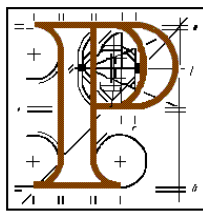


An Bord Pleanála



Roads Acts, 1993 to 2007

Planning and Development Acts, 2000 to 2016

Kildare County Council

An Bord Pleanála Reference Number: 09.HD0038

APPLICATION received by An Bord Pleanála from Kildare County Council requesting it to exercise its power under section 50(1)(b) of the Roads Act, 1993, as amended, to direct the road authority to prepare an environmental impact statement in respect of the proposed Athy Distributor Road Scheme, County Kildare.

DECISION

DIRECT the road authority to prepare an environmental impact statement in respect of the above proposed road development based on the reasons and considerations set out below.

MATTERS CONSIDERED

In making its decision, the Board had regard to those matters to which, by virtue of the Planning and Development Acts and Regulations made thereunder, it was required to have regard.

REASONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

In coming to its decision, the Board had regard to the following:

- (i) article 27 of the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations, 1989, as amended,
- (ii) the Roads Regulations, 1994, as amended, and Schedule 5 and 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended,
- (iii) the “Environmental Impact Assessment Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-threshold Development” issued by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2003),
- (iv) the submission made to An Bord Pleanála by the road authority,
- (v) the report and recommendation of the Inspector,
- (vi) the environmental, landscape, heritage and residential sensitivity of the receiving environment, including the River Barrow and River Nore Special Area of Conservation and the Grand Canal proposed Natural Heritage Area and the location partly in a floodplain and on the route of the Barrow Way,
- (vii) the nature, scale and characteristics of the proposed development, including significant bridge crossings, multiple road junctions, and involving works to structures of architectural heritage, and
- (viii) the characteristics of potential environmental impacts on ecology, European Sites, protected species, on the fabric and settings of features of architectural heritage, visual impact on the townscape, riverscape, the Barrow Way and on seven protected views, urban severance, the transportation network, flooding and floodplain storage, and on the community and on dwellings.

It is considered that the proposed road would be likely to have significant effects on the environment and that the preparation of an environmental impact statement is required.

**Member of An Bord Pleanála
duly authorised to authenticate
the seal of the Board.**

Dated this day of 2017.