

HSE urged to extend parking facilities at LUH

Hospital needs twice the current spaces

Staff Reporter

A Letterkenny councillor has urged the HSE to look at whether parking areas could be "levelled up" to provide extra capacity at Letterkenny University Hospital.

Sinn Féin Councillor Gerry McMonagle, chair of the Regional Health Forum, has warned that the hospital campus needs twice as much parking as is currently available.

He has proposed that HSE Estates investigate building one additional level above the existing LUH car park and on lands adjacent to St Conal's.

"Within a short space of time, we could provide over 2,000 spaces, and it would be cost-effective and it doesn't need to go to a multi-storey car park, which is going to cost millions in the current climate and costs," he told the forum.

Councillor McMonagle said the shortage of parking for staff, patients and visitors is now spilling into surrounding areas.

"What is happening is the housing developments around the hospital, people are parking in the housing estates," he said.

"They're also parking in the car parks of local shops and this is adding to their difficulties."

Fianna Fáil Councillor Ciaran Brogan, who also submitted a separate question on the same issue, said the hospital was "bursting at the seams" for parking.

"Only this morning I was speaking to somebody earlier who had to take their mum to the hospital and it was near impossible to get a parking space," he said.

"What's needed here, we've been talking about it now for a long number of years, is a short-term, medium-term and long-term plan."

He said there is "ample space" available for development around the LUH and St Conal's campus, including grass areas and the old football pitch.

Cllr Brogan called for a fresh look at the entire parking situation on the hospital campus in light of the new community nursing unit currently under construction.

He said the new 110-bed facility is a great success story, but will place even greater pressure on parking.

He called for a report to come back before councillors and suggested an on-site meeting with HSE Estates and hospital management.

He stressed the importance of parking for people travelling from all over Donegal for vital appointments.

"Donegal is a big rural county. People shouldn't have the added stress of wondering when they're leaving the house if they will get parked."

"It's not rocket science, to be honest, and I think it's something we can do better."

The HSE responded to say that plans are in place to add more car parking spaces at



The call for additional parking facilities at LUH was made at the HSE Regional Health Forum West

Letterkenny University Hospital over the next two years.

Under short-term plans, between 20 and 25 new parking spaces are expected to become available at the hospital in June, following the planned removal of a construction compound.

Longer-term plans involve approximately 100 new spaces at the St Conal's campus by the end of 2026, along with a further 25 spaces at LUH once Energy Centre construction works are completed in late 2026.

The HSE said more than 1,100 car parking spaces are currently managed daily across the hospital campus, including 105 spaces in a dedicated patient and visitor short-term car park, four designated older persons' bays and almost 50 disabled parking bays.

Mr Dermot Monaghan, Integrated Health Area Manager for Donegal, confirmed that the parking issues at LUH have been recognised as a concern for patients, visitors and staff.

He said he had "no issue" with an on-site meeting with councillors.

He added that the Development Control Plan is expected to be completed by the end of the year and would deal with some short, medium and long-term issues.

He said that hospital management, working alongside the site car park management company, have continued efforts over the past 18 months to improve parking facilities and increase capacity where possible.

Measures already undertaken include the reconfiguration of reserved parking spaces to create additional parking for patients and visitors closer to the hospital's main entrance doors, along with the reopening of the dedicated short-term car park.

A number of car parks have also been resurfaced, while carriageways and parking bays, including disabled bays, have been repainted.

Councillors were also told that the Active Travel project, currently being delivered by Donegal County Council on the Kilmacrennan Road and Circular Road, will create new bus stops for Local Link and Town Link services, providing more opportunities for staff and members of the public to travel to the hospital by public transport.

