

Submission No: 011

BODYKE NATIONAL SCHOOL

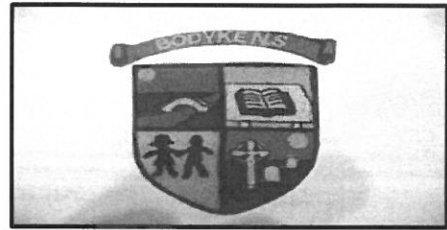
Bodyke, Co. Clare

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Digital, Science, Active, Creative School



7th October 2020

Ms Helen Quinn,
Acting Senior Planner,
Clare County Council,
New Road,
Ennis,
Co Clare



re: Clare County Development Plan

Dear Ms Quinn,

I thank you for your letter of 24th September 2020 and I am pleased to be allowed, on behalf of Bodyke National School, to have an input as the County Council prepares the new County Development Plan 2022-2028.

I am attaching some specific details regarding Bodyke National School as well as an outline of what we consider to be the most important requirement of our school at this time. That requirement is the provision of a safe off-road parking and turning area as well as a grassed area for hurling and general exercise for our pupils.

I look forward to hearing more about the development plan in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Neylon.

Principal.

Bodyke National School

Bodyke NS has occupied the same building in Bodyke village since 1881. It is a hugely important institution in the local community and the continued existence and growth of the school is vital for that community. Our enrolment figures have shown a steady upward trend in recent years. In 2015/2016 we had 23 pupils enrolled and for this academic year 2020/2021 we have 31 pupils on the roll. Our projected figure for next year is 35 pupils. The catchment area for the school is the parish of Bodyke. The school employs 3 full-time teachers, a part-time secretary and a part-time caretaker.

Requirements for School Site

Bodyke NS adjoins the busy but narrow Bodyke-Limerick R465 road but there is no off-road parking and only a very small concreted recreation area. These limitations were not a problem when pupils walked to school and when traffic on the road was light but the situation is very different now. Most children are driven to school by a parent and after the children have been dropped off the parents turn their cars using the gateway of a private house adjacent to the school and at the same time teachers and staff are forced to park their own cars on the footpath. Clare County Council engineers and our local MCC, Mr Joe Cooney, have witnessed the Health and Safety issues which arise daily in the vicinity of the school and which cause much worry and anguish for both parents and teachers.

To alleviate traffic problems and to help to ensure the safety of children attending the school our wish is that the field which is part of Folio No [REDACTED] and which directly adjoins the school site would be acquired and developed for car parking, safe turning of cars, school games and recreation for the village community. The acquisition of this particular field may not be straightforward because of issues relating to title but these very same issues were overcome by Clare County Council when it compulsorily acquired Minogue's Public House in our village because of similar safety concerns and we hope that the County Council would acquire the field adjoining our school in the same way.

If this was done Bodyke Development Association has informed the school that it would be prepared to discuss the purchase of the field from Clare County Council and would become involved in the development of the area for general community use and for the provision of school parking, safe traffic management and a grassed recreation area for the school pupils.

Representatives of Bodyke NS and of Bodyke Development Association will aim to provide Clare County Council with any further information that may be required with regard to the above .