

Castlewrixon

Ballyhea,

Co. Cork

21 June 2021

Dublin to Cork Railway Line (Elimination and Upgrade) of Level Crossings between Limerick Junction and Mallow Order 2021.

Case Number NA04.310286

An Bord Pleanala,

64 Marlborough St.,

Dublin 1.

To the Secretary of An Bord Pleanala,

This is a supplement to my letter of 1 June 2021 commenting on proposed plans for the closure of Ballycoskery level crossing no. 212.

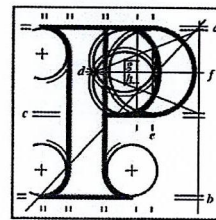
I forgot to mention that I would like to request An Bord Pleanala to hold an oral hearing on this case.

Thanking you, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Jerome O'Keefe

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
LDG-	_____
ABP-	_____
23 JUN 2021	
Fee: €	Type: _____
Time: _____	By: <u>post</u>



Jerome O'Keeffe
Castlewrixon
Ballyhea
Co. Cork

Date: 16th June 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 Sir,

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, Limerick City and 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.

If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact the undersigned officer of the Board.

Teil
Glaio Áitiúil
Facs
Láithreán Gréasáin
Ríomhphost

Tel
LoCall
Fax
Website
Email

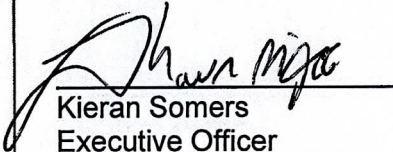
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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

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: 01-873 7250

RA03

Teil
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Castlewrixon

Ballyhea,

Co. Cork

1 June 2021

Dublin to Cork Railway Line (Elimination and Upgrade) of Level Crossings between Limerick Junction and Mallow Order 2021.

Case Number NA04.310286

An Bord Pleanála,

64 Marlborough St.,

Dublin 1.

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
LDG-	<u>040770-21</u>
ABP-	_____
14 JUN 2021	
Fee: € <u>50</u>	Type: <u>Bank Draft</u>
Time: _____	By: <u>Post</u>

To the Secretary of An Bord Pleanála,

Please accept the following observations on the plans for level crossing 212 at Ballycoskery (Ballyhea Village), Charleville Co. Cork.

- 1. There has been a very severe application of the planning laws in the parish of Ballyhea making it next to impossible for young couples to get planning permission to build new homes even on their own land. This is particularly true in the townlands to the east of the railway line such as Castlewrixon, Gurrane, Knightsgrove, Sorel, Newtown, Ballycosgery. This policy contributes to the decline of our rural community and already has effects on organizations such as the GAA and the local school. Up to the time of the pandemic some 15 planning applications from the parish were encountering difficulties in getting permission to build. The houses for which planning permission is sought have a small impact on the landscape. The bridged proposed for Ballycosgery will make a major and lasting impact on the landscape, and have negative consequences for the cohesion of the village of Ballyhea, for social**

movements in the village, and for access to it. It would be deeply unfair to allow this application to continue.

2. The car park in front of the school will be a white elephant as far as the community is concerned. It reduces the green area within the village boundary and more than doubles the area of ground already under asphalt in the school yards. This car park will serve no useful purpose. It is too far from the bus stops on the N20 for those who use the bus services. It is too far for those who car share going to work on the N20. Both of these groups use the church car park on the N20. On the other hand, a car park located in front of the school in a relatively secluded place will give rise to anti-social behavior including halting and camping sites, and drug related activities. I would encourage Bord Pleanala to deny permission for this car-park proposal.
3. The bridge itself is out of all proportion to the size and needs of the village and will become a dominating and ugly sight in the environment. It makes access between the East side of the village and shop and church much more difficult and complicated if using a car. As for the pedestrian bridge attached to the main bridge, this is too long, too complicated and too steep to use. I am over 80 years of age and would be unable to use the foot bridge. In bad weather no one could use it. It is also unusable for anyone in a wheelchair. It makes access to the community hall much more difficult especially for older people. Over ten years ago I proposed that an underpass be built if CIE wanted to close the railway gates. Little consideration was given to that option. Apart from leaving the level crossing as it is or automating it, I still think that the best proportionate solution to the level crossing at Ballycosgery is an underpass. Nobody would object to that solution. The height of the underpass can be kept reasonably low by diverting heavy goods traffic to other crossings along the rail line. In fact, CIE only recently completed an underpass for a local farmer not 200 meters from the Ballycosgery level crossing. If it was possible 200 meters from Ballycosgery it should be possible at Ballycosgery. If it were necessary to install a pumping system for an underpass (although the gate is not within the flood zone), this is already present at the Ballycosgery gates and is used by the housing estate. It should be possible to connect to this pumping station and, if necessary, install a parallel pipe line to carry

away excess water. I would encourage Bord Pleanala to reconsider this option.

I would therefore ask Bord Pleanala to refuse permission for the plan now submitted by CIE for Ballycosgery for the reasons outlined above.

Please acknowledge receipt of this submission and of an accompanying cheque for fifty euro.

Yours sincerely,

Jerome O'Keefe