

The Secretary
An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough St
Dublin 1



Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre-Strategic Development Initiative
Location: Hellfire Club/Montpelier Hill/Massey's Wood
Planning Authority: South Dublin County Council
Ref: JA0040

4th January 2018

Dear Sir,

The Further Information Response fails to allay concerns widely raised around the failure to give due consideration to the protection afforded to numerous birds and mammals under the EU Habitats Directive (1992), the Wildlife Acts (1976 & 2000) and the Birds Directive (1979).

The mitigation measures concerning the Red Squirrel require more detail. For example, rope bridges are proposed yet there is a failure to provide evidence as to their effectiveness and detailed information regarding their proposed location.

The bat surveying remains inadequate and the failure to undertake additional surveys raises fears that the bat population may be negatively impacted in ways that the proposers of this development have not adequately considered or of which they may be unaware. The surveying methods continue to fail to meet those clearly outlined in the NPWS Bat Mitigation guidelines (Kelleher and Marnell).

The explanation regarding the failure to include Pine Martens as a KER remains a concern and should in our view be reconsidered.

Given the proposed disturbance to a very delicate natural environment, and the acknowledgement on page 219 of the original EIAR that *"The proposed landscaping on the slopes Montpelier Hill and the upgrade or laying of trail paths may impact on known and potential archaeological features during the construction. ...The removal of and replacement of trees also has the potential to disturb underlying archaeological features. Upgraded (sic) to services during the operational phase where they necessitate excavation will also potentially impact on underlying archaeological features"*, it remains of deep concern that other less ecologically and archaeologically precious sites have been rejected for the siting of a visitor centre and restaurant. To propose the damaging of flora and fauna in this area for the sake of "exceptional views" would do a huge disservice to the people of Dublin and beyond.

We request that an oral hearing be convened to allow all these issues to be considered and discussed in detail.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Boyd Barrett, TD
Gino Kenny, TD
Brid Smith, TD
People Before Profit,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.