

Submission Details

Submitter

Name	Robert Mulryan
Address	Eanach Dhúin Cor an Dola Co. na Gaillimhe
Note	See attached.

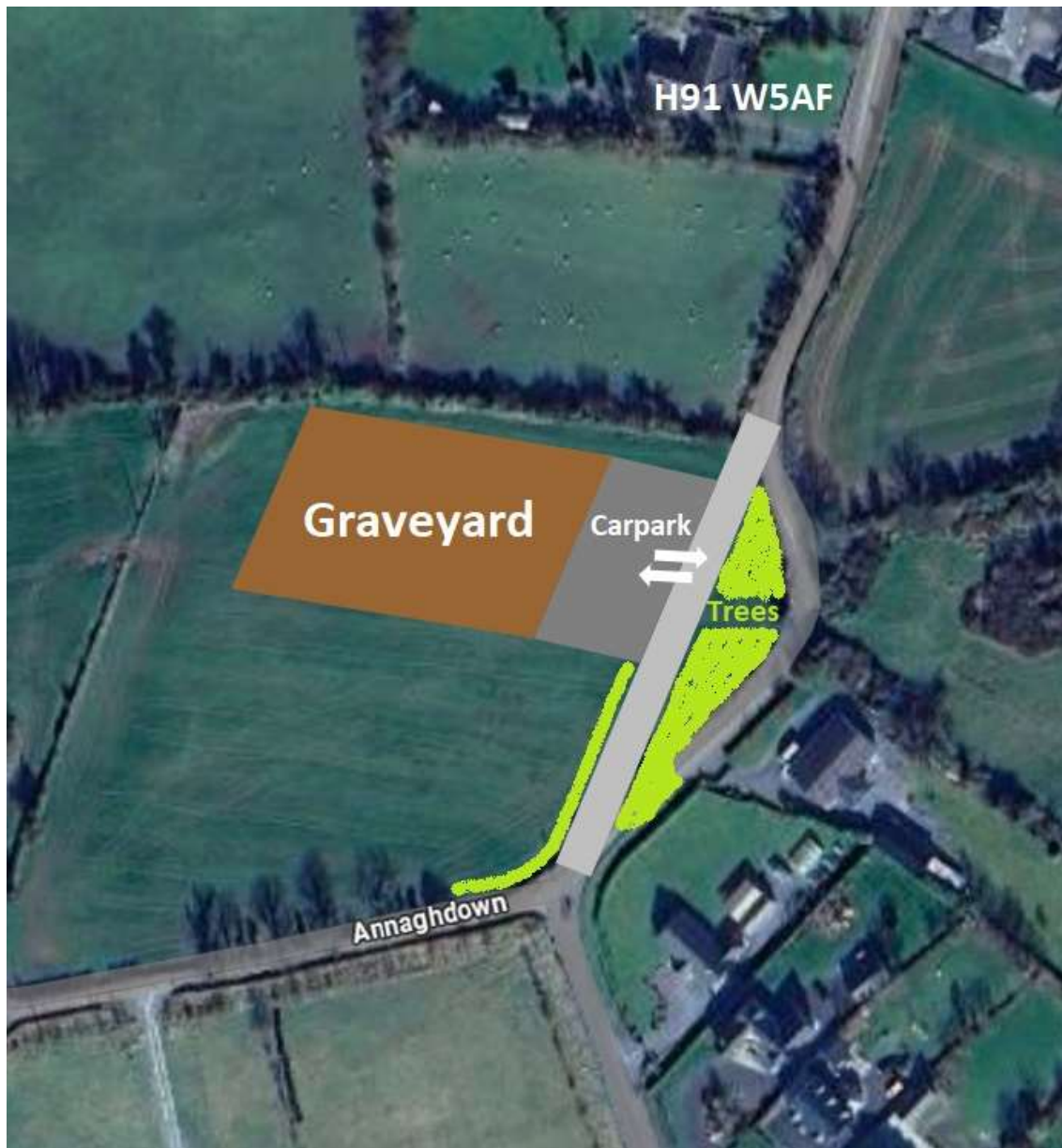
In relation to application

Application Number	PT8GC231
Applicant Name	Galway County Council
Development Address	Eanach Dhúin/ Annaghdown Co. Galway

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I Robert Mulryan live opposite the proposed graveyard. I think there are several improvements that could be made to the graveyard design such as putting the entrance on the main road with a normal car park, buying the entire field and connecting the new & old graveyards by footpath for safety.

