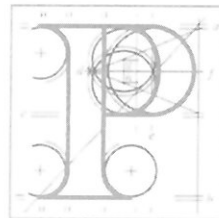


**Our Case Number:** ACP-323972-25



An  
Coimisiún  
Pleanála

Michael O'Dowd and Others  
78 Chord Road  
Drogheda  
Co. Louth

**Date:** 09 February 2026

**Re:** Public realm and community infrastructure project on lands in Ardee, Co. Louth  
Ardee, Co. Louth

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 accept this letter as a receipt for the fee of €50 that you have paid.

Please note that the proposed development shall not be carried out unless the Commission has approved it or approved it with conditions.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please do not hesitate to 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,

*Kevin McGettigan*

Kevin McGettigan  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: 01-8737263

JA02

Teil (01) 858 8100  
Glao Áitiúil LoCall 1800 275 175  
Facs Fax (01) 872 2684  
Láithreán Gréasáin Website www.pleanala.ie  
Ríomhphost Email communications@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde 64 Marlborough Street  
Baile Átha Cliath 1 Dublin 1  
D01 V902 D01 V902

## Submission to ACP-323972-25 .

Michael O'Dowd

On Behalf of Ardee Railway Walk Memorial Garden

**78 Chord Road**

**Drogheda**

**CoLouth**

**To Whom it Concerns:**

Please see attached observation which consists of :

- Letter from Sandra Byrne Chairperson SAFE Castlebellingham Community Counselling CLG;
- Letter from Dermot Maguire Ardee Railway Walk Memorial Garden Committee Chairperson
- An observation from the Committee in relation to the Grotto.
- I also include 8 pages of a petition signed by over 1000 people calling for the retention of the Railway Memorial Garden which refers to the Tree walk, Grotto and Well.

I also enclose photograph of the remaining pages which are available on request. This demonstrates the community commitment for what is currently in Character Area 2.

AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA	
LDG-	<u>086396</u>
ACP-	_____
03 FEB 2026	
Fee: €	<u>50</u> Type: <u>CoA</u>
Time:	<u>12:38</u> By: <u>Hail</u>

**Submission in Support of the Retention of the Memorial Tree and Well  
Railway Memorial Park, Ardee, Co. Louth  
Planning Reference:**

I wish to make a submission in support of the retention of the memorial tree and the small well structure constructed at the Railway Memorial Park, Ardee, which were created as a place of remembrance for loved ones lost, including those lost to suicide, and for the families and friends left behind.

Planting trees in memory of loved ones is a long-established and widely accepted tradition in towns and villages throughout Ireland. Such trees serve as living memorials, symbolising life, continuity and remembrance, and provide a gentle, dignified way for families to honour those they have lost. The memorial trees in the Railway Memorial Park forms part of this broader community tradition and reflects the collective wish of many people to remember in a quiet, respectful public space.

The well and bucket structure, together with the engraved locks placed by families, provides a simple focal point for reflection. It is modest in scale, sensitively constructed, and entirely in keeping with the character of the park. It does not introduce commercial activity, noise, or visual intrusion, but instead complements the tranquil and contemplative nature of the setting.

From the perspective of those involved in suicide awareness and bereavement support, including SAFE Castlebellingham CLG, places such as this are of significant social value. They offer a non-clinical, compassionate environment where people can pause, reflect, and feel a sense of connection to those they have lost. For many, particularly those grieving a sudden or traumatic loss, the presence of a physical place of remembrance is deeply important for healing and emotional wellbeing.

The memorial has become a quiet haven for members of the community. It enhances, rather than detracts from, the amenity value of the Railway Memorial Park by reinforcing its role as a space for peace, reflection and respect.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that An Bord Pleanála support the retention of the memorial tree and well, recognising their cultural, community and mental-health value, and their appropriateness within this public park setting.

