

LDG-030570-20

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
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Time: _____	By: <i>[Signature]</i>



07/09/20

Ref no: PL17.307652

To whom it concerns,

My name is [redacted] & I am originally from [redacted] Mornington. I regularly visit my mother, [redacted], with my husband & 2 children. She lives along the proposed area you wish to develop for Greenway purposes & I attended the original preliminary meetings at Meath County Council offices in Duleek with my mother.

The proposed plan implies a concerted effort to bring more traffic, be it of a commuter (Monday to Friday) or recreational nature (holiday periods/weekends), onto this already very busy link road.

The majority of my mothers' neighbours, affected by this scheme are retired, some are elderly. Most are 2nd & 3rd generation families residing in Mornington, & within the same plots, for decades. Due to poor planning during the boom years they have already suffered the loss & privilege of living in a rural area. I myself have been unable to buy a house in this area due to rising prices, high density planning & a complete lack of basic resources such as footpaths & playgrounds for our children. Over the last number of months, these residents have come under fire from planning permission applications for development being sought, both in front of & behind their properties. A recent application for a caravan park nearby was denied by An Bord Pleanala.

Whilst vehicular traffic has increased substantially over the last few years this stretch of road still remains a secluded one with a very close knit group of neighbours. This kind of development is, even at this early stage, causing stress amongst all those people directly affected by the proposed greenway. Increased pedestrians & cyclists will cause an increase in suspicion for anti-social behaviour as well as leaving my mother's home very exposed. Privacy for these residents will also be compromised.

On another safety note, as a [redacted] working in one of the busiest [redacted] nationally, in the [redacted] I do question how it is foreseen that the emergency

services negotiate numerous miles of ramps from the viaduct to Mornington? Think of the FAST campaign for the HSE, where time is of the essence. These ramps will effectively compromise any delivery of emergency care to this already densely populated area.

The cycle network document August 2013 (draft) & December 2013 states "There has been no route selection study so far for this national route along the coastal section of county Meath. It should follow the River Boyne Estuary eastward from Drogheda to Mornington, where it can turn south to Bettystown. ***There are environmental sensitivities along the estuary & careful assessment will be required for the selected route, which should be segregated from the R151 regional road that carries considerable traffic between Drogheda & the satellite villages on the coast.***"

It is stated in this document that the preferred route would be behind my mother's home much closer to the actual (scenic) river Boyne. Why is this not still the case? We were told that the residents in the Crook Road area objected strongly to the greenway running through their area. Are the residents of Tower Road now seen as a less important than those of the Crook Road? I do not believe the other routes which do not require taking private land from a number of residents have been fully exhausted.

Even in that context how is considered ok to develop a greenway through such an unspoilt ecosystem? Our wildlife should be protected. Other greenways utilised unused but well established throughways? This will be a brand new route & will encroach onto the Boyne Estuary SPA.

At the point of my mother's individual residency, we, as a family, have grave safety concerns about entering &, in particular, exiting the property? How are we to negotiate an onslaught of cyclists & pedestrians exiting the driveway? According to [REDACTED] engineer for Meath County Council, many of these people will be children & families potentially not familiar with the area. I do not wish my mother nor any of the wider family to be expected to take on liability for their safety entering & exiting the property.

Cyclists & pedestrians are, if this new plan were upheld, to be diverted onto a busy commuter road, contrary to the original plan. When we asked about this in our meeting, the engineer told us that many children & families would use this route for school etc. Which school? There is only one primary school, Le Cheile ETNS (one of the smaller primary schools in the area) & one small secondary school, the Drogheda Grammar School on this route. Therefore that statement does not stand up.

Pedestrian & Cyclist safety running alongside busy commuter traffic in itself cannot be guaranteed. The answer we were given is that it works in cities. However slow city traffic is a different scenario to commuter traffic in the outskirts of Drogheda. This road will only become busier as the area is yet further developed with high density housing & new schools. Plans are already being circulated for

several new developments, some in partnership with Meath County Council, in the surrounding areas.

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." Surely this stretch of road must be somewhere near 2000 vehicle movements per day. If not, with the high density housing developments already well underway in the area we will be & as it stands the number must be well above 500.

This particular stretch of road to be developed is also far from scenic which would seem to go against the whole ethos of the greenways?

On a more sentimental note, but nonetheless a huge issue for our family, is the loss of the garden that was tenderly planted and cared for by my late father, [REDACTED]. He planted these now mature trees over thirty years ago and they are of great sentimental value to myself & my family. At the meeting we were told that these can simply be replanted. I am sure you can see how that is not a satisfactory answer. Firstly these trees were planted in the context of the garden being its present size. Secondly will the Meath County Council provide gardener to ensure these "new" mature trees will settle, grow & flourish in the smaller garden? I very much doubt it...

Regards,

