

Registered Post

Niall Gilligan Rossroe Kilmurry Sixmilebridge Co. Clare V95 XC58

4th March 2024

Section 5 referral Reference R24-13 - Niall Gilligan

Is the laying of a sand arena for use for pony riding development and if so is it exempted development?

A Chara,

I refer to your application received on 8th February 2024 under Section 5 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) in relation to the above.

The Planning Authority has considered the matter and I attach herewith the Council's findings in this matter.

Where a declaration is issued by the Planning Authority, any person issued with a declaration, may on payment to an Bord Pleanála of the required fee, refer a declaration for review by An Bord Pleanála within 4 weeks of the date of the issuing of the declaration. Details on making such appeal are available on the Board's website at www.pleanala.ie

Mise, le meas

Anne O'Gorman

Staff Officer UPlanning Department

Economic Development Directorate

An Roinn Pleanála An Stiúrthóireacht Forbairt Gheilleagrach

Áras Contae an Chláir, Bóthar Nua, Inis, Co. an Chláir, V95 DXP2

Planning Department
Economic Development Directorate

Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 DXP2









DECLARATION ISSUED UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED)

Reference No.: R24-13



Section 5 referral Reference R24-13

Is the laying of a sand arena for use for pony riding development and if so is it exempted development?

AND WHEREAS, Niall Gilligan has requested a declaration from Clare County Council on the said question.

AND WHEREAS Clare County Council, in considering this referral, had regard in particular to –

- (a) Sections 2, 3 and 4 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended;
- (b)Articles 6 and 9 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended;
- (c) Schedule 2, Part 3, Class 10 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended;
- (d)The works as indicated in submitted documents from the referrer.

And whereas Clare County Council has concluded:

- (a) The laying of a sand arena for equestrian use at Rossroe, Kilmurry, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare constitutes "works" which come within the scope of section 2 (1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended;
- (b) The said works constitute "development" which comes within the scope of section 3 (1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended;
- (c) The said the laying of a sand arena for equestrian use at Rossroe, Kilmurry, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare is not exempted development having regard to Schedule 2, Part 3, Class 10 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended), because the proposed structure will be situated within 10m of the public road.

THEREFORE: The Planning Authority in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 5 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), hereby decides that:

The proposed development consisting of the laying of a sand arena for equestrian use at Rossroe, Kilmurry, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare **constitutes development** which is **not exempted development** as defined within the Planning & Development Acts, 2000 (as amended) and associated regulations.

Anne O'Gorman Staff Officer

Planning Department Economic Development Directorate

4th March 2024

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

SECTION 5 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 AS AMENDED

DECLARATION ON DEVELOPMENT AND/OR EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENT

Chief Executive's Order No:

83237

Reference Number:

R24-13

Date Referral Received:

8th February 2024

Name of Applicant:

Niall Gilligan

Location of works in question:

Rossroe, Kilmurry, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare

Section 5 referral Reference R24-13 - Niall Gilligan

Is the laying of a sand arena for use for pony riding development and if so is it exempted development?

AND WHEREAS Clare County Council, in considering this referral, had regard in particular to -

- (a) Sections 2, 3 and 4 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended;
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- (c) Schedule 2, Part 3, Class 10 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended:
- (d) The works as indicated in submitted documents from the referrer.

AND WHEREAS Clare County Council has concluded:

- (a) The laying of a sand arena for equestrian use at Rossroe, Kilmurry, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare constitutes "works" which come within the scope of section 2 (1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended;
- (b) The said works constitute "development" which comes within the scope of section 3 (1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended:
- (c) The said the laying of a sand arena for equestrian use at Rossroe, Kilmurry, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare is not exempted development having regard to Schedule 2, Part 3, Class 10 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended), because the proposed structure will be situated within 10m of the public road.

ORDER:

Whereas by Chief Executive's Order No. HR 152 dated 9th April 2021, Pat Dowling, Chief Executive for Clare County Council, did, pursuant to the powers conferred on him by Section 154 of the Local Government Act 2001, delegate to Gareth Ruane, Senior Executive Planner, the powers, functions and duties as set out herein,

NOW THEREFORE pursuant to the delegation of the said powers, functions and duties and under Section 5(2)(a) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) and having considered the various submissions and reports in connection with the referral described above, I, Gareth Ruane, Senior Executive Planner, hereby declare that the laying of a sand arena for equestrian use at Rossroe. Kilmurry, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare is considered development which is not exempted development.

