

To whom it may concern,

The Corpus Christi Parochial Hall, Homefarm Road, Drumcondra, Dublin 9, D09 W18 is an important community amenity for Drumcondra and I believe it is vital that it is made an express objective of the city development plan to *retain it as such*.

I ask that two amendments are made to the City Development plan;

- 1) That it be expressly clarified within all maps and text of the City Development Plan that Z15 Community and Social Infrastructure zoning applies to ***the Corpus Christi Parochial Hall building and its frontage consisting of parking and side/front gardens***. *The building is* located on Home Farm Road, Dublin 9.
- 2) That it is an express objective of the City Development plan to **protect and retain the Corpus Christi Parochial Hall as an important and necessary community amenity in Drumcondra**.

Yours Sincerely,

Relevant chapter of Draft Development Plan: Chapter 14

Reasons:

- 1) **The retention of this important amenity is vital for the use by people of all ages and backgrounds in the local community including the pupils of Corpus Christi Girls National School.**

Section 14.7.14 of the draft development plan sets out the importance of community and Social Infrastructure in the city under Z15 zoning;

Such facilities are considered essential in order to provide adequate community and social infrastructure commensurate with the delivery of compact growth. It is the policy of the council to promote the retention, protection and enhancement of the city's Z15 lands as they contribute to the creation of vibrant neighbourhoods and a sustainable well connected city.

- 2) **The prolonged closure of the hall to the community and CCGNS (with the loss of PE/Assembly activities with no suitable alternative) has given rise to concerns that it may be converted to an alternative use by its owners.**

Section 14.1 of the draft development plan acknowledges that community and social infrastructure must be **safeguarded**;

The strategic importance of the city's Z15 (Community and Social Infrastructure) landbank (formerly referred to as "institutional lands") to the future development of Dublin as a 15-minute city has been reviewed and there will be an increased focus on safeguarding the development of these lands these lands for social and community infrastructure.

Section 14.7.14 of the draft development plan highlights the need to **actively protect the current use of the site.**

In recent years, Z15 lands have come under increased pressure for residential development. However, protecting and facilitating the ongoing use of these lands for community and social infrastructure is a key objective of the Council. The Council are committed to strengthening the role of Z15 lands and will actively discourage the piecemeal erosion and fragmentation of such land.

However, it is open to the City council under the draft development plan to permit limited residential/office development under the Z15 zoning.

Limited residential/office development on Z15 lands will only be allowed in highly limited circumstances where it can be demonstrated by the institutional landowners that the proposed development is required to maintain or enhance the function/operational viability of the primary institution on the lands.

Given that Corpus Christi church is the primary institution on the lands where Corpus Christi parochial hall is located, it is possible that such an application for conversion of the hall to alternative use could be permitted. On these grounds we are seeking an express reference to the importance of retaining Corpus Christi parish hall as vital community infrastructure.