

*An Rionn Pleanála agus forbartha  
Chomhairle Contae Liatroma  
Ardán Naomh Seoirse  
Cora Droma Rúisc  
N41 PF67*

*7<sup>th</sup> August 2020*

**Re: Leitrim County Council Development Plan 2022–2028**

*A Chara,*

*We have been requested to represent the interests of Ms. Linda Geraghty, her daughter Karen, and her Mother Mrs. Kathleen Geraghty, of Main Street, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim. We can also confirm this representation is supported by each of Linda's eight siblings.*

*The subject matter requiring to be addressed is a Concept Proposal, which has been devised by Leitrim County Council, for the creation of a new 3,000 Sq. m mixed-use development to house the Leitrim Design Centre.*

*The proposed location of this development is on Main Street Carrick on Shannon at a point directly opposite St Mary's Catholic Church and is premised on the total demolition of the Geraghty's family home, their business premises, and their gardens to the rear. It is notably dismissive of the long provenance of the Geraghty family who have lived and traded in this location for the best part of a century and have every wish and intent to continue to do so well into the future.*

*The Geraghty's heard of the prospect indirectly and then sought of Leitrim County Council to appraise themselves of the impact of development. They were initially denied a copy of the proposal by Leitrim County Council on the grounds that the content was commercially sensitive. The council thereby sought to represent that protecting commercial interests took precedence over the common, and human courtesy of informing a family of plans afoot to demolish their home and business*

*The council having identified they would do so, then reneged on a commitment to provide the family with a copy of the proposals. Eventually they relinquished and issued a set of plans on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2020. Extremely late in the day. Consequently, the Geraghty's are only now fully aware of the scope and detail of the proposed project and of its total wipe-out impact on them.*

*It is believed that prospect would not only have negative impact on the family but also fundamentally would alter the existing street scape of central Carrick on Shannon and it is believed would alter to the negative the balance and integrity of the conservation area core, which focuses on St. Mary's Catholic Church and its environs.*

*The manner and administration around the prospect's introduction, represents a huge assault on, and an intrusion into, the Geraghty family's life. Their comfort and peace of mind is under sever attack and is causing them, their long-established neighbours, and by all evidence, the wider populous of Carrick on Shannon, a great deal of concern and consternation. The prospect is all the more hurtful and offensive because the family were not consulted, contacted or notified in timely manner as one would think would be a basic courtesy that would have been extended to them at the beginning of and as part of due process.*

*The council has further compounded offence by identifying that on hearing of the Geraghty's antipathy to the development, they then sought to drive the proposal on to the next stage. The somewhat spurious and obsequious rational given for doing so being "not wishing to cause any unnecessary anxiety or upset. The impact of the Concept Proposal and the handling by the council of the matter both indicate scant regard for the comfort of, and consequences to, the Geraghty family.*

*The Leitrim County Council Rational promoting the Concept Proposal runs as follows:  
The Geraghty family don't need to know or worry about Leitrim County Councils promotion of the concept proposal to demolish your building because the process is only exploratory, and as such it may not necessarily of consequence, but Leitrim County Councils will keep on promoting the proposal and when/if it becomes financed, and thereby does becomes consequential, then Leitrim County Council will make you aware that you are now inconsequential in the greater scheme of things ...and then Leitrim County Councils will deal with you.*

*Such an approach is patronising, misplaced and is poor governance.*

*It is not that the Geraghty's do not wish to see Carrick on Shannon prosper and develop and they certainly do not wish to stand in the way of good development. Indeed, they eagerly seek to see the town and its inhabitants prosper. However, we put it that the proposition to demolish and fundamentally alter the long established and historical spatial relationships at the centre of the town is unduly disruptive and simply not a good idea.*

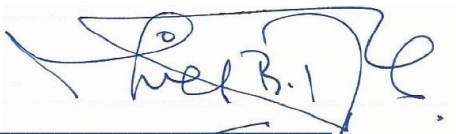
*To seek in the abstract, with the stroke of a red pen, to mark the demise of a family with long established and loyal service as contributors to the family, social and commercial life of Carrick on Shannon, through good times and bad, is disproportionate, inconsiderate and unsustainable notion and a challenge which the family and their many friends will seek to see-off.*

*Consequently, we wish to register in the strongest possible terms the Geraghty family's wish for them to continue to peacefully enjoy and further consolidate their position living in their home and trading in their premises at Main Street.*

*We therefore call upon the powers that be in Leitrim County Council to disabuse themselves of prospect and steer focus and attention on less injurious and less disruptive alternatives to the development of Carrick on Shannon.*

*We therefore request Leitrim County Council to include for the protection and nurturing of traditional indigenous and long established "living over the shop" businesses, in the Leitrim County Development Plan 2022-2028 and in particular as applies to Geraghty's.*

*Is mise, le meas,*



**MICHAEL B. DOYLE F.R.I.A.I.**

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