Sub 40

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Subject: EXTERNAL - Submission DCDP-40
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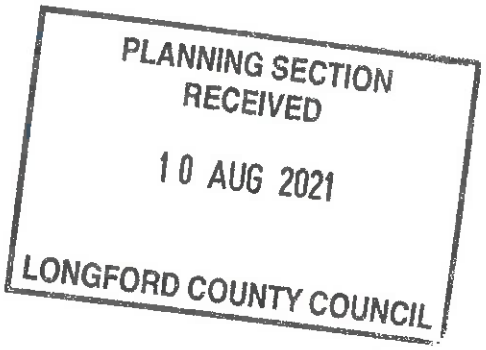

Sub 40

Submission Made by

Emer O Meara

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PLANNING SECTION
RECEIVED
10 AUG 2021
LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

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OBJECTION TO SUBMISSION DCDP-40

Draft Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027

AUGUST 2021

As a concerned member of the public, I am writing to ask that you reject the Chief Executive's recommendation to re-zone the lands of Ardagh Demesne, Ardagh House, and the two gate lodges.

Submission DCDP-40 asks the three dwellings of Ardagh Demesne, Ardagh House and two gate lodges be re-zoned from "Tourism" to "Residential", and the lands of Ardagh Demesne be re-zoned from "Tourism" to "Agriculture".

The Chief Executive in the 'Report on Submissions Received on the Draft County Development Plan 2021-2027' recommends to:

"Remove the "Tourism Use" zoned lands in Ardagh and de-zone the identified lands to Agricultural use to reflect the existing use of the lands.

To zone Ardagh House and the two gate houses as existing residential use.

To zone lands to the south of the Ardagh House as recreation/amenity in order to protect the view of the House from the centre of the village."

In Section 1, I will share personal reasons why protecting Ardagh House, Demesne, and the Ardagh Neighbourhood Park is important to me.

I trust the information provided will ensure that you reject the Chief Executive's recommendation and protect the future of Ardagh House, Demesne, and the Ardagh Neighbourhood Park.

Table of Contents

1. Why Protecting Ardagh House, Demesne, and The Ardagh Neighbourhood Park Is Important to Me 1

2. Built Heritage 1

2.1 Ardagh Demesne 2

2.2 Ardagh House and Gate Lodges 3

3. Community Amenity 5

3.1 The Ardagh Neighbourhood Park 5

3.2 Ardagh Neighbourhood Park Under Threat 6

3.3 Ecosystem Services and Environmental Impact 6

4. Cultural Heritage 7

4.1 Churches and Graveyards 7

4.2 Oliver Goldsmith 7

5. Tourism/Visitor Opportunities 8

5.1 Ardagh Heritage and Creativity Centre 8

5.2 Goldsmith International Literary Festival 8

6. Examples of Successfully Reimagined Landed Estates 9

6.1 Belvedere House, Gardens, and Park, Mullingar, Westmeath 9

6.2 Marlay Park, Rathfarnham, Dublin 10

6.2.1 Marlay Craft Courtyard 10

6.2.2 Marlay Park CoCo Market 10

6.3 Strokestown Park, House, Gardens, & National Famine Museum, Roscommon 11

Notes page 1 ..... **12**

Notes page 2 ..... **13**

Notes page 3 ..... **14**

Appendix I **15**

Appendix II **16**

Appendix III **18**

Appendix IV **21**

Appendix V **23**

1. Why Protecting Ardagh House, Demesne, and The Ardagh Neighbourhood Park Is Important to Me

Ardagh House, Demesne, and the Ardagh Neighbourhood Park are extremely important to me because as a resident I feel Ardagh House is the heart of the village and community and has huge historical importance. Ardagh Village is a tourist area and it attracts visitors because of the history of the Ardagh house and the attached village which was originally built around the house and demesne. With the opening of Center Parcs there has been a notable rise in tourists to our county and I feel that the Longford County Council should be promoting our beautiful village as a tourist destination instead of dezoning it from tourism use to agricultural land, leaving very little protection to its heritage in future years. The neighbourhood park is a wonderful amenity for walkers and visitors in the village and our school children regularly use this park for nature walks as there is no real grass area attached to the national school. The loss of this amenity would be devastating to the village and community.

2. Built Heritage

Ardagh Village is a multi-award-winning heritage village and is one of two Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA) in Longford.

An ACA is defined as "...a place, area, group of structures or townscape which is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or contributes to the appreciation of protected structures. This could include, for example, a terrace of houses, buildings surrounding a square, or any group of buildings which together give a special character to an area. An architectural conservation area may or may not include protected structures. Planning permission must be obtained before significant works can be carried out to the exterior of a structure in an architectural conservation area." [1]

Of the 379 structures listed in the 'Record of Protected Structures' (RPS) in County Longford excluding Longford Town', 46 (12.2%) of the structures are in Ardagh, and 14 (3.7%) of them are part of the demesne. [2]

"Our architectural heritage is a unique resource, an irreplaceable expression of the richness and diversity of our past. Structures and places can, over time, acquire character and special interest through their intrinsic quality, continued existence and familiarity. The built heritage consists not only of great artistic achievements, but also of the everyday works of craftsmen. In a changing world, these structures have a cultural significance which we may recognise for the first time only when individual structures are lost or threatened. As we enjoy this inheritance, we should ensure it is conserved in order to pass it on to our successors." [3]

Appendix I contains the map of the Ardagh Architectural Conservation Area.

Appendix II contains screenshots of the structures in Ardagh listed in the Longford 'Record of Protected Structures'.

A PDF of Submission DCDP-40 is available from here.

A PDF of 'Chief Executive's Report on Submissions Received on the Draft Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 - corrected' is available from here.

2.1 Ardagh Demesne

The first recorded mention of the Fetherston family in Ardagh is of a Thomas Fetherston, who bought a house and 235 acres of land in 1703. Under the Irish Land Act of 1903, Sir George sold over 300 of his tenants the freehold of their farms. He retained Ardagh House and the surrounding lands until his death in 1923. It was purchased by the Sisters of Mercy in 1927, who established a convent and domestic science school, hence Ardagh House also being known as St. Brigid's Training Centre. [4] The demesne was sold to the current owners in June 2012.

James Rawson Carroll, a highly regarded Dublin architect, was employed by in the early 1860s to carry out extensive (re)designing of the demesne and village, which allows Ardagh to boast the very unusual for Ireland claim of being a planned village. The demesne coach yard and stables were refurbished in the 1990s funded by public grants, the works were carried out by FÁS workers.

