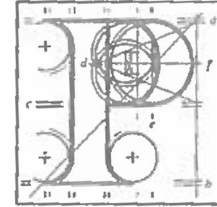


Our Case Number: ABP-307652-20



An
Bord
Pleanála

Date: 30th 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: 01-873 7250

AA02

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

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

LDG-054028-22

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

16th May 2022

Secretary,
An Bord Pleanála,
64, Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1.

Dear Sir,

Re: Construction of Boyne Greenway –
Drogheda to Mornington, Co.Meath
Ref: ABP 307652-20

Further to my letter of 25th August 2020, re the above, I wish to reiterate that I am objecting, in the strongest possible terms, to this Greenway being constructed along Tower Road, Mornington.

I further wish to emphasise that **NO** resident of Tower Road is in favour of this development along our road.

All the homes on Tower Road are owner-occupied. A great deal of hard work and effort have been expounded to own our own homes. We feel so let down that after all our striving our homes will be devalued by this proposal – who, if they could avoid it – would want to live on a road that has a boardwalk? There will be no Greenway as this proposed walkway will stop at Tower Cross, and is therefore tarmac all the way. From there it is inevitable that walkers will proceed through Boyne SPA and SAC and erode the dunes in the process.

During Covid when large numbers were not at work we got a taste of what a Boardwalk would bring us – large numbers of people who, when finding no toilet facilities available, avail of the duns as toilets. This is not acceptable.

It is important to point out that Ireland's SACs are part of the Natura 2000 network of European-wide protected sites – River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC (002299).

We, as residents of this area, are so happy to be so close to the feeding grounds of the Little Tern, wading birds, ducks and many other wildfowl. We, the residents, will have an overall net loss should this development be allowed go ahead. Our way of life will be adversely affected. It will result in the removal of 160 metres of hedgerows – a habitat for birdlife, and 291 metres of treeline, with an overall estimated removal of 47% of existing vegetation along the route.

Residents along Tower Road will lose portions of their plots, fencing, boundary walls and/or gardens, including well-established mature hedgerows, trees – in themselves natural habitats.

There will be safety concerns between Boardwalk users and residents endeavouring to exit or enter their properties – with instances of said conflicting movements occurring in close proximity to each other.

The latest designs produced by Meath County Council still do not include a safety margin between private accesses and proposed infrastructure.

The proposed Walkway will result in uncontrolled parking; loss of privacy and increased potential of accidents occurring. The Walkway users will be forced to park in the dunes – thereby degrading them further – on the public road or in local housing estates as there is no designated parking area envisaged. None of the safety issues have been addressed by Meath County Council – a Traffic Count has never been done.

This raises the potential for adverse impacts on the integrity of this European site. Meath County Council's proposed mitigation measures – i.e. information signage, will not be adequate or sufficient to deter pedestrians, dogwalkers, cyclists, picknickers & others from traversing the dunes and damaging them irrevocably. This proposed route and design is totally unsuitable and will destroy our fragile environment – SPA & SAC (European Protected Sites) and cause never-ending annoyance, loss of happiness in our own much-loved familiar locality and will be very destructive to our well-being and peace of mind.

I sincerely appeal to An Bord Pleanála not to endorse this destructive proposal. Not one resident of Tower Road wants to see a Boardwalk/Walkway passing their homes. The implication of such happening is beyond our human ability to bear. At the moment, simply dealing with the possibility of such a travesty is causing all of us much anguish, anxiety and depression. Surely, we residents deserve better? Only those with vested interests are eager for this development to take place. These same individuals do not live in Mornington.

I, together with my neighbours on Tower Road, am appealing to An Bord Pleanála to refuse permission for this destructive project. Our future well-being depends on your doing so.

Yours sincerely,