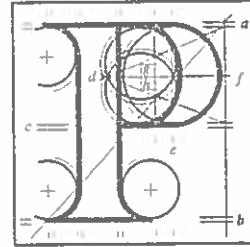


Our Ref: 29S.JA0039
P.A.Reg.Ref:

Your Ref:



An
Bord
Pleanála

Sue Uda
A Touch of Ireland
96 Haddington Road
Dublin 4

22nd February 2018

Re:

Development of a new civic plaza and ancillary traffic management
measures at College Green,
Dublin 2.


Dear Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

Please note that the proposed development shall not be carried out unless the Board has approved it or approved it with conditions.

Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

PP 
Kieran Somers
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737107

E102

COLLEGE GREEN PROPOSED CIVIC PLAZA

Submission to An Bord Pleanála

AN BORD PLEANÁLA

Received: 20th Feb 2018

Fee: £50- cheque

Receipt No: B141170

by

Mrs Sue Uda

February, 2018

AN BORD PLEANÁLA
TIME 9:00 BY Post

20 FEB 2018

LTR DATED FROM
PL 295-340039

I, Sue Uda wish to lodge objection to the proposed College Green pedestrianisation plan by Dublin city council on the basis of the significant negative impact this will have on tourism, in particular coach tourism in Dublin city and the disabled/ walking impaired. It is clear that there has been a lack of consultation on the plan proposed and total disregard for the severe economic impact this will have on tourist dependant businesses in the locality and on the visitor experience in exploring the city centre which. As a disabled person, walking with two sticks, the pedestrianisation of such a large portion of the city centre will exclude me from future access. I also own and run an Incoming Tour Company so I am very aware of the impact on my business of this plan as well as my private life.

The present proposal to create a plaza in College Green envisages a major change to routing of public transport in the city centre. In particular, it is proposed that buses and taxis will be prohibited from travelling through College Green in east-west / west-east directions. If implemented, this radical change in public transport routings will have a severe, adverse impact on tourist transport in Dublin and on my business. The following is a summary of my concerns:

- Ease of access into and around the city is a fundamental requirement for tourism. My company transfers tourists by coach from the airport and ferry port to their hotels in the city, and also from their hotels to visit major attractions in Dublin and in the surrounding region. Following the exclusion of bus traffic from College Green, the complexity of alternative routings and the likelihood of severe traffic congestion on these routes will add significantly to journey time, creating discomfort for our clients, and adding to the cost.
- Many of our coach tour clients are in older age groups, and they will be prone to greater discomfort arising from lengthy delays – studies show up to 15% of Travellers have some sort of mobility impairment. Moreover, their ability to gain some understanding of the city centre and its layout will be greatly compromised by the use of complex and visually unappealing alternative routings, and this will diminish the quality of their experience of Dublin. For many they simply will not be in a position to access the city centre as the distance from any safe disembarkation will be too great. There has also been no provision made for where tourist

coaches can drop off and pick up clients within any reasonable distance from this key location of the city centre. Most European cities with large pedestrianised plazas have broad streets with adequate parking around the pedestrianised area allowing people to park close to their destination and walk the minimum distance – Dublin does not have this luxury. Equally in Florence, Krakow and many other cities access by taxis and coaches are permitted in pedestrianised areas provided they drive slowly and respect pedestrians.

- My company organises transfers between hotels and the Conference Centre Dublin for a very large number of conference delegates. The proposed civic plaza, as presently designed, will add significantly to journey times for such transfers which will impact negatively on visitor satisfaction and on the marketability of Dublin as a conference destination. In particular those hotels in the city centre located in or in the nearby college green area will as it stand be inaccessible for coach transfers. This will ultimately lead to a loss of business to those hotels as clients will be discouraged from using them. Conference clients will also find that their journey times to the CCD, Dublin Castle and the RDS will be greatly increased at a substantial cost in terms of transportation costs.
- Global conference and event buyers when rating a city for hosting their events do consider the accessibility of a city when bidding for this high yielding business. Dublin does not have the public transport infrastructure of the cities with whom we most compete who offer underground, city managed coach parking and transfer hubs or one public transport ticketing systems. It is therefore inevitable that we will fall further down the ranking for such business given Dublin city's lack of infrastructure and poor planning and traffic management.
- The city centre of Dublin is becoming almost impossible for those of us with walking difficulties – disappearance of many disabled parking bays. Some have reappeared but at a greater distance from the main city centre which defeats the purpose. The closure of the Trinity End of Dawson Street means that the only access by taxis is to Molesworth Street as all the smaller side streets are one way in the wrong direction!
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In the light of the foregoing, I strongly request that the design plans for the proposed plaza be completely revised with the goal of facilitating the continued use of College Green by tourist coaches and taxis. Dublin city is simply too small to facilitate the level of public plaza space being proposed and it is clear that further consideration is required with proper consultation prior to the implementation of any such proposal in the college green area.

yours sincerely,
S.M. Uola
SUSAN M. UOLA

