

'Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027

aiden torris []

Sent: 22 December 2020 14:08

To: LouthCDP

Attachments: Weekly Irish Times - Wedne~1.pdf (981 KB) ; Estate Map river.jpg (1 MB) ; Griffith Valuation Battsla~1.jpg (140 KB) ; Griffith Valuation Battslan~1.jpg (32 KB) ; Location of dig.jpg (273 KB) ; Marked up, Dunleer OSI Map~1.png (1000 KB) ; Michael Coyle 1954 St. Bri~1.pdf (582 KB) ; St. Brigid's well D1.docx (30 KB) ; St_ Brigid's well D1.pdf (256 KB)

ST BRIDGETS WELL:

Dear Sir/madam,

It has been drawn to my attention that there is a "national monument(**St. BRIDGETS WELL REF.LH018-064006**) " on my site at where i live.

Let me say, there is no such well on this site and i am tired of being harassed about this, by a few local individuals whom i won't name here.

It says in local folklore that St. Bridget made herself blind and washed her face in this magical well and restored her sight.

This "well" "IS THOUGHT" to be on my site.

A thought is not a valid reason to make something "A NATIONAL MONUMENT" that has never been proven, or indeed ever been found, after all the searching over all the years.

SEARCHES THAT WERE CARRIED OUT:

1. Pdraig Faulkner's (former T.D. and Dunleer native) notes state:

"Tradition has it that the well was situated in an orchard, known, some years ago, as Eddie's orchard, situated north of a road leading to Dunleer railway station. A large body of men, including my grandfather, Pat Faulkner, spent a considerable time, towards the end of the nineteenth century, digging up the ground in the orchard in an attempt to locate the well. It is said that the well was found but there is no knowledge of its whereabouts today. The orchard is no longer in existence."

I think its very strange that a large body of men, who spent a considerable amount of time searching for this well, didnt think it worthwhile to mark the spot where they found it ("it is said that the well was found"). Considering as well that Ireland was a very religious country at that time. Need i say more on this.

2. Mr. Joe Sharkey (search in 1953 after 15 years of research) brought a few primary school kids down to the river. Dug a hole 20 inches deep and it filled with water. Proclaiming he found this well, he asked one of the schoolkids a week later to fill the hole back in and didnt even mark the spot.

3. In 1987 the O.P.W. dredged the river from the bridge on the station road to the walls of the Church of Ireland Graveyard. The river was widened by 10 feet and also deepened to relieve flooding back up the river. What was thought to be location of this well is now 6 feet out into the river. Fact.

4. 2017.....A local man, whom i won't name here, trespassed onto my site and hammered a poorly homemade white cross into the riverbank and proclaimed he found the well. Not much went into his search.

My predecessor who lived here for over 30 years, Mr. Eamonn Morgan, who is a Dunleer native and a person i respect, was also bullied and harassed over the years about this well, that nobody ever could find and the ones that proclaimed to have found it didn't think it worth their while to mark the location. I think this speaks volumes.

Eamonn Morgan's uncle Mr. Edward Morgan owned this land before him and so it has been in the Morgan family for over 100 years. The land has been ploughed a thousand times and nothing ever turned up.

A SIMPLE HYPOTHESES:

There is a river that flows around this property.

Is it not possible that St. Bridget washed her face in that?

Think about it.....St.Bridget, she is not from the area and has no local knowledge of it.

She blindly walks down to a river completely unfamiliar to her (self inflicted blindness) to wash her eyes.

And instead of washing her eyes in this large body of clean water, crosses the river and washes them in a well that she couldnt have known was there as she wasn't a local. Once again remember she is completely blind doing all of this.

Ask yourself, how likely is that?

1. What hard evidence is there that a "well" actually exists at all and if so that it is on my site?

2. How is the exact location of this "well" known, as indicated by the red dot on the map where the National monument is meant to be?

3. Is it normal practice to proclaim something a national monument if there is no hard evidence whatsoever of its actual existence?

4. Folklore, storytelling, legend has it and rumour that something exists, even though after countless searches down through the years and the decades that produced absolutely nothing....this is not hard evidence.

I've spoken with National Monuments Ireland and i want this delisted from my site as a national monument unless they can provide me with evidence to prove otherwise.

I'm also taking legal advice on this matter as im tired of all this harassment and bullying by parties with vested interests. I have a right to live in peace on my own grounds.

THE RIPARIAN BOUNDARY?

This so called "Riparian Boundary"

How did that come about?

There has been zero consultation with the many, many landowners which adjoin the river. Why was that??

It says the "riparian boundary" extends 10 metres either side of the river. This works ok in rural settings. Look at the maps outlining this boundary as it passes through Dunleer village:

It passes through the middle of the building of T.C.Accountancy Practice.

It crosses my entrance to where i live.

