



An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1.

9th September 2020.

AN BORD PLEANÁLA
LDG- 230595-20
ABP-
11 SEP 2020
Fee: € Type:
Time: By: Exp. Post (3 in 1 envelope)

Dear Sir/Madam,

PL17.307652 - Proposed Boyne Greenway from Drogheda to Mornington

Meath County Council is proposing to build a walkway/cycleway from Drogheda to Mornington, two thirds of which will be sited on the Boyne Estuary Special Protected Area No. 4080. The bird sanctuary at Mornington was opened by Minister [redacted] over 50 years ago. This was at a time when there was no conservation whatsoever in Ireland, and we are indebted to Minister [redacted] for his foresight in introducing the sanctuary at Mornington which has thrived up until now. Because it's a protected area, it is used by many endangered residential and migrant species including Curlew, Brent Geese, Godwits, Plovers and Sanderlings, not to mention the seal colony opposite the High Road in Mornington. The proposed development includes building a bridge and boardwalk right in the middle of this sanctuary, and I am calling on An Bord Pleanála to uphold the rights afforded under SPA 4080 and refuse to let this protected area be ruined.

The proposed development also severely impacts the dunes at Mornington which are protected under Special Area of Conservation 1957, and it is an objective of this SAC to safeguard the habitats of many protected species in this area. The proposed greenway will bring more human activity which will only serve to deteriorate the dunes further and so have the opposite effect of the SAC's objectives. Again, An Board Pleanála should uphold the principles of SAC 1957 and refuse permission.

The biggest impact of the development on me and my family is safety. There are no car parking facilities proposed because there is nowhere for a carpark in the area. This means that greenway users will illegally park on local roads and at local residences, thus severely impacting emergency services access. The area is already congested and, as a personal example, on several occasions particularly during the lockdown, I could barely pass when cars were parked on each side of the top of the narrow [redacted] beside Tower Bridge which is the end of the proposed greenway route. More cars will inevitably be parked in this area by greenway users, and this will mean that a fire brigade engine would not be able to pass at the top of [redacted] Road, thus jeopardising the safety of my family and the residents of [redacted].

I trust An Bord Pleanála will take my concerns and those of other local residents into account and refuse permission for this ill-conceived project.

Yours faithfully,

