

**Dorota Richards**

*Sub. no. 17*

**Subject:** FW: New submission entered for Reg no: W0294-01. (Reference Number: W0294-01-170222110014)  
**Attachments:** the rocks.pdf  
**Importance:** High

**From:** Aidan Smith [mailto:  
**Sent:** 22 February 2017 23:00  
**To:** Licensing Staff  
**Subject:** New submission entered for Reg no: W0294-01. (Reference Number: W0294-01-170222110014)  
**Importance:** High

**Title:**

**First Name:** Aidan  
**SurName:** Smith  
**Organisation Name:** Kilcoole Walkways  
**Address Line 1:** 10 New Road  
**Address Line 2:** Kilcoole  
**Address Line 3:**  
**County:** Wicklow  
**Post Code:**  
**Email:**

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## Kilcoole Walkways

We are a voluntary group committed to preserving the natural environment around our locality and strongly object to proposals to infill site at Pretty Bush, known locally as the Rocks. Because of its impenetrable nature, The Rocks has remained in its present pristine state for hundreds of years untouched by human intervention and has evolved its own unique ecosystem. We find the idea that you can destr

oy a natural habitat built up over millennia and try to replace it with an artificial one dubious and impossible to replicate. You can't replace the billions of micro-organisms, fungi, worms, spiders etc. and the animals which feed upon them by simply importing topsoil to cover dredged deposits.

We would call into question the validity of the methodology employed in conducting the study on Flora and Fauna as it seems to offer only a snapshot in the calendar year and does not take into account the Rocks value as a habitat for migrating birds and that gorse, is an important source of pollen for bees as it flowers all year round.

The raising of land at the Rocks will change the very nature of the rocky outcrop and create conditions that insure that gorse, alder etc. will not regenerate. Raising the level of the land will increase flooding in adjacent fields that already frequently flood in winter and the loss of soakage in The Rocks valley will exacerbate the problem.

The presence of Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed in the Dargle valley is ominous. It is illegal to knowingly move it and must be treated with heavy and repeated doses of herbicide to eradicate it. Recent scientific study suggests that these herbicides, such as Glycosate, do persist in the soil and can have deadly consequences for wildlife, especially aquatic if leached into waterways. The Rocks valley drains into a stream that leads directly down to The Murragh, a Special Protection area.

The traffic management plan is inadequate, and fails to take into consideration,

The commencement of large scale house building adjacent to Charlesland Roundabout, a mere 200m away.

Increased traffic on the Kilquade Road with the re-opening of The National Garden Exhibition Centre and revamping of its restaurant.

Almost weekly funeral corteges to and from the church in Kilcoole to graveyard in Priestnewtown.

Already gridlocked Kilcoole Road at peak times with increased development in the village itself.

The resulting traffic chaos would be detrimental to business in Kilcoole and residents who already endure arduous commutes.

Noise levels would be intolerable and detrimental to the health and wellbeing of local residents.