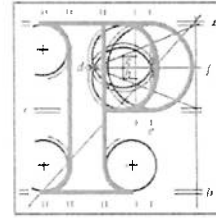


Our Case Number: ABP-316272-23



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

John Lahart TD
Dáil Eireann
Dublin 2

Date: 24 April 2024

Re: Bus Connects Templeogue/Rathfarnham to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme
Templeogue/Rathfarnham to City Centre

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

If you have any queries in the mean time, 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

HA02

Teil
Glao Áitiúil
Facs
Láithreán Gréasáin
Ríomhphost

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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Kevin McGettigan

From: Eimear Reilly
Sent: Friday 5 April 2024 13:12
To: Kevin McGettigan
Subject: FW: Templeogue/Rathfarnham to City centre Core Bus Corridor

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: LAPS <laps@pleanala.ie>
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 4:11 PM
To: Eimear Reilly <e.reilly@pleanala.ie>
Subject: FW: Templeogue/Rathfarnham to City centre Core Bus Corridor

From: John Lahart <John.Lahart@oireachtas.ie>
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 3:48 PM
To: LAPS <laps@pleanala.ie>
Subject: Templeogue/Rathfarnham to City centre Core Bus Corridor

Caution: This is an **External Email** and may have malicious content. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the ICT Helpdesk.

An Bord Pleanála (Strategic Infrastructure Division)
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

ABP – 316272-23

To whom it may concern,

Having made a submission previously, I wish to augment this submission with the following observations on behalf of a number of local Resident's Associations and Community Groups in the general Rathfarnham area. I wish only to point to the headline issues that these groups will be making in their independent further detailed submissions to the Bord. I believe that they make compelling arguments that ought to be considered very seriously by the Bord before making any decision. I am grateful to the Bord for offering a further opportunity to submit but to also express my disappointment that an oral hearing on the matter wasn't considered appropriate or necessary by the Bord.

I also wish to repeat a point of significance for me as a public representative of long-standing, and one which I made again recently at An Bord's oral hearing into the Metro project – and that relates to public consultation and communications. In all my twenty-five years as a public representative I have never witnessed as much public cynicism with regard to the attitude of the NTA and some other bodies, to the public consultation process. Volunteer groups invest a significant amount of their time, energy and expertise into making submissions on behalf of their communities – earnestly – on a wide range of subjects. They do not have at their disposal, the vast reservoir of public funds or

expertise to call on, yet manage to make the most impressive submissions in terms of quality and evidence-based research. It also appears that it is only after the fact, that the NTA finds the will to respond to the most serious of these submissions.

Public confidence in our system of planning, in its objectivity and independence, is at a crossroads. This places a heavy and justifiable burden on the Bord to ensure, that if it rules in favour of the NTA with reference specifically to the submissions raised locally concerning this application, that in doing so, it outlines a detailed account of how it has arrived at its decision.

Local Rathfarnham Residents, in their various submissions to the Bord, raise the following concerns which I have outlined in a general way and which they submitted in great details. These relate to:

1. **Proper and adequate consideration of Rathfarnham Castle Park** as a vital source of biodiversity, hydrology and environmental sensitivity as well as being highly valued by local autistic children as a natural play space.
2. **Lack of appreciation of the importance of the Park in terms of biodiversity**
3. **The significance of the Rathfarnham Castle Park Woodland area, through which the River Glin flows, has not been properly appreciated from a number of perspectives.**
4. **Lack of environmental assessments**
5. **That the NTA did not properly assess and consider the position of Rathfarnham Castle Park, its biodiversity and its environmental features.**
6. **The omission of key areas of interest in the NTA EIAR.**
7. **That Rathfarnham Castle Park constitutes a micro-nature reserve in the area. The loss of a wide stretch of woodland all through the woodland area, which is small to begin with, would accordingly have a catastrophic impact.**
8. **That extensive construction noise, vibration and upheaval of the proposed road widening works would be likely to decimate the current strong breeding populations of protected species in Rathfarnham Castle Park, which were described in our original submission.**
9. **The Proposed Scheme will have direct impact on the pond within Rathfarnham Castle Park.**
10. **That the number of trees lost would greatly exceed the "37 trees" that it is currently suggested would be lost. In reality, it is likely to be multiples of that number.**
11. **Importance of the Park as a breeding habitat for protected species**
12. **Impact on and consideration of the Glin River and duck pond**
13. **Excessive land take**
14. **Importance of the Woodland Playground Area for Autistic Children**
15. **Lack of proper consideration of alternatives, given importance of the woodland area**

I do not support land take from the properties on the southside of Grange Road.

Sincerely,



John Lahart TD | Dublin South West | Fianna Fáil



John Lahart TD

Spokesperson on Equality, Integration, International Development & Youth.
TD for Dublin South West. Member of Oireachtas Committee on Health and Mental Health
Member of Oireachtas Committee on Budgetary Oversight

Dáil Éireann, Leinster House, Dublin 2.
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Email: john.lahart@oireachtas.ie

Facebook: @johnlahart | Twitter: @JohnLahart
LinkedIn: @JohnLahart | Instagram: @johnlaharttd

FIANNA FÁIL
AN PÁ RTI ROBLACHTÁLAICH

I'd like to stay in touch with you. If you do not wish to receive any further information or contact from me please email 'STOP' to this address. Please note that any personal data contained in your email correspondence with John Lahart TD will be processed by John Lahart TD and my staff as a data controller in accordance with applicable data protection law. Much of this data processing will be done in connection with representations/requests made and also for electoral purposes. If you have received this email in error, please notify us immediately and then delete it. Please do not copy it, disclose its contents or use it for any other purpose.

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