



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**  
  
Limerick City  
& County Council

Stiúrthóireacht Forbartha Tuaithe, Pobail & Cultúir  
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh  
Ceanncheathrú Chorparáideach  
Cé na gCeannaithe  
Luimneach

Rural, Community & Culture Development Directorate  
Limerick City and County Council  
Corporate Headquarters  
Merchants Quay  
Limerick

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Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025

**To: The Cathaireach and Each Member of the Municipal District of Adare Rathkeale**

**Re: Part VIII Planning Report for the Redevelopment of Monument Hill at Foynes, Co. Limerick**

A Chomhairleoir, chara,

I enclose herewith the Mayor's Report prepared in accordance with Section 179 3(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) in respect of the proposed Redevelopment of Monument Hill at Foynes, Co. Limerick.

In accordance with Section 179 (4) (b) of the above Act, it is proposed to proceed as indicated in Section 8 of this report.

Is mise le meas,

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**STEPHANE DUCLOT**  
Director of Service  
Rural, Culture, Community and Tourism Development Directorate  
Limerick City and County Council.

## Memo

**To:** John Moran, Mayor

**From:** Vincent Murray, Director of Services, Planning, Environment and Place Making

**Date:** 03/02/2025

**Re:** Part 8 proposal, Reference PT8LL181 – Reinstatement of Walking Trail and associated works at Monument Hill Walk at Marine Cove, Leahy's, Foynes, Co. Limerick including:

- Re-grading of existing concrete stairs leading from Marine Cove,
- New viewing area at the top of the stairs,
- Timber fence with mesh infill along northern site boundary,
- Reconfigured walking trail from viewing platform to the Stephen Edmond Spring Rise Memorial Cross Monument, and,
- Informal play areas,
- Works to include cleaning and minor repair works to the Monument, and,
- A vehicular maintenance path from existing forest access road to a vehicle manoeuvring area to the west of the Monument.

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Dear Mayor,

Please find attached for your consideration report prepared in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) in respect of the proposed Part 8 works including the reinstatement of the Walking Trail and associated Works at Monument Hill Walk at Marine Cove, Leahy's, Foynes, Co. Limerick.

The proposal prepared by the Rural, Culture, Community, and Tourism Development Directorate has been evaluated taking into consideration all submissions received. It is concluded that the proposed development is in accordance with the objectives of the Limerick Development Plan, 2022 – 2028, and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

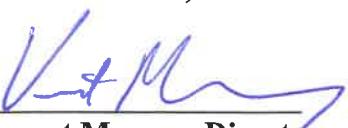
It is recommended that the proposed development be recommended to the Elected Members of Limerick City & County Council for their approval.



**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Eithne O'Brien, Assistant Planner



**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Collins, A/Senior Executive Planner



**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Vincent Murray, Director of Services, Planning, Environment and Place Making

**MAYOR'S REPORT & RECOMMENDATION IN ACCORDANCE  
WITH SECTION 179 3(a) OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT  
ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED)**

**Re: Part 8 Proposal Reference PT8LL181 for the following:**

Reinstatement of Walking Trail and associated works at Monument Hill Walk at Marine Cove, Leahy's, Foynes, Co. Limerick including:

- Re-grading of existing concrete stairs leading from Marine Cove,
- New viewing area at the top of the stairs,
- Timber fence with mesh infill along northern site boundary,
- Reconfigured walking trail from viewing platform to the Stephen Edmond Spring Rise Memorial Cross Monument, and,
- Informal play areas,
- Works to include cleaning and minor repair works to the Monument, and,
- A vehicular maintenance path from existing forest access road to a vehicle manoeuvring area to the west of the Monument.

