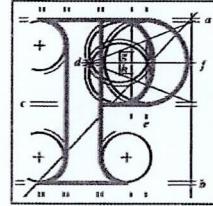


**Our Case Number:** ABP-314597-22



**An  
Bord  
Pleanála**

Mary and Patrick Browne  
8 University Road  
Galway  
Co. Galway  
H91 EEH0

**Date:** 30 June 2023

**Re:** BusConnects Galway Cross-City Link Scheme.  
University Road to Dublin Road, Galway City.

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above mentioned case. The contents of your submission have been noted.

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,

Niamh Thornton  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: 01-8737247

CH08

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D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 V902

## Niamh Thornton

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**From:** LAPS  
**Sent:** Friday 30 June 2023 10:41  
**To:** Niamh Thornton  
**Subject:** FW: Responce,Case reference: HA61.314597 (Case details : 314597 )  
**Attachments:** Case reference HA61.314597 Case details 314597\_browne.pdf

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**From:** Patrick Browne [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 28, 2023 11:06 AM  
**To:** LAPS <laps@pleanala.ie>  
**Subject:** Responce,Case reference: HA61.314597 (Case details : 314597 )

To whom it may concern,

I received the the response to my objections to the bus connects plan for Galway city, see Case reference: HA61.314597 (Case details : 314597 ). See [https://www.pleanala.ie/publicaccess/Responses/314597/253352-00\\_BusConnects%20Galway%20-%20CCL%20Response%20to%20ABP%20Submissions\\_Issue.pdf?r=680204](https://www.pleanala.ie/publicaccess/Responses/314597/253352-00_BusConnects%20Galway%20-%20CCL%20Response%20to%20ABP%20Submissions_Issue.pdf?r=680204) page 36

Attached it my reply to this response, I would appreciate a receipt of this email to acknowledge it has been received.

If you need any further details please let me know:

Patrick

June 28, 2023

Mary & Patrick Browne,  
8 University Road,  
Galway,  
H91 EEH0.

## 1 Reply to ABP response to 2.12 - 12

With reference to Bord Pleanála Case reference: HA61.314597 (Case details : 314597 ) and the CCL response to ABP document found here<sup>1</sup> page 36, we the residents who signed the letter wish to reply to the response given in the document section 2.12 – 2 page 36. We feel that the response given was lacking in any concrete details or explanation. Furthermore it fails to engage with the premise of the objection, i.e that the existence of a bus stop at this location is **not** working for the residents (anti social behavior) or the street ( the many commercial bus/taxi services that do not serve the city that use it as a defacto transport hub).

We request that any future response that makes an argument, does the residents the courtesy of having factual evidence or peer reviewed evidence to support any claims. We will now elaborate on this.

## 2 Reasons

We feel that the response given was lacking in content and failed to engage with the objection in the following areas:

- Anti-social behavior Additional footpath space/width is “*anticipated*” to “*mitigate*” against anti social behaviour. Let us address these in turn:
  1. “anticipated” can imply expectation when previous evidence supports it. I have undertaken some minor research and was unable to find any document that drew a correlation between footpath width and anti social behaviour. We took our time in constructing this objection, compiled evidence and submitted a well presented argument. The reply failed to give any evidence to support an argument and gives us zero rebuttal in future years should this anticipated behavior not happen. For any constructive dialogue to happen you must be willing to understand our lived experience of the street. For example just this morning the following was noticed on the wall at the house of number “8” , see Figure 1. The words “FUCK U , YOU” were inscribed in the stone.



Figure 1: Antisocial behavior - please see pdf version for colour accurate picture

In addition to the above, the driveway to number 9 makes an ideal quiet area for people to take

<sup>1</sup>[https://www.pleanala.ie/publicaccess/Responses/314597/253352-00\\_BusConnects%20Galway%20-%20CCL%20Response%20to%20ABP%20Submissions\\_Issue.pdf?r=680204](https://www.pleanala.ie/publicaccess/Responses/314597/253352-00_BusConnects%20Galway%20-%20CCL%20Response%20to%20ABP%20Submissions_Issue.pdf?r=680204)



calls, or attempt to use this home as shelter from the rain. Any basic social engineering student will tell you people use their environment in the way they want to, not in the way a planner envisaged. The only way to have an environment used in the way you intent is to remove all other uses. This argument should be plain, as it is the reason bus shelter seats are not comfortable for long term sitting, etc etc

2. "mitigate" - defined as *make (something bad) less severe, serious, or painful*. In this context we would appreciate some metric associated to the word "less". Do we expect a 10, 20, 50% reduction in anti social behaviour, is this reduction to be measured on a ongoing basis ? will any measurement be averaged over a whole day or part of a day ? who will conduct such measurements.

I hope it is clear from the above that word mitigate being used here is devoid of any serious meaning at best and insulting to the objectors at worst.

To refrain an argument from point 1 in future years do we have any comeback if we were to accept anticipated mitigated anti social behavior ?

3. "anticipated that existing services along this corridor will be rationalised .... this bus stop will continue to be a heavily demanded bus stop."

On a basic level of English language this sentence appears to be contradiction, less buses due to rationalisation but yet a heavily demanded bus stop. Without any metrics or limits placed on the future number of buses this argument is devoid of logic.

### 3 Summary

In summary we feel the response given failed on the following counts:

- Zero evidence was given to support arguments of footpath width and anti social behaviour being linked.
- The use of the words, "anticipated" and "mitigated" give us zero security for future years should things get worse, and even worse gives zero responsibility to the service provider to ensure promises are kept.

To take account of the above we the residents have entered into dialogue with city representatives to help give our voice a stronger weight, currently we have spoken with Councillors John Connolly and Eddie Hoare both of which supported and agreed with our concerns.

It is clear to us that there is a landing zone for a common agreement between all parties that both respects concerns and safe guards against promises. For this reason we wish to engage on a serious level where claims are supported by evidence and assurances can be counted upon.

Thank you for your time:

Residents of University Road.