

Subject: The New National Paediatric Hospital. (PA0024)
From: Desmond Duff (foxrock_duffs@yahoo.co.uk)
To: bord@pleanala.ie;
Date: Friday, 9 September 2011, 16:15

Dear Sir/Madam,

I was very excited at the prospect of a long overdue new National Paediatric Hospital (NPH) bringing all the specialist Paediatric services under one roof, coming to fruition. Having spent 40 years in medicine and most of that time as a consultant Paediatric Cardiologist at Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin and the Children's Hospital Temple Street the need for an integrated state of the art world class hospital for children was glaringly obvious to us all.

Many people both medical and non-medical, were very disappointed with the proposal to build the NPH on Mater Hospital site, in fact I have not met any person who does not have a vested interest in the Mater site who thinks that this decision is in the best interest of children and their families. The NPH should be built on a greenfield site and co-located with an acute Maternity Hospital. I understand that the NPH could be built more quickly and more cost effectively if this proposal was implemented.

If however a decision is arrived at by An Bord Pleanala to proceed with the development of the NPH on the Mater site then I would like to highlight a number of concerns.

1. Access will be difficult and this is especially critical for acutely ill newborn babies, the majority of whom will be coming from outside the Dublin area eg. from Cork, Galway, Limerick, Waterford, Donegal, and even Belfast (babies needing cardiac surgery)

2. The proposed car parking facilities are totally inadequate. As you will be aware the Dundrum shopping centre, a development of approx. 100,000 sq. m. similar in scale to the NPH. has over 3000 car parking spaces for a very mobile shopping public with only short term parking needs. The NPH will need at least that number of spaces to facilitate families coming from all over the country. While public transport will help it will not be adequate. Many families will need to have parking accomodation for hours as they visit their often critically ill children. I would go so far as to say that if it is not possible to provide these parking spaces then the NPH should not be built on the Mater site.

3. The whole NPH development while architecturally very exciting, would environmentally be very unsatisfactory. The NPH would block light from the adult Mater hospital and despite the attempts to create 'green' spaces on the roof areas with car and bus fumes the gardens would be anything but welcoming. These are supposed to be relaxation areas for families and their children however with the fumes and noise pollution I would question that.

4. There is no room for expansion at the Mater site. Expansion will be required; it has occurred at every other major Paediatric Hospital in the developed world. Don't compromise the needs of the children by deciding to give planning permission to a second rate development.

Yours sincerely, Desmond Duff.

7 Kilteragh Pines

Foxrock

Dublin 18

€50.00 charge

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14/9/11

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
TIME _____	BY _____
14 SEP 2011	
LTR-DATED _____	FROM _____
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<http://uk.mg40.mail.yahoo.com/dc/launch>

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