

Roscommon County Council,
Aras an Chontae,
Roscommon.

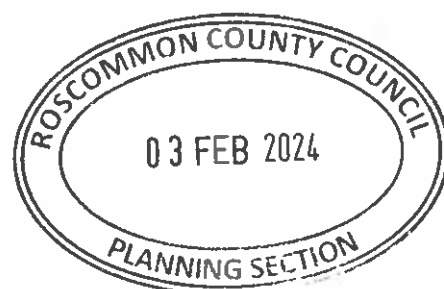
2nd February 2024

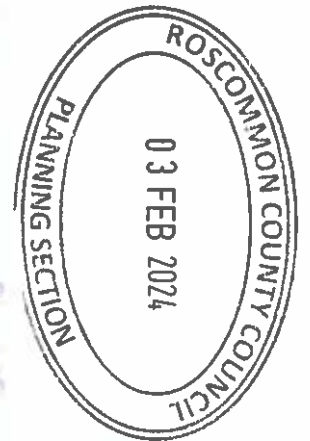
Dear Sir/Madam,

We wish to make the following submission to the draft Roscommon Town Local Area Plan 2024 – 2030:

1. Reference should be made in the Roscommon Town Local Area Plan 2024 – 2030 to the popular and important recreation and tourist area of Mote Park, the entrance to which is immediately adjoining the southern boundary of Roscommon Town. The Plan should include that greater linkages need to be developed from Roscommon Town Centre through the provision of active travel infrastructure and wayfinding signage to Mote Park via the *Salters Gatehouse* entrance and the off-link road from the Golf Club to Hannon's Hotel. These two access points are heavily used by walkers and cyclists coming from the town for recreation purposes and to access St. Coman's Walking Trail, Mote Park Heritage Walkway, Derrydonnell Trails and Mote Park Interactive Heritage Tour.

2. With reference to Opportunity Site No. 7 The Spinney- Abbeytown as outlined in the draft plan. This site in its current state contains numerous mature heritage trees along it's boundary and internally on the site which should be considered for Tree Preservation Orders, it is also the site of a rookery and may contain the habitats of protected species such as bats. The mature trees on the site add to the historic setting of this part of the town. The site is also near the old abbey and may require archaeological assessment. The historic nature of the site is evident from the first edition OS maps, extract below. Including it as an opportunity site may not comply with policy objective RN 39 – *"Ensure the protection, conservation and enhancement of biodiversity within the settlement boundary of Roscommon town"* or with strategic aim 8.1 – *"This plan aims to recognise and preserve the unique built and natural heritage synonymous with Roscommon Town, through ensuring a collaborative approach is adopted by all stakeholders, to drive the ethos of quality placemaking and urban enhancement, alongside protecting the built character and natural environment of the town"*.





3. Section 8.3 of the Roscommon Town Local Area Plan 2024 – 2030, Natural Heritage should emphasise the protection of existing mature trees in and around the town through the introduction of Tree Preservation Orders. This section of the Plan should also contain references for the protection of existing trees and hedgerows and the promotion and

enhancement of biodiversity through the planting of trees and native species throughout business and residential areas of the town.

4. Edenville House and its grounds should be zoned Community Infrastructure as per the zoning on previous Roscommon Local Area Plans. This protected structure and its site offers a unique opportunity for the development of a centre for community, education and heritage uses for the town.

Eilish & Noel Feeley