Signed:

GARETH RUANE

GARETH RUANE
SENIOR EXECUTIVE PLANNER

Date:

4th March 2024

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL SECTION 5 DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION APPLICATION PLANNERS REPORT

FILE REF:

R24-13

APPLICANT(S):

Niall Gilligan

REFERENCE:

Whether the laying of a sand arena for the equestrian use is or is not development and is

or is not exempted development.

LOCATION:

Rossroe, Kilmurry, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare

DUE DATE:

05/03/2024

Site Location

The proposal site is located in a rural area approximately 2.3km southwest of Kilmurry village. The proposed development location is within a wider agricultural field, adjoining an agricultural yard. The site is level throughout. The roadside boundary, adjoining the development location, is delineated by native hedgerow.

Recent Planning History

No previous planning applications on the proposal site.

Opposite site of the Public Road

P06/2571 – Michael Gilligan granted permission for the construction of an extension to dwelling house and the installation of a new percolation area including ancillary site works.

P10/959 – Michael Gilligan granted permission for development which will consist of alterations and extensions to an existing dwelling house, including a new percolation area for an existing septic tank and a new domestic garage.

Background to Referral

This Referral under Section 5(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) has been made by Niall Gilligan. He states that he is the owner of the land.

The applicant is seeking a Section 5 Declaration as to whether the laying of a sand arena for equestrian use at Rossroe, Kilmurry, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare is or is not development and is or is not exempted development.

Statutory Provisions

Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended)

In order to assess this proposal, regard has to be had to the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

S.3.(1) In this Act, "development" means, except where the context otherwise requires, the carrying out of any works on, in, over or under land or the making of any material change in the use of any structures or other land.

'Works' are defined in Section 2 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended as follows:

"works" includes any act or operation of construction, excavation, demolition, extension, alteration, repair or renewal and, in relation to a protected structure or proposed protected structure, includes any act or operation involving the application or removal of plaster, paint, wallpaper, tiles or other material to or from the surfaces of the interior or exterior of a structure.

Planning & Development Regulations, 2001, as amended

Article 6 refers to Exempted Development and states that subject to Article 9, development of a class specified in column 1 of Part 3 of Schedule 2 shall be exempted development for the purposes of the Act, provided that such development complies with the conditions and limitations specified in column 2 of the said Part 3 opposite the mention of that class in the said column 1.

Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) Schedule 2, Part 3, Class 10

The erection of an unroofed fenced area for the exercising or training of horses or ponies, together with a drainage bed or soft surface material to provide an all-weather surface.

- No such structure shall be used for any purpose other than the exercising or training of horses or ponies.
- No such area shall be used for the staging of public events.
- No such structure shall be situated within 10 metres of any public road, and no entrance to such area shall be directly off any public road.
- The height of any such structure shall not exceed 2 metres.

Under Article 9 (1) of the same Regulations, development to which Article 6 relates shall not be exempted development for the purposes of the Act:

- (a) if the carrying out of such development would –
- (i) contravene a condition attached to a permission under the Act or be inconsistent with any use specified in a permission under the Act
- (ii) consist of or compromise the formation, laying out or material widening of a means of access to a public road the surfaced carriageway of which exceeds 4 metres in width,
- (iii) endanger public safety by reason of traffic hazard or obstruction of road users,
- (iiia) endanger public safety by reason of hazardous glint and/or glare for the operation of airports, aerodromes or aircraft,
- (iv) except in the case of a porch to which class 7 specified in column 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 2 applies and which complies with the conditions and limitations specified in column 2 of the said Part 1 opposite the mention of that class in the said column 1, comprise the construction, erection, extension or renewal of a building on any street so as to bring forward the building, or any part of the building, beyond the front wall of the building on either side thereof or beyond a line determined as the building line in a development plan for the area or, pending the variation of a development plan or the making of a new development plan, in the draft variation of the development plan or the draft development plan,

(v) consist of or comprise the carrying out under a public road of works other than a connection to a wired broadcast relay service, sewer, water main, gas main or electricity supply line or cable, or any works to which class 25, 26 or 31 (a) specified in column 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 2 applies,

(vii) interfere with the character of a landscape, or a view or prospect of special amenity value or special interest, the preservation of which is an objective of a development plan for the area in which the development is proposed or, pending the variation of a development plan or the making of a new development plan, in the draft variation of the development plan or the draft development plan.

