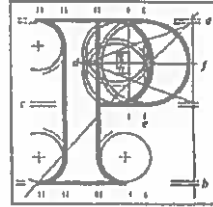


Our Case Number: ABP-307652-20



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

Tell	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaio Áitiúil	LoCall	1890 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoibhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902

LDG-053980-22

AN BORD PLEANALA

LDG- _____

ABP- _____

20 MAY 2022

Fee: € _____ Type: _____

Time 12.45 By hand

17/05/2022

AN BORD PLEANALA REF ABP – 307652-20

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

Further to Meath County Council's dogmatic pursuit of the above ill thought out proposed Boyne Greenway, I attach my previous submissions and I would also like to bring to An Bord Pleanala a number of further submissions.

- There appears to be no material difference in the revised route proposal.
- A significant portion of the proposed route still falls within the Boyne Estuary Special Protection area and Special Area of Conservation. Significant threats to biodiversity, birdlife and wildlife still pertain.
- In 2002, there were 25 homes in Mornington, including my own home, severely affected by flooding of the Boyne River. Would the addition of this proposed Greenway materially affect the river and increase the possibility of further flooding?
- There is an alarming suggestion that the predicted users of this proposed Greenway are estimated at approx. 900-1000 users a day ending at Tower Cross, Mornington. As there already is a significant problem in the Mornington area with litter, anti-social behaviour and vandalism, one can only assume that Meath County Council's input in addressing the increased risk of further problems of this nature will be by doing absolutely NOTHING, which, is what they have done thus far.

- The lack of amenities for these predicted users of the Greenway is alarming. In particular, no dedicated toilet facilities, no rest areas, no parking either end of the proposed scheme.
- Are the inhabitants of Mornington, many of whom are vulnerable senior citizens, expected to endure scenes reminiscent of Temple Bar, Dublin, during the "Covid" Pandemic, where homes/ front doors and gardens were used as urinals?
- The obvious increase in litter would be unimaginable. Currently the footpath from Tower Cross to Bettystown is a disgrace.
- The parking of vehicles on and around the sand dunes and narrow roads would be dangerous and represent an alarming vista for young and old.
- Meath Co. Council appears to have forgotten that the people of Mornington are tax payers, with a not unreasonable belief in their right to safety, privacy and security.
- This proposed scheme could also have some very unwelcome consequences for the Tower Cross area. There is a strong possibility that Drogheda teenagers would consider the proposed Greenway as an open invitation, late evenings /nights to invade the area indulging in anti-social behaviour. We would be sitting ducks! I have already in recent weeks had to call to the local Garda station to report anti-social behaviour on the Tower Road, which is after all a residential area right in the line of fire for this proposed route. I have had to endure late night noise and have had large stones /bottles thrown at the front of my own home by our local home grown teenagers. I have been almost knocked down on numerous occasions by bicycles /electric bikes and electric scooters being used on the footpath between Tower Road and Bettystown.
- Multiply what we endure now by 900-1000 visitors a day and the mind boggles.

Yours sincerely~

03/09.2020

Attn: An Bord Pleanála

Reference: PL 17.307652

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

I wish to make a number of submissions regarding the above proposed Boyne Greenway. I write as a resident of the Tower Road, Mornington for over 25 years

and [redacted] who was Minister for Local Government in the 20th Dail between 1973 -1977. During this period he was also instrumental in establishing An Bord Pleanála (under the Local Government Planning and Development Act 1976.) It is therefore with confidence and a belief in the fairness of An Bord Pleanála that I make this submission.

(1)

Over 50 years ago, the Boyne Estuary was opened by [redacted] Minister James Tully as a bird and wildlife Sanctuary. His foresight enabled the Boyne Estuary Sanctuary to help protect and preserve the many wintering and resident wildfowl on the Estuary. Since it was first established, the Sanctuary has been an SPA and SAC under the EU Birds Directive. It sustains many red listed birds that are on the edge of extinction including Little Tern, Curlew, Shelduck and Plover etc. The Boyne Estuary now supports a breeding population of Little Tern that is of national importance. The wetlands habitats contained within the Boyne Estuary SPA are identified as of conservation importance. Therefore, the wetlands habitat is considered to be of additional special conservation interest.

Over 50%of the proposed Greenway encroaches on this European protected site leading to what would undoubtedly result in a significant damaging impact on biodiversity, birdlife and wildlife. Any portion of the walkway constructed as proposed in these wetlands would have a detrimental effect on the delicate balance responsible for the success of this important sanctuary. I am concerned that the foresight exhibited by my late father and the legacy which has grown and been preserved over the past 50 years will suffer greatly as a result of this proposed Boyne Greenway.

(2)

The proposed Greenway is 5.9 km in length with approx. 4.1 Km or 70% directly alongside the road, completely diminishing the concept of a Greenway integrated with the natural environment. It is in fact a 4 metre wide roadway intended for pedestrians, cyclists, non-motorised vehicles, joggers, dog walkers etc. The R151 is a busy regional road serving the town of Drogheda and the neighbouring villages of Mornington, Bettystown and Laytown. Putting the Greenway alongside this road, which already carries considerable traffic would in fact be unsafe, unsuitable, unsightly and contrary to general Greenway objectives. It will undoubtedly result in further traffic congestion and delays.

(3)

Many properties both private and commercial will exit directly onto the proposed Greenway. This will make it more difficult for local residents to enter and exit private property safely, as they will have to navigate a 4 metre wide greenway along with the busy R151. There will also be an increased nuisance in the volume of traffic from walkers, cyclists, and Greenway users. The increase of non-resident members of the public walking/cycling through the area will create safety, security and nuisance issues. There will be a loss of privacy and the enhanced potential of accidents occurring. Our new and much appreciated bus service between Drogheda and the villages may be under threat as currently it is both difficult and dangerous for two busses to pass one another on this narrow road. There is insufficient public parking and a lack of public infrastructure. The proposed Greenway starts and ends abruptly at Tower Road/Crook Road Bridge. The lack of parking will mean that Greenway users will be forced to park in the Dunes, on the narrow roadway or in local housing estates. All of this disruption will create obvious environmental damage to the area and disruption to existing residents.

(4)

If the Greenway goes ahead families in the Mornington area will lose portions of their gardens including well established mature gardens, hedgerow, trees and fences. Moving the boundary wall at Mornington Court will result in the loss of one of the few green open spaces in this highly populated area. This space is currently used as a safe play area by local children. Where will they play safely if this is considerably-reduced?

In essence although the concept of a Greenway is a laudable one, surely the negatives involved in this particular proposal far outweigh the positives. As a longstanding resident of the Tower Road, Mornington, I have serious concerns about the proposed design, route selection and reluctance to acknowledge the considerable negative impact it would have on our community.