



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

GORT PUBLIC REALM ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

AN COIMISIUN PLEANALA CASE NO. 323066-25

**GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL RESPONSE TO
OBSERVATION BY:**

MARJANOVIC LTD

Preamble

Galway County Council submit the following response to the Aisling and Sasa Marjanovic's observation in respect of the Gort Public Realm Enhancement Project Part 10 Planning Application.

Galway County Council wishes to thank Aisling and Sasa Marjanovic for their observations regarding the Gort Public Realm Enhancement Project (Part 10 Planning Application).

Galway County Council response:

The proposed rejuvenation of the town aims to boost visitor numbers by making the town centre more attractive, and safe, for people to live, work and visit, in accordance with the Galway County Development Plan and the Gort Local Area Plan and Local Transport Plan. The proposed works will create an attractive public realm, which will increase dwell time, encourage social interaction and activity, which will have a positive impact for local business as evidenced by retail studies and surveys such as the collaborative Town Centre Health Check. These find that where public spaces are vehicle dominated, footfall suffers a decline, and this has a negative impact on local business.

Please note that the rejuvenation plan for the town does not include a reduction of the car parking numbers. It does include specific allocation of accessible and age friendly parking bays located to serve those members of the community who require this assistance. There currently is a shortfall of accessible bays and age friendly bays and the proposed development will address this shortfall.

The proposed rejuvenation project will also include dedicated 15-minute parking bays to support local business and economic growth. The current situation where motorists double park outside restaurants and fast-food outlets, particularly during peak traffic hours, is not safe or sustainable.

Car Parking numbers:

Within the project area there currently exists: **252** on-street car parking spaces.
The Planning Application proposes a reduction to **165** on-street car parking spaces.
This represents **a loss of 87** on-street spaces.

The proposed new Barrack Street off-street car park and new Lowry's Lane off-street car parks will accommodate a total of **100** spaces.

This represents **a net gain of 13** spaces overall (including 4 RV bays), or **a 5% increase** on the current parking allocation. The proposed increase of parking bays includes the provision for 4 number RV bays in the Lowrys Lane off-street car park (as discussed with the local community).

Furthermore, Galway County Council would like to note that as part of the proposed public realm enhancement works, the footpath outside of this particular restaurant will be increased in width to make allowance for outdoor dining should this be desired here.

Signed on behalf of Galway County Council



Liam Hanrahan

Director of Services.