

Our Ref: 17.HA0026

Your Ref:

Bypass Slane Campaign Committee  
Slane  
County Meath

19th January 2011

**Re:** N2 Slane Bypass Road Scheme

Dear Sir,

I have been asked by An Bord Pleanála to refer to the above-mentioned case.

In accordance with section 134(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, the Board has decided to hold an oral hearing in relation to the above-mentioned proposed road development.

In this regard a Planning Inspector has been instructed by the Board to hold an oral hearing into the application for this road development and the submissions and observations which have been received in relation to the likely effects on the environment of this road development and the likely consequences for proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which it is proposed to situate this road development and to report to the Board thereon.

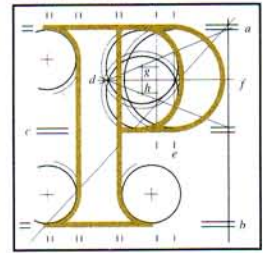
### **Preliminary Meeting**

Due to the scale and complexity of the above-mentioned case, the Board has decided to hold a preliminary meeting prior to the commencement of the oral hearing. The primary purpose of the preliminary hearing is to ascertain the numbers intending to make submissions at the oral hearing and to facilitate the setting out of a detailed agenda for the oral hearing. Those parties who intend to make a submission at the substantive oral hearing are invited to attend the preliminary meeting. Parties are not obliged to make oral submissions at the substantive oral hearing but in this regard it might be noted that written submissions already submitted will be considered by the Board.

Please note that no substantive issues in regard to the proposed road development will be discussed at the preliminary meeting; discussions will only relate to procedural matters and agenda issues for the substantive hearing.

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An Bord Pleanála



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Parties wishing to make a formal oral submission at the substantive hearing are requested to indicate the following at the preliminary meeting:

- (a) The approximate length of time that the submission will take.
- (b) Whether or not technical or other experts will be called upon to present the case.
- (c) Whether or not they intend to cross-examine at the hearing, if invited by the presiding inspector.

Having regard to the large numbers of written submissions received by the Board and to the commonality of issues raised in many of those, it would be helpful and desirable for the conduct of the hearing that those with similar submissions/observations would consider grouping together with a single representative/ spokesperson or team for the purposes of participating in the proceedings.

An important aspect of the preliminary meeting will be to set out the running order for the oral submissions at the substantive hearing. This running order will be adhered to as closely as possible in order to facilitate all parties wishing to make oral submissions.

The arrangements for the opening of the preliminary meeting are as follows:

- Date:** Wednesday, 2nd February, 2011.
- Time:** 10:30 a.m.
- Venue:** Best Western Boyne Valley Hotel and Country Club, Dublin Road, Drogheda, County Louth.

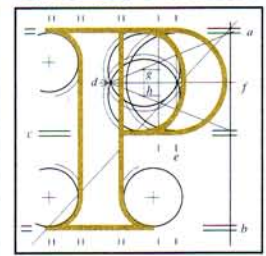
If you wish to attend the preliminary meeting but are unable to do so, the information set out at (a) to (c) above can be submitted to the undersigned officer of the Board in writing, or by e-mail to k.somers@pleanala.ie by 5.30 p.m. on the day of the preliminary meeting (i.e. 2nd February, 2011) or can be submitted orally at the preliminary meeting on your behalf by a representative/ other party.

**Substantive Hearing:**

The arrangements for the opening of the oral hearing are as follows:

- Date:** Tuesday, 15th February, 2011.
- Time:** 11:00 a.m.
- Venue:** Best Western Boyne Valley Hotel and Country Club, Dublin Road, Drogheda, County Louth.

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Where possible written statements of evidence to be given should be submitted and it will assist the conduct of the hearing if copies of these and any related drawings are made available for circulation at the hearing.

Copies of the submissions and observations received by the Board and all other documentation and correspondence relating to the case are available for inspection by appointment at the offices of Meath County Council and the offices of An Bord Pleanála prior to the hearing. A copy of all correspondence will also be made available for inspection at the oral hearing for the duration of the oral hearing.

In relation to the general conduct of the hearing, please also be advised of the following:

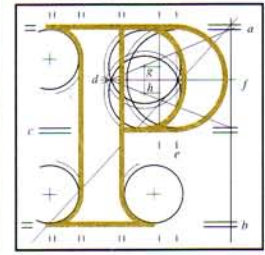
- Written submissions already received by the Board are on file and available for inspection. These submissions can be "taken as read" and need not be resubmitted at the hearing.
- Any legal submissions are required to be made as part of substantive submissions to the hearing.
- Closing submissions are solely for the purposes of briefly summing up and no new points or issues should be raised.
- Notwithstanding the above, the conduct of the hearing is entirely at the discretion of the presiding Inspector.

Arising from the preliminary meeting, it is proposed to circulate a draft agenda in relation to the general scheduling of the oral hearing under separate cover in advance of the hearing. Please be advised in relation to this agenda that it is the Board's understanding that the local authority in this case has engaged the advisory services of a World Heritage expert and that the said expert will be available to attend and participate in the forthcoming oral hearing during the week from the 21st to the 25th February 2011.

It is envisaged that the draft agenda is likely to comprise the following main elements:

- The week from 15th to 18th February is to be allocated to discussion of strategic issues, including the need for the proposed road development and its expected contribution to the improvement of traffic and environmental conditions in Slane, and examination in general of its likely effects on the environment and implications for proper planning and sustainable development of the area.
- The week from 21st to 25th February to provide for discussion of the archaeological and cultural heritage implications of the proposed road development, including the likely effects of that development on the Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site, and of the likely effects on the landscape of the proposed road, bridge and associated works.
- Hearing of objections to the Compulsory Purchase Order not to take place prior to 28th February 2011.

## An Bord Pleanála



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Please also note that the Board is arranging for the services of a stenographer for the purpose of recording the proceedings at the hearing.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board.

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

Yours faithfully,

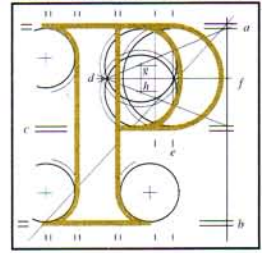
*Kieran Somers*

Kieran Somers  
Executive Officer  
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**Registered Post**

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