

# Barnes Nolan & Associates Ltd.,

## Architecture

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**Pat Lalor : Retention Application Ref Number 19-200**

*18<sup>th</sup> June 2020*

### Clarification on Stock Numbers

Each farm building can accommodate different numbers of animals at different stages of the year, every year this is decided by the farmer depending on the stock numbers to be housed during the closed winter period.

Application No. 17-218 Granted by Laois County Council, and after submission to An Bord Pleanala by the neighbouring farmers. The inspectors report ABP – 300315-17, Item no. 7.2.2 & 7.2.3 the inspector notes that the shed can accommodate more animals than stated on the planning application form, 55 dairy cows and 55 young cattle. He notes that the calving boxes could accommodate a further 38/63 livestock units.

Firstly Calving boxes are mainly used to house 1-2 of cows or heifers during calving, it is a special facility built for the safety of a farmer during calving. Cows can become aggressive and nervous before a calf is born, calving cows is dangerous. Farmers are urged to provide a safe place for the cow, the calf and the farmer. Calving gates and equipment are needed and are kept in calving boxes for use during delivery. The calving boxes are essential as calves born on slats or in cubicles are in danger, as they can be laid on by other cows causing death. These boxes are usually kept free during the calving period. However farmers can utilise all their sheds as they see fit once the overall stock waste rates are calculated and apply to the capacities available within their holding.

Stock numbers and ratios can change from season to season, this year any shed could hold milking cows. Next year it may hold in-calf heifers. A farmer may decide to out-winter a ratio of stock on permitted winter feeding planes. They can also change to straw bedding where preferred of depending on the availability of the straw from year to year.

Stock numbers change and animals are housed for the winter with new farm plans every year. It was for this reason that we decided that within the planning application 19-200 we needed to demonstrate that the entire holding was compliant with stocking rates to storage ratios. The number of animals in the shed on any day still means that the farm is complying with the department's guidelines' for effluent storage during the closed period.

The Effluent, FYM & Soiled Water Calculations report for 19-200 application show calculations for the stock numbers, and the holding capacity of the entire holding which was compliant.

The Effluent, FYM & Soiled Water Calculations Revised report submitted for the further information was asked to shown the calculations for the Grennan holding only and asked if all slurry generated at the holding could be facilitated at this site. The reality is that the farmer has plenty of land away

from the sensitive areas to spread his slurry, and the rates at which it is currently applied are considered low. As noted the clients has not applied seasonal slurry to the areas shown red on the planning maps since becoming aware of the concerns for the natura zone.

This note has been prepared by Barnes Nolan & Associates on foot of our report within the planning application. Effluent, FYM & Soiled Water Calculations for Pat Lalor, Grennan & Ironmills and Revised Effluent, FYM & Soiled Water Calculations Revised September 2019.

Kind Regards

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