FORM OF NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF A COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER UNDER SECTION 76 OF AND THE THIRD SCHEDULE TO THE HOUSING ACT, 1966, AS EXTENDED BY SECTION 10 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (NO.2) ACT, 1960, (SUBSTITUTED BY SECTION 86 OF THE HOUSING ACT 1966, AS AMENDED) AND AMENDED BY SECTION 6 AND THE SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE ROADS ACT 1993, AS AMENDED, AND SECTION 222 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000, AS AMENDED, EXTENDED BY THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTS 2000, AS AMENDED (INCLUDING PART XIV THEROF); THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTS 1925-2019 (INCLUDING SECTIONS 11 AND 184 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001); THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (NO.2) ACT, 1960, AS AMENDED; THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTS 2000-2025; THE HOUSING ACT 1966 (AS AMENDED) AND ALL OTHER ACTS THEREBY ENABLING

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND Accessible Pathway to Tullan Strand Beach

Donegal County Council, hereinafter referred to as "the Local Authority" in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 76 of the Housing Act, 1966 and the Third Schedule thereto, as extended by Section 10 of the Local Government (No.2) Act 1960 (as substituted by Section 86 of the Housing Act, 1966) as amended by Section 6 of and the Second Schedule to the Roads Act, 1993 and the Planning and Development Acts 2000 - 2025 have made an order ("the CPO") entitled as above which is about to be submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála for confirmation.

If confirmed, the order will authorise the local authority to acquire compulsorily the land described in the Schedule hereto for the purposes of carrying out the delivery of the Accessible Pathway to Tullan Strand Beach and all associated works involved with the same in the townland of Finner, County Donegal, which lands are delineated in red and coloured grey (to the extent that permanent acquisition is proposed) and delineated in blue and hatched blue (to the extent that temporary acquisition is proposed) on the map, sealed with the seal of the local authority and deposited at the offices of the local authority hereafter referred to as "the CPO map".

Owners, lessees and occupiers of the land described in the Schedule will receive individual written notice. Any objection to the said Compulsory Purchase Order should be made in writing to An Coimisiún Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 so as to reach An Coimisiún Pleanála on or before the **21st day of July 2026**.

An Coimisiún Pleanála cannot confirm a Compulsory Purchase Order in respect of the land if an objection is made in respect of the acquisition by an owner, lessee or occupier of the land, and not withdrawn, until it has considered the objection(s). Before making its decision on an application to confirm the Compulsory Purchase Order, An Coimisiún Pleanála must also consider any additional submissions or observations made pursuant to Section 217-A of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2025 and, if an oral hearing is held, any report of the person who held the oral hearing.

An Coimisiún Pleanála may at its absolute discretion, hold an oral hearing into the matter.

A copy of the order and of the CPO map may be inspected from the 2nd of June 2026 at all reasonable hours (from 9:00am to 12:30 pm & 1:00pm to 4:30pm) Monday to Friday at the Council Offices 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.

The Compulsory Purchase Order can also be viewed on the Donegal County Council website consult.donegal.ie

A person may question the validity of the decision of 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).

Practical information on the review mechanism can be accessed under the heading Planning Appeals on the An Coimisiún Pleanála website www.pleanala.ie

SCHEDULE

The lands to which the Compulsory Purchase Order relates in the townland of Finner, County Donegal, which lands are delineated in red and coloured grey (indicating that permanent acquisition is proposed) and delineated in blue and hatched blue (to the extent that temporary acquisition is proposed) on the Map, entitled Donegal County Council Compulsory Purchase Order 2026, Drawing no. 2019012-04-001 ("the CPO Map") and deposited at the offices of the local authority.

Number on map deposited at the offices of the Local Authority	Quantity, description and situation of the land			Owners or Reputed Owners	Lessees or Reputed Lessees	Occupiers
	Area in Hectares	Townland	Description			
01A	0.577	Finner	Cliff, Public Road & Unauthorised Beach Access Lane	Marlene Fergus	-	Tullan Tin Can (Erin Fergus) Bundoran Surf Co (Aidan Browne & Pete Craig)
02A	2.184	Finner	Field, Cliff & Beach	Cathleen Dolan	Donal Connolly	Donal Connolly
02B	0.084	Finner	Field	Cathleen Dolan	Donal Connolly	Donal Connolly

Majella McElchar, Staff Officer,
Donegal County Council.

Dated this 28th May 2026.