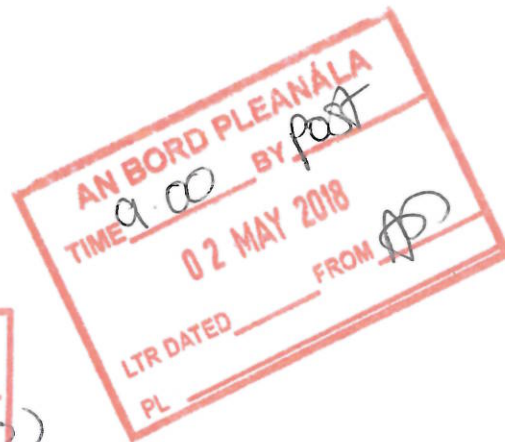
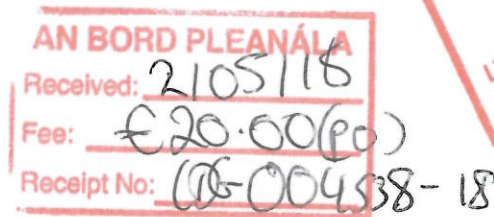


Anne O'Brien,  
Ardcavan Strand,  
Co. Wexford.

Planning Department,  
An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1. D01 V902.

30th April 2018

To whom it may concern,



**Development of Cycle and Pedestrian Access Route (Greenway) from Wexford to Curracloe.**

I write in connection with the above planning application. I have examined the plans and I know the Coastal Route Trail Leg 1 extremely well (Wexford County Council, Key Plan 000, Drawing Title: HABITAT MAP - SAC, Drawing No. ATR/102a). My family home and agricultural land (for over 200 years) is situated on the route and I have lived here all my life. I wish to strongly object to the development of the proposed Coastal Route Trail Leg 1 which encroaches on our family's agricultural land (Wexford County Council, Key Plan 000, Drawing Title: Greenway Layout Plan, Drawing No. ATR/115 & ATR/116) and also has plans to run through a Coastal lagoon which is an important EU Natura 2000 site (Wexford County Council, Key Plan 000, Drawing Title: Greenway Layout Plan, Drawing No. ATR/114), both of which are situated between Site Notice No.2 and Site Notice No.4 (Wexford County Council, Key Plan 000, Drawing Title: SITE NOTICE LOCATION MAP, Drawing No. ATR/100).

As a member of the public I am confused as I was unaware that planning signs could be changed. It was only on writing this letter when I went to view the sign that I noted that it had been changed. The original had a reply date for any observations or comments by the 4th of May 2018 (Wexford People Paper, Tuesday, March 6th 2018) the now new sign has a reply date of 1st of June. I also note that on the Wexford County Council website as of the 30th April 2018 (the date of my writing this letter) it is referencing a reply date for 4th May 2018 (<https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/community/recreational-and-community-development-projects/proposed-wexford-to-curracloe-greenway>). This is very confusing for the public and there has been no notification of what changes have been made. Site Notice No.3 has also been erected on private property and my family has given no permission for public access through our land (Wexford County Council, Key Plan 000, Drawing Title: SITE NOTICE LOCATION MAP, Drawing No. ATR/100).

The proposed siting of the Greenway through Trail Leg 1 of the Coastal route is particularly ill-considered and it would ruin the natural character and habitat of many places along the route. For example the route proposes to be brought through the above mentioned Coastal lagoon which is an EU Natura 2000 site under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). This EU Natura 2000 site and the surrounding area are home to many species of our flora and fauna. While given that the Natura Impact Statement provided by Wexford County Council as prepared by Scott Cawley (23rd February 2018) is quite an extensive read, it is not a comprehensive assessment and I have noted many species left out most importantly the Otters (a protected species) that have been spotted going from the lagoon to the sea, these are among the numerous species which need to be able to access the sea through the natural stream that flows from the site. The erection of the "3m wide Greenway" through this EU Natura 2000 site would include creating 1.5m Earth Mounds (which would not last in this tidal area), Concrete boxes and High Timber Cladding with unsightly viewing platforms, all the before mentioned would have profound detrimental and devastating effects to the habitat and lead to the ruination of this natural untouched area.

I note that there is a closure of leg 2 through the North Slob area during the winter season for the White-Fronted Goose population and other wintering birds. (Wexford County Council, Details of Winter/Spring Closure – Leg2, Book No. 8, 26th February 2018). There are also a lot of wintering birds and animals that would be disturbed in the lagoon and surrounding areas for example we often see Brent Geese in in our fields grazing during this time.

