

An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
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7th September 2020

To whom it may concern

Construction of the Boyne Greenway Drogheda to Mornington, Co. Meath & Co. Louth (APB-307652-20)

I wish to make the following submissions and observations on the a/m planning application by Meath County Council

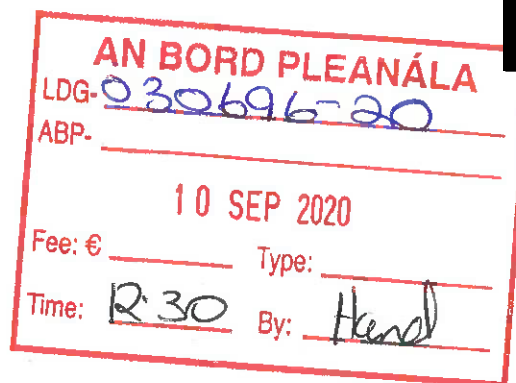
In the Media Manipulation of recent weeks and months on the Proposed Boyne Greenway we have been asked to imagine walking, jogging or cycling along the Boyne riverbank all the way from Drogheda to the beach at Mornington with no mention of the detour that this proposed Greenway route is taking away from the river through the front gardens of native residents stretching from the Estuary to the Maiden Tower on the R151.

Advocates of the Greenway say that this pedestrian and cycleway would be "a welcome amenity and provide a safe traffic-free environment for local users and tourists to cycle or walk adjacent to the river Boyne."

They fail to mention that the route from Drogheda to Mornington is 7 km and for 5.2 km the greenway will be built on the existing regional road. This road is one of the busiest roads in East Meath with Bus Eireann buses, school buses and cars from the many estates using this road to access Drogheda town and all the primary and secondary schools in the area. How could this route be "a traffic-free environment"?

For 4.1 km of the proposed greenway the river Boyne is not in view because there is a continuous line of houses, shops and fields between the roadway and the Boyne.

The residents from the Estuary to the Maiden Tower on the R151 would exit directly onto the Greenway and enter their properties from the Greenway. This will result in many safety issues for residents and walkers, joggers and cyclists.



AN BORD PLEANÁLA
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The Boyne Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) for wintering birds, the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the only Corine Biotope in County Meath are not only as has been stated at the end the proposed Greenway. On the contrary the proposed greenway is cutting right through these protected areas, therefore the proposed works will adversely affect the River Boyne's Special Area Of Conservation (SAC) and also the designated Special Protection Area (SPA). I am amazed and saddened that Meath County Council would consider putting a greenway within the Boyne Estuary Special Protection Area , the designated Special Protection Area and an area of considerable ornithological importance for wintering waterfowl.

The proposed scheme will have a negative impact on the local roads network. It will include the main bus route from Drogheda to Mornington where it is impossible to make headway due to the level of traffic and bus stops on this narrow road which will be further reduced with the greenway.

Regarding the unprecedented 2,664 submissions representing 2053 individuals supporting the scheme during the non-Statutory Public Consultation by Meath County Council it has been brought to my attention that these submissions were organised and collected in Scotch Hall Shopping Centre by the group supporting the scheme.(Drogheda Life 23/07/20) Most of these people who were asked to sign the submissions would be unaware of where the greenway is proposed and the negative impact of this Greenway on the residents in Mornington.

The cost involved in the proposed Greenway would be better spent on developing local amenities, protecting the SPA and SAC, footpaths, traffic calming and proper lighting on the R150 and R151.

 If there is money available to be spent in our area of East Meath I ask that you consider the following:

1. Provide footpaths to the estates surrounding Donacarney National School so that the children could walk to and from school.
2. Provide footpaths, traffic calming and lighting on the R150 and R151, the proposed route for the Greenway.

I am very concerned at the proposed attack on the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the designated Special Protection Area (SPC) by Meath County Council by the proposed Boyne Greenway Project.

I propose that this project be withdrawn and referred back to Meath County Council for consideration of an alternate route that will not have the serious adverse impact on local residents, the SPA and SAC that this planning application will have if granted.

Yours sincerely,

