



Title of Report:	Planning Committee Report - LA01/2021/1296/F
Committee Report Submitted To:	Planning Committee
Date of Meeting:	21st December 2022
For Decision or For Information	For Decision – Council Interest Item

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Cohesive Leadership
Outcome	Council has agreed policies and procedures and decision making is consistent with them
Lead Officer	Senior Planning Officer

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	Nil
Included in Current Year Estimates	N/A
Capital/Revenue	N/A
Code	N/A
Staffing Costs	N/A

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	N/A	Date:

	EQIA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	N/A	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	N/A	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:

App No: LA01/2021/1296/F Ward: Portrush and Dunluce

App Type: Full Planning

Address: Picnic site adjacent to car park at Village Hall, 81 Beach Road, Portballintrae, Bushmills.

Proposal: Removal of existing section of fence and the construction of 1m high wall faced in dark granite and incorporating a metal historical information plaque and a timber bench seat together with the erection of a perforated metal panel 3050 x 1500mm on two 80 x 30 x 10mm steel channels with the bottom of the panel set 1m above ground level.

Con Area: N/A Valid Date: 20.10.2021

Listed Building Grade: N/A Target Date: 02.02.2022

Agent: Winston Boyce, 7 Bushford, Bushmills. BT57 8AQ

Applicant: Portballintrae Community Development Group, 36 Bayhead Road, Portballintrae, Bushmills.

Objections: 8 Petitions of Objection: 0

Support: 5 Petitions of Support: 0

Executive Summary

- Full planning permission is sought to remove an existing section of fence with the construction of 1m high wall incorporating a metal historical information plaque and a timber bench seat together with the erection of a perforated metal panel 3050 x 1500mm on two 80 x 30 x 10mm steel channels with the bottom of the panel set 1m above ground level.
- The site is located within the Settlement Development Limit of Portballintrae, the Causeway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the Distinctive Landscape Setting of the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast World Heritage Site. The site also falls within a Local Landscape Policy Area - PEL 02, Bay LLPA which incorporates the Dunluce/Ballintrae SLNCI and is within an area designated as an Archaeological Site and Monument.
- The proposal has been assessed against the relevant policy, mainly the SPPS and A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland and has been found acceptable in terms of the principle of development, the protection of World Heritage Sites, LLPA, Townscape, Design and Visual Impact.
- The proposal is considered acceptable in that the installation can successfully integrate into its surroundings without adversely affecting the Distinctive Landscape Setting of the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast World Heritage Site, Bay LLPA or character of the AONB. The proposed works will not create any significant environmental impacts or prejudice public amenity or safety.
- There have been 8 letters of objection and 5 letters of support received regarding the proposed development.
- No consultations have been issued in relation to the application.
- Approval is recommended subject to the proposed conditions.

Drawings and additional information are available to view on the Planning Portal- <https://planningregister.planningssystemni.gov.uk>

Representations are not currently available to view online, however, they have been included in an appendix to this report.

1 RECOMMENDATION

- 1.0 That the Committee has taken into consideration and agrees with the reasons for the recommendation set out in section 9 and the policies and guidance in sections 7 and 8 and resolves to **Approve** planning permission subject to the reasons set out in section 10.

2.0 SITE LOCATION & DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 The application site is located to the northern corner of the public footpath circumnavigating the Salmon Rock Beach Car Park at the conclusion of Beach Road. The site as delineated by the red line is irregular in shape and contains a segment of footpath and timber post and rail boundary fence, together with a section of grass headland. The timber fence defines part of the northern boundary of the site with all remaining boundaries being undefined and open to the surroundings. The topography is relatively flat, while the site occupies an elevated position in relation to sea level and sits at a lower level to the car park and surrounding amenity areas to the south.
- 2.2 The site is located to the northern corner of the existing public car park which is between Salmon Rock Beach and Runkerry Beach and approximately 350m north-east of Portballintrae Harbour. The surrounding area is characterised by open space comprising an extensive mix of public amenity areas adjoining the coastline.
- 2.3 The site is designated as being within the Settlement Development Limit of Portballintrae, the Causeway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the Distinctive Landscape Setting of the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast World Heritage Site (designation COU 3). The site also falls within a Local Landscape Policy Area - PEL 02, Bay LLPA which incorporates the Dunluce/Ballintrae SLNCI and is within an area designated as an Archaeological Site and Monument

as indicated by Map No.'s 3, 3/10 and 5/16 of the Northern Area Plan.

3.0 RELEVANT HISTORY

- 3.1 There is no relevant planning history relating to this application site.

