



Bohernabreena Branch of the
Irish Farmers Association
c/o Philip Gallagher
Cruagh Lane, Killakee
Rathfarnham
Dublin 16

5th January 2018

The Secretary
An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough St
Dublin 1

RE: Proposed Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre / Strategic Development Initiative

Location: Hellfire Club / Montpelier Hill / Massy's Wood

Applicant: South Dublin County Council.

Reference No: JA0040.

Observer: Philip Gallagher, Chairperson, Bohernabreena Branch of the Irish farmers Association (IFA)

Address: c/o Philip Gallagher, Cruagh Lane, Killakee, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16.

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you again on behalf of the Bohernabreena branch of the Irish Farmers Association (IFA) who represent the interests of farmers and landowners who are residing and actively farming in the greater South Dublin area and specifically farmers and landowners who are residing and actively farming in the townlands of Cruagh, Jamestown, Killakee, Glenasmole, Friarstown and Bohernabreena all of which are adjoining and in the immediate vicinity of the area and lands covered by the planning application for the Proposed Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre.

The views and comments that Bohernabreena IFA have already expressed in relation to this proposed development in our submission dated 21st September 2017 to An Bord Pleanála represented the consensus of the members and we await your response on that submission.

The points that Bohernabreena IFA has already raised were detailed in our previous submission and we now note that to a great extent these views and concerns have been overlooked in the additional information submitted by the applicant. It is our view that the additional information submitted by Cunnane Stratton Reynolds fails to address a number of core issues raised in our submission.

The continuation of farming activity in the Dublin Mountains is essential to the protection of all the soft targets for development: landscape, biodiversity, heritage and environmental sustainability. Essentially the integrity of this fragile ecosystem, so attractive to amenity users, is preserved and managed by generations of farmers in this area.

Farmers actively working and managing farmland in South Dublin and in the Dublin Mountains are mainly under contract to farm in an environmentally sustainable manner through the Green Low-Carbon Agri-Environment (GLAS) Scheme which is part of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. Many of these farmers also previously participated in the Rural Environmental Protection (REPS) Scheme.

Generations of farmers are largely responsible for farming and maintaining large tracts of land in South Dublin and in the Dublin Mountains on an on-going daily basis and ensuring that they are in line with stringent conditions laid down by both the Department of Agriculture & Food and also by the European Commission (EC).

These Schemes are closely monitored, implemented and inspected and stringently enforced on the ground by the Department of Agriculture and its officials to ensure compliance of participant farmers with the schemes.


It is somewhat hard to believe that yet again where much attention is paid to the protection and provision of amenity users within this landscape, there is scant attention paid to the protection and provision of Agriculture in the adjacent fields bordering the site and within the greater area around this proposed development. While there are specific physical boundaries (fences/walls etc) to the proposed development the animals mainly covered under the EIAR freely circulate and move across these boundaries.

The impact that the proposed annual visitors of 300,000 by way of littering, trespass on properties and dog control etc. would have on the significant number of farm animals (cows, cattle, sheep and horses etc.) that are grazed on the farmland immediately surrounding the proposed development still need to be fully addressed and considered.

The models of partnership with local landowners mentioned in these plans do not reflect the lived experience of the local farming community and the lack of engagement by both SDCC and by the Dublin Mountains Partnership have already been highlighted in our previous submission.

The Bohernabreena branch of the IFA would specifically request that the Board take these specific points into consideration and we would welcome the opportunity to both present and discuss these points further.

Yours sincerely


Philip Gallagher
Bohernabreena IFA