

# Appeal against dismissal of challenge to Slane Bypass

**Former Attorney General and founder of Newgrange Oil has argued that the proposed bypass would impact his lands**

**ANN CASEY**

A FURTHER delay is on the cards for the Slane Bypass as local businessman, John Rogers, has sought leave to appeal the High Court's dismissal of his challenge to the granting of approval for the bypass.

The move has come as a disappointment to local campaigners who want to see the bypass project pushed ahead.

Last month Judge David Nolan dismissed Mr Rogers's challenge against

An Coimisiún Pleanála's (ACP) decision.

Mr Rogers, a former Attorney General, of Crewbane, Slane, has argued that the proposed bypass would impact his lands.

In his challenge to the planning permission, Mr Rogers claimed that An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) did not have access to sufficient expertise required to examine certain environmental aspects of the proposed N2 bypass when it granted permission to Meath County Council for the development.



Appeal... John Rogers. PHOTO: NEWGRANGE GOLD

The judge found that Mr Rogers had not proven "on evidential basis" a lack of expertise on the part of the commission.

The proposals for the long awaited scheme include a 3.5km dual carriageway bypass of Slane, incorporating a

shared footway and cycleway, as well as a new bridge crossing of the River Boyne. It also provides for a range of public realm improvements within the village and traffic management measures, including works along the N51.

The Slane bypass project has

been the subject of extensive planning and consultation over a number of years and has long been regarded as a key piece of infrastructure for the area. The village, which sits on a busy national primary route, experiences significant volumes of through-traffic on a daily basis, including heavy goods vehicles travelling between Dublin and the north east.

The scheme aims to divert that traffic away from the village centre, easing congestion and improving safety conditions for residents, pedestrians and road users.

The narrow bridge over the Boyne has been a notorious accident hotspot for decades with a string of safety measures implemented over the years, in an attempt to avoid collisions on the steep approaches. The

sharp descent to the bridge has been the scene of at least 23 fatal accidents.

The Slane Bridge Action group was set up in 2001 following the death of two year-old David Garvey in an horrific accident at the bridge involving a truck and two cars. Residents were so enraged that a public meeting was called at which the Action Group was formed to campaign for the construction of a bypass.

The Bypass Slane Campaign was formed in 2009 following a terrifying incident involving nine vehicles, including a lorry and a van.

Thirteen years ago, An Bord Pleanála refused a previous planning application for a bypass of Slane, much to the dismay of the people of the village.

## New plan for 338 acre solar farm outside Kells

MORE than 100 submissions have been received by Meath County Council on plans for a large solar farm development on lands outside Kells, which if approved would see underground cables laid under the River Blackwater.



Fyanstown Solar Farm Limited is seeking permission for a solar farm and energy storage compound with a total area of 338 acres on lands at Fyanstown, Kilmainmam, Rosmeen and Sedenrath, Kells. It follows a previous planning application by the developer in late 2024 which was deemed withdrawn before Christmas.

The new proposal includes 462,000 sqm of solar photovoltaic panels on ground mounted frames, associated string inverters, 41 electrical transformer stations and one medium voltage control/switching substation.

The energy storage compound consists of 70 containerised energy storage modules and associated plant and equipment, 35 transformers and five auxiliary transformers, two spare parts containers and one medium voltage control/switching substation.

The overall project includes underground electrical ducting and cabling within the development site and the R163

and R147 public roads, and Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) crossing of the Blackwater River. Construction and operational access would be via two existing entrances from the R147 and R163, which would be upgraded. The application is a RED III application which is for renewable energy projects that falls under the EU's Renewable Energy Directive III.

If approved the solar farm would be operational for 40 years. The plans have drawn strong opposition in the locality and total of 103 objections were lodged including one from a landowner indicating that he has withdrawn consent for his lands to be included. Apart from archaeological concerns, residents have highlighted the potentially very significant negative visual impact on the sensitive and high value landscape of the Blackwater Valley.

Two submissions were also made by state bodies. Uisce

Eireann requested further information on the potential risks to downstream drinking water abstraction points as well as in relation to firewater containment in the event of a fire and for further information regarding the Emergency Response Plan, while the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has recommended an archaeological impact assessment. A decision is due on 26th May.

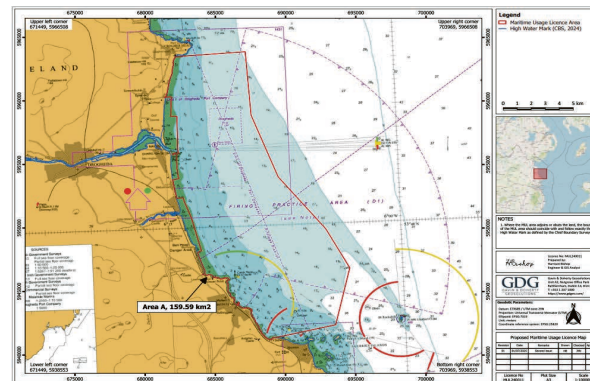
A previous planning application for the same lands was deemed withdrawn before Christmas after the applicant, Fyanstown Solar Farm Limited, did not submit further information within the required time frame. The initial application was for a site of 405 acres but a parcel of land at Hurdlestown was later omitted due to archaeological findings.

That proposal was met by strong local objections and 135 submissions were made against the plans.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**The Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 Invitation for public submissions on an application for a maritime usage licence and an appropriate assessment**

Bremore Port, Bremore Ireland Port Designated Activity Company (BIPDAC) submitted an application to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority ("MARA") for a maritime usage licence under section 117 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 to undertake Schedule 7 (3): Marine environmental surveys for the purposes of site investigation or in support of an application under Part XXI of the Act of 2000. The licence application is for a period of 7 years.



A related Natura Impact Statement has been submitted with the above licence application. The licence application and the Natura Impact Statement are available for inspection on MARA's website <https://www.maritimeregulator.ie/application/mul240011/> and at the following address by appointment – Maritime Area Regulatory Authority, 2nd Floor, Menapia House, Drinagh Business Park, Drinagh, Wexford, Y35 RF29.

Members of the public who wish to make a submission in writing to MARA on the licence application and the Natura Impact Statement may do so quoting ref: MUL240011 to the following e-mail address – [licence@mara.gov.ie](mailto:licence@mara.gov.ie) or by post to the following address - Licence Unit, Maritime Area Regulatory Authority, 2nd Floor, Menapia House, Drinagh Business Park, Drinagh, Wexford, Y35 RF29.

The closing date and time for a written submission to be received by MARA is 17.30 on 19th June 2026. MARA will then, as soon as practicable, carry out the appropriate assessment determination in accordance with Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. After the determination, MARA will either grant, part grant or refuse the licence application.

Dated this 19th day of May 2026

[Signed: Paul Fleming, Company Secretary Representative of Bremore Ireland Port Designated Activity Company]