

AN BORD PLEANÁLA
LDG- 011129-18
ABP- _____
20 DEC 2018
Fee: € 30 Type: _____
Time: 9.00 By: posr

2 Bushypark Lawns
Circular Road
Galway

16th December 2018

To whom it may concern,

We wish to formally object to the proposed routing of the N6 Galway City Ring Road. We do so on two grounds: due to its proximity to the city, being within the city limits; and its routing through the Dangan area, incorporating the NUI Galway sports campus (the Regional Sports Centre), and associated woodland and riverbank.

Road planning should be future proofed and with the population of Galway set to grow by at least 50%, as per Ireland 2040, in the next 20 years, the city limits will need to expand. We acknowledge that between the lake to the northwest and Galway Bay to the south that it is difficult to find a suitable crossing point. However, there is still room further north of the proposed route that, with the inevitable continued residential development in the future, would ensure this bridge would not become just another city crossing, but truly be a ring road as proposed.

With regards to the proposed route crossing through Dangan and the NUI Galway campus, it is clear that Galway City Council has given no regard to the need for and benefits of green and blue space in our urban environment. While we appreciate the City Council's involvement in the planting of Terryland Forest Park, named as the green lungs of the city, this project has very limited access in terms of parking, and on site facilities. Equally, there had been plans to build a new road through the forest park, further showing lack of regard for the importance of green space in our city by the council. Given that Galway was named a European Green Leaf City in 2018, this seems contradictory to the image Galway City Council wishes to portray to Europe and the broader community. "Urban green space is an important investment that local authorities can make of behalf of their citizens and their well-being." Published by the WHO in their document, Urban Green Spaces: a brief for action (2017).

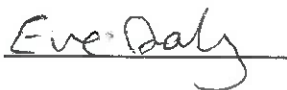
There has been much research into the importance of green and blue space for our mental and physical well-being. NEAR Health NUIG is a current research project, funded by the EPA and HSE, which is looking at the importance of these spaces to attain and restore health. The Children and Nature Network share papers on the many benefits of these spaces for child development and health and well-being, for example, "Using nature and outdoor activity to improve children's health" McCurdy et al. (2010), and "A systematic review of the psychological, social and educational outcomes associated with participation in wildland recreational activities" Holland et al. (2017).

In terms of open green space available to the public with many walkways through wooded and grassland areas, all along the banks of the river Corrib, and with excellent sporting facilities, Dangan is a unique resource west of the Shannon. NUI Galway should be commended on their work over the past 50 years in providing this space free of charge to the people of Galway. Dangan offers many opportunities to connect with nature, for example, the Biodiversity Trail that is designed to guide the public through the natural habitats that co-exist along the banks of the river Corrib. This free educational tool provides for nature connection which has been proven internationally to foster stewardship of the environment. "No one will protect what they don't care about; and no one will care about what they have never experienced." David Attenborough

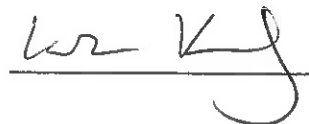
EIS Chapter 18 admits there will be long term negative amenity impact, that sports facilities and recreational lands, including woodland and riverbank, will be severely impacted, yet it does not properly investigate the impacts on human physical health, mental health and well-being nor community severance. Surely a study of this nature should be undertaken before any application can be considered.

We ask that An Bord Pleanála refuse to approve this proposed routing on the above grounds. Options must be considered to improve traffic in the city but not at the expense of human health, and the loss of green and blue space. We ask that other options such as a Corrib Tunnel, a revised routing e.g. GCOB 2006 crossing, and/or other engineering solutions be considered.

Yours sincerely,



Eve Daly



Laura Kennedy