It runs through other buildings along the way.

It runs through privately owned gardens of peoples homes.

It even runs through the middle of the Church of Ireland graveyard.

Has anyone come out to inspect this boundary to see how unpractical, unworkable and legally unsound it is when it moves into the Dunleer village area?

Practically every building on one side of Dunleer (riverside), from the top of the town, to the very bottom of it, is affected by this. Indeed, i'd say most of these

people know nothing about it. That's how much consultation takes place with the Dunleer community.

A meeting with a handful of people at it, dreaming up these plans is wrong, if there isn't sufficient consultation afterwards, with the affected parties and indeed the wider community. Surely an advert should be put in the local paper, so that most people are aware of it and can engage with the relevant parties.

Local consensus is critical to local projects.

This is not happening.

A recent case in point is the "new footpath layout" at the top of the station road/main street intersection, which was constructed 2 years ago. There was uproar by both local people and local businesses the very day the works started. We lost about 8 very badly needed car parking spaces (unofficial spaces, but spaces nonetheless, that were used for years) and replaced them with a 4 metre wide footpath which is never [used....as](#) most of the footfall is on the other side of the street. Who's brainchild was this? Aesthetically it does look nice, but on a practical level in a village, where space is in such short supply and the population is continually growing, I genuinely think it was not very well thought out.

FLOOD MAPS:

In relation to the flood maps of my site they are completely inaccurate. It shows that a large area of my three acre site is a flood plain.

1. I've lived here for 3 years and it never flooded, even though we had some of the worst storms on record in Ireland .Fact.

2. Eamonn Morgan lived here from 1976 onwards and he has told me it never flooded during this time. However, he is emphatic that flooding is a very regular occurrence, further upstream. Indeed the O.P.W. dredged the river and made it wider in 1987 to alleviate upstream flooding.

3. Eamonn also told me his Uncle Mr. Edward Morgan, who owned it before him also said he never seen it flooding, but again the problem is upstream.

So if it hasn't flooded in 100 years I can't see it being a flood risk. Can you?

However,

Every single year, the field adjacent to mine, backing on to the Barn road and of almost identical shape to mine, floods. Could a mistake have been made? It is local knowledge, that if we have very heavy rain, the river floods into that particular field every single time.

Indeed, it recently flooded a Protected house on the Barn road which was very recently restored and did untold damage to the ground floor of it.

Conachy's car garage is also a regular victim of this flooding as well.

Ask any local person for confirmation of this.

Could you please confirm receipt of this email?

I've attached a few maps for illustrative purposes.

Kind Regards,

Aiden Torris,

The Dunleer Historical Society has done exhaustive, detailed, indepth, research on the subject of St Bridgets well in Dunleer. Referece(Jonathon Clinton).

Joe Sharkeys Search Reference:

“The position of the diggings was straight across the river and to the right by about 12 feet as you stand at the bottom of the entrance lane to the orchard at the Bank of Ireland.

The river embankment projected out towards the water and was about 15 feet wide, the orchard field was higher by about 4 feet, the bank was only 18 inches above the river bed.

The well was centre ways between the river and the orchard where the hole was dug to a depth of 20 inches.”

[Eamonn Morgans account of Joe Sharkeys search in 1953:](#)

From: Theresa Morgan]

Sent: 07 May 2017 15:50

Subject: St Brigid's well

In 1953 Joe Sharkey undertook to look for a well in Morgan's orchard, he approached the expedition as if nothing had changed from the time St. Brigid was travelling around the country in the year 480 which was over 1500 years ago.

The position of the diggings was straight across the river and to the right by about 12 feet as you stand at the bottom of the entrance lane to the orchard at the Bank of Ireland.

The river embankment projected out towards the water and was about 15 feet wide, the orchard field was higher by about 4 feet, the bank was only 18 inches above the river bed. The well was centre ways between the river and the orchard where the hole was dug to a depth of 20 inches. It was no surprise when water started to appear it been so close to the river

you could dig a hole anywhere and you would get water.

The strangest thing of all was after a week or more we were told to fill in the hole and more or less leave it as it was before we ever arrived and that is what we done and so ended the dig

and St Brigid's well. It was mentioned in the local paper and after that not another word and no well not even a marker.????

In 1987 when I was living in the orchard the Board of Public Works looked for permission to come into the orchard with the purpose of cleaning the river. They did so with a very large digger

which they widened and deepened the river from the bridge to the wall of the church yard downstream. The river was widened by about 10 feet and all of the bank was totally removed and piled

into the orchard to rise the ground some 6 to 8 feet above the river bed, which was a great improvement for me as it prevented flooding in that area, the shape and line along the river is nothing

like it was in 1953.

If what Joe Sharkey said was a well, there is no trace of it today it would be about 6 feet out in the river.

Eamon Morgan.