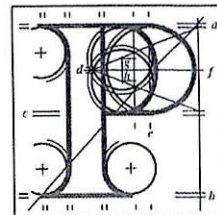


Our Case Number: ABP-316272-23



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

Niall & Yvonne Gunne  
18 Highfield Road  
Rathgar  
D06 W2R1

Date: 10 July 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.

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

Yours faithfully,

Eimear Reilly  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: 01-8737184

HA03

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

26 June 2023

Niall & Yvonne Gunne,  
18 Highfield Road,  
Rathgar,  
Dublin D06 W2R1

An Bord Pleánala,  
Strategic Infrastructure Division,  
64 Marlborough Street,  
Dublin 1.

Dear An Bord Pleánala,

I write to you regarding the Templeogue / Rathfarnham to Dublin City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme. We have lived on Highfield Road in Rathgar for going on a decade, and we are deeply concerned about the negative affects the proposed bus corridor scheme will have on our road and surrounding community. We attended the presentation by Councilors Anne Feeney and James Geoghegan, and Senator Mary Seery Kearney regarding the road and traffic changes that may come into effect if this plan does indeed go ahead.

Having reviewed the information pack, we would have major concerns about the traffic impact on Highfield and indeed surrounding roads in our area. Making Rathgar Road a one way and allowing cars turn right onto Highfield Road from the Upper Rathmines Road, there will be drastic increase of large vehicular traffic on what is already a busy road used by cyclists and pedestrians alike. Highfield Road is a residential road that will be shaken by this increased traffic and the proposed bus stops that will accompany the buses. An estimated 8k cars already use Rathgar Road every day when coming out of town. With the closure of Rathgar Road outbound from town and allowing for some reduction of car usage due to the bus corridor, there could be approx. 5k cars daily seeking to exit town via Highfield Road. The challenge posed by the outbound road closure in Rathgar Road was highlighted by a late modification to the NTA scheme. The proposed modification to the Highfield Road/Rathmines Road Upper junction will allow cars turn right on Highfield Road.

My family and I are all keen cyclists, our four young children (5 – 12 years of age) use their bikes a lot when they're not walking to nearby activities. We are all acutely aware of the environment and we consciously try to reduce our carbon footprint wherever we can. Ultimately our children will be



able to cycle to school and other sporting activities (e.g. hockey in Donnybrook, rugby in Ballsbridge).

We are extremely anxious about these proposals for a variety of reasons, we feel our children's safety is being put at a heightened risk as is the safety of other pedestrians and cyclists alike. Highfield Road as you know is a narrow road and there are no proposals to include a cycle path (because the road isn't wide enough?). It is indeed good to see so many people using their bikes and this should indeed be encouraged by policy makers. I wonder if the research that has been carried out is accurate and relevant since the changing office patterns that have come into effect since Covid and the numbers of people who are now working at home or only in the office 2/3 days a week. There are certainly less cars on the road and less people using public transport. Other European cities are focusing on long term infrastructure projects like trams which appear to be the future. There will be a lot of fallout from the CPO's, removal of trees along the route, and a difficult time for many young families who are being negatively affected by road widenings, losing some of their garden etc. and causing undue stress as a result. I hope the current proposals are reconsidered and a fresh rethink is put on the agenda. This is a hugely important decision for the city of Dublin and will have ramifications far and wide for all who live and travel here, imperative that the right decision is made and there are no regrets in this regard.

The introduction of a two-way bus corridor with multiple bus stops on a narrow road is not encouraging or protecting our cyclists. If anything, it does the opposite. As parents of four children who will regularly cycle to school, sporting activities and friends' houses, I feel the proposed road layout will create an unsafe environment for our children to cycle on. To now have the prospect of significantly more cars on the road poses a further threat to safety of residents and cyclists.

We understand the need to reduce the number of cars on the road but equally understand that this needs to be done in a safe and respectful way. We would appeal to An Bord Pleanála to leave Rathgar Road open to two-way traffic and failing that to retain the current road restrictions preventing cars turning from the Upper Rathmines Road onto Highfield Road.

Many thanks for taking the time to read our letter, we do appreciate it. All the best

Kind regards,  
Yours sincerely

Niall & Yvonne Gunne  
18 Highfield Road  
Rathgar  
Dublin D06 W2R1