

Public Liaison Officer

Wicklow County Council
County Buildings
Wicklow Town
A67 FW96

13th December 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

This submission is made by the community of Glencormac, following meetings of its residents over the past number of weeks arising from the publication of the 2nd public consultation phase of the N11/M11 improvement scheme in the Glenview Hotel on the 12th November 2019.

We are a semi-rural community of 126 people varying in age from 2 years to 93 years old. We represent long-established families as well as more recent arrivals, all of whom have contributed to a vibrant and thriving community in this area. We are deeply concerned by the proposals introduced by the scheme, their impact on our community and their coherence with local and national policy objectives.

We would like to make the following observations on the yellow and blue corridor options:

Impact on our families and our community

We are deeply concerned that the Yellow Corridor option will displace many of our neighbours who are an integral part of this community. These include residents who will be forcibly displaced by the construction of the road (Compulsory Purchase Orders) and those whose quality of life is degraded to such an extent that they are unable to continue living here. In a small, multi-generational community such as ours, this loss will be particularly acute and would inevitably lead to the irreparable destruction of important social and family links in Glencormac and neighbouring townlands.

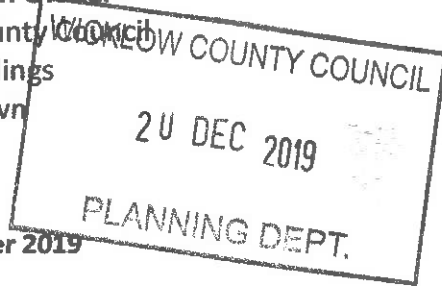
In addition to the loss of invaluable community and social cohesion, there will be a significant environmental impact. We are particularly concerned by the level of **air pollution** that will be generated by the yellow route, both during construction and when operational, and the direct effect this will have on our own health, the health of our children and the health of future generations of Glencormac.

Along with air pollution, the yellow route will result in significantly elevated levels of **noise pollution** which will have a detrimental effect on our wellbeing both as individuals and as a semi-rural community.

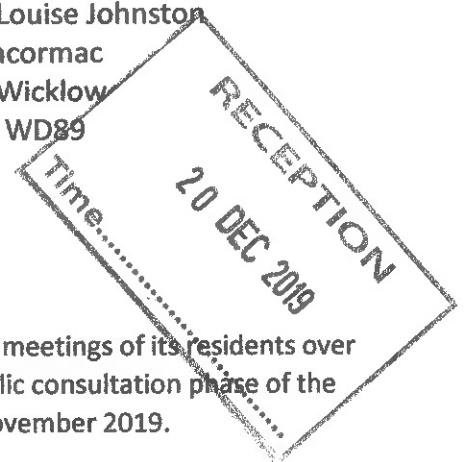
Finally, the yellow route will very much destroy the visual landscape of Glencormac. Whether the yellow route takes the form of a six-lane motorway or a smaller road, it will run through the heart of our community, scarring the landscape and destroying its natural integrity. Alongside the residents of Glencormac, this area is popular with walkers and cyclist who enjoy the semi-rural nature of this countryside with its woodland, open countryside and wildlife.

Impact on natural woodlands and wildlife habitat

Both the yellow and blue routes will have a major, permanent and irreversible impact on this rural area which is home to an abundance of wildlife including protected species. The mature trees, open



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countryside and hedgerows are home to a wide range of flora and fauna including red squirrels, bats, woodpeckers, owls, deer, badgers and hawks. We also have a number of beekeepers in the area who are deeply concerned with yet more loss of foraging and habitat for our very important and dwindling pollinators.

The people of Glencormac are horrified by what is being proposed to do to the Dargle Valley by the yellow and blue corridor options. Many people, from the local area and the greater Bray area, enjoy walking in the native woodlands which run along the Dargle river. This is an area of outstanding natural beauty and must be preserved at all costs. Future generations will never forgive us if either of these routes are chosen. Our society and societies of the future need natural green spaces for our mental and physical wellbeing and we cannot continue to destroy the precious places that exist.

