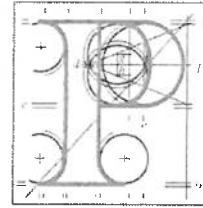


**Our Case Number:** ABP-317660-23



**An  
Bord  
Pleanála**

Harolds Cross Tidy Towns Committee  
c/o Kiernan Mullarkey  
5 Tivoli Avenue  
Harold's Cross  
D6W CK09

**Date:** 15 December 2023

**Re:** Bus Connects Kimmage to City Centre core bus corridor scheme  
Kimmage, Dublin

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](mailto: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  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: 01-8737184

HA02A

<b>Teil</b>	<b>Tel</b>	(01) 858 8100
<b>Glaio 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>Riomhphost</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

**Teil**  
**Glaio Áitiúil**  
**Facs**  
**Láithreán Gréasáin**  
**Ríomhphost**

**Tel** (01) 858 8100  
**LoCall** 1800 275 175  
**Fax** (01) 872 2684  
**Website** [www.pleanala.ie](http://www.pleanala.ie)  
**Email** [bord@pleanala.ie](mailto:bord@pleanala.ie)

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

**5 Tivoli Avenue**

**Harold's Cross**

**Dublin 6W**

**D6W CK09**

**Phone** - [REDACTED]

**06<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

BusConnects Revised Infrastructure

Kimmage to City Centre

Core Bus Corridor 11

Submissions/Objections/Observations to An Bord Pleanala

Submissions/Objections/Observations on behalf of **Harolds Cross Tidy Towns Committee (HCTTC)**

**Location** - Harolds Cross

Dublin 6W

Extending from the junction of Sundrive Road with Lower Kimmage Road to Harolds Cross Bridge and from the junction of Kenilworth Park with Harolds Cross Road with principal intersections at Priory Road, Westfield Road, Kenilworth Park, Casimir Road, Leinster Road West, Leinster Road, Greenmount Avenue, Mount Drummond Avenue, Parnell Road and Grove Road.

The Harolds Cross Tidy Towns Committee is an association of like-minded individuals who came together in 2018 to improve the visual geography and amenity of the greater Harolds Cross area.

In their short time together, the Committee has been very active in local engagement resulting in awards, as follows: -

**2019** – 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019

South East Area City Neighbourhoods Competition 2019 – South East Area

Dublin Community Clean-Up Day Category

Winner – Harolds Cross Community Clean Up Groups

**2019** – 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019

South East Area City Neighbourhoods Competition 2019 – South East Area  
Dublin Community Clean-Up Day Category  
Kenilworth Park Residents’ Association – Special Merit Award Winners

**2019** – 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019

South East Area City Neighbourhoods Competition 2019 – South East Area  
Residential (1 – 150 Dwellings) Category  
Kenilworth Park Residents’ Association – Special Merit Award Winners

**2019** – 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dublin City Neighbourhoods Awards 2019 – Dublin City Area  
Dublin Community Clean-Up Award  
Harolds Cross Community Clean-Up Group – Joint Winner

**2023** – 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023

South East Area City Neighbourhoods Competition 2023 – South East Area  
Dublin Community Clean-Up Category  
Harolds Cross Tidy Towns – Special Merit Award Winners

Harolds Cross Tidy Towns Committee (**HCTTC**) was initially formed in 2018. It took the bold step and participated, for the first time, in the National Tidy Towns Competition for 2019. Notwithstanding the shortage of available resources to positively influence our work and endeavours, we were, as a first-time entrant, placed second in our category. This was a wonderful achievement and a welcome recognition of the level of engagement by the Committee in the relatively short period of time since our inception.

For each subsequent year since its inception the Committee have improved on its annual marking in the National Tidy Towns Competition.

In making this Submission, the HCTTC is aware that both the Harolds Cross Village Community Council (**HCVCC**) and other Residents’ Associations and Bodies affiliated to the

HCVCC will be making their own separate and or joint Submissions. So too may individuals who will be directly impacted. Nevertheless, the HCTTC welcomes the opportunity to make these Submissions on its own behalf.

In the first instance it is important that the Bord should appreciate the positive impact that the HCTTC has made in its area of remit. For what has been, in reality, a very short period of existence the HCTTC has made some obvious and welcome improvements to the area.

The HCTTC welcomes many of the positive proposals so far notified in the BusConnects Project and welcomes the principle aims and objectives of the BusConnects Core Bus Corridors sofar as it will impact on our area. It particular, our Committee welcomes the primary aims of the project as enunciated in your associated literature and website that it will “(e)nsure that the public realm is carefully considered.”

