St. Finnachta's National School.

Sixmilebridge,

Co. Clare



Submission no: 047 Scoil Naomh Finnachta,

Droichead Abhann Uí gCearnaigh,

Co. an Chláir

Ms. Carmel Brislane, Assistant Planner, Clare County Council, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 DXP2.



10th November 2020.

RE: Review of the Existing Clare County Development Plan 2017-23 and Preparation of a New Clare County Development Plan 2022-28

Dear Carmel,

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Management of Sixmilebridge N.S. in response to Helen Quinn's correspondence dated 24th September regarding the above matter.

The Board of Management welcomes the opportunity for the school's needs to be considered in the context of the County Development Plan 2022-2028.

A Vision for Sixmilebridge Town

The Vision of Sixmilebridge Town must be to create a place where people can live, learn, work and enjoy their leisure time.

Achieving this will require ongoing investment in infrastructure to facilitate the provision of quality educational, retail and commercial services and recreational facilities in the town.

The Continued Growth of Sixmilebridge

Sixmilebridge is the fastest growing town in Clare. It is the third largest population centre in the county. A number of residential developments are proposed for the town involving at least 120 additional houses. These include private developments and social housing.

Sixmilebridge is a progressive and vibrant town. Completion of the new school building represents a huge investment in our community. Currently, there are 512 pupils enrolled at the school and we expect these numbers to hold, or even increase, particularly with the availability of additional housing.

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Recent developments by the GAA and the Soccer clubs are also worth noting. The development and investment of the train service and railway links provides easy access to Limerick, Ennis, and beyond.

Sixmilebridge National School

The town's primary school is a focal point in the community. It is the largest building. It is the largest employer. It is located at the centre of the main residential areas. The school's catchment area is the town itself and the surrounding townlands in the parish.

The school building is located directly beside a green area (see attached OSI Map) which is owned by the County Council. The school has been licenced by the County Council to use this area. Notwithstanding the provision of a new building recently, future plans may require the purchase/acquisition of this property for the development of additional educational facilities and/or recreational spaces.

The school has a strong tradition in the Green Schools Programme and seeks to promote active travel (e.g. walking and cycling). The Board of Management recognises the good work done in relation to road safety and pedestrian pathways. Recently announced funding for footpath works in the town centre is welcomed. The provision of a traffic warden at the school gate is a wonderful service which must be retained.

The Board of Management, therefore, formally submits the following items for consideration in the context of the new County Development Plan:

- Zoning of the County Council's land (see attached OSI Map) adjoining the school for educational purposes
- 2. Provision of Safe Access for Pedestrians and Cyclists to include:
 - a. Retention of the Traffic Warden as an essential service
 - b. Extension of the railings at the front of the school to protect children at arrival and dismissal times
 - c. Provision of double-yellow lines on the roads around the school to discourage dangerous parking
 - d. Provision of pedestrian safety controls outside the school's rear gate
 - e. Provision of cycle paths
 - f. Provision of pathways and pedestrian crossings to serve pupils/ parents in Beechwood Grove and Woodview Heights
 - g. General upgrade/ repairs to the footpaths around the school

I trust this submission will be given due consideration.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Thank you again for this opportunity.

St. Finnachta's National School,

Sixmilebridge,

Co. Clare



Scoil Naomh Finnachta, Droichead Abhann Uí gCearnaigh,

Co. an Chláir

Le gach dea ghuí,

Gareth Heagney

Ganth Thanny

(Principal & Secretary Board of Management)

C.C. Mr. Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 DXP2.

Ms. Helen Quinn, Acting Senior Planner, Clare County Council, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 DXP2.

