Our Case Number: ACP-322958-25



Thomas & Anne Curley The Manse Northgate Street Athlone Westmeath

Date: 28 August 2025

Re: Athlone link road phase 2. Proposed link road, joining the Crescent Junction (R915) to Southern

Station Road Junction

Athlone, County Westmeath

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Coimisiún 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 note that the proposed development shall not be carried out unless the Commission has approved it with or without modifications.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Commission at <u>laps@pleanala.ie</u>

Please quote the above mentioned An Coimisiún Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Commission.

Yours faithfully,

Lauren Griffin **Executive Officer**

Direct Line: 01-8737244

AA02

Ríomhphost

Email

communications@pleanala.ie

The Manse
Northgate St
Athlone
Co Westmeath

26/08/25.

To: An Coimisiun Pleanála 64 Marlborough Street,

Rotunda

Dublin 1.

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Time	: 9.65 By: leg Pair

Re: Objection to proposed Athlone Link Road Phase 2

Case No. JP25M, 322958

Dear Sir/Madam

We wish to object to this application for the following reasons.

1. This road duplicates an already existing road and serves no meaningful purpose. It is intended to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion in town centre which in our opinion it will not do as congestion is not caused by the existing road. The proposed provision of a four-lane road in sections will create more traffic accessing an already busy crescent junction. It will do little to prioritise pedestrians and cyclists accessing transportation service.

2 Light and noise pollution will increase as new road results in us losing all trees in front of the house. These trees act as a sound barrier, thus noise from train station will also be more pronounced.

3 The proposed bus depot with 44 bays is being moved up opposite house which will result in buses being parked up close to one another and may present a fire risk as has been seen in other bus depots, and it is not clear from documentation submitted if fire risk assessment has been done, also it is unclear what restrictions will be in place that all washing and charging will be done during daylight hours.

In the interest of safety and wellbeing of residents and visitors to the area a controlled signal crossing needs to be provided for The Manse also.

4 The proposed site is a green field site that provides a safe habitat for many species of birds, insects, bats and small mammals. This habitat may provide birds with nesting possibilities and bats with somewhere to roost according to Ecological Impact Assessment. The site is also home to foxes, hedgehogs, ducks, moorhens, etc. which have been observed by all residents of the area. The destruction of this habitat will cause a significant and avoidable negative impact on local biodiversity, contrary to Wildlife Acts 1976-2018 and European Communities (Birds and natural Habitats) regulations 2011 (S1 477 of 2011) which afford protection to these species and their habitats. We are losing all trees and bushes in front of our house, many of which are native Irish hardwood, which are of great ecological value and go against The National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030.

The privacy that our family has enjoyed since 1963 will be totally lost. We will be more visible from this proposed road, cycleway, path, making us feel less secure with an increased risk of antisocial behaviour.

Should this road go ahead there will be a lot of disruption on our private road so we suggest all work should be carried out between 8am and 5pm. Absolutely no night work. All the residents on this private road have paid for maintenance, improvement, and upkeep, so road must be left in perfect condition afterwards.

To redress the balance of our uninterrupted existence pre new road we are seeking to get the following.

1 The existing boundary wall to be extended in height to act as noise barrier to reflect traffic noise. We propose a 3-meter wall.

- 2. Our house to be wrapped with high grade insulation, and new windows to be fitted with triple glazing to combat noise.
- 3. A comprehensive road construction programme is agreed with residents before work begins.
- 4 That a high -level noise- reducing surface for a speed limit of 50km/hr such as porous asphalt or Stone Mastic Asphalt, or its most contemporary equivalent is used to mitigate against any noise impact.

Thank you for considering our application.

Kind regards

Thomas Curley

Anne Curley



