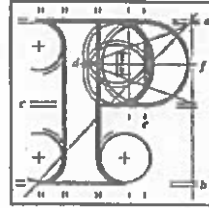


Our Case Number: ABP-307652-20



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

Date: 26th 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: 01-8737250

AA02

Tel	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glae Áitúil	LoCall	1890 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Balle Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902

LDG-053860-22

An Bord Pleanála  
64 Marlborough St,  
Dublin 1,  
D01 Vg02

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
LDG- _____	
ADD _____	
20 MAY 2022	
Fee: € _____	Type: _____
Time: 12:45	By: hand

18<sup>th</sup> May 2022

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

AN BORD PLEANALA REF ABP-307652-20

The proposed Greenway from Drogheda to Mornington has many faults. Mornington is a small village with an already massive population. There isn't adequate amenities to facilitate the population of Mornington as it is. This Greenway will introduce huge amounts of foot traffic from Drogheda, and people who wish to walk out to Drogheda from Laytown and Bettystown will drive and park in Mornington. There is not enough space for those cars which will lead them to park on the side of the road, in estates and on the beach causing damage to the dunes and surrounding area. Since Bettystown beach became closed to cars Mornington has suffered the impact of this as cars parked along footpaths, in front of people's houses, in estates and each side of crook road and lane. Last summer people flocked to the beach parking their cars anywhere and crook road and lane became a hazard for people walking, young kids and residents as cars parked at the foot of the bridge and both sides of the road. Not to mention the amount of rubbish left behind because everyday the one bin on the beach was overflowing so the rubbish was left anywhere and everywhere. Unfortunately the dunes also suffered with the extra foot traffic and cars. The dune system of Mornington are unprotected and these dunes are extremely important coastal features because they help to reduce the impact of high tides, storm surges and floods which in turn protects the houses in the surrounding area. With the increased uncertainty the weather and the ongoing erosion of the dunes flooding becomes an active risk. These dunes need to be protected and built up but instead this Greenway will invite more people to the beach which will inevitably increase damage to the dunes. The increase of people walking the dunes will also lead to habitat loss and disturbance to nesting birds. The amount of pollution will also increase as visitors increase. The village of Mornington excluding the beach has one shop, no playgrounds, no public toilets and no picnic/ sit down areas. Mornington is simply not built to handle this many people or cars. The marsh road is called that for a reason because it runs along a saltmarsh, one of the world's most important ecosystem structures vital to many species of birds, fish and insects. Salt marshes also offer coastal protection from high tides and floods. The construction of the Greenway will disrupt this ecosystem which in turn will disrupt the animals that need the saltmarsh for feeding and breeding purposes. People will undoubtedly stray into these sensitive ecosystems which will lead to loss and damage of animal's habitats. The Greenway will introduce more pollution to the Boyne river with people throwing their rubbish into the water. This poses a major threat to the wildlife as they may mistake it for food or get caught in the rubbish. The public transport system may be put under pressure with people wanting to get back into Drogheda and the nearest train station is in Laytown over an hour walk away from Mornington. Antisocial behaviour is unavoidable in all areas but this Greenway will increase this type of behaviour which will impact people's safety. During the summer the beach is known for antisocial

behaviour and with the increase of people this will become a bigger problem. The Boyne Greenway in Drogheda is a great idea, it doesn't run through a small village without suitable amenities and it doesn't disturb any residents. The construction of this Greenway will result in the loss of trees, hedgerow, people's property which have established trees and hedges. These trees, hedgerows and hedges are all established habitats which will cut down leading to more habitat loss not to mention people will lose some of their properties and children in Mornington court will lose a large portion of their playing area. The safety of the Greenway users and car traffic is also in question. There is no path down to the beach once you exit the greenway and with cars parked on either side of the road this is a major threat to the safety of the Greenway users and motorists. The Greenway will also cross over estate entrances and private home entrances again causing another safety issue between motorists and greenway users.

The proposed greenway is a nice idea but just not for the planned route. The Greenway introduces too many problems such as increased foot traffic, cars, erosion of the sand dunes, increased litter, disturbance of the salt marsh ecosystem, water pollution and the increase of antisocial behaviour. The area of Mornington is not suited to the task of a Greenway. As I mentioned above there is one bin on the beach, one bin on the main village, one shop, no playground, picnic or sit-down areas and no public toilets. There is a major lack of public infrastructure to support this greenway. The Greenway will take away parts of resident's gardens, existing habitats within trees and hedgerows. With the ongoing battle with climate change and the challenge of rewilding we should be trying to protect these habitats along with the salt marsh, water quality and the dunes. The Greenway poses threat to people's safety and the road down to the beach and towards crook road is narrow and often overcrowded with cars. The money would be better spent protecting and building up the dunes before it is too late. Greenways should be as the word says green meaning good for the environment yet this is doing more damage than good. The Greenway poses a lot of negative impacts to people, wildlife and ecosystems and I hope it will be reconsidered whether a walkway is more important than the safety of people and the future of the dunes, ecosystems and wildlife in the area.

Thank you

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Residents of Mornington.