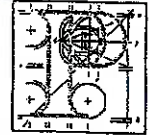


Record Of Meeting

Bord Pleanála



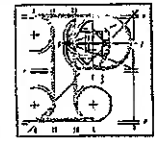
Case Reference/Description	17.HC0003 Slane Bypass, County Meath.		
Case Type:	Pre-app consultation		
Meeting:	1 st		
Date:	21 st September, 2015	11a.m.	
Location:	Conference Room		
Chairperson:	Philip Green		

Attendees:
Representing An Bord Pleanála
Philip Green – Assistant Director of Planning
Mairead Kenny – Senior Planning Inspector
Marcella Doyle – Senior Executive Officer
Kieran Somers – Executive Officer
Representing Prospective Applicant
John McGrath, Acting Director of Services Housing and Transportation, Meath County Council
Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer, Meath County Council
Pat Gallagher, Senior Planner, Meath County Council
Wendy Bagnall, Senior Executive Planner, Meath County Council
Geraldine Fitzpatrick, Head of Road Capital Programme, Transport Infrastructure Ireland

The meeting commenced at 11.00 a.m.

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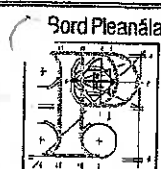
Introduction:

The Board referred to the letter received from the prospective applicant dated the 30th July, 2015 formally requesting pre-application consultations with the Board. It advised the prospective applicant that the instant meeting essentially constituted an information-gathering exercise for the Board; it also invited the prospective applicant to outline the nature of the proposed development and to highlight any matters it wished to receive advice on from the Board.

The Board mentioned general procedures in relation to the pre-application consultation process as follows:

- The Board will keep a record of the pre-application consultations.
- Any comments on the record may be made in writing and will be put on file, or can be communicated at the time of the next meeting.
- A copy of the record will become public when consultations are completed. The record will be placed with the application documents once the application has been submitted for approval.
- The meeting is an information gathering exercise and may provide advice on the potential effects on the environment or an area, site or land and the implications for proper planning and sustainable development that may have a bearing on the Board's decision.
- The pre-application process does not discuss the merits or otherwise of the case.
- The number of meetings is dictated by the prospective applicant and it is for the prospective applicant to advise the Board when it wishes to close the consultation process.
- The Board may consult with other persons who may have relevant information in relation to the proposed development during the pre-application process.
- At the end of the consultation process the Senior Planning Inspector will make a report to the Board highlighting any key issues. The prospective applicant should formally request closure of the process and await the Board's formal notification on the matter prior to lodging the application with the Board.

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- The Board may require the prospective applicant to submit additional information during the pre-application process (if deemed necessary) to enable it to assess the proposed road development.
- The holding of consultations does not prejudice the Board in any way and cannot be relied upon in the formal planning process or in legal proceedings.

The Board also referred to the additional information it received from the prospective applicant on the 17th September, 2015.

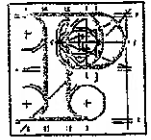
The prospective applicant gave a brief outline as to where the project is at the present time. It said that it is at a very early stage and referred to the fact that there is now a new county development plan (2013 – 2019) since the time of the previous scheme. The prospective applicant pointed out that there are specific objectives in this development plan which relate to the Slane bypass. It also said that traffic management alternatives are being considered and referred to reports referenced in its letter to the Board dated the 30th July, 2015. These reports have been considered and reported to the Council. A motion was passed by the Council in May 2015 to progress the Slane Bypass project.

The prospective applicant advised that it has held a meeting with the National Roads Authority (now Transport Infrastructure Ireland). The prospective applicant said that it would wish to get an idea of what would be appropriate to present to the Board as part of the pre-application consultation process; also what matters it would be appropriate to seek advice on. The Board for its part pointed out that it cannot review the particular merits of a scheme/project at pre-application stage. It also pointed out that formal EIS scoping can be requested of it by the prospective applicant.

Having regard to the previous application (case reference number 17.HA0026), the prospective applicant said that it had close regard to the Board's reasons for refusal and also the content of the Inspectors' reports. It referred to a possible location for the bypass to the east of Slane village in this regard. The prospective applicant said that it would wish to have a complete understanding of the Board's decision on this previous case so as to inform any planning application going forward.

