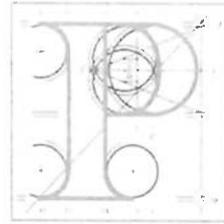


Our Case Number: ACP-323873-25

Planning Authority Reference Number:



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Galway Hockey Club
c/o Medani
Pier Road
Barna
Co. Galway

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

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D01 V902



GalwayHockeyClubinfo@gmail.com

Galway Hockey Club

C/O Medani,
Pier Road,
Barna,
Co. Galway.

11th January 2026

To:

An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Re: Kingston Park & Millers Lane — Public Park and Urban Realm Project (Section 177AE Application)

Letter of Support for Project JP61.323873

A Chara,

On behalf of Galway Hockey Club, I wish to express our strong support for Galway City Council's application to develop the Kingston Park & Millers Lane Public Park and Urban Realm Project. As a community club with a significant membership alongside thriving junior programmes, we believe this proposal will unlock safe, equitable access to sport in the west of Galway.

Our club has engaged constructively with Galway City Council and local city-based councillors over the past twenty-five years. We have participated in consultations, shared scheduling models, and offered practical input to ensure the facilities serve the community as a whole. We remain ready to assist with programming, open days, and participation initiatives as the project progresses. We are very invested in keeping girls aged 14 and over involved in sport.

A regulation-size, 2G sand-filled hockey pitch at Millers Lane is essential. Hockey cannot be played to standard on 3G surfaces; the technical skill-set for girls and youth—ball control, passing, and safety—depends on the smoothness and pile height of 2G. Today, the city relies on a single shared pitch at Dangan, which restricts training windows and often displaces junior sessions. A dedicated 2G pitch will remove a long-standing barrier to participation and allow our coaches to plan consistent, age-appropriate sessions for girls and boys.

The proposed two-storey, multi-functional building, safe-lit paths, spectator areas, and strong active-travel links will benefit families and guardians and, importantly, will promote dignity,



safety, and retention for female participants, coaches, and match officials. The inclusion of play areas and inclusive seating further supports young athletes and siblings on match-days.

We are actively working with neighbouring clubs—Galway Bohs Soccer Club and Galway Bay Rugby Club—and their committees and wider stakeholder groups. At club level, we are collectively focused on community benefit: shared calendars, volunteer coordination, and access frameworks that support older people, people with disabilities, families from disadvantaged areas, and local schools. The Kingston & Millers Lane campus model makes these collaborations practical, welcoming, and sustainable.

Hockey is a lifelong sport. Our veterans continue to play and officiate well into their 50s, 60s, and 70s. Appropriate surfaces, lighting, and accessible facilities are therefore not simply competitive requirements; they are community health and wellbeing assets that enable safe, enjoyable activity across generations.

From a programming perspective, we will prioritise:

- Girls' skill development and match-readiness across U8–U18 cohorts;
- School outreach (PE tasters, after-school hubs, and teacher support sessions);
- Inclusive 'Come & Try' events for women returning to sport and for families new to hockey;
- Veterans' and social hockey, emphasising safe participation and community connection.

We also welcome the project's nature-based drainage and pollinator-friendly planting. Reduced surface flooding, better lighting, and comfortable spectator zones are the practical details that keep families engaged through winter months and support consistent training for girls.

In light of the documented facility constraints, the club-level demand we see weekly, and the balanced, multi-sport design proposed, we respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála approve the Kingston Park & Millers Lane project. Approval will deliver an equitable, future-proofed public sports campus for girls, women, youth, and veterans in our community.

Should the Board require club participation data, sample schedules, or safeguarding protocols for girls' sessions, we would be pleased to submit supporting material.

Le meas,

Donal Dempsey
For and on behalf of Galway Hockey Club

(087)2427873