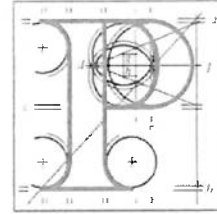


Our Case Number: ABP-318573-23



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Francis Ledwidge Museum
c/o Terence Wogan
Janeville
Drogheda Road
Slane
C15 DK82

Date: 15 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.

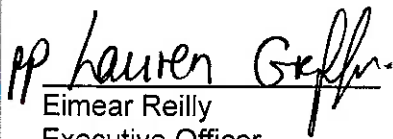
If you have any queries in relation to this matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board at laps@pleanala.ie

Please quote the above-mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Teil	Tei	(01) 858 8100
Glaao Áitiúil	LoCall	1800 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	bord@pleanala.ie

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

Yours faithfully,



Eimear Reilly
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737184

HA02A

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N2 Slane Bypass and Public Realm Enhancement Scheme

Submission on behalf of **Francis Ledwidge Museum**, Janeville, Drogheda Road, Slane, C15 DK82

The Company name is registered as **Francis Ledwidge Museum and War Memorial Centre**

Company Limited by Guarantee, CRO 327148

CHY 13501 Registered Charity Number: 20042257

The Francis Ledwidge Museum promotes the life and works of one of County Meath's great literary figures. As well as welcoming visitors, the museum provides educational tours to primary level schools and to historical societies and active age groups.

Each year, the museum organises activities and events to commemorate Francis Ledwidge, adding value to and promoting the tourism potential of the Boyne Valley and contributing to the cultural life of County Meath.

The property, built in 1886 consists of two Parnell Cottages. Both cottages are intact with piggeries and hen lofts, as was typical of the period when they were built following a nineteenth century Local Government (Ireland) Act, which was an enlightened scheme to provide ownership and security of tenure in rural locations to those who worked on the land.

Today, the one-acre garden that accompanies the first cottage where Ledwidge was born, has been creatively landscaped to create a looped walk that passes a monument dedicated to the poet, a facsimile of a memorial that stands on the outskirts of Boezinge in Belgium near where Ledwidge was killed.

The peaceful tranquillity of the garden is an essential part of the visitor experience, where visitors take time out to relax, reflect, and enjoy the calm and peaceful surroundings that so informed and inspired much of the poet's writings.

The Museum Committee facilitates outdoor events in the garden e.g. poetry readings and small concerts, taking part in national cultural celebrations such as Poetry Day Ireland and Heritage Week. The museum host regular group visits e.g. School Tours, Active Retirement and History Groups etc.

The Francis Ledwidge Museum is managed and administered by a voluntary committee, a small but dedicated group of Ledwidge enthusiasts who take pride in the writings of the poet and the restoration and upkeep of his birthplace.

The museum cottage has protected building status RPS: MH019-112

Mission Statement of Francis Ledwidge Museum Committee:

To promote an appreciation of the writings and poetry of Francis Ledwidge to as wide an audience as possible and to protect the name, birthplace and memory of Ledwidge for future generations.

Reference: **Creative Ireland Culture and Creative Strategy for Meath 2023-2027**

Strategic Priorities for **Meath County Council**

5.1 To conserve and promote our cultural and literary inheritance

To protect and enhance our literary legacy to ensure that great writers like Mary Lavin, **Francis Ledwidge** and Lord Dunsany are forever identified with County Meath.

To prioritise conservation and promotion of our literary inheritance.

To work in collaboration with independent and community providers like The Francis Ledwidge Museum.

Museum Committee: Recipients Meath County Council Civic Award June 2023.

Number on Map deposited with Meath County Council:

128a.1 Folio MH14685 O.S. Sheet 2316-C

129a.1 Folio MH18603 O.S. Sheet 2316-C

The above serves to illustrate the literary and historical importance of the museum and the contribution that the museum makes to culture and tourism of the area. It also serves as background that inform the following issues of concern that we believe have clear potential to impact on the workings of the museum.

It is proposed that a new roundabout is to be situated **90 metres** from the Museum eastern boundary on the N51 east of Slane as part of the Bypass construction works. This is the minimum distance as required under road design regulations.

Ref: **Transport Infrastructure Ireland GEO-03060** Geometric Design of Junctions (Priority Junctions, Roundabouts, Grade Separated Junctions) chp 5 Fig 5.2

We wish to express our disappointment that despite expression of our concerns at separate meetings with RPS Design Consultants and Meath County Council, that the minimum distance is being maintained in the current plans.

It is our belief that this does not show a clear understanding or appreciation of the cultural and conservation status of the museum.

We acknowledge that this is in compliance with statutory requirements regarding minimum distance to roundabouts. Our disappointment is that the scope for a longer distance from the museum to the roundabout is not achieved in the plans.

In expressing our disappointment, we accept the compliance here and now wish to draw attention to two design issues of particular concern.

On drawing No. DM1002 the existing road will be realigned, and C.P.O. Ref. plot marked 128a.1 shows the front of the Museum. On the CPO-Schedule. PDF, Page 46 Ref. E09-E10 there is a reference to the construction of a **sound barrier** on plot 146g.1 beside the eastern boundary of the Museum (with plot 146a.2 being used for temporary inspection and maintenance).

Our concern is the design of this sound barrier. We would require a solid wall barrier to mitigate the increased noise level anticipated from all the extra traffic on the new roundabout. It is an established fact that masonry walls are more effective at blocking road sounds than even the best wooden fences which would have gaps and a much lighter mass.

The RPS Group, in part of their E.I.A.R Report state that noise mitigation is required Ref. R1066a Ledwidge Cottage Museum in their prepared Noise Level Report. This is in Vol 4, Appendix 9, Page 107 (see attached). For all the above reasons, we believe a masonry wall is essential.

The second concern is the indicated Pedestrian Crossing to the Museum from the proposed new footpath on the southern side of the N51 coming out from Slane Village to the new roundabout. The Drawing Ref. GA2201 on Environmental Impact Assessment Report- Volume 3- Scheme Drawings- No 2 General Arrangements – Drawing 6.

We very much welcome the addition of this pedestrian crossing in the plan.

However there is no detail of the type of Pedestrian Crossing envisaged in the Plan.

This poses the question as to how for example purposes, a group of school children or any other group would cross a very busy road in safety bearing in mind the increased volume of vehicular traffic coming off the roundabout.

Given the stagger distance from the proposed pedestrian crossing to the roundabout is 90m then we believe that in the interest of Health and Safety, this **MUST** be a light-controlled crossing.

Ref: TII DN-GEO-03044 1.9b "To provide a safe and convenient environment for pedestrians and cyclists."

This would allow any pedestrians and/or cyclists to press the signal button and allow safe crossing of the pedestrian crossing.

In addition, appropriate signage to be installed on approach to inform motorists of vehicles of upcoming pedestrian crossing.

We would request that our concerns regarding the above are considered in any technical review and examination of the plans.

If the above-mentioned concerns are addressed as requested, the Francis Ledwidge Museum Committee would be satisfied in totality to support the proposed Slane N2 Bypass plan.

Submission hereby made on behalf of Francis Ledwidge Museum Committee

Terry Wogan
Committee Chairperson
11 February 2024

Francis Ledwidge Museum, Janeville, Drogheda Road, Slane, C15 DK82

[Redacted]
[Redacted]