4.0 THE APPLICATION

- 4.1 The application seeks full planning permission to remove an existing section of fence to be replaced by a 1m high wall in dark granite incorporating a metal historical information plaque and a timber bench seat. A perforated metal panel 3050 x 1500mm supported on two 80 x 30 x 10mm steel channels will be erected to the rear of the wall with the bottom of the panel set 1m above ground level.
- 4.2 The proposed metal panel is perforated to depict a photorealistic image of La Girona, which was a galleass and one of the most important ships in the Spanish Armada. The ship famously foundered and sank after striking a reef off Lacada Point on the night of 26th October 1588, while sailing east along the north coast after leaving Killybegs Harbour in County Donegal on route to Scotland. The panel will be erected on a small plot of barren grass that forms part of the headland on the northern side of the new boundary wall. The new section of wall will replace an existing portion of timber post and rail fence and will be finished in basalt to tie into the existing perimeter wall to the southeast. The top of the wall slopes at 30^o and features an engraved metal plaque providing historical information on La Girona together with an integrated bench seat.

5.0 PUBLICITY & CONSULTATIONS

External

- 5.1 No neighbours were identified for notification within the terms of the legislation. The application was advertised for a second time

on 21st September 2022 following the submission of amendments and further information.

- 5.2 There are six (6) letters of objection to this proposal from four (4) addresses, together with two (2) email objections from an individual. One of these letters of objection was subsequently withdrawn with the individual instead registering their support for the proposal.

The main issues raised in the representations included:

- The excessive scale which will block the view.
- The metal design will rust and create an eyesore.
- Proposed finishes not in keeping with the existing character and surroundings.
- The proposed siting is historically inaccurate and unrelated with the wreck site of La Girona.
- Failure to consult with local residents prior to the inception of the project.
- The proposal is unnecessary as the salvage operation involving La Girona carried out in 1967/68 is already commemorated in Portballintrae.
- Impact on the local area and A.O.N.B.
- The proposal lacks public support.

All of the issues raised in the letters of objection are discussed below within the “Considerations and Assessment” section of the report.

- 5.3 There are four (4) letters supporting the proposal together with one (1) email. The main reasons for support include:

- The proposal will have a positive impact on local businesses and Portballintrae in general.
- The see-through design and siting will not disrupt views.
- The installation promotes a sense of pride in the locality and presents a full historical account of events previously untold for the benefit of tourists and visitors.
- The panel strengthens cultural assets within the area and is an investment in creative learning which brings local maritime history to life.

- The proposal will bolster the tourist amenities within the North Coast and enhance the Spanish connection with the local area.

Internal

- 5.4 No consultations were issued given the nature of the proposed development.

6.0 MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 Section 45(1) of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 requires that all applications must have regard to the local plan, so far as material to the application, and all other material considerations. Section 6(4) states that in making any determination where regard is to be had to the local development plan, the determination must be made in accordance with the plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
- 6.2 The development plan is:
- Northern Area Plan 2016 (NAP)
- 6.3 The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) is a material consideration.
- 6.4 The Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS) is a material consideration. As set out in the SPPS, until such times as a new local plan strategy is adopted, councils will apply specified retained operational policies.
- 6.5 Due weight should be given to the relevant policies in the development plan.
- 6.6 All material considerations and any policy conflicts are identified in the “Considerations and Assessment” section of the report.

7.0 RELEVANT POLICIES & GUIDANCE

The Northern Area Plan 2016

Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS)

8.0 CONSIDERATIONS & ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 The main considerations in the determination of this application relate to: The principle of development, the protection of World Heritage Sites, LLPA, Townscape, Design and visual impact.

Planning Policy

- 8.2 The proposal must be considered having regard to the Northern Area Plan 2016, SPPS, PPS policy documents and supplementary planning guidance specified above.

Principle of development

- 8.3 The application site is located in an urban setting and is within the Distinctive Landscape Setting (DLS) of the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast World Heritage Site (WHS), Designation COU 3 in The NAP 2016. The site is also located within the Causeway Coast AONB.
- 8.4 Paragraph 6.6 of the SPPS states that development that would adversely affect the Outstanding Universal Value of a World Heritage Site (WHS) or the integrity of its setting must not be permitted unless there are overriding exceptional circumstances.
- 8.5 Paragraph 6.7 of the SPPS states that the inclusion of a WHS on a list published by UNESCO highlights the outstanding international importance of the site as a material consideration in the determination of planning and listed building consent applications, and appeals. Planning Authorities must carefully consider applications affecting the Outstanding Universal Value of such sites, particularly taking into account the safeguarding of critical views to and from the site, the access and public approaches to the site and the understanding and enjoyment of the site by visitors.

8.6 Policy COU 4 of the Northern Area Plan 2016 applies to this development. No development within the Distinctive Landscape Setting outside of settlement development limits will be approved except:

1. Exceptionally modest scale facilities, without landscape detriment, which are necessary to meet the direct needs of visitors to the World Heritage Site;
 2. Extensions to buildings that are appropriate in scale and design and represent not more than 20% of the cubic content of existing buildings;
 3. Replacements of existing occupied dwellings with not more than a 20% increase in cubic content.
- These allowances will be permitted once only.

8.7 The proposal involves an historical art installation in the form of a perforated metal panel which is simply supported on two 80 x 30 x 10mm steel channels and sited on the seaward side of the existing footpath to the periphery of the public car park. The panel will be complimented by a new section of wall incorporating an information plaque and bench seat which replaces an existing length of timber fencing. Given that the proposed development does not relate to the extension of a building and is not for the replacement of an existing occupied dwelling, criteria 1 is therefore relevant for consideration in this case.

