Eimear Reilly

From: Richard Buck <Richard.Buck@jbaconsulting.com>

Sent: Wednesday 19 November 2025 08:26

To: Eimear Reilly

Cc: Adrian Barrett; Bernadette O'Connell; Thom Owen

Subject: Re: 2019a1073 - Mountmellick Flood Relief Scheme - Newspaper

Advertisement/Site Notices

Attachments: 0713002C MFRS Planning Ad Irish Indo 281025.pdf; 0713002C MFRS Planning Ad

Leinster Express 281025.pdf; 0713002C MFRS CPO 2 of 2025 Ad Irish Indo 281025.pdf; 0713002C MFRS CPO 2 of 2025 Ad Leinster Express 281025.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Completed

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.

Thanks very much for this Eimear.

Please find attached a copy of the Project and CPO press adverts.

Thom could you please print **two copies** of each of the attached and send them to the following address:

For the attention of Eimear Reilly

An Coimisiún Pleanála 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902

Thanks very much.

Regards, Richard Buck **Consultant**

Tel: +44 (0)7518 618358

From: Eimear Reilly <e.reilly@pleanala.ie>
Sent: 18 November 2025 10:33 AM

To: Richard Buck < Richard. Buck@jbaconsulting.com>

Cc: Adrian Barrett <abarrett@laoiscoco.ie>

Subject: RE: 2019a1073 - Mountmellick Flood Relief Scheme - Newspaper Advertisement/Site Notices

You don't often get email from e.reilly@pleanala.ie. <u>Learn why this is important</u> Hi Richard

The application documents for the Scheme are up now: https://www.pleanala.ie/en-ie/case/323830.

The Commission does not upload documents in relation to CPOs.

In relation to both the Scheme, I note that illegible copies of the newspaper notices were furnished as part of the application. Could you please furnish hard and soft legible copies of the notices?

I also note that you did not provide copies of the CPO newspaper notices. Could you please furnish these also?

Many thanks Eimear

From: Richard Buck < Richard.Buck@jbaconsulting.com> **Sent:** Wednesday, November 12, 2025 11:26 AM

To: LAPS < laps@pleanala.ie>

Cc: Adrian Barrett <abarrett@laoiscoco.ie>

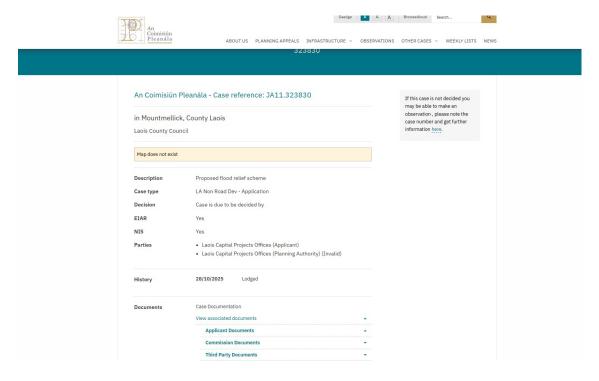
Subject: Re: 2019a1073 - Mountmellick Flood Relief Scheme - Newspaper Advertisement/Site Notices

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Good morning Eimear,

I was looking at the Mountmellick FRS and CPO submissions on the ACP website this morning and although they are both there, I could not link to any of the Applicant Documents. Have the documents been uploaded to the website?

Thanks.



Regards, Richard Buck **Consultant**

Tel: +44 (0)7518 618358

From: LAPS < laps@pleanala.ie>

Sent: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 1:30 PM

New series of payment issues at RTÉ involving sums of up to €30,000

Pension top-ups paid to a family member of former executive

MARY REGAN

A number of unorthodox payments involving sums of up to €30,000 have been identified at RTÉ, in a report on financial issues of the past uncovered by the national broadcaster.

In one case, top-up pension payments were made to a family member of a former senior executive.

The report - which is expected to be brought to the Cabinet in the coming weeks - also identifies issues around a piece of land as well as a valuable piece of artwork in possession of the organisation whose ownership is unclear.

