

Craughwell phone mast is given the green light

Objections overruled by An Bord Pleanála

BY DECLAN TIERNEY

EFFORTS to prevent the erection of a mobile phone mast in the Craughwell area on the grounds that it would impact local residents has not been successful.

Planning permission had been granted by Galway County Council for the 36-metre-high mast at Seefin, Craughwell - but this was appealed to An Bord Pleanála by a local resident.

However, the Board has now ruled that the proposed development would not be visually intrusive or seriously injure the amenities of the area or property in the vicinity.

It also said that it would not be prejudicial to public health and would be in accordance with proper planning in the area.

Galway County Council granted planning permission subject to ten standard conditions.

The erection lattice support structure will carry antennas and dishes, together with a fenced compound and associated equipment cabinets.

The site lies adjacent to a water services installation and shares a vehicular entrance from a minor country road.

The surrounding agricultural landscape is broadly flat with a mature tree plantation reasonably close to the site.

The site for the mast is situated at a high point in the landscape. There are numerous detached houses all along the public road nearby.

There were 32 submissions from individuals opposing the planning application which was submitted by Hibernian Cellular Networks Ltd.

The appeal was lodged by Ruth Hegarty with the support of local residents - and in it she stated that there are existing houses and sites with planning permission in the vicinity

of the site and the character of the residential area will be negatively impacted upon.

The area is known as the Hill of Seefin, the hanging place of Anthony Daly.

A monument marking this event is located across the road.

It was stated that the mast would negatively impact views from the monument.

It was also said that Landscape Sensitivity Assessment had not been produced and the development would impact on the landscape and heritage of the area.

The appellant also noted that the woodland to the south of the site would not provide a backdrop to screen the mast and that the mast would impact upon views.

"The mast is unnecessary at this location. Underground fibre cabling is available and other masts have been erected in the wider area, with 20 locations listed in a 10km radius."

The applicants responded that the mast would be provided on a greenfield site and no residential units nearby and residential amenity would not be impacted upon.

The development, they argued, would not impact upon either archaeology or heritage and there would be no adverse visual impact.

An Bord Pleanála ruled that the site and immediate surrounds confirm that this location is characterised by public service utilities and the proposed mast would add to such uses.

"The proposed development will not result in any adverse impacts from overlooking, overshadowing or have an overbearing appearance.

"It will not result in any elements that would traditionally impact upon residential amenity," said a Bord Pleanála inspector.

Bonds forged from troubled times

A RELIGIOUS connection between Galway and a Catholic Diocese in Hungary - spanning over 350 years - was renewed last week with the presentation of a replica of the revered "Weeping Virgin Mother of Győr" painting at Galway Cathedral. The presentation was the high point of a recent Irish visit by Bishop András Veres of Győr, Hungary, on a recent visit to Ireland.

Bishop of Galway and Clonfert, Michael Duignan, expressed his gratitude for this treasured gift during a special ceremony in Galway Cathedral.

He highlighted the significance of Bishop Walter Lynch, a Galway native and former Bishop of Clonfert, who played a pivotal role in uniting these two regions during the 17th century.

Bishop Lynch, exiled from Ireland during the Cromwellian era, found refuge in Győr - and it



Bishop Michael Duignan receiving a replica of 'Our Lady, Consoler of the Afflicted' gifted to the people of Galway Diocese by Bishop András Veres at Galway Cathedral.

was there that the miraculous event associated with his treasured painting occurred.

On the Feast of St. Patrick, March 17 1697, the image of the

Madonna and Child was said to have wept tears of blood, a miracle that became a symbol of hope and consolation for the afflicted across Hungary and beyond.

An exhibition detailing the story behind the picture is on display at Galway Cathedral for a limited time.



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 177AE(4)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), notice is hereby given that Galway County Council proposes to seek approval from An Bord Pleanála to carry out the following development at Long Point, Lake Road (R351) in the townland of Knockanima, Loughrea, Co. Galway.

The development will consist of the following:

1. Repair works comprising:
 - a. Repair of the existing pier surfaces.
 - b. Repair of the existing slipway to provide safe launching point for kayaks and stand-up paddle boards.
2. Demolition of an existing changing shelter to facilitate passive surveillance and views of Lough Rea.
3. Alteration to existing toilet and shower building to provide storage, plant, and a changing places toilet (accessible toilet, shower and changing facility) (93 sqm).
4. Provision of new changing, toilet and shower facilities in a single storey building (86 sqm) including sheltered outdoor shower changing area.
5. Provision of a lifeguard station building (16 sqm).
6. Provision of a circular viewing deck to the south of the existing pier.
7. Provision of a totem sign extending to c. 4 metres in height.
8. Alteration to existing beach area and provision of a deck, steps and ramp to water's edge and beach area for access for all to the water.
9. Provision of a shared active travel route along the sites eastern boundary adjacent to the Lake Road (R351) and the provision of designated bicycle parking spaces.
10. Removal of 2 no. existing vehicular access points and alterations and junction upgrade works to the existing central access point, and provision of internal pedestrian crossings.
11. Reconfiguration of and upgrades to the existing car parking areas to provide increased parking provision and to accommodate age friendly and set down spaces and trading bays, and the provision of 1 no. new car parking area which includes EV charging and accessible parking spaces.
12. Provision of hard and soft site landscaping works, SuDS measures, pumping and water stations all connections, public lighting, PV panels at roof level, and site services.
13. All ancillary services and associated site development works.

A Natura Impact Statement has been prepared in respect of the proposed development.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report has been undertaken in respect of the proposed development and concluded that an Environmental Impact Assessment Report is not required.

An Bord Pleanála may give approval for the development with or without conditions or may refuse the application for development.

Plans, particulars and the Natura Impact Statement of the proposed development will be available for inspection or for purchase for a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, for a period of 6

weeks from Friday 27th of September 2024 to Friday 8th of November 2024 at the following locations:

- The offices of the Planning Department of Galway County Council (Public Counter), Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway during its public open hours and Galway County Councils Consultation Portal at <https://consult.galway.ie/>
- The offices of Galway County Council Loughrea Area Office, Barrack Street, Loughrea, County Galway, H62 K065 during its public open hours
- The Offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough St Dublin 1, D01V902, between the hours of 9.15 am and 5.30pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays).

An electronic copy of the Natura Impact Statement and the plans and particulars of the proposed development are available for free download on the consultation portal at <https://consult.galway.ie/> from Friday 27th of September 2024 to Friday 8th of November 2024

Submissions or observations may be made in writing during such period to The Secretary, An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 D01 V902 relating to the following:

- The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development in the area concerned,
- The likely effects on the Environment of the proposed development, and
- The likely significant effects of the proposed development on European Site if carried out.

A person may question the validity of a decision by An Bord Pleanála by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. no 15 of 1986) in accordance with section 50 of the planning and development act 2000 (as amended). Practical Information in respect of the judicial review process can be assessed on the Boards website www.pleanala.ie or on Citizens Information's Website www.citizensinformation.ie

The deadline for receipt of submissions or observations to An Bord Pleanála is Friday 8th of November 2024 at 5.30pm.

Signed:

Liam Hanrahan, Director of Services