

# RRA Speed Limit Submission

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## Control of Vehicle Speeds in Residential Areas

20<sup>th</sup> January 2015

**Rosepark Residents Association Committee**

**For the Attention of:**

Alan Sherry,  
Administrative Officer,  
Operations Department,  
Grove Road,  
Blanchardstown,  
Dublin 15.

**Response to:**

Chairperson Margaret Haugh,  
Rosepark Residents Association,  
36 Rosepark,  
Balrothery,  
Fingal.  
(or email to [residents.rosepark@gmail.com](mailto:residents.rosepark@gmail.com))

We are responding to an Invitation from Fingal County Council regarding the adequacy or otherwise of existing speed limits in our area so as to ensure that housing estate roads are as safe as possible for pedestrians, cyclists and especially our children.

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## **Introduction**

The Rosepark Residents Association was formed on 1st December 2011 and is well established with numerous events and initiatives organised for the betterment of the local area. The Residents Association is an elected committee of eight people and represents the residents of Rosepark Estate in Balrothery. This submission has been compiled on behalf of the residents of the Rosepark Estate, who represent approximately 20% of the population of Balrothery and it pertains to the invitation from Fingal County Council regarding the adequacy or otherwise of existing speed limits in our area, in order to ensure that housing estate roads are as safe as possible for pedestrians, cyclists and especially our children.



## **Submission Summary**

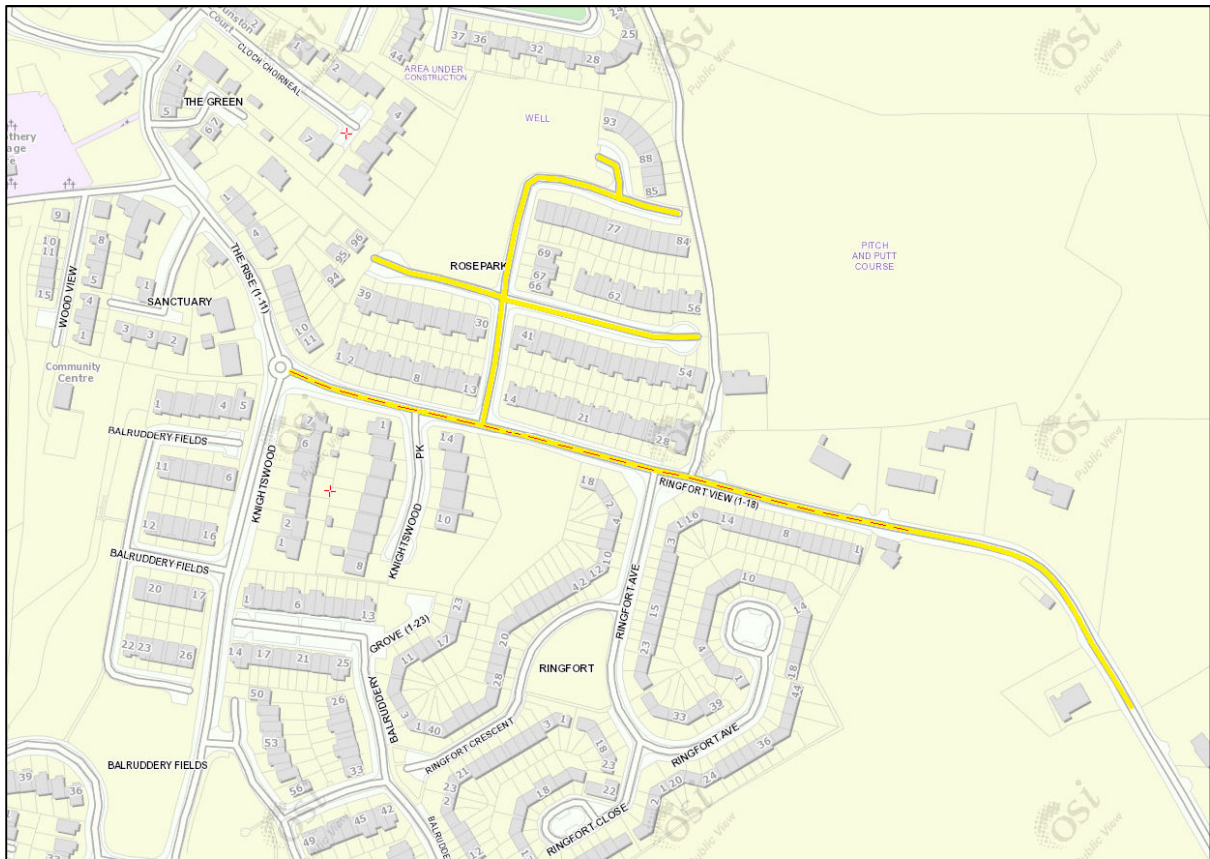
Fingal County Council has specifically requested submissions in relation to the possible introduction of a 30km/h speed limit in residential areas and indeed our submission falls exactly within those parameters. We are requesting the reduction of the speed limit first and foremost, for a 500 meter stretch or road on the Darcystown Rd. from the roundabout at the Rise, Balrothery; up to the far side of the new Garraí Linn Development (further up this road) and then, secondarily to have the speed limit in the Rosepark Estate also set at 30kph for the whole estate, some of which is situated on the Darcystown Road itself (the front row of the estate). For all cases, we are requesting the speed limit to be reduced permanently from 50kph to 30kph.

