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As requested by the Examining Authority for Deadline 6, please find attached the Warwickshire Gaelic Athletic Association Position Statement which has been agreed by Highways England ("the Applicant") and the Warwickshire Gaelic Athletic Association.

Kind regards

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# **M42 Junction 6 Development Consent Order Scheme Number TR010027**

## **8.76 Warwickshire Gaelic Athletic Association Position Statement**

Planning Act 2008

Rule 8 (1)(k)

The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Volume 8

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Infrastructure Planning

Planning Act 2008

The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

**M42 Junction 6**  
Development Consent Order 202[ ]

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**Warwickshire Gaelic Athletic Association Position Statement**

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# 1 Update on progress towards an agreement on the reconfiguration of the Warwickshire Gaelic Athletic Association facility at Catherine-de-Barnes Lane

## 1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 At the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing on 20 August 2019, Highways England (**‘the Applicant’**) and the Warwickshire Gaelic Athletic Association (**‘WGAA’**) were requested by the Examining Authority “to continue discussions with a view to reaching an agreement on the reconfiguration of the WGAA facility and to update the Examination on progress made by Deadline 6”. This note provides that update, and has been agreed by the Applicant and the WGAA.

## 1.2 Status of the reconfiguration proposed in the Development Consent Order (DCO) application

1.2.1 The Applicant acknowledges that the construction of the mainline link will require land currently used by the WGAA at Páirc na hÉireann, Catherine-de-Barnes Lane, and that the WGAA’s facility will need to be reconfigured in order to mitigate the impacts of the scheme on them.

1.2.2 The Examining Authority will need to make its recommendation on the basis of the WGAA reconfiguration proposed in the DCO application substantively as proposed in the Deadline 2 Submission - Proposed Proportionate Reconfiguration of the Warwickshire Gaelic Athletic Association Facility [**REP2-019/Volume 8.21**]. The Applicant and the WGAA confirm that their respective positions on the adequacy of the reconfiguration proposed in the DCO application remain as previously advised to the Examination.

1.2.3 However, the Applicant and the WGAA have recognised that the need to reconfigure the WGAA facility creates an opportunity to create a positive legacy, by improving the WGAA facilities and making them available for wider use (**‘the Legacy scheme’**). The Applicant and the WGAA have been working towards an agreement on the Legacy scheme, however, it is agreed that the Legacy scheme will require the acquisition of land from a neighbouring landowner, and separate planning permission. It is also agreed that a decision on any planning application will not be made before the close of the Examination.

## 1.3 Progress towards agreement on the Legacy scheme

1.3.1 The Applicant and the WGAA have held further meetings since the Compulsory Acquisition Hearing, and technical discussions have taken place between their respective architects. There is now broad agreement in principle on the parameters of the Legacy Scheme, namely:

- a. the replacement pitches will be located to the south and the west of the WGAA’s current location, and will include one artificial, all-weather pitch;
- b. a new clubhouse will be constructed to modern standards to the south of the current clubhouse;

- c. an equivalent number of car parking spaces to those lost to the DCO scheme will be reprovided to the south and east of the existing car parking location;
- d. the Applicant and the WGAA will enter into a Community Use agreement to ensure that the Legacy scheme is made available for use by the wider community, including those playing non-GAA sports, such as football, rugby or hockey, rather than simply WGAA members. The WGAA has confirmed that it has the necessary permission from the Central Council of the Gaelic Athletic Association to enter into this Community Use agreement;
- e. the WGAA will assist the Applicant in promoting the community use of the Legacy scheme;
- f. the Applicant will seek an allocation of funds from the Highways England Designated Funds Environment Fund for the construction of the Legacy scheme;
- g. the WGAA will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Legacy scheme, including all related costs;
- h. the Applicant will make an application for planning permission, and seek an option agreement to acquire the land needed, for the Legacy scheme.

1.3.2 It is the intention that the Legacy scheme should not give rise to any environmental impacts on Four Winds or other neighbouring properties that are materially new or materially different from those set out in the Environmental Statement that accompanied the DCO application. In particular:

- a. provision will be made for the owner of the fields to the north and the south of the proposed Legacy scheme to be able to continue to drive cattle between those two fields, beyond the western boundary of the proposed Legacy scheme;
- b. while the Legacy scheme will involve pitches, car parking and a club house nearer to Four Winds, the Legacy scheme will include an earth bund on the new southern boundary of the WGAA facility that can be planted to create environmental screening for Four Winds; and
- c. the Legacy scheme does not include any floodlighting, or a hurling wall.

1.3.3 The overall concept design in terms of the plans and specifications and, therefore, the principles of the Legacy scheme have been agreed by the Applicant and the WGAA, although a number of items relating to detailed design are currently being reviewed. The terms of a legal agreement are being negotiated between the Applicant and the WGAA, with the intention of agreeing these terms before the second Compulsory Acquisition Hearing on 22 October 2019. If the agreement is concluded, then the Applicant would pursue a separate application to Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council for planning permission for the Legacy scheme. As part of that planning application, the Applicant and WGAA would consult with affected stakeholders, including the local community and would intend to make the plans of the Legacy scheme available to affected stakeholders in advance of submitting the planning application.