



Lauren Griffin

From: Lauren Griffin
Sent: Thursday 7 November 2024 12:32
To: info@galwayschool.com
Subject: RE: Ref. No: ABP - 320938 - 24

A Chara,

The Board acknowledges receipt of your email, the contents are noted.

Kind regards,

Lauren

From: St. Nicholas' <info@galwayschool.com>
Sent: Thursday 7 November 2024 09:59
To: LAPS <laps@pleanala.ie>
Subject: 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,

I wish to make a submission in relation to the above planning application.

Please find this submission attached.

Kind regards,

Wendy Lynch
Principal
St. Nicholas' Parochial School



Virus-free. www.avast.com



St. Nicholas' Parochial School

Waterside, Galway

Tel: 091-569233

E-mail: info@galwayschool.com

Website: www.galwayschool.com

Tuesday 7th November 2024

An Bord Pleanála

64 Marlborough Street

Dublin 1

D01 V902

Subject: Objection to Proposed Community Park Design Woodquay Galway. Ref.

No: ABP - 320938 - 24

To whom it concerns

I am writing on behalf of St. Nicholas Parochial School in Woodquay, Galway regarding the proposed development of the Woodquay community park. As the Principal of the school, I must express my deep concern and objection to the current plans for the park, particularly in relation to the lack of meaningful consultation with our school and the potential safety risks posed to our young students when using this green space.

It has come to my attention through the MKO consultation report that a meeting was held on the 13th of June to discuss the dedicated space for local schools within the park.

However, despite claims of invitations and follow-up offers, I can confirm that our school did not receive any communication regarding this consultation. I did attend a public consultation event on Tuesday, 6th Feb between 1:00pm and 4:30pm in Galway Rowing Club, Riverside. As a school located just minutes away from the park, it is disheartening to discover that no effort was made to engage with us in a meaningful manner.

Chairperson of the Board of Management: Provost Lynda Peilow

Principal: Wendy Lynch

Deputy Principal: Carol McLoughlin

The Vision of Green Schools is *'To provide sustainable education for our future generation of Leaders and protectors of Mother Earth.'* At this moment in time with the climate crises, every inner-city green space is precious. The proposed design lays waste to that. This plan, which includes no railings, numerous exits, and potential hazards for children, raises serious concerns about the safety of our students who regularly use this space for nature studies, playing and well-being. They follow the seasons; in Autumn they check out the fallen leaves from the many varieties of trees growing there. In winter they watch the birds on the feeders and learn about the different species. In spring they watch nature come to life here again. In fact, this is the year when we proudly apply for our 10th Green Flag. It is evident that the design team has not adequately considered the planning impact on the primary schools in the area, including St. Nicholas' Parochial School, which has 75 students relying on this park for its educational and environmental activities.

Furthermore, the statement in the consultation report claiming that "sharp corners and other hazards for children are eliminated" while not mentioning that it plans to take away the railings and gates is both misleading and unacceptable. It is clear that the design fails to prioritise the Health & Safety of the children in our community, and it is our firm belief that this project cannot proceed in its current form.

As a school dedicated to the education and protection of our students - the future generations - in a safe environment, we urge An Bord Pleanála to refuse the proposed design for the Woodquay community park. We call for a more inclusive and thorough consultation process that takes into account the needs and concerns of local schools and community members.

In the interest of safeguarding our students and preserving the integrity of our school environment, we respectfully request that the current park design be rejected and if Galway City Council wish to go ahead with a new design, that they talk to the Schools and the community first before anything is drawn up. This would ensure the safety and well-being of all those who use this valuable local community space. We are aware that the Woodquay Community did have a plan where the park retained the railings and gates - a much more environmental design. Where is that plan?

Chairperson of the Board of Management: Provost Lynda Peilow

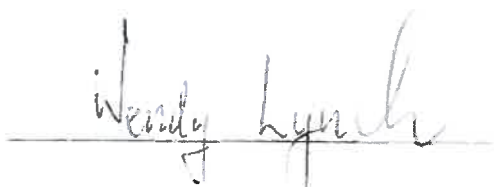
Principal: Wendy Lynch

Deputy Principal: Carol McLoughlin

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We trust that you will give due consideration to our objections and take the necessary steps to address all our concerns.

We ask that An Bord Pleanála refuse permission of this design.

Sincerely,



Ms. Wendy Lynch
Principal
Saint Nicholas Parochial School
Woodquay
Galway



Chairperson of the Board of Management: Provost Lynda Peilow

Principal: Wendy Lynch

Deputy Principal: Carol McLoughlin