Largely as a result of other expected Submissions from locally based Bodies, Associations and Individuals, it is our intention to largely confine this Submission to that one of the Project’s aims and objectives, i.e. to “(e)nsure that the public realm is carefully considered.”

## **Public Realm**

### **Junction – Sundrive Road with Lower Kimmage Road**

The HCTTC notes and welcomes the publication of the Project's Public Realm Improvements at the junction of **Sundrive Road with Lower Kimmage Road** on the R817 north of Larrissa Court to the junction with Sundrive Road.

Without detailed plans available as to the works to be carried out at this locus (the information on the BusConnects website together with the information gathered at the webinar on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020 advises that this has yet to be agreed with the business owners of premises adjoining the road at that location) the HCTTC submits that within the definition of 'public realm improvements' envisaged for this location provision should be made for suitable public seating to be installed as part of those works. It is our Submission that in addition to the public seating aforesaid, that this should be done in association with the provision of suitable bins and public bike stands.

Indeed, in the context of Public Realm Improvements for the greater Harolds Cross Village area, the HCTTC can see no valid reason why our larger area in general and this location in particular could not become a pilot project for sustainable SmartCity Mobility. This should include the potential for the inclusion, at suitable locations across the greater Harolds Cross area, of SmartCity e-lockers for bicycles, scooters and other micro mobility vehicles to include vehicles for those of our citizens who are mobility impaired.

Likewise, the provision of or installation of public parking bays should be accompanied by the necessary infrastructure to facilitate public electric charging points.

The area in question is an active business location complimented by a number of restaurants, take-away food shops, a mini-market etc. It is clearly an area with a lot of footfall that would benefit from these, at times imaginative, Public Realm Improvements.

Public seating at this location would be most welcome to make this one of several suggested quietened areas to be associated with the Project. The provision of suitable public waste bins (500L Belly Bins) would, in our Submission, complement our suggested public realm improvements for the area, thereby leading to an obvious public and social gain for customers and passers-by alike.

### **Junction – Ravensdale Park with Lower Kimmage Road**

The HCTTC also welcomes the planned Public Realm Improvements at the junction of **Ravensdale Park with Lower Kimmage Road**. As envisaged from a close reading of the plans published on the BusConnects website, the street scaping together with the associated

tree planting will provide a much-needed physical impact at this location and is welcomed by the HCTTC.

In association with the Kenilworth Park Residents' Association, (who I understand will be making Submissions/Objections of their behalf to include matters of the Public Realm) the HCTTC joins with that Association in making a similar Submissions/Objections/Observations.

### **Harolds Cross Bridge Area – Robert Emmet Bridge – Grand Canal**

Harolds Cross Tidy Towns Committee had embarked on a plan to develop this area in association with Dublin City Council. Prior to the first lockdown occasioned by the COVID-19 Pandemic, inspections had taken place with plans developed for a body of planting to take place to both complement and highlight the area around the historically important Robert Emmet Bridge. Inspections had already taken place, funds were allocated but the further planning process was, as above, interrupted by lockdown observance necessitated by adherence to the Government issued guidance on the COVID-19 Pandemic.

In anticipation of the anticipated improvements to take place for the installation of the pedestrian footbridge and associated ancillary works, the HCTTC wishes to make Submissions for public realm works at this locus. It is our Submission that an accommodation, of benefit to both the BusConnects Project and our community at large, can be reached to enhance this area.

Aside from suitable planting of flowers, shrubs and trees in the area immediately west and east of the bridge, it had already been our proposal that much needed public seating would also be provided at this locus. Indeed, at various locations along the north side of the Grand Canal between Robert Emmet Bridge and Portobello Bridge at Rathmines public seating has already been provided. It is our Submission that similar quality public seating should be provided in the two locations immediate to Robert Emmet Bridge. Together with suitable planting of shrubs and trees, this would provide a quietened area for citizens to enjoy.

As already stated, the HCTTC is already in funds and would be glad to assist, sofar as possible, that public improvements take place in this location. It is our Submission that the Project should engage with the HCTTC at the appropriate time so that a cross community benefit can be achieved for all concerned.

## **Existing Footpath – South side of Harolds Cross Park opposite 174 and 194 Harolds Cross Road**

The Harolds Cross Tidy Towns Committee in its plans for 2020, subsequently temporarily parked by the COVID-19 Pandemic, had planned improvements in the public realm particularly for the plaza area immediately outside of the main gates at the entrance to Harolds Cross Park.

That area had been recently reconfigured by Dublin City Council leading to the installation of a larger concrete dish immediately outside of the main gates. With a view to improving the streetscape the HCTTC had carried out preliminary inspections of the locus with the results of these being encompassed in their future planned works for area improvement.

