

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [forwardplanning](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** BALLINASLOE TENNIS CLUB SUBMISSION FOR GALWAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-28  
**Date:** Thursday 10 September 2020 13:52:10  
**Attachments:** [Submission for Galway County Plan 2022-2028.docx.pdf](#)

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## **SUBMISSION FOR GALWAY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-28 (Also attached as PDF doc)**

### **BALLINASLOE COMMUNITY AND SPORTS CENTRE**

Ballinasloe and District Tennis Club has obtained a lease on a site in the Sports Hub in Brackernagh, Ballinasloe, directly above the Running Track.

The club has planning permission to build 4 tennis courts and are about to commence of the first stage of this development which is 2 tarmac tennis courts with lights and ground works. The next stage will be to complete a third court with lights and provide artificial surface for the 3 completed courts. A phased development is necessary due to the availability of funding.

The Sports Hub in Ballinasloe already has an impressive range of sports facilities, with the GAA, the Soccer Club and the Running Track, and the tennis courts will be a valuable addition to the area.

In addition to providing tennis courts, the Tennis Club has much greater ambitions for this site and have been working hard on this proposed project – to provide a Multi-Purpose Community and Sports Centre for the residents Ballinasloe and the surrounding areas.

The town of Ballinasloe lacks and needs is a high quality indoor facility to allow for multiple sports and other activities to take place all year round without being at the mercy of the unpredictable Irish weather.

Sports and activities that could utilise the facility include tennis, handball, basketball, netball, futsal, volleyball, badminton, table tennis, bowls, martial arts, yoga, pilates, dancing classes and social dancing and other sports and activities not already catered for in the town. Including a training kitchen will allow for cookery classes and other related activities. The centre could also host large corporate events in main hall and other activities or meetings in smaller rooms

The club see the facility providing a safe and welcoming environment with a range of activities for everyone, including special needs, teenagers, minority and disadvantaged groups and local residents, who all currently have very limited, if any, places to go in Ballinasloe.

This would also be a self-sustaining and environmentally friendly facility. Photovoltaic electricity generation would provide all power and heating for the facility and an excess that could be sold back to the grid. A rainwater harvesting system would provide all water for the facility with an excess available for other local uses.

The club has been engaging with local sports clubs and other groups, as well as local councillors, TD's, senators, schools and other community and resident groups and there has been great interest and support for the project from all parties. Many sports and other groups have already confirmed they would definitely use such a facility.

The tennis club has for many years been working with Special Needs groups, and they have expressed great interest in this facility, as they currently can only play tennis in warm weather and have to leave Ballinasloe for almost all other activities due to lack of local facilities.

A leading firm of sports architects, Cummins & Voortman Ltd, has been commissioned to prepared plans for the building and site.

The club and architect Robert Cummings presented their vision for the development at Galway Council offices in late 2019, the presentation was well received by Council representatives but no formal response has been received to date.

A presentation was also made to local councillors, TDs, Senators and other sports, community, and residents groups and other interested parties, which received unanimous support and valuable input and suggestions on how to progress with the project.

This Facility would bring many benefits to the town, including:

Attract players of numerous sports and bring new sporting and other events to Ballinasloe.

Enhance and encourage use of the running track and provide facilities for users.

Greatly enhance the Sports Hub and Ballinasloe as a top class sporting destination.

Encourage tourism and provide facilities and activities for tourists.

Attract large corporate events to Ballinasloe.

Cater for large numbers of foreign students in town during the summer currently leaving Ballinasloe due to lack of activities and facilities.

Boost community spirit by providing a world class facility offering something for everyone.

Benefits to local business of increased visitors to Ballinasloe as well as keeping people in the town

To date this project has been fully driven and funded by Ballinasloe Tennis Club, but this is clearly a project that needs input from numerous parties. The intention is to form a separate committee/company with representatives from other sports clubs and community groups and interested parties in order to progress the project.

This is a large scale project that will require active Council and Government support and funding. As it is unlikely that private approaches will secure adequate funding, we believe this is a project that should not only be embraced by Galway Council, but that the Council should seriously consider actively applying for funding in conjunction with the committee.

The current Galway County Plan states that it will strive to "Provide facilities that will enhance the quality of life in communities, increase physical activity, have universal accessibility by high standards of design in projects and to offer support for Community and Sporting groups to develop sport and recreational facilities."

We are assuming that the new Galway County Plan will also be aiming to achieve similar objectives, as well as focussing on social inclusion and shared facilities for the benefit of communities.

We believe we have a project in the Ballinasloe Community and Sports Centre that will satisfy many of the Council's objectives and offer great benefits to the residents of Ballinasloe and surrounding areas and ask that you seriously consider incorporating this project into the new Galway County Plan.

The Directors Ballinasloe and District Tennis Club

Joe Staunton

Garry Zancanaro

Sarah Doherty

Email:

**Further Information:**

The Tennis Club representatives and Architect are available for further discussions and presentations on request.

