

Subject: Boyne Greenway

Date: 9 Sep 2020 at 09:50:37



AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
LDG- <u>030493-20</u>	
ABP- _____	
10 SEP 2020	
Fee: € _____	Type: _____
Time: _____	By: <u>PO8K</u>

Dear An Board Pleanala
September 2020

Dated : 8th

" I SUPPORT BOYNE GREENWAY DROGHEDA TO MORNING
TOWN Co MEATH & Co LOUTH "

The development of a greenway has been demonstrated in all areas, both nationally and internationally to provide a significant boost to the local tourism and hospitality sector with a spin off boost to the local economy. The development of the proposed greenway will help sustain the existing tourism and hospitality sector and will also be a catalyst to the development of new enterprises in the sector. In the current covid climate and looking forward to the new reality, it is important that this type of development is implemented to address the needs of an enhanced level of home tourism in a safe outdoor space.

The Boyne coast and estuary SAC includes the intertidal area of the river Boyne and the sand dunes on the coast. To protect this SAC the greenway location has been retained outside of the intertidal zone for the majority of the route and has been completely removed from the Dunes. There are number of areas where due to the proximity of the highwater mark to the road (ch. 2010 – ch. 2095, ch.3680 - ch. 3740, ch. 3840 – ch. 3860, ch. 4050 – ch. 4320)

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representing approximately 7% of the total 5867m route. In each of these locations the existing terrain is erosion protection rip rap or within the shipping turning area. Even though the qualifying plant species are not evident in these locations the route is on a raised boardwalk to minimise the impact on the terrain below.

The disturbance of overwintering birds has been considered due to the proximity of the greenway there is the possibility that increased walking and walking with dogs could cause a disturbance, for this reason it is proposed that in these locations the balustrade to the boardwalk on the river side should be imperforate up to 900mm above the deck to ensure that the birds will not be startled by the flickering between a walkers legs or by dogs barking, the provision of this imperforate balustrade will also have the additional beneficial result in a reduction of the possibility of the birds being startled by the existing levels of traffic on the adjacent road. Because of this additional benefit the provision of the greenway may result in a positive impact on the SPA or at the very least it can be seen not to cause a "Significant decrease in range timing or intensity of use by the birds".

- Through immersion of the community in the environment we will as a collective develop a greater respect for and wish to protect the environment.
- The provision of the greenway will allow the provision of spaces for outdoor classrooms where the local children can learn about the biodiversity first-hand and understand their responsibility to protect it.

- The provision of a greenway will allow the provision of hides in appropriate locations to facilitate the monitoring of bird numbers without disturbance of the birds
- The provision of a greenway will bring greater focus on the level of litter being washed through the estuary and will assist in a reduction in this type of antisocial behaviour upstream
- The development of the SAC and SPA was predominantly to provide an area for endangered overwintering birds, the level of activity (and possible disturbance) on the greenway between November and March will be significantly reduced from that expected during the summer months

In general the proposed level of the greenway is above the 1:200 year tidal flood event for the river. In some areas, due to the levels of the adjacent road, it was more practical to adopt a lower level which may allow the structure to flood in an extreme event. This is an appropriate engineered solution as the materials and construction of the greenway is such that as the tide recedes the water will slowly ebb away and the structure will remain unaffected. Due to the slow nature of tidal events and the minimal potential flood depth there is no potential hazard to users of the greenway even in a 1:200 flood event.

The planning authority has a responsibility, not only to prevent in appropriate development but also to facilitate and support essential development.

As noted above, the planning protection alone will not ensure

protection of the biodiversity within the Boyne Estuary we also need regulation and policing. Regulation will be implemented if demanded by the community as a whole rather than a few specialists and policing is most effectively delivered through passive surveillance and community alerts. The provision of the greenway and the resulting increase in interest from the community at large will go a long way towards providing the required regulation and policing.

Thank You
Yours Sincerely