The historical importance of these natural resources is moreover reflected in the presence of archaeological and historical structures including a lime kiln visible at Jameson's Corner, walled gardens, and pilgrim paths between ancient ecclesiastical sites.

Contravenes the objectives of the National Planning Framework, Planning Ireland 2040

The objectives of the National Planning Framework, which is a key national Statutory Planning document promotes the principle of 'compact urban growth' in order to deal with an expected population growth of 1 million people; however, the yellow and blue route proposals completely undermine this principle by continuing to promote further reliance on cars and private vehicles and by obliterating countryside that acts as a wildlife sanctuary and a necessary greenbelt in the Greater Dublin Area.

Another key objective of this document is to 'regenerate rural Ireland by promoting environmentally sustainable growth patterns'. The proposal to provide a six-lane motorway directly through a community and countryside at Glencormac directly contradicts this objective.

The current state of the N11

We recognise that there are significant issues with the current state of the N11. We use it frequently and are acutely aware of traffic congestion, safety issues and the need to improve the situation. Nonetheless, we strongly believe that the current proposals to build additional roads, and in particular the yellow and blue routes, will do little to address these problems or their root causes. Without an integrated and well-funded plan for improving the availability and reliability of public transport throughout County Wicklow, small communities such as Glencormac will unfairly bear the burden of this problem.

We are grateful for the opportunity to put forward our concerns. We appreciate that Wicklow County Council and the National Roads Office are exploring a number of options at this stage in the N11M11 scheme and trust that you will take into consideration these legitimate objections. In particular, we urge you to prioritise the online (Red) improvements to the existing route of the N11 and advocate improved public transport provisions.

Yours sincerely,

Ellen O'Connor

Hannah Gerlitz

Anthony Myers

Ian Driver

Mairead Waters

Lucy Cullen

Thomas Cullen

Paul Greene

Jane Nuttall

Isla Chambers

Tim Weldon

Luke Weldon

Sheila Cleary

Benedict Blunnie

JJ Murphy

Cass Du Berry

Joanna Nuttall

Farha Hussain

Emma Kelly

Woody Duff

Una Byrne

Alison Byrne

Philomena Butler

Shawna Waters

David K'Eogh

Ray Molloy

Olly O'Neill

Katie O'Neill

Rory O'Connor

Ellen Gerlitz

Abigail Driver Myers

Mary Driver

Richard Waters

Cathy Cullen

Annelies Cullen

Amy Greene

Ruth-Anne Chambers

Daisy Chambers

Gay Weldon

Anna Weldon

Therese Godley

Eoin Blunnie

Shane Du Berry

Jade Du Berry

Isaam Hussain

Edward Kelly

Elaine Harris

Darcy Duff

Patrick Byrne

Rachael Byrne

John Butler

Jimmy Messitt

Rita K'Eogh

Angela Flynn

Lesley O'Neill

Aidan O'Neill

Louise Johnston

Clare Driver

Makayla Driver Myers

Noel Driver

Des Cullen

Lucy Cullen Jnr

Margaret Greene

Katie Greene

Chris Chambers

Evie Chambers

Clara Weldon

Rena Ganter

Paul Blunnie

Betty Murphy

Jacky Du Berry

Faith Du Berry

Sarah Hussain

Carlotta Kelly

Damien Duff

Paddy Byrne Snr

Jack Byrne

Tom Butler

Teresa Butler

Glenn Messitt

Rafal Lukawiecki

Paul Mc Redmond

Ellie O'Neill

Heather O'Neill

David Carroll

Simon Carroll

Anne Kelly

Marleigh Kelly

Thierry Rossignol

Cliona Rossignol

Caroline Carroll

Emily Carroll

Eamonn Kelly

Deirdre Kelly

Liam Rossignol

Alan Carroll

Sarah Carroll

Maeve Kelly

Emer Tubridy

Seamus Rossignol