



Revised Protocol for the Operation of the Planning Committee

**Proposed agricultural shed at lands of the Gortahar Road, Rasharkin.**

Exceptionally, consideration may be given to an alternative site away from existing farm or forestry buildings, provided there are no other sites available at another group of buildings on the holding, and where:

- it is essential for the efficient functioning of the business; or
- there are demonstrable health and safety reasons.

Due to the size and scale of the applicant's farm and farming activities, the fields present North of 59 Gortahar Road, Rasharkin has been chosen as the location for the proposed development as a current response to the current farming operations.

The applicant is currently registering with the Scrapie Monitored Flocks Register and has approximately 10 Blue Faced Leicester (BFL) sheep present on the farm. Scrapie is a fatal brain disease within sheep and Blue Faced Leicester are especially susceptible to this disease. In order for the applicant to continue to sell pedigree stock at the Premier Sales, they must comply with the Scrapie Monitor Rules, to be approved on the scheme the applicant must conform with the Scrapie Registers Rules as set by DARD.

The application is sought due to the current farming activities of the applicant. The applicant currently has approximately 300 sheep present on the farm and the flock list submitted to the Council can confirm and support this. The farm and flock list is currently growing and expanding and farming activities at the lands located away from the farm have no readily available facilities in the immediate locality.

The existing farm buildings available to the applicant are set to the rear of No. 98 Glenbuck Road and are currently operating a maximum capacity.

The proposed application therefore needs a farm shed separated from the existing holding and separate from the existing main flock to allow the growth and development of the Blue Faced Leicester within this farm enterprise. This would enable successful entry to the scheme by ensuring the criteria laid out previously is met by the applicant.

The proposed agricultural shed will be located in the top left hand corner of the field in which it is situated. The field's topography rises quite steeply along the Gortahar Road and falls away to the north western corner which will help to integrate the shed at this location.

The roadside vegetation is extremely strong and there are no public views of the site when travelling in either direction along the Gortahar Road on approach to the site. There is strong boundary treatment on the western boundary of the field in the form of mature trees and hedging.

This proposed shed would accommodate the BFL and ensure adequate health and safety provisions can be provided for this particular breed as well. These sheep do not do well in harsh conditions and require shelter from the elements throughout autumn and particularly winter. In early spring they must also lamb indoors as the lambs would not survive weather conditions at this time either. The agricultural land surrounding the site would then allow for separate grazing when suitable and still maintain the strict rules of the scrapie monitoring register. The fencing within the field will also be doubled up on to allow for a buffer zone for maximum care and consideration to minimise cross contamination.

As illustrated during the application process the current sheds within the farm are operating at maximum capacity with the sheep recorded on the flock list submitted. This site located off the main farm holding would allow the applicant to grow significantly the operations of the farm over the next

couple of years and provides individual grazing pasture readily available for the BFL and for the Farm Business ID to remain successful during these difficult times.

The approval and support of this application would allow the applicant to significantly adapt and grow the farming operations and meet the requirements of DARD to breed the BFL and meet the Scrapie Monitor Register Rules to then sell these sheep successfully at pedigree markets. There currently isn't sufficient space or room available at the farm holding which would prevent the cross contamination and ensure the health and safety of the animals at present.

This report has demonstrated the applicant and the application has met the criteria of CTY 12 within PPS 21 that it is genuinely a necessary response and is essential for the efficient functioning of the business and there are severe demonstrable health and safety reasons if the application was to be refused.