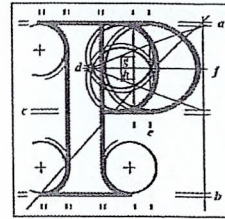


Our Case Number: ABP-316272-23

Planning Authority Reference Number:



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Susan McNamara
5 Whitechurch Drive
Rathfarnham
D16 E7T8

Date: 22 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.

It is noted that your submission references the compulsory purchase. Please be advised that objections to this CPO may only be made by those listed on the CPO schedule. Accordingly, as your submission included observations made in relation to the application (ABP-316272-23) rather than to the CPO (ABP-316377-23) your submission has been added to ABP-316272-23 only.

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.

Teil	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaó Áitiúil	LoCall	1890 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Yours faithfully,



Eimear Reilly
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737184

HA02A

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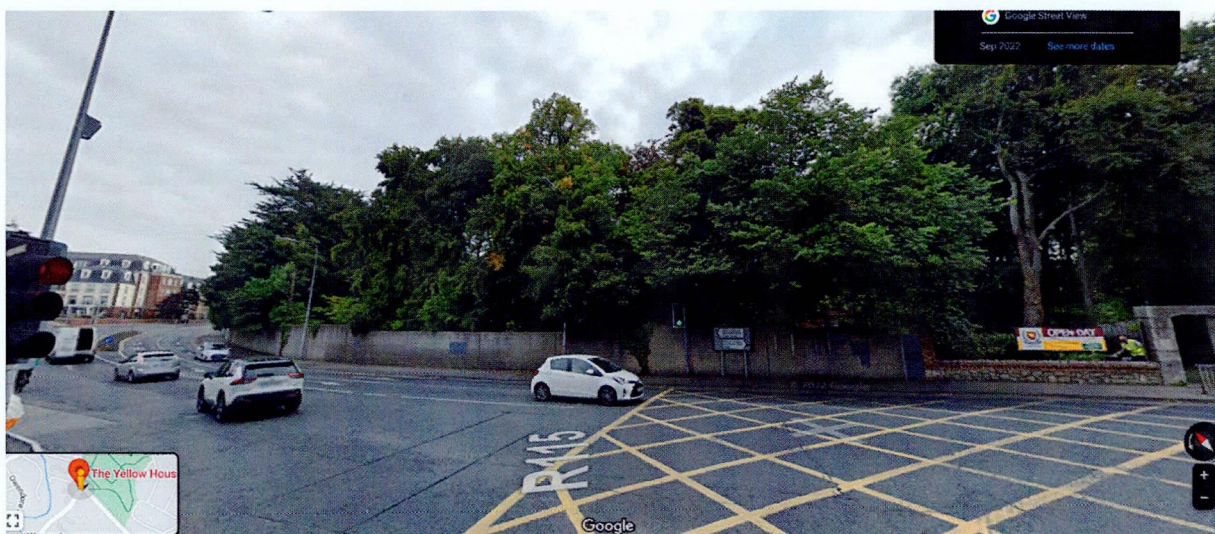
Susan McNamara
5 Whitechurch Drive,
Rathfarnham,
D 16 E7T8

Dear An Bord Pleanala,

I write to you in objection of the Compulsory Purchase Order application for lands attached and adjacent to Rathfarnham Castle in Dublin 14/16. The CPO Application relates to the Tempogue/Rathfarnham to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme.

The basis of my objection is related to the wanton destruction of mature woodland within Rathfarnham Castle grounds for the purposes of road widening to accommodate bus lanes and cycle lanes. This is proposed in circumstances where I believe insufficient weight has been attached to importance of the wooded lands ecologically and for local amenity. I also feel that a more soimplified solution could be found to

1. The wooded areas of Rathfarnham Castle that are proposed to be acquired and destroyed for road widening make up the majority of woodland in the park. The remainder of the park is only partially wooded and large open fields which though appealing are not nearly as beneficial in terms of the mental health and ecological benefits of beautiful mature woodland.





2. The wooded areas contain a recently renovated natural playground for children attending the park. It is the second playground in the park but the only natural playground in the area. It was only recently revamped and reopened in summer 2022. This is an important avenue for children to explore and interact with nature in a way that is recognised as hugely beneficial for their development and wellbeing. It is a disgrace that the needs of children and the destruction of this space for them is being disregarded in advance of road widening. The playground being submerged within the trees is the most wonderful aspect of it. It boggles the mind to destroy an incredible unique amenity in the area that was only so recently opened.
3. The left hand side of the Grange road already has a cycle path along it. So to destroy mature woodland on this side of the road to widen it for a cycle path is non-sensical. I also don't feel that sufficient attention has been paid to the possibility of directing a dedicated cycle route through Castleside Drive and Rathfarnham Wood to rejoin Loreto Avenue/Grange Road at this point. This would be a safe, non-destructive route with all the same travel benefits.
4. While there is some traffic congestion at rush hours in the area due to the bus stop causing buses to stop and hold up traffic, a simpler and equally effective solution to this would be to move the bus stop further down the road and away from the junction, ideally closer to the point the road splits into 2 lanes as it joins Loreto Avenue.



5. There is a large section of old car park at the junction of Grange Road and Loreto Avenue which was recently turned into a drop off point for local schools. While a very useful area I believe that this area would be more usefully re-purposed to create space for a cycle path and bus transit routes. It would allow for road widening without the destruction of mature woodland within Rathfarnham Castle Park thereby protecting all interests.



In conclusion, in a world where climate action is forefront in many major infrastructure decisions being made at the moment it cannot be justifiable to destroy mature woodland in this type of misguided endeavour. There are other available spaces locally to provide for improved infrastructure

that won't impact the mature woodland at the heart of the CPO application. Local people, wildlife, and children benefit significantly from this woodland in every aspect of their lives and the loss of it would be immeasurable and profound.

I ask that you don't consent to this CPO application that would destroy these trees. This plan can be done differently and with less harmful impact.