Additional demesne structures listed in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage include:

- A walled garden dating from the mid-1700s. This substantial walled garden retains much of its early character and form. The boundary walls and gateways are well built. Retention of attractive features such as the bell pull augments the significance of the site and allow for a sense of its history to remain. [5]
- Detached six-bay single-storey dairy/outbuildings said to have been built in 1830. [6]
- Freestanding group of nine carved stone bollards on crescent-shaped plan, erected c. 1880. This group of nine cut stone bollards represents an integral, if subtle, element of a group of related sites/structures associated with the Ardagh House demesne. Groups of carved stone bollards such as these are becoming a rare sight in the Irish landscape, making this group an interesting survival. [7]

Of the 50 structures listed on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage for Ardagh, 15 of them are part of the demesne. [8]

A ringfort within the demesne is scheduled to be included in the next revision of the 'Record of Monuments and Places'. [9]

2.2 Ardagh House and Gate Lodges

Ardagh House is considered to have been built during the 1730s. It was originally a three-storey over-basement country house. The house was partially destroyed by fire in 1922 during Irish Civil War and a further fire in 1948 caused a reduction to the current two-stories.

There are two gate lodges. The gate lodge located at the west entrance is the West Lodge, and the gate lodge located at the southeast entrance is the Villa Maria Lodge. Both structures were constructed c. 1863 and formed part of the overall work led by James Rawson Carroll.

"The symmetrical form of the West Lodge provides it with an appropriate sense of formality at the entrance to Ardagh House. The work of skilled stonemasons is apparent in its construction, particularly in the treatment of the doorcase, the windows and the block quoins." [10]

"The vaguely vernacular/Arts and Crafts form of [the Villa Maria] structure is in contrast to the classical formality of the West Lodge. This is accentuated by the landscaped garden, and the use of the open porch as a feature. The work of skilled stonemasons is apparent in its construction and detailing. It is well-built using good quality stone and retains much of its original fabric, particularly to the main elevation (west)." [11]

Under Section 58 (1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, "Each owner and each occupier shall, to the extent consistent with the rights and obligations arising out of their respective interests in a protected structure or a proposed protected structure, ensure that the structure, or any element of it which contributes to its special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest, is not endangered." [12]

Robert O'Byrne, a writer and lecturer specialising in the fine and decorative arts, who has a blog called The Irish Aesthete, was granted access to Ardagh House and Demesne in late 2020. His blog post, Stooped but not yet Conquered, includes photographs of Ardagh House and some of the demesne structures.

Appendix III contains photographs of Ardagh House, the coach yard, and stables from Mr. O'Byrne's blog post.

3. Community Amenity

Community amenities play a pivotal role in encouraging people to move to an area, but more crucially, whether they choose to stay. The restrictions imposed since March 2020 have highlighted the need of ensuring amenities in local communities are developed and/or maintained.

3.1 The Ardagh Neighbourhood Park

In 1989, four acres of land were donated by two landowners to the Ardagh Tidy Town's Committee. Dr. Christy Boylan, the former President of the Tree Council of Ireland, oversaw the planning and design of the community amenity space.

In January 1990, two thousand native trees were planted, thus creating the Ardagh Neighbourhood Park.

"The aims of 'The Neighbourhood Park' would be [to] provide a recreational area for the local inhabitants and for visitors and to give an awareness of the environmental values of the site.

The main aim of the tree planting programme is to provide a range of species for timber educational and wildlife value."

On March 4th of 1990, Taoiseach Charles Haughey visited the park to plant a sessile oak and unveil a commemorative plaque.

Other visitors on the day included Mr. Albert Reynolds (then Minister of Finance), Mrs. Mary O'Rourke (then Minister for Education), and Mr. Louis Belton (then Longford-Westmeath TD).

Appendix IV contains photographs of the Ardagh Neighbourhood Park information board in the Ardagh Heritage Centre, including photographs of the opening day event.

Appendix V contains photographs of the 1994 Longford Leader article, 'Ardagh Heritage Centre – a dream come true', about the opening of the Ardagh Heritage Centre, including a piece on the Ardagh Neighbourhood Park.

3.2 Ardagh Neighbourhood Park Under Threat

The Ardagh Neighbourhood Park is included in the folio of the demesne and would be subject to re-zoning should the Chief Executive's recommendation be accepted. The loss of the park (to the community) would be devastating.

The park is walked daily by community residents, visitors to the village, and/or tourists. Since 2012, it is estimated that between 35,000 to 40,000 people have visited the Heritage Centre and over 90% have then gone for a walk in the park.

The Tidy Towns Competition 2017 'Adjudication Report' notes "The road in from Edgeworthstown by the Heritage Centre was well presented with the tree lined entrance making it very appealing to the first-time visitor." [13]

In October 2017, unlicenced tree-felling of a significant number of trees in the park occurred. Without immediate intervention by community residents, it is possible all the trees that make up part of the aforementioned "tree lined entrance" could have been lost. The lasting impact of this tree felling is still clearly evident.

3.3 Ecosystem Services and Environmental Impact

The importance of the park extends to other ecosystem services (ES) which "are the contributions of ecosystem structure and function (in combination with other inputs) to human well-being. This implies that mankind is strongly dependent on well-functioning ecosystems and natural capital that are the basis for a constant flow of ES from nature to society." [14]

A mature woodland provides the ecosystem services of:

- Carbon sequestration and climate regulation
- Habitat provision which helps protect biodiversity
- Flood protection
- Waste decomposition and detoxification
- Purification of air and water
- Nutrient cycling

4. Cultural Heritage

Each (protected) structure in Ardagh forms an integral link to the built and cultural heritage of the area and Longford.

4.1 Churches and Graveyards

St. Patrick founded a church in Ardagh during the mid-5th century. Evidence of a wooden church from the 7th century was found on the site of 'St. Mel's Cathedral', with the existing structure dating from the 9th century.

