

**AN BORD PLEANÁLA**  
LDG- 030607-20  
ABP- \_\_\_\_\_  
11 SEP 2020  
Fee: € \_\_\_\_\_ Type: \_\_\_\_\_  
Time: 12:10 By: hand



An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01V902.

**Re: Construction of the Boyne Greenway Drogheda to Mornington, Co. Meath & Co. Louth.**

To whom it may concern,

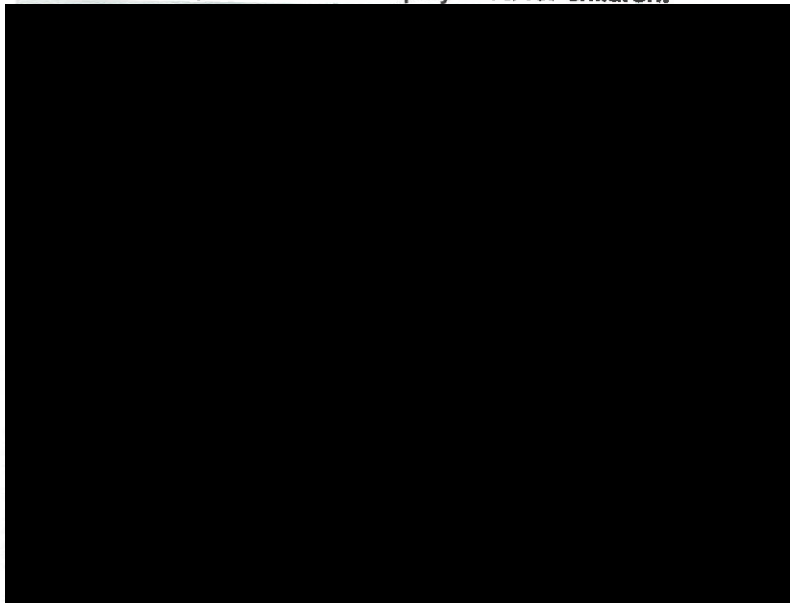
We live in [redacted] and we are writing to object to the construction of the proposed Greenway from Drogheda to Mornington.

According to the National Greenway Strategy a Greenway should be "developed in an integrated manner which enhances both the environment and quality of life of the surrounding area". The "proposed route" for the Drogheda to Mornington Greenway will not enhance the environment and quality of life of the community/residents of Mornington/Tower Rd/Crook Rd and the surrounding area. The existing community will be negatively impacted by the greenway, and the current plan does not enhance the quality of life of [redacted] residents where we live.

As residents in [redacted] who are directly impacted by the creation of the Greenway we have a number of objections which we have outlined under different headings below. I have also attached some photos.

**The Movement of Boundary Wall/Loss of Green Safe Area for children to play**

- The movement of the boundary wall in our estate [redacted] by up to one metre, directly opposite our house, as we live facing the green area below, and facing the boundary wall, will result in a considerable loss of green open space currently used as a safe play area for children.

