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| **APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT**  **AND**  **CONCLUSION STATEMENT** |

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| **(A) Project Details** | | | | |
| **Planning File Ref** | | Part VIII | | |
| **Applicant name** | | Laois County Council | | |
| **Development Location** | | Main Street, Ballyroan, Co. Laois, R32 HC67 | | |
| **Site size** | | 0.46 ha | | |
| **Application accompanied by an EIS (Yes/No)** | | No | | |
| **Distance from Natura 2000 site in km** | | The site is located approximately 6km east of both the River Barrow And River Nore Special Area of Conservation and the River Nore Special Protection Area | | |
| **Description of the project/proposed development**  The proposed development will include the following:   1. The construction of a new children’s playground with assorted playground equipment, safety surfacing, perimeter fencing, seating and associated site works. 2. The construction of a new multipurpose sports court, perimeter fencing and associated site development works. 3. The construction of a clearly defined car parking area, with vehicular and pedestrian access, footpaths and all associated works 4. The installation of public/security lighting and associated works. 5. All associated site development & landscaping works. 6. Removal of the front boundary wall & refurbishment of the existing structures for future community use. | | | | |
| **(B) Identification of Natura 2000 sites which may be impacted by the proposed development** | | | | |
|  | | | | **Yes/No**  **If answer is yes, identify list name of Natura 2000 site likely to be impacted.** |
| **1** | **Impacts on sites designated for freshwater habitats or species.**  Sites to consider:  River Barrow And River Nore SAC  Ballyprior Grassland SAC | | *Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include freshwater habitats and/or species, or in the catchment (upstream or downstream) of same?* | **No** |
| **2** | **Impacts on sites designated for wetland habitats - bogs, fens, marshes and heath.**  Sites to consider:  River Barrow And River Nore SAC  Ballyprior Grassland SAC | | *Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include wetland habitats (bog, marsh, fen or heath)* | **No** |
| **3** | **Impacts on designated terrestrial habitats.**  Sites to consider:  River Barrow And River Nore SAC  Ballyprior Grassland SAC  River Nore SPA | | *Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include woodlands, dunes or grasslands, or within 100m of same?* | **No** |
| **4** | **Impacts on birds in SPAs**  Sites to consider:  River Nore SPA | | *Is the development within a Special Protection Area?* | **No** |

**Conclusion:**

If the answer to all of the above is **No**, significant impacts can be ruled out for habitats and bird species.

No further assessment in relation to habitats or birds is required.

If the answer is **Yes** refer to the relevant sections of **C**.

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| **(G) SCREENING CONCLUSION STATEMENT**  *Selected relevant category for project assessed by ticking box.* | | | |
| **1** | AA is not required because the project is directly connected with/necessary to the conservation management of the site | |  |
| **2** | No potential significant affects/AA is not required | | **X** |
| **3** | Significant effects are certain, likely or uncertain.  Seek a Natura Impact Statement  Reject proposal. (Reject if potentially damaging/inappropriate) | |  |
| **Justify why it falls into relevant category above (based on information in above tables)** | | | |
| Based on the distance and lack of pathways the proposed works will not impact on any designated sites.  Based on the above it is considered that there is no need to proceed to a stage 2 NIS.  The Planning Authority concludes that the works proposed, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, will not have a significant effect on any European Site. | | | |
| **Name:** | | Olive O’Donnell | |
| **Position:** | | Executive Planner | |
| **Date:** | | 04/09/2023 | |