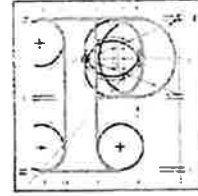


Our Case Number: ABP-318573-23

Planning Authority Reference Number:



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Dr. Afric White & Prof. Killian Hurley
2 Ledwidge Hall Green
Slane
Co. Meath

Date: 19 February 2024

**Re: A proposed Road Development comprising of the N2 Slane By-Pass and Public Realm Enhancement Scheme
Within the Townlands of Slane, County Meath**

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above-mentioned proposed road development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter. Please accept this letter as a receipt for the fee of €50 that you have paid.

Please note that the proposed road development shall not be carried out unless the Board has approved it or approved it with modifications.

The Board has also received an application for confirmation of a compulsory purchase order which relates to this proposed road development. The Board has absolute discretion to hold an oral hearing in respect of any application before it, in accordance with section 218 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. Accordingly, the Board will inform you in due course on this matter. The Board shall also make a decision on both applications at the same time.

If you have any queries in relation to this matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board at laps@pleanala.ie

Please quote the above-mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,



Eimear Reilly
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737184

HA02A

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**The Secretary
An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 2**

**Dr Afric White & Professor Killian Hurley
2 Ledwidge Hall Green
Slane
Co. Meath**

February 6th, 2024

Ref: HA17.318573

On behalf of our family, Afric White and Killian Hurley of 2 Ledwidge Hall Green, Slane Co Meath would like to support the N2 Slane Bypass and Public Realm Enhancement Scheme as proposed by Meath County Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

We are resident in the village of Slane within five minutes walking distance of the village square where the N2 and N51 intersects. Two of our three children are primary school age and attend St. Patrick's National School. Our oldest son walks to the centre of the village for his school transport to secondary school in Navan crossing the N2 junction in two places.

Day to day life in the village, particularly for school children is conducted with the background of approximately 17,000 vehicles travelling through Slane village via the N51 and N2 on a daily basis. This volume of traffic, particularly the presence of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) results in huge safety issues, as well as creating noise and air pollution.

We wish to support the proposed N2 Slane Bypass and Public Realm Enhancement Scheme on the following grounds:

- 1. Road Safety** – The horrifying statistics relating to those who have lost their lives in Slane village due to road collisions, including pedestrians and children, speak for themselves. Over 23 deaths and many more injuries have taken place on the roads in Slane village many of which have involved HGVs, exacerbated by speed and the steep incline of the N2 as it descends into the village. I would invite anyone involved in decision making in the process for this scheme, who is not familiar with Slane, to walk from the intersection of the N2 / N51 to the national school at 9am to witness the lived experience of children daily in this environment. Our children have expressed their fear at the noise and speed of passing HGVs many of which, on observation

regularly disobey the 30km speed limit. It is difficult to explain to a 7 year old why the wall in their home village is lined with crosses and simultaneously encourage them to confidently partake in active travel to and from school and for activities. For further information please see the article below.

<https://www.meathchronicle.ie/2023/12/06/crosses-line-the-road-down-to-the-bridge-to-remember-23-lives-lost/>

2. Pollution and Air Quality Concerns

As a Respiratory consultant physician I have a particular interest in the effects of air pollution and particulate matter and the subsequent effects on respiratory health.

It is well recognised that vehicle traffic and in particular diesel fumes cause worsening of the symptoms of asthma, 10% of children have asthma and will miss on average five days of school a year due to flares in disease.

[REDACTED]

<https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/what-are-the-who-air-quality-guidelines>

[REDACTED]

<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/nejmoa071535>

Statistics from traffic modelling research undertaken for Transport Infrastructure Ireland on the N2 indicate that the N2 through Slane village carries a higher percentage of HGVs per total traffic volume than the parallel stretches on either the M1 or M3 (which are purpose built and do not travel through village environments)

Details are available here

https://www.n2rath2kilmoon.ie/_files/ugd/ec908e_e7257363477040f6ae301aa13d5a2931.pdf

Our son, as a 4th class pupils in St Patrick's National School took part in an international air quality scientific investigation in conjunction with An Taisce and the Environmental Protection Agency. The data was collected in autumn 2023. The school have kindly provided the following information regarding the study's outcomes. Levels of nitrogen dioxide levels outside St. Patrick's National School, Slane were recorded. Results indicated that levels were the 11th highest among all Irish primary schools in the study. Of particular importance however is that all the school with higher readings were in large towns or cities. As a result, St. Patrick's National School had the highest nitrogen dioxide levels (16.58 ug/m³) overall in Irish primary schools for the size of its urban setting. Our children have previously lived in major urban

centres of Dublin and Boston USA . It is shocking to think that the air quality they are now exposed to on their walk to school and the school environments in a rural setting has similar levels of pollution to city school due the traffic passing on the N2. There is also hope however that this situation is reversible if the proposed N2 Slane Bypass and Public Realm Enhancement Scheme can proceed.

The Irish GLOBE school air quality study data 2023 is available here:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1yYmqyYph5pNlqpLkuC-zjmdP6Ya-Bb17/edit#gid=879374859>

3. Active travel

As a General Practitioner (supporting the benefits of active travel and integration of exercise into daily activity) are a huge part of my professional role, given Ireland's status as the most obese nation in the European Union. As detailed above, air pollution exposure and road safety are major barriers to supporting active travel in our community in Slane. The primary school tries to support active travel through initiatives such as Bus, Bike or Walk on Wednesdays but many parents feel it is just unsafe at present. The proposed N2 Slane Bypass and Public Realm Enhancement Scheme have a particular focus on providing purpose built walking and cycling pathways to support this vital health and environmental issue. There is potential to allow a new young generation in Slane to grow up with the lifelong benefits of making clean, active travel part of their daily experience. This is in keeping with current public health and government policy.

4. Economic benefits and improved well-being relating to Public Realm Enhancement Scheme

We are lucky in Slane to live in a beautiful natural environment, nestled in the Boyne Valley with its world famous historical sites of interest including the UNESCO heritage site and planned Boyne Valley National Park and Boyne Greenway Project. The Slane Bypass and Public Realm Enhancement Scheme has the potential to unlock tourism potential for the area, benefiting local businesses and supporting our thriving village community in all its' activities. More importantly the ambitious Public Realm scheme will transform the experience of both visitors and locals alike who will benefit from the return of nature to the village setting, with planting schemes, clean air and a focus on active travel, sensible parking solutions and a HGV ban. None of this can proceed without the Slane Bypass as the corner stone project. While to most this is a road and infrastructure project for our family and the people of Slane this is a lifeline to profoundly alter the quality of daily life and support the wider environment of the Boyne Valley and its' precious heritage for which we have a deep respect.

Conclusion:

In summary, our family, would like to enthusiastically support the proposed road bypass of Slane village,

Kind regards,

Dr Afric White General Practitioner and Slane Resident
Prof. Killian Hurley Consultant Respiratory Physician, Beaumont Hospital and Slane Resident.