## Submission Detail

In the bellow map, you can visually see the area of the Darcystown road which we are referring to in our submission. This stretch of 500 meter road is from the roundabout at the junction of Knightswood and “The Rise, Balrothery, the coordinates (**Lon. 53.585502, Lat. -6.187422**) up to and including Yellow walls, at the far side of the new Garraí Linn Development (**location Lon. 53.583802, Lat. -6.180639**). We have also requested that the estate of Rosepark itself have a 30kph speed limit imposed and for additional traffic calming measures to be considered within the estate.

Finally and at a minimum, we request that the critical area as highlighted below by the broken red line be the primary consideration for the speed limit reduction, the full area in yellow is what the Rosepark Residents would like to see covered by the 30kph speed limit zone but it is this area in red that is most critical and of upmost concern to us. This area again stretches from the Roundabout to the exit of the new Garraí Linn estate.

### Area proposed for speed limit reduction:



## Submission Evidence

In order to support our submission and to help Fingal County Council to fully conceptualise the concerns of local residents, the following sections contain, facts, local knowledge and information pertaining to these stretch of road that we hope will help to support a decision to lower the speed limit in this area.

## Excessive Speeding

The residents remain deeply concerned regarding the speed of vehicles using this road and the disregard shown by motorists for pedestrians within this built up area. A Speed survey was undertaken on this section of road in 2008 and vehicle speeds were found to be excessive with an 85% speed of 60kph. Since that time F.C.C VA Signage was erected to which reduced speed to 53kph (still in excess of the 50kph speed limit). However as the VA Signage is non-functional and has not been functional for the last 18 months. We can only assume that traffic speeds have since increased to previous levels and would cite this as an example of why permanent physical/environmental traffic calming measures are put in place including the permanent reduction of the speed limit from 50kph to 30kph on this stretch of road.

## Traffic Exiting Estates

There will shortly be two new additional estates feeding on to the Darcystown road; bringing the total estates exiting onto this 500m stretch of road to five including the existing estates of Rosepark, Ringfort and Knightswood. We estimate that this will represent almost 60% of the population of Balrothery, again exiting onto this 500m stretch of road. Due to significant issues with Parking, due to the under-provision of parking space on the Darcystown road, cars exiting from estates regularly do not have an adequate view of oncoming traffic and there have been several accidents over the last number of years, on this road, due to this problem. With two more exits to be added to the road, we believe that this problem will only increase and we believe that a reduction in the speed limit will increase the safety of traffic exiting these housing estates.

## Housing on Darcystown Road

Both the estates of Rosepark, Ringfort and the new 9 unit housing estate on the Darcystown road all have residential units directly adjoining the Darcystown road and it is the case that many of these residents have significant issues on a daily basis, trying to reverse their cars, out of their driveways and onto the Darcystown road, due to the speed and frequency of oncoming traffic. In some cases, again due to parked traffic, visibility is not available which leads to some residents exiting their driveways at great personal risk. Again, a reduction we believe that a reduction in the speed limit will increase the safety of residents exiting their personal driveways. Lastly, we wish to make the important point that we feel that a significant section of the Darcystown road is in effect, part of the Rosepark estate and that the speed limit on this section of road should be treated accordingly.

## Child Safety

In the summer of 2014, at the roundabout at the beginning of the Darcystown road, a young a 9 year old boy was knocked off his bike due issues with traffic safety on this stretch of road. Due to there being cars parked on the already narrow foot paths. This young boy, as most residents do, including parents pushing prams and buggies, had to therefore travel out around the car and into oncoming speeding traffic. At this same time, a car that, due to another oncoming car, had no appropriate space to pass the child ended up knocking them from their bike. Local residents have repeatedly

Rosepark Residents Association

Chairperson Margaret Haugh, 36 Rosepark, Balrothery, Fingal - residents.rosepark@gmail.com

cited this area of road as a death waiting to happen and at the very least, a reduced speed limit will possibly prevent or reduce the risk of this kind of accident reoccurring. This is a significant concern to parents, especially when there is no control around speeding within the estate.

