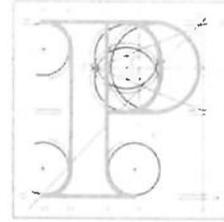


Our Case Number: ACP-323873-25

Planning Authority Reference Number:



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Galway Bay Rugby Club
c/o Justin Healy
Beginish
Forramoyle West
Barna

H91 FW7Y

Date: 13 January 2026

Re: Kingston Park and Millers Lane - Public Park Urban Realm Project
Kingston Park & Millers Lane, County Galway

Dear Sir / Madam,

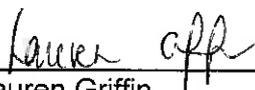
An Coimisiún Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

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

Teil
Glao Áitiúil
Facs
Láithreán Gréasáin
Ríomhphost

Tel
LoCall
Fax
Website
Email

(01) 858 8100
1890 275 175
(01) 872 2684
www.pleanala.ie
communications@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

GALWAY BAY RUGBY CLUB

LÁIDIR LE CHÉILE - STRONG TOGETHER

Re: Kingston Park and Millers Lane - Public Park Urban Realm Project

An Coimisiún Pleanála Ref: JP61.323873

12th January 2026

Dear Sir / Madam,

Galway Bay Rugby Club (GBRC) strongly supports the current planning application by Galway City Council to provide new much-needed sports and community facilities at Kingston Park and Miller's Lane. The proposal includes specific facilities for rugby, soccer, hockey, GAA rounders, cricket, basketball, tennis padel and handball as well as other much-needed indoor and outdoor community facilities.

GBRC has been identified as the "anchor tenant" for the rugby component of the facilities at Kingston Park. We give further details of the "need" for these rugby facilities below.

Rugby Facilities in Galway City

In 2008, Galway City Council published the *Galway City Recreation and Amenity Needs Study*, which identified a significant shortfall in rugby facilities within the city. The study concluded that "*all rugby facilities, both public and private, appear to be running at, or close to, capacity*" and highlighted that Galway City had approximately 25% of the number of rugby pitches per capita when compared with Cork and Limerick.

At the time of publication, Galway City had 10 rugby pitches. Since then, no additional pitches have been developed. On the contrary, the overall situation has deteriorated further:

- One pitch has been permanently removed,
- Two additional pitches have been sold for future development, and
- Another pitch is earmarked for closure as part of the redevelopment of a public park.

This reduction in facilities has occurred against the backdrop of significant population growth in Galway City (increased by approximately 18% since 2008), placing even greater pressure on an already constrained level of sports infrastructure.

Galway Bay Rugby Club – Community Need

Founded in 2008, Galway Bay Rugby Club is the only rugby club serving boys and girls up to 18 years of age on the west side of Galway City. The club plays a vital role in providing structured sporting, social, and developmental opportunities for young people in the area.

On the east side of the city, Galwegians RFC is the only comparable club; however, it has recently sold its existing grounds and will be relocating to a site in County Galway, further reducing the availability of rugby facilities within the city boundary with the result that GBRC is the only rugby club for mini and youth rugby in both sexes in Galway City.

By Connacht standards GBRC is a large club for mini and youth rugby with over 400 playing members. Despite this our club is homeless. We train on multiple community soccer and GAA pitches and currently have access to the University of Galway rugby pitches for matches on an interim basis.

The cumulative loss of rugby pitches, combined with sustained population growth and the relocation of existing clubs outside the city, has resulted in a clear deficiency in rugby facilities in Galway City. The proposed development at Kingston Park directly addresses this deficit and represents a critical investment in youth sport, community wellbeing and inclusive recreation.

We also welcome the design features of the open spaces on both sites which enhance pedestrian and cycling connectivity between existing and proposed residential developments and integrate with current cycling and public transport routes. These features will support inclusive use, contributing positively to wellbeing in the broader community.

GBRC has collaborated closely with Galway City Council over the past ten years on the development of the design brief and specific design elements. In parallel, we have worked closely with the committees of Galway Bohemians, Connacht Hockey, and Galway Hockey Club to develop practical proposals for how these facilities can be used not only for the benefit of our clubs, but also as a hub for the wellbeing of the wider community. The aim is to ensure the facilities are inclusive and welcoming, supporting people of all ages, abilities, and disabilities, and fostering engagement across diverse ethnic and community groups.

For the reasons set out above, Galway Bay Rugby Club respectfully urges An Coimisiún Pleanála to grant permission for this application. The proposed development will address a long-standing and well-documented deficit in sports and community infrastructure within Galway City, while delivering significant social, health, and wellbeing benefits for current and future generations. GBRC fully supports the project and looks forward to working constructively with Galway City Council, other sporting groups and stakeholders to ensure the successful delivery and long-term community benefit of these facilities.

Yours sincerely,



Justin Healy
Chair, Galway Bay Rugby Club
C/o Beginish, Forramoyle West, Barna, H91FW7Y

Cc. Brian Harte, Youths Coordinator GBRC

GALWAY BAY RUGBY CLUB
LÁIDIR LE CHÉILE - STRONG TOGETHER