The report was compiled by the chief financial officer of RTE, Mari Hurley, who took over the role last year following a period in which the organisation was engulfed in controversy.

While a number of concerning financial issues from the past have been discovered in her report, it's understood the organisation has been unable to get to the bottom of how these arrangements came about in the first place.

The issues have been flagged with the audit and risk committee of the RTÉ board, and the chair of the board has asked for a written report on all of the issues identified.

It has been submitted to the Minister for Media, Culture the Arts and Gaeltacht, Patrick O'Donovan, and will be brought to the Cabinet alongside the 2024 annual report for RTÉ in the coming weeks.

A spokesperson for RTÉ said the issues referred to in the report

'Mr O'Donovan said he has "no notion" of abolishing the licence fee' "are past issues" and are "for the most part, years or decades old".

The spokesperson said these issues "were identified and addressed by RTÉ, and were brought to the attention of the department".

The report details eight irregular payments – ranging between €10,000 and €30,000 mainly related to pensions.

RTÉ has been embroiled in controversy since the summer of 2023 when it emerged its highest-paid broadcaster, Ryan Tubridy, had received payments amounting to €345,000 over the previous five years which had not been publicly declared.

The payments came to light during a routine internal audit, which was then reported to RTÉ's audit and risk committee. The controversy resulted in a number of appearances by RTÉ executives before the Dáil's Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

Details were unearthed of a barter account that was used to spend €1.6m mostly on client entertainment and corporate hospitality over the previous 10 years including lavish hotel stays and €5,000 on flip-flops for a summer party.

for a summer party.

A slump in licence-fee revenues as a result of the controversies necessitated a government guarantee last year of €725m in state support over the following three years.

Earlier this year, RTÉ launched the first phase of a four-year plan to reduce staff numbers by over 20pc. The organisation said there would be 100 redundancies a year, for four years, which it said would deliver "substantial payroll savings".

RTÉ's director general Kevin Bakhurst also announced a €250,000 salary cap, telling staff it was "not about ripping the heart out of RTÉ" but ensuring it is put on a more sustainable footing into the future.

An Oireachtas Committee is currently examining the future funding model for RTÉ. But Mr O'Donovan said he has "no notion of" abolishing the licence fee, which he said is not a tax, but is in place to support RTÉ and public-service broadcasting.

Aspokesperson said last night RTÉ is "currently finalising its review of applications and we expect approximately 100 people to leave RTÉ this year".



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LAOISE LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL

Aras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois. Tel: 057 8664000 Fax: 057 8622313 corpaffairs@laoiscoco.ie www.laois.ie

NOTICE PURSUANT TO SECTION 175 AND SECTION 177AE OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000, AS AMENDED AND THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001, AS AMENDED

MOUNTMELLICK FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME, MOUNTMELLICK, CO. LAOIS Notice of Planning Application to An Coimisiún Pleanála (formerly An Bord Pleanála) for Approval

Notice is hereby given that Laois County Council intends to seek approval from An Coimisiún Pleanála under Section 175 and Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act 2000, As Amended to carry out proposed works in Mountmellick, Co. Laois entitled the Mountmellick Flood Relief Scheme.

The Mountmellick Flood Relief Scheme will comprise a series of walls and embankments along the Owenass, Clontygar, Pound and Garroon rivers, a surface water pumping station, the realignment of a length of the Clontygar, the reconstruction of Owenass Bridge, the provision of a demountable flood gate at Convent Bridge, the provision of eighteen culverts and the removal of vegetation. The proposed works are as follows:

