



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Commission Order
ACP-323365-25

Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended

Planning Authority: Westmeath County Council

Planning Register Reference Number: 2460343

APPEAL by David Bracken care of Liam Madden of Convent Road, Longford against the decision made on the 24th day of July 2025, by Westmeath County Council to grant, subject to conditions, a permission to Southern Gaels Hurling and Camogie Club care of Malachi Cullen Consulting Engineers of 8 Centre Court, Blyry Business and Commercial Park, Athlone, County Westmeath in accordance with plans and particulars lodged with the said Council.

Proposed Development: Development which will consist of a new playing pitch with floodlights, two number goal ballstops, perimeter pitch netting, two number dugouts, groundskeepers shed, walking track with public lighting, works to the existing site entrance, signage and carparking with all associated site works at Knockanea, Ballydonagh, Athlone, County Westmeath.

Decision

REFUSE permission for the above proposed development in accordance with the reasons and considerations set out below.

Reasons and Considerations

Having regard to the location of the proposed development, in a rural area, a significant distance from the existing GAA facility in Athlone Town, it is considered that the proposed development would be principally dependent on private car transport and would therefore facilitate and exacerbate unsustainable travel and commuting patterns to and from the site. The Commission is not satisfied that the applicant has demonstrated that there are not more suitable locations in closer proximity to Athlone which would adequately serve the needs of the GAA Club.

The proposed development, accordingly, is not considered to comply with the criteria set out in Objective CPO 4.18 of the Westmeath County Council Development Plan 2021-2027, which sets out that proposals for new social and community infrastructure are located within existing settlement boundaries which are within walking distance of local services, or in rural areas close to existing rural infrastructure where it is demonstrated that the development is intended to serve. It is also considered that the proposal is contrary to Objective CPO 7.9 which supports the planned provision of easily accessible social, community, cultural and recreational facilities. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.



Paul Caprani

**Planning Commissioner of An Coimisiún
Pleanála duly authorised to authenticate
the seal of the Commission.**



Dated this 4th day of December 2025.