



Imelda Munster TD

Louth TD calls for urgent action on vacant homes refurbishment scheme

By MARGARET RODDY

Sinn Féin TD, Imelda Munster has called for urgent action from government following revelations that one vacant home refurbishment grant was issued in Louth since the scheme opened last year.

Deputy Munster said: "In Louth, 63 people have applied for the vacant home refurbishment grant. Of those 21 have been approved.

"However, just one has actually been drawn down despite the scheme opening a year ago.

"Talking to applicants across the constituency, I am hearing a lot of complaints about the scheme. Many lenders are still concerned with the treatment of the council clawback and are delaying mortgage drawdown.

"We are also hearing of long processing times as councils are struggling with the staff time required to deal with the application process. There are also inconsistencies in how councils are applying the conditions of the grant.

"Despite all the promises from Darragh O'Brien, just four grants have been drawn down across the state and one in Louth

"The Minister needs to step in, end the inconsistencies, provide councils with the staff and ensure

that all bank lenders are up to speed with the scheme.

"Prospective buyers are taking on a big enough risk purchasing and renovating a derelict or vacant home.

"They should not have to deal with all of the issues arising from a scheme that was badly designed, announced before the details were cleared up and is slow to process."



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Part XI of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) Part 8, Article 81 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)

Louth County Council hereby gives notice of its intention to carry out works at Parish Hall, Ardee Street, Collon, Co. Louth. The proposed works involve the construction of a new playground facility consisting of the following:

- Installation of children's play equipment, perimeter fencing, safety surfacing.
- Upgrading of existing vehicular entrance to allow for two-way vehicular access/egress and new pedestrian entrance.
- Provision of footpaths, kerbing landscaping and 1 no accessible car parking space.
- All associated and ancillary site works.

In accordance with Article 81 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended, Louth County Council has concluded from a preliminary examination pursuant to the provisions of article 120(1)(b)(i) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development and that an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required.

Where any person considers that the proposed development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, he or she may, at any time, before the expiration of 4 weeks beginning on the date of publication of this notice, apply in accordance with the provisions of article 120 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended to An Bord Pleanála for a screening determination as to whether the development would be likely to have such effects.

In accordance with the provisions of article 250 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended, Louth County Council has carried out an Appropriate Assessment screening of the proposed development to assess, in views of best scientific knowledge, if the development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have a significant effect on a European site. Accordingly, Louth County Council has determined that the proposed development would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European site.

Plans and particulars of the proposed development may be inspected or purchased, at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, from Wednesday, 26th July 2023 until Wednesday, 23rd August 2023 (inclusive) at the offices of Louth County Council during public opening hours at:

- Louth County Council, Civic Offices, Fair Street, Drogheda, Co. Louth A92 P440.
- Ardee Library, Market Square, Ardee, Co. Louth A92 XH22 (Inspection only)

Plans and particulars will also be available to view online at www.louthcoco.ie

Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated, clearly marked "Collon playground Part 8" may be made either:

- in writing to the undersigned at Louth County Council, County Hall, Millennium Centre, Dundalk, Co Louth or
- via Louth County Councils Online Consultation Portal at consult.louthcoco.ie before 5.00 pm on Wednesday, 6th September 2023.

Dated 26th July 2023

Olivia McCormack

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BIDS Manager Martin McElligott (left) with Robbie Scamlon, Managing Director, Darah Cooke, Jim Judge, retail development Manager, Pauline McConville, Judy Gilroy, Stylist, Model Maria Traynor, Sarah Jane Tobin, DMG Media and Ellen McCourt at the opening of the Tipperary flagship retail store, 'Gifts Beyond Expectations' in Earl Street, Dundalk. Photo: Ken Finegan/www.newspics.ie

Motorist 'out of his mind' on drugs had little recall of ramming patrol car

22-YEAR-OLD HAD €300 A WEEK DRUG HABIT

A 22-year-old motorist 'out of his mind' on drugs had little recollection of ramming a garda patrol car, the district court has heard.

Avram Hurmuz, St Mary's Road, Dundalk, pleaded guilty to five counts of dangerous driving stemming from the events of 5 March last.

The defendant, a native of Romania, has no previous convictions.

He admitted dangerous driving at Oakland Park, Ecco Road, Newtownbalregan, Little Mills and Donaghmore, Kilkenny.

Mr Hurmuz also pleaded guilty to having €10-worth of cannabis at Little Mills, to criminal damage of the rear bumper of a marked garda patrol car in Oakland Park

and to driving with neither insurance nor a driving licence.

Sgt Letitia McConnell presented evidence that at 10.54pm gardaí saw a red Vauxhall Astra parked in Marian Park. It switched off its lights and took off into Oakland Park.

The garda vehicle followed, its blue lights activated, but the other car failed to stop.

The patrol car got ahead before being rammed by the Astra which then went in the direction of Ecco Road, continuing to drive dangerously.

It overtook traffic on the Carrick Road and Castletown Road, drove on the wrong side at Newtownbalregan and in the centre of the road at Donaghmore.

Sgt McConnell continued that Mr Hurmuz drove straight through a junction at Little Mills before abandoning the car and attempting to flee on foot.

When gardaí arrested the driver they got a smell of cannabis from him and located a small quantity of the drug in the car.

Solicitor Barry Callan said that his client

had difficulties with drugs since the age of 17. He became dependent on cannabis and to a lesser extent cocaine, leading to a €300 per-week habit.

On this night he was 'out of his mind with drugs' and had little recollection of it. He was very embarrassed.

From Romania, he was married with two children and his wife was present in court. He had been in Ireland two years, had a good work history and was employed for the last two months by a coachbuilder.

'Ask him what would happen to him in his home country?' Judge McKiernan said.

After consulting with his client, Mr Callan said he didn't know as Mr Hurmuz had no interaction with the police there.

The judge said this was a very serious matter.

In view of his plea, no previous convictions and the fact he was working, he was convicted and directed to complete 220 hours community service in lieu of four months imprisonment and disqualified from driving for two years.