



ABP- 21 DEC 2018
Type: PND
By: Alan Curran
101 An Cinn Mór
Cnoc na Cathrach
Gaillimh

AN BORD PLEANÁLA

18 December 2018

FAO: Secretary
An Bord Pleanála

21 DEC 2018
LTR DATED FROM
LDG- 011068-18
ABP

N6 Galway City Ring Road/Protected Road/Motorway Scheme

I am a resident of Knocknacarra and parent of a young boy attending Gaelscoil Mhic Amhlaigh, Cnoc na Cathrach. On behalf of a group of parents, local residents, volunteers and schoolchildren, under the banner Bus Rothaíochta na Gaillimhe - Cnoc Na Cathrach, I wish to submit an observation regarding the above scheme and the associated Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). I request that an oral hearing be held into the EIAR and the associated scheme. I enclose a postal order to cover the observation fee.

Bus Rothaíochta na Gaillimhe is an initiative that involves adult volunteers accompanying children by bicycle to school along a set route, in this case between Cappagh Park and both Gaelscoil Mhic Amhlaigh and Knocknacarra National School. It follows a set timetable at agreed pick-up points along the Western Distributor Road. This enables children to engage in a healthy, sustainable way to get to school, in the absence of safe, separated cycling infrastructure. It is a great way for the children to be active, gain road safety skills and independence. It runs year-round, the first of its kind in Ireland.

It has been running since September 2018 and to date, over 750 trips have been made by children on the "bus", over 1,200 km. We hope that it will inspire others to follow suit.

We believe that the planners and designers did not fully consider the impact of the proposed N59 South Link Road configuration (part of the proposal) on Gaelscoil Mhic Amhlaigh. In particular the increased risk to the safety of those children walking or cycling to school in the presence of increased traffic, is either dismissed or simply not mentioned in the EIAR, in case of cycling. Some of this traffic is likely to include heavy goods vehicles.

In Chapter 4 of the EIAR "Alternatives Considered" a description of the route selection for a new link road which will link Gort na Bro Roundabout on the Western Distributor Road with the N6 junction (just north of Letteragh). The road

is referred to as the N59 Link Road as it continues northwards to the N59 (joining near St James' Church, Bushy Park) and thus gives access from the N59 to the N6. On the southern side of the N6 in Knocknacarra, the N59 Link Road South will subsume Miller's Lane/Gort na Bró Road and cross Rahoon Road carrying on through Bóthar Dhiarmada.

Gaelscoil Mhic Amhlaigh was recently re-located and new buildings constructed with nearly 600 students attending at the new location from January 2018. See Figure 1 for location of Gaelscoil Mhic Amhlaigh and the southern end of the N59 Link Road South. Note that the school location is not indicated on the original map.

The N59 Link Road South was originally to be routed via Bóthar Stiofáin but was diverted to the route described. The reasons for this re-routing are given below (from page 169 of EIAR Chapter 4 as above):

"The direct connection of the N59 Link Road South to Bóthar Stiofáin was removed and redirected to Gort na Bró Road. This alteration was incorporated into the design as it is a more appropriate connection point for the following reasons:

- Eliminates the conflict between direct accesses from existing homes and traffic accessing the proposed road development*
- Minimises impacts on homes on Bóthar Stiofáin*
- Separates heavy goods vehicles accessing the Galway West Retail Park from the local movements and vulnerable road users directly accessing onto Bóthar Stiofáin"*

These points, and in particular the last appear to be a considerable oversight: that Gaelscoil Mhic Amhlaigh has its principal access points, including for walking and cycling, and on both the Western and Eastern sides, between the Galway Retail Park and direct access to the N6 and the N59 along the very link road that is openly admitted here will experience more traffic, conflicting with local access, which is likely to include heavy goods vehicles accessing the Galway West Retail Park (currently being expanded) to the proposed N6 GCRR.

An additional consideration is that the N59 Link Road would provide a new "attractive" more direct driving route between Knocknacarra and the N59 and onto Moycullen. It's likely it will also see increased car traffic as a result of journeys from Salthill, Knocknacarra and surrounds to Moycullen and vice versa.

