

6 Meadowlands,
Courtmacsherry,
Co Cork
P72 NW02

20th of April 2026

Reference Planning Application : **324153**

To whom it may concern,

As development of the Bessborough Mother and Baby home site in Cork. The following is a summary of my case of opposition:

1. **Site of potential criminal activity:** Without proper excavation of this site and forensic investigation of any human remains, there is no ability to confirm that criminal activity in the form of neglect, lack of due care in terms of medical and sustenance expected of a state service delivery institution, occurred. Any state institution that is unable to document and provide detailed information on vulnerable adults and children in their care would be investigated both from a criminal, governance and accountability perspective today and it is critical that this site is afforded the same procedure and respect. If this is not the framework of engagement with the site in Bessborough, the Irish constitution and rule of law of the state is stating publicly that the women and children in this institution do not fall under the same rules and value as other citizens.
2. **Equal investigation of all mother and baby home sites should be delivered:** The question remains on the difference in focus and priority between the Mother and Baby home in Tuam Galway and Bessborough in Cork in terms of investigation and resource. Recommendation is for a nationwide investigation of all state/church managed Mother and Baby home institutions at equal levels of focus, resource and investigation framework.
3. **Personal impact of the development of this site:** I am contacting the Cork City Council to object to this development on behalf of myself and my siblings all of whom where born in Mother and Baby homes in Ireland. My brother was born in Bessborough in 1967, my sister was born in Castle Pollard in 1968 and I was born in Sean Ross Abbey in Roscrea in 1969. It is key in addressing the trauma of our circumstance of birth that the community of women and babies who were housed in these institutions are respected, valued and recognized with the same rights and priority as all Irish citizens. I have always been proud of being an Irish citizen as I believed this made me part of a society where the marginalized are offered compassion and respect. This development which supports a profit making commercial enterprise on this sacred land so sodden with pain and grief and loss is the antithesis of the value system of our country and our people.

Thank you for the consideration of this objection. There is an opportunity to focus on the moral compass and its direction for this decision, and have faith that the objection will be upheld

Please do not hesitate to contact me if further information is needed,

Sophia Byrne (Mobile : 083 4241798)