## **1.0 Introduction**

This report has been prepared pursuant to Section 179 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended), and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

## **2.0 Description of the nature and extent of the proposed development**

The proposal relates to works to upgrade informal walking/trail routes, a historic look out point and monument. The nature and extent of the proposed works are as follows:

- Demolition of the existing steps from Marine Cove and construction of new ambulant disabled accessible steps and landing areas with handrails,
- Extension of the existing plan area of the steps by approximately 7m,
- Construction of a new viewing platform with railings,
- Construction of a new fence line along northern and northeaster border,
- Construction of a new loose stone path to the Edmund Spring Rice Monument and fitness trail run along the south-western border of the site,
- Construction of children's play equipment, informal play areas,
- Installation of benches / seating areas within the new amenity area,
- Installation of bird and bat boxes as biodiversity enhancement features,
- Provision of an access road and turning area for maintenance from the existing forest road to the monument.

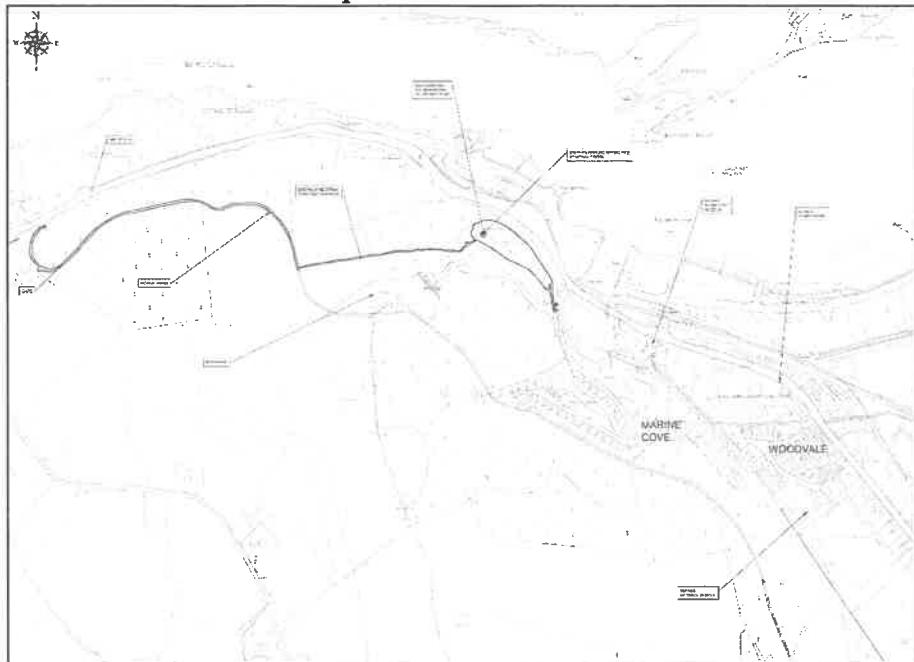
### **2.1 Site Location**

The proposed development is located north of the settlement of Foynes adjacent to the settlement boundary. The development pertains to a monument erected at top of Monument hill, which overlooks the Shannon Estuary.

The Monument Hill Walkway was a pathway measuring approximately 220m from Marine Cove in the Village of Foynes to the hilltop overlooking Foynes, marked by a Celtic Cross dedicated to Stephen Edmund Spring Rice. The Monument is a Protected Structure and is also included on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH). A reservoir is located to the west of the forest path. This reservoir feeds a stream that terminates in Foynes Harbour via a newly constructed culvert that diverts the flow under the N69. The site is bounded by a steep cliff edge and the N69 to the north and existing forest to all other boundaries. The site can be accessed from two directions:

- From Marine Cove via a recently constructed raised 'plinth' covering a culvert. The current site entrance is not accessible to the public due to the poor condition of the stairs and path leading to the Monument. On entering the site from Marine Cove, a series of concrete steps and ramps set into the cliff face leads to a bracken-covered clearing. This clearing is steeply sloped and rises from the southeast to northwest, where the Monument is located.
- From the forest road to the west of the site via an existing 'pine straw' pathway and also via a series of existing informal pedestrian trails through a forested area to the northeast of the reservoir. Vehicular access to the site is via this gated forest road located off the N69 to Glin Road, approximately 1.2km from Marine Cove in Foynes, Co. Limerick.

