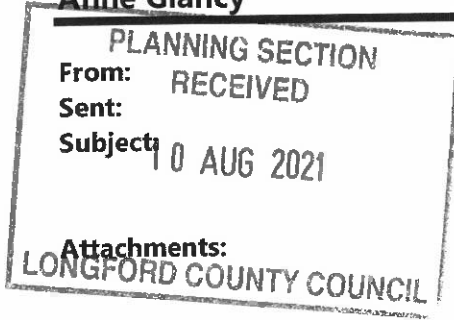


Sub 41

Anne Glancy



Ardagh Girl Guides <~~ardaghgirlguides@outlook.com~~>  
Tuesday 10 August 2021 07:48  
EXTERNAL - Objection to Submission DCDP-40 of Draft Longford County  
Development Plan 2021-2027 - Ardagh Neighbourhood Park - Third Stage  
Consultation  
Brownies.jpg; Lockdown.jpg; Guides.jpg; Gate.jpg; Blindfold.jpg; Generation1.JPG;  
IMG\_0728.JPG

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**From:** Ardagh Girl Guides

Ladybirds (age 5-7) Brownies (age 7-10) Guides (age 10-14) Sr Branch (age 14-30) Leaders (18 plus)

C/o Joanna Pearman, Ardagh District Commissioner, Cartrongarrow, Ardagh, Co. Longford, N39 WY10

**To:** Longford County Council Executives; Longford County Councillors; TDs and other elected representatives.

**Submission – Ref DCDP Submission – 40 - Ardagh Demesne**

Irish Girl Guides Brownie unit has been running in Ardagh for nearly 20 years with the Guides, Ladybirds and Sr Branch units being set up during the course of the past 15 years. Throughout this time girls age 5 upwards have been very active in the village - being outdoors whenever possible and using the green spaces for meeting activities. When Ardagh House was a training school and the duration of the property being on the market Girl Guide meetings would often take place walking around the footpath used by the village community daily until the wrought iron gates were replaced by electric gates and access to the village loop walk through the demesne was stopped.

As a community group, run by volunteers, Ardagh Girl Guides urge our elected representatives to reject the Chief Executive's recommendation for the rezoning of lands in the above referenced submission. We query why the rezoning is necessary as the property was sold as a residential dairy farm, so both activities can be carried out onsite without the requested rezoning.

Our concern is that Ardagh Neighbourhood Park, included in the folio of the demesne, would be subject to re-zoning should this submission go through. The Neighbourhood Park is another area used regularly by girls during meetings over the past 20 years. More so in the last year when meetings have had to take place outside. The Park being the best area for us to carry out our programme activities. It is the only stretch of biodiverse green area in the village, safely accessible to children and walkable as part of a meeting in the Community Centre. The shortsightedness of such a recommendation is potentially denying future generations access to this amenity and it is incredulous that an elected representative would allow this to happen during their term of office.

Having just spent last weekend working through what the Sustainable Development Goals mean to girls and the importance of using their voice, some of whom are only 1 or 2 years away from voting themselves, this action will be a definite reflection of your priorities for the future generations of Co. Longford. Last weekend we toured our Hidden Heartlands, visiting the Knights & Conquests; Maria Edgeworth Centre and we have previously walked the canal from Longford to Clondra - using the local amenities as much as possible. It is frustrating that Ardagh House, the main focal point and green space of Ardagh village is out of bounds and that more public areas are likely to become out of bounds too.

In short, the acceptance of this rezoning would reflect a very short-sighted vision of the value of Ardagh not only to the Co. Longford tourism experience but also to the well-being of the community. Ardagh as a flagship heritage village should be treasured by the county and maintained accordingly, with proactive controls in place to ensure its continuance for future generations. Given the recent IPCC Report and your roles as custodians of County Longford, what will your legacy be? Will you be able to say your decision gave consideration and protection to children, the environment, biodiversity and actions taken decades ago to try to restore Ireland's native forestry or did you acquiesce to private business interests?

Attached photos of guiding generations using the Neighbourhood Park.

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Yours in guiding

Joanna Pearman

IGG Ardagh, Co. Longford

Ladybirds, Brownies, Guides & Sr Branch

Facebook: @ArdaghGirlGuides