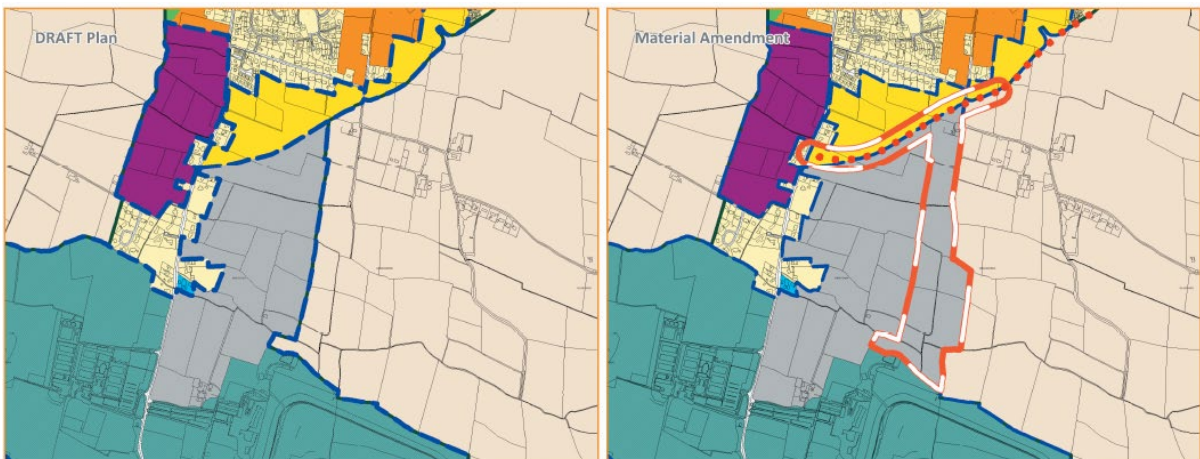
Pursuant to these Strategic Objectives, HRI is reviewing how commercial non-governmental revenue can be increased at Fairymouse. This review is at an early stage, but we welcome the engagement we have received from Meath County Council to date.

The scale, layout, and mix of uses are to be determined following commercial input and a masterplanning exercise in the near future. Any new land uses will be complementary to the principal equine focus of Fairymouse. Initial input from our advisors indicates that experiential, lifestyle, or additional leisure uses may form part of a future masterplanning exercise.

We look forward to engaging with Meath County Council in respect of this masterplanning exercise in more detail.

Proposed Ratoath Amendment No. 6

Meath County Council proposes to amend the zoning from R/A Rural Area to WL White Land with inclusion of the remaining section of the Ratoath Outer Relief Road.



While we do not object to this amendment in principle, we note that it could facilitate additional development along the northern boundary of Fairymouse Racecourse. We request that the final Development Plan acknowledges the need for any development on the 'White Lands' to respect the openness and the setting of Fairymouse Racecourse. Sensitive layout design, landscaping, and separation will be key to successful integrating any future development that may be delivered on the 'White Lands'.

We trust that these representations will be considered in the final Meath Development Plan 2021-2017. Should you require any additional information or clarification, please do not hesitate to me at these offices.



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Yours faithfully

Paul Dermody

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