Nevertheless, the Committee had agreed to adopt this as one of their planned improvements for the area and had at all times intended to include it in their plan since 2021.

The Committee had envisaged that a bench and ancillary street furniture would be installed at this location thereby enhancing the entrance to the park and providing much needed public seating and a public gain. It is with some regret that the Tidy Towns Committee now see that it is proposed to remove the footpath on the northside of this stretch of the Harolds Cross Road, with a consequent reduction in the size of the plaza area. That reduction in the plaza area will reduce considerably the area at the Committee's disposal to improve this location in any constructive or meaningful way. It is the Committee's Submission that the concrete apron immediately outside of the park's main gates should be retained in its current format so that the enhancement works, already planned by our Committee, can proceed. In further enhancing the area such works and ancillary public realm improvements will demark that area for public assembly and recreation. It will also make it safer still for users to enter and exit Harolds Cross Park at that location.



## **Eastern side of Harolds Cross Road – Planned Removal of Trees**

The HCTTC regrets that the plan as currently formulated envisages the removal of several trees on the east side of Harolds Cross Road.

The Plan in its current iteration advises the removal of some four trees at this location, i.e. along the east side of Harolds Cross Road in the area from the entrance to Mount Drummond Avenue and south to St Clare's Convent.

The Committee, in their planned works' improvements for 2020, had already considered the feasibility of planting flower beds at the bases to compliment the trees in this area but, as already advised, the COVID-19 Epidemic interrupted those planned works and associated planting.

As they are at the moment, the trees in question provide an avenue like definition to Harolds Cross Road, and rather than their removal, the Committee had it in their COVID-19 Pandemic interrupted plans, to approach the local City Council to make provision for complimentary planting of other similar trees on the opposite footpath, i.e. to the west side of Harolds Cross Road. Indeed, the Tidy Towns Committee was then and is still now in funds to undertake the associated costs with this additional planting but first requires the co-operation of the Dublin City Council to survey the footpath with a view to their installation.

The Project currently proposes the removal the existing trees from the east side of Harolds Cross Road thereby rendering at nought the proposal of the Tidy Towns Committee to seek additional planting on the west side of Harolds Cross Road to complement the existing trees.

The Committee welcome the proposal in the Project literature to plant trees to replace the planned removal of the four trees on the east side of Harolds Cross Road. However, it notes with some disappointment, that the current proposal is to plant only three trees which rather than lined along the road and providing an avenue-like vista, will, disappointingly, be grouped closer together to complement a yet to be constructed small parking bay.

The HCTTC considers that this small parking bay is totally unnecessary as the plans already envisage additional parking spaces in the area located to the front of the grounds now occupied by our local Hospice.

Rather than provide for the removal of the four trees to the East side of Harolds Cross Road, the HCTTC have long held the belief that there should be a line of trees on the West side of that Road to compliment those already in situ to the East and, additionally, that there should be a line of trees in the middle of the road to compliment both.

This proposal is similar to the one contained in the Plan before your Bord insofar as it applies to the centre of the roadway at Clanbrassil Street and New Street South.

As one exits the city proceeding in a Southerly direction, a person would leave Clanbrassil Street/New Street South, cross the Harolds Cross Bridge/Robert Emmet Bridge and be presented with a continuum of trees along the lower Harolds Cross Road thus provide tree lined avenue like approach as one proceeds to Harolds Cross village and beyond.

## Summary

Looking at the overall BusConnects Project in the round the Harolds Cross Tidy Towns Committee welcomes many of the positive proposals currently contained therein. At the same time, it is cognisant of the fact that many of the issues highlighted above will require amendment prior to Planning Permission being granted.

In doing so, and in accommodating as many of the positive inputs from the various other Submissions yet to be received and considered by the Project, I have no doubt that it will have the capacity to lead to a transformed city-wide bus service.

In bringing forward these suggested amendments the Committee is looking at the Project in its entirety. It is submitted, that the newly formed Committee has not looked to the short-term selfish interest of any of its individual members. Rather these Submissions are made for the betterment of bus and public transport in the capital for many years to come. In their adoption the Committee submits that this Project has and will have the capacity to impact important issues affecting public transport in the capital and appreciates that this change must, of necessity, be accompanied by some negative impacts. In that context and to counter any such negative impacts, the Committee has given of its time and devoted many hours to constructively engage to date. So far as possible, the Committee has suggested improvements, largely to the Public Realm, that can, in these its Submissions/Objections/Observations, be reasonably accommodated without any negative result accruing.

It is on this basis that these Submissions/Objections/Observations are made by the Harolds Cross Tidy Towns Committee and are commended.

---

**KIERAN MULLARKEY**  
**Honorary Chairman**  
**Harolds Cross Tidy Towns Committee**