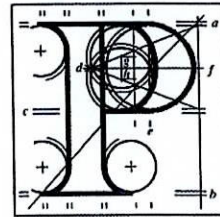


Our Case Number: ABP-316272-23



An
Bord
Pleanála

Ireland's National Autism Charity
Adam Harris
17-21 Temple Road
Blackrock
A94DN40

Date: 17 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.

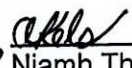
Please note that the proposed road development shall not be carried out unless the Board has approved it or approved it with modifications.

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

Tell	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



17-21 Temple Road
Blackrock
Co. Dublin A94 DN40

An Bord Pleanála (Strategic Infrastructure Division)
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1 D01 V902

9th August 2023

**BusConnects Templeogue / Rathfarnham to City Centre CBC
Rathfarnham Castle Park Woodland Playground**

Dear Sirs,

We wish to make a submission regarding the proposed substantial widening of the Grange Road beside the Woodland Playground and Natural Play Space in Rathfarnham Castle Park.

Since our foundation in 2014, AsIAM- Ireland's National Autism Charity has been a leading organisation in the areas of human rights, equality and advocacy. Our approach is to take a rights-based, empathetic and inclusive approach to advocating for an inclusive society for Autistic people which is accessible, accepting and affirming. As Ireland's National Autism Charity and as an Autistic-led organisation, AsIAM runs campaigns, produces reports and policy submissions, and makes representations both in committees and across the media, highlighting issues which Autistic people and the wider community experience.

We know that a large number of Autistic children and their families particularly love the peace and natural environment of the Woodland Playground in Rathfarnham Castle Park. The area surrounding the playground is full of mature trees, bushes and undergrowth, giving it a sense of being out in the country, although it is located beside Rathfarnham Village. It offers a sensory experience which is entirely different to that provided by most park playgrounds. It helps children to calm, decompress and enjoy the peace of nature, watching the squirrels and wildlife while playing among the trees and on the Woodland Playground infrastructure. This is a vitally important resource for the physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of local Autistic children and families and must be protected.

In the event that the proposed road widening works go ahead, not only will the Woodland Playground be lost to our Autistic children for the year or so during which construction takes place, but it will be effectively lost forever. The new road, with its noise, smells and pollution, will be so much closer to the play area and the surrounding trees, bushes and undergrowth will have been lost. It will no longer meet the sensory needs of local Autistic children and their families who love its peace, tranquillity and sense of being out in nature. There is another playground in the Park but it does not meet the same needs at all.

The current Woodland Playground and Natural Play Space is unique in the area, a peaceful, nature-filled haven which is greatly valued by Autistic children and their families all around Rathfarnham. It is lovely as it is and should not be interfered with.

Yours faithfully,

Adam Harris
CEO

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
LDG-	<u>065720-23</u>
ABP-	<u>316277-23</u>
14 AUG 2023	
Fee: €	<u>50.00</u> type: <u>Card</u>
Time:	<u>2:35pm</u> By: <u>hand</u>

Patron: President Michael D Higgins

Chief Executive Officer: Adam Harris Company Secretary: Richard Looby

Directors: Alan Cox (Chair), Una Herlihy, Brian Irwin, Eileen Jackson, Kevin McLoughlin, Dr Stuart Neilson, Prof Emer Ring, Shaun Murphy, Orla O'Connor, Marie O'Riordan, Lucinda Murrphy, Ian Baker

Company No: 553241 RCN 20144838 Charity No: 21201