8.8 The design of the panel will generate an image of La Girona sailing past this viewpoint as it did on its final fateful journey in 1588. The ship tragically sank several kilometres north-east of Portballintrae at the Giant's Causeway with an estimated loss of almost all 1300 crew. The proposed development is intended to create a focal point providing information and education on the historical events which will preserve the legacy of La Girona and the Spanish Armada while attracting further visitors to the area.

8.9 Policy COU 4 criteria 1 sets out that exceptionally, modest scale facilities can be permitted where they meet the direct needs of visitors to the World Heritage Site and cause no landscape detriment. In addition, the Department considers some visitor related development is acceptable in this area, however it should be small in scale, both in terms of built form and be directly

related to the World Heritage Site and requiring a location in proximity to it.

8.10 The wreck site of La Girona is just off Lacada point, a rock promontory that juts into the ocean a few hundred metres east of the Giant's Causeway. This part of the coast at Lacada Point is hazardous both from the sea and the land and is no longer accessible to visitors since the closure of the old lower cliff path in 1994. It would be reasonable therefore to conclude that a proposal of this nature would not be pertinent at this location. Portballintrae can be directly linked to La Girona as it was the base for the 3-year long salvage operation lead by Robert Sténuít and a team of specialist divers who located the wreck of La Girona in 1967. This team successfully retrieved both artefacts and a huge cache of Spanish treasure, most of which remains as a key part of the Ulster Museum's exhibitions.

8.11 The proposal is considered to meet the specified exception of Criteria 1 and can therefore comply with Policy COU 4 of the Northern Area Plan 2016. Supporting information has been received documenting a local arts festival held within the public car park in June 2022. This included the dedication of the proposed memorial, which was temporarily erected for the event for a 48-hour period, albeit on makeshift timber posts. The event was attended by a group of Spanish Armada Historians, as well as Spain's top diplomat in Northern Ireland who commented that new efforts to promote the Girona's legacy could usher in a new era of tourism between the two countries.

8.12 The event provided the opportunity to preview how the proposal will transpire, with considerable positive feedback being received and the event attracting national media attention in Spain. Given the relationship of the proposed location to the World Heritage Site and the positive contribution the installation can make to local visitors and tourism, the principle of development is considered acceptable.

Local Landscape Policy Area (LLPA)

8.13 The site is located within the settlement development limits of Portballintrae and lies within the Bay LLPA, Designation PEL 02.

8.14 The features that contribute to the environmental quality, integrity or character of this area are listed below:

- This This LLPA incorporates the Dunluce / Ballintrae SLNCI and is within the Causeway Coast AONB.

Only if there is an exceptional requirement for modest scale infrastructure will further development be acceptable along this particularly attractive and sensitive coastline between the road and the sea.

8.15 Policy ENV 1 of NAP 2016 applies to this proposal. Planning permission will not be granted for development proposals that would be liable to affect adversely those features, or combination of features, that contribute to the environmental quality, integrity or character of a designated LLPA. Where development is permitted, it will be required to comply with any requirements set out for individual LLPAs in the District Proposals.

8.16 The proposal involves the erection of a perforated metal panel on two steel posts and the replacement of an existing section of timber boundary fence with a new 1m high wall to tie into the existing wall which defines the north-eastern boundary of the public footpath and picnic area adjoining the car park. The proposal is considered a modest form of development that will positively contribute to the public amenity of the area through the provision of an additional tourist focal point together with improving the existing public infrastructure. The proposal can therefore comply with Policy ENV 1.

Townscape

8.17 Policy DES 2 requires development proposals in towns and villages to be sensitive to the character of the area surrounding the site in terms of design, scale and use of materials. The proposal has been designed as a see-through structure and is sited to the rear of the existing footpath boundary. The immediate area features existing public information signage of various scale and design and as a result, the proposed panel can sympathetically integrate into its surroundings without

impacting on the character of the area. The proposal complies with Policy DES 2.

Design and visual impact.

8.18 While the proposal is intended as a focal point installed in a public area, it has been designed to be as unobtrusive as is practicable. The theory behind the proposal is to provide the viewer with a realistic perception of a Spanish galleass sailing east just off the coast. The perforated metal panel features a thin frame and is supported on 30mm wide posts. The entire structure will be polyester powder coated, which is noted for its resistance to chemicals, corrosion, and weather and will therefore ensure that the panel will not rust or develop an unpleasant appearance. The replacement of the existing section of timber boundary fence with a 1m high wall is considered an improvement both functionally and aesthetically, while the addition of a metal information panel and bench seat provides context to the installation together with improved public facilities. The design of the overall proposal is considered sympathetic and compatible with the surrounding area.

8.19 In visual amenity terms, the proposal has been sited on an area of vacant grassland which lies at a lower ground level to the adjacent public car park. In addition to being partially see-through the proposed location of the panel will result in public views from the wider area being largely uninterrupted. The proposed scale of the panel is deemed modest when viewed in the context of the expansive area of open space surrounding the site, while the proposed design and materials are considered in keeping with the immediate surroundings and will not adversely impact on visual amenity.

