

Our Case Number: ACP-322956-25



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Laura Molina Marquez
11 Carrowmanagh Park
Oughterard
Galway

Date: 03 September 2025

Re: Galway County Council Compulsory Purchase Order No. 3/2025 - N59 Oughterard Footbridge -
(Physical Infrastructure, Fire and Emergency Services and Climate Change)
In the townlands of Cregg, Carrowmanagh and Fough West, Oughterard, County Galway

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Coimisiún Pleanála has received your letter of objection in relation to the above mentioned compulsory purchase order.

In respect of same, please note that in circumstances where:

- (i) no objections are received by the Commission within the period provided for making objections, or
- (ii) all objections made are subsequently withdrawn, or
- (iii) all objections made relate exclusively to matters which can be dealt with by a property arbitrator the Commission will inform the local authority as appropriate and, in such circumstances, the local authority can itself confirm the order with or without modification or refuse to confirm the order in accordance with the provisions of section 216 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

The Commission has absolute discretion to hold an oral hearing in respect of any application before it, in accordance with section 218 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. Accordingly, the Commission will inform you on this matter in due course.

If you have any queries in the meantime please contact the undersigned officer of the Commission at laps@pleanala.ie Please quote the above-mentioned An Coimisiún Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Commission.

Yours faithfully,

Lauren Griffin
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737244

CH02

Teil	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaó Áitiúil	LoCall	1800 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	communications@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902

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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Lauren Griffin

From: Lauren Griffin
Sent: Tuesday, 2 September 2025 11:38
To: 'molinamarquez.95@gmail.com'
Subject: RE: ACP-322-956-25

A Chara,

The Commission acknowledges receipt of your email; official correspondence will issue in due course.

Kind regards,

Lauren

From: Laura Molina Marquez <molinamarquez.95@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 1 September 2025 17:12
To: LAPS <laps@pleanala.ie>
Subject: ACP-322-956-25

Caution: This is an **External Email** and may have malicious content. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the ICT Helpdesk.

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Subject: Compulsory Acquisition of Lands at Carrowmanagh Park Oughterard by Galway County Council, Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) (No. 3) 2025, (Physical Infrastructure, Fire and Emergency Services and Climate Change), N59 Oughterard Footbridge
Ref: ACP-322-956-25

11 Carrowmanagh Park

Dear Sir/Madam

Upon review of Compulsory Purchase Order (No. 3) 2025 N59 Oughterard Footbridge by Galway County Council, we have noted our findings and are presenting our objections to Compulsory Purchase Order (No. 3) 2025 on the basis of the following findings.

Galway County Council plan to acquire lands at Carrowmanagh Park by CPO for the purpose of compensatory planting of approximately forty trees, to offset tree felling outside of Carrowmanagh Park as part of the Oughterard Footbridge project.

There is also a plan to install an access gate from the Carrowmanagh Park Green to the Owenriff Riverwalk.

While the residents have no objection to the footbridge, we do object to the excessive number of trees that are planned to be planted on the open green area of Carrowmanagh Park, which will take away a large portion of the open amenity space which has been part of the estate since its creation in the year 2000.

This open amenity space is used a play-area by the resident children. The number and density of planned trees will take away much of the open playing space and will cause other problems such as road safety and visibility issues for motorists driving adjacent to the open area.

Although it may be desirable and convenient for Galway County Council to plant new trees as close to the felled trees as possible, there is no legal obligation to plant new trees within a certain distance of felled trees, and the required minimum distance between felled trees and new trees is not defined in the planning application. Furthermore, most of the trees that are planned to be felled are on the south bank of the Owenriff river, while the green area of Carrowmanagh Park is on the north bank. Surely it makes sense to plant new trees on the same side of the river as the felled trees? Compensatory planting at other locations along the Owenriff riverbank, and in other areas of Oughterard should be investigated.

The boundary wall between Carrowmanagh Park and the Owenriff riverwalk is in a bad state of repair and sections have previously collapsed. Planting a large amount of trees close to the wall has the potential to destabilise the foundations of the already dangerous wall.

Addition of an access gate on the boundary wall has the potential to create a shortcut through Carrowmanagh Park which could be used by children attending the nearby national and secondary schools. If crossing the gate from the riverwalk into Carrowmanagh Park on the way back to school, children would immediately encounter a blind corner with no footpath, and no visibility of oncoming traffic when crossing the roadway of Carrowmanagh Park. This represents an unacceptable and unnecessary hazard.

Young children playing on the open green area would inevitably be attracted to the gate and potentially gain access to the riverwalk and associated danger of the fast-moving Owenriff river.

Yours Sincerely.

Laura Molina Marquez