

AN BORD PLEANÁLA
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 ABP- _____
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No.7 Ard An Locha,
 Bushypark,
 Galway.

17th December 2018

An BORD PLEANALA
 Strategic Infrastructure Division
 64 Marlborough Street,
 Dublin 1.

**Re : Submission on application ref 07.302848 - N6 Galway City Ring Road
 Motorway Scheme**

Dear Sir /Madam

I write on behalf of my wife Margaret, myself and our family to convey our deepest concerns on the impact of the above project on our lives and on our property.

We have lived here at No. 7 Ard an Locha in an idyllic situation for the past FIFTEEN YEARS. During that time our children have grown up and completed their education while living in the peaceful surroundings of our home, and we had hoped that this would continue perhaps for the next generation. Having moved throughout the country over the years because of the demands of my work, it was and is our fervent hope that we would remain settled here to live out the remainder of our days in peace and comfort.

It is no exaggeration to say that this hope has been absolutely shattered by the plans of Galway County Council and its partner agencies to drive this irresponsible road project through our tranquil neighbourhood.

At the highest and most general level it is impossible to understand how the original scheme proposed back in 1999 could have been abandoned because of its impact on inanimate and arguably unimportant items such as bog cotton and limestone pavement in favour of the current scheme which see no difficulty in removing 42 family homes and irreparably damaging countless others. How many individual lives are seriously disrupted and permanently damaged by this cavalier project? What of the mental health of the individuals and families so gravely affected? Can anyone say that some of these will not be damaged beyond repair or healing?

It is our view that those responsible for conceiving and implementing schemes such as this are enabled (perhaps encouraged) by a raft of European law and regulation to savage the human environment in favour of the "natural" one. Surely this cannot be right particularly in view of current national concern with the disimproving physical and mental health of the population. It is extraordinary that none of the cost benefit or environmental impact assessment studies carried out at great expense for this scheme address this most important, serious and long term impact.

In our own case, the entire family has been upset and worried since the scheme was first proposed some SIX years ago. Our concerns are not just at the impact on our own property but also at the devastating impact on our friends and neighbours. EIGHT of our neighbouring families are set to be removed (effectively evicted) from their homes and in most cases their houses are set to be demolished, while several hundred other families will be severely impacted by the scheme. This will destroy our local community and will sever it psychologically in so many ways.

While no part of our family home is being acquired for the scheme, we will nevertheless suffer severe impacts in terms of visual intrusion, noise, air quality, probable loss of light, loss of amenity, disturbance and economic loss.

At present we are set back among our neighbours from the existing N59 in a maturing landscape, and are hardly aware of passing traffic. The proposed scheme will drive a massive dual carriage way right by our house. The prevailing winds will carry exhaust fumes, engine and road noise directly to our house. The screening measures proposed to abate noise impact are derisory and will in themselves create a serious adverse visual impact.

The peaceful setting of our home will be forever changed very much for the worse. The disruption caused by the construction phase of the project is unquantifiable, but will be severe and will last for years. The approach to the city will change from its present pleasant aspect to an unpleasant urban landscape with a large and noisy carriage way looming over the present N59.

In our view, it will be impossible to compensate us for the damaging effect of all of these impacts. Who can be made happy to accept such uninvited devastation foisted upon them? Money cannot deal with such deeply felt physical and emotional impacts.

If our family were to consider selling our property in order to leave this desolation, who will buy our property? We are reliably informed that, leaving aside the effect of the property crash and inflation, the impact of the proposed scheme is likely to reduce the market value of our house by 50%

We know that we can employ experts to validate all of the impacts listed above, and we are reserving our right to take whatever action deemed necessary to protect our rights and the rights of our neighbours in the future.

In conclusion, please accept our deep seated and vehement objection to this project in terms of its impact on our property and family and also on the wider impacts, practicality and sustainability of the entire project.

Signed: John Hughes
John Hughes

Signed: Margaret Hughes
Margaret Hughes

ENCLOSURE : FEE €50 -