**Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)**

**Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)**

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT BY A LOCAL AUTHORITY**

**Alterations and extension to the Athy Heritage Centre, Emily Square, Athy, Co. Kildare**

**The Athy Heritage Centre is a Protected Structure included in the Record of Protected Structures for Athy, Ref. RPS AY075 (NIAH Ref.11505332) and is located within the Athy Architectural Conservation Area as set out in the Athy Town Development Plan 2012-2018.**

In accordance with Part 8, Article 81, of the above regulations, Kildare County Council hereby gives notice of its intention to alter, refurbish and extend the Athy Heritage Centre, Emily Square, Athy for use as a dedicated Shackleton Museum.

The proposed development will consist of:

* Alterations, extension to, and refurbishment of the Athy Heritage Centre. The building is a Protected Structure RPS Ref AY075.  The building will house a Shackleton Museum and Experience.
* Provision of a two-storey 82sq.m contemporary glass and steel-clad extension to the rear of the existing building with removal of the associated part of the central bay of the south façade.
* Refurbishment of existing building, including repointing and cleaning of masonry and brickwork, repairs to windows and replacement where necessary, re-dressing of lead linings, and repairs to roof.
* Reinstatement of 10 No. casement windows on North façade sympathetic to the original 1913 design.
* Provision of plant in attic space and associated vents to inner valleys of the roofs.
* Removal of existing 26m2 mezzanine level and construction of a new 37m2 mezzanine at second floor level.
* Removal of 2 No. existing stairways and one lift and associated structure, construction of a new lift and fire escape stairs to serve all floors.
* Provision of level access to entire ground floor from front entrance by raising ground floor internally.
* Removal of 1980’s access ramp and steps to entrance at the West façade and replacement with new stone steps.
* Complete internal redecoration and new internal openings to allow improved circulation within the building.
* Replacement of existing signage.
* Site works associated with formation of new connections to existing public foul and surface water drainage, and existing utilities as required.
* Removal of 8 No. parking spaces to the rear of the building (Barrow Quay), provision of hard landscaping surrounding new extension and associated site works.

Plans and particulars of the proposed development will be available for inspection or purchase for a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy from  29thJanuary 2019 to 26th February 2019 inclusive, during public opening hours at:

* Kildare County Council, Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co. Kildare.
* Athy Library, Convent Lane, Athy, Co. Kildare.
* Athy Municipal District Office, Rathstewart, Athy, Co. Kildare.
* Athy Heritage Centre, Emily Square, Athy, Co. Kildare.

Plans and particulars of the proposed development are also available to view at

http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/PublicConsultations-Part8Schemes/Community/shackletonmuseum/

Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development is to be carried out, must be made in writing **before 4.00pm on 12th March 2019** to:

Mairead Hunt, Senior Executive Officer, Town & Village Rejuvenation,

Economic, Community, and Cultural Development, Kildare County Council,

Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co. Kildare,W91 X77F.

Submissions should be clearly marked “***Athy Heritage Centre- Planning Submission*”.**

All comments, including names and addresses of those making comments, submitted to the Council in regard to this scheme will form part of the statutorily required report to be presented to the monthly meeting of Kildare County Council. Accordingly, they will also be included in the minutes of that meeting and may appear in the public domain.

In accordance with Article 120 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), Kildare County Council has concluded from a preliminary examination, that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development and that an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required. Any person may within 4 weeks from the date of this notice apply to An Bord Pleanala for a screening determination as to whether the proposed development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Public information evenings will be held in the Athy Heritage Centre, Emily Square on the following dates;

31st January 2019 from 5.00pm to 7.00pm

19th February 2019 from 6.00pm to 8.00pm

**Niall Morrissey, Director of Services,**

**Kildare County Council, Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co. Kildare**