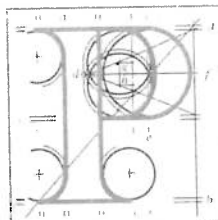


Our Case Number: ACP-323410-25



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

University of Limerick Postgraduate Student Union
c/o Saoirse McInerney
University of Limerick
Castletroy
Co. Limerick
V94 YN96

Date: 16 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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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 proposed development of a Greenway along the river Shannon cuts through the Lower River Shannon Special Area of Conservation (SPA 002165) and contains such habitats as 91EO forest, which are protected under Irish and EU law. We believe the potential for “medium-term biodiversity loss” and introduction of invasive species, as identified in the environmental impact assessment report (EIAR), makes the project not worth the risk, especially when there is already a cycle path in the area.

Maintenance and increasing accessibility of the existing path should be a priority, and not the construction of a new path which presents many environmental risks. While we admit that the current trail needs upkeep, we think this proposed development is a step too far and risks damaging the natural environment as enjoyed by our student body. The millions of euro going into this project could instead focus on flood-proofing the current trail, improving drainage or adding barriers. Some of the money could also go to other parts of the proposed Greenway, such as the Castleconnell direction route, which is currently much more underserved in regards to cycle infrastructure.

Building this new Greenway in a floodplain puts it at significant risk for damage that would not occur were it placed elsewhere. The EIAR highlights that drainage systems will be put into the path so to “ensure the path can be utilised as soon as possible after flood water levels drop after events”. This wording implies that this path will indeed be subject to flooding, which begs the question, why is so much money going into adding a path that will probably be unusable for a significant part of the year and will continue to be damaged by flooding as it ages? Especially when, as previously stated, there is already a path there that efforts could instead be put towards weather-proofing?

The removal of 61 trees from the area has the possibility to damage the bank. The roots of these trees are likely holding parts of the bank together and reducing the chance of flooding via absorption. It will be many years before the roots of the new-planted trees reach that



deep, which puts the structure of the bank in danger, and increases the risk of flooding. This also puts the important privately-owned structures alongside the river at higher risk of flooding.

The diverse birds and fish of the River Shannon, which can be seen from the living bridge, are often watched by students on breaks between classes. The possibility of heavy metals and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) leaching from the new tarmac path into the nearby river could cause significant illness and even death in these animals. These runoff chemicals could also cause damage further downstream. The river is already polluted from agricultural runoff, and this new path and its construction will add to this. Although the tarmac being used is porous, this does not fully prevent chemical runoff, particularly in relation to heavy metals and PAHs.

This river bank path has existed for 2 centuries and has long been an amenity enjoyed by students and the populations of Castletroy, Corbally and Limerick City in general. The beautiful built environment around it, such as Plassey Mills and the fishermen's cottages, provide important parts of cultural heritage. The EIAR reports that the area has high aesthetic and cultural value, and that the effect will be "significant" and "negative". Though it says these effects will only be temporary, we argue that there is potential for longer term impacts, as highlighted above.

The biodiversity of this area is one of its key strengths, as generations have enjoyed being in the natural environment. Wide, hardened trails have long term impacts on what vegetation can grow in the area.

We are asking for denial of permission for this development. We believe that would cause significant damage to the natural and cultural environment, which provides calm and solace to the student body at UL.

Sincerely,

University of Limerick Postgraduate Student Union Equality Team

Below are various pictures of nature by the river as seen from the Living Bridge, taken by UL students.

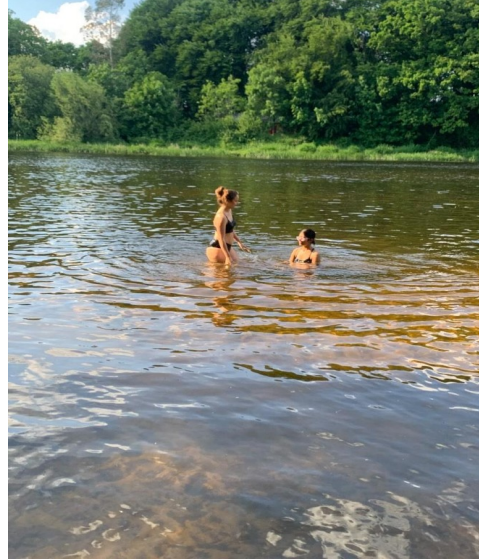


Postgraduate Students' Union,
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And below are images of UL Students enjoying the UL beach.



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