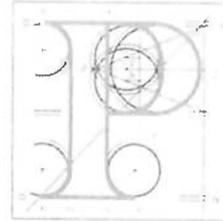


**Our Case Number:** ACP-323873-25

**Planning Authority Reference Number:**



An  
Coimisiún  
Pleanála

Hockey Ireland  
c/o Kevin Keane  
Sport Ireland Campus  
Snugborough Road  
Blanchardstown

**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](mailto: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  
Glaó Áitiúil  
Facs  
Láithreán Gréasáin  
Ríomhphost

Tel  
LoCall  
Fax  
Website  
Email

(01) 858 8100  
1890 275 175  
(01) 872 2684  
[www.pleanala.ie](http://www.pleanala.ie)  
[communications@pleanala.ie](mailto:communications@pleanala.ie)

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde  
Baile Átha Cliath 1  
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 V902



Unit 6 Sport HQ2 | Sport Ireland Campus | Snugborough Road | Blanchardstown | Dublin 15  
Tel: +353 1 7163261 Email: [info@hockey.ie](mailto:info@hockey.ie)

*Affiliated to the International Hockey Federation and to the European Hockey Federation*

## **Letter of Support Letter of Support for Project JP61.323873**

Date: 11 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)**

A Chara,

On behalf of Hockey Ireland, I wish to express support for Galway City Council's Kingston Park & Millers Lane Public Park and Urban Realm Project. As Chair of the Participation & Development Committee and a member of the Board, I am satisfied that this proposal aligns with national priorities to grow participation, expand equitable access to facilities, and strengthen regional pathways for girls, youth, and lifelong participants.

The west of Ireland has endured a strategic facility gap, with insufficient hockey-compliant surfaces to meet demand. A regulation 2G sand-filled pitch at Millers Lane is a prerequisite for safe, standards-based training and competition. By removing the current bottleneck and displacement of junior sessions, the project will improve retention and accelerate skill development among girls and youth.

The multi-sport campus model is consistent with Hockey Ireland's emphasis on collaboration and community benefit. In Galway, we recognise the constructive cross-code work undertaken with Galway Bohs Soccer Club and Galway Bay Rugby Club and welcome facilities that enable coordinated calendars, shared volunteering, and inclusive access for older adults, people with disabilities, families from disadvantaged areas, and local schools.

From a national pathway perspective, the project underpins school outreach and club development, provides an environment for coach education, and creates capacity to host regional youth festivals and talent ID activity. The presence of appropriate changing rooms, first-aid facilities, indoor activity spaces, and safe-lit circulation routes will support safeguarding-compliant programmes and enhance the experience for girls, match officials, and families.

Nature-based drainage, improved lighting, and welcoming spectator areas are practical features that sustain winter participation and family engagement. These details matter for retention—particularly for adolescent girls—and are therefore integral to national participation objectives.



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Hockey Ireland supports the approval of the Kingston Park & Millers Lane project by An Coimisiún Pleanála. We stand ready, through the Participation & Development Committee, to assist with programme guidance (school hubs, club pathways, women in sport initiatives) and to share relevant participation data upon request.

Le meas,

Kevin Keane

Board Member; Chair, Participation & Development Committee, Hockey Ireland