

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr David Jones
Director of Service

CC: Noel Treanor
Senior Executive Engineer
Anne Kieran
Active Travel Officer, Active Travel

From: Mr. John O Hagan
Senior Engineer

Date: 6th December, 2024

Re: **Proposed CPO associated with Moneymore/Castle Manor Permeability Link, Drogheda, Co. Louth**

Dear David,

Louth County Council wishes to compulsorily acquire necessary lands to provide and upgrade an existing permeability link (pedestrian only) between two residential developments, namely Moneymore and Castle Manor in Drogheda, Co. Louth.

Moneymore residential development is a local authority housing estate with 244 houses, a boxing club, football club, community crèche and family resource centre and likewise Castle Manor is an adjoining residential development.

There is a need for this permeability link between these two very large housing developments to provide a safe and unobstructed passage for pedestrians to access destinations of choice on the Ballymakenny Road where two National Primary Schools and one Secondary School are located. Presently there is no established footpath link of modern standards to allow school kids and others to walk to / from the schools to their homes, hence kids are having to navigate a shortcut over flowing water (stream), scramble up a clay mound and through knee high grasslands. The official designated route via existing footpaths equates to a walking time of 30 minutes, hence pedestrians are using this unofficial short link via Castle Manor which only takes 10 minutes.

The community need for this permeability link is that it will provide huge benefits in walking time over the official route and regularize an unsafe passage currently used by pedestrians with dry passage over the flowing stream (very wet on occasions during winter months). It will also meet recommendations outlined in the Department of Justice report to regularize this poor arrangement to the satisfaction of Garda, community leaders, school users, and local residents in an area that was badly affected by the Drogheda Drugs Feud. This permeability link is identified as Action Item (8.7) in the Drogheda Implementation Plan.

At this juncture, we have exhausted all possible avenues, therefore I recommend that the land(s) be acquired by Compulsory Purchase Order and that same be submitted to An Bord Pleanála for approval.

I hereby certify that the lands outlined in red and coloured grey on the Deposited Map Drawing No DM0001 titled Moneymore/Castle Manor Pedestrian Link Compulsory Purchase Order 2024 are suitable and necessary for the provision of the footpath permeability works as per current design, together with all ancillary works associated therewith. The project is sub threshold level of a Part 8 and exempt from planning. I attach a recent CPO Report completed by LCC Planner for this portion of land.

I confirm that the scheme has been designed by RPS Consulting Engineers Ltd. and is in accordance with the latest engineering design/practice and is necessary to improve permeability connectivity and safety at this location for pedestrians users.

I have also attached the Compulsory Purchase Oder Deposited Map and associated CPO Schedule with this memo.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John O'Hagan', written over a horizontal line.

John O Hagan
Senior Engineer,
Place Making & Physical Development,
Louth County Council