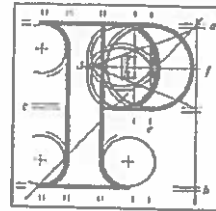


Our Case Number: ABP-307652-20



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 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

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Dublin 1
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LP6-053982-22.

Address

Date: ..May 2022

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

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| AN BORD PLEANÁLA | |
| LDG- | _____ |
| ABP- | _____ |
| 20 MAY 2022 | |
| Fee: € | _____ Type: _____ |
| Time: 12.45 | By: hand |

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 major concerns in relation to the proposed route, its design, construction and alignment through the Boyne Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

ABP have considered these concerns in full and requested MCC to present further information on many areas in their original submission. Having studied the response from MCC it is obvious that they have not answered the request for detailed accurate information .. Neither have they addressed the concerns raised by the people of Mornington in their original submissions in 2020.

I wish to make the following observations and submissions with regard to the most recent documents submitted by MCC as their response to ABP Further Information Request

I am a resident of Mornington/ East Meath all my life and the retired principal from the local primary school in Donacorney. I want to submit again the following key observations :

1. The proposed route for the Greenway, Drogheda to Mornington, remains the same. There is no material difference and the extent of the Greenway remains the same. The routing and construction of a Greenway through European designated sites -SPA and SAC should be avoided as it will have an adverse effect on the integrity of the designated sites. The department guidelines for greenways remind us that these areas must be respected and avoided.

The proposed Mitigation Measures by MCC - screening, signage and monitoring will do nothing to address this issue. If screening, signage and monitoring are necessary in

these European designated sites there must be a serious problem – a problem that won't go away and that cannot be ignored.

I cannot understand how MCC could consider this route for a greenway knowing as they must that:-

- (1) it goes right through European designated sites.
- (2) it continues and leads to easy access to the EUROPEAN SAC SAND DUNES HABITAT (NATURA 2000) SITE.
- (3) the river Boyne estuary is part of the Natura Network of European wide protected sites. SAC(002299)

2. Roads - Parking - Traffic

There is very poor connectivity and accessibility to the proposed Greenway. MCC thinks that users will access the greenway by train or bus. They have not considered the difficulties involved for families etc. to access the greenway in this way. The response from MCC to this problem shows that no assessment has been made of the capacity and suitability of existing public transport systems to cater for the predicted Greenway users to the local area.

PARKING. MCC have stated that they do not intend to provide car parking facilities along nor at either end of the proposed Greenway. This will result in uncontrolled parking on the roadway, in local housing estates and in the dunes area. MCC will not provide toilet facilities etc. along the route.

TRAFFIC. The proposed greenway is on the R150 and the R151. This is the main entrance and exit route for cars and buses from Laytown, Bettystown and Mornington to Drogheda, Dundalk, Navan etc. It is therefore a very busy route with constant traffic all day long – not a suitable route for a greenway and not recommended by Greenways and Cycle Routes Guidelines.

LOCAL RESIDENTS ALONG THE PROPOSED GREENWAY.

All of the residents along the proposed route are native families. They have lived all their lives on this road with mature gardens, trees, boundary walls etc.. Some of these residents are senior citizens. All the residents along the route feel threatened and afraid for the following reasons

- (1) Loss of considerable part of their gardens and private space – also resulting in a significant loss of bio diversity and natural habitat.
- (2) The Loss of privacy will impact on all residents along the proposed route for the greenway.
- (3) Difficulty in exiting and entering their homes during construction
- (4) Difficulty exiting and entering their homes across a greenway.
- (5) Loss of privacy and their own space which they have enjoyed.
- (6) Living in fear

- (7) The increase in pedestrian traffic (Greenway users) and associated vehicular traffic will increase the likelihood of accidents and incidents occurring – e.g. potential safety conflicts occurring between Greenway users and residents attempting to exit/enter their property and an opportunity for trespassers to cause distress to residents.

The proposed route for the Greenway from Drogheda to Mornington is unsuitable and not fit for purpose.

The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport guidelines for Greenways and Cycle Routes states that a “Greenway should be a pleasant experience – provide an opportunity to engage with the natural heritage and local environment”. It also states that a “Route should be safe and perceived to be safe”. It should offer an attractive pleasant experience with aesthetic route design, good scenery and include places for resting, refreshments and stopping off”. The Route is called the Boyne Greenway – however the route is on the busy R150 and R151 with buses and cars going each way. A walk on tar and cement - along people’s houses and housing estates on a busy road is not an opportunity to engage with the natural heritage. It is not a” route that is safe and perceived to be safe”(guidelines for greenways). I recommend that the proposal for this greenway from Drogheda to Mornington by MCC should be refused by ABP

Signed