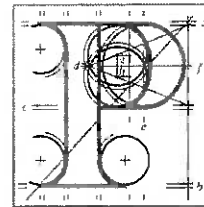


Our Case Number: ABP-317742-23



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Michael Roberts
13 Holly Park
Shankill

D18 PA00

Date: 11 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

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

Tel	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaó Áitiúil	LoCall	1890 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902

13 Holly Park
Shankill
Co. Dublin
D18 PA00
9th October 2023

An Bord Pleanála

Re Observation Bus Connects CBC Route 13

To whom It may Concern

I am writing to you to make an observation on the proposed changes to the plan for the Bus Connects CBC Route 13.

I am an IT consultant, currently working for a charity that provides IT services to other charities in Ireland. I have lived in Shankill since 1988 and have been actively involved in Shankill Tidy Towns which this year received the Gold Award.

Concern 1: Possible Destruction of Mature Trees

My main concern is potential destruction of mature trees that line the routes in and out of Shankill. This tree cover goes a long way to make Shankill a very pleasant place to live. If the number of trees being destroyed is substantial I fear this could have an adverse impact on the character of Shankill and appears to go against the government climate change policy.

Concern 2: Lack of Transparency

I am also concerned about the lack of transparency in the plan regarding the tree loss. Having spent an afternoon reviewing the plans in detail, it was not clear to me how many trees are actually being removed.

Concern 3: Benefits Unclear

I fully support the purpose of Bus Connects which I believe is to make public transport more efficient and therefore to move commuters away from cars. Therefore, if I was persuaded that the proposed plans achieved that, I would be able to accept the destruction of trees and wildlife that will result in the proposed scheme.

My normal mode of transport to Dublin is by DART, but I have taken approximately 10 bus journeys between the hours of 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. in the last 3 weeks on different days to see for myself how efficient the bus service is. What I found surprised me.

- The average time from Shankill (Kentfield) to Woodbrook (Bray) ranged from 5 minutes to 8 minutes with an average of 6-7 minutes.
- There were no delays except a small delay at Stonebridge road of under 1 minute due I suspect to students going to school.
- Small numbers of people boarded and alighted between Shankill and Bray – in fact frequently the buses did not stop at bus stops as no one was waiting. The exception was a large number of construction workers alighting at the new apartments after Crinken Church.

From this (limited) study, I could not see how the proposed plans would achieve the objectives of Bus Connects. It would appear that Shankill has an efficient and fast bus service.

Concern 4: Value for Taxpayers Money.

As a taxpayer I would be concerned that significant money is being spent on this development when the benefits have not been clearly articulated. After speaking to other members of the Shankill community, no one has been able to point to any benefits that might mitigate the disadvantages.

Concern 5: M11 Route

I believe that there is a new bus route planned to go along the hard shoulder of the M11. I am not sure this was taken into consideration at the time Bus Connects CBC Route 13 was being planned. If this is the case, surely the plans should be reassessed in the light of the M11 bus Route .

Yours Sincerely

Michael Roberts

[REDACTED]

Phone 0 [REDACTED]