

# Submission Details

## Submitter

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|---------|----------------------------------|
| Name    | Clár Ní Mháirtín                 |
| Address | Annaghdown Annaghdown Co. Galway |
| Note    |                                  |

## In relation to application

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

RECEIVED: 29/05/2025

**To: Planning Department, Galway County Council**

**Re: Submission on LA05/25 – Part 8 Application for Annaghdown Burial Ground Extension**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to make a submission in relation to the proposed development of a new burial ground in Annaghdown, Co. Galway, under Part 8 Planning Reference LA05/25.

While I fully support the provision of new burial grounds to serve the community, I have serious concerns regarding the proposed access route via the narrow residential lane and would like to respectfully object to this aspect of the proposal. I support **Robert Mulryan's submission** of a viable and more appropriate alternative access solution that would better serve the needs of the public and respect the local environment and residents. This burial site will be used for very many years to come, so it is imperative that the layout respects the needs of all the community and is providing dignified access for all mourners, regardless of age or ability.

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### **Objection to Proposed Access Route**

#### **a) Unsuitable Access Road**

The lane identified for access to the cemetery is extremely narrow, with **several residential homes** and farmland along its length. It is not fit for regular two-way traffic, or funeral corteges. Vehicles currently struggle to pass, and introducing additional traffic for burials and maintenance will lead to serious congestion, inconvenience, and potential safety hazards.

#### **b) Safety and Emergency Access Risks**

The proposed access route introduces a **significant safety concern for emergency services**, particularly during funerals when the narrow cul-de-sac will be heavily congested. The lane is barely wide enough for a single vehicle, and there are no passing points or turning areas near the entrance to the proposed cemetery.

In the event of a **medical emergency during a burial**, an emergency vehicle would face serious delays navigating the tight, obstructed laneway — especially if multiple vehicles are parked or queued for the funeral.

With many mourners having to walk to the burial ground, the lack of a clear, unobstructed, and purpose-built access route represents a critical design flaw in the current proposal and one that **could endanger lives**.

Emergency access must be a core consideration in all public infrastructure planning, particularly in facilities intended for large or vulnerable gatherings.

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#### **c) Accessibility Concerns**

The current proposal fails to consider the needs of elderly individuals or those with limited mobility attending burials. The existing burial ground in Annaghdown permits drop-off directly at the entrance, enabling those with accessibility issues to attend services with dignity and ease.

In stark contrast, the proposed extension:

- Requires vehicles to enter a narrow, residential cul-de-sac with limited turning or drop-off space.
- Offers no designated drop-off area near the entrance, forcing drivers to navigate tight bends and potentially block access for residents or emergency services.
- Will discourage or prevent attendance by individuals with disabilities, undermining the inclusivity expected of public infrastructure.

This design does not comply with best practices in inclusive planning, nor with Galway County Council's stated principles around access and community use. Universal access is a legal and moral obligation in the provision of public infrastructure — including cemeteries.

I respectfully request that the plan be revised to ensure safe, convenient, and dignified access for all mourners, regardless of age or ability — including via a more appropriate entrance directly from the main road with sufficient space for drop-offs, turning, and parking.

#### **d) Inadequate Long-Term Planning**

There is no adequate provision for overflow parking or funeral-related traffic queuing. As usage of the burial ground increases, particularly in line with local population growth, this issue will only become more severe and should be addressed now, not deferred for future remediation.

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#### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, while I support the provision of a new burial ground in Annaghdown, I strongly object to the current proposal for access via a narrow residential lane. I respectfully urge Galway County Council to re-examine the layout and provide **a more appropriate access point directly from the main road**, which would better serve the community and respect both local residents and heritage.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours faithfully,  
Clár Ní Mháirtín  
Annaghdown