

An Bord Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street Dublin 1  
D01 V902 07 September 2020

<b>AN BORD PLEANÁLA</b>	
LDG-	<u>030570-20</u>
ABP-	_____
10 SEP 2020	
Fee: €	✓ _____ Type: _____ ✓
Time:	<u>10:02</u> By: <u>hand</u>

Dear Sirs,

Re: Proposed Boyne Greenway Drogheda to Mornington, Co. Meath and Co. Louth I welcome the opportunity to make a submission on the proposed Drogheda to Mornington Greenway as submitted to An Bord Pleanála by Meath County Council. I am supportive of the proposal and requesting that An Bord Pleanála approve permission for this project to proceed as it represents essential infrastructure for this developed area and on balance is in accordance with the proper planning and development of the area.

My Name is [REDACTED] I am Chairman and founder member of the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I have lived on the [REDACTED] in Mornington Along the Route of the proposed Boyne Trail for all of my life .Born in [REDACTED] I have witnessed massive change in our area over the decades ,with unprecedented population growth in the Mornington, Bettystown, laytown and Donacorney areas. As a young Boy in the early sixties we roamed the foreshore and explored the glen to marvel at what nature has provided for us .We witnessed the local salmon fishermen land abundant catches of salmon no alas no more .

One thing it thought me was to marvel at nature and her wonders . Especially bird life living adjacent to the Beds as we called the mudflats I witnessed our seasonal visitors at first hand and always marvelled at their presence . The creation of this walk way and cycle way will create a permanent and final boundary to our SAC thus preserving it from any further development creep into the future ,.

I will not dwell too much on the Technical detailed of the walk and the mitigating that has been built into the scheme to protect the bird life into the future. My fellow committee members have far better outlined those factors to your good selves .

My appeal to you to approve this scheme is based on my emotional connection to my area and [REDACTED] this scheme over the past nine years was that it will offer a balance between the absolute protection of our environment and the partnership of the local residence in its protection . It is imperative for man to live in harmony with nature and what better way to do so that to marvel at it from a safe vantage point for both wildlife and humans along this foreshore route

I am sure you will want to inspect at first hand the actual route .In particular the section of the R 150 from the Drogheda Grammar School to where the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Unbelievably in this Day and age there is no footpath on this section whatsoever. Also please see the picture of the ancient Mornington bridge damaged on innumerable occasions in recent times due to heavy traffic (please see current damage and previous repairs by different colouring )

With a high verge either side of the road .It is truly a death trap and yet it is heavily used by walkers and cyclists ,Mothers and children especially people who may not be used to the area . Our committee submission covers this in great detail with photos and measurements .

If we include Drogheda to East Meath and all the Schools on the route we are talking about up to 4000 children alone who would be able with their schools to appreciate a most wonderful vista along the foreshore which constitutes the route of this proposed development .

With the current Covid 19 Pandemic that has turned all of our lives upside down and the current Governments view that our people must use the wide open spaces to stay healthy and maintain social distance makes this scheme even more relevant .In fact it is an integral part of the National cycle and walkway policy of the State .

Another important and little mentioned fact about this route is the unparalleled history of this area and this actual route which will be a boon for both Local and visitor alike . It is without doubt that St Patrick used the River Boyne as a route to Slane and the High Kings of Ireland . The folklore of the Salmon of Knowledge is also part of the local heritage .The route of this proposed facility travels through Drogheda and on to Newgrange Irelands valley of the Kings. The route also follows the exact road that Cromwell used to bear his Cannons to breach the Town walls and to the massacre of the Towns population .Of course there is the Battle of the Boyne site and the rich tradition of salmon fishing by the people of Mornington . Another little known fact is that the actual SCA and the mud flats (or beds as locally known ) where designed by the infamous Captain Boycott as flooding plains for the river Boyne . Thus a man made intervention created an ideal feeding ground for our wintering visitors . This can be both celebrated and shared by our Boyne Trail cycle and walk way . For too long the Road to Mornington from Drogheda was described as the Gaza Strip of the east coast such was the lack of infrastructural investment .At last we can address this with a beautiful facility for all .

If we can deliver this project we hope to follow it with the use of our old Church adjacent to the river as a community facility and interapitive centre with observation platforms for schools and visitors to marvel at the vista history and birdlife of the Estuary (see photo A). I hope you can see this vision of what can be achieved by the building of this Boyne trail for the betterment of the whole area . An outcome of 98% in favour of this scheme in a recent submission is a testament of the support for this outstanding development .

Kind Regards

