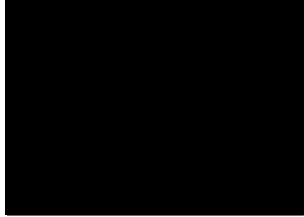


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AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
LDG-	_____
ABP-	_____
31 AUG 2020	
Fee: € _____	Type: _____
Time: _____	By: <i>post</i>



27 August 2020

REF: PL17.307652

An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Dear Sir,

We would like to submit our objections to the proposed construction of the Boyne Greenway Drogheda to Mornington, County Meath and County Louth. Reference number PL17. 307652.

The development would adversely affect the integrity of the Boyne Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) in view of the conservation objectives for these sites.

The SPA and SAC regulations prohibit pollution, deterioration of habitat, and disturbance to birds using the area such as Curlews, Geese, Oystercatchers, Lapwings and Little Turns etc..

Currently when pedestrians walk along the side of the Estuary it is obvious that their actions disturb the birds feeding in their natural habitat. Forcing the birds to fly away to their perceived safety from the threat.

It is proposed to construct approximately 1.8 km x 4 m wide boardwalk which will encroach and destroy the birds natural habitat and feeding grounds inside the Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation.

The increased level of usage by pedestrians and cyclists associated with the Greenway will increase accessibility and human activity, and will potentially result in a significant negative impact on SPA and SAC. Additionally, disturbance and displacement to birds feeding on the intertidal habitats.

It will have a significant adverse ecological impact on this conservation site with inevitable pollution from litter.

There will also be an increase in antisocial behaviour and vandalism, as already seen with the destruction by fire to a large section of the boardwalk near to the Oldbridge section of the walkway.

The proposed construction of speed bumps/raised tables along various parts of the route will also increase pollution. Speed bumps/raise tables are said to double emissions by causing vehicles to repeatedly slow down and speed up again.

The annual average daily traffic (AADT) for this area is approximately 5,000 vehicles. Of these figures there are at least 150 buses per day, delivery lorries and vans etc.. creating not only pollution caused by constant breaking and harsh acceleration, but also noise pollution when driving over the speed bumps/raised tables. So that is an average of 5,000 vehicles every day that local residents will now have to endure instead of allowing unobstructed free-flowing traffic. Also, no doubt lighting will be installed along the route, furthermore increasing light pollution in the protected area.

In recent times we have noticed the increased level of vehicles parking in the Mornington sections of the beach. This is due to the closure to vehicles at Bettystown and Laytown sections of the beach. This has led to safety issues in the Mornington area due to vehicles blocking the narrow roadways, not only for local residents but for emergency vehicle access.

There has been no mention of car parking facilities which will need to be provided at the start of the Greenway at Mornington, this will be required as it is proposed to attract thousands of visitors a year to the area. Will it be proposed to remove part of the protected Dune system to facilitate vehicles.

It is also proposed to remove the fronts of several peoples gardens and green space in the area. This would seriously injure the amenities and depreciate the values of their properties.

Yours sincerely,

