Alison Compe.

Ref 068.JA0040

Creaghduff House

Athlone

Westmeath

3.1 2018

Dear Sir or Madam

I will be referring to my previous submission.

On my pt. 2 I refer to the various Natura 2000 sites and Proposed Narural Heritage Sites, the Zone of Influence and this development. The response in the Further Information is unsatisfactory. - " impact on the conservation objective of Natura 2000 are not anticipated to occur because the Dublin Mountain Way utilises established trails and public roads" Further, " The Glenasmole Valley SAC , which the Dublin Mountain Way does enter, is protected for rare grassland habitats are farmland and not accessible to the public" (appendix B, DMVC Responses Biodiversity theme) Stating that the public , and their dogs, will never compromise ecological requirements in protected and vulnerable environments because they will stay on delineated trails, is ludicrous and potentially disastrous.

On pt 3. Pollution of the Glendoo Brook. Concerns remain and are further heightened. The insertion of a petrochemical interceptor, which will have it's own dangers, the ultimate disposal of the surface water from the considerable area of hardstanding is unclear due to the contradictory information in Land Planning and Design 6.5 page 7 and 8.2 page 15. Into a drain, into another stream, and/or into the Glendoo Brook. ?

On pt 4. The Operation Management Plan. This is a key area, and possibly the most worrying. The whole development could collapse if conditions do not materialise as projected. The externally contracted operator will have responsibility for waste management, parking , the pedestrian bridge, the entire Visitor Centre, will all its components, of café, lounge, toilets, exhibition area, amenity area, shop kiosk etc. also the hiring of personnel to be on site during opening hours. These are collectively referred to as Traded and Non Traded facilities P 7 of Operational Plan. This is a worryingly large responsibility, open ended with no well-founded expectation of viability. This company will be operating to take a profit from the same. I would suggest difficulty would be experienced in achieving any level of profitability. If no contractor will be engaged SDCC will provide all the necessary services. Enormous pressure would be exerted to extend and maximise events, night time activities, which at the moment are declared to be considered merely very occasional. These night time events are the most damaging to wildlife the further cause of light pollution and disturbance. To reiterate: The elements of the plan which are guaranteed free to the public and those that are to be managed and paid for by the Operational Contractor simply do not equate.
I

On pt 5. I restate my fears for the night lighting and the general exposure of the intrusive building on the landscape. I remains the objective of the applicant to achieve a development which

by its visual magnitude will draw visitors from far and wide. This can not be achieved without massive clearances around the building and car parks. In defence of this, the applicant offers the proposition that screening of broadleaved trees will be planted. At the same time views from the development are imperative. These positions are contradictory. Trees planted will take decades to reach an effective height and cover and trees of this type will have no screening value in winter. My concerns re the information on night time visability of the project, amounting to a mere five and a half lines, are not addressed in the Further Information Document. Lighting is always cumulative in a development of this type. Lighting is never reduced over the years. Additional to this is the street light proposed stretching up into the hills. Negative in the extreme for a region valued by all as a situation for rural recreation and wildlife experience.

I would ask that the Board looks very closely at the extra information supplied by the applicant on the biodiversity issues. Great emphasis has been placed on the replanting of broadleafed trees. As I stated this planting will be completely useless for many years as a support for wildlife. Squirrels, bats, birds, ground living creatures will have neither shelter, food, nest sites or anything else for at least thirty years. Ropes slung across area of devastation is a ludicrous suggestion. At the earliest occurrence of earthmoving equipment all will be gone, and unfortunately experience demonstrates that they do NOT come back. **May I bring to the Boards attention that the applicant initially did not consider that an environmental study was at all necessary** .This does not lend confidence to any assertion that wildlife issues are important or capable of being managed effectively.

I now ask that AN Bord Pleanala turns down this proposal in its entirety.

Thank you.

Yours,

Alison Coupe.