

Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027 - Material Amendments Stage

Proposed Ashbourne Amendment No. 5 - Amend the zoning from R/A Rural Area to G1 Community Infrastructure and include within the Masterplan boundary.

To: Planning Department, Meath County Council, Buvinda House, Dublin Road, Navan, Co. Meath C15 Y291.

By (name):

of (address):



Representing (Club, Body or Organisation, if any):

KILLEGLAND F.C.

Please note that observations or submissions will be made public on the website and at the offices of the Planning Department.

This submission stems from my interest in the provision of a home base and playing fields for Killegland AFC. The health and social benefits flowing from the availability of such facilities are well-documented in the academic and practitioner literature.

The Club is in existence for 10 years and is thriving, with > 300 members. It is an all-inclusive club, and our objective is to continue to grow and flourish. Central to achieving this ambition is securing permanent facilities. For years it has been seeking a permanent base within the boundaries of Ashbourne. The Club has relied since its foundation on the goodwill of landowners and the vagaries of fortune for the leasing of sports fields for training, often at locations some distance from Ashbourne. The absence of a permanent home ground gives rise to in excess of 15,000 extra driving trips per year.

Responding to submission 384 to draft 2 of the County Development Plan 2021-2027, the Chief Executive recommended:

'It is recommended that the central portion of lands is rezoned from R/A Rural Area to G1 Community Infrastructures to provide for supporting community facilities for the MP1 residential zoned lands.'

Following this, and inter alia seeking to link this rezoning to a solution to Killegland AFC's dilemma, a group of five Ashbourne Councillors submitted Notice of Motion 113, which included the statement:

'Our objective is to ensure that the Killegland Football club has an opportunity to have a base, proper home pitches and club house and that the young players that attend training and matches no longer have to travel outside the town and indeed county to train and play their home matches on a weekly basis. Currently team travel to St. Margaret's, Co. Dublin.'

In the event, this motion was not voted on. The explicit linking of Killegland AFC to the proposed rezoning of the land to Community Infrastructure was lost.

It is generally understood that precise location must await the detailed planning stage. I support this rezoning and ask that a note be incorporated in the plan to record its intended impact as, inter alia, facilitating the provision of a home base, playing and training facilities for Killegland AFC.

Signed:

Email address (optional):