

SUBMISSION TO AN BORD PLEANALA

ORAL HEARING

NEWCASTLEWEST

27-29 SEPTEMBER 2022

CASE N. NA04.310286

AN BORD PLEANALA	
(24)	
14:34	28 SEP 2022
LTR DATED	FROM
LDG-	HILTON LONELL - OBSERVER
ABP-	

I would like to thank Bord Pleanala for the opportunity of making this further submission in regard to CIE's proposed development at Ballycosgery (Ballyhea Village). I live close to the village but travel to work in Cork every day using the N20.

In a previous submission, I forwarded to the Board a petition signed by a hundred locals protesting the above mentioned development. It is a clear indication of the extent of local opposition to the development and of CIE's failure to meet or mitigate public concerns. The Bord will already be aware of the submission and it will not be necessary to repeat it here.

In this further submission I wish to bring to the Bord's notice the close connection between a proposed development advanced by Cork County Council in 2011 and the present application by CIE in relation to Ballycosgery (Ballyhea Village). As far as the main elements relating to Ballycosgery are concerned both proposed developments are substantially the same. In order to indicate this point and to assess the extent of similarity between the applications, Cork County Council was requested under the freedom of information acts to disclose the relevant files pertaining to the 2011 development.

As an initial response, Cork County Council claimed that the files could not be located in its archive. A similar response was made to three elected members of the Council when asked to interest themselves in the matter.

Due to a reference in the information supplied by CIE in its present application to the Bord, it was possible to locate in the County Library a copy of the original public notice announcing the proposed development and seeking public responses. The notice appeared in the Cork Examiner of 11 March 2011 and indicated that the file relating to the proposed development was available for public inspection/purchase at the Council's Roads Department in Richmond House Glanmire.

On forwarding copy of the original notice to the freedom of information officer, eventually copies of plans and drawings were released by Cork County Council but not of the entire file. These plans and drawings illustrate that CIE's present proposals for Ballycoskery are for the most part a re-presentation of the 2011 project promoted by Cork County Council.

Further contact with the freedom of information officer failed to produce disclosure of the entire file – even in redacted form. Lack of public access to the files prohibits a proper assessment of the relationship between the 2011 proposed development and the present application, thus rendering impossible a proper public consultation on the present application. Likewise, in the absence of the complete files on the 2011 proposed development it is difficult to evaluate that proposed development's compliance with subsequent planning and development legislation.

In view of the foregoing and of other observations and submissions, I would respectfully request the Bord to ask Cork County Council to provide for the Bord's evaluation, and to ensure a proper public consultation, complete files held by the Council in regard to the 2011 proposed development at Ballycosgery.

Finally, I would request the Bord to decline this application in respect of Ballycoskery (Ballyhea Village) gate XC212.