

Broadfield Stud



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

Kildare County Development Plan 2023 – 2029

Dear Sir/Madam,

**9.5 Equine Operations**

Broadfield Stud is a large stud farm south of Naas and adjacent to Punchestown. This area is known worldwide for horse breeding and has been associated with breeding horses and stud farms since Punchestown was established almost 200 years ago.

Sadly, it is evident that the stud farm industry in Kildare is under threat. I have reviewed the previous County Development Plans which set out the number of stud farms in the county at the time of their issue. Below is a summary of what has been stated in the last three County Development Plans:

2005 CDP	162 stud farms in Kildare
2011 CDP	145 stud farms in Kildare
2017 CDP	104 stud farms in Kildare

The data therefore shows that 1 in 3 stud farms in Kildare have closed since 2005, in a period of less than 20 years. This is clear evidence of an industry under threat.

I therefore welcome the council's policies as follows:

- RD P3 '*Support equine related activities of an appropriate size at suitable locations in the county*'
- RD P4 '*Support and encourage the continued development of a distinguished bloodstock industry in Kildare*'.

However, in order to provide comprehensive protection for the equine industry in Kildare then it is necessary to ensure that stud farms are protected from incompatible development which threatens the entire viability of their operations.

We respectfully request the Council to consider adding a new policy in order to ensure sufficient protection to the industry as follows: *“It is the policy of the Council to encourage the expansion of the bloodstock industry by protecting the equine environment in order to provide a calm, quiet and hazard free environment for the breeding of horses”*.

Without a policy objective such as this then our viability to continue operating as a stud farm in Kildare is very compromised.

It is well known that mares and foals and young stock require a peaceful environment in which to develop and noise from significant construction and ongoing noise emitting activities is detrimental to that. The Council have previously acknowledged the concept of “incompatible development” with equine operations however this has not been defined: in our experience incompatible development is *any* development which produces significant noise which interferes with the breeding and foaling operations which we undertake.

Additionally, I note that the Draft Development Plan does not specifically include a policy to support horse breeders, such as stud farm operators. I therefore ask the Council to consider adding a new policy objective which specifically addresses this as follows: *“It is the policy of the Council to support sports horse breeding and thoroughbred breeding operations in Kildare.”*

#### **9.4.1 Agri Food Sector**

I refer to the council’s policy in the Draft Development Plan at RD P2 to *‘support the future and continued development of agriculture and the agri-food sector in County Kildare’*.

It is essential more than ever to ensure protection of the agriculture and the agri food sector in Kildare as this underpins our food security into the future.

Therefore, I would ask that a specific policy regarding preservation of prime agricultural land for food production be included in the 2023-2029 plan as follows: *“It is the policy of the Council to ensure the preservation of prime agricultural land for food production.”*

Yours sincerely,

Broadfield Stud