**Below: Site Location Map**



**2.2 Public Consultation:**

The plans and particulars were placed on public display from the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025 until the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025. Submissions and observations were invited up to the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

**3.0 Submissions with respect to the proposed development**

A total of 1 no. written submission/observation was received and is listed below:

No.	Name
1	Mid West National Road Design Office (MWNRDO)

**SUB (1) Mid West National Road Design Office (MWNRDO)**

Received Date: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.

**Item No. 1:**

Submission:	The Mid West National Road Design Office has no observations to make in relation to the above application.
Mayor's Response:	Noted.

**4.0 Habitats Directive Project Screening Assessment**

An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has been undertaken by Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers for the proposed development. The report examines the impacts the proposed development may have on any nearby European Designated Sites. Their report concludes as follows:

*Potential impacts during the proposed works at Monument Hill, Foynes, Co. Limerick have been considered in the context of the River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA and Lower River Shannon SAC.*

*The potential for interaction on the Qualifying Interests for the River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA and Lower River Shannon SAC have been assessed in detail and it was assessed there will be no significant impact on water quality, disturbance to species or spread of invasive species, or a significant impact to a protected habitat during the proposed works.*

*Owing to the nature, and type of habitat located within the development boundary and the localised scale of the proposed works, it is concluded that the River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA and Lower River Shannon SAC, will not be impacted by the proposed works at Monument Hill, Foynes, Co. Limerick. Furthermore, no impacts will arise as a result of the proposed works on any other Natura 2000 site.*

*This Screening report evaluates the objective information presented in the Project Description, taking consideration of the proposed works elements; however, the evaluation does not presuppose that the construction requirements specified in the design, or to be implemented on site by the Contractor, are integral to avoid or reduce harmful effects on any European site. Therefore, it is considered that in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, the proposed works at Foynes, Co. Limerick will have no likely potential for significant effects and Stage 2 of the Appropriate Assessment process (Natura Impact Statement) is not required.*

Limerick City and County Council's Ecologist has reviewed the Appropriate Assessment Screening report as well as documentation provided in relation to the proposed cleaning of the monument, and in terms of the potential for works to result in the spread of plants species considered invasive and the potential impacts on bats and badgers, the Council's Ecologist is satisfied that no significant impact on the European sites or biodiversity in general should arise due to this project.

The Council's Ecologist notes that the AA Screening report indicates that no known Lesser Horseshoe Bat roost exists within close proximity to the project, however, a newly discovered roost has been identified within 2.5Km of the site. This roost site was not public knowledge at the time of the writing of the AA Screening report nor would knowledge of it have been available through consultation with NPWS. In addition, the Council Ecologist is satisfied that given the size, nature and scale of the works associated with this proposal, no likely significant impacts would occur to a European site or population of this species or the newly discovered roost population.

Having regard to the above, it is considered, given the nature and scale of the works and the nature of the existing surrounding environment, the development as proposed should not exercise a significant effect on the conservation status of any SAC or SPA either alone or in combination with other plans or projects and therefore a Stage 2 NIS is not necessary.

## **5. Environmental Impact Assessment Screening**

An EIA Screening Report has been prepared by Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers and submitted with the application, which considered whether an EIA is required for the proposed development. The Screening report concludes that there is no real likelihood of

significant effects of the environment having regard to the nature, scale and location of the proposed development.

The development does not fall within any of the threshold or sub-threshold requirements for a mandatory EIA as specified in Section 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). Having regard to the nature and scale of the development as proposed it has been determined that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report is not required.

## 6. Key Policy Provisions

### **Objective ECON O45, Tourism**

It is an objective of the Council to:

- a) Support strong growth in the tourism sector in Limerick ensuring the economic and societal benefits of tourism are effectively distributed throughout the County, through connections between complementary sites and attractions, by encouraging visitors to move around the County and to enable them to do so with ease.
- b) Support the development of Limerick's capacity for largescale group tourism, through improved transport amenities for bus tours, group tours and cruise ship visitors.
- c) Recognise the heritage value of Limerick's towns and villages such as Adare, Kilmallock and Askeaton and seek opportunities to enhance their tourism potential.
- d) Support and harness the tourism potential of existing rural and heritage site amenities/attractions, including The Clare Glens, Lough Gur, Knockfierna, Munster Vales, Ballyhoura Country, Foynes Flying Boat and Maritime Museum, The Shannon Estuary Way, Curragh Chase, Fullers Folly and Adare Heritage Centre, in a way that promotes sustainable tourism.

