



Eoin Hayes TD
Dáil Éireann
Social Democrats

An Coimisiún Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
D01 V902

20 April, 2026

Re: Large Scale Residential Development proposal, 'The Farm' (Cork City Council Planning Ref. 25/44442), at Bessborough, Ballinure, Blackrock, Cork

This observation is made in support of the position and concerns of the Bessborough Mother and Baby Home Support Group regarding this development.

I understand it is estimated that 923 infant deaths are associated with this site, and the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes could only find burial records for 64 of these infant deaths. Therefore, the burial place of the remaining 859 infants remains unidentified at this site. The Commission's report further estimates that 9,768 women were admitted to Bessborough between 1922 to 1998. Therefore, the impact this institution had on the community and Irish society was significant and its generational legacy wide-reaching, and further proves its importance as one of national and international concern. I strongly believe that reserving the land for burial grounds and community facilities that are in keeping with the site's historical significance should be recommended.

Notably, in the recent past the National Archives have released the 1926 census figures. They clearly report not just the inhabitants of Bessborough House, then known as

Bessborough Sacred Heart Home, but also detail the names of the inhabitants - the survivors of an institution that overwhelmingly did not live up to the obligations of care that it had for its inhabitants. These records should be investigated, and serve as possible routes of inquiry on the grounds of the House.

Among the survivors and their many supporters who I have met, there is overwhelming consensus that the site should be preserved for memorialisation and investigation. It is paramount that the Commission take these views into account in determining the permissions granted on the site; anything else would, in my view, be a gross violation of the wide public interest in honouring the wishes of these survivors.

It is for these reasons that I strongly object to the development of this site as set out in its planning application.

Please acknowledge my submission and advise of any decision made.

Yours faithfully,



Eoin Hayes TD