Representations

8.20 Each of the concerns raised by the objectors have been given full consideration, with the proposed scale, design, siting, and impact on the local area all being addressed previously within this report. As this application does not fall within the Major category of development, no community consultation was required to be carried out. The proposal was advertised in the local press as part of the processing of the application.

Natural heritage interests and Habitats Regulation Assessment

- 8.21 Planning Policy Statement 2, Policy NH6 states that new development within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty will only be granted where it is of an appropriate design, size and scale for the locality and where it is sympathetic to the special character of the area. Proposals should be sensitive to the distinctive special character of the area and the quality of their landscape, heritage, and wildlife. Proposals should respect local architectural styles and patterns as well as local materials, designs, and colour. In terms of siting, design, scale and massing, the proposal is considered sympathetic to this AONB location. It also respects local styles and patterns, and conserves features of importance to the character, appearance or heritage of the landscape within proximity of the site. The proposal complies with Paragraph 6.187 of the SPPS and Policy NH 6 of PPS 2.
- 8.22 The potential impact of this proposal on Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Ramsar sites has been assessed in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 43 (1) of the conservation (Natural habitats, etc) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended). The proposal would not be likely to have a significant effect on the features, conservation objectives or status of any of these sites.

9.0 CONCLUSION

- 9.1 The proposal is acceptable in this location having regard to the Northern Area Plan 2016 and other material considerations including the SPPS. The proposal is located within the Distinctive Landscape Setting of the Giant's Causeway World Heritage Site and identified under Designation COU 3 of the Northern Area Plan 2016 and falls within the exceptions for development as set out in Policy COU 4. The proposal is considered modest in scale and design and will not adversely impact the local area or visual amenity. Approval is recommended.

10.0 CONDITIONS AND INFORMATIVES

Conditions

1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of 5 years from the date of this permission.

Reason: As required by Section 61 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

2. No development shall commence on site (other than site clearance, site preparation, demolition and the formation of foundations and trenches) until details of a Public Art Scheme have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Council. The scheme shall include details of the public art installation, proposals for future management and maintenance, and a programme for implementation. The development shall not be carried out unless in accordance with the approved details.

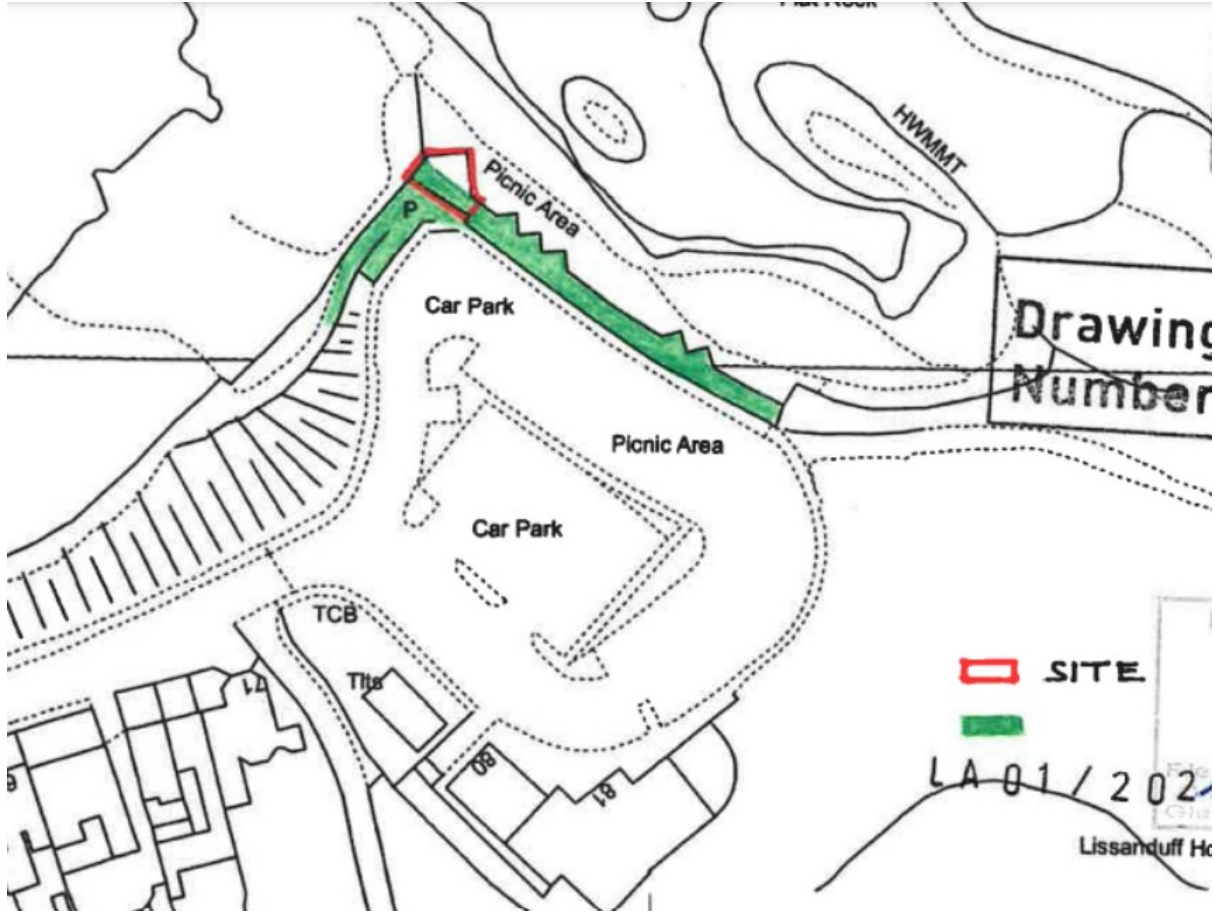
Reason: In the interests of place making and the amenities of the area.