1. The entrance to the graveyard should be on the main road

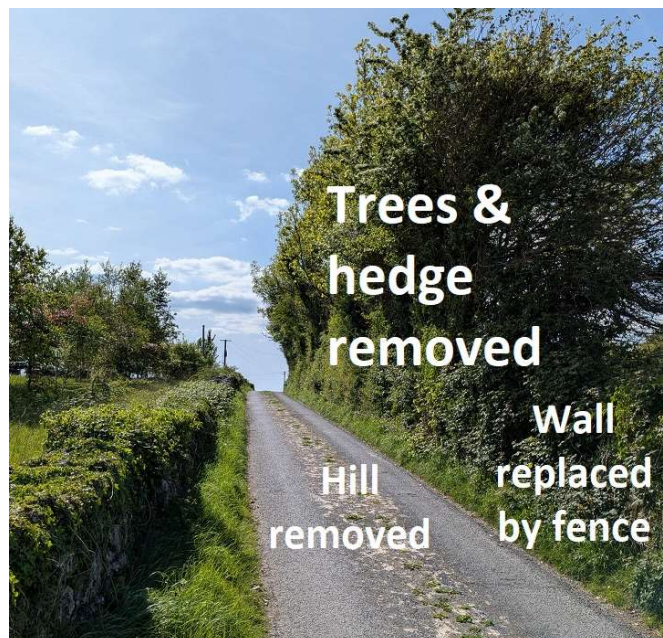


Reasons:

- Better flow of traffic and less congestion

The proposed design has only 1 way in and 1 way out and will be a bottleneck during burials. Having an entrance on the main road will allow traffic to get away quickly in 2 directions like the current graveyard.

- Normal car park
A normal car park on the main road would be far easier for people attending burials compared to the car parking being proposed.
- Graveyard should have pride of place
The graveyard should have pride of place on the main road like the current graveyard instead of being hidden away up a cul-de-sac in the corner of a field behind a hedge.
- This design would allow the graveyard to be fronted by a nice stone wall (like the new Ballinrobe graveyard) instead of the concrete fencing & farm gates being proposed along the access road.
- Removal of bends in the main road
An entrance on the main road would remove several dangerous bends on the main road.
- Fix dangerous exit at Eircode H91 W5AF
As part of the road works, the dangerous exit at H91 W5AF could be made safer for the residents there. This location has been the site of several accidents.
- Preserve the character of a popular walking route
The proposed plan involves removing all the trees & hedge between the main road and the entrance to the graveyard. The hill at the start of this road will also be removed/flattened. The character of this popular walking route can be preserved if the entrance is on the main road.



2. The council must buy the whole field

Reasons:

- Proposed graveyard could be full again in 30 years
The proposed graveyard has 315 plots and the parish has 10 bereavements per year. Therefore, the proposed graveyard could be full again in just over 30 years (probably much sooner as the graveyard is not restricted to people with a link to the area). It took around 10 years to find this field, will it be possible to find another field in 30 years?
- To have a graveyard for the next 100 years
The council must buy the entire field to provide a graveyard for the next 100 years. Per the councils burial ground policy, the council pays agricultural prices for land (approx. €10,000/acre). There is about 3 acres remaining in the field. The €30,000 needed to buy the rest of the field could be easily funded by the presale of around 40 double plots. (€726 each). This opportunity to buy the whole field must be taken to future proof the graveyard needs of the area.
- To avoid family graves being spread across multiple graveyards
If the whole field is bought, this graveyard will allow generations of family graves to be kept together instead of being spread across multiple graveyards like is happening now.
- Normal car park
A normal car park will be possible with enough spaces to get all cars attending burials in off surrounding roads.
- Space for all graves to face east to the rising sun like the current graveyard instead of the proposed half facing east & half facing west.
- The graveyard should also be restricted to people with a link to the area.

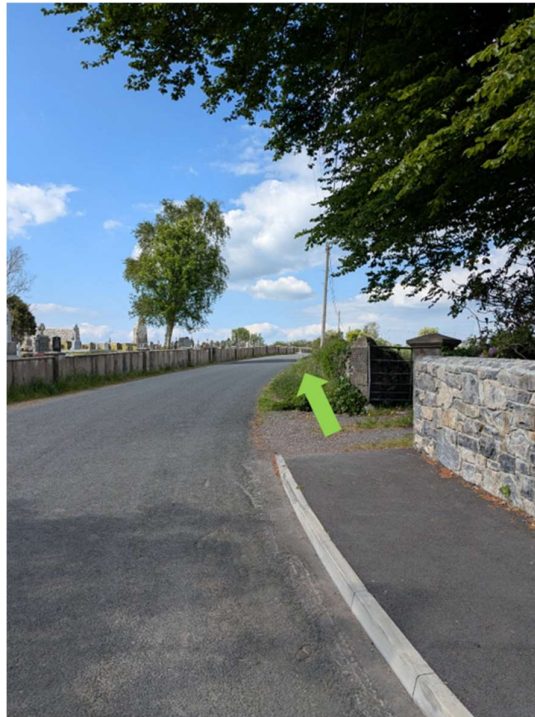
3. There must be a footpath between the current & new graveyard

Reasons:

- The new graveyard will permanently increase traffic in a residential area with a lot of children and young families. This will obviously increase the risk of an accident. A footpath will decrease the risk for children walking to School. Funding could be obtained from the Safe Routes to Schools programme or from the €2.1 million active travel grant Galway County council was allocated for 2025.
- Similarly, the road between the graveyards is also a major walking route in the area. Cars parked on the edge of local roads during burials will force pedestrians out into the middle of the road. A footpath would again decrease the risk of an accident between pedestrians and vehicles.