### **Objective ECON O50, Facilities and Amenities incidental to Tourist and Recreational Attractions and Scenic Views**

It is an objective of the Council to consider public facilities and amenities of a type and scale that are incidental to tourist attractions and associated services where they would:

- a. Allow these attractions to be enjoyed and accessed by the public;
- b. Cater for basic needs of the public, incidental to the enjoyment of these attractions;
- c. Help to protect sensitive features through information and by appropriate management;
- d. Be adequately serviced and managed;
- e. Be inclusive to all members of the community. Applications must be accompanied by a management plan and justified by reference to a coherent, evidence-based tourism and recreational strategy applicable to the area. Such development should not impair the capacity of the road network.

### **Objective TR O8 Walking and Cycling Infrastructure**

It is an objective of the Council to:

- a. Improve and provide clear, safe and direct pedestrian linkages, cycle networks, including the greenways and primary segregated cycle routes, between the employment zones, shopping areas and residential areas throughout Limerick;
- b. Maintain and expand the pedestrian route network, infrastructure and where possible, retrofit cycle and pedestrian routes into the existing urban road network, to provide for accessible safe pedestrian routes within Limerick

### **Objective EH O31 Views and Prospects**

It is an objective of the Council to:

a) Preserve, protect and encourage the enjoyment of views and prospects of special amenity value or special interests and to prevent development, which would block or otherwise interfere with views and/or prospects.

b) In areas where scenic views and prospects are listed in the Plan, there will be a presumption against development, except that required to facilitate farming and appropriate tourism and related activities. The development must be appropriately designed so that it can be integrated into the landscape

### **Objective EH O50 Work to Protected Structures**

It is an objective of the Council to:

- a) Protect structures included on the RPS from any works that would negatively impact their special character and appearance.
- b) Ensure that any development proposals to Protected Structures, their curtilage and setting, shall have regard to the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities published by the Department of the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
- c) Ensure that all works are carried out under the supervision of a qualified professional with specialised conservation expertise.
- d) Ensure that any development, modification, alteration, or extension affecting a Protected Structure and/ or its setting, is sensitively sited and designed and is appropriate in terms of the proposed scale, mass, height, density, layout and materials.
- e) Ensure that the form and structural integrity of the Protected Structure is retained in any redevelopment and that the relationship between the Protected Structure and any complex of adjoining buildings, designed landscape features, or views and vistas from within the grounds of the structure are respected.
- f) Respect the special interest of the interior, including its plan form, hierarchy of spaces, architectural detail, fixtures and fittings and materials.
- g) Support the re-introduction of traditional features on protected structures where there is evidence that such features (e.g. window styles, finishes etc.) previously existed.
- h) Ensure that new and adapted uses are compatible with the character and special interest of the Protected Structure.
- i) Protect the curtilage of Protected Structures and to refuse planning permission for inappropriate development within the curtilage and attendant grounds, that would adversely impact on the special character of the Protected Structure.
- j) Protect and retain important elements of built heritage including historic gardens, stone walls, entrance gates and piers and any other associated curtilage features.
- k) Ensure historic landscapes and gardens associated with Protected Structures are protected from inappropriate development.

### **Objective EH O52 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)**

It is an objective of the Council to review and update the RPS on foot of any Ministerial recommendations including the NIAH and any future updates. The Ministerial Recommendations, made under Section 53 of the Planning Act, will be taken into account when the Planning Authority is considering proposals for development that would affect the historic or architectural interest of these structures.

### **Objective SCSI O8 Place-making for the Community**

It is an objective of the Council to:

- a) Develop and protect an open space network and hierarchy of quality public and community spaces, to extend close to where people live and which can accommodate a variety of recreational amenities and facilities for the community at large.