Informatives

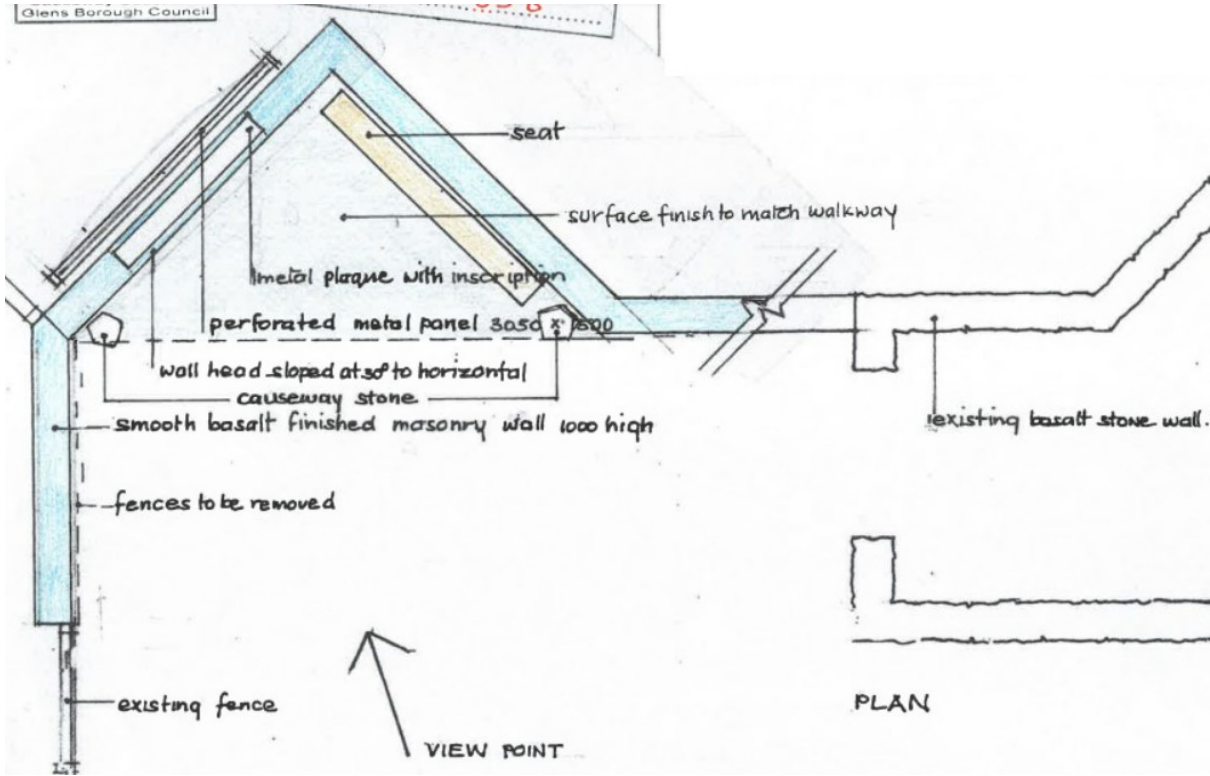
1. This approval does not dispense with the necessity of obtaining the permission of the owners of adjacent sites for the removal of or building on the party wall or boundary whether or not defined.
2. This permission does not alter or extinguish or otherwise affect any existing or valid right of way crossing, impinging or otherwise pertaining to these lands.
3. This permission does not confer title. It is the responsibility of the developer to ensure that he controls all the lands necessary to carry out the proposed development.
4. This determination relates to planning control only and does not cover any consent or approval which may be necessary to authorise the development under other prevailing legislation as may be administered by the Council or other statutory authority.

5. You should refer to any other general advice and guidance provided by consultees in the process of this planning application by reviewing all responses on the Planning Portal at <http://epicpublic.planningni.gov.uk/publicaccess/>.

Site Location Map



Plan Layout



Appendix 1 – Representations

Laura Crawford

From: M MORROW [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 December 2021 13:05
To: Planning
Subject: Objection to planning application LA01/2021/1296/F

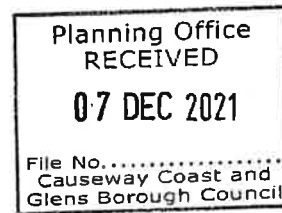
12 Seaport Avenue,

Portballintrae,

BT57 8SB.

