

Betty Houlihan and others  
Fantstown  
Kilmallock  
Limerick

**Date:** 05 July 2021

**Re: Railway works and all works necessary to eliminate and, where necessary, upgrade seven numbered level crossings and carry out all associated and ancillary works along a 24-kilometre section of the Dublin to Cork Railway Line.  
Fantstown, Thomastown, Ballyhay, Newtown, Ballycoskery (Ballyhea Village), Shinanagh and Buttevant, Co. Cork and Co. Limerick.**

Dear Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed railway order and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter. A receipt for the fee lodged is enclosed.

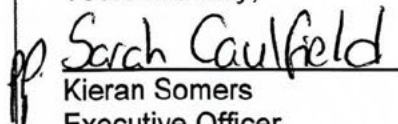
The Board will revert to you in due course with regard to the matter.

Please be advised that copies of all submissions / observations received in relation to the application will be made available for public inspection at the offices of Cork County Council and at the offices of An Bord Pleanála when they have been processed by the Board.

More detailed information in relation to strategic infrastructure development can be viewed on the Board's website: [www.pleanala.ie](http://www.pleanala.ie).

If you have any queries in the meantime please contact the undersigned officer of the Board. Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

  
Kieran Somers

Executive Officer

Direct Line: 01-8737250

RA05

<b>Tel</b>	<b>Tel</b>	(01) 858 8100
<b>Glaó Áitiúil</b>	<b>LoCall</b>	1890 275 175
<b>Facs</b>	<b>Fax</b>	(01) 872 2684
<b>Láithreán Gréasáin</b>	<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.pleanala.ie">www.pleanala.ie</a>
<b>Ríomhphost</b>	<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:bord@pleanala.ie">bord@pleanala.ie</a>

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

Re. Planning Ref. No. 310286.  
Closure of FANSTOWN L.C. XC187.

30/6/21.

FANSTOWN,  
KILMALLOCK,  
CO. LIMERICK.

E. MAIL

To whom it concerns,

Encl. €50 charge for objection  
to total closure of FANSTOWN CROSSING  
XC187.

Also Encl. 12 supporting letters  
to back up my objection.

Also signatures of our local  
residents.

Thank You

Betty Healy

AN BORD PLEANALA	
LDG-	
ABP-	310286-20
02 JUL 2021	
Fee: €	50
Type:	Cash
Time:	
By:	Reg post

Fantstown,  
Kilmallock,  
Co. Limerick.

27 June 2021

To whom it concerns,

I wish to lodge objection with An Bórd Pleanála regarding the proposed total closure of Fantstown level crossing XC187.

Having worked as Gatekeeper at the level crossing for thirty-four years, and only recently retired, I am fully aware of the safety implications involved for Iarnród Éireann on such level crossings. I welcome all progress and reduced journey times for users of Iarnród Éireann. I have watched with great interest all that changes that have taken place over many years, which have been for the better and in the spirit of moving forward in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I agree with the updating of the seven manually operated crossings, six of which, I believe, are being facilitated by means of the addition of new overhead roads or full automation. Fantstown is the only crossing and public road that is being totally closed off. This will create two cul-de-sacs, one of either side of the existing crossing.

As members of the community have a democratic right to be able to use our public road and cross the railway line safely if we so wish. A community will not be split in two because of this decision. The freedom of movement to see our friends, neighbours and family by use of this road, or to exercise by walking or cycling should be given priority. Creating two cul-de-sacs at Fantstown crossing is not an option. Isolation and loneliness is a big issue in rural Ireland today, not to mention people's mental health.

This proposal may look like progress to Iarnród Éireann but at what cost to our local community?

The most suitable options for Fantstown crossing are to construct an overhead road or full automation. Nothing less will suffice for the alternative means the loss of our right of way and freedom of movement.

