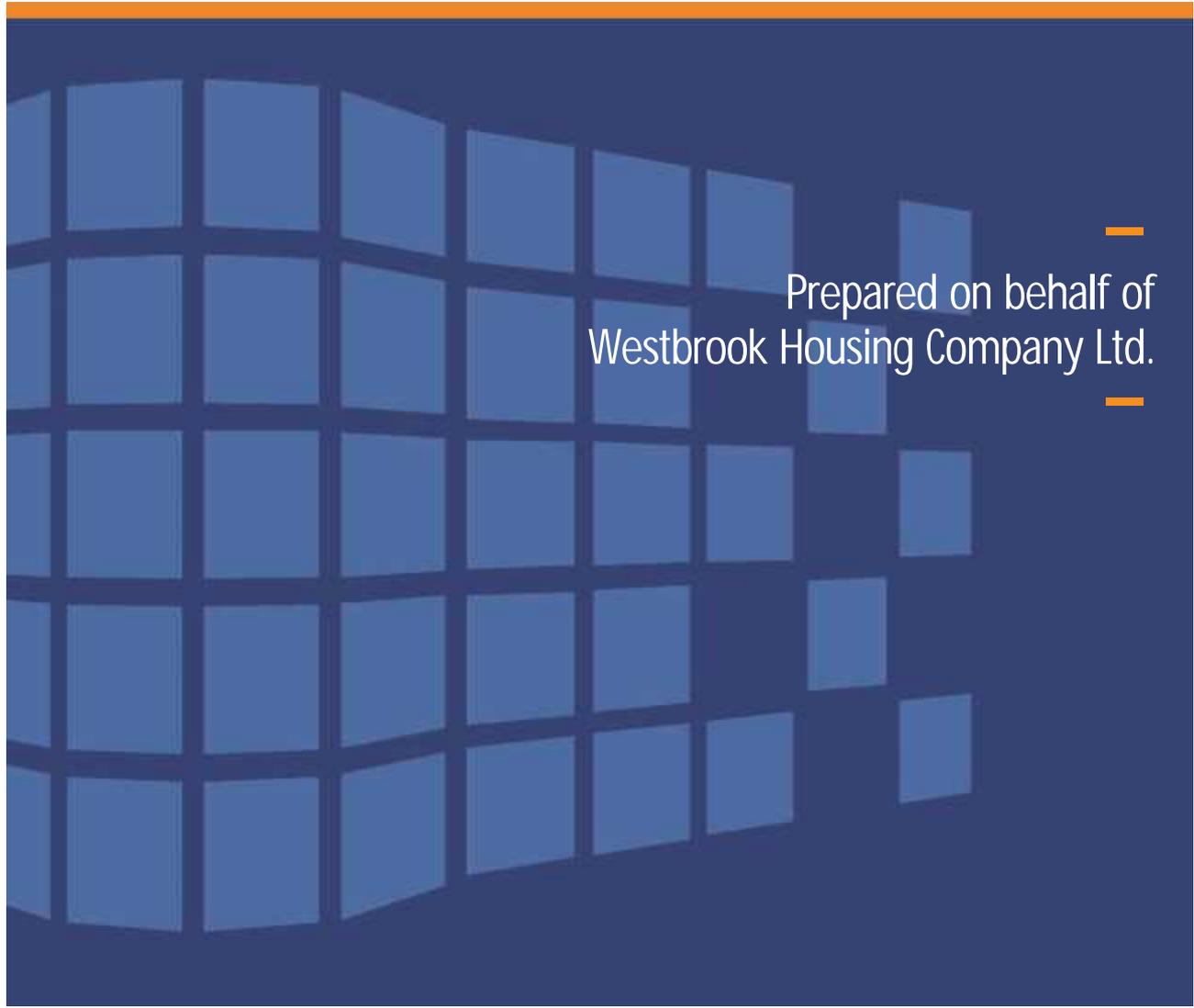


School Demand Report

Cooney's Lane, Graigue (townland), Grange, Co. Cork

November 2018



Prepared on behalf of
Westbrook Housing Company Ltd.

1.0 Introduction

Westbrook Housing Company Ltd. are applying for a Strategic Housing Development for the demolition of an existing dwelling, derelict coach house and farm buildings and the construction of 251 no. residential units, creche, play areas and all associated ancillary development works at Cooney's Lane, Graigue (townland), Grange, Co. Cork.

This School Demand Report is submitted in response to item 2 of An Bord Pleanála's Opinion which requires the following:

"A report identifying demand for school places likely to be generated by the proposal and the capacity of existing schools in the vicinity to cater for such demand."

Accordingly, this report provides details on the current and future capacity of existing and proposed schools in the area along with the demand for places likely to be generated by the proposed development.

In assessing the current and likely school demand for the catchment area we have carried out an analysis of CSO data and schools in the following Electoral Divisions – Douglas and Lehenagh. This is based on the assumption that the school catchment for the development site is broadly a 10-minute drive time or 5km.

2.0 Existing School Provision

There are five existing primary schools and three existing post primary schools within the study area, as detailed in table 1 below. In addition, a planning application has been lodged with Cork County Council for a 24 classroom Educate Together primary school which is situated 1.9km from the subject site. Permission for this school was granted on October 15th, 2018. The application is now at appeal stage. A second application for a 600 pupil post primary school, 1.6km from the subject site, has also been lodged with Cork County Council. Further information has been requested for this application.

The total enrolment of primary school in the five existing schools is 2,034 pupils. The current capacity of these schools is 157 pupils. Based on our current information, we estimate that the maximum capacity of existing / proposed schools in the study area is 877 pupils. This figure assumes that the current application for the 24 classroom Educate Together primary school will not be granted to An Bord Pleanála. If this permission is refused, then the capacity in the area drops to 157 pupils.

