



Jamie Dinnegan has been released from prison

Gardaí are on 'high alert' as criminal and Cab target Dinnegan free

LIAM COSGROVE

A feared midlands-based criminal and major target for the Criminal Assets Bureau is enjoying his first taste of freedom after being jailed last year over a serious feud-related incident.

Father-of-one Jamie Dinnegan (34) was released from prison having been sentenced to 18 months behind bars last July for his part in a violent incident in a Longford town housing estate three-and-a-half years ago.

Dinnegan, who has over a dozen previous convictions to his name, sustained only bruising and "scrape-like cuts" to his leg after he was struck by a van at Palace Crescent, in Ardnacassa, Longford, on January 24, 2022. A sitting of Longford Circuit Criminal Court last July was told that Dinnegan was heard shouting: "You're dead, I'm killing you, ye're leaving this place", at a rival just seconds before he was struck by the van.

When gardaí arrived, including members of the armed support unit, they found Dinnegan stretched out on the ground in a vest and boxer shorts while being tended to by his wife and a number of others.

Dinnegan and Noel Ward (27) of Springlawn, Longford, both pleaded guilty to counts of affray. Ward was released months earlier after being jailed for a total of 14 months.

Family members including his wife and parents greeted the Longford criminal upon his release from prison.

Dinnegan was recently caught with a large quantity of suspected drugs during a search of his cell at Castlereagh Prison in Co. Roscommon.

It is understood that around 70 wraps containing a white powder were found during searches, with the powdered substance later being sent for analysis.

No criminal charges have resulted from that raid, as of yet.

Gardaí remain on high alert about any potential renewal of a feud that has seized the midlands town.

Sources have revealed how the self-proclaimed car dealer has already been throwing his weight around in the days since his release.

"A load of them were trying to get into pubs last night in town," a source said.

"When they were refused entry, a bar worker was told: 'He's the boss of this town and no one will stop him entering any pub, and that he owns all of the people and the pubs'."

Criminal feuding has been a long-running bone of contention for local politicians.

Local Fianna Fáil councillor Seamus Butler urged senior garda management to maintain a "very close eye" on Dinnegan and his associates.

Mr Butler said that while gardaí were acutely aware of Dinnegan's release, the need for caution was palpable.

"He's probably doing a tour of the town to put down his marker to say the boys are back in town," Mr Butler said.

"I think the guards would want to keep a very close eye on any of these things and nip it in the bud before it develops into more serious criminal violence. I don't use the term feuding because it puts some kind of veneer of a reason for it."

"There is no excuse for serious criminal violence, be it between families or drugs debts. It needs to be dealt with, and I am sure the guards are very aware of it."

Dinnegan's reintegration into society will also be of particular interest to high-ranking Cab officials following the seizure and subsequent sale of his family home in the same Ardnacassa estate last November.



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PLANNING APPLICATION TO AN BORD PLEANÁLA FOR APPROVAL

NOTICE PURSUANT TO:

SECTION 175 AND 177AE OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000, AS AMENDED, AND THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001-2025, AS AMENDED.

Laois County Council give notice of their intention to make an application seeking the approval of An Bord Pleanála under Section 175 and 177AE of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, for the following proposed development:

Clonaslee Flood Relief Scheme

The proposed development will consist of flood relief works along, adjacent to, and in the vicinity of the Clodiagh River, in the townlands of Brittas, Bunastick, Clonaslee, Ballynakill and Brockagh, in County Laois, within Laois County Council's administrative boundary.

The proposed flood relief works will consist of the construction and/or installation of:

- A flood defence embankment (c. 145 m long and a maximum height of 0.9 m above existing ground level) with a paved-surfaced crest replacing a section of the existing amenity pathway in Brittas Wood;
- A concrete culvert headwall for the existing culvert within Brittas Wood;
- A debris trap consisting of 6 no. concrete cast poles (each c. 3 m in height) over a concrete base in the channel of the Clodiagh River along Brittas Wood, and an associated access slipway with fencing and access gate;
- A reinforced concrete flood defence wall with a stone finish (c. 235 m long and a maximum height of 1.2 m) with associated public footpath (c. 140 m long and 1.8 m wide) adjacent to the western elevation of an existing wall along Chapel Street;
- A flood defence embankment (c. 130 m long and a maximum height of 0.9 m) with a grass-seeded surface on the western bank of the Clodiagh River, northeast of Chapel Street;
- A reinforced concrete flood defence wall (c. 70 m long and a maximum height of 0.6 m) on the eastern bank of the River Clodiagh within the grounds of Clonaslee's Integrated Constructed Wetlands (ICW); and
- All associated and ancillary development works to facilitate the proposed flood relief works, including clearance and vegetation removal; installation of 2 no. temporary construction compounds with associated facilities; temporary construction signage and fencing; replacement of public lighting; fencing and gates; planting, reseeding, and biodiversity enhancement measures.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) has been prepared in respect of the proposed development. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been prepared 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.

The application documentation, including the EIAR and the NIS, is available for inspection free of charge or purchased on payment of a specified fee (which fee shall not exceed the reasonable cost of making such copy) for a minimum period of 6 weeks from 18th June 2025 to 30th July 2025 (inclusive of both dates), at the following locations:

- The Laois County Council, Áras an Chontae, James Fintan Lalor Avenue, Portlaoise, County Laois, R32 EHP9 during public opening hours, Mondays to Fridays (bank holidays excluded).
- Clonaslee Heritage Centre, Clonaslee, County Laois, R32 EH3F during public opening hours, Mondays to Fridays (bank holidays excluded).
- The offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V0902, during public opening hours, Mondays to Fridays (bank holidays excluded).
- Laois County Council Consultation Portal, at the following website <https://consult.laois.ie/en/consultation/clonaslee-flood-relief-scheme>

Submissions or observations may be made, in writing, to An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V0902, or online at <https://www.pleanala.ie/en-IE/Observation-on-a-strategic-infrastructure-devel> in respect of:

- The implications of the proposed development dealing with the proper planning and development of the area in which the development is concerned;
- The likely effects on the environment of the proposed development; and
- The likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European Site, if carried out.

Any submission / observation must be accompanied by a fee of €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies) and must be received by An Bord Pleanála before 17:30 hours on 30th July 2025, and must include the following information:

- the name of the person making the submission or observation, the name of the person acting on his or her behalf, if any, and the address to which any correspondence relating to the application should be sent;
- the subject matter of the submission or observation; and
- the reasons, considerations and arguments on which the submission or observation is based in full.

Any submissions or observations which do not comply with the above requirements cannot be considered by the Board. A submission or observation duly made will be considered by the Board in making a decision on the application.

The Board may, at its absolute discretion, hold an oral hearing on the application.

The Board may, in respect of an application for permission, decide to:

- grant the permission, or
 - make such modifications to the proposed development as it specifies in its decision and grant permission in respect of the proposed development as so modified, or
 - grant permission in respect of part of the proposed development (with or without specified modifications of it of the foregoing kind), and any of the above decisions may be subject to or without conditions, or
- refuse to grant the permission.

A person may question the validity of any such decision by the Board 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 Publications – Judicial Review Notice on the Board's website www.pleanala.ie or the Citizens Information website www.citizensinformation.ie

Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to the Strategic Infrastructure Section of An Bord Pleanála (Telephone No. 01 8588100).

Signed: County Secretary,
Laois County Council.

Date: 10th June 2025.

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