Ardagh was confirmed as a diocesan during the 1100s. The (lower) church was probably built during this period and served as the cathedral. [15]

The Church of Ireland church, St. Patrick's, was completed in 1810. The construction of St. Brigid's Church began in 1881, initially with William Hague as the lead architect, and was completed in 1903 by T.F. McNamara. "This spectacular Gothic Roman Catholic church is one of the finest churches of its type in date in Leinster, and perhaps in Ireland." [16]

In December 2013, local historian Luke Baxter in association with Ardagh Tidy Town's Committee released the book, 'Our Roots in Stone', which "contains the gravestone inscriptions from the two oldest cemeteries [lower churchyard and St. Patrick's Church] in Ardagh Village as well as other genealogical information on the area". [17] [18]

Plaques displaying the layout and details of the graveyards have been erected in the lower churchyard and at St. Patrick's Church. [19]

4.2 Oliver Goldsmith

Oliver Goldsmith is said to have used an incident of mistaking Ardagh House for an inn as the inspiration for his 1773 comedy, 'She Stoops to Conquer'.

"On reaching the outskirts of Ardagh he unknowingly falls in with a local trickster, Cornelius Kelly, and demands to be directed to 'the best inn in the

neighbourhood'. Kelly takes great satisfaction in directing the high-handed youth to Squire Featherstone's rambling country house." [20]

5. Tourism/Visitor Opportunities

The creation of a circular economy is paramount to ensuring the viability and future of rural communities.

5.1 Ardagh Heritage and Creativity Centre

The Ardagh Heritage and Creativity Centre opened in 2012. On Friday, the 14th of March 2014, approximately 1,000 people welcomed President Michael D. Higgins for a tour of the centre and watched as he planted a weeping willow using the traditional 'Tree Planting Spade'. [21]

Prior to restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the centre secured an average of 5,000 visitors per year. Countless visitors, including descendants of the Fetherston's, have expressed an interest in visiting Ardagh House and touring the demesne.

5.2 Goldsmith International Literary Festival

The Goldsmith International Literary Festival was "founded to celebrate the literary genius of Oliver Goldsmith and to promote Goldsmith Country as tourist attraction it has over the years explored many aspects of Goldsmith's life, society, and writings." [22]

Ardagh Village is the second stop on 'The Goldsmith Trail'. Unfortunately, participants are unable to visit Ardagh House. Nor is it possible for the festival to include it on their Literary Tour, or as a location for events during the festival.

Speakers at previous festivals have included:

- Noel Monahan (Poet)
- Cian McCormack (Reporter, RTÉ)
- Donall Mac An Bheatha (Senior Planner, Longford County Council)
- Gráinne Ní Aodha (Journalist, The Journal)

- Dr Monica Gorman (Lecturer in agricultural extension & innovation, UCD)

6. Examples of Successfully Reimagined Landed Estates

Landed estates, heritage, and/or protected structures across the country have successfully shown the key roles they play in encouraging (domestic) tourism and providing employment opportunities.

6.1 Belvedere House, Gardens, and Park, Mullingar, Westmeath

Westmeath County Council purchased the Belvedere estate in 1982 for £250,000 and it is estimated to have over 160,000 visitors per year. [23]

Belvedere includes:

- Belvedere House, built in 1740
- Belvedere Follies:
    - The Jealous Wall
    - Octagonal Gazebo
    - Gothic Arch
- The Walled Garden
- The Woodland Walks and Lakeshore
- The Fairy Garden

Facilities include:

- Meeting rooms
- The Courtyard: suitable for dining, musical events, or presentations
- Children's Play Areas
- Gift Shop

Events include:

- Civil Ceremonies
- ISPCA Scruffs Dog Show
- Cruinniú na nÓg

6.2 Marlay Park, Rathfarnham, Dublin

Dublin City Council purchased Marlay Park in 1972 for £500,000 and the park was officially opened in 1975. [24]

Marlay Park includes:

- Marlay House, built in 1794
- Demesne, which includes:
    - Laurelmere (Victorian cottage)
    - Gate lodges
    - Substantial boundary wall
- Formal Walled Garden
- Walking and running trails
- Children's playgrounds, and dog park

Facilities include:

- Start/end point for Wicklow Way
- GAA and Soccer pitches
- Cricket ground

Events include:

- Longitude Festival
- Stand-alone concerts
- Darkness Into Light Walk
- Exhibitions

6.2.1 Marlay Craft Courtyard: "The restoration of the Marlay Craft Courtyard presents a significant opportunity to encourage new craft talent to set up business in this classic courtyard in Marlay Park. This will be a special place for the finest craftspeople to work and showcase their products." – Ruairí Ó Dúlaing, Senior Parks Superintendent [25]

6.2.2 Marlay Park CoCo Market: "The Marlay Park CoCo Market is located behind Marlay House and its charming craft courtyard. Vendors are keen to build relationships with customers and share their passion for their products."

6.3 Strokestown Park, House, Gardens, & National Famine Museum, Roscommon

"Owned by the Pakenham Mahon family for over 300 years [1660s to 1979], this evocative estate is a time capsule and a window into life in a big house and estate during some of our most tumultuous times, through the lives and experiences of the people who lived and worked here." [26]

Strokestown includes:

- Strokestown House
- National Famine Museum
- Garden and Woodlands

Facilities include:

- Shop
- Café

Events include:

- National Famine Way
- Famine Summer School
- Exhibitions

Notes page 1

[1] Architectural Conservation Area definition is available from here: www.longfordlibrary.ie/heritage/heritage-office/built-heritage/

[2] Record of Protected Structures in County Longford excluding Longford Town (PDF): www.longfordcoco.ie/Services/Planning/Planning-Documents/Record-of-Protected-Structures/Record-of-Protected-Structures.pdf

[3] 'Why Protect Our Architectural Heritage?', Architectural Heritage Protection: Guidelines for Planning Authorities: www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Architectural-Heritage-Protection-Guidelines-for-Planning-Authorities-2011.pdf

[4] 'St. Brigid's Training Centre, Ardagh Demesne, Ardagh, Longford', National Inventory of Architectural History: www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/13312039/st-brigids-training-centre-ardagh-demesne-ardagh-longford

[5] 'Walled Garden', National Inventory of Architectural History: www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/13312043/st-brigids-training-centre-ardagh-demesne-ardagh-longford

[6] 'Detached six-bay single-storey dairy/outbuilding', National Inventory of Architectural History: www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/13312044/st-brigids-training-centre-ardagh-demesne-ardagh-demesne-ardagh-longford

[7] 'Bollard', National Inventory of Architectural History: www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/13312041/ardagh-house-ardagh-demesne-ardagh-longford

[8] Ardagh, National Inventory of Architectural History: www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/?query=ardagh&location_type=building&county=LF&town=Ardagh&street=&group=&type=&date_from=&date_to=&search_page=1

[9] 'Ringfort' (LF019-046), Historic Environment Viewer: https://maps.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/?REG_NO=13312044

