

Mr Thomas Hogan,  
Senior Staff Officer,  
Planning Department,  
Clare County Council,  
Ennis, Co. Clare.

16 December 2021

Reference: Proposed RPS 892 St Coolan's Well, Tuamgraney

Dear Mr Hogan,

Thank you for your letter of 10 December last, regarding the decision to propose St Coolan's Well as a protected structure. Firstly, I am delighted that the Council have accepted my recommendation to have the structure over the well listed as a protected structure.

I would like to make a suggestion to you regarding the notice letter. Having a building listed as a protected structure should be seen as a positive, where our built heritage afforded recognition and protection (as is nicely articulated in the document 'Protected Structures' which you enclosed with your letter). That tone should be reflected in the letter. An opening paragraph that articulates a positive message rather than 'In accordance with ... the Planning Authority serves you as owner/occupier of ... with notice of the proposal to add ...'. This immediately puts the recipient on the defensive, and perhaps encourages them to see the recommendation in a negative light.


While I understand that a certain amount of legal language must and should be used, it can be tempered or balanced. I hope you will not mind me making the following suggested rewording, which is done with sincerely and out of genuine interest, and not out of malice or condescension:

A Chara,

As part of the process for the development of a draft Clare County Development Plan, 2023-29, the Council proposes to make a number of additions to the Record of Protected Structures within the County. I am delighted to inform you that the following structure has been proposed:

Name of Structure: ...

In doing so, the Council wants to protect this unique and exceptional structure which is of special interest because of its architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical point of view.



The Council is required to give you, the owner/occupier of the structure, notice under section 12(3) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), of the Council's intention to add the said property/structure to the Record of Protected Structures. I enclose a copy of the particulars of the said property.

A copy of the proposed addition is contained within volume 4 of the Draft County Development Plan, 2023-2029, which may be inspected during normal opening hours from 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021 to 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022 (excluding bank holidays) at the following locations:

...

I hope you will take up the suggested wording, which tempers the legal and arguably confrontational language used. It may be that you will have more people like me who would welcome the addition to the County's record of protected structures.

The last observation I have relates to the proposed entry, which I think is well formulated. A date for the structure is given as 'early nineteenth century'. This is accurate. The date of construction according to the contemporary engraved limestone plaque is 'Sept. 1803'. I will leave it to you to decide whether this date or the century should be retained on your record. Also the townland is listed as 'Tuamgraney', however the townland is Callahy.

Please note the change of my address, which is given above.

Thank you for reading through what may seem an unusual letter, but I hope it will be of some use to you and the Council.

Yours sincerely,

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Dr David Fleming

