

Children face 'unfair' transition year process

Jess Casey
Education Correspondent

Children are being excluded, or cannot fully participate in Transition Year (TY), simply because their families cannot afford it, the children's watchdog has warned.

Some schools also appear to be failing young people by not having fair application processes in place when it comes to accessing TY.

It follows a report by the Office of the Children's Ombudsman (OCO) which found that some schools' TY access policies lack transparency, may be considered potentially discriminatory, and are oftentimes seen as inaccessible.

The report was initiated by the OCO after it received complaints from young people who have been refused a place in their school's TY programme, due to behaviour, mental health, or disability.

Parents who spoke to the OCO also highlighted a lack of transparency when it comes to how TY places are allocated.

There is no doubt that TY can be a life-changing time for many students in Ireland, according to Nuala Ward, director of investigations at the OCO.

"It is therefore concerning that some schools appear to be failing many young

people by not having fair and transparent application and appeals processes in place," she said.

"Indeed, some schools could, potentially, be considered discriminatory as there is a failure by some schools to provide reasonable accommodations for children with disabilities or mental health difficulties in schools where there is a competitive process to access TY."

The report highlights the experience of a young person whose absences from school due to bullying went against him when it came to getting a TY place.

"It also includes the experiences of a young person with Down syndrome who failed to secure a TY place after being interviewed by five adults with no reasonable accommodations in place.

"The cost of TY is also of concern," Ms Ward said. "There is a significant disparity in the cost of TY between schools and in some cases children are excluded, or cannot fully participate, simply because their parents cannot afford it. This is unacceptable.

"In our view, it is a significant decision by a school to exclude a child from entry to this hugely advantageous year and therefore any decision-making process requires the highest level of transparency and fairness."

On the run



Ryan Treacy runs up the track after his fall from Spring Meadow at Listowel yesterday. Both horse and jockey were fine afterwards. SEE Sport 16. Picture: Healy Racing

Chinese nationals hit with crowbar at home, court hears

■ Two accused men remanded in custody after alleged attack

Liam Heylin

Three Chinese nationals — an engineer and two language students — were beaten horrifically with a crowbar by two intruders who burst into their bedrooms in Cork City even though the victims were complying with everything asked of them.

Detective Garda Brian Barron objected to bail being granted to the two accused men who were arrested and brought before Cork District Court on multiple charges arising out of the incident.

During his evidence of the allegations in the case, the detective said the victims complied in every way with the demands of the intruders handing over all their cash and phones.

However, even after they had done so, they were beaten with a crowbar and seriously injured. The entire incident went on for seven minutes.

The injured parties were in their early to mid-30s. Det Garda Barron testified: "It is alleged that at 5.45am on April 17, Gerard Quinlan and Aidan Cullinane entered a dwelling house at Millard St, Cork City, as intruders.

"They were not known to the people living there — three occupants who are Chinese nationals. They were asleep at their home. "The intruders burst into the two upstairs bedrooms simultaneously, demanding cash and mobile phones from the three petrified victims.

"It is alleged that following complete compliance with the demands of the two and having handed over what little money and mobile phones they had, the three residents were then subjected to a vicious and sustained assault at the hands of Aidan Cullinane and Gerard Quinlan, where all three were beaten with a crowbar.

"It resulted in significant injuries. One man had a 7cm laceration to his forehead and other injuries. "A young woman had a 4cm laceration to her scalp and multiple abrasions and bruising to her face, arm, shoulder abdomen and back.

She sustained three broken ribs. A second woman suffered several wounds to her dominant right hand, including two broken bones. It required surgical intervention and stabilisation by insertion of metal wire.

The horrific ordeal lasted approximately seven minutes. They escaped with €200 approximately and a laptop."

Recovery time from the physical injuries has been put at various lengths from three to 12 months.

Det Garda Barron said: "A huge quantity of CCTV was harvested in the investigation tracking suspects to and from the scene."

The detective said no bail conditions would satisfy the State and he said that there were real concerns for the safety of the community if either of the accused was released on bail.

Aidan Cullinane, represented by solicitor Frank Buttiner, and Gerard Quinlan, represented by barrister William Bulman, were both refused bail by Judge Philip O'Leary who remanded them in custody until October 2 at Cork District Court.

