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Baile Átha Cliath 2
D02 XR20
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Joint Committee
On Key Issues
affecting the
Traveller Community
Leinster House
Dublin 2
D02 XR20
Tel: (01) 618 3082
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Ref: JCKITC-i-2024-26

Mr Kieran O'Donnell TD
Minister of State with responsibility for Local Government and Planning

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Custom House,
Dublin,
D01 W6X0

Email: ministerofstate@housing.gov.ie

Subject: Cork City Council application for Stage Two funding
for the redevelopment of the Spring Lane/Ellis Yard site

Dear Minister,

I am contacting you on behalf of the Joint Committee on Key Issues affecting the Traveller Community.

The Committee was established in May of last year to consider issues affecting members of the Traveller community, including their experience of the justice system, mental health and employment opportunities. The Committee also monitors the progress of departments in implementing [the final report of the previous Committee](#).

To date, Traveller Accommodation has been the principal focus of the re-established Committee. The Committee is particularly interested in the proposed redevelopment of the Spring Lane site and the adjacent Ellis Yard in Cork. This much-needed redevelopment is especially urgent in light of the 2021 report by the Ombudsman for Children, [No End in Site](#).

This report found “obvious overcrowding with children sleeping on makeshift beds cramped into the living/dining spaces” as well as “evidence of damp on the walls and ceilings”. Moreover, the “Local Authority has accepted that there is extreme overcrowding and extremely poor living conditions on the site.” The report also refers to a “lack of basic facilities such as heating, lighting, and hot water to bath and wash clothes in.” In addition, parents told investigators that “their mental health team told them that their children’s poor mental well being were linked to their living conditions.”

Cuirfear fáilte roimh chomhfhreagras i nGaeilge

From its correspondence with Cork City Council, the Committee understands that an application for Stage Two funding for the redevelopment of this site has been submitted to your Department, along with relevant supporting documentation.

The Committee requests that this application is expedited in light of the urgent need for redevelopment of the Spring Lane and Ellis Yard site.

For your information, the Committee will be meeting Cork City Council at a public meeting on Thursday 1 February 2024 at 10:30 a.m.

Please direct your response to the Clerk to the Committee, Leo Bollins at JCKITC@oireachtas.ie

Yours sincerely



Cathaoirleach

26 January 2023