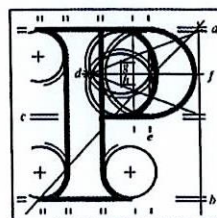


Our Case Number: ABP-316272-23



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Beaufort Downs Residents' Association
15 Beaufort Downs
Rathfarnham
Dublin 14

Date: 16 August 2023

Re: Bus Connects Templeogue/Rathfarnham to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme
Templeogue/Rathfarnham to City Centre

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above-mentioned proposed road development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter. Please accept this letter as a receipt for the fee of €50 that you have paid.


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

The Board has also received an application for confirmation of a compulsory purchase order which relates to this proposed road development. The Board has absolute discretion to hold an oral hearing in respect of any application before it, in accordance with section 218 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. Accordingly, the Board will inform you in due course on this matter. The Board shall also make a decision on both applications at the same time.

If you have any queries in relation to this matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board at laps@pleanala.ie

Please quote the above-mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,


Niamh Thornton
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737247

HA02A

Tel	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaó Áitiúil	LoCall	1800 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902

Beaufort Downs Residents' Association

C/o The Secretary

15 Beaufort Downs

Rathfarnham

Dublin 14

An Bord Pleanála (Strategic Infrastructure Division)

64 Marlborough Street

Dublin 1

D01 V902

13th August 2023

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
LDG-	<u>065-718-23</u>
ABP-	_____
14 AUG 2023	
Fee: €	<u>50.00</u> Type: <u>cheque</u>
Time:	<u>2.51pm</u> By: <u>hand</u>

BUSCONNECTS Templeogue / Rathfarnham to City Centre CBC

To Whom It May Concern

We, the Beaufort Downs Residents' Association, wish to make the following submissions and objections to the following, NTA/BUSCONNECTS proposals, for a bus lane including other works to be constructed as per planning notices at Rathfarnham Castle and other areas along the proposed route

- (1) Bus Corridor: the substantial widening of the Grange Road to construct a bus lane as indicated in planning notices displayed at various locations along the route.
- (2) Whitechurch Stream
- (3) Rathfarnham Castle Park
- (4) School Drop Off/Car park area at Grange Road Nutgrove Avenue and Rathfarnham Wood junction.
- (5) Summation

Bus Corridor

The proposed destruction of Rathfarnham Castle Parkland to facilitate a bus corridor of 100 -150 meters of a bus lane going nowhere must be rejected as ill conceived and an unwanted destruction of parkland resources and an oasis of nature and habitat in an urban centre. On a good day bus passage times might be increased by 3 minutes but as is evident in other areas if you build a bus lane cars will surely follow.

From a very convoluted and difficult to understand set of proposals the NTA/BUSCONNECTS are in our opinion being deliberately vague in their various assessments of the environmental and ecological impacts of their plan. We note that 34 mature trees are to be felled as part of this scheme but because of two sets of numbering systems present on the trees it is very difficult to ascertain which numbers in fact reflect the trees involved. A proud, Holm Oak Tree in this area would also be under threat because of the loss of a third of its root system. Vague words like "endeavour" and "may" are not reassuring when proposing ecological damage on this scale.

Whitechurch Stream

The Whitechurch Stream is a watercourse which is of particular importance to our estate. Its history includes being part of a lake in the grounds of the present Beaufort High School.

The stream was piped underground during the construction of St Mary's Boys School and subsequently Beaufort Estate

A number of years ago a blockage in the system cause flooding in the grounds of Beaufort High School , which culminated in water flooding onto the street of the cul de sac adjacent to the school. Remedial work was undertaken at that time. It appears however from the NTA website that this has not been properly investigated or hydrologic ally assessed. In fact its presence does not even appear to have been noted, despite the fact that it is intersected by the proposed bus corridor at two locations and is an open watercourse at points within the grounds of the castle

Rathfarnham Castle Park.

Rathfarnham Castle Park itself also has a wide range of biodiversity, particularly in relation to breeding birds living on the duck pond as well as many other protected species, and has not been properly surveyed from an environmental perspective.

School Drop Off/Car Park at the junction of Nutgrove Ave/Grange Road Rathfarnham Wood

There are four schools in the immediate area with student numbers approaching 1800. The proposal indicates the compulsory acquisition of this area by NTA/BUSCONNECTS with a major change of use and the complete abolition of its present use. The Residents of Beaufort Downs have long suffered from school traffic both morning and afternoon with indiscriminate parking and blocking of driveways with major delays for residents both heading for work 8-9.30am and entering our estate in the afternoon between 2-4pm.

Since the so called upgrade of the Grange Road over a period of 18 months (6 months per plan advised) we have documented proof of buses being parked in the estate for whole afternoons causing further disruption to residents and dangers for children crossing the roads when returning from school. Despite the fact that millions of Euros have been spent upgrading the Grange Road and car park (only concluding earlier this year) another scheme is devised to dig it up and start all over again before the newly poured concrete has settled .

Proposed Bus Lane and destruction of Green Area /Castle Grounds

Our view is that the bus corridor should terminate at the end of the Rathfarnham Village bypass (by the Butterfield Avenue junction). A signal controlled traffic light would provide sufficient priority for the **limited** number of outbound buses which pass Rathfarnham Castle Park.

The extension of the Grange Road directly over the Whitechurch Stream would likely cause serious damage to a fragile watercourse and environment. There would also be a greater risk of flooding within the Beaufort Downs estate and environs.

We have been liaising with the Rathfarnham Wood Residents' Association (RWRA) and fully support, their very detailed and highly researched submission regarding the planning proposals as published.


As well as the points set out in this letter, we also wish to further object to the proposals on the basis of the numerous reasons set out in the RWRA document.

Yours faithfully,



Secretary: Larry Fenlon

Representatives of the Beaufort Downs Resident's Association

No. 17 Catherine 

No. 69 

28 David Doherty

No 18 Doreen 

No 9. 