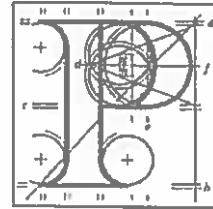


083581

Our Case Number: ABP-307652-20



An
Bord
Pleanála

Date: 19th May 2022

Re: Construction of the Boyne Greenway, pedestrian and cycleway linking Drogheda Town in Co. Louth to Mornington Village in Co. Meath
Townlands at Ship Street in Drogheda, Co. Louth to Mornington Village in Co. Meath

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

Please note that the proposed development shall not be carried out unless the Board has approved it with or without modifications.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter, please contact the undersigned officer of the Board.

Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Kieran Somers
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-873 7250

AA02

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64 Sráid Maoibhríde
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64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
LDG-	_____
ABP-	_____
17 MAY 2022	
Fee: €	_____ Type: _____
Time: _____	By: _____

11 May 2022

An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1

To whom it may concern,

We would like to submit an objections to the proposed construction of the Boyne Greenway Drogheda to Mornington reference ABP-307652-20.

The development would adversely affect the integrity of the Boyne Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation in view of the conservation objectives for the sites. The SPA and SAC regulations prohibit pollution deterioration of habitat and disturbance to birds using the area, such as endangered Curlews, Geese, Oystercatchers, Lapwings and Little Terns etc..

Currently when pedestrians walk along the side of the road it is obvious that their actions disturb

the birds feeding in their natural habitat, forcing the birds to fly away to safety from the threat. It is proposed to use screening to mitigate this. However this screening only goes up to chest height so therefore does not screen people fully so the birds will still be unnecessarily flying away. Currently there will be on average 5 people per day walking on the road close to the Estuary, disturbing the birds every time. If constructed there will be roughly 1,500 people per day using this route . That is definitely not going to protect this area.

How can a 4 metre wide Boardwalk that encroaches and destroys the birds natural habitat and feeding grounds inside the Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation get planning permission.

Increased level of usage by approximately 1500 pedestrians and cyclists per day will greatly increase accessibility and human activity, and will potentially result in a significant negative impact on the 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 Oldbridge section of the walkway.

The proposed constriction of speed bumps/raised tables along various parts of the route will also increase pollution. Speed bumps/raised tables are set 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 5000 vehicles. Of these figures there are at least 150 busses per day, delivery lorries and vans etc.. causing not only pollution caused by constant braking and harsh acceleration, but also noise pollution when driving over the speed bumps/raised tables.

So that is an average of 5000 vehicles every day that local residents will now have to endure instead of allowing unobstructed free-flowing traffic. Also street lighting and flashing lights for zebra crossings further increasing light pollution in the protected area.

In recent times since the closure of Bettystown and Layton beach to traffic there has been an increase in parking in the Mornington area. This has lead to safety issues due to cars blocking the narrow roadways, not only for local residents but for emergency vehicle access. It is also proposed to remove the front of several peoples front gardens and green space. This will seriously injure the amenities and depreciate the value of these properties.

We feel that the proposals put forward for the Boyne Greenway will have a negative impact on wildlife and local residents in Mornington and the surrounding area. Therefore we strongly object to the construction of the Boyne Greenway.

Yours faithfully,