

**AN BORD PLEANÁLA**  
LDG- 030657-20  
ABP- \_\_\_\_\_  
**10 SEP 2020**  
Fee: € \_\_\_\_\_ Type: \_\_\_\_\_  
Time: 12:30 By: Hand



03/09.2020

Attn: An Bord Pleanala

Reference: PL 17.307652

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

I wish to make a number of submissions regarding the above proposed Boyne Greenway. I write as a resident of [REDACTED] for over 25 years and also as a daughter of the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] During this period he was also instrumental in establishing An Bord Pleanala (under the Local Government Planning and Development Act 1976.) It is therefore with confidence and a belief in the fairness of An Bord Pleanala that I make this submission.

(1)

Over 50 years ago, the Boyne Estuary was opened by [REDACTED] as a bird and wildlife Sanctuary. His foresight enabled the Boyne Estuary Sanctuary to help protect and preserve the many wintering and resident wildfowl on the Estuary. Since it was first established, the Sanctuary has been an SPA and SAC under the EU Birds Directive. It sustains many red listed birds that are on the edge of extinction including Little Tern, Curlew, Shelduck and Plover etc. The Boyne Estuary now supports a breeding population of Little Tern that is of national importance. The wetlands habitats contained within the Boyne Estuary SPA are identified as of conservation importance. Therefore, the wetlands habitat is considered to be of additional special conservation interest.

Over 50% of the proposed Greenway encroaches on this European protected site leading to what would undoubtedly result in a significant damaging impact on biodiversity, birdlife and wildlife. Any portion of the walkway constructed as proposed in these wetlands would have a detrimental effect on the delicate balance responsible for the success of this important sanctuary. I am concerned that the foresight exhibited [REDACTED] and the legacy which has grown and been preserved over the past 50 years will suffer greatly as a result of this proposed Boyne Greenway.

(2)

The proposed Greenway is 5.9 km in length with approx. 4.1 Km or 70% directly alongside the road, completely diminishing the concept of a Greenway integrated with the natural environment. It is in fact a 4 metre wide roadway intended for pedestrians, cyclists, non-motorised vehicles, joggers, dog walkers etc. The R151 is a busy regional road serving the town of Drogheda and the neighbouring villages of Mornington, Bettystown and Laytown. Putting the Greenway alongside this road, which already carries considerable traffic would in fact be unsafe, unsuitable, unsightly and contrary to general Greenway objectives. It will undoubtedly result in further traffic congestion and delays.

(3)

Many properties both private and commercial will exit directly onto the proposed Greenway. This will make it more difficult for local residents to enter and exit private property safely, as they will have to navigate a 4 metre wide greenway along with the busy R151. There will also be an increased nuisance in the volume of traffic from walkers, cyclists, and Greenway users. The increase of non-resident members of the public walking/cycling through the area will create safety, security and nuisance issues. There will be a loss of privacy and the enhanced potential of accidents occurring. Our new and much appreciated bus service between Drogheda and the villages may be under threat as currently it is both difficult and dangerous for two busses to pass one another on this narrow road. There is insufficient public parking and a lack of public infrastructure. The proposed Greenway starts and ends abruptly at Tower Road/Crook Road Bridge. The lack of parking will mean that Greenway users will be forced to park in the Dunes, on the narrow roadway or in local housing estates. All of this disruption will create obvious environmental damage to the area and disruption to existing residents.

(4)

If the Greenway goes ahead families in the Mornington area will lose portions of their gardens including well established mature gardens, hedgerow, trees and fences. Moving the boundary wall at Mornington Court will result in the loss of one of the few green open spaces in this highly populated area. This space is currently used as a safe play area by local children. Where will they play safely if this is considerably reduced?

In essence although the concept of a Greenway is a laudable one, surely the negatives involved in this particular proposal far outweigh the positives. As a longstanding resident of [REDACTED] I have serious concerns about the proposed design, route selection and reluctance to acknowledge the considerable negative impact it would have on our community.

[REDACTED]