- b) Incorporate specific facilities and amenities that would promote exercise and movement as well as rest and relaxation in a natural way and in a variety of settings.
- c) Protect areas which are considered to be quiet or which offer a sense of tranquillity, through a process of identification and validation followed by formal designation of 'Quiet Areas'

#### **10.11 Play Areas**

Play areas for children and teenagers in both urban and suburban areas greatly enhance quality of life and sense of community. Limerick City and County Council have an adopted Play Policy, reflecting the importance that the Council places on the value of play in childhood and the importance of children in our society. Play is not just about the provision of facilities. It is creating the conditions to facilitate play not just in playgrounds, but in the wider environment and in both indoor and outdoor public spaces. Ensuring the retention of the natural environment, such as green spaces and woodlands, including features such as trees and mounds, equally play an important role in the provision of play

#### **Policy SCSI P5, Play**

It is a policy of the Council to facilitate opportunities for play and support the implementation of the Limerick City and County Council Play Policy and its objectives.

#### **Objective SCSI O28, New amenity walkways**

It is an objective of the Council to continue to promote and facilitate the development of walkways subject to an appropriate level of environmental and ecological assessment. Any proposed development adjacent to such walkways must incorporate connecting pathways into the designated walkway in their design. Developments shall be designed to ensure that properties overlook proposed walkways.

#### **Objective SCSI O29, Trails, Hiking and Walking Routes**

It is an objective of the Council to support and promote the development of regional and local networks of mountain biking, hiking and walking routes/trails. These should be waymarked/signposted and listed, where feasible and appropriate.

## **7. Appraisal**

#### **Principle of Development:**

This Part 8 application relates to the reinstatement of walking trail and associated works at Monument Hill Walk at Marine Cove, Leahy's, Foynes, Co. Limerick. The site is located in the rural area immediately west of Foynes and adjacent to the settlement boundary. The site is unzoned. The proposed development is adjacent to an existing settlement and would therefore serve as an amenity to residents and visitors and as such would be in line with Objective ECON O45 Tourism of the Limerick Development Plan 2022-25028 as it supports and harnesses the tourism potential of existing amenities i.e., Foynes Flying Boat and Maritime Museum and the Shannon Estuary Way. The proposed development essentially relates to works to upgrade informal walking trail/routes, a historic look out point and monument, as well as works to an existing forest road to facilitate maintenance vehicles and replacement fencing, as such is generally acceptable in principle.

### Design and layout

The existing monument sits in an elevated open grassed area, which slopes slightly downwards from east to west towards the settlement of Foynes. The approach from the west is an open cleared area currently with low-level ferns, grasses and other undergrowth. There is a mature woodland to the south providing extensive screening. There is a mature perimeter tree line to the north (at Estuary side) along the line of an existing low timber post boundary fence, which is stated as being in poor condition. The site entrance is from the Marine Cove side is located directly adjacent to the settlement boundary of Foynes. There have been recent engineering works to the entrance of the application site at Marine Cove, including the construction of a new covered culvert, retaining walls, access steps and raised platform. Access to the foot of the monument steps is via same. The application site contains a Protected Structure, the Spring Rice Memorial Cross (RPS reg. no. 1176), which is also listed on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH Reg. No. 21829002).

The proposal is to upgrade and enhance the existing informal walking trail/routes at Monument Hill, a historic look out point and monument, as well as works to an existing forest road to facilitate maintenance vehicles and replacement fencing. The majority of the proposals are to the east of the monument on the 'Foynes' side of the application site in proximity to the village settlement boundary.

It is proposed to demolish the existing steps from Marine Cove and construct new ambulant disabled accessible steps and landing areas with galvanised steel handrails. Concrete steps were already in place at this location, however under this proposal the existing plan area of the steps will be extended by approximately 7m. At the end of this row of steps, it is proposed to construct a 2m x 4m viewing platform enclosed with a galvanised steel railing. The platform will be screened from public view by existing vegetation, as such the design integrates well with the landscape and will not impact on any existing views/prospects considering the location of the steps adjacent to the N69 Scenic View.

