

Mount Venus House
Mount Venus Road Rathfarnham
D16E429
17 March 2020

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The Secretary
An Bord Pleanála
Marlborough Street
Dublin 2
Re JA0040

AN BORD PLEANALA	
LDG-	_____
ABP-	_____
19 MAR 2020	
Fee: €	_____ Type: _____
Time: _____	By: <u>Post</u>

Dear Sir

I have already made two submissions in relation to the above application

In response to further information supplied by the applicant, specifically the attempt to minimise the impact of the proposed visitor numbers on the protected Natura 2000 sites in the zone of influence.

included in the information is e.g. detail of walks and trails at Barnaslingan in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown, yet there is only a brief mention of the under construction Dodder Greenway by South Dublin County Council and Dublin City Council which will bring walker access from the centre of the city to Bohernabreena Reservoir. The reference on page 68 of the Natura Impact Assessment "The increase in visitors accessing the Glenasmole Valley in combination with the additional visitors accessing it from the Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre has been examined, and *based on the current level of recreational use originating at the Hell Fire Club* and the sensitivities and locations of the qualifying interests of the SAC, there will be no in-combination adverse effects." (my italics) Surely the whole point of the DMVC is to increase visitor numbers and therefore this assertion is unreliable.

The conclusions of the walker survey report dismiss the possibility of increase of walker numbers from Massy's Wood to Cruagh and onto the spur, which leads to the SPA and SAC.

With the proposed bridge across the R115 to Massy's Wood and upgraded paths which lead to Cruagh, it is highly likely that numbers will increase substantially.

The proposed Visitor Centre contains an office and meeting room dedicated to rangers who are supposed to act as guides to the possible walks. In addition there will be a shop selling maps etc – all for the purpose of extending the ' visitor experience' The fact that the maps (according to the report) won't include the spur, doesn't mean that it won't be used. The Cruagh spur to the protected area is a walkway built by the Dublin Mountains Partnership and at present there is no indication of the necessity to protect the area or even an identifying sign. This is not an area covered by the proposed development so the mitigation proposed will not be effective here.

The fact that the heading for page e.g. Page 24 reads “ Natura Impact Statement in Respect of the Masterplan for Trinity Wharf, Wexford “ is not inclined to inspire confidence in the process. Has this report just been cut & pasted from another ?

I submit that this entire proposal is confused and unrealistic and should be refused permission. The application is for a car park which will obliterate archaeological heritage as admitted in the proposal, an influx of walkers who will spill out into a protected area, a café which will put locals out of business, and untold and irremediable damage to the biodiversity of this most interesting area, and will rob its many current users of an escape from commercialism and concrete.



Elizabeth Davidson

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
19 MAR 2020	
LTR DATED _____	FROM _____
LDG- _____	
ASP- _____	