7th Dec., 2021

Ref : LA01/2021/1296/F



Dear Sir/Madam,

We would like to object to the proposal to erect a perforated metal panel, depicting a Spanish galleass for the following reasons :

1. The proposed panel, 3050 x 1500, is far too large to be erected at such a picturesque site.
2. This obtrusive, man-made, metal structure will diminish and spoil the natural panorama of sea, beach and headland at the most popular viewing point in Portballintrae.
3. The proposed site has no direct connection with "The Girona". A more appropriate site for a smaller information panel might be Portballintrae harbour where Robert Stenuit unloaded the Girona treasure or closer to Lacada Point where the Girona actually foundered.

Yours faithfully,

Gail Morrow

Sam Turtle

Laura Crawford

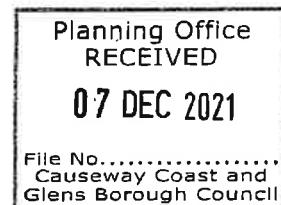
From: Barbara Cooke [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 December 2021 14:29
To: Planning
Subject: Girona Memorial, Portballintrae

I am writing to **STRONGLY** object to the erection of this (LA/2021/1296/F) for several reasons:-

- * it's **EXCESSIVE** size. At 10' x 5', it will be an eyesore
- * it will **TOTALLY** spoil the wonderful panoramic view of the ocean and headland
- * the site is wrong. It should be erected at the Causeway near Lacada Point where the galleas went down and most of the souls on board were lost
- * metal? At the seaside? The salt laden air wrecks havoc on anything metal. How will this look in a short period of time?
- * Portballintrae already has acknowledged the Girona salvage as there is a blue plaque on the old McConaghie home where the French diving team stayed.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email.

Thanking you
Barbara J Cooke
Sent from my iPad



Laura Crawford

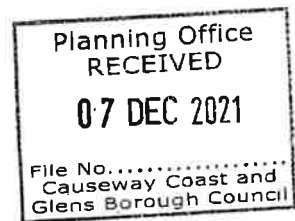
From: Barbara Cooke [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 December 2021 16:21
To: Planning
Subject: Girona Memorial, Portballintrae

Re this memorial (LA01/2021/1296/F), I also object to its erection on the grounds that, as a life long resident of the village, I'm still awaiting the courtesy from the group proposing this, requesting how I feel about it. To my knowledge, no one has been spoken to or been asked to at least fill in a questionnaire concerning how they feel about the huge metal construction.

Again, I request acknowledgment of receipt of this email..

Thanking you
Barbara J Cooke

Sent from my iPad



Gemma McAuley

From: Ronnie Laverty
Sent: 07 December 2021 17:07
To: Planning
Subject: Planning Application LA01/2021/1296/F

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to lodge an objection to the above application based on the following.

The location of the sign in Portballintrae.

The Galleas Girona sank at Lacada point, East of the Giants Causeway approximately 3 miles from Portballintrae. It would be more appropriate to have a memorial to the sinking of the Girona at this location.

The size of the sign.

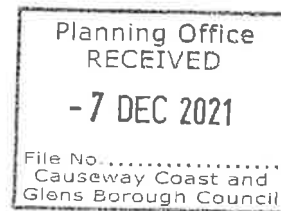
A sign 3m x 1.5m in this prominent location will obstruct the panoramic sea views and is totally out of keeping with a coastal setting.

The material used for the sign.

Perforated metal is an inappropriate material for a sign in a coastal location and will quickly rust and deteriorate, staining the surrounding area and become an eyesore.

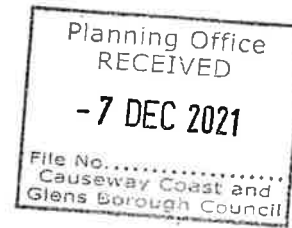
Yours,

Ronnie Laverty
4 Bushfoot Road
Portballintrae
Bushmills
BT57 8RR



Gemma McAuley

From:
Sent: 07 December 2021 16:58
To: Planning
Subject: Planning App Concerns



Dear Sir/Madam
Ref: LA01/2021/1296/F

Please note my objections to the above application.

1. The panel will be rusty and an eyesore within a year or two.
2. The panel is enormous and will block the view of the Giants Causeway and beyond.
3. The basalt wall to accommodate the panel is not in keeping with the existing wall.
4. La Girona sank at Lacada Point which is approx 3 miles from Portballintrae on the other side of the Giants Causeway and therefore a memorial to the lives lost located here would be incorrect historically.
5. The panels size is huge in comparison to the picnic area beside it and would block any views.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Yours
Kerrie Laverty
4 Bushfoot Road, Portballintrae, Bushmills Co Antrim BT57 8RR



25 Bayhead Road
Portballintrae
Co. Antrim
N. Ireland BT57 8RX
Tel: 028 2073 1861

REF LA01/2021/1296/F

I wish to object to the
siting of the proposed
Gerona Memorial Erection.