The large volume circ. 275,000 people expected to visit the Greenway (Wexford County Council, Traffic & Parking Report, Book No.9, pg.5, 26th February 2018) will create a lot of extra traffic on the already chaotic R741 which is in dreadful condition, it experiences traffic jams frequently and should not have further stress put on it. The level of traffic on the R741 spikes phenomenally during the holiday season especially due to the attraction of Curracloe Beach (which has to operate a 1 way traffic flow system during the summer months). The Car Park at Ferrybank in Wexford has circ. 170 unmarked car park spaces, I don't know where the stated "currently available" over flow car parking space for a further 800 cars is located at Ferrybank as far as I am aware there are designated green areas around the car park as mentioned above but I don't believe these are available for parking use (Wexford County Council, Traffic & Parking Report, Book No. 9, pg.4, 26th February 2018). The current infrastructure cannot cope with the above levels of visitors in this location.

Any form of anti-social behaviour along this route would also be detrimental to the area with current levels of flora and fauna being destroyed. There have been many cars broken into both at the Wexford Wildfowl Reserve and at the Raven Car Park. And I don't see what is in place to prevent anti-social behaviour along the route.

The proposed Trail Leg 1 is in a tidal area and is subject to coastal erosion. At high tide the water would be right in on the "Greenway" bringing seaweed and other debris with it rendering it in-passable, I know this as I walk this route every day and at high tide you cannot pass and a lot of seaweed/debris can be brought up into the fields on high tide.

The additional air and noise pollution that would be introduced to the area would drive out even more of our much loved wildlife from these areas, which will in turn have an impact on our quality of life.

The area proposed is infringing on private property (Wexford County Council, Key Plan 000, Drawing Title: Greenway Layout Plan, Drawing No. ATR/115 & ATR/116) with no public access and my family have given no permission for to access their land. It is working agricultural land (which we have farmed for over 200yrs) as opposed to the Waterford Greenway which is utilising mainly an old redundant railway track. I don't know how this would work, especially at harvest times when we would have a large volume of agricultural traffic coming and going frequently to and from the land such as large combine harvesters with circ. 35ft cutting bars, bailers, tractors, loaders etc. I fail to see how this has been addressed satisfactorily and it would also be a health and safety disaster. This area of our land would be totally cut off from the rest of our land with suggested access not satisfactory for working agricultural land.

On inspection of the fencing surrounding the "Greenway" for example the "Dog Proof Fencing" (Wexford County Council, Standard Details, Book No.4, Drawing No: TCD/300/01) I don't see a sufficient barrier to stop people trespassing on our property, and we most certainly could not have people going through our land at busy agricultural times. Also, given that there is no public access in the case of an emergency what would happen or how would a person be reached? The fencing/cladding/Metal fences concrete boxes etc. (Wexford County Council, Standard Details, Book No.4, pg.3, 23rd February 2018) would be a total eyesore and are not in keeping with the natural flora and fauna of the area. While the Greenway in theory is a great idea there are already public access roads to the North Slob through Ardavan Lane and to Curracloe via the R472 which if developed and maintained correctly would be the least damaging and upsetting to the vast biodiversity of the area.

I don't believe that a comprehensive assessment has been carried out with respect to potential impacts on the vast biodiversity of this natural undisturbed area which is habitat to many (including protected) species. If the above proposal were to go ahead it would most definitely harm the wildlife and important species in the surrounding areas.

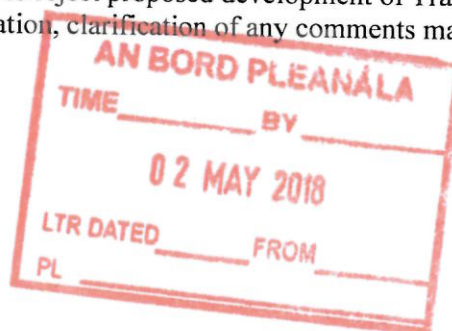
There has been no permission from my family for this route to go ahead through our land.

I trust all the above reasons will be taken into account and I urge you to reject proposed development of Trail Leg 1 of the Coastal route. Should you require any additional information, clarification of any comments made, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

\_\_\_\_\_  
A. O'Brien

[oannebrien@gmail.com](mailto:oannebrien@gmail.com)



P.S. Please find enclosed a postal order for €20.