



08 September 2020

An Bord Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1, D01V902

<b>AN BORD PLEANÁLA</b>	
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ABP-	
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Time:	By: <i>Page</i>
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**Re: Construction of the Boyne Greenway, pedestrian and cycleway linking Drogheda Town in Co. Louth to Mornington Village in Co. Meath**

Dear members of the Board,

I am writing to express support for the Boyne Greenway. The population of the Drogheda hinterland is expanding, and this kind of development marks an investment not just in the present, but in the future. I would like to highlight four ways in which this project will serve the local area.

**The Greenway will encourage exercise and better mental health.** As a young woman, I fell out of the habit of engaging in sport in my late teens, as is reflected in world-wide trends. The current path from Drogheda to Old Bridge encouraged me to go on walks. An extension from Ship Street to Mornington will likely motivate others to do the same. Further, it has been demonstrated that exposure to nature has a positive impact on mental health. Setting aside public spaces replete with nature, such as the proposed Greenway, is imperative for the well-being of our community.

**The Greenway could incentivise tourism in the region.** Drogheda and the Boyne Valley already boast notable historic sights and the addition of the Greenway will attract further visitors to the region.

**The Greenway will allow for car-free access to Mornington.** At present, cycling from Drogheda town to the Mornington beach involves traversing winding country roads that are discouraging for inexperienced cyclists and inappropriate for families.

**The Boyne estuary is an area of rich biodiversity and scenic vistas.** The respectful construction of a pedestrian and cycle way will allow for Drogheda residents and visitors alike to get moving while garnering a more robust appreciation for the varied wildlife and habitats on their doorstep.

Many thanks for your consideration and good luck in your deliberations.

Sincerely,

