

AN BORD PLEANÁLA
LDG- _____
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,10 SEP 2020
Fee: € _____ Type: _____
Time: _____ By: *Reg Post*

LDG-030573-20.



7/09/20

Secretary An Bord Pleanála
64 Malborough Street
Dublin 1

Ref no: PL17.307652

Construction of the Boyne Greenway Drogheda to Mornington, Co. Meath and Louth and procurement of land from 

To whom it may concern,

I have serious reservations about the route proposed for the Boyne Greenway. While I do not object to the idea of a Greenway, I believe the chosen route through an already extremely busy residential area is of huge matter of concern. It does not meet the objectives of 'comfort', 'attractiveness' or 'respect for the environment along the route' as listed in the Route Option Greenway Report.

The Greenway strategy states these "routes should follow the criteria laid out in Eurovelo, that they have fewer than 2000 vehicle movements per day & preferably 500 per day." The coast road (R151) stretch of road must be somewhere near 2000 vehicle movements per day, if not we will be & we are certainly well above 500. Bus Eireann begin their daily bus service through the route at 5.30am and run every 15 minutes. This accounts for at least 148 return bus journeys daily. How can a family enjoy a cycle through this route with buses, bin lorries and commuter traffic thundering by? Running a Greenway right beside an already extremely busy road, in the hope that painted lines will provide enough protection from road fatalities, hinders the pedestrian from the enjoyment of the exercise, making them more alert on this stretch of road to potential dangers and in so doing defeats the purpose of the routeway in the first place! Nobody wants this project to turn into a box ticking exercise, ending up with a routeway that nobody will use because of the proximity of cyclists with motorists.

The Boyne Greenway will have serious implications not only for the lives of residents in the area but for the survival of the areas Avifauna which is of Irish and European and world importance. The Boyne Estuary is designated as a Specially Protected Area, providing one of the most important feeding grounds for wintering birds. It has a total of 10 species with populations of national importance. The

construction of the Greenway will have detrimental effects on these populations not to mention the added intrusion of pedestrians/cyclists on these delicate populations. Nowhere along this route are there signs informing the public that this is a Special Protected Area. Wouldn't it be much more beneficial and for the greater good if The Meath County Council highlighted the uniqueness of this area, erecting signs informing and educating the public about these beautiful species on our doorstep? Hedgerow is also going to be uprooted and removed destroying natural ecosystems, flora and fauna.

Whilst it may be said that this development will not bring anti-social behaviour to the area I disagree. You only have to look at the recent arson episode at Oldbridge Walkway. I would have serious health and safety concerns along the stretch to be made from recycled plastic, especially for residents located directly on the estuary on the road into Drogheda. The path's proximity to Mornington Beach is bound to invite anti-social behaviour, given the numerous raves and parties taking place on the beach during the summertime. Any vandalism of the Greenway along the proposed route will have serious aesthetic consequences along our beautiful estuary not to mention the threat to wildlife. When will there be a public account of spending of funds donated to the [REDACTED] by the generous public for the repair of the walkway by Oldbridge?

How are residents supposed to enter and exit their house safely with a Greenway running alongside their house? (Sheet 35) I understand they will be held responsible if they injure or kill a cyclist or a child on a Go-Kart passing by their house. The national greenway strategy refers to "inexperienced & family cyclists" using the greenway. The prospect of this becoming a daily concern is causing huge anxiety to residents.

The verge is not included in the 3.8M that is being demanded from residents. Therefore, the county council are actually seeking more than they say they are taking. Residents along this stretch frequently have visitors and family calling. Losing a large proportion of their gardens will leave no accommodation for parking, leaving residents no choice but to park outside their properties on the Greenway putting the safety of pedestrians and cyclists at risk.

I strongly object to the proposed Greenway. I refuse to 'give' land that has been in my family for generations to the Meath County Council. Our front garden was tenderly planted and cared for by my late father. He planted the now mature trees over forty years ago that not only provide privacy and a sound buffer from heavy traffic use on this road but are also of great sentimental value.

It is scandalous and unfair to think that the council can impose these plans on residents who made many sacrifices in the past for the 'greater good' leading to hundreds of houses being built without proper provisions or infrastructure. Children have the right to safely play in their garden. This basic right is threatened. Where will they play when their front garden has been confiscated from them? There is already a series lack of amenities in the area for children.

A Greenway is defined as enhancing the environment and quality of life for the surrounding area. The above arguments clearly demonstrate that this will not be the case. Greenways already constructed around the country are along disused railway lines and are generally traffic free areas. I reiterate running a Greenway through an already extremely dangerous and busy stretch of road will be detrimental for the community and wildlife of the area.

Regards,

