

An Bord Pleanála  
64, Marlborough Street.  
Dublin 1.  
D01 V902

10<sup>th</sup> September 2020

By email: [bord@pleanala.ie](mailto:bord@pleanala.ie)

**Re: NOTICE PURSUANT TO SECTION 177AE OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO A PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT BY MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL - Construction of the Boyne Greenway Drogheda to Mornington - pedestrian and cycleway linking Drogheda Town in County Louth to Mornington Village in County Meath.**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I refer to the above Section 177AE application registered with An Bord Pleanála in relation to the construction of the Boyne Greenway from Drogheda to Mornington circa 5.9km in length linking Drogheda in County Louth to Mornington Village in County Meath.

From a tourism perspective, Fáilte Ireland is supportive of this development as it would present a unique way for visitors to experience this part of the Boyne Valley along the Boyne Estuary, and it delivers the type of activities popular with both overseas and domestic visitors.

It is our ambition for Ireland to be recognised internationally as a year-round activity destination. There has been significant growth in cycling tourism in Ireland in recent years. In 2018 it was the 2nd largest activity with 450,000 overseas visitors participating in cycling while on holiday. A projected annual growth of 4% per annum is expected to 2028.

Having regard to the above, greenways are key tourism infrastructure and play an important role in Irish tourism. They boost the appeal of Ireland in the international travel market, add value to the existing high tourism offering and support the development of rural communities and job creation in the rural economy, as well as the protection and promotion of natural assets and biodiversity. Tourism infrastructure acts as a catalyst and enabler for sustainable development and regeneration.

Ireland's Ancient East Ancient Destination Development Plan (ADDP) for the Boyne Valley aims to develop world-class experiences focused on the region's rich heritage. The Boyne Greenway and

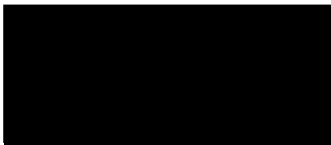


Navigation has the potential to become a fascinating land and water heritage trail journey for visitors while also linking destination towns bookended with Drogheda and Navan.

Therefore, the proposed development would provide a key element of walking and cycling infrastructure in the Boyne Valley, with the potential to link to the wider Boyne Greenway and Navigation Scheme from Drogheda to Navan currently at design stage and in the longer term potentially to wider networks including the Fingal Coastal Way and the Irish Sea Way.

Therefore, from a tourism perspective we are supportive of the proposed greenway, subject to all proper planning and environmental requirements being met.

Yours Sincerely,



Environment and Planning, Fáilte Ireland