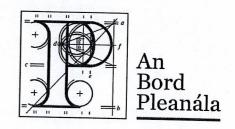
Our Case Number: ABP-310286-21



Anne-Maria Murphy Scoil Náisiúnta Mhuire Eimhín Cillmocheallóg Co. Limerick V35RH51

**Date:** 21st July 2021

Re: Railway works and all works necessary to eliminate and, where necessary, upgrade seven numbered level crossings and carry out all associated and ancillary works along a 24-kilometre section of the Dublin to Cork Railway Line.

Fantstown, Thomastown, Ballyhay, Newtown, Ballycoskery (Ballyhea Village), Shinanagh and Buttevant, Co. Cork and Co. Limerick.

## Dear Madam.

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed railway order and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

A receipt for the fee lodged is enclosed.

The Board will revert to you in due course with regard to the matter.

Please be advised that copies of all submissions / observations received in relation to the application will be made available for public inspection at the offices of Cork County Council and Limerick City and County Council and at the offices of An Bord Pleanála when they have been processed by the Board.

More detailed information in relation to strategic infrastructure development can be viewed on the Board's website: www.pleanala.ie.

If you have any queries in the meantime, 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,

Kieran Somers
Executive Officer

Direct Line: 01-873 7250

RA05



An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough St. Dublin 1. AN BORD PLEANÁLA
LDG- 241603 -> /
ABP
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Fee: 6 50 Type: Cheque
Time: By: Sepress Rost

Scoil Náisiúnta Mhuire, Eimhín, Cillmocheallóg, Co. Luimnigh. V35 RH51 Roll No: 17299B 07-07-2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Railway Order - Dublin to Cork Railway Line (Eliminate and upgrade of Level Crossings between Limerick Junction and Mallow) Order 2021 - XC201 Thomastown.

Scoil Mhuire wishes to make a submission to An Bord Pleanála concerning the proposed upgrade and improvement works at Thomastown, Kilmallock Railway Crossing by Iarnród Éireann:

Our school is open in its current building since 1940 and we have always struggled to accommodate the children from the Northern side of the parish as the railway crossing acts a serious barrier to their attendance at their parish school. This has a negative impact both on the school, as we are unable to grow our numbers to what they should be, and it also has a negative impact on the children who live to the North of the railway line as they are prevented from participating fully in parish life and community events.

Consequently, when we heard that Iarnród Éireann was going to eliminate the Level Crossing that divides our parish we were delighted. However, on hearing what the proposed upgrade involves we wish to express our serious misgivings and reservations.

- > The design of the new junction on the Charleville Kilmallock Road is not fit for purpose it will cause stacking of cars as they wait to turn off the R515 onto the new road.
- > The new road, in its current proposed form, is not wide enough to accommodate two vehicles to pass safely.
- Our community is a farming community and this means that there is always agricultural machinery on the roads, especially during the summer school term.

> There have been a number of fatalities and other serious accidents on the R515 and this new junction, in its current format, is likely to exacerbate rather than improve the situation.

Because of these road safety concerns Scoil Mhuire is very concerned that we would be putting the lives of our students and their parents at risk if they were to use this road to access our school. We know that the majority of families in the parish would prefer that their children attend the local parish school and the removal of the railway crossing would greatly facilitate this. However, we have to consider the Health and Safety of our school community and could not countenance the proposed works in their current form.

We strongly urge that you reconsider and that a double lane road be accommodated for all vehicular traffic, incorporating stacking lanes from both directions on the main Charleville Kilmallock Road. This would make the junction much safer and would contribute positively to community life in Effin.

Yours faithfully,

Anne-Maria Murphy.

Principal.

O 9 JUL 2021

LTR DATED \_\_\_\_\_ FROM \_\_\_\_\_
LDG-\_\_\_\_