Yours sincerely,

Sandra Byrne  
Chairperson  
SAFE Castlebellingham Community Counselling CLG  
087 969 4087

### **Retaining the Grotto:**

The grotto is an established, long-standing feature within the Railway Walk and forms part of the existing character and layout of the park as it is currently used by the public. In planning terms, it is part of the **baseline condition** of the site and should be assessed as such. Its removal would alter the current use and character of the space, which has functioned for years as a place of quiet reflection within a community-maintained parkland. The grotto's presence is relevant to any assessment of the site's existing amenities, landscape features, and patterns of public use. Omitting it from drawings, photographs, or descriptions presented an incomplete picture of the receiving environment against which impacts should be evaluated.

Retention of the grotto is consistent with core planning principles of respecting established use, recognising community-created amenity value, and avoiding unnecessary loss of features that contribute to the social and cultural fabric of a place. As a modest structure integrated into the landscape, it does not prevent improvement works but can be accommodated within sensitive design. Keeping it in situ supports an approach that works with the existing character of the park rather than treating the area as if it were undeveloped land, ensuring that proposals properly reflect the reality of what is already present and valued on the ground.

Michael O'Dowd

## Maintaining the Tree lined Walk

Dermot Maguire,  
40 Cappocks Gate,  
Ardee,  
Co.Louth  
A92K8H2  
To whom it may concern,

I Dermot Maguire of the above address, wish to make a formal complaint to An Bord Pleanala about Louth County Council's submission in relation to the proposed Ardee 2040 Regeneration Project, to remove /relocate one hundred and twenty two of the three hundred and fifty six remembrance trees which were planted by myself whilst on a Community Employment Scheme assigned to working on the Railway Line in Ardee.

For the past 10 years I have worked extremely hard transforming the area from a wasteland/dumping area and it has now become a pleasant and tranquil walk/ park and in recent years since Covid 19 a remembrance garden which started as a tribute to people from the town lost to Covid and grew from there.

This all took place prior to Louth County Councils acquisition of the lands in 2022 which previously was owned by Iarnród Éireann by whom we were led to believe that Ardee Tidy Towns, Ardee CE Scheme and Louth Local Development /Tús scheme could make improvements and clean up the railway line area once a profit was not made and it has been maintained by those bodies during this time.

Any works undertaken on the railway line during my time was all communicated through my supervising body at the time as the materials were all paid for and authorised by Ardee CE Scheme, Ardee Tidy Towns and Louth County Council workers in Ardee supplied me with other materials like stone, cement ,benches etc. When the 2040 plan was made known to the people of Ardee and surrounding areas (as people come from all areas to walk on the railway line since the improvements were made) a petition with over 1000+ signatures in objection to the development of the park, the relocation of the trees,the removal of the wishing well , the grotto and the layout of the park as it is now.

A committee was formed after a public meeting was held in Ardee Parish Centre, Hale Street Ardee, Co.Louth with hundreds of local people voicing their concerns on the night of the 25th November 2024. Following this public meeting, the committee was invited via email to meet with Louth County Council senior officials David Jones,Olivia Mc Cormack and associates in the Civic Buildings Ardee, Fair Green on the 31st of January 2025 /the 20th February 2025 and the 8th May 2025 to try and come to some compromise about the 2040 Regeneration Plan and to omit some changes proposed on the plan for the Railway Line eg. the playground, the community allotments, the coffee kiosk and to reduce parking on the site.

Everything that we had agreed during talks that would be omitted on the final submission of the 2040 Regeneration Plan for Ardee were still submitting for planning on the present proposed plans submitted to An Bord Pleanala. The trees on the site are belonging to the members of the public as they themselves purchased the trees as a memorial for their loved ones and everyone is not in agreement for their trees to be removed or relocated. This is the reason that I wish to make a formal objection to Louth County Council's removal of any of the trees on the Railway Walk in Sean O' Carroll Street, Ardee, Co.Louth.