- Construction of flood defence walls from Mill Bridge to Convent Bridge, including the provision of a pumping station near the N80 at Irishtown to maintain the capacity of the surface water drainage system from the Davitt Road area. The walls to the north of the Owenass are c. 517m long and up to 3.8m in height and will be clad with stone. The wall immediately downstream of Mill Bridge will form a wall along the side of the children's park area. The three sculptures in the park will be repositioned. A demountable access gate will be positioned at the upstream face of Convent Bridge. The walls to the south of the Owenass are c. 210m long and up to 2.7m in height and will be clad with stone. A flood wall also extends along the rear of the Grove Park properties measuring c. 885m in length and up to 2.8m in height and will be clad with stone where clearly visible.
- Construction of a flood defence wall downstream of Convent Bridge along the eastern side of the Owenass for a length of approximately 165m with a height up to 2.4m and clad with
- Construction of a flood defence wall along the north side of the Clontygar Stream between the stream and the Davitt Road area. The wall is c. 475m in length with a maximum height of 1.5m. The works at this location will include channel realignment along a 445m length of the Clontygar to renaturalise the alignment of the stream.
- Construction of a combination of flood defence walls and embankments from Owenass Bridge to Mill Bridge. The reinforced concrete walls are c. 615m in length and up to 2.8m in height. The embankments will be constructed using non-porous material and faced with grass-seeded topsoil. Walls will be clad with stone. The embankments are c. 1,295m in length and up to 2.2m in height. Ramps allowing vehicular access across the embankments will be provided where required.
- Construction of a combination of flood defence walls and embankments upstream of Owenass Bridge. The reinforced concrete walls are c. 266m in length and up to 1.9m in height and will be clad with stone where clearly visible by the public. The embankments will be constructed using non-porous material and faced with grass-seeded topsoil. The embankments are c. 766m in length and up to 1.8m in height. Ramps allowing vehicular access across the embankments will be provided where required.
- Replacement of existing Owenass Bridge with a new bridge at the same location but with a larger span width below the structure. The new construction will re-use the stone from the existing bridge.
- Construction of flood defence embankments in the vicinity of Manor House, Manor Road and Manor Court. The embankments will be constructed using non-porous material and faced with grass-seeded topsoil. The embankments are c. 714m in length and up to 2.1m in height. Ramps allowing vehicular access across the embankments will be provided where required. Culverts will be provided through the new embankment to allow the passage of the Pound and Garroon.
- Construction of flood defence walls and embankments along the Garroon Stream. The reinforced concrete walls are c. 92m in length and up to 1.9m in height. The embankments will be constructed using non-porous material and faced with grassseeded topsoil. The embankments are c. 246m in length and up to 1.3m in height. Ramps allowing vehicular access across the embankments will be provided where required.
- Construction of a flood defence wall and embankment in the vicinity of the Irishtown Garden Centre. The reinforced concrete walls are c. 70m in length and up to 1.3m in height. The embankments will be constructed using non-porous material and faced with grass-seeded topsoil. The embankments are c. 155m in length and up to 0.8m in height.
- Construction of a reinforced concrete flood wall to three sides
 of an industrial site at the Bay Road Business Park. The wall will
 be c. 428m in length and up to 1.4m in height.
- To permit the safe and timely construction of the Scheme, a number of temporary site compounds will be established along

the length of the Scheme. These will be formed by areas of stone hardstanding and will be fully removed and the areas reinstated on completion of the areas of the Scheme they are required for.

Which said works are all through the townlands of Townparks, Derrycloney, Ballycullenbeg, Acragar and Drinagh in the administrative area of Laois County Council.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) together with supporting documentation have been prepared as part of the application in respect of the proposed development.

An Coimisiún Pleanála may give approval to the application for the development with or without conditions and/or restrictions or may refuse the application for approval for the development.

A copy of the plans and particulars of the proposed development, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIAR) and the Natura Impact Statement (NIS) together with supporting documentation will be available for inspection free of charge, (or may be purchased on payment of a specified fee which shall not exceed the reasonable cost of making such a copy) during public opening hours (excluding Public Holidays) from 03/11/2025 to 15/12/2025 (inclusive of both dates), at the following locations:

- The offices of An Coimisiún Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902
- The offices of Laois County Council, Áras an Chontae, JFL Ave., Portlaoise, Co. Laois R32 EHP9
- Mountmellick Library, O'Moore Street, Mountmellick, Co. Laois 832 8861

The application plans and particulars, the EIAR and NIS may also be viewed at or downloaded from the following websites:

www.pleanala.ie

https://consult.laois.ie/en/consultation/mountmellick-flood-reliefscheme-submission-coimisiun-pleanala

Submissions or observations on the proposed development in relation to:

- The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development in the area in which the proposed development is situated, and
- The likely effects on the environment of the proposed development, if carried out, and
- III. The likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European site, if carried out may be made in writing only to An Coimisiún Pleanála ('the Coimisiún'), 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 D01 V902.

