

The Secretary
An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough St
Dublin 1

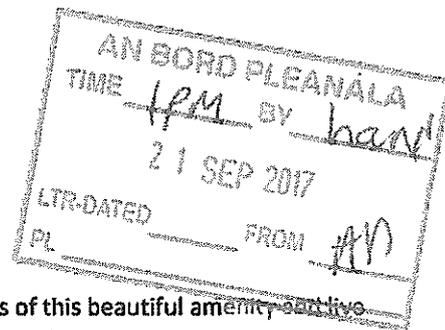
Date 16th September 2017

Re. Development Dublin Mountains visitor centre-strategic development initiative

Location: Hellfire Club / Mountpelier Hill / Massey's Wood

Planning Authority: South Dublin County Council

Reference: JA0040



To Whom it may Concern,

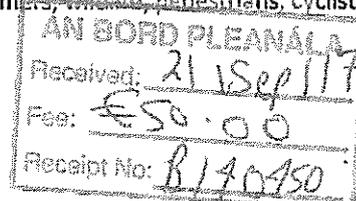
Myself and my family are regular users going back generations of this beautiful amenity ~~partly~~ locally. I would like to object to the above development for the following reasons –

Environment and Conservation

1. To build the new car park broad leaf trees will be knocked down and this will have a negative effect on the environment both visually and for the wild life, I don't think the EIA report addresses the conservation of wildlife
2. Also, there will be many more trees removed to build the massive visitor centre and I wonder was a flood report completed to show if removal of all these trees how it will effect the flow of water?
3. The Red squirrel also lives in the area and is protected under EU law – there was only one drey in the EIA report but talking to a local friend he reported 18 in the area – I don't think the EIA report shows that the red squirrel will be protected
4. Bats are also protected by EU law and are found in this area – the bat survey in the EIA report was completed in day light and I don't think it shows that the bats will be protected
5. The footfall is estimated at 100k per annum currently – the developers are hoping to increase this to 300k – this is a small area with a delicate ecosystem – I cannot see how this increase will not have a detrimental effect on this environment.

Traffic and Road Safety

1. The very large increase in traffic volumes will also have a negative effect on the environment and also a negative effect for - local farmers, ~~wildlife~~, pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.



Archaeology

1. This is a Neolithic landscape of huge national importance which has not been properly researched and the EIA report does not address how these structures will be protected. I have been walking in this area all my life and only recently found the remains of a passage chamber tomb in Maseys forest, has this been researched and how will this be protected?

Commercial

1. This development is too big for such a small area, the visitor centre is the size of the average Lidl, the new car park would come half way up the hill to the Hellfire and when you combine all of this with the Tree Top Bridge, the area would be changed from a natural wilderness to a theme park.
2. The EIA report gives the impression that there will eventually be car park charges – currently this is free to the public.
3. There is a local Café (Kelly's) – this will either lose business or go out of business because of the new restaurant in the Interpretive centre.
4. The main point of this development from the developer and councils view seems to be to make money from tourists with no regard to the environment, current users or local people.

We request an Oral Hearing.

Regards,

Aisling Howard - 13 Chestnut Grove Ballinteer Dublin 16

Signed Aisling Howard

Pat Howard – 13 Chestnut Grove Ballinteer Dublin 16

Signed Pat Howard

Jasmine Howard – 13 Chestnut Grove Ballinteer Dublin 16

Signed Jasmine Howard

