

Our Case Number: ACP-323066-25



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

JM Print & Sign
c/o Thairynne Souza Santos
Bridge Street
Gort
Galway

Date: 01 September 2025

Re: Gort Town Centre Public Realm Enhancement Project, Gort, Co. Galway
In the townlands of Gort, Co. Galway

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Coimisiún Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

Please note that the proposed development shall not be carried out unless the Commission has approved it with or without modifications.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter 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

AA02

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To: The Secretary, An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1, D01 V902

AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA	
LDG-	_____
ACP-	_____
29 AUG 2025	
Fee: €	_____ Type: _____
Time: 9:15	By: post

Subject: Submission on the Proposed Gort Town Centre Public Realm Enhancement Project

Date: 25/08/2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to formally express my concerns regarding the proposed Gort Town Centre Public Realm Enhancement Project, specifically the removal or reduction of on-street parking spaces in Market Square, Bridge Street, George Street, and surrounding areas.

1. Accessibility and Customer Impact

On-street parking is vital to the daily functioning of local businesses in Gort. Customers, particularly those who are elderly, families with children, or individuals with limited mobility, rely heavily on the ability to park directly in front of or near shops. Removing or substantially reducing these parking spaces will create unnecessary barriers to access, discouraging people from visiting the town centre for shopping and services.

2. Existing Parking Limitations

Gort is a small town with limited parking infrastructure. Even under current conditions, customers often struggle to find convenient spaces. The proposed scheme, while positive in terms of urban design and aesthetics, does not adequately address the replacement of parking spaces being removed. This will aggravate an already challenging situation, pushing potential customers away from the town centre and towards larger retail areas with easier access.

3. Economic Consequences for Local Commerce

The vibrancy and sustainability of Gort's town centre depend on the health of its local businesses. Reduced customer footfall caused by restricted parking will directly affect revenues, threatening jobs, and weakening the economic base of the community. Unlike larger cities, small towns like Gort do not have alternative transport infrastructures (such as extensive public transport networks) to compensate for the loss of parking convenience.

4. Support for Positive Aspects of the Scheme

It is important to acknowledge that certain aspects of the proposed works are welcome, such as improved street lighting, upgraded pavements, enhanced seating, and better drainage systems. These improvements will indeed modernise and beautify the town centre. However, such benefits should not come at the cost of reducing accessibility to local shops.

5. Proposed Adjustments

I respectfully request that Galway County Council and An Bord Pleanála reconsider the proposed removal of on-street parking and instead:

1. Retain the majority of existing parking spaces directly in front of shops.
2. Explore alternative layouts that integrate greenery and pedestrian zones without eliminating essential parking.
3. Ensure that any parking removed is replaced with equivalent or greater capacity in close walking distance to the commercial streets.

Conclusion

While urban enhancements are valuable, they must be balanced with the practical needs of residents, customers, and businesses. The removal of parking in the core commercial streets of Gort will have lasting negative effects on the local economy, and I strongly urge that this element of the proposal be revised.

Sincerely,

Thairynne Souza Santos

JM Print & Sign – Bridge street Gort co Galway

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