

# Priest condemns Burke family protest at Milford schools

Chris McNulty

A DONEGAL priest has condemned the behaviour of members of Enoch Burke's family in the county on Friday.

Burke's mother Martina and brother Isaac confronted the Minister for Education, Hildegarde Naughton, at two schools in Milford.

The Burkes approached the Minister as she left Scoil Mhuire, while footage also showed Martina Burke using a loud speaker and a microphone at the gates of Mulroy College.

Their arrival in Donegal came a day after Enoch Burke's dismissal from Wilson's Hospital School in Co Westmeath was confirmed by a Disciplinary Appeal Panel.

The Burkes could be heard criticising the make-up of a Disciplinary Appeals Panel which this week upheld Burke's dismissal from the school.

"Shame upon every politician here today," Martina Burke shouted. "You're a shame to this country. You're a disgrace to this country."

The incident has been condemned by Creeslough-based priest Fr John Joe Duffy, who described the behaviour as "outrageous, deeply shocking, unacceptable and totally disturbing".

"Children in one of these schools have been previously traumatised by events of a tragic incident in one of the communities that pupils schools come from," Fr Duffy said.

"Today's outrageous, deeply shocking, unacceptable and totally disturbing behaviour may leave pupils traumatised and insecure in

what ought to be a safe and protective environment. If I were staff, school management or one of the visitors, I would feel upset and threatened."

One of the Milford schools was left traumatised by the events in 2022 when an explosion in Creeslough claimed 10 lives, including of its two students.

Fr Duffy said: "Children have a right to feel cared for, to feel protected, to feel safe and never to be disturbed, feel threatened or be traumatised within their school grounds or from the gates outside."

He said the incident at the Milford schools was like throw back "to the worst times of the darkest days in the troubles in Northern Ireland".

He said: "What members of the Burke family did in Milford today cannot go unchallenged and the full rigours of the State must be utilised to ensure that our schools are physically, psychologically and emotionally safe places for our children and for staff."

"Today's behaviour of bullying, threatening, disruptive behaviour, nastiness is typical of everything that is not Christian or nurturing and has no place in a school yard or at the gates of any school."

"Today's demonstration is no way to highlight any issue in a civilised society."

Outside Mulroy College, the Burkes held posters showing Enoch Burke which read: "Enoch Burke. 687 days in prison."

A history and German teacher at the school, Burke has been incarcerated for refusing to obey a court injunction requiring him to stay away from the school.

Minister Naughton was in Donegal to meet with school personnel in Milford and at St Eunan's College in Letterkenny, with those facilities seeking assistance to accommodation pressures.



Fr John Joe Duffy



Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall  
Donegal County Council



## NOTICE PURSUANT TO SECTION 177AE OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000, (AS AMENDED)

### APPLICATION TO AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA FOR APPROVAL Tullan Strand Facility Centre for Water Sports Activities and Accessible Pathway to Tullan Strand Beach

Notice is hereby given by Donegal County Council ("the Council") that

1. It intends to carry out the development detailed below ("the proposed development")
2. The location of the proposed development is Tullan Strand Road, Finner, Bundoran, County Donegal.  
The overall development site is shown edged red on drawing no. A.3.1.001.
3. The nature of the proposed development consists of the construction of a facility centre for water sports activities, associated infrastructure and an accessible pathway to Tullan Strand beach to enhance visitor management and experience. The proposed works will include construction of a purpose-built single storey facility with accessible changing rooms, showers, a Changing Places toilet, public conveniences, storage areas, associated external amenities, car and bus parking, seating, public realm landscaping, site drainage, wastewater pumping station, connection to existing utilities, supporting ancillary works, accommodation works, closure and decommissioning of the existing unauthorised beach access development, construction of a pedestrian pathway along a section of the L-1058-0 Tullan Strand Road, an accessible pedestrian/equestrian pathway/boardwalk onto Tullan Strand beach and an emergency vehicle access route towards Tullan Strand beach.
4. The Council proposes to seek the approval of An Coimisiún Pleanála for the proposed development.
5. A Natura Impact Statement has been prepared in respect of the proposed development.
6. An Coimisiún Pleanála may give approval to the application for development with or without conditions or may refuse the application for development.
7. A copy of the Natura Impact Statement and the plans and particulars of the proposed development as contained in the documents listed in the Schedule below ("the Plans and Particulars") will be available for inspection free of charge from Tuesday the 2nd of June 2026 to Tuesday the 21st of July 2026 (inclusive of both dates but excluding public holidays) during normal office hours, Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 12.30pm and 1.00pm to 4.30pm.

at the offices of Donegal County Council at:

- (a) Donegal County Council Public Service Centre, Drumlonagher, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal, F94 DK6C.
- (b) Donegal County Council Office, County House, The Diamond, Lifford, Co. Donegal, F93 Y622.
- (c) Bundoran Community Library, Station Road, Bundoran, Co. Donegal, F94 CKX7, at the following times:  
Tuesday: 9:30am to 5:30pm.  
Wednesday: 12:30pm to 8pm.  
Thursday: 9:30am to 5:30pm.  
Friday: 9:30am to 5:30pm.  
Saturday: 10am to 2:30pm.
- (d) At the offices of An Coimisiún Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902, between the hours of 9:15am to 5:30pm Monday to Friday (Excluding Bank Holidays).

In addition, documents will be available to view on the Council's website at [consult.donegal.ie](https://consult.donegal.ie)

8. The Natura Impact Statement and the Plans and Particulars will be available for purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy from the Donegal County Council offices specified at paragraph 7.
9. Submissions and/or observations may be made in writing to An Coimisiún Pleanála at its offices at 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902, so as to be received not later than 5:30pm on Tuesday the 21st of July 2026, relating to:
  - i. The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development in the area concerned,
  - ii. The likely effects on the environment of the proposed development, and
  - iii. The likely significant effects of the proposed development on any European site, if the proposed development is carried out.
 Submissions or observations duly made will be considered by An Coimisiún Pleanála in making a decision on the application.
10. A person may question the validity of the decision by An Coimisiún Pleanála on this application by way of an application for judicial review under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986) in accordance with Section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, (as amended).
11. Practical information on the review mechanism can be accessed under the heading Planning Appeals on An Coimisiún Pleanála's website [www.pleanala.ie](https://www.pleanala.ie)

#### SCHEDULE

- (i) Book of Drawings and Site Location Map
- (ii) Donegal County Council Planning Report
- (iii) Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)
- (iv) Ecological Impact Assessment
- (v) Natura Impact Statement
- (vi) Environmental Impact Assessment Preliminary Examination Report
- (vii) Planning Policy Statement
- (viii) Civil Design Report

Anne Marie Conlon,  
Director of Housing,  
MD Services and Capital Projects,  
Donegal County Council.

Dated this 28th May 2026.