Iarnród Éireann may be solving one problem but are creating a much bigger one which will have long-lasting effects on the well-being of members of the community. Closing Fantstown crossing XC187 is an easy option without one shred of consideration for us local people or our views on the proposed closure. Full closure is not acceptable to me or to many members of the community. We all know that cul-de-sacs being their own problems over time, such as illegal dumping and anti-social behaviour, all of which affect the way and quality of life of locals. I live alone and in close proximity to the crossing and do not need the added problems on my doorstep that these proposals will inevitably bring within a rural and isolated area. I have also been advised that my home will lose value, through no fault of my own, owing to a no-through road resulting from the crossing closure.

I urge you to find a reasonable solution to the proposed closure of Fantstown crossing that will be acceptable to all.

Yours Sincerely

Betty Houlihan

*Signed  
Betty Houlihan*

Supporting letter  
for objection by Betty Houlton

Gibbonstown,  
Kilmallock  
Co. Limerick

28 June 2021

**Re: Planning Reference No. 310286**

To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing this letter for the purposes of objecting to the closure of Fanstown Railway Crossing XC187 for the reasons outlined below.

1. **Division of Local Community:** We strongly believe that the closure of the railway crossing at Fanstown will create a division among our rural community, many of whom rely on this railway crossing in order to visit friends and family. The closure of the crossing would also mean the end of a popular walkway and cycle route for local residents.
2. **Cul de Sac:** The closure of the crossing XC187 would also lead to the creation of a cul de sac on both sides of the railway tracks, this would increase the risk of crime and dumping on these roads as well as devaluing the houses located on these roads. The creation of a cul de sac would also further isolate local residents.
3. **Lack of Consultation:** We also feel consultation with local residents on this decision has been extremely poor and that there has been a clear absence of meaningful engagement with concerns and issues raised.

Yours Sincerely,

Shane Hewittan

Mungret & Gibbonstown

14 June 2021

SUPPORT LETTER for OBJECTION  
By Betty Houlahan

To whom it may concern,

I wish to raise awareness of and objection to the proposed elimination of Fantstown Level Crossing XC-187 as made by Córas Iompair Éireann (C.I.E) and as presented to an Bórd Pleanála through planned works along the Cork-Dublin railway line.

The proposed closure presents a number of urgent issues to the local community. Eliminating the existing level crossing will result in the full closure of a public roadway and will create two cul-de-sacs. This will affect the local community of Bulgaden/Martinstown as well as the nearby town of Kilmallock.

Permanently sealing off the level-crossing and the road bisecting the level-crossing will also mean the closure of a valuable public amenity. The public road is part of a scenic area and is highly used by walkers and cyclists from within the local community of Bulgaden/Martinstown and by the wider Kilmallock area population. This includes many private individuals but also members of local sports clubs, from cyclists to runners, to train on these rural roads. Within the current climate of ensuring as much outdoor activity as possible, within all public health guidelines, and in promoting all aspects of physical and mental health, the closing of this public road is a major loss to the community.

The road section which lies on the main Tipperary road-side of the crossing has a long history of fly-tipping and illegal rubbish dumping. Once the road is closed to the flow of traffic and to passing walkers/cyclists, such dumping will only increase and will present a health and environmental hazard. Creating two cul-de-sacs at a level crossing in such a rural area also runs the risk of attracting anti-social behaviour and gatherings adjacent to a major national railway line. For those who may seek to gain access to the tracks or to cross the tracks in such a manner will pose a risk to themselves and others in doing so.

The road affected by the proposed closure is a well-used link road that is prioritised by many online navigation systems. Large amounts of traffic which use the level crossing do so by being directed through the road and level-crossing by satellite navigation systems, for onward access to local G.A.A. grounds, to local bars and restaurants, churches and other facilities which host public events in the area and which attract people from outside the locality. The road is also a vital link road towards the scenic Ballyhoura region, which promotes much needed tourism and activities to the local area.

