

The Secretary

An Bord Pleanála

64 Marlborough St

Dublin 1

Date: 20th September 2017

AN BORD PLEANÁLA

Received:

File No:

Case No:

22nd September 2017

ESO-CO2

B1410486

AN BORD PLEANÁLA

TIME 14:00 BY Hand

22 SEP 2017

LTR DATED

FROM

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PL 065 - JA0040

RE:

Development Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre-Strategic Development Initiative

Location Hellfire Club/Montpelier Hill/Massy's Wood

Applicant South Dublin County Council

Reference Number JA0040

To Whom it may concern,

I would like to object to the above development.

My Name is: Karen Gleeson

My Address is: 9 Stocking Wood Way, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16

Email : kazgleeson@hotmail.com

I am completely opposed & appalled by the plans put forward by the South Dublin County Council at the above sites.

I am the mother of two young girls & we regularly visit the area as a family to enjoy the nature & teach the girls about wildlife, animals & how important it is to cherish and respect the mountains.

I would certainly not want to bring them up there to spend time indoors & read information off a screen or wall. You see when my girls are out running around in nature their imagination runs wild. It brings them such happiness and joy to see the changing colours of the seasons through nature & the birds that fly by & perch on the branches. In particular they get excited about Bats would you believe?!! We have on rare occasions been to the mountains at twilight & have been lucky enough to catch a quick glimpse of a bat at the Hellfire Forest.

These Bats are protect by the Wildlife Act (1976). It is an OFFENCE to intentionally disturb, injure or kill a bat or disturb its resting place. In addition to domestic legislation, bats are also protected under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). If the plans that South Dublin County Council have put forward go ahead, this will INEVITABLY disturb and or kill the bats that reside there.

I am extremely concerned about the lack of planning to protect these bats & other Wildlife/Trees/Forestry in the Environmental Impact Assessment that has been put forward in the South Dublin County Council's Plans for the above Sites. There is NO mention of how these Bats & other wildlife will be affected and most importantly PROTECTED. It is our duty to protect them & their habitat. It is also the LAW.

As a parent, I am also fully aware of how important it is that we keep certain things sacred & as untouched/protected as possible. Can you think back to some of the happiest times in your childhood?! Was it playing outside on a green, a pitch or in a field, forest or beach perhaps?! It is SO important that in these fast paced times that are propelled by technology, screens, information overload etc that we cherish the Natural wonders of Ireland, and in this case the beautiful Dublin Mountains.

The infrastructure is not in place on these country roads to handle the amount of traffic that these plans will bring. Simply put it will not be safe, not to mention the adverse effect that it will have on local farmers that have been living off this land for years to provide for themselves & their families.

At the moment there is an average of 70,000 people that visit this area per annum. On numerous occasions I have had to park on a narrow country road which is not ideal at all when you have a young family to try to get safely to the Hellfire Carpark. Based on this the ONLY sort of plan that I would be prepared to back would be an improved car-park, bins that are properly managed (this is NOT in place at the moment, there is a lot of rubbish on the walkways & the area is NOT being cleaned/managed at all).

It would be great if the Carpark was bigger, bins put in place, (which are managed properly) & perhaps some walkways could be made wheelchair accessible? This is at MOST what these sites need by way of planning for Development.

I would like to request an Oral hearing,

Yours Sincerely,

Karen Gleeson

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