LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL
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3 - SEP 2021

Forward/Strategic Planning Economic Development Directorate

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Limerick City & County Council

**Residents Association** 

Rhebogue



Dromroe Rhebogue Limerick

Forward/Strategic Planning Economic Development Directorate Limerick City & County Council Merchants Quay Limerick

August 2021

#### RE: Objection to Rezoning as proposed in Draft Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028 Rhebogue Residents Plebiscite Signatures

This letter is to voice our deep opposition to the proposal to rezone GREEN OPEN SPACE in Dromroe estate in Rhebogue as currently proposed by Limerick City & County Council in the Draft Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028. The proposal would result in bad and inappropriate planning by Limerick Council. Within the Document titled 'Volume 2 Limerick Metropolitan Area Zoning and Tiered Approach to Zoning', the green area used by the residents of Dromroe estate is the green open space represented by a polygon number 49 in the map put forward for rezoning by the Council for new housing development over the lifetime of the plan. In opposition to this proposal, please see our list of observations to support this claim that such rezoning would be bad and inappropriate planning:

- 1. This site, 'The Green' had been for many years subject to planning conditions from existing planning permission associated with the last phase (as it is today) of developed within the existing Dromroe housing estate. That planning permission requires the area at the back of the estate to be open green space. That condition of the planning permission exists today and it is what Limerick City and County Council propose to null and void by rezoning it, and leave the residents in Dromroe without their green to use as recreation. As residents of Dromroe, we want Limerick City and County Council to continue to enforce the existing planning conditions in full, including maintaining the green open space at the back of the estate and rescind the plan to rezone it for further and new development.
- 2. Limerick Council previously tried to overturn this planning condition for green open space as the planning authority when they facilitated and granted planning to a private developer for housing to be built on this on same green space. This was against the planning conditions at the time and, against the wishes of the residents of the estate. Residents in Dromroe opposed this and 3 residents formally appealed the planning decision of Limerick Council to An Bord Pleanala (ABP). The decision from Limerick Council to approve planning was overturned by ABP in favour of the residents as the proposal was deemed to be 'bad and inappropriate planning on a green area'. It was bad and inappropriate planning then, and as nothing has changed since ABP made that decision, it is still bad and inappropriate planning today. The Council appear to be ignoring that finding of ABP with this current plan to rezone for housing on the exact same green area. We appeal to you, to please stop

making the same mistake of bad planning in Dromroe and instead enforce the current planning requirement to have this as green open space.

- 3. The Green area highlighted for rezoning is currently landscaped and has several mature trees established. The use of this area by residents for recreation is an essential feature of life in Dromroe, for kids playing or adults walking their dogs. This was an especially important space during Covid restrictions.
- 4. Dromroe already has 168 houses within the confines of the estate and the proposal to remove 'The Green' and build housing on it would increase the density of housing and at the same time reduce the area of green open space to a level that is not acceptable, either to residents or planning guidelines.
- 5. The 2011 CFRAM (Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management) undertaken by the OPW provides a preliminary Flood Risk Assessment has identified land in Rhebogue that is likely to flood and this area includes the back of the estate of Dromroe, proposed for rezoning and further development. There are plans to reduce this risk by undertaking an installation of significant flood relief works in and around Limerick City & environs, but such work will not take place within the lifetime of the Development Plan proposed by Limerick Council. Therefore, rezoning of this green open space would be considered bad planning under current planning guidelines until such flood relief works are undertaken and proven to work.

In summary, we feel strongly that Limerick Council should immediately remove our recreational green area from their current rezoning proposal, and instead continue to enforce the current planning requirement for it to be green open space. ABP have already overturned inappropriate and bad planning by LCC previously for housing on this green area so we feel it would be completely against logic, against the wishes of the residents, and against the An Bord Pleanala direction for Limerick Council to now proceed with their current proposal.

We appeal to you, to do the right thing and remove this green area from the Draft Development plan for rezoning and allow the residents to continue to enjoy the use of their green area.

Yours truly,

**Residents Association Rhebogue** 

Signatures

Cllr. Kieran O' Hanlon

Sarah J Beasley (Chair Residents Association Rhebogue)

Shella McDonald (Secretary Residents Association Rhebogue)

Signature (Residents Association Rhebogue)

Signature (Residents Association Rhebogue)

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# Residents Association Rhebogue Signature list against Rezoning of 'Green Area'

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#### Residents Association Rhebogue



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