

**OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**DECLARATION UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE**  
**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000, AS AMENDED**

**REFERENCE:** DEC 24/88

**NAME OF APPLICANT:** Chloe O'Connor

**ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE:** Hillview, Rathdrum, Ballycommon, Co. Offaly, R35 A320

**NATURE OF APPLICATION:** Request for Declaration Under Section 5 of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended as to whether the proposed replacement of windows, front door and renovations to existing dwelling is or is not development and is or is not exempted development.

**LOCATION OF DEVELOPMENT:** Hillview, Rathdrum, Ballycommon, Co. Offaly, R35 A320

**WHEREAS** a question has arisen as to whether proposed replacement of windows, front door and renovations to existing dwelling is or is not development and is or is not exempted development at Hillview, Rathdrum, Ballycommon, Co. Offaly, R35 A320.

**AS INDICATED** on the particulars received by the Planning Authority on the 20th August 2024.

**AND WHEREAS** Chloe O'Connor requested a declaration on the said question from Offaly County Council.

**AND WHEREAS** Offaly County Council, in considering this declaration request, had regard particularly to:

- (a) Section 2(1), 3(1) and 4(1)(h), of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended

**AND WHEREAS** Offaly County Council has concluded that the proposed works is development and is exempted development.

**NOW THEREFORE** Offaly County Council, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 5(2)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), hereby decides that the proposed replacement of windows, front door and renovations to existing dwelling **is development and is exempted development** at Hillview, Rathdrum, Ballycommon, Co. Offaly, R35 A320.

**MATTERS CONSIDERED** In making its decision, the Planning Authority had regard to those matters to which, by virtue of the Planning and Development Acts and Regulations made thereunder, it was required to have regard. Such matters included any submissions and observations received by it in accordance with statutory provisions.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Administrative Officer*

16/09/2024  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

**Note:** Any person issued with a Declaration may on payment to An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street Dublin 2 of such fees as may be described refer a declaration for review by the board within four weeks of the issuing of the Declaration.



## Planning Report

### Section 5 Declaration

<b>File Reference:</b>	<i>Dec. 24/88</i>
<b>Question:</b>	<i>Whether the proposed replacement of windows, front door and renovations to existing dwelling is or is not development and is or is not exempted development.</i>
<b>Applicant:</b>	<i>Chloe O'Connor</i>
<b>Correspondence Address:</b>	<i>Hillview, Rathdrum, Ballycommon, Offaly, R35 A320</i>
<b>Location:</b>	<i>Hillview, Rathdrum, Ballycommon, Offaly, R35 A320</i>

#### 1. Introduction

The question has arisen as to whether the proposed replacement of windows, front door and renovations to existing dwelling is or is not development and is or is not exempted development.

#### 2. Background

The site is located on a slip road off the local primary road L-1023-1. The site has a low sensitivity landscape classification. The dwelling on site is one storey bungalow. A residential property adjoins the east site boundary.



*Photo 1: Subject Site*



Photo 2: Site location (red line boundary).

### 3. Site History

*On site:* No relevant on site planning history.

*Enforcement:* No on site enforcement proceedings.

*Adjoining lands:*

- Ref 89/97: Michael Scully was granted permission conditionally for retention of a dwellinghouse and septic tank.

### 4. Legislative Context

In order to assess whether or not the proposed works constitute exempted development, regard must be had to the following items of legislation:

#### Statutory Provisions

**Section 2 (1) Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, states as follows:**

*“house” means a building or part of a building which is being or has been occupied as a dwelling or was provided for use as a dwelling but has not been occupied, and where appropriate, includes a building which was designed for use as 2 or more dwellings or a flat, an apartment or other dwelling within such a building;*

*“works” includes any act or operation of construction, excavation, demolition, extension, alteration, repair or renewal and, in relation to a protected structure or proposed protected structure, includes any act or operation involving the application or removal of plaster, paint, wallpaper, tiles or other material to or from the surfaces of the interior or exterior of a structure.*

**Section 3 (1) Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, defines development.**

*“development” means, except where the context otherwise requires, the carrying out of any works on, in, over or under land or the making of any material change in the use of any structures or other land.*

## Section 4 - Exempted Development

Section 4 (1) (a) – (l) sets out what is exempted development for the purposes of this Act including:

- (h) *development consisting of the carrying out of works for the maintenance, improvement or other alteration of any structure, being works which affect only the interior of the structure and which do not materially affect the external appearance of the structure so as to render the appearance inconsistent with the character of the structure or neighbouring structures.*

## 5. Proposal by Applicants

The Applicant has advised of proposed renovations of an existing dwelling including:

- NEW KITCHEN, NEW INTERNAL DOORS + ARCHITECTURE  
- NEW TOILET, BATHROOM.  
WARDROBES BEDROOMS  
NEW WINDOWS NEW FRONT DOOR  
- NEW ELECTRIC RE-WIRE, NEW HEATING SYSTEM.

## 6. Evaluation

**Question: Whether the proposed works (as listed) to the existing dwelling are development and if so, are they exempted development?**

In considering the proposed works against the definitions of 'development' and 'works' as provided in the Act, it is the view of the Planning Authority that the proposed works are deemed as development as it includes renovations to an existing dwelling.

**Question: Is this proposal considered as Exempted Development?**

The declaration assessed under Section 4 (1)(h) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). In that regard it is considered that the proposed works are exempt.

## 7. Screening

A screening exercise for an appropriate assessment has been carried out and it is concluded that the development is unlikely to have significant effects on any European sites. Please see attached report under Appendix A.

It is considered that the proposed development does not constitute a development listed in Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended. Accordingly an EIAR is not required.

