



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Commission Order ACP-323873-25

Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended

Planning Authority: Galway City Council

Application by Galway City Council for approval under section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, in accordance with plans and particulars, including a Natura Impact Statement, lodged with An Coimisiún Pleanála on the 14th day of November 2025.

Proposed Development:

The proposed development consists of:

The refurbishment and expansion of the existing park (site area 2.44 hectares) located on Millers Lane, including:

- i. Relocation and replacement of the two number existing football pitches with: one number new 4G synthetic turf multi-sport pitch (designed to soccer pitch dimensions) with associated fencing and six number floodlights; and one number new 2G sand-filled synthetic multi-sport pitch (designed to hockey pitch dimensions) with associated fencing and six number floodlights.
- ii. New two-storey, multi-functional building which includes public and sports team changing rooms, showers and toilets; multi-purpose sports hall; multi-purpose activity rooms; kitchenette; two number viewing terraces; first-aid room; store rooms; plant rooms; reception area; and roof-mounted solar panels.
- iii. New public spaces and amenities including fenced children's play areas; internal paths; multi-use games area; climbing wall; calisthenics area; public

plaza; pitch spectator areas; equipment storage shed; green space for passive recreation; public lighting; and public seating.

- iv. Extensive landscape planting (including native genus and species) and nature-based drainage measures including pollinator-friendly raingarden/bioretention areas and reinforced grass paving, as well as planting areas with typologies including native and naturalised wooded areas, avenue tree planting, clipped hedges, short-flowering meadow, and pollinator-friendly perennials.
- v. Relocated vehicular access on the L-5000 Road; two number new active travel accesses from the L-5000 Road; and enhanced pedestrian/cyclist access from Millers Lane.
- vi. 27 number car parking spaces (two new standard electric vehicle charging spaces, one number accessible space, one number combined electric vehicle and accessible space, one number family space, and one number age-friendly space), two number coach drop-off spaces with automated access control, three number motorcycle spaces, and 64 number cycle spaces (40 number standard short-term spaces, two number short term cargo-bike spaces, and a secure bike shed with 20 number standard and 2 number cargo-bike spaces).

The development of the northern half of the proposed Kingston Park (site area 3.43 Hectares), including:

- i. The development of one number 4G synthetic turf multi-sport pitch (designed to rugby pitch dimensions) with associated fencing and six number floodlights.
- ii. New two-storey, multi-functional building which includes public and sports team changing rooms, toilets, and showers (standard and accessible); double-height general purpose community hall including retractable bleacher seating; multi-purpose activity rooms (including three number rooms offering direct views onto the playing pitch); commentary booth; café and servery; sensory room; first-aid room; store room; plant room; reception area; and roof-mounted solar panels.
- iii. New public spaces and amenities including all-ages play area, outdoor classroom/amphitheatre; internal paths; multi-functional gaming area; informal games lawn; boules pitch; calisthenics area; performance space; pedestrian

gateway plaza; parks department staff kiosk; refuse store; sports equipment sheds; public lighting; and public seating.

- iv. Extensive landscape planting (including native genus and species) and nature-based drainage measures including pollinator-friendly raingarden/ bioretention areas; reinforced grass paving; native hedgerows; short- and long-flowering meadows; wildflower gardens; native and naturalised wooded areas; and pollinator-friendly perennials and shrubs.
- v. Replacement of the existing vehicular site access/junction on the Altan Road, and modification of the new access road approved under permitted Aquatic Centre Development (Planning Reference: 24/60370) to account for the layout of this proposed development.
- vi. Improvement of existing active travel entrance from Doire Gheal, improved links to the St. John the Apostle, Knocknacarra National School (via a Safe Routes to School), new active travel accesses from the Altan Road, and provision for two number potential future accesses to lands to the east (northeast of Kingston Gardens).
- vii. 50 number car parking spaces (including four number standard electric vehicle charging spaces, three number accessible spaces, one number combined electric vehicle and accessible space, and one number age-friendly space), one number coach parking space, one number set-down area, 82 number bicycle spaces (60 number standard short-term spaces, and a secure bike shed with 20 number standard and two number cargo-bike spaces) and two number motorcycle spaces.