The planned road will also directly impact the nature and volume of other roads used by children travelling to school including the Cappagh, Ballymoneen and Clybaun Roads. We feel the nature of these impacts should be explored in more detail to establish the suitability of these routes for such traffic.

We believe that there are more effective and less disruptive interventions than the current proposal, which could reduce delays for the Galway and Knocknacarra public in getting to work and school. Much of the morning car traffic near Gaelscoil Mhic Amhlaigh and Knocknacarra National School consists of parents driving their children to school. Better, safer infrastructure for cycling and walking, and provision of affordable, tailored school bus services would alleviate car congestion and improve the environment for our children.

If other parents were aware of such detail in the planned scheme, we believe they would have similar concerns regarding the safety and health of their children.

An oral hearing is the best way to explore these concerns and establish the correctness of the proposals being made by the applicant.

Yours Faithfully,

P.P. Neil O'Leary

Alan Curran

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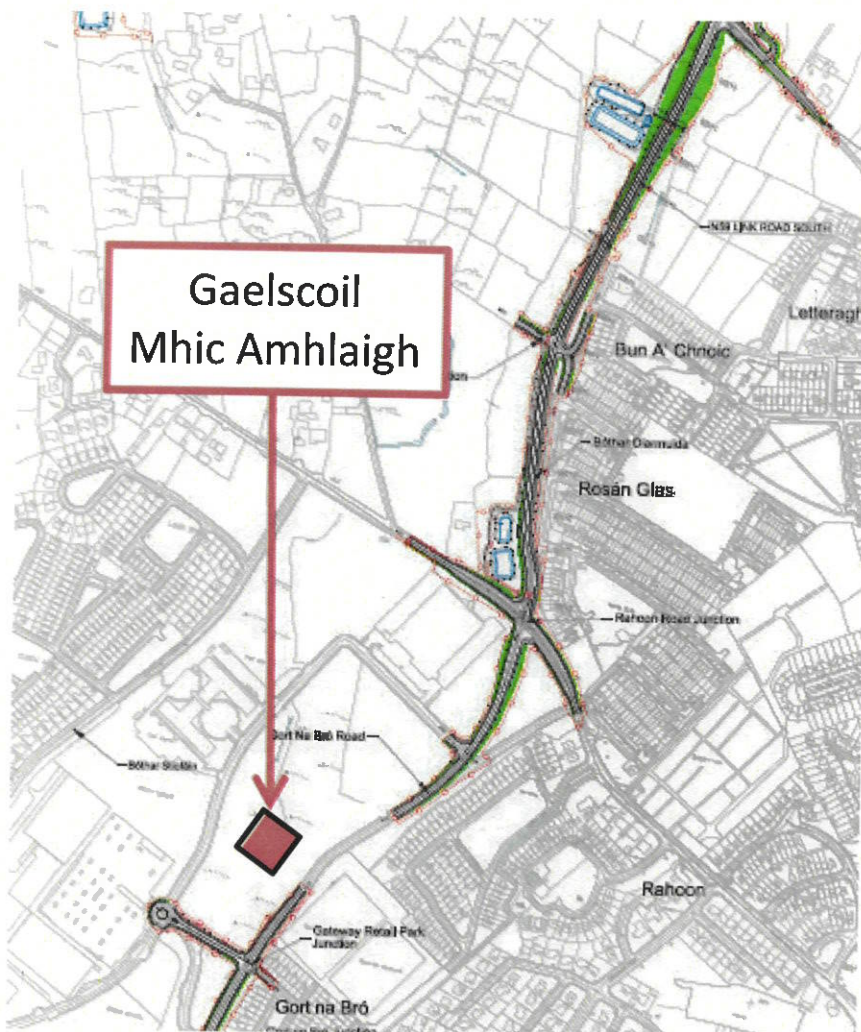


Figure 1. The proposed route of the N59 Link Road connecting Knocknacarra to the N6 GCR junction north of Letteragh, and travelling onwards to the N59 road toward Moycullen.

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