

NEWS



Comhairle Contae an Chabháin  
Cavan  
County Council



# New Blacklion HQ for Geopark

## COMHAIRLE CONTAE AN CHABHÁIN CAVAN COUNTY COUNCIL

**Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)  
Part 8 Planning and Development Regulations 2001 -2018,  
Article 81 - Part 8**  
**Notice of proposed development: N3 Virginia Traffic Calming  
and Pavement Scheme.**

Pursuant to the requirements of the above, notice is hereby given of a proposal by Cavan County Council to undertake junction/pavement upgrade and street improvement works on Main Street, Virginia, County Cavan.

The proposed development will consist of the following:

1. The upgrade of the existing T-junction of New Street (N3) and the Ballyjamesduff Road (R194) to provide new Roundabout Junction.
2. Street and public realm improvement works along the section of Virginia Main Street between the bridge (southern end) to 180m north of the junction with the Ballyjamesduff road approximate distance of 570m. Proposed improvement works consist of the provision of upgraded footpaths, new road pavement, car parking, street furniture, undergrounding of overhead lines, road signage and markings, landscaping and planting and all ancillary site works.
3. Provision/relocation of Bus Stop Facilities on both sides of Main Street in front of the Courthouse.

Plans and particulars of the proposed development will be available for inspection, at the planning offices of Cavan County Council, Farnham Centre, Farnham Street, Cavan Town - by appointment only due to the Covid-19 restrictions - by contacting the planning department on 049 4378300 or 049 4378400 or emailing [roads@cavancoco.ie](mailto:roads@cavancoco.ie) and by stating the name of the proposed development.

Appointments can only be taken during normal working hours, during official public opening hours, excluding weekends and bank holidays from **Thursday, 25 June 2020** up to and including **Thursday, 23 July 2020**.

The plans and particulars of the proposed development have also been made available on the Cavan County Council Website at: [www.cavancoco.ie/virginia-safety-scheme](http://www.cavancoco.ie/virginia-safety-scheme)

Plans and particulars are also available for purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy.

An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report, Environmental Impact Assessment Pre-Screening Report, a Built Heritage Assessment Report and an Architectural Impact Assessment of the proposed development has been completed and is available for inspection with this application. Plans and particulars of the proposed development are available for inspection or purchase by appointment at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the Planning Office, Farnham Centre, Farnham Street, Cavan Town before **5pm on Thursday, 23 July 2020**.

Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development will be situated may be made in writing and must reach the Forward Planning Section, Farnham Centre, Farnham Street, Cavan, before **5pm on Thursday, 6 August 2020**.

As per Article 81 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) pre-screening determination has been made and concludes that an EIA is not required. As per Article 120(3), where any person considers that the developments proposed to be carried out would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, he or she may, at any time before the expiration of four weeks, beginning on the date of the publication of this notice, apply to An Bord Pleanála for a screening determination as to whether the development would be likely to have such significant effects on the environment.

Paddy Connaughton,  
Director of Service,  
Courthouse,  
Cavan.

24th June 2020.



MacNean Resource Centre in Blacklion is to be the new administrative home of the Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Geopark following the signing of a lease agreement.

The handover of the premises from Board of Education of the Church of Ireland, Kilmore Diocese to the Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark took place this week, and work will now commence on fitting out the building to serve as an administrative hub for the cross-border Geopark, which is jointly managed by Cavan County Council and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.

As an interim measure until refurbishment works are undertaken all staff will be based in the Market House, Blacklion.

This new headquarters is part of a restructuring process which will see all Geopark staff from both Cavan County Council and



Pictured at the handover of MacNean Resource Centre to the Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark, are (from right), Councillor John Paul, Feeley, Cathaoirleach, Cavan Belturbet Municipal District; Gráinne O'Connor, Manager, Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark; Andrew Elliott, Board of Education, Church of Ireland, Kilmore Diocese, and MacNean Resource Centre; Eileen Forde, Killinagh Community Council, and Michael McLoughlin, Killinagh Community Council. PHOTO: LORRAINE TEEVAN

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council based in one central location. Here, the dedicated team of nine, comprising management, administrative staff and Geopark rangers, will attend to the day-to-day running of the

Geopark in addition to working towards the strategic goals outlined in the new Geopark Development Plan 2020-2030, due to be launched soon. Speaking following the handover, Geopark Manager

Gráinne O'Connor hailed the move as a positive move towards further improving cross-border partnership for the benefit of the entire Geopark region.

"It's a landmark day in the history of the Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark," said Ms O'Connor. "Geopark staff in both Cavan County Council and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council have worked closely together over the past number of years to preserve and highlight the diverse Geology, built and natural heritage of this region, while creating sustainable access for the public, and having a dedicated, central hub means we can collaborate on a closer basis, while achieving a greater synergy."

"I'd like to pay tribute to the management and staff in Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Cavan County Council for their efforts in bringing this to fruition, as well as the elected members in both jurisdictions for their unwavering support of the Geopark. I'd also like to thank the Board of Education of the Church of Ireland, Kilmore Diocese for their help in securing this fantastic facility."

The Marble Arch Caves Global UNESCO Geopark was designated in 2001, and received UNESCO Geopark accreditation in 2015. Stretching across Counties Cavan and Fermanagh, it covers 3,222 metres squared and is home to 88,805 people.

There are 147 Geoparks in 41 countries, with the Marble Arch Caves Global UNESCO Geopark the world's first cross-border Geopark. Some of the most popular Geopark sites are Cuilcagh Boardwalk, Killykeen Forest Park, Cavan Burren Park, Lough Navar, Castle Archdale, and the Marble Arch Caves themselves, with over 450,000 visits to Geopark sites annually.

**While visiting the lakes and rivers of County Cavan this Summer, please be aware that carelessness can cost lives. When you are swimming, always stay in your depth and never swim alone.**

**A safety message from Cavan County Council and Water Safety Ireland.**