Notes page 2

[10] 'West Lodge, Ardagh Demesne, Ardagh, Longford', National Inventory of Architectural History: www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/13312004/west-lodge-ardagh-demesne-ardagh-demesne-ardagh-longford

[11] 'Villa Maria, Ardagh Demesne, Ardagh, Longford', National Inventory of Architectural History: www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/13312034/villa-maria-ardagh-demesne-ardagh-longford

[12] 'Duty of owners and occupiers to protect structures from endangerment', Planning and Development Act, 2000: www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2000/act/30/enacted/en/print#sec58

[13] 'Reports', 2017, Tidy Towns: www.tidytowns.ie/reports/?report_year=2017&report_county=longford

[14] 'Mapping Ecosystem Services': https://ab.pensoft.net/articles.php?id=12837

[15] Martin Morris, Longford County Archivist

[16] 'St. Brigid's Roman Catholic Church, Edgeworthstown Road, Lyanmore, Ardagh, Longford', National Inventory of Architectural History: www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/13312031/st-brigids-roman-catholic-church-edgeworthstown-road-lyanmore-ardagh-longford

[17] 'Our Roots in Stone':**Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**

[18] 'Ardagh's roots revealed in new book': www.longfordleader.ie/news/local-news/145263/Ardagh-s-roots---.html

[19] 'The History of Ardagh is now set in stone as plaques unveiled': www.longfordleader.ie/news/local-news/379303/the-history-of-ardagh-is-now-set-in-stone-as-plaques-are-unveiled.html

[20] 'An Introduction to *She Stoops to Conquer*': www.bl.uk/restoration-18th-century-literature/articles/an-introduction-to-she-stoops-to-conquer

Notes page 3

[21] 'Visit of President Michael D. Higgins', Creative Ardagh: http://creativeardagh.blogspot.com/p/president-michael.html

[22] Goldsmith International Literary Festival: https://olivergoldsmithfestival.com/

[23] Belvedere House, Gardens, and Park: www.belvedere-house.ie

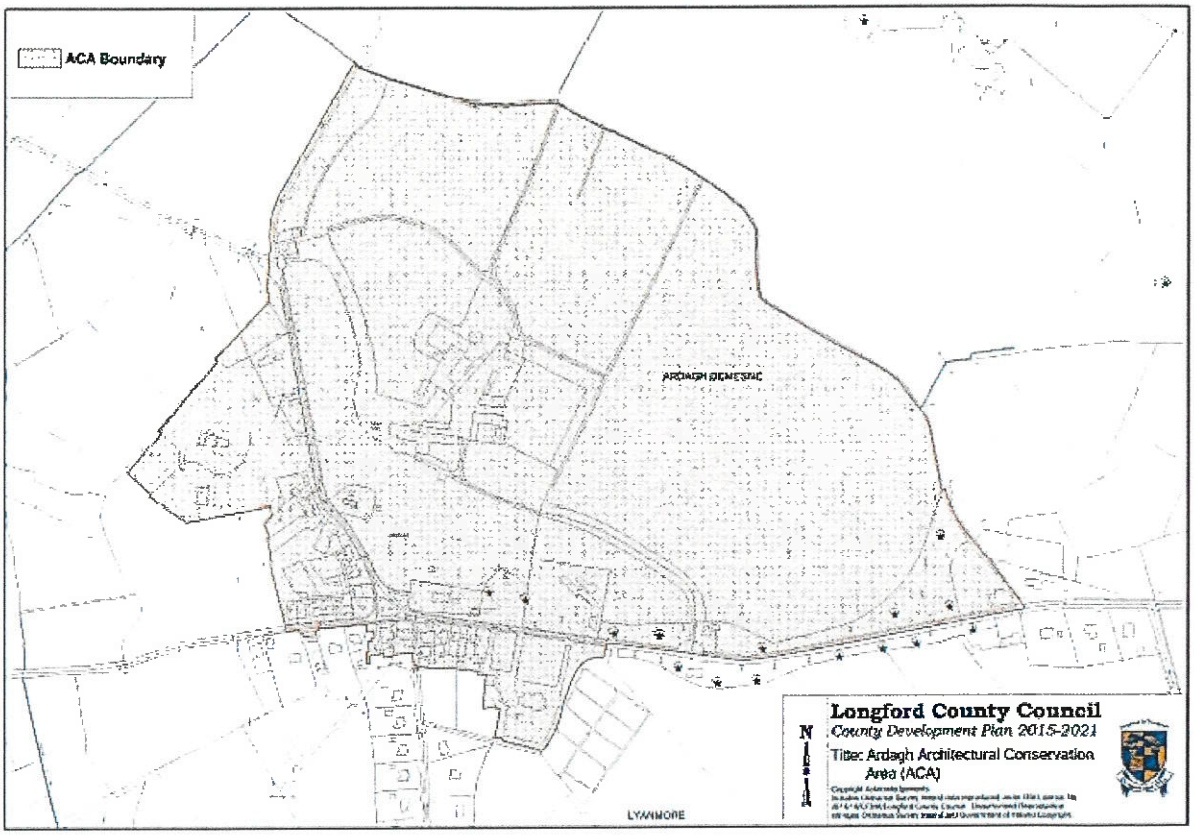
[24] Marlay Park: www.dlrcoco.ie/en/parks-outdoors/parks/marlay-park

[25] Marlay Park Courtyard: http://marlayparkcourtyard.ie

[26] Strokestown Park, House, Gardens, & National Famine Museum, Roscommon: www.strokestownpark.ie

Appendix I

Map of Ardagh Architectural Conservation Area



Map of Ardagh Architectural Conservation Area

A PDF of the Map of Ardagh Architectural Conservation Area is available from here.

Appendix II

Screenshots of the structures in Ardagh listed in the Longford 'Record of Protected Structures'.

