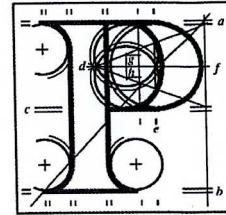


Our Case Number: ABP-310286-21



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

Councillor PJ Carey  
Ardkilmartin  
Kilmallock  
Co. Limerick

Date: 05 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 Sir,

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.

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 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](http://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: 01-8737250

RA05

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**Municipal District  
of Cappamore-Kilmallock**

**Cllr. PJ Carey**

**Ardkilmartin, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick**

**Phone No. 087 2125273**

**email: pj.carey@limerick.ie**

28/06/21

*The Secretary, (XC187)*

An Bord Pleanála  
64 Marlborough St,  
Rotunda,  
Dublin 1,  
D01 V902

<b>AN BORD PLEANÁLA</b>	
LDG-	<u>041396-21</u>
ABP-	<u>310286-21</u>
01 JUL 2021	
Fee: €	Type: _____
Time: _____	By: <u>post</u>

**Re: Observation on Planning reference no. 310286**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to express my opposition to the request from Irish Rail for a Railway Order.

My opposition is to the attempted closure of Fantstown Railway Crossing XC187. My reasons for objection are as follows.

1. This is a well used Bulgaden to Ardpatrick link road used by walkers, runners and cyclists, it is part of the Kilmallock Cycling Hub Route. Creating two cul-de-sacs will stop these activities.
2. This road has a long history of fly-tipping and illegal dumping. This will undoubtedly increase if the road closure goes ahead.
3. It will affect local farmers, some of whom have land on both sides of the crossing, who need access to their land and animals.
4. Irish Rail suggest that Ballinscaula Bridge can be used instead. This is 4 kilometres from the crossing and will result in an 8 kilometre round trip every time. This bridge needs to be upgraded for safety reasons, in 2009 Irish Rail costed the upgrading works at €250,000. Since then, no remedial works at Ballinscaula Bridge have been carried out. No extra traffic, certainly not heavy machinery, should be allowed on Ballinscaula Bridge.
5. In 2011 Roughan & O Donovan Consulting Engineers, were commissioned by Irish Rail to consider all options for Fantstown and they recommended that a bridge be built over the



crossing. This is the only independent report to date. Irish Rail state on their website that straight closure was the only option considered.

5. In January 2020 Fiona McDonnell from Jacobs and representatives from Irish Rail gave a presentation to myself and my fellow councillors from the Cappamore/Kilmallock Municipal District regarding both Fantstown and Thomastown. A commitment was given to the councillors present that Irish Rail would engage with the landowners but this does not appear to have happened.

6. In 2009, there were widespread objections to plans by Irish Rail to a road and crossing closure at Fantstown level crossing. All of the councillors at that time opposed and rejected the plans forcing Irish Rail to withdraw that 2009 closure attempt.

What is been presented now to an Bord Pleanala, though the wording may have changed from a right of way extinguishment to a road closure, is Irish Rail circumventing that decision?

In conclusion, I oppose the requested Rail Order and I urgently recommend the consideration of a bridge at Fantstown crossing as an alternative.

Yours sincerely,

PJ Carey  
Cllr. PJ Carey