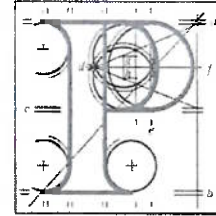


**Our Case Number:** ABP-317742-23



**An  
Bord  
Pleanála**

Brendan Dunne  
7 Holly Park  
Shankill

**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 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,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah Caulfield  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: 01-8737287

HA02A

<b>Teil</b>	<b>Tel</b>	(01) 858 8100
<b>Glaó Áitiúil</b>	<b>LoCall</b>	1890 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

**BRAY SCHEME No 317742 (Bray to City Centre Bus Corridor)**

An Bord Pleanála

10 October 2023

64 Marlborough Street

Dublin 1

Dear Sir/Madam,

In April of 2020, I submitted my response to the public consultation, and I am sorry to say that I have seen nothing to change my mind since then. The grave misgivings I had then I still have now.

My concerns, then and now, are with the necessity, the benefit, the impact, the design and the basis for this plan.

The current proposal is a staggeringly illogical decision that ignores the obvious solution to introduce an express bus services to and from Bray using N11 bus lanes. The express bus service would be quick and cheap to implement and would provide near immediate solution to the Shankill village bottleneck.

The current proposal will fail to resolve the bottleneck in Shankill village but will impose what is nothing short of vandalism on the fabric of the community. The idea that anyone could walk through a village like Shankill and decide that what was needed was wider roads is absolutely beyond comprehension. The fact that anyone would propose such an act of vandalism in pursuit of such meagre returns defies comprehension. Particularly when the obvious solution, an express service to Bray, is staring you right in the face.

To add further to the damage being inflicted to the community the current plan also fails to provide a cycle infrastructure. If there was any actual sophistication to this plan it would immediately recognise the parks and coastal route being developed by DLRCC and would ensure that Shankill was connected to that route. But it's a single-issue plan, wider roads, that fails to provide for cyclists.

Under the BusConnects project, and reiterated in the Climate Action Plan 2019, the National Transport Authority states that the "cycling infrastructure delivered under this programme (i.e. BusConnects) will form the core of the region's cycling network and deliver a radical step-change in cycling facilities".

But not in Shankill. In Shankill BusConnects will see the removal of some existing cycle lanes (as poor as they are) and provide for no linkages to other cycle infrastructure (existing or planned). It is staggering that you have come to us, again, with this proposal and merely include some vague aspirational suggestion that "an alternative Cycle Route will be considered, outside the scope of the BusConnects infrastructure project, in the future". It's not good enough and anyone putting there name to this should be embarrassed.

And to further your shame there is the impact of this needless, ill-conceived plan on the trees of Shankill. In 2019 the Climate Change Award was awarded to Shankill Tidy Towns for their 'Trees for

All' programme. The programme, which saw a tree planted for every resident of Shankill, reflects Shankill's commitment and love for our natural environment. We are blessed in Shankill to live in a village with the mountains to one side, the sea to the other and some amazing trees in between. Although we are lucky to have giant sequoias, tracts of native woodland, even a champion cypress tree we still appreciate the ecological importance of the most ordinary of our trees. The idea that we would remove hundreds of trees for yet more lanes of traffic goes very much against the ethos of the community. We already have the 10 lanes of carriageway between the M11, M50 and Dublin Rd. You're proposing to make it 12. How many lanes of carriageway does Shankill need? In 10 years will we end up with 14 or 16? How many trees do you want to remove? All of them? Will our traffic be fixed then, when all the trees are gone, and we have 14 lanes? To cut down yet more trees for yet more road is unjustified by even the most optimistic benefits of this section of the plan. But to do it for a sub optimal plan which may be inherently incapable of delivering on its own meagre aims, well that is just shameful.

This plan does many things but what it does not do is connect. It does not connect with the Wicklow council plans for transport, it does not connect with the DLRCC plans for cycling, it does not connect with the DLRCC plans for trees and it most certainly does not connect with the community of Shankill.

I cannot comprehend that in 2023 we are still proposing wider roads and no cycling infrastructure as a transport solution. It's stupefyingly unimaginative, dishonest, and disingenuous, to claim that this plan will do anything but blight yet another community. Removing mature landmark trees, widening roads, no cycle infrastructure! I do not believe this is the best we can do.

It is critical that there is an oral hearing and these plans are thoroughly revised in collaboration with the community of Shankill.

Brendan Dunne

7 Holly Park

Shankill