

Planning application reference – N6 Galway City Ring Road Motorway Scheme 2018

Ref no. 657 and 613

Sharon Morris and Edward O'Reilly,

The Cottage and Hazel Grove,

Ballindooley,

Headford Rd.,

Galway.

<b>AN BORD PLEANÁLA</b>	
LDG-	<u>010901-18</u>
ABP-	
<b>17 DEC 2018 LC</b>	
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To whom it may concern,

We would like to express our worry and concern regarding the proposed N6 Galway City Ring Road Motorway Scheme 201813.

The impact of this road is catastrophic for us, our children, and animals.

We are losing our home, a second house and a site. We are losing our garden, our Robins, our privacy. We are losing our neighbours and community. We are losing our heritage and our family identity.

Not only are we losing our home we are losing a second investment property that had been bought with a view to looking after parents in their old age. Sadly, we lost a grandfather last year so should planning be granted we are also faced with the dilemma of finding a second house that will be suitable to look after our extended family in the coming years as they needs more care. We are also losing a site in an urban environment that would have been suitable for development by a family member in the future, this poses a huge loss and is very distressing to us.

It is a huge stress on us and our children. I fear for our emotional health and wellbeing. They frequently ask us when we will have to leave our house, garden, fairy forest, tree houses, football pitch. We had attempted to shelter them for the whole debacle years ago but sadly one of their friends in the GAA club told them their house would be knocked down for the new road.

As parents, this is a very stressful issue to manage due to the lack of any timeframes, the enduring nature of the process, the huge public interest in it and the divisive nature of the whole project. Positive on one hand to help with planning infrastructure for traffic management and growth of the city into the future, but negative on the other hand due to its impact on our family and community. It is difficult to explain to children that losing their home is in the interest of the greater good, they just don't have the same comprehension and ability to rationalise as we adults do. Examples of their big fears and stresses are that they will not have a garden where they can play football, their pets and animals may get lost when we move house, our lovely neighbours who mind our animals when we are away will not be there anymore, they won't get to go on the school bus with their friends. It is difficult to maintain a sense of stability for them with the impending traumatic loss of our home.

There is an unbelievable lack of compassion or concern for the human condition. We have had a bat specialist visit 3 times to assess flight paths and make a plan for provision of suitable accommodation in the event of a dwelling house they reside in being removed. Sadly, no such concern for our four children aged 12, 10, 8 and 6.

It is with a heavy heart that I look at the distress that this has imposed on my community of aging neighbours. It has impacted on their mental health, it has quenched their spirit for looking forward to the future, this has been replaced with uncertainty, dread, fear and worry.

There has been no interest or engagement to plan any solution for our community of eleven homes. We see consultation and concern for the Galway Race Course, for the NUIG pitches in Dangan, for the bats, but sadly no such consult on facilitation of a new village, no attempt to source or offer sites on which to re build in our area. In fact, our neighbours whom recently sought clarification on their planning entitlement have been told they will not have a housing need in the County of Galway, we are currently restricted to planning within the city boundary. I struggle to see how we will source sites in the area at an affordable rate and fear that we will all be in a bidding war, driving up prices, pitting us against each other in the open market.

The blunt instrument of CPO allows a legal basis to take us out. The lack of support and engagement thus far is a stark reminder of where we lie as a priority in this process. We object to this process on the basis of public health and feel that the above statement clearly outlines this.



Sharon Morris and Edward O'Reilly



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