**Maynooth Community Council calls for more GP services in Maynooth**

Maynooth Community Council have expressed concern about the lack of GP services available in Maynooth, and pointed out that this situation will only worsen, given the many residential developments now being built and proposed for Maynooth.

Developments now in train include the Cairn Homes estate adjacent to the Dunboyne Road. This includes 119 houses and 74 apartments, and construction is under way. The Parson Street planning application by Glenveagh is well advanced, with 23 February deadline for submissions to be made to Kildare County Council. An application for a large development in Moygaddy, near Kilcoon, is expected soon, which, although in County Meath, will be in the hinterland of Maynooth.

The Dunboyne Road development, as a Strategic Housing Development (SHD) was granted planning permission directly by An Bord Pleanála (ABP-310865-21) in November 2021. The Inspector’s report granting planning permission by An Bord Pleanála agreed with the Social Infrastructure and Provision Assessment submitted by Cairn Homes as part of their planning application that **“... there is a total of 7 medical centres in the town of Maynooth and it is concluded that there is sufficient capacity to accommodate the development”**.

This was in the face of several submissions, including from Kildare County Council, which pointed out that there is insufficient social infrastructure, including GP services, in the area to accommodate the proposed increase in population.

The Inspector simply accepted what Cairn Homes had submitted in relation to medical services even though two GP’s in the town, well-known for many years, had retired during 2021, before the planning application was approved. Neither GP has been able to source a replacement, and one practice has closed completely.

Patients from both practices have had great difficulty in sourcing alternative GP services, with many having to look outside Maynooth - Clane, Celbridge, Tallaght - as the remaining practices in the town are not taking on new patients. New residents to the town are also faced with this lack of services.

Developments approved and expected soon in the town and immediate area of Maynooth, will likely account for well over 1,000 extra residents in the near future. On average, each GP provides services for about 2,000 population, and with current and future residential development expected to account for at least that number of new residents, the shortage of GP services is set to become even more acute.

The recent January meeting of the Maynooth Community Council was informed that the HSE has tendered for the provision of a Primary Care Centre for Maynooth, although this may not help with the worsening GP situation in the town.

The Maynooth Community will warmly welcome any GP who wishes to establish a practice in Maynooth.

END

14 February 2022