The construction of a new 1.5m wide gravel path will be provided from the proposed lower level viewing platform up to the Edmund Spring Rice Monument, a fitness trail is also proposed along the south-western border of the site. Informal pathways with seating areas, and an informal play area are to be integrated into the main path at dedicated intervals. The materials proposed to be used include bark mulch in the informal play area, informal seating areas and trail run path. The provision of natural play items are welcomed and provide an important role in the provision of 'play' in line with 10.11 Play Areas and Policy SCSI P5, Play. There is no lighting proposed as part of the project.

It is proposed to upgrade the area around the base of the monument with a loose stone surround to include two benches on the outskirts along with information signage to the rear. The Council's Conservation Officer has reviewed the proposal and is satisfied that the proposed works are appropriate to the architectural heritage and character of the monument. It is proposed to undertake remedial works to sections of the monument that have been undermined over time. On the advice of the Council's Archaeologist and Architectural Conservation Officer, these works will be overseen by a Conservation professional, and by suitably qualified and experienced specialist contractors, as outlined in the Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment. The proposal as outlined above is to be welcomed and is considered to be in line with policies and objectives contained in the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 including Objective EH O50 Work to Protected

Structures, Objective SCSI O28, New amenity walkways and Objective SCSI O29, Trails, Hiking and Walking Routes.

#### Access and Traffic Safety

Works are proposed to the existing entrance to the site at Marine Cove Road. As above, there have been recent engineering works to the entrance of the site including the construction of a new covered culvert, retaining walls, access steps and raised platform. It is proposed to widen the existing footpaths to include tactile paving to form an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing.

The provision of upgrades to the existing access road to the Monument from the Forest Road is proposed. This proposed route will be reserved for maintenance workers only. A section of the access road is proposed to be upgraded to allow for vehicular use. The section of road will be diverted around existing mature trees, as such scrub clearance is required.

The Council Roads Department have reviewed the proposals and support same, in particular the widening of the footpath. Minor amendments to tactile paving is advised in order to avoid confusion for vulnerable users, this can be incorporated at detailed design stage.

#### Boundaries

An existing timber fence along the site extents on the northern and north-eastern border will be replaced with a new 1.8m high timber post and rail fence with wire mesh infill. Given that an existing fencing was already in place and this is essentially a replacement of same, the proposal is considered acceptable.

The proposed works will provide for safer and more accessible amenity as well as an attractive recreational area for locals and visitors alike. As outlined above, the proposal is considered to comply with policies and objectives of the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028. As well as those outlined above, the proposal aligns particularly with Objective ECON O50 Facilities and Amenities incidental to Tourist and Recreational Attractions and Scenic Views, Objective SCSI O28, New amenity walkways and Objective EH O31 Views and Prospects.

#### **8.0 Conclusion**

Having regard to the foregoing evaluation and the reason and considerations as set out, the proposal is considered to be in accordance with the objectives of the Limerick Development Plan, 2022 - 2028 and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. Pursuant to Section 179(3)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) the proposed development is recommended to the Elected Members of Limerick City & County Council for their approval.



Mr. John Moran

Mayor

Limerick City & County Council

Date: 3rd March 2025

## **Limerick City & County Council**

### **Re: Part 8 Proposal for the following:**

Part 8 proposal, Reference PT8LL181 – Reinstatement of Walking Trail and associated works at Monument Hill Walk at Marine Cove, Leahy's, Foynes, Co. Limerick including:

- Re-grading of existing concrete stairs leading from Marine Cove,
- New viewing area at the top of the stairs,
- Timber fence with mesh infill along northern site boundary,
- Reconfigured walking trail from viewing platform to the Stephen Edmond Spring Rise Memorial Cross Monument, and,
- Informal play areas,
- Works to include cleaning and minor repair works to the Monument, and,
- A vehicular maintenance path from existing forest access road to a vehicle manoeuvring area to the west of the Monument.