Sergeant John Kelleher said directions would be sought from the DPP.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE AN CHLÁIR
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

FÓGRA DE BHUN ALT 175 AGUS ALT 177AE DEN ACHT UM PLEANÁIL AGUS FORBAIRT, 2000, ARNA LEASÚ, AGUS NA RIALACHÁN UM PLEANÁIL AGUS FORBAIRT, 2001, ARNA LEASÚ

SCÉIM FAOISIMH TUILTE CHILL CHAOI I MBAILTE FEARAINN CHILL CHAOI, CO. AN CHLÁIR

FÓGRA I DTAOBH IARRATAIS PLEANÁLA CHUIG AN MBORD PLEANÁLA AR CHEADÚ

Tugtar fógra leis seo go bhfuil sé de rún ag Comhairle Contae an Chláir ceadó a lorg ón mBord Pleanála faoi Alt 175 agus Alt 177AE den Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt, 2000, arna leasú, chun oibreacha beartaithe a dhéanamh i mbailte fearainn Chill Chaoi, Co. an Chláir.

Tá an forbairt bheartaithe sácmhainní cosanta do bharrthuille comhléanta de na nithe seo a leanas:

- Is é atá sna hoibreacha beartaithe ná claoirt nua a thógáil ag Óstán Bhá Chill Chaoi.
- Bealach oscailte a chur ar mhálairt síl i dtreo lár na tuillemhá, agus ceannbhalla agus lintear cuaisín nua a shuiteáil faoi bhun an chlaifort.
- Airde an bhalla teorann láithreach ag Eastát Dhún an Óir a mhéadú.
- Claoirt nua a thógáil ag an bPáirc Títhe Soghluaithe agus Carbáin Páirc an Ghainimh.
- An scéilín smionagair láithreach ag Waterworld Chill Chaoi a athsholáthar.
- Dhá dhúpholl cuaisín a thógáil ag Cúirt Radhar na Cluana.
- Na dúphoil agus na lintear láithreacha ar Thrá Chill Chaoi a uasghrúid.
- Claoirt a thógáil ar an taobh thiar theas de Pháirc Saoire Cunningham.
- U-bhealach coircreíte a shuiteáil leath ailíniú reatha Shruith an Tobair.
- Lintear láithreach Shruith an Tobair ag Plás an Chorráin a athsholáthar.
- An balla teorann ó 20 Cúirt Victoria chuig 21 Cúirt Victoria a athsholáthar.
- Na ballaí láithreacha ag Plás an Chorráin a dhéanú agus a athsholáthar.
- Claoirt nua a thógáil taobh thiar de Bhóthar Charraig an Chhabhaltaigh.
- Balla nua cosanta tuilte a thógáil leath bhuacha na líamhe clé ó Bhruach Victoria chuig Plás an Chorráin.
- Bealach oscailte a chur ar mhálairt síl i dtreo lár na tuillemhá, agus an bealach oscailte láithreach a líonadh isteach.
- Balla teorann Chorrán Victoria a atógáil.
- Claoirt nua a thógáil ar an taobh thuaidh de Pháirc Victoria.
- Claoirt nua a thógáil ar an taobh theas de Chorrán Victoria.
- Bealach oscailte a chur ar mhálairt síl i dtreo lár na tuillemhá, agus bealach láithreach a líonadh isteach.
- Tuillemhá a athghrúidú i ngort ar an taobh thuaidh d'eastát Chluain na Mara.
- Tuillemhá a athghrúidú i ngort ar an taobh thiar de Pháirc Saoire Cunningham.
- Áirítear leis na hoibreacha beartaithe tógáil bóithre, athghrúidú bóithre, oibreacha draenála, leagan crann, cur crann, tírdhreach, agus na hoibreacha coimeádacha gaolmhaire uile eile.

Ullmháidh Tuarsaíocht Mheasúnach Tionchair Timpéallachta agus Ráiteas Tionchair Natura mar chuid den iarratas i leith na forbartha beartaithe

Féadfaidh an Bord Pleanála an t-iarratas ar fhorbairt a chheadú fua coiníollacha nó gan coiníollacha nó féadfaidh sé a iarratas ar fhorbairt a dhíolú.