The Architect's full presentation including detailed plans and images, as well as examples of other community facilities, is available on request.

**Included below:**

1. Image of the proposed development (further images available on request)
2. Part of the presentation made to Galway Council and Councillors, TD's Senators and other interested parties (full presentation available on request).
3. Notes as presented by Club Director, Child Protection Officer and Brothers of Charity Officer at same meetings.

**PRESENTATION - BALLINASLOE SPORTS AND COMMUNITY CENTRE****WE HAVE A VISION**

To provide, for the people of Ballinasloe and surrounding Districts of all ages and backgrounds, a sustainable and managed facility, open from early morning to late at night, catering for present and future sports, recreation and other activities.

**SPORTS**

Tennis  
Handball  
Badminton  
Futsal  
Volleyball  
Spikeball  
Basketball  
Netball  
Table Tennis  
Bowls

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Martial Arts  
Pilates  
Yoga  
Chess  
Dancing classes  
Social dancing  
Cookery classes  
Hosting large corporate events in main hall  
Hosting other activities or meetings in smaller rooms

## **FACILITIES**

Reception area.  
Large indoor space that can cater for multiple activities simultaneously.  
Various other rooms that can be used for many different activities  
Café and casual area with internet facilities.  
Ample toilet and shower facilities including disabled facilities.  
Training Kitchen.  
Storage for clubs and groups using the facility.  
Photovoltaic electricity generation providing all power and heating for the facility and an excess that can be sold back to the grid.  
Rainwater harvesting providing all water for the facility with an excess available for other local uses.  
Self-sustaining and environmentally friendly facility.

## **SOCIAL INCLUSION**

A safe and welcoming environment with a range of activities for all ages, including teenagers, minority and disadvantaged groups who currently have almost nowhere to go in Ballinasloe.

Host and promote activities for Special Needs, Youth, Minority and Underprivileged groups.

Facilitate Youth and Community Development Workshops and Programmes including:

- Healthy Eating
- Internet safety
- Drug awareness and support
- Mental Health
- Health and Disease Prevention, Diabetes, Heart, Obesity etc.

## **BENEFITS FOR BALLINASLOE**

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Benefits to local business of increased visitors to Ballinasloe as well as keeping people in the town.

## **NOTES FOR PRESENTATIONS TO GALWAY COUNCIL AND COUNCILLORS, TD'S, SENATORS ETC.**

**BY SARAH DOHERTY, CLUB DIRECTOR, CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER AND BROTHERS OF CHARITY OFFICER.**

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MY BACKGROUND IN WORKING IN CRIME AGENCIES AND CHILD PROTECTION AND IN WORKING WITH DISADVANTAGED YOUTH GROUPS.

MY MAIN INVOLVEMENT IN THIS PROJECT IS TO PROMOTE SERVICES FOR YOUNG, ACTIVE AGE AND DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE IN BALLINASLOE.

WHEN ADDRESSING BOTH GROUPS HERE WE ARE TALKING ABOUT SOCIAL INCLUSION. SOCIAL INCLUSION IS WHERE YOU FEEL ACCEPTED WITHIN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY AND YOU PLAY A SHARED PART WITHIN THE LIFE OF THAT COMMUNITY.

**PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

IN GENERAL PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ARE EXCLUDED FROM MAINSTREAM SPORTS IN BALLINASLOE WITH THE EXCEPTION OF TENNIS WHO WERE THE ONLY SPORTING AGENCY TO MAKE CONTACT WITH US IN 20 YEARS TO PLAY SPORT.

THE PROBLEM WITH THE OTHER SPORTING TEAMS IS THAT THEY ARE CONTACT SPORTS AND BY THE VERY NATURE OF OUR PEOPLE THEY CANT PLAY THOSE SPORTS.

MANY INITIATIVES FOR PEOPLE IN BALLINASLOE HAVE BEEN SUGESTED BUT BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF FACILITIES HAVENT BEEN ABLE TO TAKE PLACE:-

LINE DANCING  
WHEELCHAIR YOGA  
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BOWLS  
GENERAL EXERCISE CLASSES  
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WE NEED A CAREFULLY DESIGNED COMMUNITY AND MULTI-SPORTS FACILITY TO MEET THE CRITERIA FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY TO PLAY SPORT THAT INCLUDES A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT INCLUDING APPROPRIATE WASHING AND TOILETING FACILITIES, ACCESS AND SPACE FOR ALL ACTIVITIES TO TAKE PLACE.,

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ATTITUDE (A WILLINGNESS TO EMBRACE DIVERSITY)

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THESE ARE TO DEVELOP SHARED FACILITIES THAT ARE LINKED AND APPROPRIATELY PLACED, TO PROMOTE BALLINASLOE AS A SPORTING AND COMMUNITY HUB FOR CYCLING IN EAST GALWAY AND TO ENHANCE THE LIVES OF ALL IN OUR COMMUNITY.

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