57.	St. Brigid's Church, Edgeworthstown Road, Ardagh, Lyanmore	Lyanmore	Ardagh	Roman Catholic, Church/Chapel, Place Of Worship, Religious/Funerary/Ritual	19	220,435	268,505	Architectural, Artistic, Historical, Social	
58.	St. Brigid's Church, Edgeworthstown Road, Ardagh, Lyanmore	Lyanmore	Ardagh	Gates/Railings/Walls	19	220,425	268,592	Artistic, Social, Technical	
59.	St. Brigid's Church, Edgeworthstown Road, Lyanmore, Ardagh	Lyanmore	Ardagh	Gates/Railings/Walls	19	220,389	268,594	Artistic, Social, Technical	
60.	St. Brigid's Parochial House, Lyanmore, Edgeworthstown Road, Ardagh	Lyanmore	Ardagh	Roman Catholic, Presbytery/Parochial/Curate's House, Clerical, Religious/Ritual	19	220,386	268,530	Architectural, Artistic, Social	
61.	Ardagh, Demesne, Ardagh	Ardagh Demesne	Ardagh	Worker's House, Demesne	19	220,169	268,757	Architectural, Historical, Social	Including Boundary Wall And Gate
62.	Ardagh, Demesne, Ardagh	Ardagh Demesne	Ardagh	Worker's House, Demesne	19	220,174	268,746	Architectural, Historical, Social	Including Boundary Wall And Gate
63.	Ardagh, Demesne, Ardagh	Ardagh Demesne	Ardagh	Worker's House, Demesne	19	220,214	268,693	Architectural, Historical, Social	Including Boundary Wall outbuildings and Gate
64.	Melrose, Ardagh, Demesne Ardagh	Ardagh Demesne	Ardagh	Steward's House, Demesne	19	220,218	268,667	Architectural, Artistic, Historical, Social	Including Boundary Wall outbuildings and Gate
65.	Ardagh, Demesne Ardagh	Ardagh Demesne	Ardagh	Worker's House, Demesne	19	220,227	268,643	Architectural, Artistic, Social	Including Boundary Wall outbuildings - and Gate
66.	Mullingar Road, Ardagh Demesne, Ardagh	Ardagh Demesne	Ardagh	Worker's House, Demesne	19	220,211	268,621	Architectural, Artistic, Historical, Social	Including Boundary Wall outbuildings and Gate
67.	Mullingar Road, Ardagh Demesne, Ardagh	Ardagh Demesne	Ardagh	Worker's House, Demesne	19	220,192	268,616	Architectural, Artistic, Historical, Social	Including Boundary Wall outbuildings and Gate
68.	Mullingar Road, Ardagh Demesne, Ardagh	Ardagh Demesne	Ardagh	Worker's House, Demesne	19	220,174	268,617	Architectural, Artistic, Historical, Social	Including Boundary Wall outbuildings and Gate
69.	Mullingar Road, Ardagh Demesne, Ardagh	Ardagh Demesne	Ardagh	Worker's House, Demesne	19	220,154	268,615	Architectural, Artistic, Historical, Social	Including Boundary Wall outbuildings and Gate
70.	Mullingar Road, Ardagh Demesne, Ardagh	Ardagh Demesne	Ardagh	Worker's House, Demesne	19	220,143	268,614	Architectural, Artistic, Historical, Social	Including Boundary Wall outbuildings and Gate
71.	Demesne, Ardagh	Lyanmore	Ardagh	Court House, Public Services, Civil	19	220,283	268,592	Architectural, Artistic, Historical, Social	Including Boundary Wall outbuildings and Gate
72.	Edgeworthstown Road, Lyanmore, Ardagh	Lyanmore	Ardagh	Worker's House, Demesne	19	220,346	268,585	Architectural, Historical, Social	INCLUDING BOUNDARY WALL AND GATE
73.	Edgeworthstown Road, Lyanmore, Ardagh	Lyanmore	Ardagh	Police Station	19	220,330	268,587	Architectural, Social	INCLUDING BOUNDARY WALL AND GATE
74.	Edgeworthstown Road, Lyanmore, Ardagh	Lyanmore	Ardagh	Worker's House, Demesne	19	220,366	268,585	Architectural, Historical, Social	INCLUDING BOUNDARY WALL AND GATE
75.	Edgeworthstown Road, Lyanmore, Ardagh	Lyanmore	Ardagh	Worker's House, Demesne	19	220,377	268,584	Architectural, Historical, Social	INCLUDING BOUNDARY WALL AND GATE
82.	Moor, Ardagh	Moor	Ardagh	Church Of Ireland, Rectory/Glebe/Vicarage/Curate's House, Clerical, Religious/Funerary/Ritual	19	220,051	268,829	Architectural, Social	INCLUDING WALLS GATES RAILINGS

