

Galway AAI County Board

c/o 2nd Floor, Mayoralty House, Flood Street, Galway

The Secretary,

An Bord Pleanála,

64 Marlborough Street,

Dublin 1

19/12/2018

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
LDG- <u>011070-18</u>	<u>D3</u>
ABP- _____	
21 DEC 2018	
Fee: € <u>50.00</u>	Type: <u>PMJ</u>
Time: <u>9.30</u>	By: <u>Reg Post</u>

Re N6 Galway City Ring Road Motorway Scheme 2018 and Protected Road Scheme 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

We Galway Athletics County Board (Galway AAI) wish to submit our views on the proposed routing of the N6 Galway City Ring Road. Galway athletics governs Athletics in the county and has over 4,000 members, many of whom use these facilities at Dangan, both on the track and also on the wider sports facilities on the sports campus.

We have serious concerns at the route impact as proposed that routes through the Dangan area and in particular the route crossing through the Dangan Sports Grounds and NUI campus. This route would severely impact the sports facilities and amenities of the area.

We are obliged to formally object to the removal and loss of vital Recreation and Amenity lands at NUI Galway's sports facilities in Dangan and the permanent negative impact of a massive infrastructure project on the beauty and amenity of the Dangan area. These lands are the finest amenity in the city, thanks to the good work of NUI Galway over the last 50 years. These are made available and widely used by the people of Galway in their thousands weekly and by sports clubs and teams from across the Country. The sports facilities include the Regional Sports Centre, (encompassing running track and hockey pitch, rugby, GAA and soccer pitches, and miles of running and walking trails. The grounds are used by athletics clubs such as Galway City Harriers, (The largest in Ireland) and by NUIG Athletics Club, by many other sports clubs and training camps and by the local and wider Galway community for walking and other recreation. Major events such as the NUI Galway 8k, Galway Athletics races, Triathlons and Duathlons, and Galway track and field competitions are held on these grounds regularly. The lands are zoned recreational and amenity for a reason and should not be used for any other purpose. and certainly not have a national motorway routing both directly through and over the area.

We note that there are other proposals impacting recreation and amenity land in Galway City. These include the Merlin Wood site for Galway Hospice, the proposed bus corridor at Shantalla recreation park, and the sale of Galwegians grounds for housing. The loss of any recreation and amenity land in the city is not acceptable, not good planning and Bord Pleanala should consider this in the broader Galway City planning context.

We note that there will be a substantial negative impact on Sports Clubs in Galway and on Athletics clubs in both the medium-term construction phase i.e. 2-3 years, and importantly in the long term due to the lost footprint of pitches, running and walking trails, and the lack of any provision whatsoever in terms of replacement of same in the medium term.

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The planning application submitted does not take proper account of the severe impact on human health as a result of Loss of Amenity lands, Community severance i.e. the impact on Sports clubs and teams that use the NUI Galway sports campus and will now be without vital training and meeting facilities; and the reduced opportunity for Physical Activity due to the severe and profound impact on the Sports campus, the river walks and the general natural beauty and amenity of the area. The negative impact on Mental Health and general wellbeing on people due to the closure and limited access for many years to the sports campus and Dangan area and the profound negative change a motorway will have on these lands long term has not been assessed whatsoever. The EIS Chapter 18 admits there will be long term negative amenity impact, that sports facilities and recreational lands will be severely impacted, yet does not properly investigate the impacts on Human Physical health, mental health, wellbeing nor community severance as a proper study should. A thorough health economics-based study, cost benefit analysis and relevant studies would be the minimum required

We ask that An Bord Pleanála reject this proposed routing. Options must be considered to improve traffic in the City but not at the expense of Human Health, Sports facilities and vital Recreation and Amenity lands. These lands are the finest sports facilities and public amenities in Galway, are irreplaceable and damaging these will damage the city, the general public and the health and wellbeing of the population in the medium and long term.

We hereby urge the Board to favour our proposal and will welcome an oral hearing to state our case.

Yours faithfully



Brian Bruton

Chair