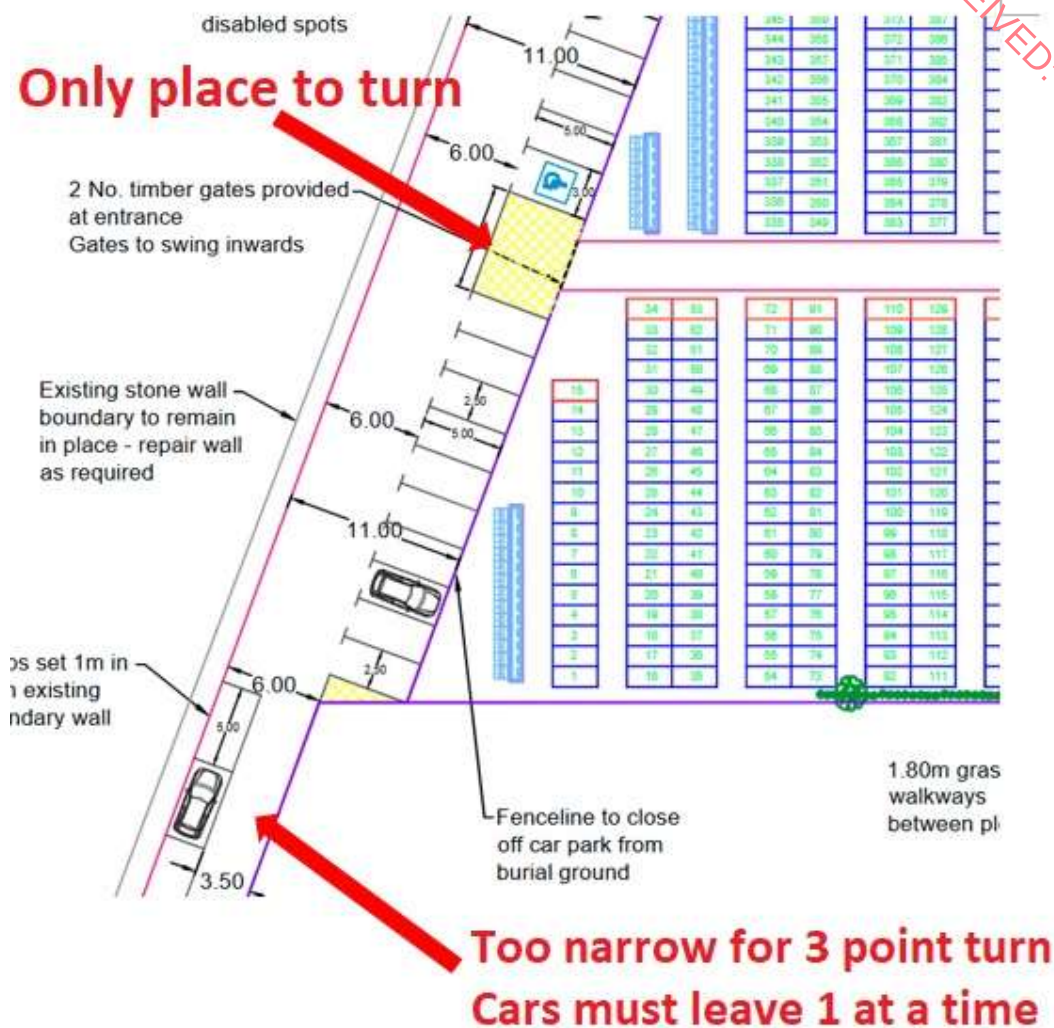
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- There is currently a path connecting the Church to the current graveyard. It makes sense that this graveyard is also connected to the Church by a path.
- We are only talking about 300 meters of path to make things a lot safer for everyone.



4. How do cars parked on the access road leave after burials?

- After burials, the cars parked on the access road will leave before the family cars parked at the graveyard.
- The access road is too narrow to do a 3-point turn.
- Cars parked on the access road must drive up to the graveyard gate to turn.
- 1 car leaving blocks the access road so cars must leave 1 at a time slowing everything down.
- People looking for a discreet and efficient get away after a burial will naturally park on surrounding roads & outside houses which creates unnecessary health & safety risks.
- A normal car park on the main road cuts out all these unnecessary problems.



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In Summary:

I'm suggesting the entrance be on the main road with a normal car park, the whole field is bought & that a footpath connects the old & new graveyards. I would urge locals to use their voice before the 29th of May or we will be stuck with the traffic & parking problems for ever more. If you were given this field for a graveyard – is this the design you would come up with?