## 8. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Applicant be advised that the proposed development is **development** and is **exempted development**.

**Declaration on Development and Exempted Development**

**Section 5 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)**

**WHEREAS** a question has arisen as to whether proposed replacement of windows, front door and renovations to existing dwelling is or is not development and is or is not exempted development at Hillview, Rathdrum, Ballycommon, Offaly, R35 A320.

**AS INDICATED** on the particulars received by the Planning Authority on the 20<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

**AND WHEREAS** Chloe O'Connor requested a declaration on the said question from Offaly County Council;

**AND WHEREAS** Offaly County Council, in considering this declaration request, had regard particularly to:

- (a) Section 2(1), 3(1) and 4(1)(h), of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended.

**AND WHEREAS** Offaly County Council has concluded that the proposed works is development and is exempted development.

**NOW THEREFORE** Offaly County Council, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 5(2)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), hereby decides that:

- The proposed replacement of windows, front door and renovations to existing dwelling is development and is exempted development at Hillview, Rathdrum, Ballycommon, Offaly, R35 A320.

*Please note that any person issued with a declaration under subsection 2(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) may on payment to the Board of the prescribed fee, refer a declaration to An Bord Pleanála within 4 weeks of the issuing of the decision.*



Enda Dolan (Assistant Planner)

Date 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024



Ed Kelly ASEP

Date 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024

## APPENDIX A

### APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT FOR PLANNING APPLICATIONS



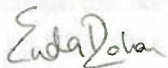
Screening is used to determine if an AA is necessary by examining:

- If the plan / project is directly connected with / necessary to the management of the European site.
- If the effects will be significant on a European site in view of its conservation objectives, either alone / in combination with other plans / projects.

**Planning Authority: OCC**

**Planning Application Ref. No: DEC 24/88**

(A) DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AND LOCAL SITE:			
Proposed development:	Whether proposed replacement of windows, front door and renovations to existing dwelling is or is not development and is or is not exempted development.		
Site location:	Hillview, Rathdrum, Ballycommon, Offaly, R35 A320.		
Site size:	0.26ha	Floor Area of Proposed Development:	105.74m <sup>2</sup> .
Identification of nearby European Site(s):	Raheenmore Bog SAC– 4.02km		
Distance to European Site(s):	As above – all as crow flies		
The characteristics of existing, proposed or other approved plans / projects which may cause interactive / cumulative impacts with the project being assessed and which may affect the European site:	None		
Is the application accompanied by an EIAR?	No: <b>X</b>		
(B) IDENTIFICATION OF THE RELEVANT EUROPEAN SITE(S):			
The reasons for the designation of the European site(s):			
<b>Raheenmore Bog – Qualifying interests:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[7110] Raised Bog (Active)*</li> <li>[7120] Degraded Raised Bog</li> <li>[7150] Rhynchosporion Vegetation</li> </ul>		
The conservation objectives / qualifying interests of the site and the factors that contributes to the conservation value of the site: (which are taken from the European site synopses and, if applicable, a Conservation Management Plan; all available on <a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a> ) (ATTACH INFO.)			
Raheenmore Bog SAC	<a href="https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/synopsis/SY000582.pdf">https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/synopsis/SY000582.pdf</a>		
(C) NPWS ADVICE:			

Advice received from NPWS over phone:	None Received		
Summary of advice received from NPWS in written form (ATTACH SAME):	None Received		
<b>(D) ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS:</b>			
<i>(The purpose of this is to identify if the effect(s) identified could be significant – if uncertain assume the effect(s) are significant).</i>			
If the answer is 'yes' to any of the questions below, then the effect is significant. <i>(Please justify your answer. 'Yes' / 'No' alone is insufficient)</i>			
<b>Would there be...</b>			
... any impact on an Annex 1 habitat? (Annex 1 habitats are listed in Appendix 1 of AA Guidance).			Not likely due to the location and type of development. The site is sufficient distance from the European site.
... a reduction in habitat area on a European site?			There will be no reduction in the habitat area. The site is sufficient distance from the European site.
... direct / indirect damage to the physical quality of the environment (e.g. water quality and supply, soil compaction) in the European site?			Not likely due to the location and type of development The site is sufficient distance from the European site.
... serious / ongoing disturbance to species / habitats for which the European site is selected (e.g. because of increased noise, illumination and human activity)?			Not likely due to the location and type of development The site is sufficient distance from the European site.
... direct / indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations on the European site?			None likely due to the location and type of development. The site is sufficient distance from the European site.
Would the project interfere with mitigation measures put in place for other plans / projects. [Look at <i>in-combination effects</i> with completed, approved but not completed, and proposed plans / projects. Look at projects / plans within and adjacent to European sites and identify them]. Simply stating that there are no cumulative impacts' is insufficient.			No other plans known of in the vicinity of the site. The site is sufficient distance from the European site.
<b>(E) SCREENING CONCLUSION:</b>			
<b>Screening can result in:</b>			
1.	AA is not required because the project is directly connected with / necessary to the nature conservation management of the site.		
2.	No potential for significant effects / AA is not required.		
3.	Significant effects are certain, likely or uncertain. (In this situation seek a Natura Impact Statement from the applicant, or reject the project. Reject if too potentially damaging / inappropriate.		
Therefore, does the project fall into category 1, 2 or 3 above?	Category 2		
Justify why it falls into relevant category above:	There would be no likely significant impact on the European site from the proposed development due to the scale of the proposed development and the separation distance between the subject site and European Site.		
<b>Name:</b>	Enda Dolan 		
<b>Position:</b>	Assistant Planner	<b>Date:</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2024.