

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
13:00	(21)
28 SEP 2022	
LTR DATED _____	FROM _____
LDG- _____	Submission to Oral Hearing
ABP- _____	An Bord Pleanála

Case No.

NA04.310286

XC212 (Ballycoskery Level Crossing)

My Name is Michael O'Kelly. I am a resident of Beechwood drive Ballyhea a residential area adjacent to the proposed over-bridge development replacing level crossing XC-212 in Ballyhea village.

Firstly, I would like to thank the Inspector for giving me the opportunity to speak at this hearing.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to An Bord Pleanála for holding this oral hearing. It greatly serves the transparency of the process behind this application.

A lot of information and reports have been compiled by Coras Iompair Eireann outlining the perceived need for an Over-Bridge in place of level crossing XC212 in Ballyhea.

It is not very clear from any of these reports why there is compelling need for the elimination of the level crossing. What is wrong with the crossing as it is?

While a consultation event was held in Charleville outlining the plans no further Contact was made with the local residents in Ballyhea and no reference was made to them in the development of the proposed solution.

A decision was made to favour the "Green" route as outlined in the Preliminary design report.

In the route selection it states that this is the Less preferred option for Noise compared to the other options. Nowhere in the report does it quantify the levels of noise pollution that can be expected were this Over-Bridge to be completed.

Has any consideration been given to how much will the residents be impacted by the noise and dust pollution during the development?

We, the residents, have tried to engage with Irish Rail since 2011 and proposed an alternative route "Blue Route" which would be accepted by the residents which we feel was never taken seriously.

We also feel that options for an underpass have not been given any serious consideration. Indeed, as can be seen from Big Hill's commentary on the proposals no effort has been made to differentiate the various kinds of underpasses that can be built and ultimately no serious consideration given to any of them.

It is very clear that the cost of the project at XC212 is the overarching factor and no real consideration is been given to the people or the environment. Beechwood drive is a quiet residential area in the heart of Ballyhea and the Proposed Over-Bridge would have a negative impact on the residents in this area.

It would also have a negative impact on the value of the property in this area. The proposed routes for the M20 are also adjacent to this area and will only compound the issue.

In addition to my previous submission I ask An Bord Pleanála to reject this application and request Irish rail to give serious consideration to the other options available and to actively engage with the people who are most impacted by this project.