

5th December 2018

An Bord Pleanála

Strategic Infrastructure Division

64 Marlborough Street

Dublin 1

D01 V902

OBJECTION

Dear Sir

Re: N6 Galway City Ring Road Motorway Scheme 2018

We write this letter as the owners of 13 The Heath, Circular Road, Galway to formally object to the proposal for the above route as recently presented to you by the Galway County Council and Galway City Council.

Our objections are based on the following comments which relate to the overall plans for the City Ring Road (formerly known as the Galway City Bypass) and to the specific section affecting the residential development of The Heath.

Our comments are as follows:

- Whilst we have been informed that the Ring Road is part of an integrated transport plan for the City of Galway we cannot accept that this road will resolve the serious traffic problems of Galway. Very limited access points on and off the Ring Road are planned which will result in commuter traffic in and out of the city continuing to experience major logjams at peak times.
- 2. An efficient bus route network is still urgently required. This should include an adequate number of buses of varying sizes to suit the routes.
- 3. A light railway such as Luas should be considered.
- 4. Enclosed bus shelters should be provided which could be funded by advertising and would encourage commuters during the winter months.
- 5. The original plan for the Galway City Bypass was rejected due to a number of issues which included the possibility of damage to an area of limestone paving. We are surprised to learn that there are similar areas of limestone paving on the current proposed route and that the

- plan calls for a tunnel under these areas. We believe that this will still present a threat to the limestone paving.
- 6. A bridge over the River Corrib is planned in an area of outstanding natural beauty close to Menlo Castle. As an oarsman, both in my days as a schoolboy at Colaiste lognaid and now as a guest member of the Tribesmen Rowing Club, I strongly object to the spoiling of this beautiful stretch of river.
- 7. The route will then continue through the NUIG playing fields some of which will have to be removed for the proposed Ring Road.
- 8. We have been informed by Arup that the motorway status has been downgraded to that of a dual carriageway. Therefore we propose that should the Ring Road still proceed, a traffic light junction should be created where the link road meets the N 59 instead of the planned flyover west of Circular Road.
- 9. This proposal would then remove the need for the major junction with ramps off Circular Road and for the link road back down to the N59 near Bushypark Church.
- 10. A link road connection back to the N59 will create major traffic on Circular Road. This road is not equipped to handle such traffic.
- 11. Furthermore as the Ring Road has been downgraded to a dual carriageway we do not see the need for the proposed link roads serving the grade separated N59 Letteragh Junction or indeed the junction itself.
- 12. The next point of concern is that the route passes too close to the Bushypark National School and will be a major source of pollution which will affect the health of pupils and staff.
- 13. We further propose that the route does not need to go through the scenic hill at the western end of The Heath. As it is now a dual carriageway surely it can go around the back of the hill where there is no residential development.
- 14. Points 8, 9, 10 and 11 would offer significant cost savings should legitimate objections be overruled.

Finally, we further object to the proposed CPO relating to the acquisition of the roadways through The Heath in order to provide a right of way for a land owner whose property will be divided by the proposed N6 Ring Road. The Heath is a residential development established in 1992 and the layout of its internal roads is in no way suitable for agricultural traffic. It would be unsafe and would present a real threat to the safety of the residents of The Heath.

A cheque in respect of the Objection fee of Euros 50 is enclosed.

We trust that the above comments and objections will be seriously considered by An Bord Pleanála and that you will reject the Proposal for the N6 Ring Road in its entirety.

Yours dincerely,

Gerald Lawless

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