



# **Battery Court Residents Association**



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16<sup>th</sup> November 2024

■ Battery Court,  
Longford,  
Co. Longford

## **Re: Draft Longford Town Local Area Plan 2025-2031.**

Dear Sir/Madame,

My name is Gerard Larkin and I am the Chairperson of the Battery Court Residents Association. I am writing to you on behalf of the residents of the Battery Court estate in relation to the Draft Longford Local Town Area Plan 2025-2031. The following are areas I would like to make a submission on behalf of the residents of Battery Court:

- 1. Demesne Lane footpath.**
- 2. Plans for future housing development on the Demesne Lane.**
- 3. Resurfacing of footpath leading to Battery Road.**
- 4. Public access into Battery Court via Sean Connolly Barracks.**

### **1. Demesne Lane footpath.**

The residents of Battery Court are delight to see the inclusion of a new footpath on the Demesne lane in the Longford Town Local Area Plan (F19 page 191).

The Demesne Lane is the only means of access for vehicles to the Battery Court estate. It also has 14 residential houses along it, Longford Tennis Club and a large working farm at the end of it. The Battery Court Estate contains 56 residential properties so there is a considerable volume of traffic at all times on this road, which is very narrow in places. It is so narrow on some stretches that only one vehicle at a time can pass. The road has no footpath in place along its entire 450 metres length, and no public lighting from the tennis court to the Battery Court entrance, approximately 250 metres. This is a major safety concern for the numerous pedestrians accessing the estate via the Demesne Lane (I have attached photos below of the road). Pedestrians are very exposed on this lane as there is no designated place for them to walk. Visibility for drivers is poor, due to no public lighting on large stretches of the laneway, which leaves pedestrians extremely vulnerable.



The lane is also used by St. Christopher's Special School for walking students on their lunch break. The lack of a footpath and lighting on this stretch of the road poses a major health and safety risk for pedestrians. Prioritising the delivery of a footpath and lighting would be a very proactive approach to help avoid a serious incident occurring on this stretch of road. Which, with the volume of traffic and pedestrians on this road, is a case of when, not if. This is something that needs to be prioritised and delivered on as a matter of urgency, before a very serious incident does occur.

## **2. Plans for future housing development on the Demesne Lane.**

In relation to the purposed further development and zoning of lands on the Demesne Lane highlighted in page 240 (see image below). We would have concerns over this as mentioned already the Demesne lane is already under considerable strain due to the current volume of vehicular traffic and we feel already beyond the capacity it can safely deal with.



The addition of more residential units on these lands would further exasperate this situation and put further strain and congestion on this cul de sac.

### **Battery Court Access Road:**



### **Arial View of the Demesne Lane and Battery Court:**



### **3. Resurfacing of footpath leading to Battery Road:**

We would also like to request the inclusion of resurfacing of the footpath leading from the Battery Court estate to the Battery road in the Longford Local Town Area Plan 2025-2031. The poor condition of the footpath is a major health and safety concern as it is a trip hazard, it is also impeding the safe passage of wheelchair users and parents with prams. This footpath runs from the Battery Court estate between the boundary walls of St. Christopher's and the Garda Station onto the Battery Road. Please see photos attached for exact location of the footpath and the current condition of the surface:

### **Arial view of location of footpath:**





**Current surface of footpath:**



As you can see from the above images the footpath is in poor repair and the tarmacadam and cement is deteriorating in some places. The residents of Battery Court and St. Christopher's who all use this path would greatly appreciate if this path was resurfaced as soon as possible.

**4. Public access into Battery Court via Sean Connolly Barracks.**

Residents of Battery Court have raised concerns with some of the proposals to have access directly into the estate from proposed public realms in the Sean Connolly Barracks. While residents are not trying to be a barrier to the regeneration of this site, it is important that it is done in a considered way, as changes to this site could directly affect their private dwellings.

Battery Court is home to a number of vulnerable and older residents, whom we do our best to make feel safe, welcomed and included. One of the ways we strive to achieve this is how we maintain the common areas of the estate through private funding raised from households. Residents are perturbed by the introduction of direct access, from public realms in the Sean Connolly Barracks similarly to C12 page 197 and those mentioned in the Camlin Quarter plan leading directly into the heart of the estate. They are concerned that these routes could be targeted by those wishing to participate in antisocial behaviour and potentially devolve effectively into rat runs. Should such permeability take place it also raises the question of who will maintain the common areas of Battery Court? As they would effectively become intertwined with public recreational spaces of Sean Connolly Barracks. The lines of where Sean Connolly Barracks ends and Battery Court begins would become extremely blurred.

We are a small, quiet, private estate on the edge of Longford who merely wishes to maintain a safe and tranquil environment for our most vulnerable residents. Given the proximity of the estate to Sean Connolly Barracks, residents would appreciate it if they were directly consulted by the Local Authority on any development of this site or lands associated with it in the future.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our submission. If you wish to reach me you can contact me via post or email at [batterycourtresidentsassn@gmail.com](mailto:batterycourtresidentsassn@gmail.com).

Yours Faithfully,

Gerard Larkin  
Chairperson