

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO AN BORD PLEANÁLA FOR APPROVAL

Proposed Upgrade of a Section of Existing Access Roadway at Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, North West Slob, Ardavan, Wexford, Co. Wexford.

Pursuant to Section 177AE of the *Planning and Development Act 2000* (as amended) and the requirements as set out in Article 121 of the *Planning and Development Regulations 2001* (as amended), notice is hereby given that *National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage*, proposes to seek the approval of An Bord Pleanála to carry out a proposed development along a section of the existing access roadway at Wexford Wildfowl Reserve, North West Slob, Ardavan, Wexford, Co. Wexford, comprising the following works:

- Excavation of existing surface to formation levels and placing and compaction of base course and wearing course macadam overlay along 842 linear metres of the existing roadway.
- Construction of side drains along the northern edge of the sections of roadway to be upgraded.
- Reinstatement of grass margins in areas adjacent to constructed side drains.

An *Appropriate Assessment Report* comprising a *Stage 1 Screening Report* and *Stage 2 Natura Impact Statement (NIS)* has been prepared as part of the application for approval in respect of the proposed development.

An *Bord Pleanála* may give approval to the application for development with or without conditions or may refuse the application for development.

The Wexford Wildfowl Reserve was established as a nature reserve in 1981. The site of the proposed works is situated within the boundaries of the Wexford Harbour and Slob Special Protection Area (Site Code 004076).

A copy of the plans and particulars relating to this proposed development together with the *Appropriate Assessment Report* comprising a *Stage 1 Screening Report* and *Stage 2 Natura Impact Statement (NIS)* will be available for inspection free of charge or can be purchased on payment of a specified fee (which fee shall not exceed the reasonable cost of making a copy) during the period from Friday 14th June 2024 to Friday 26th July 2024 (inclusive of both dates) at the following locations:

- The offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin, D01 V902. (Opening hours are between the hours of 9.15am and 5.30pm Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays, Good Friday and certain other days).
- The consultation website: <https://www.wexfordwildfowlreserve.ie/access-road-resurfacing/>
- The Visitor Centre, Wexford Wildfowl Reserves, North West Slob, Ardavan, Wexford, Co. Wexford. Y35 EY89 (Opening hours are between the hours of 9.00am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays).

Any submissions and observations with respect to the proposed development may be made in writing to An Bord Pleanála in relation to:

1. The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development in the area concerned,
2. The likely effects on the environment of the proposed development, and
3. The likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European Site, if carried out,

Submissions and/or observations should be made in writing to An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin, D01 V902 and must be received by An Bord Pleanála not later than on or before 5.30pm on Friday 26th July 2024.

A person may question the validity of any such decision by An Bord Pleanála by way of an application for judicial review under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986) in accordance with section 50 of the *Planning and Development Acts, 2000 (As Amended)*. Practical information on the review mechanism can be accessed under the heading Publications-Judicial Review Notice on the Board's website www.pleanala.ie or on the Citizens Information website www.citizensinformation.ie

Signed By:

Ciarán Foley, Regional Manager, South Eastern Region Mid and South Wexford and Carlow, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Date: 12th June 2024.



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

Family of police officer settle High Court case

STEPHEN DIED WITH HIS PARENTS AND BROTHER IN CRASH ON N25

By ANN O'LOUGHLIN

THE family of a US police officer who, along with his parents and brother, died in a road traffic accident here has settled for €310,000 a High Court action over his death.

The family were in Ireland for a funeral and were in a hire car when the accident happened as a U turn was being attempted on the main Rosslare to Waterford Road outside New Ross, Co Wexford.

Senior Counsel John Kilfeather instructed by Caroline McLaughlin solicitor told the High Court it was a very tragic accident and 49-year-old Stephen Alexander, a father of two, was a decorated police officer operating out of the Bolingbrook Police Department which is situated in a south western suburb of Chicago. The proceedings were over the death of Stephen and also for nervous shock.

Mr Alexander's father, Douglas Alexander Snr, (75) his mother Lily Alexander (75) and brother Douglas Alexander Jnr (52), also from Chicago, all died in the collision with an articulated lorry on the N25 on December 4, 2017.

The proceedings were brought by Stephen Alexander's widow, Lynn Alexander of Lemont, Illinois in the United States against car rental company Executive Trust Ltd with registered offices at Northwood Business Park, Northwood, Santry, Co Dublin.

The company owned the car in which Stephen was travelling



The late Stephen and Douglas Jnr Alexander.

as a passenger and which was driven by his brother Douglas Alexander Jnr at the time of the accident.

The settlement is without an admission of liability.

In the proceedings it was claimed that the car crossed or attempted to cross the path of an oncoming vehicle, causing the collision and that a dangerous manoeuvre had allegedly been executed on the public roadway. It was further claimed there was a failure to wait until traffic had passed in safety before crossing or attempting to cross the path of traffic.

An inquest in 2019 held into the death of the four Americans heard the group had travelled from the United States to attend the funeral of Lily's sister, Winifred, at Cushinstown, outside New Ross and less than 1km from the scene of the accident.

A garda gave evidence that the Alexanders had flown over from Chicago for the funeral, and they had been travelling in convoy behind relatives of theirs when the crash occurred.

The garda said both cars were doing a U-turn on the road

and that while one of the cars completed the manoeuvre, the car was hit by an articulated truck while attempting the same move.

All four died at the scene after their car became trapped underneath the lorry, which had jack-knifed as it attempted to avoid them.

The lorry driver who was driving 10km under the speed limit said he saw a car shooting across from the left-hand side maybe 50m in front of him, and then a second car came out, he slammed on the brakes but the collision happened.

The coroner noted the driver of the car would have been at a major disadvantage having only arrived from the States a few hours previously and would not have had much rest.

The coroner also said that being used to driving on the other side of the road, he may have been expecting traffic coming from the left rather than from the right, and that the driver of the lorry had done nothing wrong.

The jury returned a verdict of accidental death in each case.

Man jailed for nine and a half years for raping former partner

A man has been jailed for nine and a half years for the rape of his former partner in the southeast of the country seven years ago.

The 37-year-old had pleaded not guilty to six counts of rape on May 18, 2017 at an address in Co. Wexford but was convicted by a Central Criminal Court jury in March on all counts. He can't be named to protect the victim's anonymity.

Imposing sentence on Monday Ms Justice Siobhan Lankford said it was part of a continuum of sexual offending on the night.

She handed down a 10-and-a-half-year sentence with the final year suspended and backdated it to March 14 this year for time spent in custody.

The man is to keep away from the injured party for life and is now on the sex offenders' register.

Ms Justice Lankford said the abuse was at the higher end of offending and aggravating factors included that it happened in the victim's home while she was sleeping and he took her from her bedroom.

She said it was a violent, sexual degradation and humiliation which continued throughout the night and also because he choked the injured party until she was unconscious.

In mitigation, she noted that the accused had addiction problems and a very difficult childhood.

The court heard the accused is three years older than the injured party, who is now 33.



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