

NAME: Pauline Cudmore

POSTAL ADDRESS: 25 Seanacloc, Tower, Blarney, Co Cork T23 D704

My SUBMISSIONS AND OBSERVATIONS on the

Proposed development on Delaney's GAA Site adjoining the Bride Valley Address: Cork GAA lands, Old Whitechurch Road, Kilbarry, Cork City.

PLANNING REFERENCE NUMBER 313994

In my opinion and from what I have observed the proposed plans contravene

1. **National and regional guidelines** for protecting and conserving biodiversity, which include
 - The City Councils recent proposals in their development plan to extend the '**Blue and Greenway**' along the area adjacent to Glennamought Tributary.
 - The Inland Fisheries guidelines for '**riparian zones**' to protect rivers and streams, especially in city areas.
 - Wildlife and Habitats Directives to protect **Annex 4 listed species** such as he otters and bats.
 - NPWS action plan to conserve and manage **what is left of intact ecosystems**.
 - The NPWS plans' objectives lay out a clear framework for Ireland's national approach to biodiversity, ensuring that efforts and achievements of the past are built upon, **ensuring conservation of biodiversity in the wider countryside; expanding and improving on the management of protected areas and protected species,**

2. **Public health concerns—**
 - There is no mention of the **illegally dumped materials** in the application for planning, the waste material is a 'left over' from the building of the Cork to Mallow N20.
 - The **restriction of access** to fire appliances, removal of a vital green space for walking and benefiting mental health.
 - The dependence on cars for residents to reach shops, doctor's surgeries, school etc as there is a **significant dearth of public transport** in the area of the development.
 - Local **lanes** are being used as roads as the volume of car traffic has significantly increased in the last 10 years. In some sections there is insufficient room for two cars or a single car and a pedestrian.
 - The Glennamought tributary valley and the Bride River Valley are areas that are of great import to all the residents of north Cork, who now have fewer open **green spaces**, thanks to the increasing number of housing developments in the area and poor planning.
 - The destruction of too many mature trees and hedgerows that has accompanied those developments. This adversely impacts on any **climate mitigation** in the area and reduces the carbon sink.

3. Local considerations such as

- The impact on a long-held **community amenity**, until you visit the area you cannot appreciate just how special the natural habitat is. A **public right of way** along the banks of the Glennamought tributary has been established over decades and was formerly acknowledged by the City and County Councils in the early 1990's. It continues to be used as a place to walk by the local community. This has not been referenced in the proposed plans. From the available information it appeared that the established public right of way would be blocked.
- The proposed **altered skyline** will be negatively impacted locals and visitors to the City.
- The removal of a site for **ecological awareness education** and skill development by local scout groups and schools, is a major concern.
- The area holds special significance to the local community as a place of historical heritage. **The hurling factory is particularly significant.**
- Daily use by walkers and dog owners for generations as evidenced by satellite images on **google maps**, where trails developed over long periods of time are clearly visible
- **Archival footage** of the community swimming and picnicking in the area is available to demonstrate the usage over decades of this priceless local amenity.

4. Environmental concerns

- There are insufficient details available of how the Development will protect the ecology of the Glennamought Tributary, a significant tributary to the River Bride (Cork City) which has been prioritised for restoration by LAWPRO in 2022.
- There are insufficient details available of how the Development will protect the ecology of the sloping area beside the Tributary which has been described as a fen and an important habitat for a vast array of endangered and protected species.
- This river is home to a large number of wildlife species, some of which are under threat. Dippers, Bats, Woodcock, Hawks, Kites, Falcons, Heron, many marsh plants, fungi and lichens which are becoming rare in the environs of Cork City and need to be conserved and protected. If one element in the food web is disturbed it has huge consequences.
- The wetland areas on either side of the river have traditionally been a natural part of the river management system for decades, holding back water from flooding lower areas along the river. This wetland and fen are a significant part of flood management for the Bride river. The proposed development will infringe on the nature-based solution to **flood management for the Blackpool area.**
- There are no details available that describe the impact of Foul and Surface Water or proposed management of same from the Proposed Development on the local water courses, which will flow into a **Natura 2000 site** further downstream. How storm waters and run off from the proposed development are to be managed has

not been detailed in the proposed plans. This is particularly significant given the status of the River Bride and Glennamought Tributary.

