

Forward Planning Section,
Economic Development and Enterprise Directorate,
Limerick City and County Council
Merchant Quay
Limerick

6th March 2023

Pre-Draft Issues Paper Review of the Adare Local Area Plan 2015-2021

To whom it may concern,

Adare United Football Club (AUFC) wishes to make the following submission as part of the Pre-Draft Issues Paper Review of the Adare Local Area Plan 2015-2021 (as extended).

ABOUT US

Adare United Football Club (AUFC) is a soccer club serving Adare and its environs, established in 1937. AUFC home ground is 2.457 acres located at lands located at Deerpark, Blackabbey Road, Adare. These lands are owned by Limerick City and County Council, with whom the club has a 30-year lease interest, entered into effective 1st June 2016.

The club is the fastest growing juvenile club in Adare and experiencing a period of unprecedented and substantial growth. In 2018 the club had no juvenile members. It now has over 140 girls and boys playing underage from U11 to U6s. During the soccer season there are ten training sessions held weekly for boys and girls (combined) from U6 to U11, run with the support of over 34 volunteers (parents and others) from the community.

As these players move up the age groups, and new member growth continues at current rates, club projections are that this number will double within the next six years.

LOCAL AREA PLAN 2015-2021 ZONING MAP

It is of significant concern to us that our home ground is not identified as an 'Education and Community Facilities' in the Zoning Map issued as part of this consultation. We request that this be urgently corrected.

Since entering the lease (1st June 2016), through a combination of local fundraising efforts and grant support, the club has invested significantly into developing the facility. This includes the redevelopment of the pitch including levelling, drainage, associated ground works and surface relaying; the fencing of the pitch; and resurfacing of the access route and car park (pictures in appendix one).

The financial year August 2021 to August 2022, our total income was €38,900 of which €8,800 was grant support. The rest was raised through various fundraising efforts by the club's committee and members, primarily through a golf classic which we hold bi-annually. Total expenditure was €32,000. Our largest expenditure was on the pitch maintenance and development with a total investment of €20,600 (of which €8,800 was grant support).

It is therefore very worrying for us that the community facility which we the community has invested so much into developing, is not even identified in the accompanying Zoning Map.

We would also welcome clarification on the 'proposed link road' as identified in the accompanying Zoning Map.

1) COMMUNITY, AMENITY AND RECREATION

Sports Facilities

After years of no Juvenile Soccer Club in Adare, we are very proud of the growth of the club in the past number of years. Our home ground plays a critical role in providing a facility and focal point for us.

The volunteerism of the local community has enabled the transformation of a field into a pitch and invaluable community amenity.

In regard to facilities at our home ground, we do not have a bathroom, or changing rooms. Our pitch also has no lighting. This restricts the level of activity that we can undertake or host on-site. Our ability to develop these is restricted by the current lack of connection to the following infrastructures:

- mains water supply, foul and surface water drainage systems
- electricity

Routes

Access to the club's home ground is currently via Deerpark Estate, Blackabbey Road. This is on the Northern boundary of our facility.

- There is a narrow one car access passageway
- There is no footpath, so pedestrian access is not safe for children or adults
- There is with no cycle path/ route, either connecting the facility to the community, or indeed along the accessway into the facility.

A pedestrian and cycle routes should be developed to open up, and further link and embed this community sports facility serving the residents of Adare Village and its environs.

2) CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

As a community Sports Facility we are currently a sustainable carbon-positive facility. Our ambitions are to develop facilities on-site. We believe this can be achieved while maintaining our carbon positive status via investment into technology enabled solar powered access to the facility, solar powered/ energy efficient lighting, and enhanced pedestrian and cycle access routes.

3) ACTIVE TRAVEL, TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES

Transport Infrastructures

As identified in (1) above, access to the club's home ground is currently via Deerpark Estate, Blackabbey Road.

- There is a narrow one car access passageway
- There is no footpath, so pedestrian access is not safe for children or adults

- There is with no cycle path/ route, either connecting the facility to the community, or indeed along the accessway into the facility.

While a car parking facility is necessary at the facility (as we host away teams), the creation of new pedestrian and cycle routes via what is identified in the zoning map as 'Residential Development Area – Phase 1' and 'Residential Development Area – Phase 2' will open up, and further link and embed this community sports facility to serve the residents of Adare Village and its environs.

Additional Infrastructure

As identified in (1) above, this Community Sports ground currently has no connection to the following infrastructures:

- mains water supply, foul and surface water drainage systems
- electricity

It is our ambition that as our club continues to grow, to further enhance this community facility to include a toilet, changing rooms, and lighting. The facility needs these infrastructures to enable us to do this. As identified in (2) above, it is our ambition to remain a carbon-positive facility as we do this.

CONCLUSION

Adare United FC welcomes this Pre-Draft Issues Paper Review of the Adare Local Area Plan 2015-2021 (as extended).

We have invested significantly into the creation and transformation of this sporting facility for our club and the parish over the past number of years (illustrations of the transformation of the facility in Appendix One), including:

- Creation of a pitch
- Erection of fencing
- Enhanced access
- Parking facilities

We ask that the new Local Area Plan include

- **Correct identification and Zoning of this Community Sports Facility**
- **Enhanced pedestrian and cycle access to the facility**
- **Provision of necessary infrastructures to enable future enhancements of this community facility**

We thank you in advance for taking our submission into consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Griffin, Chairman

APPENDIX ONE | OUR STORY IN PICTURES

TRANSFORMATION OF OUR COMMUNITY SPORTS FACILITY | 2018 – 2022



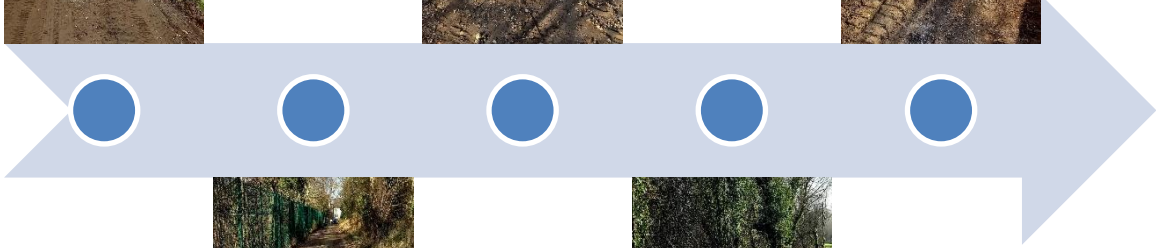
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY | TRANSFORMATION FROM FIELD TO PITCH



CREATING A CAR PARK



ENHANCING ACCESS



AERIAL VIEW OF FACILITY, OCT 2022