(vii) consist of or comprise the excavation, alteration or demolition (other than peat extraction) of places, caves, sites, features or other objects of archaeological, geological, historical, scientific or ecological interest, the preservation, conservation or protection of which is an objective of a development plan or local area plan for the area in which the development is proposed or, pending the variation of a development plan or local area plan, or the making of a new development plan or local area plan, in the draft variation of the development plan or the local area plan or the draft development plan or draft local area plan,

(viiA) consist of or comprise the excavation, alteration or demolition of any archaeological monument included in the Record of Monuments and Places, pursuant to section 12(1) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994, save that this provision shall not apply to any excavation or any works, pursuant to and in accordance with a consent granted under section 14 or a licence granted under section 26 of the National Monuments Act 1930 (No. 2 of 1930) as amended,

(viiB) comprise development in relation to which a planning authority or An Bord Pleanála is the competent authority in relation to appropriate assessment and the development would require an appropriate assessment because it would be likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of a European site,

(viiC) consist of or comprise development which would be likely to have an adverse impact on an area designated as a natural heritage area by order made under section 18 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000."

(viii) consist of or comprise the extension, alteration, repair or renewal of an unauthorised structure or a structure the use of which is an unauthorised use,

(ix) consist of the demolition or such alteration of a building or other structure as would preclude or restrict the continuance of an existing use of a building or other structure where it is an objective of the planning authority to ensure that the building or other structure would remain available for such use and such objective has been specified in a development plan for the area or, pending the variation of a development plan or the making of a new development plan, in the draft variation of the development plan or the draft development plan,

(x) consist of the fencing or enclosure of any land habitually open to or used by the public during the 10 years preceding such fencing or enclosure for recreational purposes or as a means of access to any seashore, mountain, lakeshore, riverbank or other place of natural beauty or recreational utility,

(xi) obstruct any public right of way,

(xii) further to the provisions of section 82 of the Act, consist of or comprise the carrying out of works to the exterior of a structure, where the structure concerned is located within an architectural conservation area or an area specified as an architectural conservation area in a development plan for the area or, pending the variation of a development plan or the making of a new development plan, in the draft variation of the development plan or the draft development plan and the development would materially affect the character of the area.

Assessment

Basis of Referral

The applicant is seeking a Section 5 Declaration as to whether the laying of a sand arena for equestrian use at Rossroe, Kilmurry, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare is or is not development and is or is not exempted development.

Having regard to Section 2(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2001 (as amended), I consider that the proposed developments, come within the scope of "works" and hence constitutes development in accordance with Section 3(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2001 (as amended).

The referral relates to an equestrian sand arena. The proposed development was assessed in the context of the classes of *rural* exemptions available under Schedule 2, Part 3 of the Planning and Development Regulations.

Schedule 2, Part 3, Class 10 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)

The erection of an unroofed fenced area for the exercising or training of horses or ponies, together with a drainage bed or soft surface material to provide an all-weather surface.

The proposed arena will be unroofed and will be used for the training/exercising of ponies in family ownership. It will have a sand surface with underlying drainage.

No such structure shall be used for any purpose other than the exercising or training of horses or ponies.

No other intended use is indicated.

No such area shall be used for the staging of public events.

It is stated that the proposed development will be used the applicant's family only.

No such structure shall be situated within 10 metres of any public road, and no entrance to such area shall be directly off any public road.

Based on the submitted drawings, the proposed sand arena will directly adjoin the roadside boundary of the field in which it will be located. The sand arena will be within 10m of the public road.

No details of the proposed access arrangements are included. However, there is no existing field gate onto the public road at the proposed development location. It can reasonably be assumed that the sand arena will be accessed from the associated yard located immediately south of the proposed development location.

The height of any such structure shall not exceed 2 metres.

Details no provided. However, sand arenas are typically at or slightly above ground level. It is stated that the sand area will be bordered by timber fencing, which generally would not exceed 2m in height.

<u>Article 9 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001</u>, as amended outlines restrictions on exempted development, and these are assessed below:

(i) contravene a condition attached to a permission under the Act or be inconsistent with any use specified in a permission under the Act

The proposal does not contravene a condition of any previous permission.