The proposed closure will also directly affect local farmers who need access to lands and animals on either side of the crossing. Diversions would lead to farm machinery undertaking additional journeys of twenty minutes each way, as well as the added risk of navigating well-documented dangerous junctions, such as that located at Ballinscaula bridge, or otherwise having to travel through the town

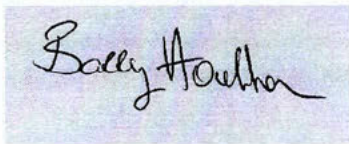
Re: Proposed Elimination of XC-187 Fantstown Level Crossing

of Kilmallock on an extended round trip, which otherwise could be immediately completed by access via the existing crossing.

I would call on C.I.E. to reconsider this proposal and for the reasons outlined above cease plans to eliminate the level crossing XC-187 and instead upgrade its facilities to the necessary automated standards to ensure safe ongoing public right of way and access to public roads by the local community, for local farmers and business people, and so as to ensure that access to all such local amenities as mentioned here are maintained. At a time when rural Ireland and its communities are undergoing ongoing cut-backs in investment and facilities, the very least that should be ensured is the preservation and upkeep of our means to navigate our community, to partake in its scenic routes and the means to keep our communities connected.

I am glad to be contacted in relation to this matter via details below.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Barry Houlihan", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Dr. Barry Houlihan

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering contact information.

Support letter  
for objection by  
Betsy Howells

Gibbonstown  
Kilmallock  
Co. Limerick

25 June 2021

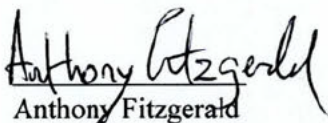
**Re: Planning Reference No. 310286**

To Whom It May Concern,

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1. **Division of Local Community:** I strongly believe that the closure of the railway crossing at Fanstown will create a division among our rural community, many of whom rely on this railway crossing in order to visit friends and family. The closure of the crossing would also mean the end of a popular walkway and cycle route for local residents.
2. **Cul de Sac:** The closure of the crossing XC187 would also lead to the creation of a cul de sac on both sides of the railway tracks, this would increase the risk of crime and dumping on these roads as well as devaluing the houses located on these roads. The creation of a cul de sac would also further isolate local residents.
3. **Lack of Consultation:** I also feel consultation with local residents on this decision has been extremely poor and that there has been a clear absence of meaningful engagement with concerns and issues raised.

Yours Sincerely,

  
Anthony Fitzgerald

Support letter for  
objection by Betty  
O'Brien

Bantard  
Kilmallock  
Co. Limerick

23 June 2021

Re: Planning Reference No. 310286

To Whom It May Concern,

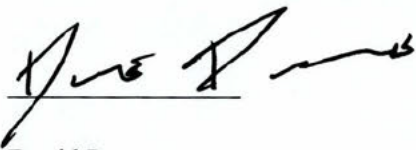
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Yours Sincerely,



Leonie Passmore



David Passmore

Support letter for objection  
By Betty Houch

Observation on Planning reference no. 310286 at Fantstown XC187.

With regards to the closing of Fantstown crossing, I feel that CIE and the people that surround the crossing need to realise what they agree on and work on what separates them. Both sides agree that safety is the single most important issue. They also seem to agree that the present system at the gates is unsustainable. The problem is cost from CIE point of view. The point of the local community is a very restrictive service, leading to a much lower usage of the gates than an alternative could provide.

I did not attend the Public Information Meeting. The reason for this was that on speaking to neighbours that attended, it became clear that CIE had their mind fully made up. I would have liked to have had the opportunity to express my views, but what was the point when it was not about looking at options, did I also need to be told that they had their minds fully made up?

I think their mind was made up even before they started the Options Appraisal. I think CIE have done this because of what they see as low usage figures at Fantstown crossing. This rational ignores the number of house within 2 kilometres of the crossing. It also ignores the churches, schools, graveyards, Social Venues, sporting venues, Mountcoote Estate (Employing 20 People) and the farming community depending on this crossing. All of these are within 2 kilometres.

