



An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of 3rd Meeting ABP-305149-19

Case Reference / Description	ABP-305149-19 Replacement of seven number manned level crossings on the main Dublin to Cork Railway Line.		
Case Type	Pre-application consultation		
1st / 2nd / 3rd Meeting	3 rd		
Date	04/02/21	Time	11 a.m.

Attendees
Representing An Bord Pleanála
Brendan Wyse, Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)
Pauline Fitzpatrick, Senior Planning Inspector
Kieran Somers, Executive Officer
Representing the Prospective Applicant
Rory McDonnell, Jacobs
Tony Magee, Jacobs
James Kenny, Irish Rail
Diarmuid Dunne, Irish Rail
Rita Monaghan, CIE
Conleth Bradley

David Vaughan, Irish Rail
Alex Bradley

The Board referred to its previous meeting with the prospective applicant of the 9th July, 2020 and the record of this meeting. The Board enquired as to whether the prospective applicant had any comments it wished to make on the record. The prospective applicant replied that it had previously written to the Board to clarify an aspect of the written record.

Presentation by the prospective applicant:

The prospective provided a brief recap on the nature and extent of the proposed development which is for the elimination/de-manning of seven manned level crossings on the Dublin-Cork railway line. The crossings are located within a 24-kilometre section of the line and straddle the Cork/Limerick county boundary. The prospective applicant referred to the existing situation at each of the level crossings in question and also to the background of the project generally. A feasibility study was undertaken in 2018 in order to investigate and appraise various options for the proposed development. The prospective applicant advised that the documents to accompany the Railway Order Application are being finalised at the current time; these will include an EIAR, an NIS and a Flood Risk Assessment. The prospective applicant also outlined in more detail the proposed works at each of the seven locations; these include road over rail bridges, works to existing roads and the provision of other structural features such as retaining walls.

With respect to its two previous meetings with representatives of the Board (on the 17th October, 2019 and the 9th July, 2020), the prospective applicant referred to issues raised by the Board with respect to the proposed development and its response to these matters.

In relation to public consultations, the prospective applicant referred to its initial consultation period (12th November, 2019 – 21st January, 2020) and a further consultation period (10th February, 2020 – 6th March, 2020). The prospective applicant also referred to the dedicated website for the project and email address

which is available for all queries. The prospective applicant advised the Board's representatives that a Consultation Report has been prepared as part of the suite of Railway Order Application documents. Consultation meetings have taken place with representatives of Cork County Council and Limerick City and County Council; other stakeholders who have been engaged with include Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District Council and Ballyhea Village Community Group. Following on from these consultations, the prospective applicant referred to the key changes in the design of the proposed development which have taken place (Thomastown and Newtown locations).

Finally, the prospective applicant indicated that this would be the final meeting in this pre-application consultation process. Its intention is to request formal closure of the process in due course and to then proceed to finalise the EIAR and other Railway Order Application documents. The prospective applicant referred to its letter to the Board dated the 3rd February, 2021 and said that it would await the Board's procedural advice on the form and content of the Railway Order Application. Any other pertinent procedural advice may also be given by the Board in advance of the receipt of the application.

Board's comments/queries:

The prospective applicant confirmed that the proposed solution at Ballycoskery takes due cognisance of the reservation for a possible new road alignment as detailed on the map accompanying the written statement for the village of Ballyhea in the Fermoy Municipal District LAP, 2017.

With respect to the EIAR, the Board's representatives requested that a separate chapter be included with regard to mitigation and monitoring measures for ease of reference. The Board also advised that all plans submitted be to an appropriate scale and suggested that visuals be provided with respect to the key locations for the proposed development.

Conclusion:

With regard to the issuing of the Board's formal letter closing the pre-application consultation process, the Board's representatives advised the prospective applicant to allow for a period of up to five weeks from the date of the instant meeting. The record of the meeting will issue as quickly as possible so as to facilitate the prospective applicant's preferred timeline for lodgement of the Railway Order application.

In relation to the likelihood of an oral hearing on the subsequent application, and in response to the prospective applicant's query on this, the Board's representatives said that this matter would not be determined until after the time period for receipt of submissions/observations and planning authority reports has expired. A decision to hold an oral hearing or to proceed with the case through normal written procedures will be conveyed to all parties on the case.

The record of the instant meeting will issue in the meantime. The prospective applicant may then proceed to request formal closure to the process in writing.

The meeting concluded at 11.45 a.m.

Brendan Wyse**Assistant Director of Planning**