

**LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL**

**SECTION 179 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000  
(as amended)**

**PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (as  
amended)**

**PROPOSAL TO CARRY OUT A DEVELOPMENT REFERRED TO AS –**

**PART 8 – NO. 108 AGHAFAD PEDESTRIAN AND  
CYCLIST SCHEME AT AGHAFAD, CO. LONGFORD**

**REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
SECTION 179 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED)**

**AND**

**PART 8 OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT  
REGULATIONS 2001 (AS AMENDED)**

**JULY 2023**

**To: The Cathaoirleach and Members of Longford Municipal District.**

Being satisfied that the requirements of subsections (1) and (2) of Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended, and Articles 79 to 85 inclusive of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) have been fully complied with in relation to the above proposed development, I have prepared the attached report in accordance with the requirements of subsection (3) of Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended and formally submit same to the Cathaoirleach and members of Longford Municipal District for consideration.


1. Introduction / Site Location of the proposed development.
2. The nature and extent of the proposed development and the principal features thereof are as set out in Section 2 of the Report.
3. Section 3 of the Report evaluates the consistency of the development with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area to which the development relates, having regard to the provisions of the development plan.

I am satisfied that all issues have been fully considered in the evaluation and that the proposed development is consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area to which the development relates, having regard to the provisions of the development plan, for the reasons set out in the report.

4. The persons and bodies who made submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development in accordance with the provisions of the above Act and Regulations are listed at Section 4.
5. Section 5 sets out details in relation to Appropriate Assessment.
6. Section 6 sets out the EIA Screening Determination.
7. Sets out the recommendation of the Planning Authority in relation to the proposed development regarding the planning considerations and submissions and observations received.

**In accordance with the provisions of Section 179(3)(b)(v) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) I recommend that the proposed development should be proceeded with subject to the conditions listed in Section 6 of the attached report.**

Dated this the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023

  
**John Brannigan,**  
**Director of Services.**

**Note:**

**Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) – Subsection 4 of Section 179.**

- (4) (a) The members of the local authority shall, as soon as may be, consider the proposed development and the report of the Chief Executive under subsection (3).
- (b) Following consideration of the Chief Executive's Report under paragraph (a), the proposed development may be carried out as recommended in the Chief Executive's Report, unless the local authority, by resolution, decides to vary or modify the development, otherwise than as recommended in the Chief Executive's Report, or decides not to proceed with the development.
- (c) A resolution under paragraph (b) must be passed not later than 6 weeks after receipt of the Chief Executive's Report.



**LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

**AGHAFAD PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLE SCHEME AT  
AGHAFAD, CO. LONGFORD.**

**REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
SECTION 179 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
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**JULY 2023**

## 1. INTRODUCTION/ SITE LOCATION

### Introduction:

The proposal is for the construction of the 'Aghafad Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme' to include the provision of a shared walking and cycling pathway from the factories at Aghafad, to link with the existing service road along the eastern boundary of Longford Slashers GAA at Farranyoogan, and thereby provide a connection onto the Royal Canal Greenway

### Site Location

The site is located along the L-1172 connecting the R397 to Longford Town on the portion of road from the existing GAA grounds to the existing factories. There are existing sections of path up to the GAA pitch and it is proposed to continue this onto the existing factory site and create a link onto the Royal Canal as outlined above



**Fig. 1: Aerial image of subject site with extent of proposal works marked in red (Source: Google Maps)**

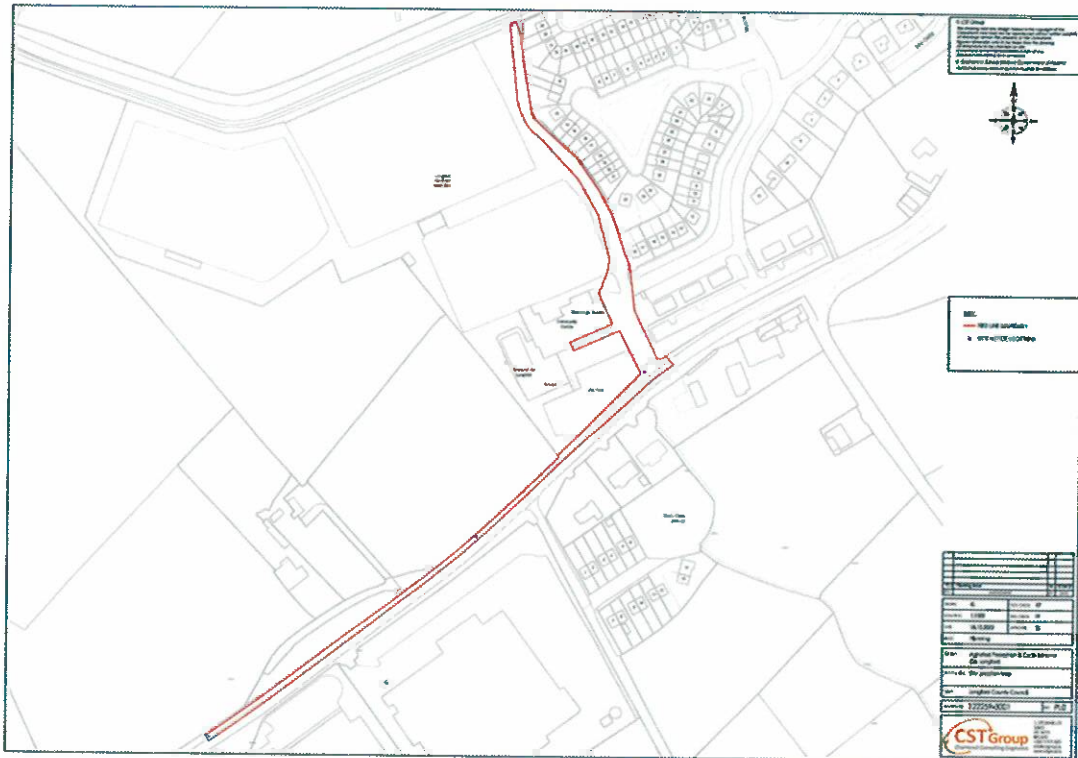


Fig 2: Extent of Proposal Works Marked in Blue

## 2. NATURE AND EXTENT OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

### Scope of Proposed Works

The development will consist of:

- Three metre wide, shared pathway, commencing to the immediate east of the existing Longford Slashers GAA entrance and proceeding approximately 400m south west along the L1127 to the Aghafad existing factory entrances, with uncontrolled crossing where required.
- Shared pathway to separately advance, approximately 290 metres north along the eastern boundary of Longford Slashers GAA with Prospect Wood, to include the partial redesignation of the existing service road for pedestrian / cyclist provision.
- Raised pedestrian / cyclist crossing at the main Slashers GAA entrance, and separate raised pathway crossing to align with the reassignment of existing parking spaces for the purposes of pedestrian / cyclist connectivity to the front entrance door of Slashers GAA / Backstage Theatre.

- Accommodation works to include boundary and entrance treatment to main entrance and that of the upper Slasher GAA / Backstage Theatre / Gaelscoil Longfoirt carpark, relocation / redesign of existing public lighting poles, signage, drainage, etc.

### **3. PLANNING CONSIDERATION/EVALUATION**

The site is located within the functional area of Longford County Council and inside the designated development envelope of Longford Town as outlined in the Longford County Development Plan (CDP). As such the provisions of the Longford County Development Plan 2021 – 2027 apply. Despite its location within the zoned area of Longford Town, the majority of the subject site is not zoned as it comprises of the carriageway/margin of the Local road. It is considered that the proposed development is in keeping with the established zoning and is considered appropriate.

**Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027** relevant policies

#### **CPO 5.48**

Retrospectively provide public transport, walking and cycling infrastructure and facilities in existing development areas to achieve growth in sustainable mobility.

#### **CPO 5.68**

Promote walking through the development and expansion of a network of safe walking trails within towns and villages and their environs. Such routes can link with existing walking trails, Sli na Slainte and the Green Infrastructure Network and existing or new public rights of way.

#### **CPO 6.10**

Encourage the development of improved connectivity, provision of services and good quality public realm in urban locations and create an environment for investment in high quality residential development and supporting services and amenities such as schools, shops, recreation areas and open spaces.

#### **CPO 7.3**

Provide alternatives to the car and to prioritise and promote cycling and walking in the design of streets and public spaces.

#### **CPO 7.8**

Promote the development of healthy and attractive places by ensuring:

- Provision of open space should consider types of recreation and amenity uses required;
- Public open spaces to have good connectivity and be accessible by safe, secure walking and cycling routes;
- Open space to be planned for on a multi-functional basis incorporating ecosystem services, climate change measures, Green Infrastructure and key landscape features in their design.

#### **CH 10.26**

Develop public open spaces in all of Longford's towns that have good connectivity and are accessible for safe, secure walking and cycle routes.

#### **CPO 10.59**

Continue to develop the greenways in the county and to augment the visitor experience through the provision of infrastructure, including car parking and access barriers, having regard to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport various Guidelines along with high quality signage and links to nearby visitor attractions and places of interest.

Upon examination of the proposal in the context of the above policies, it is considered that the proposed development is in keeping with the policies as outlined in the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027.

#### **4. PUBLIC/ STATUTORY BODIES CONSULTATION, SUBMISSIONS, REPORTS, ETC.**

The proposed works were duly and properly notified as required by Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

The plans and particulars for the proposed development of the proposed construction of the 'Aghafad Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme' to include the provision of a shared walking and cycling pathway from the factories at Aghafad, to link with the existing service road along the eastern boundary of Longford Slashers GAA at Farranyoogan, and thereby provide a connection onto the Royal Canal Greenway were made available for public inspection at the offices of Longford County Council, Áras an Chontae, Great Water Street, Longford during official public opening hours, excluding weekends and bank holidays, from Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023 up to and including Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated, are invited to be made in writing to the Planning Section, Longford County Council, Áras an Chontae, Great Water Street, Longford, Co. Longford to arrive not later than 4pm on Tuesday 04<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

##### **Submissions**

A submission was received from John & Ann Lee indicating that the proposed shared pathway should be extended out as far as Ballymacormack Cemetery, for a number of reasons but primarily for pedestrian safety on the road.

##### **Internal Reports**

No internal reports in relation to the proposed development were received



## **5. APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT**

An Appropriate Assessment screening report was carried out and submitted for the proposed development which indicating that the proposed development will not have any significant impact on any Natura 2000 site.

## **6. E.I.A**

The proposed development was initially screened for EIA, see attached screening report submitted as part of the application. As the development is not a project listed in Schedule 5, Part 2 of the Planning & Development Regulations mandatory EIA is not required, and the proposed development does not need EIA Screening.

## **7. RECOMMENDATION**

Having regard to the above mentioned planning considerations, it is considered that the proposed development would be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. It is therefore recommended that the Council approve the proposed development by resolution.



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**Rita Connaughton**  
**Acting Senior Planner**