- There is no consideration given to protective measures for the fish and other macro and micro invertebrates in the River Bride nor the Glennamought Rivers and how the quality of water in these waterbodies will be impacted by excess sediment and run off entering the river during the construction period and beyond as the proposed development is on a steep slope covered by vegetation which acts as a **sponge for excess rain water and a filter** to protect the freshwater adjacent to the tributary.
- The Glennamought has spawning beds for trout, other fish and significant food sources for a variety of wildlife in the fen ecosystem that currently exists on the site, and needs to be preserved and protected.
- There is **no environmental impact statement** included in the application for the duration of the build or for the long term.
- There is no mention of **remediation** to any negative environmental impact. There are hundreds of breeding bird's in the area, flocks of stonechats, chaffinches, ducks, swans to mention but a few. Otters and other mammals use the valley floor for foraging.
- There is no mention how the precious lichens found in the area are going to be impacted upon or the other **microscopic plants and animals** which contribute to the unique array of biodiversity in the area planned for development.

Where am I to take myself and my grandchildren to discover a well-preserved river habitat if this unique site is lost?

What happens at this point on the river has significant implications for Blackpool and the River Lee by the Christy Ring Bridge and beyond to the Natura 2000 site, which is at risk of degradation.

The proposed development is hideous, such a dense level of units right on top of each other with no green internal spaces or a community allotment space. It's similar to what too many Councils are spending fortunes on remediating. Lessons clearly have not been learnt by past mistakes. This proposed development is an utter travesty.

LAWPRO has prioritised action restoration of the River Bride (Cork City) – given high priority and Glennamought Tributary (010) of the Bride. E1679 – IE SW 19G 880990 see desk study AFA report 029



UCC Green Campus and Cork Environmental Forum Summary report July 2022

Pamphlet produced by the local residence association in 1990, when the right of way to an amenity walk was recognised by both Cork City and County Councils.



9. KILCULLY MILLS

One of the 4 mills at Kilcully was recorded in 1820 as an iron mill and disused textiles (carding) mill and is in ruins. Near this is Elwood's mill which was called Hayes in the early 1800's. Largely intact today this was used as a dancehall in the middle 1900's. Another ruined mill was a corn mill and only some small walls of the 4th remain. All 4 of these mills were served by the same millrace which twists and descends steeply and its construction, depth and course is still intact. The millpond is said to have been located between the old and the new Kilcully graveyards.



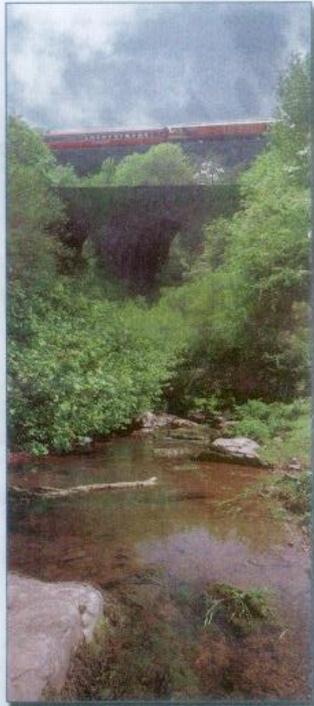
10. TOBAR BARRY WELL

In the townland of Kilbarry close to Murphy's Rock this well is mentioned as far back as the 9th Century. It is thought there was a church 20 yards East of the well although there are no traces. Cill Barra means Church of Barry - St. Finbarr. Some historical accounts suggest that the community from St. Finbarr's monastery (Gillabhey) relocated for a short time to avoid Viking Raids to Foirthribh Aedh in Magh Tuath. Magh Tuath means Plain to the North. Kilnap, another townland nearby, literally translates as Cill a N'ap - church of the abbots. This could indicate monastic links to settlements locally.

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Murphy's Rock and the Glenamought Valley