And all other associated and ancillary works.

All located in the townlands of Clybaun and Ragoon, County Galway.

Decision

APPROVE the above proposed development based on the reasons and considerations set out under and subject to the conditions set out below

Reasons and Considerations

In performing its functions in relation to the making of its decision, the Commission was consistent with Section 15(1) of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, as amended by Section 17 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, and the requirement to, in so far as practicable, perform its functions in a manner consistent with Climate Action Plan 2024 and Climate Action Plan 2025 and the national long term climate action strategy, national adaptation framework and approved sectoral adaptation plans set out in those Plans and in furtherance of the objective of mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the effects of climate change in the State.

And in coming to its decision, the Commission had regard to the following:

- (a) the European Union Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC),
- (b) the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, as amended,
- (c) the likely consequences for the environment and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which it is proposed to carry out the proposed development and the likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European Site,
- (d) the conservation objectives, qualifying interests and special conservation interests for the Galway Bay Complex Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 000268) and the Inner Galway Bay Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004031).
- (e) the policies and objectives of the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028,
- (f) the nature and extent of the proposed works as set out in the application for approval,
- (g) the information submitted in relation to the potential impacts on habitats, flora and fauna, including the Natura Impact Statement,
- (h) the submissions and observations received in relation to the proposed development, and

- (i) the report and recommendation of the person appointed by the Commission to make a report and recommendation on the matter.

Appropriate Assessment: Stage 1:

The Commission agreed with and adopted the screening assessment and conclusion carried out in the Inspector's report that Galway Bay Complex Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 000268) and the Inner Galway Bay Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004031), are the only European Sites in respect of which the proposed development has the potential to have a significant effect.

Appropriate Assessment: Stage 2:

The Commission considered the Natura Impact Statement and associated documentation submitted with the application for approval, the mitigation measures contained therein, the submissions and observations on file, and the Inspector's assessment. The Commission completed an appropriate assessment of the implications of the proposed development for the affected European Sites, namely Galway Bay Complex Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 000268) and the Inner Galway Bay Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004031), in view of the Sites' conservation objectives. The Commission considered that the information before it was adequate to allow the carrying out of an appropriate assessment. In completing the appropriate assessment, the Commission considered, in particular, the following:

- i. the likely direct and indirect impacts arising from the proposed development both individually or in combination with other plans or projects,
- ii. the mitigation measures which are included as part of the current proposal, and
- iii. the conservation objectives for the European Sites.

In completing the appropriate assessment, the Commission accepted and adopted the appropriate assessment carried out in the Inspector's report in respect of the potential effects of the proposed development on the integrity of the aforementioned European Sites, having regard to the Sites' conservation objectives.

In overall conclusion, the Commission was satisfied that the proposed development, by itself or in combination with other plans or projects, would not adversely affect the integrity of the European Sites, in view of the Sites' conservation objectives.

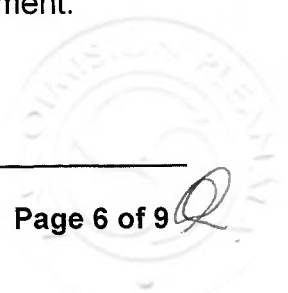
Proper Planning and Sustainable Development/Likely effects on the environment

It is considered that, subject to compliance with the conditions set out below, the proposed development would be of significant benefit to the local community, would improve the amenity of the area in terms of services and facilities, and would be consistent with the zoning objectives of the sites. The proposed development would not have significant negative effects on the environment or the community in the vicinity, would not be detrimental to the visual or landscape amenities of the area, would not seriously injure the amenities of property in the vicinity, would not adversely impact on the cultural, archaeological and built heritage of the area, would not interfere with the existing land uses in the area, and would not interfere with traffic and pedestrian safety. The proposed development would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Conditions

1. The proposed development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the plans and particulars lodged with the application, except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with the following conditions. Where any mitigation measures set out in the Natura Impact Statement or any conditions of approval require further details to be prepared by or on behalf of the local authority, these details shall be placed on the file and retained as part of the public record.

