

Dear Helena

I am writing to you, on behalf of Clonsilla & Porterstown Heritage Society. We are very concerned about the fate of Keane's cottage, Porterstown, which is proposed to be demolished, as part of a live planning application (FW24A/0365E). We believe Keane's cottage is integral to the character of Porterstown and its rural origins.

As well as being attractive, with very distinctive windows, dating from the early 1800s, it is an important piece of vernacular architecture, along the Royal Canal. The Heritage Council, citing Rudolfski B. (1964), describes Vernacular Heritage as "architecture without architects" and that these buildings should not be viewed solely in architectural terms.

We are aware that you were not in favour of adding Keane's cottage to Fingal's Record of Protected Structures, when we sought protection for this building, in 2022. We are also aware that, in your comments on the previous planning application for the site, in 2021, while you hoped the developer would retain Keane's cottage, you did not object to its demolition.

We are still astonished by the lack of concern, given to the loss of Clonsilla Lodge and its distinctive horse's-head engraved chimney and strong provenance to Clonsilla House. We are working hard to ensure that Keane's cottage is not lost to our community.

The current Fingal Development Plan (2023-2029) has an extended section on vernacular heritage, which is meant to give buildings such as Keane's cottage greater protection.

Can you please clarify, given this additional focus on vernacular heritage in the current FDP, that your comments on the retention of Keane's Cottage have changed since the last planning application?

As Fingal's Conservation Officer, we would like you to use your position, to reject any application, which includes the demolition of this building. We want Keane's cottage retained, as part of any planning development, for future generations.

Yours sincerely

Clonsilla & Porterstown Heritage Society