

# Submission Details

RECEIVED: 21/08/2023

## Submitter

Name	Stpehanie Kerins
Address	12 Beech View Ard Na Sidhe Clonmel, Co Tipperary E91 C6E4
Note	submission

## In relation to application

Application Number	PT8TT7
Applicant Name	Tipperary County Council
Development Address	Cashel Road, Clonmel to ard Gaoithe business park and

*12 Beech View  
Ard Na Sidhe  
Clonmel  
Co. Tipperary  
E91 C6E4*



8<sup>th</sup> August, 2023

Marcus O'Connor  
Director of Services – Roads, Transportation and Infrastructure  
Tipperary County Council  
Civic Offices  
Nenagh  
Co. Tipperary

Dear Sir,

**Part 8 in respect of Improved Cycle Lanes on the R688, Cashel Road, Clonmel**

I write to lodge an objection to the above planning application for the proposed narrowing of the Cashel Road.

As a home owner in the Ard Na Sidhe Estate and a landlord with property in the Longfield Estate I am a frequent user of the Cashel Road. I read the Council proposal to narrow the existing road with considerable trepidation. I should therefore like to point out several problematic matters arising from your proposal.

1. There is significant traffic using that road by the employees of Boston and Abbott. Several times a day this creates a traffic jam which can extend from the round-a-bout all the way up the Cashel road beyond the entrance to the Longfield Estate. Your proposed narrowing of the road will considerably worsen this situation.
2. Boston have announced plans to increase their workforce by 400 new jobs. This will almost certainly involve at least 300 new motorists, as most of the cars going in and out of the complex are single drivers. If you intend to narrow the road I strongly suggest you inform the management of these companies so that they can then make an informed decision as to whether they wish to proceed with this expansion. The traffic situation is barely manageable at the moment. With a substantial increase in work traffic it will approach gridlock!
3. Said traffic is then funneled into a dangerous bottleneck by the Cashel round-a-bout. In fact the existing two lane entrance to the round-a-bout is frequently expanded to three (illegal) lanes in an effort for employees and other road users to gain quick access. Ideally, the road needs widening, not narrowing!

4. The Cashel Road is extremely steep. Even a cursory examination of current cycle usage would show that very few cyclists use this road. The few who attempt it for the most part are forced to push their bikes up the hill because of the extreme gradient. Maybe an exceptionally athletic Tour de France cyclist could manage it, but it is not within the range of mere mortals. You would therefore be creating a cycle lane for non-existent cyclists!
5. The pedestrian pavements are more than adequate. I regularly walk my dog up and down the Cashel Road and there is never a problem.
6. The Cashel Road is frequently used by members of the Travelling Community on sulkies, as this is the easiest egress from the Halting Site behind the Rugby Club. A narrowing of the road would make it impossible for motorists to pass these sulkies safely, thus slowing down traffic and adding to the already significant congestion. This is the height of cultural insensitivity.
7. I am unsure why bus stops are necessary. The only buses which use the Cashel Road are occasional private conveyances collecting and dropping off students. This is done within the confines of appropriate housing estates which is both convenient and safe. I doubt whether parents would prefer to have their children dropped off or collected on the busy Cashel road. If there is a definite plan for the council to offer public transportation I would be interested to hear it. The addition of bus stops would then make sense.
8. This is unlikely to be a quick building exercise. The disruptive and circuitous diversions and inconvenience seems both short-sighted and distressing. Many of us Clonmel residents still remember with misery the upheaval of the last "improvement" of the bypass, which resulted in a rougher road surface and several not entirely successful attempts at resurfacing. The prospect of a year-long series of building works on a major entrance and exit traffic artery into the town does not bear thinking about; especially since pedestrians are adequately catered for already, and there are virtually no cyclists and few buses!
9. I am assuming that you have already undertaken an evaluation of how many buses and cyclists currently use this road. I expect that you will publish the results of this enquiry before undertaking ANY building so that the public can ascertain for themselves how many actual people this will benefit. I am also assuming that this plan has the approval of both Boston and Abbott...two major employers in Clonmel whose employees are likely to be inconvenienced. I am also assuming that the Travelling Community most likely to be affected has also been apprised of this development proposal.

In closing, I note that the redesigned road will not have a negative impact on flora or fauna. I would ask that you give the same attention to those of us unfortunate souls likely to be affected by this ill-conceived scheme. I urge you to rethink this expensive and disruptive plan.

Yours faithfully,

*Stephanie Kerins*

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