



To whom it may concern in the planning department of Carlow Co Council....

We are writing formally to ask you to consider our objections to the development proposal of Leslie Graham to the re-zoning of of agricultural land on Milford street, Leighlinbridge , Co Carlow for housing development.

We had already written to Counsellor Andy Gladney re- the ongoing traffic situation on Milford Street, Leighlinbridge, Co Carlow in March 2020 and thankfully have now received automatic traffic speed alerts on three roads into Leighlinbridge...sadly this does not have appeared to decrease the speed of vehicles as of yet.

A huge amount of traffic uses the road daily and many sadly do not observe the speed limit of 50km per hour. Many of the bends are blind and in many spots on the road there is nowhere for pedestrians to safely step in if traffic comes at them at speed. Many people who stay in the Lord Bagnal for weddings, vacations and functions walk up to the Arboretum and how there has not been an accident involving pedestrians is a total mystery – or maybe we just didn't hear of them – but there certainly have been car accidents and I know of three in the last year – one where a wall was totally destroyed by the impact. Sadly there is only a short stretch of footpath from the bridge in the village to the Parish priest's house and nowhere else.

Many young parents in the village walk their young children in buggies up or down the road to complete a loop around the village, as do dog owners, and their safety should be a serious consideration. Another consideration is Beechwood Nursing Home that involves a lot of traffic from early morning until late evening with staff and visitors using the road. In fact some of the elderly residents use the road for exercise and to get fresh air and vary their daily routine. I hesitate to guess the volume of daily traffic entering and exiting the Arboretum on a weekly basis.

Since the advent of Covid-19, a great number of people are now availing of local amenities such as river walks and staycations. Families are taking loved ones who are patients in Beechwood Nursing Home out daily in wheelchairs for fresh air and many vehicle owners still do not seem to observe the speed limit or respect the fact that pedestrians also used our roadways.

Another consideration is that the back entrance to the Superbowl Sports Complex – a private laneway with local resident, farmer access and emergency exit for the Superbowl only - is deemed a public road on the proposed planning. This laneway enters and exits on to the road so that if this



re-zoning were to take place it would add up to eighty more cars entering and exiting Milford Street and adding to the traffic – both pedestrian and automobile.

As residents, we find it extremely difficult at times to exit our own properties as the exits are almost completely blind to oncoming traffic from the main Carlow road and from the village. We have been verbally abused, cursed at, horns blown at us for just waving our hands a little for people to slow down a bit when we walk on the road and we can see other pedestrians that the motorists can't see on the blind corners. Indeed many of the residents of Milford Street have very young children who go for training in the Superbowl so safety is paramount for all residents.

In our humble opinion there is adequate planning in the draft of the Co Carlow Leighlinbridge Town Plan Land Zonings for 2022-2028 to develop what is already there with it's current infrastructure and amenities without re-zoning agricultural lands. Perhaps it would be in the interest of safety for all road users that Carlow County Council might get an engineer to review the winding and curved road (and not the straight version on Leslie Graham's plan) from the Arboretum to the village and realise that it is not a suitable location for extra housing and an extra exit for vehicular traffic..rather a footpath on each side of the road should be constructed to make it a safer place for non-vehicular users and to also slow down vehicular traffic.

It would be sad if there was a fatal accident or serious injury on the road for further traffic calming measures to be introduced as is so often the case on Irish roads – being pro-active is much better than being re-active.

We look forward to your response at your convenience please.

Yours sincerely,



Richard and Helen Marnell

