

17 Underwood Park

ENNISKILLEN

Co Fermanagh

30 Bealtaine 2019

John Horan

Uachtarán C.L.G.

Croke Park

Baile Átha Cliath 3

A Uachtaráin Horan, a chara,

As a member of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael and a concerned citizen of this country I wish to appeal to you and to our Gaelic Athletic Association to help tackle the climate crisis which is now urgent.

I would like the Gaelic Athletic Association to do something about the use of plastic bottles in our grounds by players, members, officials, coaches and managers. To see especially managers drinking a few mouthfuls of water from single use plastic bottles and throwing them on the ground epitomises the throw-away culture of our society.

The amount of single use plastic bottles, plates, cutlery and food containers used by our Association is shocking, from training sessions to match day, not to mention food waste. Those players are role models to our youth and must be setting a good example. Surely each player, manager and official should have their own reusable bottle(s) that can be refilled. After all there are two designated 'water boys/girls' for each team.

Secondly, the management of waste in our grounds is appalling. Why do people who attend our games think it's okay to throw their rubbish around our grounds and stands?

I recently challenged a spectator at a match when he threw a crisp packet on the ground. I asked him would he do that at home and who did he think would pick it up here. He got very angry with me. I think bins - recycling and general

rubbish bins should be provided but people should be told over the announcers that it is illegal to throw rubbish around our grounds.

Thirdly, I would like our Association to encourage biodiversity in and around our grounds. Please stop the cutting of good trees and bushes around grounds, after all the pitches need a certain amount of shelter to prevent desertification. The planting of shrubs which are Bee friendly should be encouraged and supported.

Cumann Lúthchleas Gael could even consider appointing Environmental officers in each county and maybe eventually in every club.

The GAA is the heart and soul of this country. I am not being alarmist when I say that without a sustainable environment, we and certainly future generations will have no grounds on which to play our beautiful games.

Is mise le meas

Anne Marie Russell

(Member of The Clogher Diocese Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation group)

Copies:

Tom Ryan, Runaí CLG

Oliver Galligan, Uachtarán Comhairle Uladh

Ronan McAvoy, Runaí, Comhairle Uladh

Greg Kelly, Cathaoirleach Clg, Contae Fhear Manach