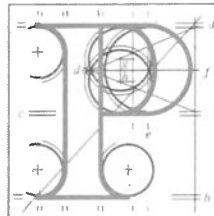


Our Case Number: ACP-323410-25



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Margaret and Noel Clarke
The Pyramids
Old Schoolhouse Road
Monaleen
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
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902

The Pyramids,
Old Schoolhouse Road
Monaleen,
Castletroy
Limerick

8 October 2025

Subject: Concerns Regarding the Proposed Limerick City Greenway (University of Limerick to National Technology Park) Project

Case Reference Number: HA91.323410

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the proposed Limerick City Greenway project, particularly in relation to its impact on the riverbank at the University of Limerick. As you may be aware, this area is part of a Special Area of Conservation, protected under the EU Habitats Directive. This means that projects which could harm the ecology of this sensitive environment should be avoided, and efforts should be made to maintain or restore the conservation status of its habitats and species.

With this legal protection in place, I was shocked to see the details of the proposed Greenway project, which will significantly alter this beautiful and historically important part of the city. The riverbank, locally known as **Plassey Banks**, is a beloved natural space enjoyed daily by walkers, runners, and cyclists. It's one of the few remaining areas where people can immerse themselves in nature, in a peaceful, unspoiled setting along the River Shannon.

Unfortunately, the Council's plans for this project would drastically change the character of the area. The proposal calls for the removal of much of the historic planting of beech and Spanish chestnut trees, which were originally laid out in the late 18th or early 19th century as part of the Plassey Park estate. The area's scenic, wooded path would be replaced with a widened tarmac surface, a mix of wooden and iron railings, and various pieces of street furniture. This would be an irreparable loss to both the natural beauty and historical significance of the space.

From an environmental perspective, the implications are even more troubling. Over **sixty mature trees** would be removed, including riparian woodland, and significant groundwork would be carried out along the riverbank. The River Shannon, already under strain from poor water quality and depleted fish stocks, would be further harmed by toxic runoff from the newly tarmac surface every time it rains. This could have devastating effects on the local wildlife, driving away birds, bats, and other species that rely on this area.

Moreover, the structural damage to the riverbank itself would be severe. The area is prone to flooding every winter, and removing these trees would make the flooding much worse. I was informed by a surveyor more than a year ago that the Council had considered building a flood defence barrier—a high mound of earth—between the tarred road and the riverbank. While I initially thought this was a dropped plan, it now seems likely that such a measure would be necessary if the project were to proceed.

The people who use this path every day do so because it offers a **natural, quiet escape**—a place to reconnect with nature and enjoy the benefits of being outdoors. The Council's proposal would

completely change that, turning a cherished, peaceful walk into an urbanised space that would no longer offer the same sense of calm or connection to nature.

For the Council to claim this project would improve access is simply not accurate. The current paths in the area, if maintained by the Council, are fully accessible to all. There is no need for a new development that would destroy the very essence of what makes this place so special. Rather than altering the landscape in such a harmful way, the focus should be on protecting and preserving this historic site for future generations.

Furthermore, this development appears to be primarily aimed at creating **metropolitan transport infrastructure**. Such infrastructure should be integrated into existing transport routes, not placed within or adjacent to ecologically sensitive areas like this Special Area of Conservation. The existing active travel routes on **Plassey Park Road** are more than adequate for the purposes of the Greenway, making this development both unnecessary and highly damaging.

In summary, I strongly urge you to **deny permission** for this project. The environmental harm and irreversible damage it would cause are too great. The local community, as well as the natural environment, would suffer greatly. I hope you will consider the long-term impacts on the people who use this space daily and the ecosystem that depends on it.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Kind regards,



Margaret and Noel Clarke