

## Treanor, Bronagh

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**From:** noel mcguigan [noel.mcguigan@cspringle.com]  
**Sent:** 25 May 2018 15:51  
**To:** !devplan  
**Subject:** Submission on the Draft Development Plan 2019--2025  
**Attachments:** SKM\_C284e18052515580.pdf; SKM\_C284e18052515581.pdf

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Hi,

Please find attached Submission on the Draft Development Plan 2019—2025 on behalf of Castleblayney Hurling Club.

Regards

Noel McGuigan

For



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## Cumann Iomána Baile Na Lorgan

23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2018

Monaghan County Council,  
The Glen,  
Monaghan

### **Re: Monaghan County Council Draft Development Plan. 2019 – 2025**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Castleblayney Hurling Club has been at the heart of the community in Castleblayney since 1964. The Club has established an excellent reputation in the town of Castleblayney and prides itself in providing the opportunity to play hurling for both adults and children within the town and its environs.

Our club currently use pitch facilities at Concra on the Dundalk Road outside Castleblayney for both training and games. These facilities have been in existence now for many years, dating right back to an Ulster Final played there in the 1950's. The land on which these facilities are situated is being leased to us on a short-term year to year basis and our club executive feel that the continued growth of the club year on year means that a more long-term plan for the development of a facility of our own is necessary.

The hurling club has a very close working relationship with Castleblayney Camogie Club and at present we share our facility at Concra with the camogie club who use the pitch for training and games. In the past we shared playing and training facilities with Castleblayney Faughs GFC at St. Mary's Park. However the growth of the Faughs club in recent years and the addition of ladies football teams into the club have led to a situation whereby the current facilities cannot come close to meeting the demand for training and playing pitches. Even with the addition of another pitch over the next few years, the extra space would only allow the Faughs club to fully cater for teams from within their own club and we feel that both the hurling and camogie clubs would continue to struggle to adequately provide for our own teams.

Castleblayney Hurling Club currently fields teams that compete in competitions within both Monaghan and Ulster all the way from U7 to senior level. There are close to 150 juvenile players registered with the club and an additional 50 adult players at senior level. Likewise

Páraic Ó Reachtabhair  
Rúnaí  
Ardbree, Bree  
Castleblayney

Séamus Ó Liatheas  
Cluainín  
Bree  
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the Camogie club also field teams at all Juvenile levels and at Senior level, with playing numbers not too dissimilar to our own. We strongly feel that when you take these participation numbers into account, and factor in the number of games and training sessions held in any one season, it is clear to see that the facilities presently available to us at Concra are totally inadequate and only serve to hinder the progression and development of our club.

Throughout the past ten years or more, Castleblayney Hurling Club has been actively seeking our own facilities and would require something in the region of approximately a 5-acre site near Castleblayney town centre. It is in this regard that our club would like to put forward a proposal that Monaghan County Council seriously consider The White Island as a possible "Sports Park" to cater for the needs of sports clubs in and around Castleblayney at present that currently do not have a long term facility to cater for the needs of their club. Castleblayney Hurling Club would count themselves as such a club at present in that we have found it very difficult to provide proper facilities for the many juvenile and adult players registered to play with our teams.

Within this application we have provided a Draft Plan that outlines our vision for how the White Island might be developed as an excellent facility for the community. On our travels to matches all over Ireland we have experienced similar facilities that have been provided by local authorities to local Clubs. One such example is used by the Kilmacud Crokes GAA Club for their annual Hurling /Football Seven Aside Competitions. This park has a sports field in the centre with facilities around the outskirts for other sporting activities, walks and seating so that people of all ages can enjoy the area. A similar walkway in Ballybay is very popular with the community there for walking, families with bicycles, scooters etc and has incorporated outdoor gym equipment, all of which is sure to have a positive impact on the health and well-being of the community

We are aware that the White Island at present facilitates other sporting groups such as the fishing club and local runners and walkers. However, it is noted that the central area of the White Island has not been used over the years for any particular use. We believe that this area would be ideal for a sports field in conjunction with other suitable and compatible sporting activities.

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Rúnaí  
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We therefore respectfully submit this proposal to the members of Monaghan County Council and we hope that you will seriously consider our proposal under the Draft Development Plan for Monaghan County Council 2019 – 2025.

### Conclusion

It should be noted that the White Island is already designated and zoned for recreational and amenity purposes under the Original Plan and this new Draft Development Plan.

Jimmy Lacey – Chairman, Castleblayney Hurling Club

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jimmy Lacey'. The signature is written over a horizontal line.