- (ii) consist of or compromise the formation, laying out or material widening of a means of access to a public road the surfaced carriageway of which exceeds 4 metres in width,

 Not applicable no new entrance is proposed in this referral.
- (iii) endanger public safety by reason of traffic hazard or obstruction of road users,
 The proposed development will not create a traffic hazard in the area.
 - (iv) interfere with the character of a landscape, or a view or prospect of special amenity value or special interest, the preservation of which is an objective of a development plan for the area in which the development is proposed or, pending the variation of a development plan or the making of a new development plan, in the draft variation of the development plan or the draft development plan.

The development would not be a prominent or obtrusive structure in the local landscape.

(v) consist of or comprise the carrying out under a public road of works other than a connection to a wired broadcast relay service, sewer, water main, gas main or electricity supply line or cable, or any works to which class 25, 26 or 31 (a) specified in column 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 2 applies,

Not applicable in this instance.

(vi) consist of or comprise the excavation, alteration or demolition (other than peat extraction) of places, caves, sites, features or other objects of archaeological, geological, historical, scientific or ecological interest, the preservation, conservation or protection of which is an objective of a development plan or local area plan for the area in which the development is proposed or, pending the variation of a development plan or local area plan, or the making of a new development plan or local area plan, in the draft variation of the development plan or the local area plan or the draft development plan or draft local area plan,

Not applicable in this instance

(vii)

a. consist of or comprise the excavation, alteration or demolition of any archaeological monument included in the Record of Monuments and Places, pursuant to section 12(1) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994, save that this provision shall not apply to any excavation or any works, pursuant to and in accordance with a consent granted under section 14 or a licence granted under section 26 of the National Monuments Act 1930 (No. 2 of 1930) as amended,

This is not applicable in this instance.

b. comprise development in relation to which a planning authority or An Bord Pleanála is the competent authority in relation to appropriate assessment and the development would require an appropriate assessment because it would be likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of a European site,

Having regard to the nature and scale of the proposed development and the lack of connectivity to European sites, no Appropriate Assessment issues arise and I do not consider that the proposed development would be likely to have a significant effect individually or in combination with other plans or projects, on a European Site.

Appropriate assessment is not therefore required.

c. consist of or comprise development which would be likely to have an adverse impact on an area designated as a natural heritage area by order made under section 18 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000."

The proposal site is located c.100m from Rosroe Lough pNHA. The proposed development will facilitate the exercising of ponies already in the applicant's ownership. No change of use or intensification of use of the landholding will arise from the development proposed. It is unlikely therefore, that the development will have an adverse impact on the pNHA.

(viii) consist of or comprise the extension, alteration, repair or renewal of an unauthorised structure or a structure the use of which is an unauthorised use,

This is not applicable in this instance.

(ix) consist of the demolition or such alteration of a building or other structure as would preclude or restrict the continuance of an existing use of a building or other structure where it is an objective of the planning authority to ensure that the building or other structure would remain available for such use and such objective has been specified in a development plan for the area or, pending the variation of a development plan or the making of a new development plan, in the draft variation of the development plan or the draft development plan,

This is not applicable in this instance.

(x) consist of the fencing or enclosure of any land habitually open to or used by the public during the 10 years preceding such fencing or enclosure for recreational purposes or as a means of access to any seashore, mountain, lakeshore, riverbank or other place of natural beauty or recreational utility,

This is not applicable in this instance.

(xi) obstruct any public right of way,

This is not applicable in this instance.

(xii) further to the provisions of section 82 of the Act, consist of or comprise the carrying out of works to the exterior of a structure, where the structure concerned is located within an architectural conservation area or an area specified as an architectural conservation area in a development plan for the area or, pending the variation of a development plan or the making of a new development plan, in the draft variation of the development plan or the draft development plan and the development would materially affect the character of the area.

This is not applicable in this instance.

Recommendation

The following questions have been referred to the Planning Authority:

Whether the laying of a sand arena for equestrian use at Rossroe, Kilmurry, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare is or is not development and is or is not exempted development.

The Planning Authority in considering this referral had regard to:

- (a) Sections 2, 3 and 4 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended;
- (b) Articles 6 and 9 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended;
- (c) Schedule 2, Part 3, Class 10 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended;
- (d) The works as indicated in submitted documents from the referrer.

