

From: Niall Tuohy [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday 2 January 2023 20:06
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Gort Road Housing Development, Hazel Lane, Gort Road, Ennis, Co. Clare
Reference: Site "R15" - Current Development Plan - Site "R11"- Proposed Site Plan

Proposed Amendments to Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023/2029,
Planning Department,
Clare County Council,
New Road,
Ennis,
Co. Clare.
Via Email: devplan@clarecoco.ie
DATE: 2nd January 2023

Re: Gort Road Housing Development, Hazel Lane, Gort Road, Ennis, Co. Clare
Reference: Site "R15" - Current Development Plan - Site "R11"- Proposed Site Plan

To Clare County Council and the appointed Design Team,

Good evening all, Happy New Year and Best Wishes for 2023.

We refer to the above proposed development at Hazel Lane, Gort Road and would like to outline our concerns.

The lane is very unique in its own right, the original farmhouse, hand cut stone wall, the shrubbery and mature trees all are a piece of history in the middle of town and there is an abundance of wildlife nesting here and horses in the field for as long as I can remember.

We moved here in 1999 and 2003 into cottages (now refurbished and extended) that have been on the Clare Council maps since 1895. Since moving to the lane we have a fantastic relationship with our community and all look out for one another.

We have seen changes to the traffic in the lane ie, parents using the lane to drop off and collect their children in the Gaelscoil, widening the lane will entice many more cars to accumulate here, morning, lunchtime and afternoon, causing massive disruption exiting out onto the Gort Road. The Gaelscoil have plans for a further extension to the school, this will only heighten the problem even more.

There are a lot of retirees living on the lane, widening of roads brings speed and danger for these people living here most of their lives. They don't just use the road for driving, but also for walking and exercise and feel relatively safe. Most people who use the lane live here and respect the lane and each other.

The Brothers of Charity has made the lane more busy in recent years, due to changing of staff shifts, although this has happened, it is used as a safe haven for walking their Special Needs patients. Any extra traffic or widening of the lane would have a huge impact on the one luxury they have to get some fresh air, there are quiet times on the lane and they take advantage of this and the patients are assisted up and down the lane constantly by their carers and feel safe. The widening of the road and the proposed widened footpath will encourage people to park on the path, as of now two cars can go up and down the lane but can't take advantage of parking.

There are a lot of families with young children who play on the laneway, including my own two children who use the lane to walk to school, any extra pressure on the lane would be a hazard to children who live here. Here is what my two children have said, they have requested this to be included in this letter, their own words " I love feeding the

two horses at the end of the road with my brother, they are so friendly, I also love playing with my friends on the laneway and going to the shop across the road".

We are not opposed to the housing development and understand there is a need for social housing but are very concerned and would hope you will take our concerns and comments into consideration regarding the proposed entrance on Hazel Lane, an alternative entrance or even the existing entrance that has been used since the site has been there on the main Gort Road would be more beneficial to ourselves and the residents of 1 - 5 Glenina, Hazel Lane.

Finally, I would like to thank Fiona McLernon for all her hard work on this, she has some very valid points on bio diversity and street management plans.

Regards,

Niall Tuohy & Family

