

PRESS RELEASE from representatives of the Slane community.

Slane Residents to take case for Bypass to the Dáil on 6 May

"We find it unacceptable that the simple task of taking our children to school poses such a threat to our lives. We want safety on our roads. But without the Slane Bypass this will not come to fruition." (Parent's Association, St. Patrick's National School, Slane).

Representatives of the community in Slane will be making a presentation to the Oireachtas Committee on Transport next week putting forward the case for the fast-tracking of work on the planned Slane Bypass. The presentation will take place next Wednesday 6th May in Leinster House. The invitation was issued to the group following the latest crash in the village which took place on 23rd March. The incident involved seven cars and two trucks and was caused by an out-of-control heavy-goods-vehicle. Although this crash had the potential to be the most serious to happen in the village so far, miraculously there were no fatalities or serious injuries.

Slane residents have got to the stage where they feel they are hostages in their own village. The accident on 23rd March highlights the constant danger which surrounds them. Memories of fatalities over recent decades are still fresh in local minds. Although there have been 22 fatalities, the number of injured and people affected by trauma is far greater and has impacted on almost everyone in the community. There is anger and concern that meaningful action may not take place as a result of the recent accident. The need for the Slane Bypass has already been acknowledged by the Noel Dempsey Minister of Transport and the National Roads Authority – but local residents, on the basis of previous experience, are sceptical that this concern will result in prompt action. They point out that, although extensive preliminary and preparatory work has already been carried out, the Slane Bypass still does not feature on the Government's Transport 21 strategy nor is there any indication of when work on construction will commence.

Putting the case to the Oireachtas committee next week on behalf of the community in Slane will be Slane Forum Chairperson Ciaran Baxter, John Ryle of the Slane Bridge Action Group and Norma Kealy one of the survivors of the accident. They will be pressing the committee to make the strongest recommendation they possibly can to the Cabinet to proceed with the construction of the bypass as a matter of urgency. A group of supporters from Slane Village will also be travelling to Leinster House on the day. At the meeting, they will issue an invitation to the Members of the Committee to visit Slane to see the situation for themselves.

For further information please contact
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who will be available for interviews.