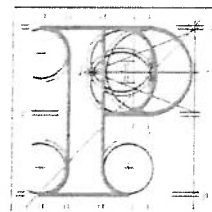


**Our Case Number:** ABP-320164-24



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

Donaghmede Estate Residents Association  
c/o Bernard C. Byrne  
128 Newbrook Avenue  
Donaghmede  
Dublin  
Dublin 13

**Date:** 20 November 2024

**Re:** DART + Coastal North Railway Order 2024 - Northern Line between Dublin City Centre and Drogheda including the Howth Branch  
Dublin City Centre and Drogheda, located in counties Dublin, Meath and Louth

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent letter in relation to the above mentioned case. The contents of your letter have been noted. Please accept this letter as a receipt for the fee of €50 that you have paid.

More detailed information in relation to strategic infrastructure development can be viewed on the Board's website: [www.pleanala.ie](http://www.pleanala.ie).

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board at [laps@pleanala.ie](mailto:laps@pleanala.ie)

Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Aisling Reilly  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: 01-8737131

RA03

Teil	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaio Áitiúil	LoCall	1800 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	<a href="http://www.pleanala.ie">www.pleanala.ie</a>
Ríomhphost	Email	<a href="mailto:bord@pleanala.ie">bord@pleanala.ie</a>

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902

Donaghmede Estate



Residents Association

*Celebrating Our Golden Jubilee 2021-2022*

W: [www.dera.ie](http://www.dera.ie)

→ **Bernard C. Byrne**, *Chairperson & Community Relations*  
128 Newbrook Ave., Donaghmede, Dublin 13 FIW1 - Tel. (01) 847 1577

**Patrick Gibney**, *Vice-Chairperson, DERA* - Tel. (01) 877 1250

**Martin & Eamonn Patterson**, *Administration DERA* - Tel (01) 847 0723

**John O'Connor**, *Environmental Officer* - Tel.

**Susan Malone & Kathleen Ashmore**, *Environmental Team*

**Declan Rice**, *Health & Safety Officer, DERA*

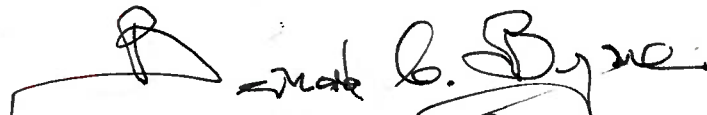
**Leonie Doyle, Enda Mary Roche & Peter Stafford**, *Administration Support, DERA*

**Ciara Browne**, *Creator of the 'Fairy Garden' in Donaghmede DCC Park*

*, Environmentalists & Team of Donaghmede DCC Park Volunteers*

ART PLUS COASTAL NORTH PROJECT.

Go → AN BORD PLEANALA.

  
DERA

Oct. 22. 2024

DONAGHMEDE ESTATE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (DERA)

Secretary,  
An Bord Pleanála,  
64 Marlborough Street,  
Dublin 1 DO1 V902

October 22, 2024.

Dear Sir/ Madame

Submission to An Board Pleanála Re ; DART Plus Coastal North Project -  
Howth Junction - Donaghmede Mainline & DART Station.  
Submission from Donaghmede Estate Residents Association (D13) to An Board Pleanála.  
The mandate for our Submission  
Special General Meeting on September 16,2024 in Donaghmede @ 8 pm (St.Kevins JNS)  
(All Residents & Public Representatives Invited to Attend).

The SGM having received a Report and extensive discussion on the more than a year long quest by the Donaghmede Estate Residents Association (DERA) committee to engage in a meaningful way with the DART + Coastal North Project Team Without Success, this SGM calls on our DERA Committee in a Submission to request An Bord Pleanála to defer their Decision on the Project in so far as it applies to the reconstruction of the HOWTH JUNCTION - DONAGHMEDE Main Line & DART Station and associated future operations on the Howth Jct.- Donaghmede Branch to Howth (+ Bayside /Sutton) Until such time as the Project Team Engage in a Meaningful Way with the DERA Committee and Residents of Donaghmede on the Project Proposals and the impact of such Proposals on our Howth Junction Donaghmede Station and our Donaghmede Community in the reconstruction stage & future operations.

.....

The project team ,like to give the impression (using the usual PR language) that they have engaged with our community no such meaningful discussions took place. Three meetings took place - one informal with Chairperson Bernard C,Byrne @ his home, One at Dublin City Council Forum Meeting in Donaghmede, Nov.23 only one member of Project Team attended & to tell meeting no Public display is planned to take place in Donaghmede (as done in other locations) and finally the last meeting with some members

<b>AN BORD PLEANÁLA</b>	
LDG- <u>075 709-24</u>	
ABP- _____	
23 OCT 2024	
Fee: € <u>50-</u>	Type: <u>Chq</u>
Time: <u>16:50</u>	By: <u>HAND</u>

CONTINUED → P2 →

→ Page 2 - continued - Submission - DART  
PLUS COASTAL NORTH PROJECT. -

of the Project Team & DERA Committee took place in Irish Rail Board Room at Connolly Station on Dec.7,2023 again the message was repeated no public consultation or display will take place in Donaghmede. An opportunity was given to the DERA Committee present to see a display of the Project proposals for Howth Jct Donaghmede, this was accepted strictly on the grounds viewing was without prejudice to DERA .