I feel it is now important that a meeting be held between CIE and the local community. The community need to understand the financial cost to CIE. CIE need to understand the human cost to the community. Perhaps this meeting should have taken place much sooner.

I do not think that CIE have given the community, the chance to express themselves at the earliest stage. That leads to frustration and a lack of understanding on both sides.

I would like to see the Roughan and O Donovan Consulting Engineers appraisal of the options for Fantstown crossing. I know they recommended an overhead bridge, but I feel that if I saw the report that I might better understand the different options considered.

I am disappointed with the lack of knowledge provided at all stages of this process and the lack of consultation. The "done deal" Public Information Meeting was not consultation. Consultation is when CIE are prepared to listen to our views and take them onboard, or at least consider them.

I would like to see the application for a Railway Order refused for Fantstown crossing and a recommendation from An Bord Pleanála for an overhead bridge to be provided.

Patrick Irwin  
Coolroe,  
Kilmallock  
Co. Limerick

**Cork Line Level Crossing Project Submission for Fantstown Level Crossing (XC187)**

**(On behalf of the Councillors of the Cappamore/Kilmallock Municipal District)**

At our January Municipal District meeting, which representatives from Irish Rail and Jacobs attended, I proposed the motion outlined below which was unanimously supported by the other 6 elected members.

**"That, we, the elected members of the Cappamore/Kilmallock Municipal District call on Irish Rail to reconsider its decision to close the Fantstown level crossing (XC187) permanently and replace the crossing with a bridge to link the community."**

The decision by Irish Rail to apply directly to An Bord Pleanála is a direct attempt to deny Limerick City & County Council the process of considering the extinguishment of a right of way closure of a road.

It also denies the elected members of the Cappamore/Kilmallock Municipal District the right to represent the local community. The elected members made their views known in 2009 and now Irish Rail has decided to ignore us and bypass local democracy.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cllr. Mike Donegan**

**Cathairleach of the Cappamore/Kilmallock Municipal District**

January 2020  
MD Meeting



Supporting letter  
on objection by Bally  
Spulkin

Fanstown,  
Kilmallock  
Co. Limerick

28 June 2021

**Re: Planning Reference No. 310286**

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3. **Lack of Consultation:** We also feel consultation with local residents on this decision has been extremely poor and that there has been a clear absence of meaningful engagement with concerns and issues raised.

Yours Sincerely,

Aidan HOLLAND

Kilmallock 1 Fanstown

Back we letter for  
Bitty Houlmans objection.

Gibbonstown,  
Kilmallock  
Co. Limerick

28 June 2021

**Re: Planning Reference No. 310286**

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3. **Lack of Consultation:** We also feel consultation with local residents on this decision has been extremely poor and that there has been a clear absence of meaningful engagement with concerns and issues raised.

Yours Sincerely,

Cathal Conran

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Support letter for  
objection by Betty Houlahan

Gibbonstown  
Kilmallock  
Co. Limerick

25 June 2021

Re: Planning Reference No. 310286


To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing this letter for the purposes of objecting to the closure of Fanstown Railway Crossing XC187 for the reasons outlined below.

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Yours Sincerely,

  
Brian Fitzgerald

  
Lorna Fitzgerald

Planning Ref no.  
310286

Gibbonstown,  
Kilmallock,  
Co. Limerick

Re . Closure of Fanstown Railway Crossing----XC187

I wish to support the objection to this from Mrs. Betty Houlihan on the following grounds.

The Bawntard / Mountcoote roads were always a safe and scenic route to walk.


I enjoyed meeting neighbours on both sides of the crossing.

As I live quite near the crossing , XC187 is my shortest route to Ballingaddy or Ardpatrick.

I cannot understand why locks were put on the pedestrian gates at XC187 when this was not done at other crossings. I would use the crossing if a bridge were provided, or the pedestrian gates were unlocked. At the moment I could be waiting up to 25 minutes for the gates to open ,even if some one were present to open them, which does not always happen.

