



HSE National Environmental Health Service,  
Southgate, Unit 1.02,  
Dublin Road,  
Drogheda,  
Co. Meath  
A92 PN80

9<sup>th</sup> October 2024

**Re: Proposed Variation No. 6 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019 - 2025**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find enclosed the National Environmental Health Service (NEHS) consultation report in relation to Proposed Variation No. 6 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019 – 2025.

The following HSE departments were notified of the consultation request for this development plan on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

- Emergency Planning – Brendan Lawlor
- Estates – Helen Maher/Stephen Murphy
- Director of National Health Protection – Eamonn O’ Moore/Ina Kelly
- CHO – Dermot Monaghan

If you have any queries regarding this report please contact Ms. Marie McCaffrey, Principal Environmental Health Officer, Louth at [marie.mccaffrey@hse.ie](mailto:marie.mccaffrey@hse.ie)

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Marie McCaffrey'.

Marie McCaffrey  
Principal Environmental Health Officer



### **Introduction to Variation No. 6**

The proposed variation as described in the Background Report dated August 2024 describes the variation as

“To change the land use zoning for the subject lands in Carrickmacross from existing residential to town centre use. This is to, inter alia, facilitate the sustainable development and expansion of the town centre and then enhance the viability and vitality of the Town Centre” (pg 4 and 5 of the Background Report)

The subject lands referred to are at Shirley House Lane, Carrickmacross.

The background report refers to the Carrickmacross Town Car Parking Strategy which deemed that an extension to the existing car park on land at Shirley Lane, Carrickmacross was deemed to be the most appropriate option to provide additional spaces.

The background report additionally refers to the existing County Development Plan and the overall vision for settlements which includes

- Re-development of back lands and derelict sites throughout the towns where appropriate.
- Provision of sufficient parking within the town centres where necessary.

The background report also refers to the Carrickmacross Public Realm Plan 2019 which has the objective to reduce car parking on the main street in Carrickmacross to allow for the creation of better pedestrian friendly and visually attractive urban spaces. Whilst the longer-term goal is to move away from private cars to walking, cycling and public usage, in the short-term, car parking must be able to migrate from on-street to off street locations to facilitate this goal.

## **Background to the submission**

The National Environmental Health Service (NEHS) has considered the proposed variation and made comments in the context of protecting and promoting population health.

Variation No. 6 should fit the vision of the Healthy Ireland Framework “where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health wellbeing to the their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone’s responsibility”

The following observations are made under the remit of Healthy Ireland and relevant health supporting policies, strategies and plans. It takes account of the existing Monaghan County Development 2019 – 2025 and the draft Monaghan County Development Plan 2025 – 2031 that is currently out for public consultation.

The following observations are made

### **Climate Change, Air Quality and Noise**

Climate Change is widely regarded as the greatest threat to global health this century. The proposed rezoning has potential implications for public health in the context of wider sustainable development, which the rezoning is described as facilitating.

From a public health point of view the provision of additional spaces on land at Shirley Lane has the potential to impact on health. The generation of green-house gases from the combustion of fossil fuels by vehicles using the site has global and local public health consequences. The NEHS did not find reference to the Monaghan County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029 within the background report of August 2024.

The combustion of fossil fuels in an urban environment generates air quality issues for the people who live and visit there. The draft Monaghan County Development Plan 2025 – 2031 sets an air quality objective to promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development. The draft plan also recognises that increased traffic as a source of air pollution, is likely to have a detrimental impact on our environment.

The movement of vehicles into and out of the area also generates noise that has potential health implications for the residents of Carrickmacross. As stated in the written statement of the Draft Monaghan County Development Plan 2025 – 2031 “the impact of noise pollution is an important consideration in assessing all development proposals as it can impact on peoples’ quality of life and health”(pg 210).

**The proposed variation does not adequately assess the potential implications for public health. There is no assessment of the potential effects on public health set out in the background report.**

## **Transport and Infrastructure**

The draft written statement of the upcoming Monaghan County Development Plan 2025 – 2031 focuses on the issue of Transport and Infrastructure under Chapter 7. Transport Objective No. 4 in particular sets the objective “to support the creation of an integrated and sustainable transport system to promote a choice of transport modes and low-carbon travel options, including public transport and transport sharing, cycling and walking facilities...”

Strong reference is made under this chapter to the National Climate Action Plan 2024 and the acknowledgement that meeting our 2030 transport abatement targets “will require transformational change and accelerated action across the transport sector.”

Reference is also made to the Monaghan County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029 which includes an ambition to “achieve emissions reductions in line with national targets” with relevant actions including implementation of the county walking and cycling strategy, to deliver active travel, to promote transport modal shift and examine the feasibility of a Park and Stride system.

In addition reference is made to the National Sustainable Mobility Strategy published in April 2022

**The proposed variation doesn't seem to support some of the ambitions set for Monaghan in the draft County Development Plan 2025 – 2031 and the Monaghan County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029.**

*Niall Roche*

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Niall Roche  
Environmental Health Officer

*Marie McCaffrey*

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Principal Environmental Health Officer