

Grainne Ni Mhuiri and others
9 Garran Ghleanntan na hAbhann
Baile Phama
Dublin 20

Date: 8th February 2023

Re: BusConnects Lucan to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme
Lucan to Dublin City Centre

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent submission (including your fee of €50) in relation to the above-mentioned proposed road development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

Please note that the proposed road development shall not be carried out unless the Board has approved it or approved it with modifications.

If you have any queries in the mean time, please contact the undersigned. Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Doina Chiforescu
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737133

Teil	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaó Áitiúil	LoCall	1800 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902

To: The Secretary
An Bord Pleanála
Strategic Infrastructure Division
64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
LDG-	060323-23
ABP-	314942-22
09 JAN 2023	
Fee: €	50
Type:	cash
Time:	17:04
By:	hand

9 Eanáir 2023

Bus Connects – Lucan to City Centre Scheme

A Chara

We wish to make the following observations on the above scheme. We live in Riversdale estate on the west side of Palmerstown Village – and we wish to object to the totally unnecessary upheaval that will be caused to the quality of life of the people of Palmerstown Village on the north side of the R148 and to the people of the greater Palmerstown area on the south side of the R148 due to the changes being proposed by this scheme.

BUS SERVICE

At the moment the bus service in Palmerstown is fairly satisfactory:

- (1) All the C-Spine routes run along the R148, via the Palmerstown and Chapelizod Bypasses, and directly in to the City Centre and onwards to Ringsend/Sandymount.

THIS IS A VERY SATISFACTORY SERVICE FOR THE MOST PART.

- (2) The 18 bus runs from the furthest point west of the Village (Hollyville, old Lucan Road) to Sandymount via Kennelsfort Road, Ballyfermot, Crumlin Childrens Hospital, Rathmines etc. It serves residents of Riversdale estate (100 houses), Riverside estate, Hollyville Lawns, Hollyville, Robin Villas (another 100+ houses). It also serves service users and staff of Stewartscare working in the Old Beehive Restaurant, the Jass Hub, the CoachHouse etc; Residents of Riversdale House (Simon Community Care Home for the Elderly); future residents of proposed SDCC Independent Living for Older Persons units at Hollyville; Mass goes to St Philomena's RC Church; attendees at St Thomas Indian Orthodox Church; customers to ALDI, Palmerstown Pharmacy, Palmerstown Veterinary Hospital, The Gas Company; and workers in Palmerstown Business Park and Kennedy Steel Ltd.

THIS SERVICE IS BEING REMOVED UNDER THE ABOVE SCHEME – WITH NO REPLACEMENT – MEANING THAT 75% OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE ARE MORE THAN 400m FROM THE NEAREST BUS STOP – AND THAT MANY VULNERABLE PEOPLE WILL NOW HAVE TO TAKE 2 OR 3 BUSES TO COMPLETE THEIR JOURNEYS.

(3) The 26 bus (to be No 80 under the new scheme) presently starts at Liffey Valley S.C. and travels via Coldcut Road, down Kennelsfort Road Upper, turning right onto the R148, down through Chapelizod, and on into the City Centre via Conyngham Rd/ Parkgate Street, along the Quays and terminating at Merrion Square.

Since the new Route 26 Timetable Enhancements were introduced by TFI In November 2021, this has been a satisfactory service for the most part – but as Covid 19 restrictions were eased over the last year the numbers of passengers using this bus have increased.

The vehicular traffic on this route has also increased for the same reason – which results in buses being delayed en route to Palmerstown from Liffey Valley and also being quite full when they arrive in Palmerstown (especially at peak times).

The traffic on Kennelsfort Road is frequently backed up, back as far as the entrance to Woodfarm Acres estate and further, due to the sequencing of traffic lights on the R148 junction – which only allows 4 or 5 vehicles through at a time.

THE ABOVE SCHEME NOW PROPOSES TO ADD ANOTHER SECTION ON TO THE 26 (aka 80) ROUTE, BRINGING IT ACROSS THE R148 ONTO KENNELSFORT ROAD LOWER, TURNING RIGHT ONTO OLD LUCAN ROAD AND EXITING AT THE EAST SIDE OF THE VILLAGE BACK ONTO THE R148 TO CONTINUE ITS JOURNEY VIA CHAPELIZOD INTO THE CITY CENTRE.

