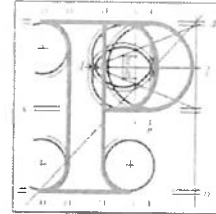


Our Case Number: ABP-318758-23

Your Reference: NPA-OBS-003129



An
Bord
Pleanála

Hubert Murphy
President Drogheda & District Chamber
Broughton House
Dublin Road
Drogheda
Co. Louth

Date: 15th February 2024

Re: Proposed public realm improvement works known as the 'Westgate 2040 Project'
in Drogheda, County Louth

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter. Please accept this letter as a receipt for the fee of €50 that you have paid.

Please note that the proposed development shall not be carried out unless the Board has approved it or approved it with conditions.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter, please do not hesitate to 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,

Aisling Reilly
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737131

JA02

Tel	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glao 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

The Secretary
An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

9th February 2024

Dear Sir or Madam,

Re: Drogheda & District Chamber submission on the Westgate Vision 2040

Drogheda & District Chamber welcome the proposal for the upgrading of the public realm indicated in the Westgate Vision 2040 plan. There are many good aspects to the plan but we would be grateful if the following potential issues and suggestions be considered:

- For the area to improve, it is important that the properties within the plan area are redeveloped. As many of these are in private ownership an incentive will be required as a catalyst to encourage development in accordance with the aspirations of the plan. The proposal should be expanded to include for the elimination of development contributions for developers operating within the plan design on properties located within the plan boundary;
- The use of corten steel in this urban area should be re-considered. As a rusting steel material it is appropriate when located within a soft landscaped area but in hard urban landscaping it will add to the dense of dereliction and will not encourage local adoption of the project and is difficult to maintain when subjected to graffiti. A sculpture (the wanderer) located on Dominic's bridge has received considerable local negative attention for the use of rusty steel;
- The positioning of a corten steel canopy in the old abbey is too hard and will detract from the existing structure, a canopy at this location would be beneficial but a softer option (tension structure or similar) should be considered;
- The use of exposed concrete sloping walls on Dominic Street should be reconsidered and a higher grade pallet of materials adopted as this is the entrance to the town centre for vistors from the north of the country;
- The water feature flowing from George's Street down to the suds feature should be reconsidered and possibly be created with a toughened glass cover or a pumped water supply otherwise it's urban location will make it difficult to prevent it becoming a polluted, littered drain;



**Drogheda
& District
Chamber**
Advancing business together

- The proposal should be expanded to include a floating pontoon on the river to encourage river leisure use;
- Consideration should be given to changing the wooden walkway to a recycled plastic walkway as the 1:20 slope will become quite slippery over time;
- The bus parking bays which were located on Fr. Connolly Lane have been removed, these are important for encouraging tourism to the town and should be relocated rather than removed; and
- The proposal should be integrated with the development proposals for Barlow house being driven by the Droichead Arts Centre and supported by Drogheda & District Chamber.

Yours faithfully,

Hubert Murphy

President

Drogheda & District Chamber 2023/24