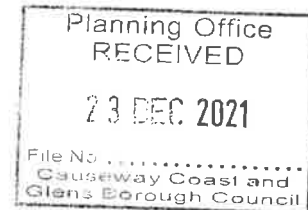
Sincerely

R. Kinley (MRS)

6.12.21

15 Benbane Park
Portballintrae
Bushmills
Co. Antrim BT57 8BP
20th December 2021

Planning Department
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
Cloonavin
66 Portstewart Road
Coleraine BT52 1EY



Dear Sirs

Planning Application LA01/2021/1296/F
Erection of a perforated metal panel depicting a Spanish Galleass
Picnic site adjacent to car park at Village Hall 81 Beach Road Portballintrae

I am writing to support this application and wish to answer the points raised in objections from Morrow, Turtle, Cooke, Lavery, Baird and Gilliland.

1. These objections appear to be based around a campaign being run by Portballintrae Residents Association and should therefore be considered as a **single** objection.
2. These **objections are based around an incorrect illustration of the siting** which appears in the magazine distributed by the PRA. The panel is intended to be viewed from the level of the access path to the picnic seating and will not project high enough to obstruct in any way the view from cars parked in the closest disabled parking spaces.
3. The **aluminium panel will not rust** and is coated with polyester powder (Kilkishen Coatings) which has a Class 1 durability rating and has a **minimum life expectancy of 10 to 15 years**, even in a salty coastal environment. A similar panel commemorating the sinking of the "Lusitania" has been installed at Kinsale Head and is in good conditions several years after erection, this was made using the same materials by the same contractor.
4. The panel is a **see-through mesh** and **will not obstruct views**, but rather enhance them, by giving an impression of "La Girona" as it sailed eastward to the position of its wrecking at Lacada Point. Mr Baird's suggestion of alternate sitings are not acceptable for the reason that they do not allow this artistic interpretation.
5. At just over 3 metres in width, the size of the panel is small compared with the car park. **The installation will provide a focus for specialised tourism, attracting business to the village and its surroundings, it will not dominate the village or the car park and will not reduce or impact on the picnic seating nearby.**
6. The existing blue plaque erected on a nearby building is irrelevant to this application, as the proposed installation commemorates the sinking of "La Girona" in 1588 rather than the salvage of artifacts from the wreck site in the 1970s.

7. There are many people in the Girona Gold project run by Portballintrae Community Development Group, including those who live in Portballintrae, who approve of this installation and its proposed siting.

Yours faithfully.

Brian Beesley

Aileen McGarry

From: Hunter, Cara [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 January 2022 10:55
To: Planning
Subject: Support letter for planning application: LA01/2021/1296/F

Dear Planning,

Please see below a submission of support for planning application:
LA01/2021/1296/F.

“Having seen an accurate depiction of this proposed memorial, I would like to give it my support.

I feel this artwork touches on an important part of local history, and that this memorial showcases the rich heritage of Portballintrae and its surrounding areas. I believe this artwork will both instil and promote a sense of bringing people together to reflect on stories, history, and identity.

Portballintrae attracts many tourists every year from across the world, this artwork would also educate and inform them about this part of our past along our beautiful coastline.

The location also showcases the beauty of Portballintrae, without disrupting it through being made of see-through mesh.

I also note that with enhanced visitors and tourists, this will positively impact local businesses in the area.”

If you have any further questions on the above, don't hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks and take care,

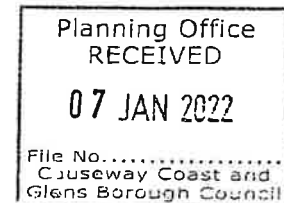
Cara Hunter MLA BA (Hons)
East Derry Constituency
Room 321

[REDACTED]
sd/p.ie



51 Beach Road
Portballintrae
Bushmills
Co. Antrim
BT57 8RT
6th January 2022

Planning Department
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
Cloonavin
66 Portstewart Road
Coleraine
BT52 1EY



Dear Sirs,

Planning Application LA01/2021/1296/F
Erection of a perforated metal panel depicting a Spanish Galleass
Picnic site adjacent to car park at Village Hall, 81 Beach Road Portballintrae

My family has been in the Hotel and Catering Industry in Portballintrae since
1924

and I write in support of the above Planning Application to erect the Art Work
on the above site. The Hospitality Industry is an important part of the
economy of Northern Ireland and of the whole island of Ireland and as such,
the installation in the car park is see of international importance to the
Tourism Industry on the North Coast. It will be a quality attraction to visitors
from Britain and Europe, especially from the Spanish who have an historical
connection with the sailors who were drowned in 1588 at the time of the
Armada and wish to trace their ancestry.

The perforated aluminium panel will be sited at a low level at the North East
corner of the car park and will not be intrusive to the view from the parking
level. Viewers will have to go down to the picnic level to view the Galleass as
it sails on the ocean just below the skyline. The Art Work will be coated with
polyester powder which has a life expectancy of at least fifteen years so will
not corrode in the salty environment of the exposed sea air.