The total enrolment of post primary schools in the three existing schools is 1,926 pupils. The current capacity of these schools is 284 pupils. Based on our current information, we estimate that the maximum capacity of existing / proposed schools in the study area is 884 pupils. This figure assumes that the current application for the 600 pupil post primary school will be granted permission by Cork County Council. If this school is not permitted, then the capacity in the area drops to 284 pupils.

Primary Schools				
School Name	School Roll No.	Gender	Enrolment	Capacity
Scoil Nioclais	20106E	Mixed	860	N/A
St Lukes NS	12012W	Mixed	220	20
St Columbas Boys, Girls, School for the Deaf	05508O	Mixed	410	50
Togher Boys School	13980L	Boys	273	87
Togher Girls School	18566D	Girls	271	N/A
Total Enrolment and Capacity			2,034	157
Post Primary Schools				
School Name	School Roll No.	Gender	Enrolment	Capacity
Douglas Community School	91396R	Boys	536	114
Regina Mundi	62691G	Girls	560	0
Christ King	62692I	Girls	830	170
Total Enrolment and Capacity			1,926	284

Table 1 School enrolment and capacity figures.

3.0 Existing and Future Demand

3.1 Primary School Population

The total primary school going population in 2016 was 3,501 children – this is 11.2% of the total population in the study area. In the County as a whole, 12.6% of the population were of primary school age in 2016. There is, therefore, a relatively low proportion of primary school aged children living in the study area.

The number of children of primary school age grew by 499 children during the period 2011 to 2016 and based on the age structure of the population in 2016, will continue to grow in the short term, even without any further population increase.

The 3,501 children of primary school age living in the study area in 2016 amounts to an average of 437 children for each school year. In 2016 there were 2,298 children in the pre-school age band – an average of 459 children for each pre-school year. In the short term, therefore, the local demand for primary school places is going to increase by an average of 22 places a year. This is calculated on the assumption that, on average 437 children leave the primary school system each year, while 459 children enter the system. Any further increase in population will add to demand for primary school places.

The existing demand for primary school places in the study area outstrips actual provision. A total of 3,501 children of primary school age lived in the study area in 2016, compared with an enrolment of 2,034 and a potential capacity of 877.

The current shortfall of 1,467 school places may be met by children travelling outside the study area, most likely to popular schools within the City Centre.

3.2 Post Primary School Population

The total post primary going population in 2016 was 2,587 children – this is 8.2% of the total population in the study area. In the County as a whole, 8.1% of the population were of post primary school age in 2016. There is therefore, a relatively average proportion of post primary school aged children living in the study area.

The number of children of post primary school age grew by 50 children during the period 2011 to 2016 and based on the age structure of the population in 2016, will continue to grow in the short term, even without any further population increase.

The 2,587 children of post primary school age living in the study area in 2016 amounts to an average of 431 children for each school year. In 2016 there were 3,501 children in the primary school age band – an average of 437 for each primary school year. In the short term, therefore, the local demand for post primary school places is going to increase by an average of 6 places a year. This is calculated on the assumption that, on average 431 children leave the post primary system each year, while 437 children enter the system. Any further increase in population will add to demand for post primary school places.

The existing demand for post primary school places in the study area outstrips actual provision. A total of 2,587 children of post primary school age lived in the study area in 2016, compared with an enrolment of only 1,926 and a potential capacity of 884.

The current shortfall of 661 school places may be met by children travelling outside the study area, most likely to popular schools within the City Centre such as Presentation Brothers College and St Angela's College which are outside the study area.

3.3 Future Primary School Demand

As stated above, in 2016, there were 2,298 children in the pre-school age band. This equates to an average of 459 children entering the primary school system for each school year. The proposed development consists of the construction of 251 no. additional dwellings within the study area.

In calculating the demand likely to be generated by the proposed development, the formula used by the Department of Education and Science for calculating school demand, was used. The current formula for primary schools is:

$$11.3\% * \text{No. of Units} * \text{Average household size.}$$

The total number of units is 251 no. and the average household size in Ireland is 2.73. Therefore, the following calculation was used:

$$11.3\% * 251 * 2.73 = 77$$

Therefore, the proposed development of 251 no. dwelling units will generate a demand for an additional 77 no. primary school places. This increases the total children entering the primary school system to 2,375 children which equates to an average of 475 children each school year.

3.4 Future Post Primary School Demand

In 2016, there were 3,501 children in the primary school age band. This equates to an average of 437 children entering the post primary school system each school year. The proposed development consists of the construction of 251 no. additional dwellings within the study area.

The current formula for post primary schools used by the Department of Education and Science is:

$$8.5\% * \text{No. of Units} * \text{Average household size.}$$

The following calculation was used:

$$8.5\% * 251 * 2.73 = 58$$

Therefore, the proposed development of 251 no. dwelling units will generate a demand for an additional 58 no. post primary school places. This increases the total children entering the post primary school system to 3,559 children and equates to an average of 444 children.

4.0 Conclusion

The research undertaken identifies five primary schools and three post primary schools within a ten-minute drive time of the proposed development site. Out of the five primary schools there is a current capacity of 17 spaces. These 157 spaces combined with the recently permitted 24 classroom Educate Together School increases the capacity to 877. Therefore, there is adequate capacity in the area to cater for the projected demand of 2,375 children.

The three-post primary schools have an available capacity of 284 children. Combined with the proposed 600 pupil post primary school the available capacity in the area is 884 children. Again, there is adequate capacity to cater for the projected demand of 3,559 children.