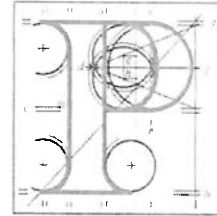


Our Case Number: ABP-318573-23



An
Bord
Pleanála

Councillor Wayne Harding
Rathmaiden
Slane
Co. Meath
C15C2R7

Date: 22 February 2024

Re: A proposed Road Development comprising of the N2 Slane By-Pass and Public Realm Enhancement Scheme
Within the Townlands of Slane, County Meath

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.

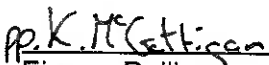
Please note that the proposed road development shall not be carried out unless the Board has approved it or approved it with modifications.

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,


Eimear Reilly
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737184

HA02A

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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
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Title: Enhancing Road safety, Connectivity and Sustainability: Advocating for the Slane Bypass

Introduction:

In the ongoing discourse surrounding infrastructure development and regional connectivity, the proposal for the Slane Bypass has emerged as a critical initiative that promises to take the increasingly dangerous N2 out of Slane village save lives and give the village back to the local inhabitants. The scheme aims to address longstanding dreadful safety issues and with the public realm plan unlock new opportunities. This essay aims to provide a comprehensive analysis and advocacy for the Slane Bypass, emphasizing its potential to improve road safety, enhance transportation efficiency, improve local communities, and contribute to sustainable development.

Historical Context:

Slane, a picturesque village nestled along the banks of the River Boyne in County Meath, Ireland, has long grappled with the adverse impacts of heavy traffic flow through its narrow streets and the consequential horrendous road traffic accidents. The historical significance of Slane, coupled with its status as a popular tourist destination, necessitates a balanced approach to address the challenges posed by vehicular congestion. The Slane Bypass, a proposed alternative route, holds the promise of mitigating these challenges by redirecting traffic away from the village centre, preserving its cultural heritage and fostering economic and tourism development.

Traffic Congestion road traffic accidents and Environmental Concerns:

One of the primary issues that the Slane Bypass seeks to address is the safety and congestion caused by heavy traffic passing through the village. The current infrastructure is ill-equipped to handle the volume of vehicles, resulting in traffic jams, increased pollution, and safety hazards which in the past has led to death and injury. The bypass offers a strategic solution by diverting through-traffic away from the village, reducing the daily threat of a catastrophic road traffic accident reducing the environmental impact and enhancing the overall quality of life for Slane residents.

Moreover, the environmental benefits of the bypass extend beyond reduced traffic congestion. By minimizing emissions and noise pollution associated with heavy traffic, the project aligns with global efforts to combat climate change and create more sustainable communities as is constantly referred to by the minister for transport Eamon Ryan. The Slane Bypass can be a catalyst in conjunction with the proposed Boyne Greenway for adopting eco-friendly transportation practices, setting a precedent for responsible infrastructure development.

Economic Opportunities:

In addition to addressing environmental concerns, the Slane Bypass has the potential to stimulate economic and tourism growth in the region. By improving accessibility and connectivity, the bypass can attract businesses, investors, and tourists to Slane and its surrounding areas. The enhanced transportation infrastructure can serve as a gateway to the Boyne Greenway, renowned for its historical sites, cultural attractions, and natural beauty. As a result, local businesses can thrive, employment opportunities can increase, and the overall economic vitality of the region can be uplifted.

Preserving Cultural Heritage:

Slane is not just a village; it is a repository of Irish history and cultural heritage. The narrow streets and historic buildings, which currently bear the brunt of heavy traffic, deserve preservation and protection. The Slane Bypass provides a viable solution to strike a balance between progress and conservation. By diverting traffic away from the village centre, the bypass safeguards the architectural and cultural integrity of Slane, ensuring that future generations can appreciate and learn from its rich history.

Social Impact and Community Well-being:

Beyond the economic and environmental considerations, the Slane Bypass holds the potential to positively impact the well-being of the local community. Reducing traffic congestion within the village not only enhances air quality but also improves road safety for residents and visitors alike. Additionally, the bypass can foster a more pedestrian-friendly environment in Slane, encouraging community engagement, cultural events, and a sense of shared space.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the Slane Bypass stands as a multifaceted solution to address the challenges faced by the village and its residents. By alleviating traffic congestion, promoting economic development, preserving cultural heritage, and enhancing community well-being, the bypass represents a forward-looking approach to infrastructure planning. Advocating for the Slane Bypass is not merely a call for progress but a commitment to creating a sustainable and thriving future for Slane and its surrounding regions. As we navigate the complex interplay of road safety, historical significance, environmental responsibility, and economic growth, supporting the Slane Bypass emerges as a prudent and transformative choice for the betterment of both the local community and the broader region.

The people of Slane have been here before only to watch a sustained effort from around the country that ultimately cost the village a decade of progress with the bypass refusal of 2012.

The reasons for refusal have been addressed. It was recommended by the previous inspector to deal with issues raised in further information. In the boards wisdom this recommendation was discarded with outright refusal. That decision deeply hurt the

Slane Community. I plead that everyone involved in the decision part of this application process gives the people of Slane THEIR bypass.

ENDS.

Councillor Wayne Harding

Rathmaiden

Slane Co. Meath

C15C2R7

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