

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Development Plan](#)
Subject: Variation No.1 to the Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029
Date: Monday 6 April 2026 09:50:31
Attachments: [CHS Clare CDP Variation.pdf](#)

A chara,

Please find attached submission on behalf of Clare Haven Services.

Yours Sincerely,
Ciaran Lynch,
Board Chair.

Clare Haven Services CLG

Abbey Lodge

Limerick Road

Ennis

Co. Clare

V95 KR72

Telephone: 065-6842646

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Clare Haven Services CLG

Company No.341514 – Registered in Ireland – a company limited by guarantee

Registered Office: Abbey Lodge, Limerick Road Ennis, Co. Clare. V95 KR72

RCN: 20033538

Clare Haven Services Clg.

Orchard Grove, Gort Road, Ennis, Co. Clare

Refuge and Outreach support for women and children experiencing domestic abuse

Support Service: 065-6842646 Helpline: 065-6822435 Refuge: 065-6849777

www.clarehaven.ie

Registered Charity: RCN: 20033538 Chy: 11859



**Planning Department
Clare County Council
Áras an Chontae
New Road
Ennis**

27th March 2026.

Re: Variation Number 1, Clare County Development Plan

A chara,

I write to you on behalf of the above organisation regarding the proposed variation to the Clare County Development Plan, with particular reference to Ennis and concerning the attempts to identify a site for the provision of a new refuge for women and children at risk of domestic violence.

For the past number of years a group comprising Cuan, The Housing Agency, The Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government, Clare County Council, Banner Housing Association and ourselves, have been seeking a site for a new refuge but without success. There are clear guidelines for the location of such a refuge, and I would ask you to note that Clare is in the first priority list for the provision of a badly needed replacement refuge. Given the difficulties which the identification of a suitable site is causing, it appeared to Clare Haven that this variation process might be an appropriate mechanism through which the identification of a site might be facilitated. We have a number of suggestions.

1. The inclusion in the development plan for Ennis of an objective to support the provision of a new refuge for those experiencing domestic violence in County Clare.
2. The expansion of the zonings in which the provision of a refuge would be open for consideration. In particular, the expansion to enterprise, light industry and tourism zonings would be helpful and open up more search areas. This could be done either by extending the zonings in which Residential Institution (or whatever use category the refuge would be deemed to fall into) would be open for consideration or by creating a specific use for the refuge and maximising the zones in which it would be open for consideration.

3. Ideally, identify a site of about 1 acre or so in area and reserve it for the building of a refuge, although we recognise that that is a difficult ask.

While the existing refuge has served the people of Clare well for many years, it is now sorely in need of replacement. It is a congregated setting which is no longer fit for purpose and restricts us in those we can admit. The resources to construct a new refuge are available from the state and all that is needed is a site.

I would like to acknowledge the great assistance which we have received to date from Clare County Council as well as from the other agencies and these suggestions are made in a effort to allow the search for a suitable site to be widened somewhat. We would also submit that the 'Open for consideration' designation would allow unsuitable locations to be rejected, while the policy statement would reflect a commitment in principle to the project.

Yours sincerely,



Ciaran Lynch
Board Chair

Directors: Ciaran Lynch, Bernadette Kinsella, Elaine MacGrath, Larry Brennan, Ailbhe McEntee, Aidan Coll, Robert Shanley

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