Beidh cóip de phleananna agus sonraí na forbartha beartaithe, den Tuarsaíocht Mheasúnach Tionchair Timpéallachta agus Ráiteas Tionchair Natura ar fáil lena n-úinéirí chomh maith le áise (nó féadfar iad a cheannach ar tháille shonraithe a íoc, ar láille i nach mbeidh níos airde ná an costas réasúnach a bhaineann le cóip den sórt sin a dhéanamh) le linn uaireanta oscailte poiblí (gan Laethanta Saoire Poiblí a íreamh) ón 03/10/2024 go dtí an 15/11/2024 (agus an dá dháta sin san áireamh) ag na láithreacha seo a leanas:

- Oifig an Bhoird Pleanála, 64 Sráid Mhaoilbhríde, Baile Átha Cláith 1, D01 V902
- Comhairle Contae an Chláir, Áras Contae an Chláir, Bóthar Nua, Inis, Co. an Chláir, V95 DXP2
- Oifigí Cathartha Chill Rois, Halla an Bhaile, Chill Rois, Contae an Chláir, V15 XK70
- Oifig Comhairle Inis Diomáin, Bóthar Inse, Inis Diomáin, Contae an Chláir, V95 YX81

Féadfar amharc ar phleananna agus sonraí an iarratais, ar an Tuarsaíocht Mheasúnach Tionchair Timpéallachta agus Ráiteas Tionchair Natura, nó iad a íoslódáil, ag an suíomh Gréasáin seo a leanas freisin: www.pleanala.ie

Féadfar aighneachtaí nó tuairimí maidir leis an fhorbairt beartaithe a bhailteair leis:

- I. Impleachtaí na forbartha beartaithe do phleanáil chui agus forbairt inchoibthaithe sa limistéir lena mbainneann, agus
- II. Na héifeachtaí is dóigh a bheidh ag an fhorbairt bheartaithe ar an gcomsháol, má dhéantar í, agus
- III. Na héifeachtaí suntasacha is dóigh a bheidh ag an fhorbairt bheartaithe ar láithreach Eorpach, má dhéantar í.

a dhéanamh i scríbhinn, agus i scríbhinn amháin chui an mBord Pleanála ("an Bord"), 64 Sráid Mhaoilbhríde, Baile Átha Cláith 1, D01 V902.

Ní foláir tálle €50 a bheith ag gabháil le haon aighneacht/tuairimí (seachas i gcás comhlachtaí forordaithe áirithe) agus ní foláir iad a bheith faighte ag an mBord Pleanála tráth nach déanar ná 5.00pm an 15/11/25. Ní foláir d'aighneachtaí nó tuairimí an teideal "Scéim Faoisimh Tuilte Chill Chaoi" a bheith orthu agus an fhaisnéis seo a leanas a bheith san áireamh:

1. Ainm an duine, an údarás nó an comhlachta atá ag déanamh na haigneachta nó atá ag tabhairt na tuairimí, ainm an duine atá ag gníomhú thair ceann an duine, an údarás nó an comhlachta sin, más ann, agus an seoldh ar cheart an chomhlachtagras a bhaineann leis an iarratas a sheoldh chui,
2. Ábhar na haigneachta nó na tuairimí, agus
3. Na cúiseanna pleanála a bhaineann leis an aighneacht (i.e. cúisín agus argóintí) agus aon mhíreanna gur mhaith leat a chur le do chúiseanna nó do thuairimí.

Féadfaidh aon duine bailtocht ón chmhdh ón mBord Pleanála ar an iarratas ar chead a cheistiú trí bhíthin iarratas a dhéanamh ar ábhairbheith breithínach, faoi Ordú 84 de Rialachán 2001/2004 a bhaineann le rialacha Eorpacha, ar 15.10.2011, de réir alt 10 den Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt, 2000, arna leasú.

Féadfar faisnéis phraiticiúil faoin sásra ábhairbheithne a rochtain faon ceanteideal "Foisreacháin - Fógraí agus Ábhairbheithne Breithínach" ar shuíomh Gréasáin an Bhoird ag www.pleanala.ie nó ar shuíomh Gréasáin na Seirbhisí um Fhaisnéis do Shaoirnáigh ag www.citizeninformation.ie

Ba cheart aon cheisteanna a bhaineann leis an bpróiseas iarratais a chur ar an mBord Pleanála (Teileafón: 01 8588100).

Arna dháta an 27ú lá seo de mhí Mheán Fómhair 2024.