114.	Edgeworthstown Road, Lyanmore, Ardagh	Lyanmore	Ardagh	Former Estate Worker's House (E 7)	19	220354	268587	Architectural, Historical, Social	Including Boundary Wall, Gate and Piers.
115.	Edgeworthstown Road, Lyanmore, Ardagh	Lyanmore	Ardagh	Signpost	19	220809	268570	Artistic, Social, Technical	
116.	Oldtown Road, Ardagh Demesne, Ardagh	Ardagh Demesne	Ardagh	Walls	19	220113	269080	Architectural, Historical	Including Gate and Piers.
117.	St. Brigid's Training Centre (Or Ardagh House), Ardagh Demesne, Ardagh	Ardagh Demesne	Ardagh	House	19	220305	269832	Architectural, Historical	
118.	Longford Road, Ardagh Demesne, Ardagh	Ardagh Demesne	Ardagh	Walls	19	220113	269039	Architectural, Artistic, Historical	Including Piers and Gates.
119.	Ardagh Demesne, Ardagh	Ardagh Demesne	Ardagh	Entrance	19	220137	269053	Architectural, Artistic	Including Boundary Wall and Gates.
120.	Ardagh Demesne, Demesne, Ardagh	Ardagh Demesne	Ardagh	Gate Lodge	19	220144	269065	Architectural	
121.	Ardagh Demesne, Demesne, Ardagh	Ardagh Demesne	Ardagh	Gate Lodge	19	220649	268590	Architectural	
122.	Edgeworthstown Road, Ardagh Demesne, Ardagh	Ardagh Demesne	Ardagh	Walls	19	220851	268594	Architectural, Artistic, Historical	Including Gates and Piers.
123.	Ardagh Demesne, Ardagh	Ardagh Demesne	Ardagh	Walls	19	220182	268793	Architectural, Artistic, Historical	Including Gates and Piers.
124.	Ardagh Demesne, Ardagh	Ardagh Demesne	Ardagh	Entrance	19	220636	268577	Architectural, Artistic, Historical, Technical	
125.	Ardagh Demesne, Ardagh	Ardagh Demesne	Ardagh	Stable Yard	19	220364	268843	Architectural, Artistic, Historical	
126.	Ardagh Demesne, Ardagh	Ardagh Demesne	Ardagh	Walled Garden	19	220453	268807	Architectural, Artistic	Including Gates.
127.	Ardagh Demesne, Ardagh	Ardagh Demesne	Ardagh	Dairy	19	220358	268896	Architectural	
128.	Ardagh Demesne, Ardagh	Ardagh Demesne	Ardagh	Farm Buildings	19	220375	268878	Architectural	Including Gates.
129.	Ardagh Demesne, Ardagh	Ardagh Demesne	Ardagh	Railings, Gateposts, Gates and Fencing	19	220201	269015	Artistic, Technical	
130.	Ardagh Demesne, Ardagh	Ardagh Demesne	Ardagh	Clock Tower	19	220230	265622	Architectural, Artistic, Historical	Including Railings, Piers and Boundary Wall.
131.	Ardagh Demesne, Ardagh	Ardagh Demesne	Ardagh	Water Pump	19	220256	268621	Artistic, Social	
132.	Ardagh Demesne, Ardagh	Ardagh Demesne	Ardagh	House (North 11) Ardagh Lap	19	220144	268879	Architectural, Historical	Rear Boundary Wall
133.	Travellers Rest, Ardagh Demesne, Ardagh	Ardagh Demesne	Ardagh	Stone Shelter	19	220290	268623	Architectural, Artistic, Social	
134.	St. Patrick's Church, Edgeworthstown Road, Ardagh Demesne, Ardagh	Ardagh Demesne	Ardagh	Lychgate	19	220290	268641	Architectural, Artistic, Historical, Social	
135.	St. Patrick's Church, Edgeworthstown Road, Ardagh Demesne, Ardagh	Ardagh Demesne	Ardagh	Church	19	220328	268634	Architectural, Artistic, Social	
136.	Lyons, Demesne, Banghill, Ardagh	Banghill	Ardagh	House/ Public House	19	220250	268598	Architectural, Artistic, Social	
137.	Community Centre, Ardagh Demesne, Ardagh	Ardagh Demesne,	Ardagh	Community centre, school	19	220189	268724	Architectural, Social	
138.	Lyons, Demesne, Banghil, Ardagh	Banghil	Ardagh	House/ Post Office	19	220259	268593	Architectural, Artistic, Social	
139.	Moor, Ardagh	Moor	Ardagh	House (North 8) On Ardagh LAP)	19	220163	268772	Architectural	

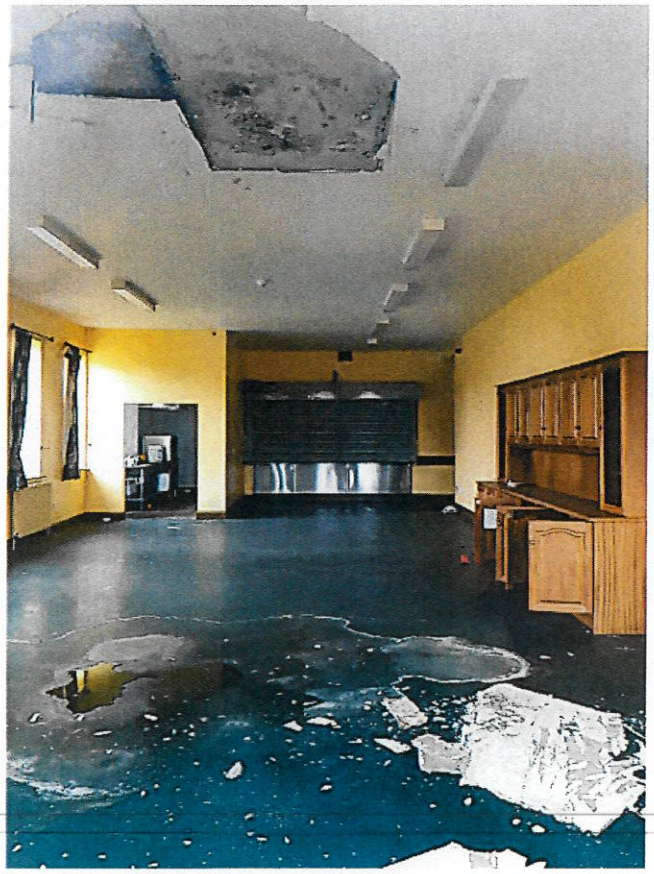
Appendix III

Photographs of Ardagh House, the coach yard, and stables included in the Robert O'Byrne blogpost, 'Stooped but not yet Conquered'.