Please do not split us from our neighbours.

Geraldine O Connor

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Planning Ref.  
Support letter for 310286.  
objection by ~~entry~~  
Houlston

Baumstead,  
Kilmallock,  
Co Limerick  
June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

Re: proposed closing of Fanstown Railway  
crossing.

I am opposed to the closure of this  
crossing as I use it regularly  
for walks with my son who  
has special needs. It is one of the  
safest roads in the area to use.  
I also use it for car access to  
Ballingaddy and Kilfinane. I am  
requesting that the gates not be closed  
but be replaced with an overhead  
bridge.

Monica O'Leary.

SUPPORT LETTER for  
OBJECTION BY BELLY  
Houlihan

Fantstown  
Kilmallock  
Co. Limerick.

Planning Ref.  
310286

Re-Closure of Railway Crossing  
at Fantstown XC187,

I want to show my objection to  
the closure of this crossing.

I used this crossing for walking  
& meeting neighbours and would  
miss this. My Land is Let to

Gabriel Clery who farms at the  
opposite side of the gates. I am  
renting to him for many years  
and losing him as a tenant  
would be a big loss to me.

Pat Leahy

We the undersigned wish to make the following observation and show our objection to the closing of Fantstown Railway gates.

We have been unable to walk across the track since the pedestrian gates were locked two years ago. We were not consulted about the locking of the pedestrian gates and the only consultation on the closure of the main gates was at the Public Information Meeting.

We feel that a look at the number of houses in the area, justify an overhead bridge.

The local catchment area includes a school, 2 churches and Bulgaden Castle (A restaurant /social venue).

We do not want to be cut off from our neighbours.

We are asking for an overhead bridge to eliminate, the long waiting for the gates to be opened.

Rodger Clergy, Bawntard, Kilmallock  
Sean Clergy Bawntard, Kilmallock.  
Winnie Lee, Bawntard, Kilmallock  
Frances Lee, Bawntard, Kilmallock, Colmaide.  
SEAN CROWIN GIBBONSTOWN KILMALLOCK J.  
Helen Cronin Gibbonstown Kilmallock  
Frank Byrne GIBBONSTOWN KILMALLOCK  
Mick Lawlor Coolree Kilmallock  
Maurice John Bawntard.  
Lillian Lillingston Mount Coote Kilmallock  
Mike Lillingston Mount Coote Kilmallock  
Rosemary O'Riordan Mountcoote Kilmallock  
Thomas O'Riordan Mountcoote Kilmallock  
Stephen Lee, Bawntard, Kilmallock

We the undersigned wish to make the following observation and show our objection to the closing of Fantstown Railway gates.

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Aidan & Lilyanne	Houlihan Kildare
	✓ Fantstown
Mark & Carol	Conran Banworth
	✓ Fantstown
BARRY & Rachel	Houlihan Galway
	✓ Fantstown
Shane & ORLA	Houlihan
	Margaret
	✓ Fantstown
Betty Houlihan	Fantstown
Deamot Hanley	GIBBONSTOWN
Mary Hanley	"
Ciarán Hanley	"
Aoife Hanley	"
Emma Hanley	"
Timmy Hanley	"
Mary Hanley	"
Gerard Hanley	"
Denise Hanley	"

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Jim & Marion Ryan Bulgaden

James & Lauren Ryan Bulgaden

Conal Kelly Jan Bulgaden Castle

Mary Kelly Bulgaden Castle

Conal Kelly Jan Bulgaden Castle

Noel O'Connor BULGADEN

KATE KELLY BULGADEN.

Julie Heffernan Bulgaden

Timmy Heffernan Bulgaden

Sinead Heffernan Bulgaden

Aisling Heffernan Bulgaden

Cener Heffernan Bulgaden

Kevin Heffernan Bulgaden

Frank Dutton. Bulgaden.

Eita Dutton. Bulgaden.

Anthony Dutton Bulgaden