And whereas Clare County Council (Planning Authority) has concluded:

- (a) the laying of a sand arena for equestrian use at Rossroe, Kilmurry, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare constitutes "works" which come within the scope of section 2 (1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended:
- (b) The said works constitute "development" which comes within the scope of section 3 (1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended;
- (c) The said the laying of a sand arena for equestrian use at Rossroe, Kilmurry, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare is not exempted development having regard to Schedule 2, Part 3, Class 10 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended), because the proposed structure will be situated within 10m of the public road.

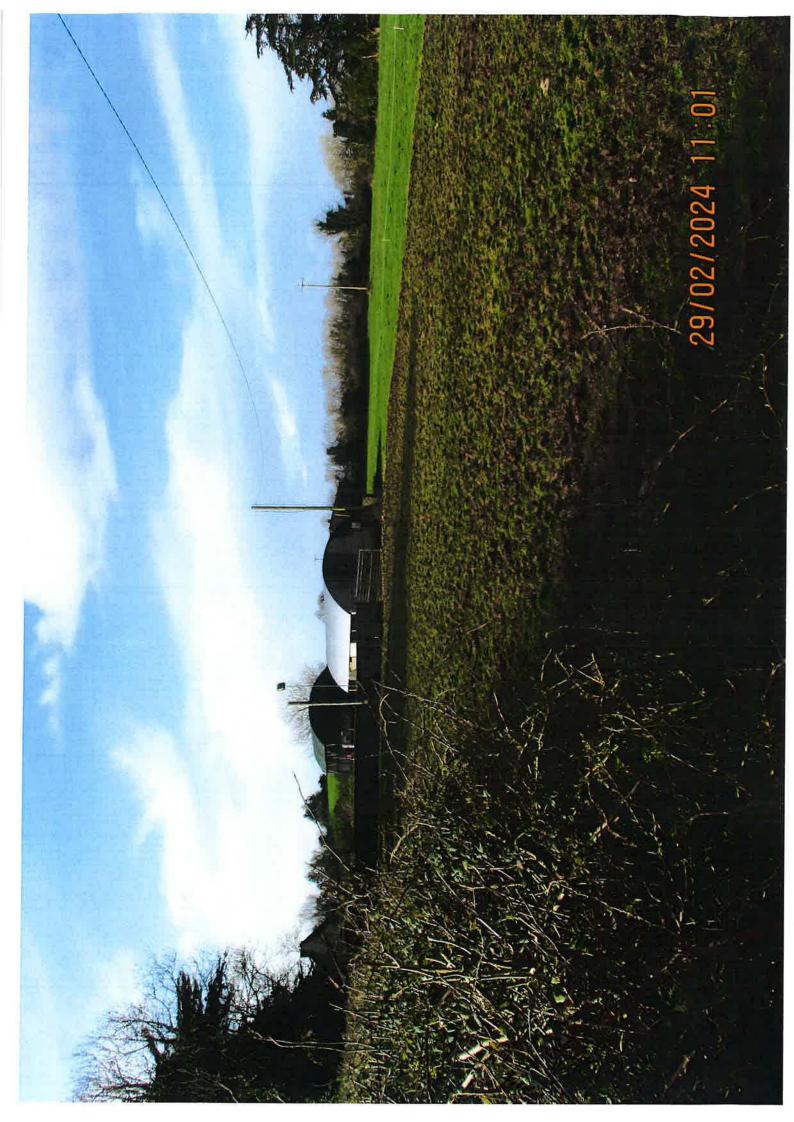
Now therefore Clare County Council (Planning Authority), hereby decides that the laying of a sand arena for equestrian use at Rossroe, Kilmurry, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare is development and is not exempted development.

Executive Planner

Date: 04 03 2024

Senior Executive Planner

Date: 04/03/24.





Niall Gilligan Rossroe **Kilmurry** Sixmilebridge Co. Clare V95 XC58

09/02/2024

Section 5 referral Reference R24-13 - Niall Gilligan

Is the laying of a sand arena for use for pony riding development and if so is it exempted development?

A Chara,

I refer to your application received on 8th February 2024 under Section 5 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) in relation to the above.

Please note that the Planning Authority is considering the matter and a reply will issue to you in due course.

