

17th May 2022

Re: Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029

St. Patrick's Well, Killashee, Naas

To whom it may concern

I write this letter to outline our concerns relating to the present condition of this ancient Holy Well that lies within our Parish of Two Mile House. The history of this ancient monastic settlement is outlined in the book that was published to commemorate the Bi-Centenary of our St. Peter's Church in 1990 and the connection with St. Auxilius (a nephew of St. Patrick) is outlined therein. We can show that the tradition of pilgrimage to St. Patrick's Well has been maintained over more than 130 years and attached herewith is the relevant extract from our Bi-Centenary publication.

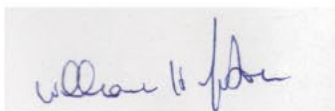
Unfortunately, we have been unable to conduct our annual pilgrimage since 2019 due to Covid restrictions and prior to this we did not go the well if the weather was unsuitable.. Access to the property was by permission of Mrs. Weld and later by the Killashee Hotel management, who provided a key for access to the well. Over the past ten years or so, access by foot became increasingly difficult owing to the poor state of the terrain.

In the current draft Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 the following is the listing is given for Killashee in Chapter 11 Built & Cultural Heritage page 9: [Table 11.6 - Register of Historic Monuments in Kildare]

<p>NAME:- Ecclesiastical Remains, Church & Graveyard, Round Tower, Souterrain(s) TOWNLAND:- Killashee RMP Number:- KD024-003---, KD024- 003001-, KD024-003002-,KD024-003003</p>
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There is NO mention of St. Patricks Well itself, which MUST predate the Killashee Monastic settlement. Therefore, we seek to have this ancient holy site given prominence in the forthcoming development plan. The question of care, maintenance and access to the site must also be addressed. so that our Parish tradition of pilgrimage can continue without hindrance.

Yours faithfully



William H. Gibson
Colonel (retd.)
Chairperson, Two Mile House Pastoral Council 2003-2018

The Draft Kildare County Development Plan, C/O The Administrative Officer, Forward Planning,
Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co. Kildare.