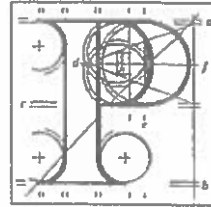


Our Case Number: ABP-307652-20



An
Bord
Pleanála

Date: 27th 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 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
Glaó Áitiúil
Facs
Láithreán Gréasáin
Ríomhphost

Tel
LoCall
Fax
Website
Email

(01) 858 8100
1890 275 175
(01) 872 2684
www.pleanala.ie
bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maolbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

LDG-053979-22

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

15/05/2022

Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough St,
Dublin 1,
D01 V902

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

AN BORD PLEANÁLA REF ABP-307652-20

To whom it may concern,

In September 2020 I submitted my observations in relation to the above-mentioned proposed development i.e Construction of the Boyne Greenway.

I had fundamental concerns in relation to the proposed route, it's design, construction and alignment through the Boyne Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

MCC's Further Information Submission has not addressed the concerns raised in my original observations.

I wish to make the following observations and submissions with regard to the most recent documents submitted as part of MCC's Further Information Submission

I am a resident of Mornington and I have lived here for 40 years and my late husband's family have been here in Mornington for 3 generations. I've seen Mornington grow from a small close-knit community to its present developed commuter village. 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". It should be a pleasant, attractive experience.

The proposed route fails to enhance the environment and quality of life of the residents of Mornington and the surrounding area. The existing community will be disrupted & negatively impacted by this proposed Greenway.

Disruption to Local people The existing community will be disrupted by the proposed Greenway bringing additional traffic and people to the area. The area has limited amenities and facilities.

Additional traffic will contribute to already busy roads and junctions. Additional visitors estimated between 900/1000 users a day will overload the existing public transport. In their most recent submission MCC has not adequately addressed any of the above concerns.

Road Safety -the increase in pedestrian traffic (Greenway users) and associated vehicular traffic will increase the likelihood of accidents and incidents occurring.

The close proximity of the proposed greenway to residential properties alongside the R151 will increase the potential for road accidents/ incidents occurring. My property will exit directly onto the road making it more difficult for me to enter/exit. I now have to navigate a 4metre wide roadway with pedestrians, dog walkers, cyclists, scooters, e bike families with young children and buggies before accessing onto the R151. There is no safety margin/verge between my residence and the Greenway. MCC have not adequately addressed the safety issues associated with the proposed Greenway. In its response MCC tell us no traffic Impact Assessment is warranted and they will conduct a traffic survey during construction phase of the proposed Greenway (5.0 Item 2- Roads/Traffic). The proposed route through a residential area is unsatisfactory and unsafe. An alternate route should be found.+

Loss of Private Garden – MCC propose to remove a section of my well- established garden including mature trees, hedgerow and boundary/entrance wall. My late husband and I built this house and included in our plans a well- designed garden. We have nurtured and maintained this garden over time and my grandchildren enjoy and reap the rewards now. MCC propose to remove and destroy this natural habitat and well- established ecosystem and this will result in a **significant loss of Biodiversity**. What negative lessons are we passing on to my grandchildren by destroying a valuable ecosystem. Proposed planting and replacement of trees etc is inadequate and against biodiversity objectives. Surely, we should teach our children the important lessons /value of conservation and preservation (as per National Diversity plan). Removing hedgerows, trees, habitats does little to mitigate the future effects of climate change, We tell our children about the effects of climate change but actions speak louder than words.

Loss of Privacy As an elderly resident living on my own, I am fearful and concerned at the prospect of being overlooked by Greenway users (an estimated 900/1000 extra Greenway users passing my house every day in close proximity. I have increased concerns with regard to security, nuisance/anti- social behaviour as a result of the proposed Greenway route. My health and well-being will be affected. The recent response in the document Further Information report from MCC does little to allay my fears in this regard.

No car parking facilities are provided at either end of the proposed Greenway.

The proposed Greenway stops at Tower Cross with no obvious links or connections to the local school which my grandchildren are attending. Donacarnev Schools has circa 900 pupils and as Green schools pupils would welcome the opportunity to commute (walk or cycle) to school via a safe and secure greenway, This will not happen with the proposed greenway.

There is a lack of public infrastructure along the proposed route (nor do MCC intend providing same) – no amenities/facilities/no rest areas/seating area or toilet facilities

9. Finally, the routing and construction of a Greenway through a European designated site - SPA and SAC should be avoided as it will have an adverse effect on the integrity of the designated site. Furthermore, proposed Mitigation Measures by MCC do not address the issue.

The construction of the proposed Greenway in its present format is unsatisfactory and I believe will have significant effects on the local environment and the community. We as residents of Mornington are being asked to pay too high a price for this development.

There are alternate routes which have walkways and cycleways already in place and these should be considered. The proposed Greenway should not proceed

Design which ABP are considering is unsuitable and comes at too high a cost to our fragile environment, SPA & SAC (European Protected Sites) and to our local community. important sites. The proposed Greenway will negatively affect the SPA and SAC and proposed mitigation measures will not offset this impact and as such this proposal should be refused in its entirety by ABP.

Signed _____