

2 Ashbrook Park,
Ennis Road,
Limerick
Ireland
April 17th 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am objecting to this planning application for development in the grounds of Bessborough on the basis that the site in question may include the unmarked and undocumented graves of infant children and perhaps in some cases the mothers of these children. We cannot concrete over the uncomfortable truths of our past and pretend that these things never happened. The facts of what what happened in Bessborough Home are undisputed, we know that the likelihood is that the bodies of babies were disposed of in the grounds without proper markings and without proper records, which means that we know that Bessborough is a historic crime scene. This is not an exaggeration of the facts. All births and deaths must be registered by law and all burial places must be identified.

Recently in Dublin we have seen the State make every effort to identify the location of the remains of an infant boy whose body was buried in waste ground in an effort to pervert the course of justice. Is every child of the State not entitled to the same level of concern and dignity.

I was born in St. Peter's Mother and Baby Home in Castlepollard Co. Westmeath in 1962, I could just as easily have been born in Bessborough, where my friend Noelle Brown was born, and Noelle and I may never have made it to adult life, such were the appalling medical conditions in these Homes. Our bodies could easily be lying unmarked in the grounds of Bessborough all these years but we are the lucky ones who survived and who have a responsibility and an opportunity now to raise our voices on behalf of those who did not.

Please do the decent thing, please have respect for all of us, the living and the dead and reject this application to pave over the past,

Kind regards,

Mary Coll