An Coimisiún Pleanála

Commission Order
PL-501792-GY-26

Planning and Development Acts 2000, as amended

Planning Authority: Galway County Council

Planning Register Reference Number: 26/60352

Appeal by John and Emma Kelly against the decision made on the 7th day of July, 2026 by Galway County Council to refuse permission for the proposed development.

Proposed Development: The provision of an agricultural entrance to lands including associated works at Ballyglass, Ballyshrule, Portumna, County Galway.

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 site on a straight section of the R353 regional road, which is a busy road where the general speed limit of 80 kilometres per hour applies and overtaking is permitted, to the existing field entrance a short distance to the east through which the applicants' landholding is accessed at present and which, on the applicants' own

evidence, is adequate for the planting and establishment of the proposed forest, and to section 6.5.3.2 (Non-National Roads) of the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028, which seeks to restrict the number of new accesses onto the regional road network, it is considered that an adequate justification for an additional entrance onto the regional road at this location has not been demonstrated. Furthermore, the sightlines as shown on the documentation submitted with the application and appeal, extend across the roadside frontage of land outside the applicants' ownership and, in the absence of the consent of the adjoining landowners, it has not been demonstrated that they could be provided and maintained as required by DM Standard 28 (Sight Distances Required for Access onto National, Regional, Local and Private Roads) of the development plan. The proposed development would lead to a proliferation of entrances onto the R353 and would generate additional stopping and turning movements by slow moving agricultural and forestry vehicles at a point along a regional road, would conflict with Policy Objective NNR 2 (Safeguard Regional and Local Roads) of the development plan, would interfere with the safety and free flow of traffic at this location and would endanger public safety by reason of a traffic hazard. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

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

Dated this 6th **day of** November **2026**