GIVEN THAT IT WILL HAVE TO PASS THROUGH A PROPOSED 3 SETS OF PEDESTRIAN LIGHTS IN THE VILLAGE AND VIE WITH INCREASING TRAFFIC IN THE VILLAGE, DUE TO THE 250 APPARTMENTS PRESENTLY BEING BUILT AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE VILLAGE, THE JOURNEY TIME OF THIS BUS WILL BE GREATLY INCREASED – WHICH WILL BE A HUGE DISINCENTIVE TO ANYONE WISHING TO USE IT TO GET TO TOWN BY BUS.

THERE IS REALLY NO NECESSITY TO DIVERT THIS BUS THROUGH THE VILLAGE – THERE ARE ONLY APPROX 45 HOUSES ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE VILLAGE – AND THE RESIDENTS THERE AS WELL AS STAFF FROM STEWARTSCARE HAVE EASY ACCESS (ONLY A SHORT WALK) TO EITHER OF TWO BUS STOPS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE R148 WHICH IS SERVED VERY WELL BY THE MANY C-SPINE ROUTES.

BTW STEWARTSCARE IS NOT A GENERAL HOSPITAL – IT IS A CARE SERVICE FOR INTELLECTUALLY CHALLENGED ADULTS AND CHILDREN.

WHO WOULD BE BOTHERED WAITING IN THE VILLAGE FOR ONE UNRELIABLE BUS – WHEN THERE IS A CHOICE OF ALL THE C-SPINE BUSES 5 MINUTES WALK AWAY OUT ON THE R148??

TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN THE VILLAGE

As long-time residents of Palmerstown with family and friends living in the greater Palmerstown area on both sides of the R148, on a daily basis, we cross back and forward up to 3 or 4 times a day from one side to the other – sometimes walking but mostly by car (as we are in our late 50s/60s we are not likely to get back up on a bike at this stage!)

Traffic in the Village is often congested (especially at peak times) or when there is a funeral in the Church, due to the sequencing of the traffic lights at both the Kennelsfort junction exit and the AppleGreen exit onto the R148 which only allows a limited number of vehicles to exit at a time. This problem will be exacerbated as the 250 apartments being built at the entrance to the Village come into use – as they will have to exit left and go down through the Village to exit onto the R148 at AppleGreen junction.

THE PROPOSED INFRASTRUCTURE CHANGES IN THE ABOVE SCHEME, DUE TO THE DEDICATED TWO-WAY CYCLE LANE BEING INSTALLED AND THE PROPOSED VERTICAL PARKING AT RED COW AND WOODFARM COTTAGES, IS GOING TO NARROW THE ROAD WIDTH WHICH WILL LEAD TO ADDITIONAL TRAFFIC CONGESTION.

IN ADDITION, IF DOUBLE-DECKER BUSES ARE ROUTED THROUGH THE VILLAGE EVERY 15 MINUTES IN BOTH DIRECTIONS, THIS WILL SURELY ADD TO THE CONGESTION.

LIVING IN RIVERSDALE ESTATE WE WILL EFFECTIVELY BE LOCKED IN – OR VERY FRUSTRATED AS WE TRY TO NEGOTIATE TRAVELLING AROUND PALMERSTOWN TO GO ABOUT OUR DAILY LIVES.

CYCLING THROUGH THE VILLAGE

Presently, cyclists coming off the bridge across the M50 have a safe and easy passage through the Village along the old Lucan Road, and on down into Chapelizod (and vice versa on the return journey).

THE PROPOSED TWO-WAY CYCLE TRACK IS AN EXPENSIVE AND UNNECESSARY PIECE OF INFRASTRUCTURE – AND IT WILL DO NOTHING TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE OF CYCLISTS PASSING THROUGH PALMERSTOWN VILLAGE.

PARKING IN THE VILLAGE

At the moment, on-street parking in the Village is at a premium, especially the non-metered sections – being used by those who come in to the Village to work, as well as by those who use it as a Park 'n Ride facility. Also, when the 250-apartment complex at the entrance to the Village is completed, there will be an increased demand for parking – as the number of parking places provided within that complex is inadequate.