Any submissions / observations must be accompanied by a fee of €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies) and must be received by An Coimisiún Pleanála not later than 5.30 p.m. on 15/12/2025. Such submissions or observations should be titled "Mountmellick Flood Relief Scheme" and must include the following information:

- The name of the person, authority or body making the submission or observation, the name of the person, if any, acting on behalf of that person, authority or body, and the address to which any correspondence relating to the application should be sent.
- 2. The subject matter of the submission or observation, and
- The grounds of the observation (i.e. reasons and arguments), and any items you wish to support your grounds of observation.

Submissions may be lodged to An Coimisiún Pleanála by hand, post, or by submission through our online portal: https://online.pleanala.ie/en-ie/sid/observation

Any person may question the validity of any such decision by An Coimisiún Pleanála made in respect of the application for permission by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rule of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986, as amended by S.I. No. 691 of 2011), in accordance with Section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended.

Practical information on the review mechanism can be accessed under the heading Publications – Judicial Review Notice on the Coimisiun's website https://www.pleanala.ie/en-IE/Judicial-Review-Notice or on the Citizens Information Service website www.citizensinformation.ie.

Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to An Coimisiún Pleanála (Telephone: 01 8588100).

A Compulsory Plychory Order to which the proposed flood relief

A Compulsory Purchase Order, to which the proposed flood relief scheme development relates, has been made by Laois County Council and will be submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála under separate cover.

Signed: County Secretary, Laois County Council.

Date: 28th October 2025.

LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL
"IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY"

Senator highlights 'glaring issues' in endo plan

First ever endometriosis care framework launched

Hannah Cahill news@leinsterexpress.ie

The new plan to care for women with endometriosis has come in for some criticism from a Laois politician who has campaigned nationally on the issue.

Senator Maria
McCormack pinpointed an
over-reliance on primary
care as one of the most
"glaring issues"in the first
National Framework for the
Management of
Endometriosis in Ireland
launched by the Minister for
Health Jennifer Carroll
MacNeill launched.

Endometriosis is among the most prevalent health conditions affecting women in Ireland, for which there is no known cure.

The exact number of women who have endometriosis is unknown but recent research estimates that it may affect as many as one in seven women.

The Department of Health says the new framework aims to modernise the way women in Ireland with the condition are diagnosed and treated.

Developed by the Health Service Executive's (HSE) National Women and Infants Health Programme (NWIHP), the framework proposes that a woman presenting with symptoms should be treated on the presumption that she has endometriosis.

The Department of Health has said that this model 'acknowledges that women are the most reliable narrators of their own symptoms and pain', and that the model will 'reduces delays in the management of symptoms' along with the overall impact of this disease on women. The care pathway aims to treat endometriosis cases by levels of severity; moderate cases will be



Seator Maria McCormack

treated in five regional specialist centres, and complex cases will be referred to supra-regional centres in Tallaght and Cork hospitals. Three centres exist in the Coombe Rotunda and maternity hospitals, and University Limerick, with two more in development in Galway and Dubln.

Senator McCormack welcomed the publication, but said there is still 'a long way to go'.

"While the framework finally recognises that care for women and girls with endometriosis in Ireland is not sufficient, there is a long road ahead to improve care and provide expert excision surgery in Ireland.

"One of the most glaring issues in this framework is the over-reliance on a primary care model, which is not sufficient to meet the complex needs of those with endometriosis.

"It is deeply disappointing that this has not been addressed," the Portlaoise based Senator stated.

She said women feel "frustrated, hurt, and once again, unheard".

"My hope is that this is a live document that the minister will be open to amending if she truly wants to have a patient focused framework," she said.



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Signed: County Secretary, Laois County Council.

Date: 28th October 2025.

LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL
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