

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-373846429 CC-54-21

Dear Ms. Sinnott,

I have considered the issues raised by you on behalf of Courtown Community Council in your formal customer complaint reference 373846429.

I have responded to the matters raised below and as I believe it may be helpful I welcome a meeting with the six members of the Community Council and relevant Wexford County Council staff at a mutually convenient opportunity.

I have spoken to CE Mr. Tom Enright in relation to the issues raised in your complaint and wish to advise that the undertaking given by him was to consider purchasing the woods should that be necessary to safeguard public use and enjoyment.

Wexford County Council are satisfied that all necessary legal protections are in place to preserve public use and enjoyment of the woods and therefor the purchase of the woods by the Council at this time is unwarranted.

I trust this clarifies that matter.

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-373846429

Name:	Linda Sinnott c/o Courtown Community Council
Email:	linda.sinnott@yahoo.ie
Phone Number(s):	+353868662061 086 8662061
Section:	Community
Person(s) previously contacted:	Tom Enright

Complaint / Comment: 22nd 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:

You stated at the Gorey Kilmuckridge Municipal District September 2021 Meeting that ‘no commitment had ever been given to purchasing the woodlands’. This is a clear contradiction to the minutes of meeting held in the Amber Springs Hotel on 28th May 2021 in the presence of Cllr. Joe Sullivan, Cllr. Diarmuid Devereux, Cllr. Fiontán Ó Súilleabháin and Mr. Pat O’Donnell.

The minutes of this meeting clearly record a formal undertaking from you that Wexford County Council would ‘consider purchasing the lands’ in order to keep the woodlands in public ownership.

Pursuant to these minutes we are asking you to deliver on your commitment to consider purchasing the woodlands at Courtown Woods by engaging with all stakeholders and considering all available options.

We look forward to hearing from you and suggest 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
www.courtown.org

If you are not satisfied with outcome of this investigation into service provided to you by Wexford County Council, you may contact the Ombudsman's Office as follows:

Address: Office of the Ombudsman
6 Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2, D02 W773.
Tel: 01 639 5600
Complaints email: complaints@ombudsman.ie
Website: <https://www.ombudsman.ie/>