

Director of Services
Capital Development,
Human Resources &
Corporate Services
AB/MD

29th of October 2021

Ms. Linda Sinnott
c/o Courtown Community Council

By e-mail: linda.sinnott@yahoo.ie

Reference: COMPLAINT-372029285 CC-53-21

Dear Ms. Sinnott,

I have considered the issues raised by you on behalf of Courtown Community Council in your formal customer complaint reference 372029285. My response to the matters you raised is detailed below. I also welcome a meeting with the six members of the Community Council and relevant Wexford County Council staff at a mutually convenient opportunity.

The ORIS application submitted by Wexford County Council was in done so in good faith by SEE Rory O'Mahony with a letter of support provided by Courtown Community Council. I accept that the group only had access to a draft application in advance of submission but believe it is important to note the application covered feasibility and design costs therefore any images or details provided in the application were for illustrative purposes only and/or by no means final. The project will be subject to all necessary planning processes which will involve public consultation and a route option process.

Yours sincerely,

Amanda Byrne,
A/Director of Services

e-mail: amanda.byrne@wexfordcoco.ie

phone: 053 9196400

Designated Public Official under Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015

See www.lobbying.ie

Reference: COMPLAINT-372029285

Name:	Linda Sinnott c/o Courtown Community Council
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Phone Number(s):	+353868662061 +353868662061
Section:	Community
Person(s) previously contacted:	Tom Enright, Amanda Byrne, Rory O'Mahony

Complaint / Comment: 17th October 2021

Dear Mr. Enright,

Courtown Community Council is a local registered charity representing the residents of the Courtown, Riverchapel and Ardamine areas. Each of our six Board Members are Trustees of the Charity.

As per our Constitution ratified at our AGM in September 2020, the main objective of Courtown Community Council is to:

‘involve the people of Courtown/Riverchapel and its environs in the promotion of the recreational, environmental, educational, cultural and economic welfare of the whole community. Courtown Community Council undertake to investigate and carry out to the best of their ability the ways and means of developing and protecting our environment in such a way as to provide a healthy and sustainable local amenity for both the people who live here and those who come to visit.’

Our Charitable Purposes include representing ‘every member of the community and the community as a whole in dealing with local government, statutory bodies and other agencies in seeking assistance in the promotion of the common good’.

On that basis, we wish to make the following formal complaint against Wexford County Council on behalf of the people of Courtown/Riverchapel and surrounding areas:

That the ORIS funding application submitted in July 2021 for a feasibility study for a cycling/pedestrian footpath and bridge through Courtown Woods and particularly in the vicinity of 2 Protected Structures, namely The Gate Lodge and Ballinatrav Bridge and 1 Registered National Monument, the High Cross of Kilbride, was submitted without adequate community consultation and under false pretenses. Wexford County Council invited Courtown Community Council to be the nominated Community Group on the application form. However, we did not see the completed application form including attachments until after the application was submitted. Once CCC had the opportunity to review the full application, we formally withdrew our support for this application. Further issues surrounding the ORIS funding application include:

- the lack of any consultation with local stakeholders.
- the non-disclosure of attachments including photos of the types of bridges being considered.
- the non-disclosure of changes in management and reporting duties of Courtown Community Council with regard to the Walking Trails in Courtown Woods until after the submission of the application.
- details within the application of cycling paths and flood lighting which are both highly inappropriate and possibly prohibited given the heritage and environmental protections in place in this part of Courtown Woods. Staff from Wexford County Council have stated on numerous occasions in the local press and on local radio that Courtown Woods is protected by a Section 38 agreement, zoning conditions under the Local Area Plan and environmental protections.

Consequently, we request that the funding awarded under this ORIS application is not dispensed pending a full and transparent consultation with Courtown Community Council.

We look forward to hearing from you and request a meaningful consultation process with Courtown Community Council is imperative to moving forward on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Linda Sinnott
Courtown Community Council
RCN 20043414