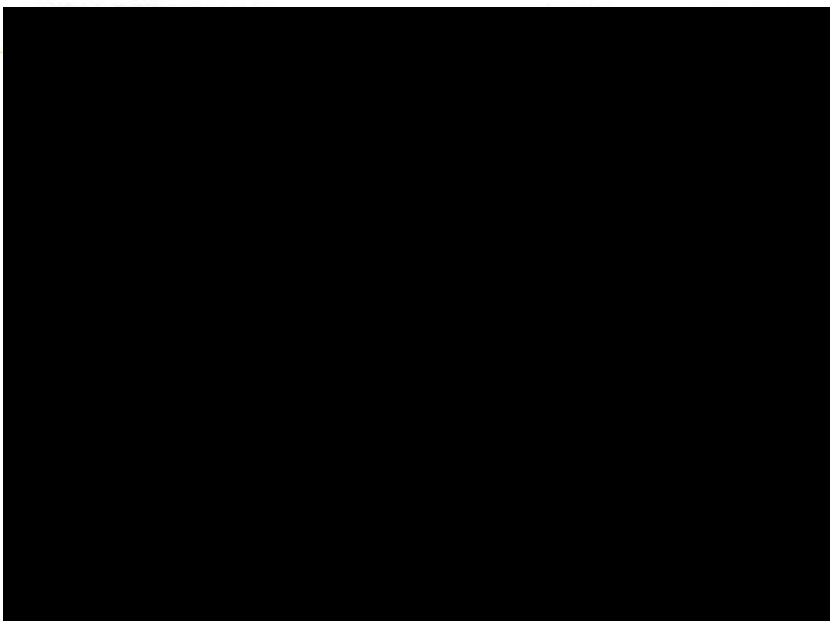


#### **Increase Traffic/ Noise/Pollution/Visitors**

- The relocated boundary wall will bring traffic and pedestrians closer to our home and other homes, resulting in an increase in local ambient noise levels, and traffic pollution.
- The increase of walkers and visitors, on a main road, by our estate, and in a residential community in a highly densely populated area, will increase the potential for Health and Safety risks, including accidents, compensation, litter and crime.

#### **Loss of Privacy/Safety**

- Properties, and also the Green area where children play, will be overlooked by users of the Greenway; and this proximity of the Greenway route to private homes including my own will result in a loss of privacy for me and other residents in my estate, and across the road, and also increase safety concerns for children playing in this area below.



#### **Loss of Bus lay-by**

- The bus lay-by, on the Westbound traffic lane, outside our estate, [REDACTED] entrance will disappear.

#### **Parking**

- There are no Parking or other amenities provided. Thus, Greenway users will be forced to park in the dunes, on the roadway or in our estate [REDACTED] with obvious environmental damage and disruption to existing residents.

#### **Road Safety-**

- The proposed Greenway will be adjacent to the R151 (Mornington Bridge to Tower Rd), a busy regional road serving the town of Drogheda & the neighbouring villages of Bettystown & Laytown. The road carries considerable traffic at present and is used by commuters, buses, trucks, vans, cyclists, pedestrians and business daily.
- Additional visitor traffic from the proposed greenway will contribute to an already busy road & junctions.

- Putting a Greenway alongside this busy road is unsafe and unsuitable, unattractive and contrary to the Greenway objectives



(Busy Tower Road R151)

- Many properties both private and commercial will exit directly onto the Greenway
- For local Residents it will become more difficult to enter/exit private property safely as they will have to navigate a 4-metre wide greenway and busy traffic on the R151

#### **Decrease in Property Value**

- The movement of the boundary wall, the alterations to the green area within the [REDACTED] housing estate will result in a devaluation of people's homes and properties. We bought our house during the recession in 2004, we bought it with a green area in front, and the boundary wall where it currently is, we have contributed to the resident's association over the past 16 years, and still do for the upkeep of the green area opposite our house.

#### **Loss of private lands/private gardens/green spaces**

- My neighbours in Mornington will lose portions of their gardens including well established mature gardens, hedgerow, trees and fences.

#### **Route Selection**

- A section of the proposed Greenway will pass through an area of unattractive Industrial activity, including a heavy industrial plant at [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED] Treatment Plant.

#### **Boyne Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) for wild birds & Special Area of Conservation (SAC)**

- Over 50% of the proposed Greenway encroaches on these European protected sites leading to significant damaging impact on biodiversity, birdlife and wildlife.
- The proposed Greenway beside the Boyne Estuary is a threat to biodiversity in the area and does little to mitigate the future effects of climate change. Hedgerows, habitats, fauna flora will be destroyed in an effort to create a new Greenway decimating the "natural" green area already in existence.

**Non-Statutory Public Consultation.**

- Ultimately this process has been flawed throughout. During the non-statutory consultation stage, supporters of the Greenway gathered signatures in public areas such as shopping centres, with people signing not directly affected by the proposal. As objectors and residents of [REDACTED] we feel quite strongly we have been totally ignored in the planning for the Greenway. The consultation presented a route to us, our concerns were submitted to Meath County Council in October 2019. Our submissions were summarised fully and apart from one small change were then ignored. And so the proposal now goes to An Bord Pleanála.
- The proposal is driven by Meath County Council, supported by local business interests, from chambers of commerce, to landowners who see the potential of profit with more visitors to the area, none of these supporters reside directly in the impacted area, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], how can these people be allowed to guide a proposal that directly impacts on our lives. We have been on other Greenways in Ireland and this is a lazy proposal, one that has drawn a straight line on a map, which goes through a densely populated residential area.

I trust An Bord Pleanála will take all of our objections on board.

Thank you,

