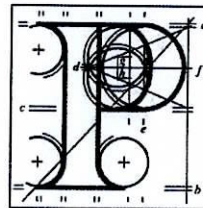


Our Case Number: ABP-316272-23



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Pat & Eileen McMorrow
138 Walkinstown Road
Walkinstown
Dublin 12

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,

Eimear Reilly

AP Eimear Reilly
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737184

HA02A

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

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

138 Walkinstown Road
Walkinstown
Dublin 12

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
LDG-	<u>065713-23</u>
ABP-	_____
14 AUG 2023	
Fee: €	<u>50.00</u> Type: <u>CARCL.</u>
Time:	<u>2.55pm</u> By: <u>hand</u>

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

14 August 2023

**BusConnects Templeogue / Rathfarnham to City Centre CBC proposals and planning application
Impact on Rathfarnham Castle Park**

Dear Sirs,

We wish to object to the proposal to widen the Grange Road into the Woodland area of Rathfarnham Castle Park. The Woodland is a vital amenity for many people, especially autistic children, for whom it is a calming, regulating environment. It has an extensive range of wildlife, especially protected wild birds, bats, frogs, bees, ducks and squirrels. It is a calm, peaceful, natural play space with a wonderful Woodland Playground. Our grandchildren particularly love this area.

We wish to object on the basis of the following:

- Excessive Land Take** – We understand that “up to 10 metres” of woodland area is set to be built over for road widening purposes. However the existing road is over 15 metres wide and does not need to be widened by up to 10 metres. That is clearly excessive and unnecessary. While outbound buses should be prioritised, this can easily be done without impact on the Park by means of a signal controlled priority light at Butterfield Avenue.
- Environmental** – the Park is a diverse habitat for a wide variety of wild birds and wildlife, almost like a small nature reserve. Although it will be significantly impacted by the proposed road widening works, it has not actually been surveyed in relation to most of the wildlife for whom it is a breeding habitat. It is a very successful breeding area especially for frogs, bats, squirrels, tufted ducks, and mallards. It should be appreciated as a peaceful wildlife habitat, not turned into a construction site as that will cause it to no longer be a successful breeding habitat for these protected species.
- Importance for autistic and neurodiverse children** - The Woodland contains a great many mature trees, bushes and undergrowth and it has a sense of being out in the countryside, rather than right beside Rathfarnham Village. Many autistic and neurodiverse children love this area from a sensory perspective and find it a very calming area. It is a peaceful natural play space which is totally different from the usual playgrounds found in parks.

Conclusion

In our view, the proposals to widen the Grange Road over a substantial part of the Woodland area of Rathfarnham Castle Park are excessive and entirely unnecessary. Once outbound buses are prioritised with a signal controlled priority light at Butterfield Avenue, the remainder of the >15m roadway is sufficient for the inbound bus lane, two general traffic lanes and pedestrian and cycling facilities. This area is so important for both wildlife and children, especially autistic and neurodiverse children. Unnecessarily destroying up to 10 metres of a serene woodland habitat and peaceful natural play space would be entirely inappropriate and unacceptable.

Yours faithfully,



Pat and Eileen McMorrow.