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### **Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Determination**

Pursuant to the requirements of the above Limerick City & County Council is proposing the development as described above at Monument Hill Walk at Marine Cove, Leahy's, Foynes, Co. Limerick.

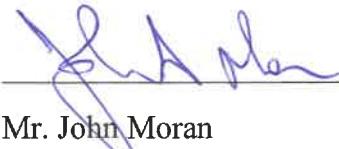
The plans and particulars were placed on public display from the 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 up to and including the 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 in accordance with the requirements of the Part XI of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended).

Having regard to Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC and (inter alia) the Department of Housing Planning Community and Local Government's Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities (2010), screening of the development for Appropriate Assessment was carried out by Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers on behalf of the Rural, Culture, Community and Tourism Development Directorate of Limerick City and County Council.

An AA of the proposed development is not required as it can be excluded, on the basis of objective information provided in the Screening Report, the nature and scale of the development and the nature of the existing surrounding environment, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will not have a significant effect on any European sites. Therefore, this proposed project does not need to proceed to Stage II of the Appropriate Assessment Process. The Screening has determined that there is no potential for likely significant effects on any European sites.

For the reasons outlined above it is considered that the application for consent for the proposed development does not require an Appropriate Assessment or the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

**Order:** That Limerick City & County Council as the Competent Authority having considered the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report prepared by Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers makes a determination that, when considered either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment will not be required to accompany the proposal for the reinstatement of the walking trail and associated works at Monument Hill Walk at Marine Cove, Leahy's, Foynes, Co. Limerick.



Mr. John Moran

Mayor

Limerick City & County Council

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025

## **Limerick City & County Council**

### **Re: Part 8 Proposal for the following:**

Part 8 proposal, Reference PT8LL181 – Reinstatement of Walking Trail and associated works at Monument Hill Walk at Marine Cove, Leahy's, Foynes, Co. Limerick including:

- Re-grading of existing concrete stairs leading from Marine Cove,
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- A vehicular maintenance path from existing forest access road to a vehicle manoeuvring area to the west of the Monument.

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### **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Determination**

Pursuant to the requirements of the above Limerick City & County Council is proposing development as described above at the Monument Hill Walk at Marine Cove, Leahy's, Foynes, Co. Limerick.

The plans and particulars were placed on public display from the 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 up to and including 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 in accordance with the requirements of the Part XI of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended).

Having regard to EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU (the EIA Directive), the guidance contained in the Department of Housing Planning Community and Local Government's "Impact Assessment Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-Threshold Development" (2003), Screening of the development for Environmental Impact was carried out by Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers on behalf of the Rural, Culture, Community and Tourism Development Directorate of Limerick City and County Council.

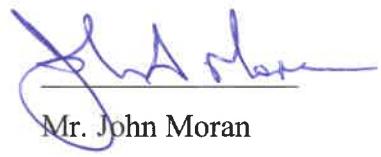
The Screening has been carried out in accordance with the EIA Directive and to Annex I, II and III of that Directive, which sets out requirements for mandatory and sub-threshold EIA. The proposal has been assessed in accordance with the criteria for sub-threshold development to determine the potential impact on the environment of the project.

The subsequent EIA Screening Report concludes that the development has been assessed under the environmental criteria outlined in Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, and an EIAR is not required. In conclusion, it is considered that the proposed development will not have any significant impacts on the environment given the scale and nature of the development. All recommended mitigation measures and standard practices will be employed throughout the construction phase of the development to ensure that the

proposed development will not create any significant impacts on the quality of the surrounding environment.

For the reasons outlined above it is considered that the proposal will not present a risk to the environment. As such this screening exercise concludes that an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required for this project.

**Order:** That Limerick City & County Council as the Competent Authority having considered the EIA Screening Report prepared by Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers makes a determination that an Environmental Impact Assessment will not be required to inform the development consisting of the reinstatement of the walking trail and associated works at Memorial Cross Monument, Foynes, Co. Limerick.



Mr. John Moran

Mayor

Limerick City & County Council

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023