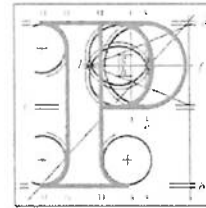


Our Case Number: ABP-318573-23



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Megan Flanagan
Hermitage House
Chapel Street
Slane
Co. Meath
C15 YX98

Date: 19 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 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.

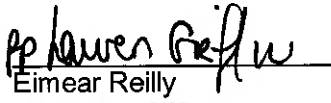
If you have any queries in relation to this matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board at laps@pleanala.ie

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

Teil	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaó 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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Megan and Eamonn Flanagan
Hermitage House
Chapel St
Slane
Co. Meath
C15 YX98

An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

15th February 2024

**Re Bord Pleanála Case reference: HA17.318573
Slane By-Pass, Meath Co. Council**

Dear An Bord Pleanála,

We wish to make an Observation on the above planning application, relating to the By-Pass of Slane Village, Co. Meath.

We live on Chapel St. in the centre of the village with our three young children. We moved here seven years ago and are very happy with our home and community.

However, our gate opens onto the N2. Our walk to school and the playground is on the N2. Our walk to access the local shops is on the N2. Our immediate walking/cycling/jogging route is on the N2.

What that means is that every time we leave our house we are faced with significant HGV and other traffic both ascending and descending through the village. At any one time, as I am sure you will know by your assessments, there can be upwards of 3 HGV's stopped at the lights or travelling north-south in succession through the village. This is the case at any point in the day, every day.

The impact of this on our lives is as follows:

- We cannot have a conversation with our children as we walk to or from school due the noise levels of the vehicles.
- Often when walking we have to cover our mouths from the fumes of the vehicles ascending the hill.
- We struggle to allow our children cycle in the village due safety concerns from the volume of traffic.
- Children are frightened when passing the section of the railings which are dented due to a previous crash, as they worry they may get hit by passing vehicles.
- It does not feel safe to allow our 8 year old to walk 200m to the local shop to get milk as he has to navigate the N2 – N51 crossroads. Although the traffic lights include a pedestrian light, the volume of traffic is too great and road users are too unpredictable.
- The vehicles (of all types) do not abide by the 30km speed limit from the primary school on the north to beyond the Boyne bridge on the south. I and another resident have been overtaken by HGVs on the (30km speed limit) hill descending towards the traffic lights in

Slane. This same resident does not use the N2 to transport their children to school due to their negative experience of HGVs/traffic on the road.

- Vehicles are observed breaking the law on a daily basis: Speeding (there is **complete disregard** for the 30km speed limit), talking on their phones, swerving over the line, overtaking on a solid line, breaking the lights.

In writing this, I feel I am struggling to capture the daily and longterm negative effects of having our small village as a through point on the National Dublin-Derry road, which also carries vehicles wishing to avoid the tolls on the M1. It is hard to capture the feeling of unease you hold, as you walk out your front gate, that at any moment, a vehicle could change the rest of your or your children's life.

As residents in Slane, we talk about the traffic all the time. When people visit us, they comment on the traffic. When you're sitting in the café on the N2, you are bombarded by the traffic noise outside. When wanting to cycle, walk, be outside with our children, we have to contend with the traffic. It Does Not Feel Safe. It does not feel comfortable.

I am not someone who experiences anxiety nor someone who struggles with worry. I don't write this Observation letter in an attempt to be dramatic. I am a realist. I love Slane. I love our village. The village has enormous potential on multiple fronts: tourism, biodiversity, creativity, economics, education, history. The only thing I would change about Slane, is the volume of traffic. To have a by-pass would transform this village.

I hope that this positive and exciting Road Development and Public Realm Enhancement Scheme will be successful and secure the safe, prosperous future of our village and of *all* its residents and visitors.

Yours sincerely

Megan Flanagan