



Date	24 th January 2018
Start Time	10.00
Location	Prince of Wales Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.

This Oral Hearing relates to a request by Westmeath County Council for the consent of An Bord Pleanála for the compulsory acquisition of a site at Abbey Road, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, in accordance with the provisions of the Derelict Sites Act, 1990, as amended.

The purpose of the oral hearing is to provide an opportunity for the parties, who wish to do so, to make further submissions beyond their written submissions, and to allow the Inspector to seek clarification on any relevant issues arising and objections made. Parties will also have the opportunity to ask questions or seek clarification on submissions made at the hearing at the discretion of the Inspector.

There is no obligation on any party to make a submission to the oral hearing or to ask questions of the other party. All written submissions already received will be considered by the Inspector and the Board. For this reason, submissions previously made in writing should not be reiterated at the oral hearing.

In its submission to the hearing the Local Authority is requested to address the following specific issues:

- Overview of the property and its condition.
- Description of sequence of events and timelines, to include any discussions / meetings with owners leading to request to the Board.

- Reason for entry onto the Derelict Sites Register.
- Reason for proposed Compulsory Acquisition.
- Response to issues raised in objections.

The local authority and objectors are reminded that the Boards role and jurisdiction in the consideration of this case is confined to whether or not the site comes within the definition of a derelict site as defined in Section 3 (b) of the Derelict Sites Act 1990, as amended, and on that basis, whether the acquisition of the site by the local authority is necessary in order to render the site non-derelict and to prevent it from continuing to be a derelict site. Any submission made to this hearing should bear this in mind as no discussion regarding matters that fall outside of the Boards jurisdiction will be facilitated. You are specifically reminded that the Board has no role or jurisdiction in the determination or the assessment of rights of ownership, site occupancy or compensation should The Board be minded to grant the local authority's request. Any submission made to this hearing should bear this in mind as no discussion regarding such matters will be facilitated.

On completion of the oral hearing, the Inspector will prepare a report and recommendation on the case for the Board. The decision to grant or refuse the request for the compulsory acquisition of the site will be made by the Board.

The Board may direct the payment of a contribution towards the costs to any person appearing at an oral hearing, which have been incurred by that person, as a consequence of appearing at the hearing. Any payment will be at the Board's discretion. Any application for costs should be made in writing to the Board within three weeks of the date of this hearing.

If you intend to provide written copies of your submission these can only be accepted if there are copies available for all the parties at the hearing. Two copies of any written documentation should also be submitted for the Board file.

The agenda and order of appearance for the oral hearing is set out below. Parties should please note that this is indicative only, and may vary during the course of the oral hearing at the discretion of the Inspector.

AGENDA

24th January 2018	
Time	Topic
10 am	Opening of oral hearing. Inspectors Opening Remarks.
	<p>Westmeath County Council's Submission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the property and its condition. • Description of sequence of events / timelines, including any discussions / meetings with owners leading to request to the Board. • Reason for entry onto the Derelict Sites Register. • Reason for proposed Compulsory Acquisition. • Response to issues raised in objections.
	Objectors questions to Council and Inspectors questions to Council (if any).
	Objectors Submission.
	Council's questions to objectors and Inspectors questions to objectors (if any).
	<p>Closing submissions in the following order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectors. • Westmeath County Council. <p>(No new issues to be raised and closing submissions to be no more than 10 minutes).</p>
1 p.m.	Closing of oral hearing. Inspectors Closing Remarks.

A break may be taken during the proceedings should this be necessary.