

Respondent



15

Anonymous



124:21  
Time to complete



1. Name \*

Aisling Keogh

2. Organisation (Optional)

Connacht Hockey - Doughiska Development

3. Email address

[Redacted]

4. Phone number

[Redacted]

5. Please select the following topics that you wish to make a submission \*

Social, Community and Cultural Development



6. Do you wish to send your submission by email \*

*If yes please email [forwardplanning@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:forwardplanning@galwaycoco.ie) (mailto:forwardplanning@galwaycoco.ie) and mark submission "CDP Review"*

*If no please go to Question No.7*

Yes

No

7. Please enter your submission in no more than 4000 plain text characters. \*

Connacht Hockey are calling on the Planners to ensure that Multi sports facilities are available to all minority sports. We feel this can easily be done with a change to the National planning regulations allowing a percentage of all approved Astro pitches to be 2 g rather than 3 g which immediately dismisses other sports such as Hockey, Tennis, bowls, Golf (for putting practice) also allowing for recreational football, hurling and Camogie. Hockey has been played in the province since the late 1800's and we still only have ONE facility in Galway that we can use. Taylors Hill secondary school has a hockey pitch, but it is not available to anyone outside of the school due to planning.. The lack of suitable playing facilities forces our club membership to have to turn away players every year. That needs to be measured and understood in the context of our membership which is primarily 'women in sport'. Government funding for community and multi-sport projects should be withheld from facilities that intend to build 3G and 4G surfaced Astro-pitches. Government funding for community and multi-sport projects that availed of such funding should be reviewed alongside the surface type they chose to lay down and further observe if it excluded our community from playing our designated sport safely. Doughiska, Kinvara, Athenry should all be considered areas for the development of Hockey Pitches. We would ask you to trigger a full review of all astro pitch developments in your region. 1/ From a planning perspective, we believe the planning authority should recognise the need to have a bare minimum of 50% of all astro pitches designated as being able to service the entire community. A rule in planning policy should be in effect to ensure all planning applications are tested against this rule. 2/ Another rule should be to ensure that all community based astro-pitches and multi-sport based astro pitches are 100% designated to be what they claim to be, to which only a 2G surface type should apply to in those instances. 3/ A third rule, where applicable, would be to review the size of the pitch and determine if a full-sized hockey pitch can be supported when granting planning permission. This facilitates more playing space for multi-sports and meets our primary requirement. Thank you