

Submission Details

Submitter

Name	Yvonne Allen
Address	Muckrush Annaghdown Co. Galway H91 WWH6
Note	

In relation to application

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

RECEIVED: 27/05/2025

Re : LA05/25 Part 8 Application for Annaghdown Burial Ground Extension

Planning Application Number : PT8GC231

OBJECTION

I, Yvonne Allen, Muckrush Annaghdown, landowner, wish to object to the proposed plans for the Annaghdown Burial Ground Extension on the grounds the proposed development is in breach of the Galway County Development Plan 2022 to 2028 :

Chapter 15 : Development Management Standards

1. DM standard 57 : Burial Grounds and Crematoriums

“Proposals will be required to demonstrate a need for the development and that the proposal will not :

- (i) Create unacceptable traffic congestion
- (ii) Create car parking difficulties
- (iii) Create a nuisance or detract from the amenities of existing residents or businesses.”

(i) Unacceptable traffic congestion

The proposed entrance to the burial ground is located on a narrow lane which is a cul de sac. Inevitably, cars will park on the cul de sac blocking access and egress for residents, and land owners using heavy agricultural machinery, cattle trailers and horse boxes. Drivers parking on the narrow lane will have to continue down the cul de sac to find a place to turn as the lane is too narrow to complete a 3 point turn. Cars coming back up the lane will be unable to pass cars going down the lane to turn, resulting in gridlock. It also raises a health and safety issue as in the event of a person requiring emergency services while a funeral is in progress there will be no access for emergency vehicles.

(ii) Car parking difficulties

The proposed design of the burial ground has provision for only 16 car park spaces, only 1 single entry and exit point, and no dedicated internal turning area. The number of car park spaces in the burial ground is inadequate. As there is no public transport most funeral attendees will travel by car. Additional cars will have to park on the internal access road to the burial ground as well as parking on the narrow lane where the entrance to the burial ground is located. The internal access road is also too narrow to effect a 3 point turn, therefore the drivers of each car parked on the internal access road will have to travel up to the car park spaces to turn. Only 1 car will be able to complete this manoeuvre at a time, resulting in unnecessary parking difficulties.

(iii) Create nuisance & detract from amenities of residents or businesses

The lane is constantly used by locals as a safe walking route, together with cyclists, horseriders and parents with small children in buggies. The additional traffic and consequential car parking by funeral attendees will restrict these activities, and create avoidable hazards. In addition, it will detract from the amenities of residents, land owners and users together with persons using the lane for recreational purposes.

2. DM Standard 47 : Field Patterns, Stone Walls, Trees and Hedgerows

“Field patterns and associated stone walls, trees and hedgerows are an important part of the visual and environmental quality of rural areas and their removal and replacement with block walls and fencing leads to urban features in a rural environment. It can also have an effect on wildlife and lead to the removal of valuable hedgerows upon which wildlife depends. New developments will accordingly be subject to the following requirements in this regard :

a) Existing Features

Retain and incorporate existing field patterns and associated stone walls trees and hedgerows into new development layouts wherever feasible.

b) Intervention

In general, only the minimum interference with existing field patterns, stone walls, trees and hedges shall be permitted.”

The plans provide for the removal of the existing hedgerow, trees and stone wall from the start of the lane up to the entrance to the burial ground. The removal of these indigenous features will have a detrimental effect on wildlife and the rural character of the area. DM Standard 47 requires minimum interference with existing field patterns, stone walls, trees and hedges. This requirement has clearly not been met. The stone walls, trees and hedgerows are a significant visual and environmental feature of the Annaghdown area.

(I include a photograph of a stone wall on the lane)

It is proposed to replace the hedgerows, trees and stone wall with concrete posts and mesh fencing. This is in contravention of the above Standard and introduces urban features into a rural environment, which is unacceptable.

The proposed development will be detrimental to the natural environment and create an unnecessary traffic hazard.

Yvonne Allen

Yvonne Allen
27th May 2025