REDUCING THE NUMBER OF PARKING PLACES IN THE VILLAGE WILL ADD TO THIS PROBLEM.

ALSO, THE ASSERTION THAT THERE ARE 3 CAR PARKS IN THE VILLAGE IS FLAWED – THESE CAR PARKS ARE PRIVATELY OWNED I.E. BY THE CHURCH, BY ALDI AND BY THE PALMERSTOWN HOUSE PUB.

BUS SERVICE AND TRAFFIC ON THE R148

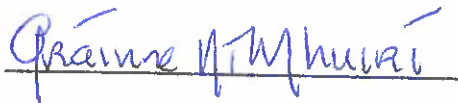
As it stands, the traffic (including buses) inbound in the morning and outbound in the evening comes to a standstill on the R148/Palmerstown By-Pass due to the two sets of traffic lights at the Oval junction and the Kennelsfort junction. From as early as 3pm the

outbound traffic towards the M50 and the N4 from the city centre is backed down far beyond the Chapelizod By-Pass.

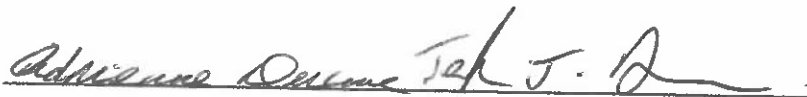
- (1) THE PROPOSAL IN THE ABOVE SCHEME TO INSTALL A STAGGERED TOUCAN CROSSING UNDER THE FOOTBRIDGE AT THE KENNELSFORT JUNCTION WILL ADD TO THE TRAFFIC BUILD-UP.
- (2) THE REMOVAL OF THE BUS STOP (OUTBOUND) AT THE CIRCLE K SERVICE STATION (WHICH HAS PEDESTRIAN ACCESS TO PALMERSTOWN DRIVE) WILL INCONVENIENCE COMMUTERS NOT JUST ON THE DRIVE, BUT THOSE LIVING ON CULMORE ROAD, GLENAULIN ROAD, GLENMAROON ROAD ETC (aka the cell of Palmerstown)
- (3) THE REMOVAL OF THE LEFT TURN FILTER FROM THE R148 (OUTBOUND) INTO THE OVAL WILL CAUSE A DANGEROUS SITUATION – WITH THOSE WISHING TO TURN LEFT HAVING TO CROSS THE BUS LANE.
- (4) THE RATIONALE OF REMOVING FILTERS / SLIP ROADS ONTO THE R148 AT BOTH JUNCTIONS IS NOT CLEAR – FILTERS THAT WERE INSTALLED SOME YEARS AGO TO ALLEVIATE THE TRAFFIC BUILD-UP ON KENNELSFORT ROAD UPPER AND AT THE OVAL. IT SEEMS TO US THAT THIS PROPOSAL WILL UNDO THE SOLUTION TO TRAFFIC CONGESTION WITHIN PALMERSTOWN, THAT WAS ARRIVED AT BY SDCC IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMUNITY MORE THAN 20 YEARS AGO.
- (5) THE PROPOSED RIGHT-TURN ON THE R148 (OUTBOUND) AT THE APPLGREEN JUNCTION TO FACILITATE THE 80 BUS ENTERING THE VILLAGE WILL ALSO CAUSE TRAFFIC TO BACK UP BEHIND IT ON THE R148.

In conclusion, we would ask An Bord Pleanála, to request Bus Connects to revisit their plans for Palmerstown, in particular as they effect Palmerstown Village where we live – to take into account the detrimental affects their plans will have on the lived experience of us as residents. There is no demonstrated demand for the 26/80 bus to go through the Village – nor is there a need for the two-way cycle lane. We feel these plans will set our living conditions back at least twenty years to when we were locked in to our estate by traffic congestion along the old Lucan Road.

Le dea-mhéin



Gráinne Ní Mhuirí, 9 Garrán Ghleanntán na hAbhann, Baile Phámar, Baile Átha Cliath 20.



Adrienne and John Dunne, 7 Riversdale Grove, Palmerstown, Dublin 20.

€50 fee enclosed