

5th April 2022

To whom it may concern,

The development limits being proposed by the Office of the Planning Regulator contradicting the limits set out by the local Planning Authority is far removed from what is needed and the reality on the ground.

The stagnancy in Patrickswell for young people is very palpable. We need families to prompt economic and social activity which is badly needed currently.

As a GAA club we are struggling massively with underage numbers spiralling continuously downwards meaning we are now finding it difficult to field teams and thus sustain our proud club which has currently the highest number of Senior Hurling Championships in Limerick.

We as a club are feeling the downward population drift hugely and believe the capping of development as intervened by the OPR allied to stringent development control policy brings us now to a tipping point for our sustainability.

Possibly due to our competing proximity to the city we have miniscule social and economic activities in our core village and without the hurling club we in all honesty have little else.

To cap the potential for young families (and potential GAA players) to move to our locality makes little sense as the infrastructure can absorb this increase to our population as set out by the Planning Authority in the first instance.

We have an elderly population and are at saturation point with social housing. The relentless hard volunteering work to keep a club afloat week in week out is made eminently more difficult with a capping on population as set out by the OPR.

Many would say “the GAA club is all we have” in Patrickswell.

Thus we appeal to the Office of the Planning Regulator to reconsider their position. Patrickswell GAA Club believe it to be a misjudgement and would ask that the development limit as originally drafted by the local Planning Authority be observed and adhered given its practicality and its capability to breathe badly needed new life to our village.

Is mise le meas

Tom O'Brien

Patrickswell Senior Hurling Players