Exterior of the front of Ardagh House

Coach yard

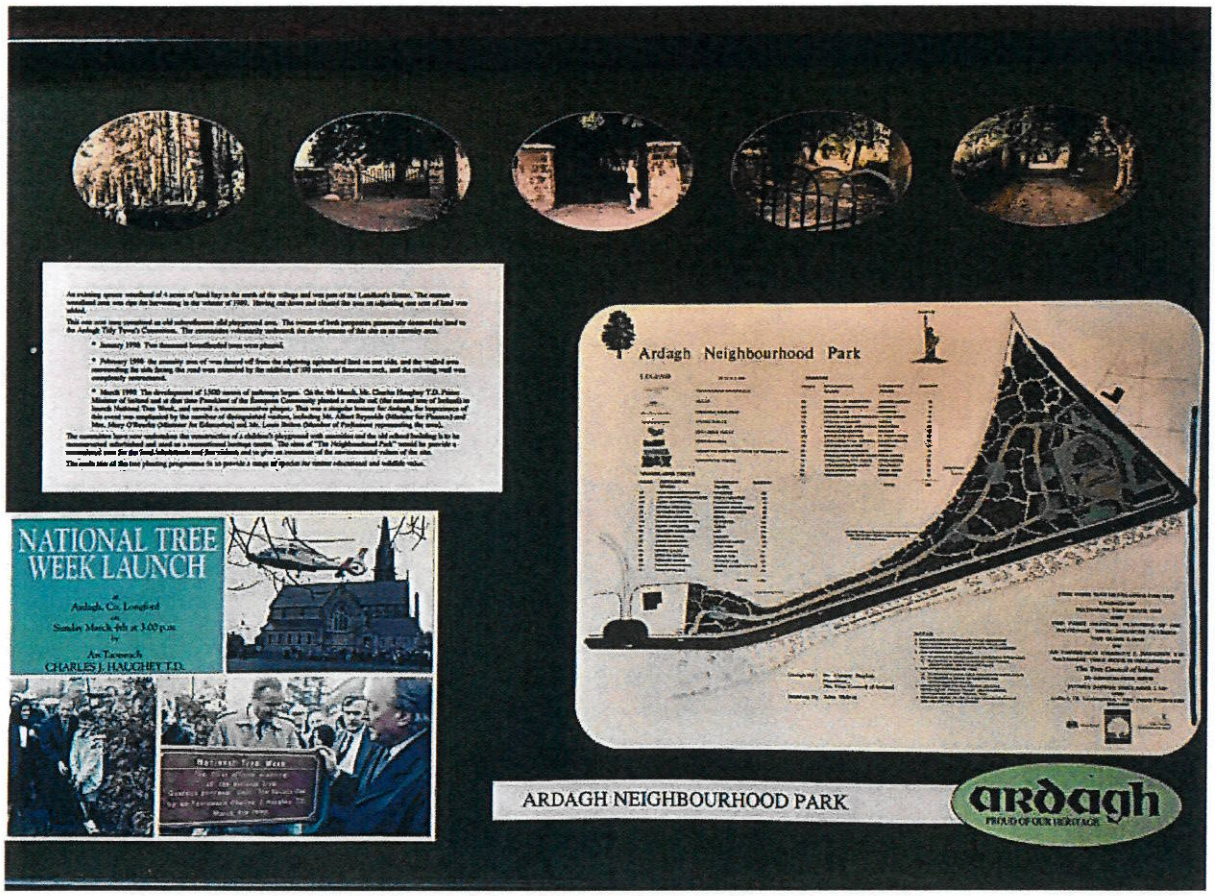
Coach yard



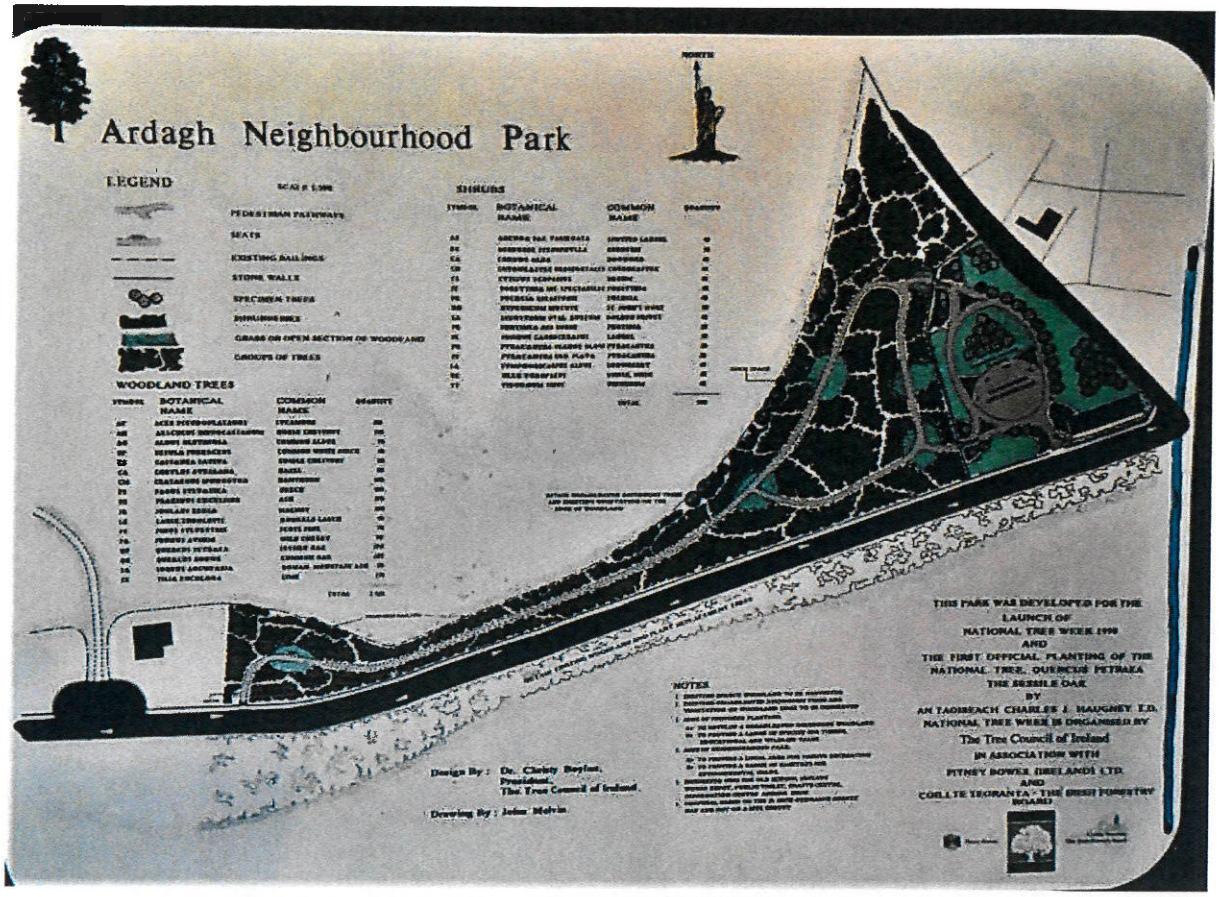
Interior room of Ardagh House

Appendix IV

Photographs of the Ardagh Neighbourhood Park information board in the Ardagh Heritage Centre, including photographs of the opening day event.



Ardagh Neighbourhood Park Information Board



Close-up of the map of the Ardagh Neighbourhood Park

An existing spruce woodland of 4 acres of land lay to the north of the village and was part of the Landlord's Estate. The mature woodland area was ripe for harvesting in the winter of 1989. Having cut down and cleared the area an adjoining one acre of land was added.

This one acre area contained an old schoolhouse and playground area. The owners of both properties generously donated the land to the Ardagh Tidy Town's Committee. The committee voluntarily undertook the development of this site as an amenity area.

- January 1990 Two thousand broadleafed trees were planted.
- February 1990 the amenity area of was fenced off from the adjoining agricultural land on one side, and the walled area surrounding the side facing the road was extended by the addition of 100 metres of limestone rock, and the existing wall was completely restructured.
- March 1990 The development of 1500 meters of pathways began. On the 4th March, Mr. Charles Haughey T.D. Prime Minister of Ireland and at that time President of the European Community planted a sessile oak (the natural tree of Ireland) to launch National Tree Week, and unveil a commemorative plaque. This was a singular honour for Ardagh, the importance of this event was emphasied by the number of distinguished visitors, including Mr. Albert Reynolds (Minister for Finance) and Mrs. Mary O'Rourke (Minister for Education) and Mr. Louis Belton (Member of Parliament representing the area).