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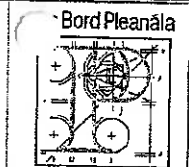
The Board asked the prospective applicant to set out the nature of the proposed road project in a national/regional context; also in the context of the N2 and strategic network. The prospective applicant said that there would be a need to re-appraise the project in terms of the network in the area. It added that such an appraisal would be carried out as part of the application generally. The prospective applicant acknowledged that proposals for the N2 corridor have changed since the time of the previous application and that the N2 Ashbourne to Ardee scheme is suspended. Noting this, the Board said that it would be important to demonstrate the justification for the nature of the road and cross sections pertaining particularly having regard to the need for the road and any impact on the environment. It pointed out that any proposal would have to be put in a key strategic/policy context. The Board added that a firm policy context would be very important.

In respect of the current county development plan, the prospective applicant said that there is little change in relation to the management of the World Heritage Site. There is a draft management plan for the Bru na Boinne site it said which has been on public display. The final draft of this would be issued to UNESCO for input.

The prospective applicant said that its intention would be to consult with the Department as it goes through the pre-application process. It also referred to a steering group which was set up for delivery of the management plan in relation to the World Heritage Site. The prospective applicant acknowledged the need to broaden the number of consultees it engages with as part of the pre-application process. With respect to ecological matters, the Board recommended that the prospective applicant engage with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) at an early stage. In relation to any river crossings, it recommended consultations with the NPWS and Inland Fisheries Ireland.

The prospective applicant enquired as to what issues the Board might envisage with respect to any future planning application. It referred in particular to the transboundary matter which arose at the oral hearing on the previous case (case reference number 17.HA0026). In relation to this matter, the Board pointed out that it can make a determination during the pre-application stage as to whether transboundary effects would be likely. The prospective applicant itself can also come to such a conclusion. The Board set out the various administrative procedures which are undertaken by it at application stage if there are effects on a transboundary state. It would formally engage in consultations with the Northern Ireland Planning Service in this regard.

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In relation to the prospective applicant's request for clarity on some of the matters relating to the previous case, and the decision to refuse planning approval, the Board's representatives said that it might be in a position to seek a degree of clarity from the SID division of the Board. However, it pointed out that it may not be able to provide absolute clarity on all matters, nor could it undertake to give detailed assistance on some of the issues raised in the Board Order and the Inspectors' reports. It was agreed that the prospective applicant may formally write to the Board seeking clarification on matters relating to the previous case. These would be put to the SID division of the Board which would in turn decide on how much clarification it could reasonably give. With regard to whether a future application for the bypass should follow an east or west route, the Board's representatives said it was unlikely the Board could impart advice on this as it might potentially be perceived as pre-judging any planning application made to it.

With regard to advice sought about the desirability of engaging a world heritage expert, the Board advised that the prospective applicant should consult with the Department on this.

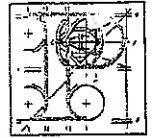
The prospective applicant enquired as to whether there is any restriction on documentation or information it may present to the Board as part of the pre-app process. The Board reminded the prospective applicants of the broad purpose of pre application consultation discussions as set out in the legislation and pointed out for example that, it would not be appropriate to submit an EIS (or draft of such) at pre-application stage.

In terms of the matters which the prospective applicant would wish to receive advice on, the Board said that this would be entirely a matter for the prospective applicant itself. It reiterated however that it would not comment on the particular planning merits of the proposed project. Also, in terms of the route selection process, the Board pointed out that it could not advise on which of any options presented might be the most suitable to form the basis of the application.

In response to the Board's query, the prospective applicant said that the nature of the project would likely be similar to the previous application in respect of matters such as length of route and cross sections.

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As part of the written request for clarification it intends to submit, the Board asked that the prospective applicant include a copy of the maps which were referenced in the EIS chapter of the further information response received on the 17th September.

The Board enquired as to what the likely timetable for the project would be, and as to when a formal planning application might be submitted. The prospective applicant replied that it was not possible to indicate this at the present time. It said that the timing of any planning application would be dependent on the availability of funding.

The Board said that it will await the prospective applicant's written request for clarification on matters pertaining to case reference number 17.HA0026. Following receipt of this, the Board's representatives would then meet with the SID division of the Board. A second meeting would then be arranged with the prospective applicant.

The meeting concluded at 12.20 p.m.

Philip Green

Philip Green

Assistant Director of Planning

25th September 2015