

**SUBMISSION BY BALLYHEA COMMUNITY HALL COMMITTEE**

**TO AN ORAL HEARING HELD BY AN BORD PLEANALA**

**NEWCASTLEWEST 27 SEPTEMBER 2022**

**Case Reference: NA04.310286**

**Dublin to Cork Railway Line (Elimination and Upgrade) of Level Crossings between  
Limerick Junction and Mallow**

On behalf of the community hall committee, I make this submission to Bord Pleanala on a proposed development to close level crossing XC 212 at Ballycoskery (Ballyhea Village) and to replace it with an overpass.

The hall committee once again emphasizes the points made to An Bord Pleanala in its previous submission. In particular, I would underline CIE's lack of consultation with the committee; the disproportionate scale of the proposed development; the reduction it would cause to the present connectivity between the different parts of the village; the isolation of the community hall it would bring about with negative effects to its functioning and operation; as well as to its negative impact on local fauna and flora as well as on the general environment.

By way of updating our previous submission I wish to mention the following:

**Cork-Limerick M20 Preferred Route**

Since raising these concerns, the community hall committee became aware of the proposed route for the M20 motorway last March. The route remains close to the N20 north of Buttevant until diverging towards the west at Ballyhea (cf. attached brochure, Preferred Road-Based Option).

The building of the M20 will require a very substantial overpass to carry the proposed M20 over the existing N20 and over the Cork Dublin railway line. The corridor for these works overlaps with CIE's proposed development and will lead to a second major structural work in proximity to the village of Ballyhea with significant impact on the landscape, the environment, and on the social cohesion of the village of Ballyhea.

<b>AN BORD PLEANALA</b>	
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It has been suggested that both projects could be integrated thereby eliminating the need for an over bridge in Ballyhea Village.

### **Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028**

In June 2022, Cork County Council published its new County Development Plan.

Initially, Cork County Council proposed a road-over-bridge at Ballycoskery to replace rail crossing XC 212. That proposal encountered major public opposition. Of 52 submissions received for the Mallow/Kanturk municipal district, 34 of them related to the Ballycoskery proposal, thereby making it a significant issue for the Development Plan. Having failed to secure the support of the elected members of Cork County Council the proposal was abandoned. Hence, no provision is contained in the Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028 for an overbridge at Ballycoskery.

### **Public Consultation**

The present proposal has been criticized for CIE's lack of engagement with the residents and stakeholders in Ballyhea regarding the proposed development.

The last engagement by CIE with village representatives was a ZOOM meeting held in December 2020.

No public meeting was held with the residents and stake holders of Ballyhea notwithstanding promises to have such inter-action.

A public exhibition of plans, maps and drawings was held in the Charleville Park Hotel in November 2018. Much of the material exhibited at this event related to a confusingly an entirely different historic project dating from 2010. This resulted in there being insufficient clarity for many attending thus preventing the public generally understanding the details of the proposal let alone being made aware of the alternatives considered.

While the exhibition aroused significant interest with regard to the Ballyhea Village project, the comments and suggestions made by the public have never been published. No detailed analysis of the public's reaction to the proposed development was included in the material submitted to An Bord Pleanala. The community hall committee believes that it would be in the public interest and serve transparency to have this material made available to An Bord Pleanala and to the general public. I would therefore respectfully request the Bord to ask CIE for this



material to be made available in order that a proper public consultation may take place.

It should be noted that CIE continued its work on this project during COVID lock down while local residents were confined to their homes. These circumstances prohibited any possibility for the local residents and stake holders from availing of professional advice and from holding meetings on the proposed development.

### **Conclusion**

Taking into account the previous submission of our committee, the comments and observations made by other local groups, and these further submissions, Ballyhea Community Hall Committee hereby requests An Bord Pleanala to reject the proposed development as far as proposals for Ballycoskery (Ballyhea Village) are concerned.