The committee have now undertaken the construction of a children's playground with amenities and the old school building is to be reconstructed refurbished and used as a recreational heritage centre. The aims of "The Neighbourhood Park" would be provide a recreational area for the local inhabitants and for visitors and to give an awareness of the environmental values of the site.

The main aim of the tree planting programme is to provide a range of species for timber educational and wildlife value.

Close-up of the timeline of the planning, creation, and the opening of the Ardagh Neighbourhood Park

Appendix V

Photographs of the 1994 Longford Leader article, 'Ardagh Heritage Centre – a dream come true', about the opening of the Ardagh Heritage Centre, including a piece on the Ardagh Neighbourhood Park.

THE LONGFORD LEADER, Friday 15th July, 1994

Ardagh Heritage Centre – a dream come true

Special Report by: Geraldine Brennan Pictures By: Joe McDonagh

Belton ironwork

Audio-visual room

Neighbourhood Park

FAS assistance

Stations of the Cross

On display!

The dining area

Mythical sculpture

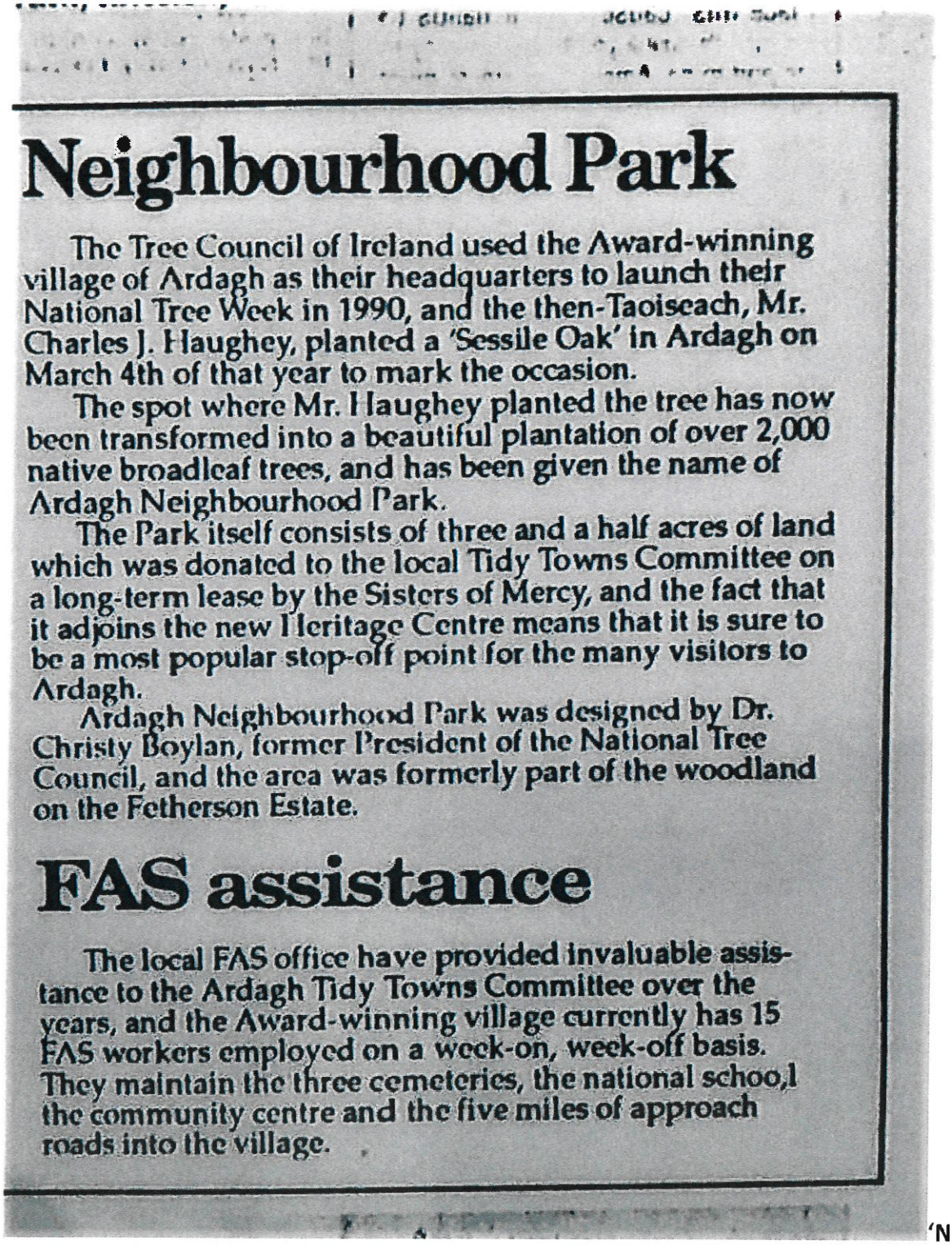
Opening Times

The Services Area

History, legend and literature

Moydow Church donations

'Ardagh Heritage Centre – a dream come true', Longford Leader, Friday 15th July 1994



Neighbourhood Park

The Tree Council of Ireland used the Award-winning village of Ardagh as their headquarters to launch their National Tree Week in 1990, and the then-Taoiseach, Mr. Charles J. Haughey, planted a 'Sessile Oak' in Ardagh on March 4th of that year to mark the occasion.

The spot where Mr. Haughey planted the tree has now been transformed into a beautiful plantation of over 2,000 native broadleaf trees, and has been given the name of Ardagh Neighbourhood Park.

The Park itself consists of three and a half acres of land which was donated to the local Tidy Towns Committee on a long-term lease by the Sisters of Mercy, and the fact that it adjoins the new Heritage Centre means that it is sure to be a most popular stop-off point for the many visitors to Ardagh.

Ardagh Neighbourhood Park was designed by Dr. Christy Boylan, former President of the National Tree Council, and the area was formerly part of the woodland on the Fetherson Estate.

FAS assistance

The local FAS office have provided invaluable assistance to the Ardagh Tidy Towns Committee over the years, and the Award-winning village currently has 15 FAS workers employed on a week-on, week-off basis. They maintain the three cemeteries, the national school, the community centre and the five miles of approach roads into the village.

'Neighbourhood Park', Longford Leader, Friday 15th July 1994