

Respondent



6

Anonymous



42:48

Time to complete



1. Name *

Marian Hardiman

2. Organisation (Optional)

3. Email address

4. Phone number

5. Please select the following topics that you wish to make a submission *

Rural Place Making and the Countryside

6. Do you wish to send your submission by email *

If yes please email forwardplanning@galwaycoco.ie (mailto:forwardplanning@galwaycoco.ie) and mark submission "CDP Review"

If no please go to Question No.7

Yes

No

7. Please enter your submission in no more than 4000 plain text characters. *

In a general submission to future planning, I am concerned with the lack of thought that is accompanying planning permissions given for rural houses - particularly those on boithrins or on small narrow rural private roads. While we all love to see new houses in rural Ireland and new families setting up home, I wish to make the following observation based on a planning permission granted near my own home: The original boithrin where the new house is being built belongs to a local family but one field along the boithrin belongs to another family who had a "right of way" to access their land. A family member of this family applied and was given permission to build a large house on this field while using the boithrin of the original owner without their permission. The boithrin is open ended - this was financed by the property owner himself as there was an old original trackway at that location leading to another road. The original family home is vacant for much of the year as the family live out of the country but is used by relatives and by themselves as a house in Summer (usually 3 months). This family contributed a lot of money towards the upkeep of their boithrin which was also (in part) funded by the County Council in 2008 and have maintained the boithrin ever since including the building of an expensive wall and pillar entrance although no gate is closed at this entrance. Two vehicles are unable to pass on this boithrin without one having to reverse up or down the roadway! The boithrin is not a public road (no stop sign, no L number) but is used as a short cut by walker, cyclists (unless the gate across the boithrin near the house is closed) and by the occasional vehicle to access lands. As I have my own house on my own family's boithrin and it is bordered on one side by lands owned by other farmers, I am wondering if this is a policy of the Planning Authority - to grant planning permission for a house without the permission of those who maintain the road. Our boithrin was also renovated by the County Council in 2008 (with some funding from our family) as three farmers can access their lands by our boithrin. This I understand was a "once off" job and we were delighted to have the work done. I think, going forward, consideration of the old boithrins should be given - they are part of our heritage - and should not be sacrificed to facilitate too many developments - and in particular without the permission of the original owners.