In the Rosepark estate itself, we have an unexcavated burial mound next to the estate roads which means children playing on this space, often chasing footballs or just as part of general play, run down the mound and out onto the estate road, often at speed. On this stretch of road, we often have cars traveling at excessive speed from the rear, to the front of the estate and vice versa. While speeding traffic is a policing matter, it is our understanding that, unless otherwise specified 50kpm applies to all roads hence these motorists are not in breach of the law and for those who could be considered to be driving dangerously or recklessly, the Gardaí simply do not have the resources to police such matters.

### **Crossing Points**

Currently the Darcystown road has no safe crossing point for Children, as evidenced by the fact that only before Christmas just passed; another young child was knocked down by a truck on this stretch of road, while trying to cross to the other side. Thankfully this case did not result in death but again, we feel it is only a matter of time before this happens, if the speed limit is not reduced.

Further to the above, due to the lack of open space in Ringfort and other estates, children will undoubtedly be playing on the road or crossing it frequently to go to the open space in Rosepark to play. We assume that the council is not happy for these children or families to be put in danger of being struck by passing traffic at 53km/h which is the average speed of 85% of the traffic (60kph currently due to VA signage non-functional). We wouldn't even venture to guess what the speed of the other 15% is on average but we could be confident at least that a reduced speed limit would go a very significant way towards alleviating many of these traffic management and safety concerns.

### **Speed Ramps**

Over the last number of years, the Rosepark Residents Association have looked for "Speed Ramps" to be put in place on the Darcystown Road to assist with traffic calming measures. We would recommend that these be put in place along the Darcystown road and in particular; between the entrances to Rosepark and Knights wood, between Rosepark and the new 9 unit housing estate and finally, between Rosepark and Ringfort. As well as reducing speed in the Darcystown road, these speed ramps would also help to reduce the speed of oncoming traffic towards the Roundabout at the beginning of the Darcystown road, which; is well known as an accident blackspot, especially in winter conditions. There are already speed ramps just down from the roundabout at two locations behind the Balrothery Inn, one at an incline and in a section of road that takes quite an amount of agricultural traffic. While this submission is specific to setting new speed limits, we hope that Fingal County Council will take on board this longstanding request and implement it for the safety of all in Balrothery. Finally, we would also take this opportunity to request for speed ramps to be installed in the Rosepark Estate where again, speeding can be a problem especially at the junction between the 3 roads in the estate, were children frequently play.

## Road Speed Limit History

Finally, we believe it is worth pointing out that in the Balrothery 2002 Local Area Plan, under the section covering Traffic Management Measures, the following was stated: *“It is an objective to relocate the two 30 MPH speed limit signs, which are currently at the edge of the built up area, to locations at the edge of the Plan Area”*. The Rosepark Residents Association are simply asking Fingal County Council to implement the lowering of the speed limit on this stretch of road, in accordance with their own original recommendations, especially now that the population has increased by 76% since these original recommendations were made.

## Conclusion

Arising from the meeting between Minister Donohoe and the Jake’s Legacy Campaign on 5 August 2014, we are simply campaigning for the same objectives as the Jake’s Legacy Campaign.

1. Speed ramps to be installed in all current housing estates throughout Ireland and for specific legislation to ensure that they are in place before houses are sold or occupied
2. Bye - laws to be passed by all local authorities throughout Ireland creating special speed zones of 30 km/h in residential areas

The Rosepark Residents Association have long campaigned to receive traffic calming measures; similar to those delivered in Loughshinny near Skerries, which would include at a minimum, speed ramps as mentioned earlier, speed limit markings on-road as well as very visible speed limit signs and “Slow through Village” signs. These may well need to be complimented with other traffic calming measures such as traffic islands, or indeed traffic lights for a pedestrian crossing but a reduced speed limit along this road is an essential first step.

We now hope that Fingal County Council will use this opportunity, in light of the **“The Jake’s Legacy campaign”** and the afore mentioned accidents involving local children to remedy the inappropriate speed limits in operation on this stretch of road. We look forward to what we hope will be a favourable decision regarding this submission and to a safer road for the residents of Balrothery.

We trust we will be kept informed on matters hence forth related to this development.  
Yours Sincerely,

*Margaret Haugh*

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Margaret Haugh  
Chairperson  
Rosepark Residents Association

*Dated: 20/01/2015*

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