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Company No. 493133 Directors: D. Mulcahy & M. Mulcahy	

Planning Department  
Laois County Council  
Áras an Chontae,  
JFL Ave.,  
Portlaoise,  
Co. Laois

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020

**Re: Submission regarding Issues Paper for The Laois County Development Plan 2021 – 2027.**

Dear Sir/Madam,

David Mulcahy Planning Consultants Ltd have been instructed by **Petrogas Group Ltd ('T/a Applegreen)** to prepare a submission to the Issues Paper for the Laois County Development Plan 2021-27. Petrogas Group Ltd own lands at Midway, Togher, Portlaoise, Co. Laois including a food court and filling station.

The Issues Paper refers, inter alia, to Tackling Climate Change and this submission concerns this matter. Petrogas Group Ltd are of the strong opinion that there is an opportunity to provide a **Low Carbon Transportation Hub** at Midway. This would consist of a Compressed Natural Gas ('CNG') hub and Electric Vehicle fast-charging hub, along with other national level pilot projects for other alternative and sustainable fuels e.g. Hydrogen facilities for the larger HGV's etc.

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We note that National Policy Objective 55 in the National Framework Plan seeks to “*promote renewable energy use and generation at appropriate locations within the built and natural environment to meet national objectives towards achieving a low carbon economy by 2050*”.

We further note the Climate Action Plan 2019 seeks to accelerate the take up of EV cars so that 100% of all new cars and vans are EV's by 2030. This will enable achieving Ireland's target of 950,000 EV's on the road by 2030.

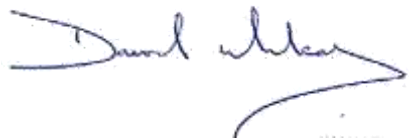
Finally, we note that Gas Networks Ireland recognises the opportunity to develop biomethane as an alternative fuel source for utilisation in natural gas vehicles (NGVs), primarily in the form of captive fleets (e.g. buses, trucks and vans).

We consider that this Low Carbon Transportation Hub would be wholly compatible with Portlaoise's current designation as a pilot Low Carbon Town.

We therefore invite the Council to consider including a site-specific objective in the new Plan for a Low Carbon Transportation Hub at Midway.

Please acknowledge receipt of this submission in writing and direct all future correspondence to this office.

Yours sincerely,



David Mulcahy  
**David Mulcahy Planning Consultants Ltd**  
**CHARTERED PLANNING CONSULTANTS**