



Lauren Griffin

From: Lauren Griffin
Sent: Monday 11 November 2024 16:38
To: evelyn@mercyprimary.ie
Subject: RE: Woodquay Park. Ref. No. ABP-320938-24

A Chara,

The Board acknowledges receipt of your email, official correspondence will issue in due course.

Kind regards,

Lauren

From: Evelyn O'Toole <evelyn@mercyprimary.ie>
Sent: Monday 11 November 2024 14:18
To: LAPS <laps@pleanala.ie>
Subject: Woodquay Park. Ref. No. ABP-320938-24

Caution: This is an **External Email** and may have malicious content. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the ICT Helpdesk.

To Whom it May Concern,

Please find our letter regarding Woodquay Park.

Kindest regards,
Evelyn O'Toole



Mercy Primary School
St Francis Street
Galway
H91RX32
Tel. 091-566452
info@mercyprimary.ie
www.mercyprimary.ie
RCN: 20120597
Roll No.: 04515G

An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1

Re: Redesign of Woodquay Park Ref. No: ABP - 320938 - 24

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of Mercy Primary School, a local school in Galway City, regarding the proposed redesign of Woodquay Park. My name is Evelyn, and I have been the principal of the Mercy Primary School since April 2024.

It has come to my attention that there was a meeting held in June as a 'dedicated space for local schools' with representatives of GCC/MKO, where discussions took place regarding the redesign of Woodquay Park. I would like to clarify that as the principal of the school, I was not contacted or invited to this meeting, despite the significant impact the proposed changes would have on our school community.

Woodquay Park holds immense importance for our school. It is our Green Classroom. We currently have 258 students present in the school. The Woodquay Community Park serves as a vital green space where our pupils engage in nature studies, recreation, and play. The future of green spaces presently with reference to Biodiversity is paramount for children's education for their understanding of the environment and the interconnectedness of all living things. With limited outdoor space, only a hard surface yard, within our school premises, the park has been a cherished amenity for our students over the years, offering them the opportunity to connect with nature, breathe fresh air from the nearby River Corrib, and enjoy the beauty of the surroundings in a contained safe space.

The safety of our students is paramount, especially in a bustling area close to a river, like Woodquay, with the traffic, the courthouse, Town Hall Theatre, and Galway City Centre in close proximity. The park's current layout allows us to monitor and control access, ensuring a secure environment for our children to play and learn.

The proposed redesign, particularly the removal of railings without consideration for safety raises significant implications for us. Additionally, the lack of proper consultation with key stakeholders, including our school, is of deep concern and goes against the principles of community engagement. This valuable, breathable green space is essential at this moment in time!

As An Bord Pleanála considers this planning application, we urge you to prioritise the health and safety of our children and our precious Green Classroom, as well as the need for genuine engagement with all relevant stakeholders, the schools and the Woodquay Community. Therefore, we respectfully request that you refuse planning permission for the redesign of Woodquay Park based on the grounds outlined in this letter.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Evelyn O'Toole
Principal
Mercy Primary,
Roll 04515G
St Francis Street, Galway
H91RX32

Principal: Evelyn O'Toole

Deputy Principal: Lorna Crehan