Reason: In the interests of clarity and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and to ensure the protection of the environment.



2. The mitigation and monitoring measures identified in the Natura Impact Statement submitted with the application shall be implemented in full.

Reason: In the interest of protecting the environment, the protection of European Sites and in the interest of public health.

3. A suitably qualified ecologist shall be retained by the local authority to oversee the site set up and construction of the proposed development and implementation of mitigation measures relating to ecology. The ecologist shall be present during the works. Upon completion of works, an ecological report of the site works shall be prepared by the appointed ecologist to be kept on file as part of the public record.

Reason: In the interests of nature conservation and biodiversity.

4. Prior to the commencement of development, the local authority, or any agent acting on its behalf, shall prepare in consultation with the project ecologist and relevant statutory agencies, a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

The CEMP shall include:

- (a) All mitigation measures indicated in the Natura Impact Statement and Ecological Impact Assessment.
- (b) Location and extent of silt fencing to be installed on site.
- (c) Specific proposals as to how the measures outlined in the CEMP will be measured and monitored for effectiveness.

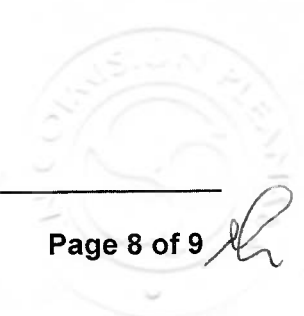
Reason: In the interest of protecting the environment and the European Sites.

5. The local authority shall engage a suitably qualified (licensed eligible) archaeologist to monitor (licensed under the National Monuments Acts) all site clearance works, topsoil stripping, groundworks, dredging and/or the implementation of agreed preservation in-situ measures associated with the development. Prior to the commencement of such works the archaeologist shall consult with and forward to the local authority archaeologist or the National Monuments Service as appropriate a method statement for written agreement. The use of appropriate tools and/or machinery to ensure the preservation and recording of any surviving archaeological remains shall be necessary. Should archaeological remains be identified during the course of archaeological monitoring, all works shall cease in the area of archaeological interest pending a decision of the local authority, in consultation with the National Monuments Service, regarding appropriate mitigation.

The local authority shall facilitate the archaeologist in recording any remains identified. Any further archaeological mitigation requirements specified by the local authority, following consultation with the National Monuments Service, shall be complied with.

Following the completion of all archaeological work on site and any necessary post-excavation specialist analysis, the local authority and the National Monuments Service shall be furnished with a final archaeological report describing the results of the monitoring and any subsequent required archaeological investigative work/excavation required. All resulting and associated archaeological costs shall be borne by the local authority.

Reason: To ensure the continued preservation either in situ or by record of places, caves, sites, features, or other objects of archaeological interest.

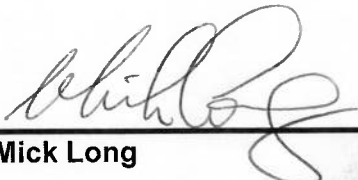


6. The operational hours of the floodlighting shall not extend beyond 22:00 with automatic cut-off of floodlighting at that time. Floodlighting shall be angled and constructed so that no light is emitted above a horizontal plane through the fitting. Positioning and design shall also ensure that no glare is caused to users of the public roads in the vicinity of the development.

Reason: In the interest of residential amenity.

7. The local authority and any agent acting on its behalf shall ensure that all plant and machinery used during the works should be thoroughly cleaned and washed before delivery to the site to prevent the spread of hazardous invasive species and pathogens.

Reason: In the interest of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and to ensure the protection of the European Sites.



Mick Long

Planning Commissioner of An Coimisiún

**Pleanála duly authorised to authenticate the
seal of the Commission.**

Dated this 7th day of September 2026

