

Date: 23rd July 2013  
Your Ref: NI1418  
Our Ref: Z/2013/0685/F  
(Please quote at all times)



Belfast City Council  
Mr Kevin Heaney,  
Chief Executive Office  
Belfast City Council  
City Hall,  
Belfast

Strategic Planning Division,  
Millennium House,  
2nd Floor,  
17 - 25 Great Victoria Street,  
Malone Lower  
Belfast  
BT2 7BN

Please contact: Clare Smyth  
Direct Line: 028 9041 6840

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Major Planning Application under Article 31 of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991**

**Location: Lands at 88-104 Andersonstown Road, Belfast, BT11 9AN**

**Proposal: The re-development of Casement Park to provide a 38,000 seated capacity GAA Stadium, comprising: demolition of the existing facilities; construction of new pitch and stands, incorporating bar/restaurant and ancillary kitchen areas, conference, training and community facilities, including handball courts, ancillary offices, player accommodation and welfare facilities, press/media and broadcast facilities; replacement floodlighting, stadium/event management suite, ground support facilities including electronic display installations, facilities associated with ground maintenance; enhanced access arrangements; coach parking; underground car parking; remediation/replacement of site boundaries; hard and soft landscaping.**

The Department has applied Article 31 of the Planning (NI) Order 1991 to the above-mentioned planning application, designating it as one of major importance as it considers the development would, if permitted:

- (i) be of significance to the whole or a substantial part of Northern Ireland,
- (ii) affect the whole of a neighbourhood and

Before the application is determined the Department will either cause a public local inquiry to be held before the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) or issue to the applicant a Notice of Opinion indicating how it considers the application should be decided. If a Notice of Opinion is issued, the applicant can seek an opportunity to appear before the PAC for the purpose of making representation on the opinion expressed by the Department.

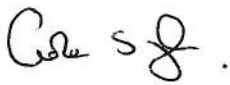
In the event of the PAC becoming involved, the Commission will report to the Department on the Inquiry or the Hearing prior to a final decision being taken.

The Department is not yet in a position to indicate whether or not a public local inquiry will be held. You will be notified as soon as a decision is reached on this point. If your Council has not yet formally commented on this application I should be glad if you would let me have the Council's views at your earliest opportunity.

You may wish to consider placing this application on the agenda of planning cases, under any other business to be discussed at the Planning Committee's next meeting with Department Planning Officials.

This application and associated site plans, maps and drawings are available for viewing via the Planning NI Web Portal, [www.planningni.gov.uk](http://www.planningni.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cole S J'.

for Strategic Planning Division