Yours Sincerely,  
Dermot Maguire  
Railway Walk Memorial Garden  
Committee Chairperson

Additional copies of petition:





②

# PETITION

## TO SAVE THE RAILWAY MEMORIAL GARDEN

NAME	CONTACT INFO
Shane Clerkin	086 4066226
Louise Flanagan	087 2815049
Liam Farrell	086 2168060
Molly Farrell	087 2815049.
Paul Muldoon	089 4356585
Maureen Smith	084-9852580
Gerry Raynald	087 6245016
Geraldine Carroll	087 6245016
Doc. McKenny	041 6857843
Maia McKenny	041 6857843
Jenny Smyth	0877156087
David Smyth	0877156087.
Michael Durnin	086 2585003
Annette Durnin	11 4
Betty Jackson	086 - 16 88045
Teddy Jackson	086 - 16 88045
Kevin Jackson	086 - 16 88045
John Martin	086 - 3485827
May McKenna	086 0389793
PETER CONROY GLACK	



# PETITION <sup>3</sup>

## TO SAVE THE RAILWAY MEMORIAL GARDEN

NAME	CONTACT INFO
Rodney Rooney	086-0535440
Liam Mullane	087-7827251.
Len HATRICK	086 8519910
Michael Timson	086 1737764
Sarah Miller	086 3674924
John Boyle	089-4144509
Berard Clinton	087 3146446
Suzy Bolger.	087 9688511
Padraig Bolger	087 9688511
Tommy Lavin	087 9132052
Alison Hickey	0877540341
Donal Balle	087-7456669.
David Maguire	083-3750181
Connae Burns	086-867-0400
Brendan Burns	087-905-9368
Bernadette Burns	086- <del>86</del> 404-2415
meagan Lane	087-393-1116
Kenice Rae	087-1248747
Carmel Duffly	087 4195656
Bernadine McAlloon	087 2966506



# PETITION ④

## TO SAVE THE RAILWAY MEMORIAL GARDEN

NAME	CONTACT INFO
Philip Synnott	087 2224750
Jack Duffy	087-4108657
DAVID McKENAY	087 2354156
Julie Hill	087 - 0916095
Hilda Kilcoyne	
Martin McKenny	087 6652308
Florence Matthews	087 9626373
Budget HAIP →	087 6718749
Eugene McCabe	! ! !
Christine HAIP →	! ! !
Stacy Fleming	087 4266525
Kayla Fleming	" " "
Caroline Matthews	" " "
Georgia-May Matthews	087 141 6266
Tara Baylon	" "
Elsie Grace Matthews	" "
Nadine Kerr	087 7101824
Tyler Reilly	" " "
Timmy Reilly	087 0008705
Rachel Matthews	087 2726947.



# PETITION <sup>①</sup>

## TO SAVE THE RAILWAY MEMORIAL GARDEN

NAME	CONTACT INFO
Douglas Finnegan	086-6071607
Carol Ryan	087 7776920
KEALAN RYAN	087 7776920
John Dyer	087-1538229
Sandra Blacoe-Dyas	087-7427205
ORLA McEtee	086 6009135
BOBBY TIMMERMAN	087 86 056 9433
Shauna Blacoe Dyas	085-815-2150
Ross Gulden	
Sarah Blacoe Dyas	087-4110150
Ryan Ward	gmail-wardryan942@gmail.com
AMN WARD	Ward Ryan@gmail.com
Pauline Mc Mahon	
Magde Kool	087 1731142
Denis G. Long	0861556594
Patricia Sherry	0861015385
Simon Sump	087 175 2055
Luke Mc DONNELL.	CLONMORE JB.
Paddy Murphy	CAPPSICK GATE AREA
Ray M <sup>r</sup>	Sierny St. Cork



