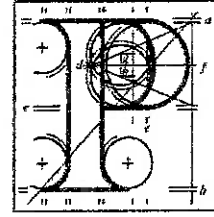


Our Case Number: ABP-317742-23

Planning Authority Reference Number:



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Andrew McNamee and Fernanda De Sousa
67 Patrician Villas
Stillorgan
Co. Dublin
A94P862

Date: 12 October 2023

Re: BusConnects Bray to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme
Bray to Dublin City Centre.

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent submission (including your fee of €50) in relation to the above-mentioned proposed road development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

Please note that the proposed road development shall not be carried out unless the Board has approved it or approved it with modifications.

If you have any queries in the mean time, 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,

Sarah Caulfield
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737287

HA02

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Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

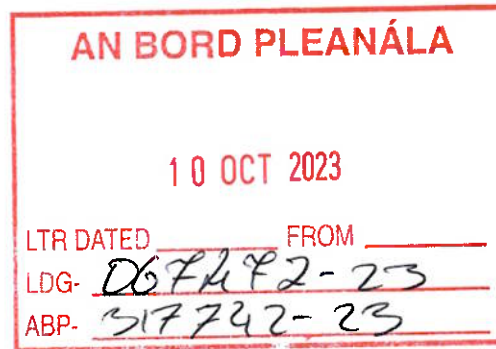
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Andrew McNamee & Fernanda De Sousa

Address:
67 Patrician Villas
Stillorgan
County Dublin
A94 P862

Date: 10.10.23

An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1



Objection to Case Reference Number 317742
BRAY-DUBLIN CITY BUS CORRIDOR SCHEME - EFFECTS ON PATRICIAN VILLAS & PATRICIAN GROVE

I'm writing to address the planning application by The National Transport Authority for the BusConnects project (Case Reference Number 317742). In this letter, I'll outline our main objections to the proposed modifications both inside and outside Patrician Villas, including primary concerns, secondary issues, and our personal circumstances.

01 PRIMARY OBJECTIONS

1.1 - LOSS OF TREES

Removal of many mature trees between Patrician Villas & the N11
The trees surrounding Patrician Villas were originally planted 40/50 years ago to act as a safety protection barrier between our neighbourhood and a busy dual carriageway. Now the proposal is to remove around 50%. This is one of the most worrying proposals because trees provide so many vital benefits - they clean the air, absorb dust and wind, muffle noise, prevent flooding and absorb CARBON emissions. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as a result of climate change, Ireland can expect an increase in the intensity of STORMS and a substantial increase in the frequency of heavy rain. Rain is hitting the ground at higher speeds and taking much longer to drain away, leading to an increased risk of FLOODING / flash flooding. However tree leaves, branches and trunks intercept rain before it hits the ground and root systems help water penetrate into the ground 80% faster than concrete, thereby preventing / reducing flooding. Trees provide shelter from WIND (EPA predicts storms will happen more often) and trees provide SHADE and cooling (EPA predicts temperatures will continue to increase). Trees provide WILDLIFE habitats for birds, squirrels, foxes etc. The removal of trees will see a reduction in BIODIVERSITY which according to the W.H.O "provides numerous ecosystem services that are crucial to human well-being". Trees serve many vital functions for the well-being of humans, animals, and other plants. While the NTA say they will plant some new trees and shrubs to offset the loss in 'some' areas, it will likely take many years before the replacement trees can restore 'some' of what was lost.. if at all. Trees eat the greenhouse gases that cause climate change - their removal is contrary to protecting Patrician Villas & Patrician Grove from future harsh climate events.

1.2 - LOSS OF AIR QUALITY

Extra traffic lights at the proposed Toucan crossing (Fig.2) located less than 100 meters before the crossroads lights, will interrupt the flow of traffic on the N11 (above the underpass). Vehicles burn more fuel when travelling below 45 km/hr, especially while breaking and revving so extra lights means EXTRA CARBON EMISSIONS. While it is projected that busses will eventually be low emitters (hybrids), the same cannot be said for cars, trucks, vans and motorbikes, whose number greatly surpass that of buses. The inevitable increase in traffic air pollution combined with the loss of our ONLY DEFENCE, i.e. mature trees that absorb, filter and redirect pollution; could potentially be detrimental to the health of residents young and old. Being exposed to increased air pollution can increase the risk of LUNG CONDITIONS, including asthma, bronchitis and pneumonia. It can be particularly harmful to babies in the womb and for children whose lungs are still developing and who take in more air pollution because of smaller airways and more rapid breathing. HIGHER EXPOSURE TO AIR POLLUTANTS DIRECTLY INCREASES SUSCEPTIBILITY TO POOR HEALTH and reduces standard of living.

03 PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The potential impact of the proposed changes on our family's life is a matter of utmost concern to us. We diligently saved for many years to purchase our modest two-bedroom house in Patrician Villas. Our choice of this location was deliberate, aimed at being close to my parents, as my partner's family resides in Brazil. Our primary aspiration was to create a comfortable home where we could start a family, and we are grateful to have welcomed a 10-month-old baby into our lives.

Our long-term vision was firmly rooted in our current residence, as it offered attributes that were pivotal to our well-being and contentment. These aspects encompassed safety, privacy, green with nature, pollution free and relivilly quite and peaceful surroundings. I believe that the proposed changes could significantly alter each of these vital elements. In light of these potential alterations, it's conceivable that we might not have considered purchasing this house initially.

Our home is located at 67 Patrician Villas, the property highlighted on the attached map. Notably, our house is the closest to the N11 road. When we purchased this house, our primary concerns were road noise and privacy, which played a pivotal role in our decision-making process. After moving in, the extent of road noise was disheartening, prompting us to invest in replacing all the windows and the front door of our home. Thankfully, these measures significantly alleviated the issue, and we gradually adjusted to the sound over time. During the winter months, when the trees shed their leaves, our bedroom offers a direct view of the N11. While this situation is less than ideal, we have found some respite in the presence of branches and the traffic lights situated further down the road, reducing traffic buildup outside our windows. However, the proposed changes would result in the removal of 50% of the trees, exposing us to the road and static traffic, particularly with the introduction of new traffic lights just a few yards from our house.

The central point I wish to emphasise is that our household is likely to experience one of the most substantial impacts as a result of the proposed changes. We have already taken measures to improve our quality of life and create a comfortable home, and these impending changes stand to disrupt not only our lives but also those of our valued neighbors.

We request that the planning board give due consideration to the significant investments we have made, both financially and emotionally, in establishing our house as our cherished home. We hope that the planning board will prioritise the well-being and quality of life of all residents in the Patrician Villas and Patrician Grove community when evaluating the potential impact of these proposed changes.

Sincerely,
Andrew Mc Namee
Fernanda De Sousa

