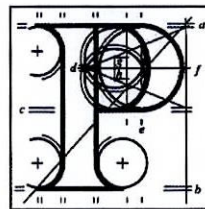


**Our Case Number: ABP-317121-23**



**An  
Bord  
Pleanála**

Karen Wade  
11 Knightswood  
Santry  
Dublin 9  
D09 A3X9

**Date:** 18 July 2023

**Re:** BusConnects Swords to City Centre Bus Corridor Scheme  
Swords to Dublin City Centre

Dear 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,

Sarah Caulfield  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: 01-8737287

HA02A

<b>Tel</b>	<b>Tel</b>	(01) 858 8100
<b>Glaó Áitiúil</b>	<b>LoCall</b>	1800 275 175
<b>Facs</b>	<b>Fax</b>	(01) 872 2684
<b>Láithreán Gréasáin</b>	<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.pleanala.ie">www.pleanala.ie</a>
<b>Ríomhphost</b>	<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:bord@pleanala.ie">bord@pleanala.ie</a>

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



Name: Dr. Karen Wade

Address: 11 Knightswood, Santry, Dublin 9, D09A3X9

Email: [REDACTED]

## AN BORD PLEANÁLA

14 JUL 2023

LTR DATED \_\_\_\_\_ FROM \_\_\_\_\_  
LDG- 065 091-23  
ABP- 317121-23

### Reasons for observation:

I would like to register my deep concerns in relation to proposed plans under the Swords to City Centre Bus Corridor Scheme to widen the Swords Road passing through Santry via a series of compulsory purchase orders. The primary order that I wish to object to is the area numbered 1014(17).1i, next to Coolock Lane, but I am also very concerned at the proposal to purchase the following parcels of land adjoining the Swords Road/R132: 1162(1).1i, 1162(2).2i, 1155.(1).1c, 1101(01)1i, 1101(02).2i, 1102.(1).1a, 1102(2).1a, 1102(3).1i, 1102(4).2a, 1102(5).2i, 1102(6).2i, 1102(7).2i, 1084(1).1f, and 1084(2).2f.

My first concern relates to the environmental impact that this scheme will have on Santry. With the exception of the park (areas of which are also threatened by these purchase orders), the scheme essentially threatens almost every public green space in Santry, including many planted areas (such as the one located at 1014(17).1i) which are there to promote pollinators, and a large number of mature trees. The loss of these green spaces and shade will have a heating effect on the local area. Replacing these areas with an extra lane of tarmacked roadway will also contribute to raised temperatures locally, as well as increasing exhaust fumes and road noise. Santry has been subject to extensive development over the past twenty years – including, notoriously, the loss of half of Santry Demesne to developers, despite local objections – and these local green areas represent an extremely important natural resource for local wildlife, as well as for residents. I would also like to point out that the local community has previously strenuously objected to any threat to trees in the local park, and that these compulsory purchase orders (in particular, 1084(1).1f and 1084(2).2f) again encroach on this territory, which Dublin City Council previously agreed to respect.

A major road already exists, in the form of the M1, on a parallel course to the one that runs through Santry village. Given the presence of this already-existing road, it is unrealistic to suggest that expanding the road through Santry, with the destruction and extreme expense that this would entail, could be environmentally friendly. This is a clear case of greenwashing.

My second concern relates to the devastating impact upon the local community that would result from an expansion of the R132. Currently, it is possible for local residents (including my own family) to reach local amenities on foot, including shops, childcare services, and the park. However, in its current state, the R132 is already broad and busy enough that crossing the road can be a protracted and often hazardous activity for families with children and other vulnerable pedestrians, particularly at the junction at Coolock Lane. An expansion of the R132, resulting in reduced footpaths and additional traffic, would make it even more difficult to get around on foot and would reduce local residents to travelling even short distances by car. It would be highly counterproductive for Dublin City Council to reduce a fully walkable village to one which requires a car to get around, especially in the name of environmentalism. This would also have a severely detrimental impact on local businesses. Santry is not a corridor, it is a village.

Two further concerns relate to the public consultation process and to current questions about the nature of the proposed road expansion, given existing building works. First, I was very surprised to read in the SwordsScheme Environmental Impact Report (part 1.6.3.2.) that a second round of



consultation on the BusConnects plan had taken place between 4/3/2020 and 30/4/2020 and from 4/11/2020 to 16/12/2020. I was aware of the first round which took place in 2019. However, I did not know there were further rounds. I have made enquiries with other local residents and nobody can recall being informed that the public was being consulted again. It is particularly concerning that this took place during the pandemic, when it was not possible for people to attend public meetings. At the very least, all local residents should have been informed via a leaflet campaign that these consultations were taking place. I would suggest that the apparent lack of public objections at this point in time was due to the fact that the public in general did not know about these plans. Secondly, in early 2022, planning permission was granted for works on a private site adjoining the Swords Road at 1 Magenta Crescent, Santry. This build has now been completed, and would appear to cause an obstacle to an expansion of the road in that area. If such a "pinch point" were to be present in the middle of Santry, it would make the whole scheme pointless, resulting in significant delays to travel on the new road, and compounding issues with traffic and exhaust in this space. Will Dublin City Council require the residents at this location to knock down their new build?

In sum, I would suggest that these proposed compulsory purchase orders are being made in service of a plan which would fail to meet environmental goals, which replicates the route of an existing roadway 200 metres away, and which would come at devastating cost to the local community and environment.

Disclosure: My husband and I are in the process of selling our current house and have a pending purchase of another location within Santry.