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11 SEP 2020
Fee: € — Type: —
Time: 12:10 By: [Signature]



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

An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
D01V902

My name is [Redacted] and I live [Redacted]. I have reviewed the proposal for a Greenway from Drogheda to Mornington and I would like to object to the planning permission being sought, as I have serious concerns regarding how I and other residents on [Redacted] will be directly and significantly affected by the Greenway. According to the Greenway Strategy, a Greenway should enhance both the environment and quality of life of the surrounding area, and I believe this proposal does neither, as putting a Greenway alongside this busy road is unsafe and unsuitable, unattractive and **contrary to the Greenway objectives**. Throughout the course of this process at times there has been a dishonest picture or impression of the Green Way, that did not consider the issues in Mornington, from pictures, to signatures collected for submissions in favour of the Greenway by supporters in shopping centres, and other public places.

My objections are outlined below:

Road Safety/Bus Service

- My exit from my property will now be directly on to the Greenway, and as an 83 year- old, it will make it more difficult for me to enter/exit my property safely. This will pose a safety issue for me, and for cyclists on the Greenway.
- The proposed Greenway will be adjacent to the R151 (Mornington Bridge to Tower Rd), a busy regional road serving the town of Drogheda & the neighbouring villages of Bettystown & Laytown. The road carries considerable traffic at present and is used by commuters, buses, trucks, vans, cyclists, pedestrians and business daily.
- Additional visitor traffic from the proposed greenway will contribute to an already busy road & junctions. (resulting in **traffic congestion and delays**)
- **Residents on the Crook Rd** will see an increased volume of traffic from walkers, cyclists, pedestrians, Greenway users thus resulting in traffic delays, **increasing safety/security concerns, loss of privacy & the increased likelihood/potential of accidents/incidents occurring**.
- I also have some **Safety/Security/Nuisance concerns** in relation to a potential increase in non-residential members walking through /around the area.
- The bus lay-by on the Westbound traffic lane, will disappear, and be a great inconvenience to me and my neighbours, who use this busy bus route daily for travelling.
- I use the bus service on a daily basis, as I live on my own and I think our new improved **bus service maybe under threat** - difficult and dangerous for 2 buses to pass one another on a narrow road.
- There is a distinct **lack of public infrastructure along the proposed route** - insufficient **public parking & public facilities**.

Design Issues: There is no safety margin between the proposed greenway and the road. This will make it very unsafe and dangerous for both users and residents.

Loss of private lands/private gardens/green spaces

- My neighbours in Mornington will lose portions of their gardens including well established mature gardens, hedgerow, trees and fences.
- I believe that moving of the boundary wall in Mornington Court will result in loss of some of the green open space currently used as a safe play area for children

Parking

- The proposed greenway starts/ends abruptly at Tower Rd/Crook Rd bridge. There are no Parking or other amenities provided. Thus, Greenway users will be forced to park in the dunes, on the roadway or in local housing estates with obvious environmental damage and disruption to existing residents.

Route Selection

- A section of the proposed Greenway will pass through an area of unattractive Industrial activity, including a heavy industrial plant at [REDACTED] Treatment Plant.

Boyne Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) for wild birds & Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

- Over 50% of the proposed Greenway encroaches on these European protected sites leading to significant damaging impact on biodiversity, birdlife and wildlife.

Climate Change.

- The proposed Greenway beside the Boyne Estuary is a threat to biodiversity in the area and does little to mitigate the future effects of climate change. Hedgerows, habitats, fauna flora will be destroyed in an effort to create a new Greenway decimating the "natural" green area already in existence.



Public Funding - The cost involved in the proposed greenway would be better spent on

- developing local amenities,

- developing and protecting the dune area,
- providing proper car park facilities, traffic calming
- safe footpath/cycleway.

I have serious concerns about the proposed design / route section, inconsiderate implementation and the negative impact it will have on our community.

National Greenway Strategy

According to the National Greenway Strategy a Greenway should be “developed in an integrated manner which enhances both the environment and quality of life of the surrounding area”. The “proposed route” fails to enhance the environment and quality of life of the community/residents of Mornington/Tower Rd/Crook Rd and the surrounding area. The existing community will be disrupted and negatively impacted by the proposed greenway.

Non-Statutory Public Consultation. The above concerns were submitted to Meath County Council in October 2019. Our submissions were summarised fully..... and then ignored. I now need to bring our concerns to An Bord Pleanála.

The ‘proposed route’ fails to enhance the environment and in fact poses more threats to ecological and bio diversity in the area. It will negatively impact on me as a resident of [REDACTED] and on the community there.

Therefore, I strongly object to planning permission for the Greenway.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

