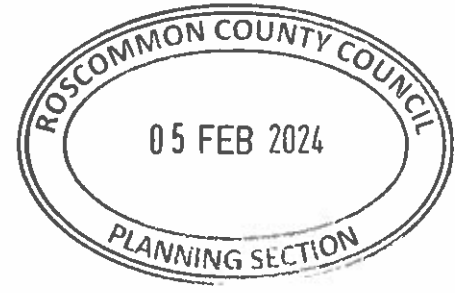


COUNTY ROSCOMMON FAMINE COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE
CARROWNTemple, FOUR ROADS, ROSCOMMON F42 A303

A
SUBMISSION
TO THE ROSCOMMON TOWN
LOCAL AREA PLAN



Re: Recognition and Memory of Bully’s Acre in the townland of Slevinagee in the town of Roscommon.

Dear Sir,

We are writing on behalf of the forgotten victims of the most tragic and enduring parts of our collective local history. The local history of course applies to all of the county and not just Roscommon Town as the entire county has recorded links with this historic graveyard. We have a number of asks which we will outline below after which we will elaborate further.

- 1 The recognition of Bully’s Acre as a recorded graveyard on the maps in the Draft LAP.
- 2 The provision of access to the site of the graveyard and the construction of an appropriate memorial monument.
- 3 The restoration of the physical link between the workhouse and its graveyard.
- 4 The construction of a footpath along the river Jiggy which will recognise and link historic and heritage landmarks in the town.

The zoning of the land for Bully’s Acre does not recognise it as community infrastructure. The graveyards in Ardsallagh have such a zoning and we consider that this graveyard be designated the same as others in the vicinity. It is important to remember the victims in a positive manner.

The Roscommon County Council and Irish Water already have access rights along the Jiggy river for maintenance of important infrastructure. These rights should be extended to incorporate public access to the graveyard which not only is in the ownership of the County Council but was and is an important segment of community infrastructure. There should be a development objective included in the Draft LAP to fully support creation of public access.

In relatively recent years the Council went some way towards providing a pedestrian access along the Jiggy and required a footpath to be constructed alongside the Government Offices and the river. This was an innovative approach at the time. In the current era where active travel and healthy living are espoused in national policy documents it would be an opportunity to extend existing infrastructure along the Jiggy as a community asset. This would also have the advantage of restoring the physical link between the workhouse and the final resting place of many of its inmates.

COUNTY ROSCOMMON FAMINE COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE

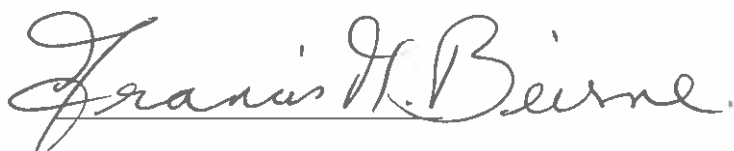
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There is a substantial heritage in Roscommon Town much of it recognised in the established heritage trail around existing historical landmarks. It would be inclusive if Bully's Acre Burial Ground became part of this tourist asset as well as being a recognition of an important cultural memory. We ask that an objective be included in the Roscommon Town Draft LAP to extend the heritage trail to include Bully's Acre.

We thank you for considering this submission and hope that our elected representatives recognise the importance of holding our community memories and at the same time helping to deliver a healthy and safe piece of infrastructure. The inclusion of Bully's Acre is a multi-faceted long term project which will only be realised through collaboration with all stakeholders, the inclusion of policy support in statutory plans is an important first step towards attracting public investment and community development of the common good.

Hoping our submission will be given due consideration and recognition.

Yours sincerely,



**Francis M. Beirne,
Chairperson,
County Roscommon Famine Commemoration Committee.**

1st February 2024.

