

36 Woodford Lawn  
Monastery Road  
Clondalkin  
Dublin 22  
D22V224  
28<sup>th</sup> January 2023

**Re: Planning application SD22A/0467 – Oak Lodge, New Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, D22F516**

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Caitriona Nic Giolla Eoghain. I am the Department of Education's (DES) and the National Council for Special Education's (NCSE) specialist Visiting Teacher for children who are blind and vision impaired.

I am making this submission in support of the **planning application reference SD22A/0467, specifically the proposed vehicular and pedestrian entrances from the rear of Oak Lodge onto Laurel Park.**

Mrs. and Mr. Reilly have two sons, both of whom are currently on my caseload.

Joseph, aged 14 is a highly intelligent clinically blind boy who attends a mainstream second level school. He accesses his education through the medium of Braille and uses a white cane when travelling around his school and local area.

Dylan, aged 11, is Joseph's younger brother. He too is clinically blind Dylan is currently in a mainstream primary school. He accesses his education through the medium of Braille and has had some white cane training to enable him to move independently around his area.

Joseph has had Orientation and Mobility White Cane training provided by the National Council for the Blind in order to assist him in increasing his independent travel, with a view to independently using bus routes to and from school.

Dylan has had assisted mobility training within school, to help him understand the dangers present when travelling across roads. To date he is still not fully competent in the skill of road crossing. He has no real awareness or understanding of road travel. It would be dangerous for him to be permitted independent travel at present.

The children will move into – **Oak Lodge, New Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, D22F516** next week. Their parents have submitted a planning application to have an exit at the rear of their property onto Laurel Park. We are all in agreement that the current exit from their premises, directly onto New Road, Clondalkin is far too dangerous for the boys to use. An exit onto Laurel Park would enable the boys to walk down a quiet side street and reach the bus stop at the end of Monastery Road. They can then take the bus to their schools in Rathcoole. By going on this route (blind students have to be trained in following a route to an end point) from Laurel Park to the Monastery Road the boys will not have to cross any main roads and the danger for them will be reduced. It would be much

safer, as the boys gain independence and grow up, to use an exit onto Laurel Park. Safety is the reason the family have applied for this access.

The current exit onto New Road is not suitable for the children for the following reasons:

- During busy times, for example school collection times or church times, the traffic flow outside Oak Lodge is exceptionally heavy. Cars pull in and out without much regard for fully sighted children's safety. The clinically blind children are at a greater risk of being knocked down outside their home.
- Currently there is increased building work on the road, as a new apartment block is under construction. Heavy articulated lorries enter and exit the site, almost directly across from the clinically blind children's home.
- The pathways on New Road are extremely busy and really difficult to use for a person who is registered blind.
- The paths are very narrow in parts, particularly outside Oak Lodge.
- The pedestrian crossing is unsafe for the boys, as cars don't seem to notice it, due to the congestion on the road. They regularly drive straight through it, without stopping. This has been witnessed by the family as they exit onto New Road and observe somebody waiting to cross on the pedestrian crossing.
- The noise level on an extremely busy road will interfere with both boys' ability to correctly identify passing traffic. The new electric cars' sound can be masked by heavy traffic which may be passing in the opposite direction. The boys could step onto the pedestrian crossing without hearing oncoming traffic.

The ultimate aim of the Department of Education / National Council for Special Education is to enable educational and social inclusion of children with disabilities into society. Our role is to help the students reach their potential in all spheres of life. The family is moving into Clondalkin next week and have noticed that there are a number of children living in Laurel Park who are of a similar age to their two boys. The family hope that the boys will make friends in Laurel Park. With an exit directly from the rear of their premises into Laurel Park the boys would be enabled to safely walk out onto a quiet road and spend time with peers.

I support Mrs. and Mr. Reilly in their application for an exit from the rear of their new home Oak Lodge, New Road, Clondalkin onto Laurel Park Clondalkin to ensure the safety of their children and also their social inclusion into their new locality.

I can be contacted on 087 2155631 or at [cenge@ncse.ie](mailto:cenge@ncse.ie) for further information.

Yours sincerely,

*Caitríona Nic Giolla Eoghain*

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Caitríona Nic Giolla Eoghain  
36, Woodford Lawn  
Monastery Road  
Clondalkin  
Dublin 22  
D22V224

**Date:** 02-Feb-2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Register Ref:** SD22A/0467

**Development:** Alterations and associated repairs to the existing two storey corner extension to the rear, (north-east), of the house, including the provision of a new flat roof with a roof-light; Proposed new two storey flat roofed extension with roof-light(s) to the rear (south-east) with associated alterations to the existing building & development as approved under Planning Application Ref. No. SD21B/0530; Proposed new site entrance, (piers, vehicular and pedestrian gates) from the back (east), of the property, onto Laurel Park; Proposed solar panels; New garden wall with associated gates; All ancillary site works above and below ground.

**Location:** Oak Lodge, New Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, D22F516

**Applicant:** Thomas & Hazel Reilly

**Application Type:** Permission

**Date Rec'd:** 21-Dec-2022

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your submission in connection with the above planning application. The appropriate fee of €20.00 has been paid and your submission is in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001(as amended). The contents of your submission will be brought to the attention of the Planning Officer during the course of consideration of this application.

This is an important document. You will be required to produce this document to An Bord Pleanála if you wish to appeal the decision of the Council when it is made. You will be informed of the decision in due course. Please be advised that all current applications are available for inspection at the public counter and on the Council's Website, [www.sdublincoco.ie](http://www.sdublincoco.ie).

You may wish to avail of the Planning Departments email notification system on our website. When in the **Planning Applications** part of the Council website, [www.sdublincoco.ie](http://www.sdublincoco.ie), and when viewing an application on which a decision has not been made, you can input your email address into the box named **"Notify me of changes"** and click on **"Subscribe"**. You should automatically receive an email notification when the decision is made. Please ensure that you submit a valid email address.

**Please note:** If you make a submission in respect of a planning application, the Council is obliged to make that document publicly available for inspection as soon as possible after receipt. Submissions are made available on the planning file at the Planning Department's public counter and with the exception of those of a personal nature, are also published on the Council's website along with the full contents of a planning application.

Yours faithfully,

M. Furney  
for **Senior Planner**