

OLDCASTLE ROAD

ATHBOY

CO MEATH

17/04/26

Ref : An Coimisiún Pleanála case number 324153

Dear Sir,

I am an adult who as a child came from Bessborough.

I feel the granting of the planning permission is inappropriate.

The transfer of responsibility for anthropological significance of the site and remains of children and adults to a developer is unconscionable. There will be several layers or responsibility between the developer, contractors to developer, subcontractors to contractors, subcontracted excavators (and drivers).

The State including Local Authorities have a history of discrimination against the health and welfare of women and children. One would have thought a change in direction had arrived with the establishment of Mother and Baby Home Commission of Investigation.

The entire nation is more than aware of the shortcuts, obscure and anomalous behaviour carried out in this country by developers and commercial entities over the past 30 years.

The integrity of the lands and the possible human remains therein should be protected and stewarded by the relevant arms of the state including the Gardai.

The non survivors of the institution are entitled as citizens of this state to have their identities, place of burial established with respect and dignity under the direct oversight and custody of the State. The causes of death should also be established if possible.

Survivors of the institution may have relatives buried on the lands and are equally entitled to the opportunity as much background to their family origins as any other citizen.

The site should be respected and examined in the same manner as the burial site in Tuam.

The initial findings in Tuam have noted the disturbance and damage to skeletal remains by mechanical excavators.

A complex, multi-year, forensic, and legal investigation has been established in Tuam to identify the children and provide a dignified burial.

The State including the Gardai and coroner would then be able to determine if further actions legal or otherwise should take place.

Ultimately the lands and buildings at Bessborough could with consultation be shaped into a dignified museum, place of reflection which could incorporate community welfare services, recreational features / amenities walks, in a tasteful manner for the community at large..

The buildings and land are of significant historical and anthropological importance to the state, they are also potential burial areas / graves and should not be interfered with by third parties. Interference with graves is an offence under Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act 1948 Part (VI).

The burials carried out on site are also potentially in contravention of the above Act and as such may be subject to future legal actions.

The construction of apartment blocks is not in keeping with the historical significance and vista of the listed building(s) and the grounds.

Yours Sincerely,

B Hosty

Brian Hosty