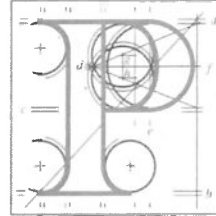


Our Case Number: ACP-323410-25



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Brid Kennedy
32 Monaleen Park
Castletroy
Co. Limerick

Date: 14 October 2025

Re: Proposed Limerick City Greenway (UL to NTP)
Within the townlands of Dromroe, Sreelane, Newcastle and Castletroy, Co. Limerick.

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Coimisiún Pleanála has received your recent submission (including your fee of €50) in relation to the above-mentioned proposed road development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

Please note that the proposed road development shall not be carried out unless the Commission has approved it or approved it with modifications.

If you have any queries in the mean time, please contact the undersigned officer of the Commission at laps@pleanala.ie

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

Yours faithfully,

Breda Ingle
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737291

HA02

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Glao Áitiúil	LoCall	1800 275 175
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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
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D01 V902	D01 V902

32 Monaleen Park
Castletroy
Limerick

7 October 2025

Regarding the proposed Limerick City Greenway (University of Limerick to National Technology Park) Project, within the townlands of Sreelane, Newcastle and Castletroy, County Limerick.

Case reference number: HA91.323410

To the Commissioners,

The riverbank at the University of Limerick is in a Special Area of Conservation and has legal protections conferred under the EU Habitats Directive which states initiatives that may have an adverse impact on the ecology of such an area should be avoided while steps should be taken to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest.

Given the supposed protection in place I was shocked to see the details of the Council's proposal for this area of outstanding natural beauty; a historic walk on the bank of the river Shannon with a complex and sensitive ecosystem.

Plassey Banks, as it is locally referred to, is a much loved country walk enjoyed by hundreds of walkers, runners and cyclists every day. Limerick Council's proposal, Limerick City Greenway (UL to NTP), will sweep away much of the historic planting which was laid out as allées of beech and Spanish chestnut trees in the late 18th or early 19th century as part of the enhancement of Plassey Park. The Council intends to replace this exceptionally beautiful woodland path on the banks of the Shannon with a tarmac road, a mixture of wooden and iron railings and various pieces of street furniture. It would be a shocking act of vandalism that would destroy the nature of the area.

From an ecological point of view, it is an incredible proposal; to remove more than sixty mature trees, some of it riparian woodland, carry out extensive groundwork and put a tarred road on the riverbank. The River Shannon is already suffering from poor water quality, and fish stock is decimated. A tarred road on the bank would create a toxic run off into the river every time it rains, creating substantial ongoing damage. This would also drive away birds, bats and other wildlife that live along the bank. The ecosystem would be irreparably damaged. The structural damage to the riverbank by the removal of more than sixty trees would be enormous; the riverbank floods every winter and the removal of such a quantity of trees would hugely increase the flooding. A surveyor working there more than a year ago told me he was assisting the Council with a plan for a flood defence barrier, a high mound of earth, which would go between the tarred road and the river. I gave it no credence at the time as I thought the Council had dropped the plan for the development but it would probably be necessary if the development goes ahead. It would result in the total obliteration of this treasured piece of nature that has survived on the edge of the city and the university.

The hundreds of people who walk, run and cycle there every day choose the riverbank because it is a country walk, they choose to be in nature for all the benefits it brings, physical and mental. The Council is now talking of creating "quiet places" elsewhere while they plan to completely destroy a treasured quiet place, important in the lives of huge numbers of people, that has changed little in two hundred years.

For the Council to claim they are carrying out this work to improve access is a nonsense. If the Council maintains the paths the area is accessible to everyone. The proposed vandalism would destroy everything about the area that makes it so attractive, it would no longer be a quiet place, a country walk, a treasure in the lives of so many people. The Council should instead aim to protect everything about the place that makes it so special and ensure it is saved for future generations.

See the photograph attached of part of the affected river walk, a large parliament of crows lives in these trees many of which would be removed and the crows and most other wildlife displaced.

This proposed development is for a piece of metropolitan transport infrastructure. Such infrastructure belongs in, or adjacent to, existing main transport routes as a complement to them rather than intensifying land use within or adjacent to SAC sites. The alluvial woodland that would be affected by this development is an annex habitat and is extremely important from a European conservation perspective.

This historic walk and its components will be entirely destroyed by this development. It is also entirely unnecessary; there are existing and recently upgraded active travel routes close by on Plassey Park Road, there is no requirement for this very damaging duplication. This development would entirely destroy the ambience of what is an extremely important amenity for the people of Castletroy, an amenity that already exists and is well-used.

I strongly recommend that you deny permission for this development which would cause enormous and irreversible damage to the local environment and negatively impact the quality of life of all the people who visit the riverbank every day.

Yours sincerely,

Bríd Kennedy





A milestone on the riverbank at UL since the mid eighteenth century showing on one side Limerick 2 miles, on the other Killaloe 10 miles, when the river was a main thoroughfare.



