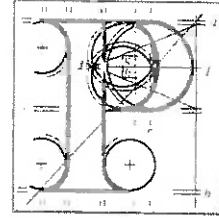


Our Case Number: ABP-316272-23



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Meals on Wheels Rathmines
c/o Suzanne Lynch
29 Leinster Square
Rathmines
Dublin 6

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	Teil	(01) 858 8100
Glaó Áitiúil	LoCall	1800 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	bord@pleanala.ie

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 13:14
To: Kevin McGettigan
Subject: FW: Bus Connects, Case No. ABP-316272-23 - Meals on Wheels, Rathmines

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: LAPS <laps@pleanala.ie>
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2024 9:50 AM
To: Eimear Reilly <e.reilly@pleanala.ie>
Subject: FW: Bus Connects, Case No. ABP-316272-23 - Meals on Wheels, Rathmines

From: Suzanne Lynch <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2024 9:23 AM
To: LAPS <laps@pleanala.ie>
Subject: Bus Connects, Case No. ABP-316272-23 - Meals on Wheels, Rathmines

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.

Meals on Wheels Rathmines

St. Mary's Community Centre, Richmond Hill, Rathmines, Dublin 6
C/O Suzanne Lynch, 29 Leinster Square, Rathmines, Dublin 6

Case Number: ABP-316272-23

Dear Ms. Reilly

Thank you for the invitation to make a further submission regarding our submission to the National Transport Authority on Bus Connects.

We appreciate you will not approve the proposal without due consideration and urge you to please consider our role in the community and how difficult our deliveries will be should the 'bus gate' on Rathmines Road operate at the proposed hours.

We are a team of twenty drivers, a voluntary Meals on Wheels service for over 40 years operating from St. Mary's Community Centre, Richmond Hill, Rathmines, Dublin 6.

We collect freshly prepared hot meals that need to be consumed within 90 minutes from the HSE run kitchen at 11:30am daily Monday to Friday including Bank Holidays, Christmas and the New Year.

The Bus Connects Scheme includes a proposed 'bus gate' on Rathmines Road Lower which will make it impossible for us to deliver meals within a health and safety timeframe to the community of Rathmines and the surrounding roads of Ranelagh and Harold's Cross.

The proposed 'bus gate' on Rathmines Road Lower is to be in operation from 6am till 8pm. This will prevent us travelling in a North South direction during our delivery hours.

Currently one of our delivery runs is 6 km and will, following the restrictions of the 'bus gate' be 10 km. Our second run is currently 3 km. It will, if this proposal is realised, be 7 km. If these restrictions are in place, the detours necessary to access our clients will seriously extend our delivery time.

Our drivers use their own cars and come from outside the Rathmines neighbourhood. The 'bus gate' and turning restrictions do not allow for extra time some drivers will have to take to access and return home or to work from Richmond Hill.

Some of our drivers are volunteering within a restricted time frame as their employers have permitted time off work during the year to volunteer. The extended time taken with these proposed road changes will prevent some drivers from volunteering.

We hope all the reasons above are considered to help us to continue to provide this vital service to the older and vulnerable community of Rathmines in a safe and timely manner and for that reason we suggest that

- the 'bus gate' hours are open to car traffic Monday to Friday from 10am to 4pm in both directions, North/South. This would hugely facilitate our delivery service and accessibility to and from the Community Centre.
- the return of the left turn from Rathmines Road Lower onto Castlewood Avenue be considered as the proposed bollards on Lower Mountpleasant Avenue seriously hampers our movement West/East.
- a turning circle at the junction of Lower Mountpleasant Avenue and the Canal is constructed to facilitate turning onto the Rathmines Road.

Yours sincerely

Suzanne Lynch
On behalf of Meals on Wheels Rathmines