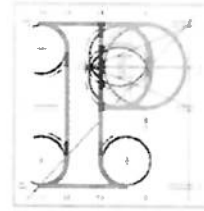


**Our Case Number:** ABP-317121-23



**An  
Bord  
Pleanála**

Bob Laird  
20 Greenlawns  
Skerries  
Co. Dublin  
K34 RW18

**Date:** 29 January 2024

**Re:** BusConnects Swords to City Centre Bus Corridor Scheme  
Swords to Dublin City Centre

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed road development. The contents of your letter have been noted.

If you have any queries in relation to this matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board at [laps@pleanala.ie](mailto:laps@pleanala.ie)

Please quote the above-mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

pp 

Breda Ingle  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: 01-873 7291

HA06

Teil	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaó Áitiúil	LoCall	1800 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	<a href="http://www.pleanala.ie">www.pleanala.ie</a>
Ríomhphost	Email	<a href="mailto:bord@pleanala.ie">bord@pleanala.ie</a>

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde  
Baile Átha Cliath 1  
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 V902

AN BORD PLEANÁLA  
LDG- \_\_\_\_\_  
ABP. 317121-23  
26 JAN 2024  
Fee: € \_\_\_\_\_ Type: \_\_\_\_\_  
Time: \_\_\_\_\_ By: Post

Bob Laird  
20, Greenlawns  
Skerries  
Co. Dublin K34RW18

23 January 2024

Ms Breda Ingle  
Executive Officer  
An Bord Pleanála  
64, Marlborough St.  
Dublin D01V902

Ref: ABP-317121-23

Dear Madam,

I thank you for your letter of 5 January.

I refer to Section 2.6.2 of the NTA response to the Swords BusConnects scheme submissions, the section that deals with my submission.

I note the responses in Sections 2.6.2.1, 2.6.2.2 and 2.6.2.3.

I note the response in Section 2.6.2.4, dealing with the removal of Stop 3671. I do not agree with the last paragraph in this commentary and I urge you to insist on the retention of this stop, for the reasons below.

I agree with the "best practice principles related to bus stop placement". I would argue that Stop 3671 conforms to these principles. Specifically, it is close to a main junction and close to (and of the exit side of) a pedestrian crossing. It also has a bus shelter. The only one of the 9 criteria that it does not have is "tail to tail".

I am arguing strongly that this stop needs to be retained, for the following reasons:

1. The recommended distance between bus stops is 400m. Based on the data provided by NTA, the distance between stops would be 825m, more than twice the recommended, if this stop was removed (550m + 275m).
2. The demand for use of this stop will increase once the BusConnects route changes happen. Currently, 40% of buses approach this stop on R132 (60% from airport). Under BusConnects 56% will approach this stop on R132 (44% from airport). So more airport users will not have a direct bus from the airport, but will need a bus on the R132.
3. There will be no buses to most parts of Swords from the airport, so airport staff and passengers will have the choice of taking a connecting service or using Stop 3671. There will be times when walking to this stop is a better option than taking a connecting service.

4. This stop is the most convenient on the A-Spine route if coming from Terminal 1, the office blocks or the hotels in the airport complex. Stop 3670 is more convenient from Terminal 2.
5. If a "best practice" principle is to locate bus stops "close to main junctions", why would you remove a stop that is the closest to the airport on the A-Spine route, and force people to walk an additional 275m along the route? That is a 3 minute walk, which gives a 25% chance of missing an A-Spine bus to Swords that would pass you by while trying to reach the stop.
6. This is the first location in which buses coming from the airport and those on the R132 merge, so it gives the best service to anyone coming from the airport, or its offices or hotels.
7. Removal of this stop would discourage some Swords residents from using the bus service to and from work and travel, thus running against the purpose of BusConnects.
8. Of course, the buses would travel faster if this stop were removed. You can make that argument about any stop. This stop is as important as any other due to its convenient location. It fills a gap and provides a service to airport users.
9. I myself have used this stop twice in the past year when arriving home from a trip abroad. In both cases, if this stop were not there, I would have faced a long delay to get a bus home. On one of these occasions, there were 6 of us, airport passengers and airport staff, who all would have faced a delay of one hour if that stop were not there. Similar issues will arise, maybe for different destinations, under the BusConnects plan.

I am strongly urging An Bord Pleanála to insist that this stop is retained as part of the planning for the Swords BusConnects corridor.

Yours Sincerely,

*Bob Laird*

Bob Laird