

Criticism as Conradh na Gaeilge may receive proceeds of Ó Modhráin Hall

The Charities Regulator's public notice that the sales proceeds of O Modhráin Hall in Newbridge may be transferred to Conradh na Gaeilge has prompted criticism.

The site, which remains derelict on Cutlery Road, was sold in 2017 to a developer by the trustees, the names of which were published in the notice last week.

It is also understood that none live in Newbridge.

The CyPres scheme, which is a legal process for charities, involves issuing a notice to the public following which they have one month to send complaints or observations about what is planned.

The deadline for receipt of submissions the Charities Regulator for the O Modhráin Hall Scheme is October 23 2024.

One person expressing concern is Social Democrats councillor Chris Pender, who noted that the proceeds of the sale of O Modhráin Hall (which total €213,097.50) may be transferred to a restricted fund managed by the national organisation Conradh na Gaeilge.

Cllr Pender, who is also the Deputy-Mayor of the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District, said: "This is an unbelievably poor proposal, especially for such a high-profile case.

"Have the trustees something against engaging with the local community or our representatives? Why didn't they work with Kildare County Council (KCC) to put the hall to use when they were first approached? Why didn't they seek proposals from the community to use the proceeds of the sale? And why is the Charities Regulator endorsing this approach?"

He claimed that locals 'are particularly concerned by the lack of transparency and engagement in the

decision-making process.'

Cllr Pender also claimed that 'neither the trustees nor Conradh na Gaeilge engaged with local representatives or the community before initiating the statutory process.'

Another local activist who expressed concerns was Orla O'Neill, went on to say that local campaigners had previously contacted the Charities Regulator to suggest that local youth cultural group, Kildare Youth Theatre, should get the funds to help with the proposed Youth Cultural Centre for which a Business Plan had been developed.

"However, we received no response to this suggestion," Ms O'Neill added.

Cllr Pender also elaborated: "Despite interest from Kildare County Council in acquiring the hall in previous years to retain it as a community resource, no local consultations took place regarding the future use of the sale proceeds.

"This money belongs in Newbridge, where it can support local projects that honour the original charitable purposes of O Modhráin Hall.

"The hall was built for our community, and the funds raised through its sale should remain here."

"The lack of consultation with local leaders and community groups is deeply concerning and raises serious questions about the decision-making process," Cllr Pender concluded.

He is now urging local residents to make their voices heard by submitting objections to the Charities Regulator: "Objections can be raised regarding the proposed transfer of the funds to Conradh na Gaeilge, and submissions must be made before the deadline.

"This is an opportunity for

the people of Newbridge to stand up and ensure that these funds stay within our community.

"We need to let the Charities Regulator know that we believe these funds should be used to benefit the

town they were raised for, not transferred to a national body with little direct connection to Newbridge."

"To make a submission, Email: CSU@charitiesregulator.ie; Reference: SR73187; Postal

Address: Charity Services Unit, Charities Regulator, 3 George's Dock, IFSC, Dublin 1, D01X5X0.

"Community members can send objections by email or post, quoting reference SR73187 in their

correspondence."

"The full details of the proposal are available through the Charities Regulator's website or by contacting local representatives for further information."



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL DARA
Kildare County Council

PART 8 DEVELOPMENT

Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) – Part XI
Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) – Part 8
Site Location: 1 Maddenstown Terrace, Maddenstown North, Curragh, Co. Kildare. R56 T183.

Proposed Development In accordance with provisions of Part XI of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, notice is hereby given by Kildare County Council of a proposed development at this site at 1 Maddenstown Terrace, Maddenstown North, Curragh, Co. Kildare. R56 T183.

The proposed development comprises:

- Demolition of unauthorised 2 storey rear extension.
- Construction of a new single storey rear extension and internal alterations, retro-fit fabric upgrades to the existing dwelling.
- Boundary walls including – new 2.1m high rear garden walls, new masonry bin store to the front garden.
- Associated site development works.

The proposal has also undergone a preliminary examination under the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU, (and the relevant provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended) and the Planning Authority has concluded 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.

Where any person considers that the proposed development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, he or she may, at any time on or before **Thursday, 31 October 2024**, apply in accordance with the provisions of Article 120 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, to An Bord Pleanála for a screening determination as to whether the development would be likely to have such effects.

The proposed development has undergone **Appropriate Assessment Screening** under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EC) and the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended and the Planning Authority has determined that a Natura Impact Statement is not required in this instance.

Plans and particulars of the proposed development (**Part 8 Ref No. P82024.05**) may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of Kildare County Council, at the address below (**Public Display Area, Level 1**) during its public opening hours during the period between **Thursday, 03 October 2024 and Thursday, 31 October 2024**.

Details of the Part 8 process will also be available to view on Kildare County Council's website at <https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Planning/Part8Schemes/Housing/P8202405-Proposeddevelopmentat1MaddenstownTerraceCurraghCoKildare/> and <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/consultation/p8202405-proposed-development-1-maddenstown-terrace-maddenstown-north-curragh-co-kildare-r56-t183> for a period between **Thursday, 03 October 2024 and Thursday, 31 October 2024**.



Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development dealing with the proper planning and sustainable developments of the area in which the developments would be situated may be made in writing on or before **4:00 p.m. on Thursday, 14 November 2024** to: **Siobhan Barry, Housing Department, Level 5, Kildare County Council, at the address below** or online at: <https://consult.kildarecoco.ie/en/consultation/p8202405-proposed-development-1-maddenstown-terrace-maddenstown-north-curragh-co-kildare-r56-t183>

Submissions should be headed "**Part 8: 1 Maddenstown Terrace, Maddenstown North, Curragh, Co. Kildare. R56 T183. Planning Ref No. P82024.05**".

All comments including names of those making comments submitted to the Council in regard to this scheme, as outlined above, will form part of the statutorily required report to be presented at a meeting of the elected members. Accordingly, they will also be included in the minutes of that meeting and may appear in the public domain.

Please note that the data collected from this consultation will be shared by Kildare County Council with their Consultants. Any information which you submit via Kildare County Council's websites will be treated with the highest standards of security and confidentiality, strictly in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Please refer to the Privacy Statement included with the plans and particulars of the proposed development and to the Kildare County Council Public Consultation Portal Privacy Policy.

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL
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O Modhráin Hall, which is located on Cutlery Road in Newbridge
FILE PHOTOGRAPH