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Martin Power



3rd October 2025

Dear Councillor Staples,

1. Thank you for your email of the 24th September 2025 in reply to my email to you on the 15th Sept 2025 asking you to establish “**precisely what planning permission is in place**” for the new railway bridge at Park/Carcur now under construction.
2. You obviously passed my enquiry to the Planning Dept and as I see from correspondence with another councillor that Graeme Hunt, Executive Planner, replied to you on the 24th September 2025.
3. Mr Hunt states (quote) — “**There was a Strategic Housing Development application on the lands at Park/Carcur for 413 houses etc accessed via a new bridge granted by An Bord Pleanala in 2000 under ABP reference 308002. All of documents pertinent to that application can be viewed at www.pleanala.ie . The planning department reception will have a copy of the documents as submitted to ABP at that time.**”
4. Accordingly I have reviewed the An Bord Pleanala website and inspected the hardcopy planning documents in the Planning Department of Wexford County Council on 29th September 2025.
5. One of the documents I could not find in the hard copy file was a pre-planning report of the 17th June 2020, albeit this report is on the An Bord Pleanala website (**see attached Pre-Planning Report 17 June 2020**).
6. You will see midway on page 5 of this pre-planning report, in response to “access” to the site questions, it is confirmed that “**the rail crossing bridge does not form part of the subject application.**”
7. Another document I could not find in the hardcopy file was the An Bord Pleanala Inspector’s Report of the 19th November 2020, albeit this report is on the An Bord Pleanala website (**see attached Inspector’s Report of 19th November 2020**).

8. Page 6 paragraph 3.5 of this report shows the Inspector's comments in relation to the railway bridge: **"vehicular access to the site is proposed from a new bridge over the railway line, previously permitted by Wexford County Council under a Part VIII procedure."**
9. Furthermore, a basic examination of the site layout drawings shows that the site the subject of ABP-308002-20 is defined by a red-line boundary, where it can be clearly seen that the railway bridge is outside the red-line boundary. **(See attached red line boundary map)**
10. Therefore the email sent from Graeme Hunt to you on 24th September 2025 is wholly inaccurate in that it claims that planning for the new railway bridge crossing at Park now under construction is included in planning approved under ABP 308002-20 which clearly it is not.
11. As a Councillor you must ensure that there is no inaccurate planning report/comments on record or in the public domain such as the email that Graeme Hunt sent you on the 24 September 2025.
12. Accordingly as a Councillor I trust you will immediately ensure that Graeme Hunt corrects his email reply to you of the 24th September 2025 and confirms that planning for the new railway bridge is not covered under ABP 308002-20 and I would expect Graeme Hunt to rectify this before close of business on Monday 6th October 2025.
13. In the meantime I would like to meet you as soon as possible to discuss this matter.

Yours Sincerely,

Martin Power