



Laois County Council Comhairle Chontae Laois



Mountmellick Fire Station

Proposed Development by a Local Authority

Part 8

In accordance with Part XI, Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended, and Part VIII, Article 80 & 81 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)

March 2024



1.0 Introduction

This document has been prepared in compliance with Part 8 of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Regulations, 2001 -2011.

The background and reasons for the development are set out below. The principal features of the project, together with the methodology for delivering the project, are set out in Section 2.

Laois County Council has a number of objectives to meet when considering the provision of an emergency response service to the community. These objectives are determined by both statutory and service delivery requirements.

The Fire Services Act 1981 and 2003 requires that ***“A fire authority shall—***

(a) make provision for the prompt and efficient extinguishing of fires in buildings and other places of all kinds in its functional area and for the protection and rescue of persons and property from injury by fire, and

(b) establish and maintain a fire brigade, provide premises and make such other provision as it considers necessary or desirable for such purpose”.

Furthermore, the Safety Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 requires the Fire Authority to, among other things, ***provide a safe place of work, provide and maintain welfare facilities and to provide training for its employees.***

The primary functional requirements of a Fire Station can be summarised as follows:

1. To facilitate the emergency turn-out of the fire brigade,
2. To accommodate fire brigade appliances and equipment, in a state of permanent readiness for use,
3. To provide appropriate facilities for fire brigade personnel, commensurate with the level of fire brigade activity,
4. To facilitate routine testing and maintenance of appliances and equipment and,
5. To facilitate ongoing training of fire brigade personnel



2.0 Need for the Proposed Development –

The existing Fire Station in Mountmellick was originally built as a garage/filling station and converted into a fire station in the 1970s. The Fire Station does not have the training facilities required of a modern fire and rescue service.

In parallel, Mountmellick Fire Station is one of the busiest Fire Stations in County Laois, responding to in excess of 120 emergency calls annually.

State funding is required to upgrade Mountmellick Fire Station to reflect a modern fire and rescue service. The National Directorate for Fire and Emergency management has previously approved Mountmellick Fire Station for upgrading.

In pursuit of this planning consent, Laois County Council is seeking to address an acute need for upgraded Fire Services infrastructure in Mountmellick and also to support a specific allocation of funding for a shovel ready project.

3.0 Principal Features of this development –

The points set out below should be read in conjunction with drawings set out in Section 3 and contained in Appendix 1 to this Explanatory Booklet. The main features of the proposed development are as follows:

- A new concrete drill yard, to the rear of Mountmellick Fire Station
- Underground water storage tank for pump purposes
- Drill tower within the confines of the drill yard
- The utilisation of “green” technology including rainwater harvesting



4.0 Drawings

The full extent of the proposed works is detailed on the following drawings (See Appendix 1):

Drawing No:	Title:
11316-2000	Site location
11316-2001	Site layout
11316-2002	Roads layout
11316-2003	Drill Tower – plan, elevations & sections
11316-2004	Site sections

5.0 Design Criteria

The project shall be designed and managed in accordance with “**PLANNING AND FINANCIAL PROCEDURES FOR FIRE STATION PROJECTS**” (2000) published by the Dept. of the Environment and Local Government.

6.0 Funding

The project will be funded by way of a 100% grant from the Department of Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (Fire Service Capital Programme).

7.0 Impact on adjoining Landowners and Residents

The location of the proposed development is on lands owned by Laois County Council. All work will take place within the existing curtilage of the property.



8.0 Public Display Period

A copy of the Public Notice is contained in Appendix 4 to this Explanatory Booklet.

9.0 Submissions

Any person may, from **1st March to 1st April 2024** inclusive, apply to An Bord Pleanála for a screening determination as to whether the development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Plans and particulars of the above proposed development are available for viewing on our online consultation portal at <https://consult.laois.ie> from **1st March to 1st April 2024** inclusive. Plans and particulars are also available for inspection by appointment only at the offices of Laois County Council, Áras an Chontae, JFL Avenue, Portlaoise from **1st March to 1st April 2024** inclusive. Appointments must be arranged in advance by emailing fireofficer@laoiscoco.ie or by contacting 057 8664000.

Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and the sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated, **may be made online** at <https://consult.laois.ie> **before 5.00 p.m. on 15th April 2024.**

Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and the sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated, **may also be made in writing** to: **Simon Walton, Director of Services, Laois County Council, Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois** to be received not later than **5.00 p.m. on 15th April 2024.**

Submissions should be clearly marked: **Mountmellick Fire Station Upgrade – Part VIII.**