Mise, le meas

Brian Fahy

Planning Department

Economic Development Directorate

An Roinn Pleanála An Stiúrthóireacht Forbairt Gheilleagrach

Áras Contae an Chláir, Bóthar Nua, Inis, Co. an Chláir, V95 DXP2

Planning Department Economic Development Directorate

Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 DXP2















Issued By: L1CASH - Colm Murphy

From: MAIN CASH OFFICE LODGEMENT AF Vat reg No.0033043E P07

V95DXP2

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL COMHAIRLE CONTAE AN CHLÁIR

Planning Department, Economic Development Directorate, Clare County Council, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare. Telephone No. (065) 6821616

Fax No. (065) 6892071

Email: planoff@clarecoco.ieE CO.
Website: www.clarecoco.ie

-0 550 30

8 FEB 2024



REQUEST FOR A DECLARATION ON DEVELOPMENT AND EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENT (Section 5 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended))

FEE: €80

This following form is a non-statutory form which has been prepared by Clare County Council for the purpose of obtaining the necessary information required for a declaration to be made under Section 5 by the Planning Authority

1. CORRESPONDENCE DETAILS.		
(a) Name and Address of person seeking the declaration	Niall Gilligan Rossroe Kilmurry Sixnilebridge Co. Clare V95XC58	
(b) Telephone No.:		
(c) Email Address:	, v	
(d) Agent's Name and address:	NJA	

2. DETAILS REGARDING DECLARATION BEING SOUGHT
(a) PLEASE STATE THE SPECIFIC QUESTION FOR WHICH A DECLARATION IS SOUGHT Note: only works listed and described under this section will be assessed.
Sample Question: Is the construction of a shed at 1 Main St., Ennis development and if so is it exempted development?
Is the laying of a sand arena for use by my daughters and ponies is it exempted development?
(b) Provide a full description of the question/matter/subject which arises wherein a declaration of the question is sought. I propose & law a sand avera for private use by my children wife on their private. The said avera will measure 20m by 40metrs. See 2 Copies of Map attached. Drainage will be put undo the said and it will have a timber fence or the field sides and the existing stare wall by the roadside will be retained.
(c) List of plans, drawings etc. submitted with this request for a declaration: (Note: Please provide a site location map to a scale of not less than 1:2500 based on Ordnance Survey map for the areas, to identify the lands in question)
See enclosed - Map of proposed sand arena
outlined in red measuring 20m by 40m

	3. DETAILS RE: PROPERTY/SITE/BUILDING FOR WHICH DECLARATION IS SOUGHT		
(a)	Postal Address of the Property/Site/Building for which the declaration sought:	ROSSROF SIXMINEBRIOGE CO CLARE. Opposite U95XC58	
(b)	Do the works in question affect a Protected Structure or are within the curtilage of a Protected Structure? If yes, has a Declaration under Section 57 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) been requested or issued for the property by the Planning Authority?	No.	
(c)	Legal interest in the land or structure in question of the person requesting the declaration (Give Details):	OWNER	
(d)	If the person in (c) above is not the owner and/or occupier, state the name and address of the owner of the property in question: Note: Observations in relation to a referral may be requested from the owner/occupier where appropriate.		
(e)	Is the owner aware of the current request for a Declaration under Section 5 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended)?:		
(f)	Are you aware of any enforcement proceedings connected to this site? If so please supply details:	N_o	
(g)	Were there previous planning application/s on this site? If so please supply details:	No	
(h)	Date on which 'works' in question were completed/are likely to take place:	1/6/2024	

SIGNED: Viell Cl

DATE: 7-2-20 24.

GUIDANCE NOTES

This following are non-statutory advice notes prepared by Clare County Council for the purpose of advising people what information is required for a decision to be made under Section 5 by the Planning Authority

- (i) The request for a declaration under Section 5 must be accompanied by 2 copies of site location map based on the Ordnance Survey map for the area of a scale not less than 1:1000 in urban areas and 1:2500 in rural areas and should clearly identify the site in question.
- (ii) The request for a declaration under Section 5 must be accompanied by the required fee of €80.00.
- (iii) If submitting any additional plans/reports etc. as part of the request for a declaration, please submit 2 copies.
- (iv) The request for a declaration should be sent to the following address:

Planning Department,
Economic Development Directorate,
Clare County Countil
Aras Contae an Chlair,
New Road,
Ennis,
Co. Clare
V95DXP2

- (v) Notwithstanding the completion of the above form, the Planning Authority may require the submission of further information with regard to the request in order to enable the Authority to issue a declaration on the question.
- (vi) The Planning Authority may also request other persons to submit information on the question which has arisen and on which the declaration is sought