Alan Farrell, Stúrthóir Seirbhisí.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE AN CHLÁIR
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

NOTICE PURSUANT TO SECTION 175 AND SECTION 177AE OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000, AS AMENDED AND THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001, AS AMENDED KILKEE FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME IN THE TOWNLANDS OF KILKEE, CO. CLARE NOTICE OF PLANNING APPLICATION TO AN BORD PLEANÁLA FOR APPROVAL

Notice is hereby given that Clare County Council intends to seek approval from An Bord Pleanála under Section 175 and Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act 2000, As Amended to carry out proposed works in the townlands of Kilkee, Co. Clare. The proposed development of fluvial flood defence assets comprises of the following:

- A new embankment to the south of the Kilkee Bay Hotel.
- A diversion of the open channel to the south of the Kilkee Bay Hotel into the centre of the floodplain and the installation of a new headwall and inlet culvert under the new embankment.
- The increase in height of the existing boundary wall at the Dún an Óir Estate.
- A new embankment at the Sandpark Mobile Home and Caravan Park.
- The replacement of the existing debris screen at Kilkee Waterworld.
- The construction of two inlet manholes on an existing culvert at Meadow View Court.
- Upgrades to the existing Atlantic Stream culvert system at Moore Bay, including the installation of non-return valves.
- A new embankment to the west of Cunningham's Holiday Park and the installation of a new headwall and inlet culvert under the new embankment.
- A new reinforced concrete u-channel along the existing Well Stream alignment to the north of Cunningham's Holiday Park.
- The replacement of the existing Well Stream culvert at Crescent Place.
- The resurfacing and regrading of the Well Road, the junction of Well Road with Marine Parade and the junction of Geraldine Place with Marine Parade.
- New surface water pump stations at Well Road and Carrigaholt Road and associated infrastructure.
- New surface water drainage infrastructure at Well Road, Crescent Place, Victoria Park and Carrigaholt Road.
- New sluice gates at various locations along the Well Stream and Victoria Stream flood defences.
- The reconstruction of the Victoria Court boundary wall along the Victoria Stream.
- Repairs and replacement of the Victoria Stream left bank wall at Crescent Place.
- A new embankment to the west of Carrigaholt Road.
- A new flood defence wall along the left bank of the existing Victoria Stream alignment from Victoria Park to Crescent Place.
- A diversion of the Victoria Stream to the centre of the floodplain to the west of Carrigaholt Road.
- The reconstruction of the Victoria Crescent boundary wall along the Victoria Stream.
- A new embankment to the north of Victoria Crescent.
- A new embankment to the south-west of Cunningham's Holiday Park.
- A diversion of the Western Tributary to the centre of the floodplain to the north of the Cluain na Mara estate and a new outlet culvert under the new embankment.
- The regrading of lands to the north of the Cluain na Mara estate and to the west of Cunningham's Holiday Park.
- The proposed works include for road reconstruction, road regrading, drainage works, tree felling, tree planting, landscaping and all associated ancillary works.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EiAR) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) have been prepared as part of the application in respect of the proposed development.

An Bord Pleanála may give approval to the application for development with or without conditions or may refuse the application for development.

A copy of the plans and particulars of the proposed development, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EiAR) and the Natura Impact Statement (NIS) will be available for inspection free of charge, (or may be purchased on payment of a specified fee which shall not exceed the reasonable cost of making such a copy) during public opening hours (excluding Public Holidays) from 03/10/2024 to 15/11/2024 (inclusive of both dates), at the following locations:

- The Offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902
- Clare County Council, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 DXP2
- Kilrush Civic Offices, Town Hall, Kilrush, County Clare V15 XK70
- Ennistymon Council Office, Ennis Road, Ennistymon, County Clare, V95 YX81

The application plans and particulars, the EiAR and NIS may also be viewed at or downloaded from the following website: www.pleanala.ie

Submissions or observations on the proposed development in relation to:

- I. The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development in the area concerned, and
- II. The likely effects on the environment of the proposed development, if carried out, and
- III. The likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European site, if carried out,

may be made in writing only to An Bord Pleanála ("the Board"), 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 D01 V902.

Any submissions / observations must be accompanied by a fee of €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies) and must be received by An Bord Pleanála not later than 5.00 p.m. on 15/11/24. Such submissions or observations should be titled "Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme" and must include the following information:

1. The name of the person, authority or body making the submission or observation, the name of the person, if any, acting on behalf of that person, authority or body, and the address to which any correspondence relating to the application should be sent,
2. The subject matter of the submission or observation, and
3. The planning grounds of the observation (i.e. reasons and arguments), and any items you wish to support your grounds or observation.

Any person may question the validity of any such decision by An Bord Pleanála made in respect of the application for permission by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rule of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986, as amended by S.I. No. 691 of 2011), 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 Publications – Judicial Review Notice on the Board's website www.pleanala.ie or the Citizens Information Service website www.citizeninformation.ie

Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to An Bord Pleanála (Telephone: 01 8588100).

Dated this 27th September 2024.

Alan Farrell, Director of Services.