Yours faithfully

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Martin B. Maclaine

Comments for Planning Application LA01/2021/1296/F

Application Summary

Application Number: LA01/2021/1296/F

Address: Picnic site adjacent to car park at Village Hall 81 Beach Road Portballintrae Bushmills

Proposal: The proposal is to erect a perforated metal panel depicting a Spanish Galleass

Case Officer: Millar, Adam

Customer Details

Name: Mr Geoffrey Baird

Address: 18 Bayhead Road, Bushfoot Or Lissanduff, Portballintrae, Antrim BT57 8RZ

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Unsolicited

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment: I like the idea of the art work but the location is bad in front of disabled parking and contrary to AONB planning regs.

Placing the panel on the grass bank beside the village hall or on the grass bank at the harbour might be more suitable.

Comments for Planning Application LA01/2021/1296/F

Application Summary

Application Number: LA01/2021/1296/F

Address: Picnic site adjacent to car park at Village Hall 81 Beach Road Portballintrae Bushmills

Proposal: The proposal is to erect a perforated metal panel depicting a Spanish Galleass

Case Officer: Millar, Adam

Customer Details

Name: Mr David Gilliland

Address: 82 Ballaghmore Road, Portballintrae, Antrim BT57 8RL

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Unsolicited

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment: I wish to object to this application for the following reasons -

- 1) Visual Amenity, this piece of metal will obstruct the coastal view particularly from the disabled parking spaces.
- 2) It will look ridiculous due to its size.
- 3) The Girona sank three miles from here.
- 4) There is very little public support for this project, local residents were not consulted outside of the small group making the application.

Yours faithfully,

David Gilliland

Comments for Planning Application LA01/2021/1296/F

Application Summary

Application Number: LA01/2021/1296/F

Address: Picnic site adjacent to car park at Village Hall 81 Beach Road Portballintrae Bushmills

Proposal: The proposal is to erect a perforated metal panel depicting a Spanish Galleass

Case Officer: Millar, Adam

Customer Details

Name: Mr Philip Hanvey

Address: 36 Bayhead Road, Portballintrae, Antrim BT57 8SA

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Unsolicited

Stance: Customer made comments in support of the Planning Application

Comment: I wish to record my strong support for this application.

I am aware that the proposed memorial has been designed and intended to be sited in a manner which allows it to merge into the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (ANOB) without disrupting the vista from the village car park.

The artwork, which is a photo-realistic imagery of La Girona, positioned to blend into the Sea-Sky line and which will act as a focal point to bring Our Maritime History to life.

The siting of the artwork allows for the provision of a story, which has never before been fully presented to the local community, nor our children and to inform tourists visiting the area. Prior to its inception the group met with many specialists, including local trusts, archaeologists, maritime historians and experts from Spain along with senior members of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council to seek their advice and to learn from their expertise, their comments and advice having been folded into the planned artwork.

The artwork has been set to support five key themes:

1. Enhancing our cultural venues & assets, through using our landscape and the cultural assets within Portballintrae to enable opportunities for both local people and visitors to participate in the culture, arts and heritage of the area.
2. Investing in creative learning & skills development through supporting the creative development of our young people and our creative practitioners through training, skills development and providing opportunities to showcase work by organising school visits, competitions and displays in the local village hall.

3. History, heritage and cultural tourism promoting a sense of pride, identity and deeper understanding of our area by bringing together the many stories, histories, identities and languages.

4. Participation, inclusion and equality ensuring, through our cultural video lending library which allows our events, talks and displays to be recorded and loaned on tablets to those not able to otherwise be involved in our activities. (including section 75 groups).

5. Communication and advocacy through engaging effectively with a wide range of stakeholders to both increase participation in cultural activity in Portballintrae and to strengthen the cultural infrastructure within the surrounding area.

The Causeway ANOB has a number of areas which attract tourists from every corner of the world, and this piece will add to that, attracting tourists to the beauty of Portballintrae, providing the ability to learn about our maritime history. The siting of the artwork is particularly relevant as it is placed adjacent to an existing large council managed car park, within which, is a managed local shop which can support the increased number of tourists without impacting on the local community facilities.

Comments for Planning Application LA01/2021/1296/F

Application Summary

Application Number: LA01/2021/1296/F

Address: Picnic site adjacent to car park at Village Hall 81 Beach Road Portballintrae Bushmills

Proposal: Removal of existing section of fence and the construction of 1m high wall faced in dark granite and incorporating a metal historical information plaque and a timber bench seat together with the erection of a perforated metal panel 3050 x 1500mm on two 80 x 30 x 10mm steel channels with the bottom of the panel set 1m above ground level.

Case Officer: Millar, Adam

Customer Details

Name: Mr Geoffrey Baird

Address: 18 Bayhead Road, Bushfoot Or Lissanduff, Portballintrae, Antrim BT57 8RZ

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Unsolicited

Stance: Customer made comments in support of the Planning Application

Comment: Having seen the plaque in place during a community weekend event and observing how the sea and sky in the background actually brought the artwork to life I now feel my previous concerns were unnecessary and I am now comfortable in supporting this project.