# PETITION

## Ardee Says No to Relocation or Movement of Remembrance Tress

NAME	CONTACT INFO
DERMOT MAQUIN	0833750181
Brian Keen	0868338504
Alex Downin	087 701 8384
Tip Corbett	087 9263729
Jimmy Corbett	087 4147343
Krysten Higgins	087 3810684
Kate Karpenko	085 2018774
Milana Leshchishena	087 968 1887
Eileen Mc Cormack	(087) 2703307
Maria Vasiltciv	(087) 402 66 00
Hanna Zaidel	085 1602639
Hor Leshchishen	085 201 3995
Lina Tytova	083 089 1609
Vadym Leshchishen	087 491 8516
Therese McCarra	087 3845944
Barry murphy	087 9531096
Aaron Kerley	
Clare McNamee	087 6440604
Gerry Mc Givern	
Darren Mc Enaney	
Fintan Taffee	
Dylan Mc Gready	
Alan Kierans	
Renata McGahon	087 6440604
Paudie McGahon	



# PETITION

## Ardee Says No to Relocation or Movement of Remembrance Trees

2

NAME	CONTACT INFO
Maeve Maguire	087 6307793
May M. O'Leary	Tierney st
Gay Mabre	086 3861811
Michele Mabre	087 2684694
Rosemary Higgin	087 290-1962
Theresa Keen	087 7835236
Ray Crowley	087 2821715
Debbie O'Neill	087 9391986
Brian McCormack	087 2985712
Eamon Martin	087-6186463
Linda Martin	087 2729352
Louise Blake	085-2631029
Joana Derry	087 7755051
Kitty Murphy	Tierney st.
Keasa Ni Murchu	"
Sine Owens	086 6007265
Rebecca O'Leary	Ardee
Bobbie Johnston	Ardee
Rosalee McElene	087 65413687
LJ Ross	083 482 6955
John Boyle	Cappocks Gate
Garratt Murphy	086-2022600
ALISH MURPHY	087-3335004
PATRICK MURPHY	087-3335004
Emily Murphy	087-3335004



# PETITION

## Ardee Says No to Relocation or Movement of Remembrance Trees

NAME	CONTACT INFO
Agnes Watters	089-2079280 086 1619115
Jeanne Thorne Gary Minem	086 6022865 08744851511
Laura Fay Vigna Cunningham	087 2080146 086 3117155
Aislinn Daly Alyssa Daly	083 8225065 087 950 9685
Kaylum O'Rourke Gary Daly	083 034 4554 083 474 3918
Pearl Cunningham Debbie Wade	086 034 8442 083 454 1402
Kennedy Jordan Lauren O'Rourke	+44 7858696605 087 093 8979
John Martin MAY Mc Kerns	086-3485827 086 0387973
Allison Carroll MICKY Carroll	Stobh Breagh " "
ALAN Martin Dessie Murray	" " " "
Kathleen Murray Paul Markm	" " " "
Margaret Conlon Donna Short	0879391546 Louth Village
Sarah Buttelor	0831898022



# PETITION

## Ardee Says No to Relocation or Movement of Remembrance Trees

NAME	CONTACT INFO
Nicola McGuinness	087 61555 97
Suzanne Ryan	083 079 7767
James Torris	086 312 9459
John Torris	086 2211 767
Margaret Torris	087 626 4476
Patrick Sherry	086 35555 55
Brenda Sherry	087 9821 405
Nikita Sherry	087 284 5322
Patrick Sherry	087 285 2892
Cathy Dolan	087 476 3918
Barbara Gillespie	086 882 4299
Finbar Gillespie	086 887 4299
Miriam Doyle	Ardee
Mary Brennan	081 942 1912 Ballyballe
Lita Finigan	086 841 6412
Sean Finigan	087 256 2023
Margaret Murray	087 -126 0465
Deirdre M. Kemp	087 402 7827
Gwen M. Kemp	Ardee
Kerrie M. Kemp	Ardee
Esther Condon	Ardee.
Peter O'Rourke	087 6404 527
Olivia Buckley	087 67 46 865
Karen Reddy	083 478 8631
Patricia Reddy	083-887 9960