It should be pointed out that the Manager, Donaghmede Shopping Centre was prepared to provide space for the Project Team to put on a display for the benefit of all concerned, this facility was made known to the PROJECT Team., but not acted on.

The Donaghmede Estate Residents Association (DERA) will under no circumstances accept being DISCRIMINATED against as happened in this case by the Project Team.

Finally, should you require additional information to enclosed we will be happy to supply it, on request. enclosed is just a sample of what has emerged in the course of our efforts. It is suggested that An Bord Pleanala should hold an Oral hearing into this Application.

In the light of above we urge the Bord not to grant Planning Permission to above Application. We thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



Bernard C. Byrne, Chairperson, Donaghmede Estate Residents Association(1971/2024)  
128 Newbrook Ave. Donaghmede, Dublin 13 F1 W1. Tel 01 8471577..Oct. 22,2024.

# DONAGHMEDE ESTATE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Bernard C. Byrne, Chairperson.  
128 Newbrook Ave, Donaghmede, Dublin, D13 F1W1. Tel.: 01 847 1577  
Patrick Gibney, Vice Chair, DERA

**DERA 1971 - 2024**

**DONAGHMEDE ESTATE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

**URGENT ATTENTION OF ALL RESIDENTS**

## **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**

on

**Monday 16th September, 2024 at 8pm in St. Kevin's JN School, Donaghmede  
(Newbrook Road Entrance)**

**The purpose of the Special General Meeting (SGM)...**

## **DART + Coastal North Project**

Involving the extension of the DART Electric Train Service from Malahide to Drogheda  
**and**

The Impact of a Multi Million Euro Major Re-build of our  
Howth Junction - Donaghmede Mainline - DART Station  
Involving Track & Structure Layout Re-organisation & DART Services.

Residents will Receive a DERA EC Report on its more than a Year long Quest to  
get the DART + Coastal North Project Team to Engage with the  
Residents of Donaghmede on the Project Plans Without Any Success.

This SGM WILL DISCUSS & DECIDE Our Next Step Which I will Include a Recommendation  
from DERA EC - Subject to This SGM Approval to make a Submission to An Bord Pleanala  
on this Project by the Deadline of September 20th.

### **We Urge All Residents to attend this Important SGM**

The future of our Howth Junction - Donaghmede Station and the  
Service provided should **NOT** be decided Without our Participation.

Residents Please Note - Public Representatives will also be Invited to Attend.

In the Conduct of the Business of the Meeting the Decision of the Chairperson is Final  
SGM by Courtesy of the Principal of St. Kevin's JNS - **Meeting Must End by 9.45pm.**  
Issued on behalf of DERA EC.

**PLEASE ARRANGE TO ATTEND THIS SPECIAL MEETING**

Monday 16th September at 8pm in St. Kevin's JN School, Donaghmede  
DERA - Enquiries to Bernard C. Byrne 01 847 1577 or Pat Gibney 087 983 7799



Howler Jet. Donaghmede

WATER LINE & DART STATION

at Donaghmede Entrance 2024.

Ex. DERA PHOTO.

Public  
Consultations

From Northside People May 3rd 2023 Edition

→ Received by DERA  
on 18/10/2024

DART+ Coastal North Public Consultation

THE Public Consultation, which commences next week for the DART+ Coastal North project, presents the 'Preferred Option' for the project design and is the second non-statutory public consultation seeking the public's feedback for the project.

The knowledge and insight of customers, residents, and businesses adjacent to the route, as well as other stakeholders, will inform the design and help Iarnród Éireann to shape the project plans, ensuring that it will be beneficial for customers and the communities it will serve.

All are encouraged to review the full details at [www.dartplus.ie](http://www.dartplus.ie), which also features an interactive virtual room. A series of in-person consultation events as well as a public webinar to present the Preferred Option will be held over the coming weeks for those who would like to learn more about the project.

DART+ Coastal North PC2 is open from 9th May until Friday 23rd June 2023.

Consultation: in-person and webinar events: Iarnród Éireann want to engage with communities along the route in an interactive way and will hold a series of in-person consultation events as well as a public webinar to present the Preferred Option for those who would like to learn more about the project.

Each consultation meeting will present the preferred option and members of the project team will be happy to answer questions from residents along the route.

- In-person event No.1 – The Marine Hotel, Sutton. 16th May 2023, from 16:00hrs to 20:00hrs
- In-person event No.2 – The D Hotel, Drogheda. 18th May 2023, from 16:00hrs to 20:00hrs
- In-person event No.3 – St Sylvester's GAA Club, Malahide. 23rd May 2023, from 16:00hrs to 20:00hrs.

Public Webinar – 30th May 2023 at 19:00hrs. To register to attend the webinar, please email [dartcoastalnorth@irishrail.ie](mailto:dartcoastalnorth@irishrail.ie) to register your interest and be issued with a link to join.

Details of the latest design proposals and the upcoming consultation events can now be viewed at [www.dartplus.ie](http://www.dartplus.ie).

Padraig Conlon

Group Editor

Dublin People Newspapers

Ph: (01) 862 1621 / 085 2714101

Email: [padraig.conlon@dublinpeople.com](mailto:padraig.conlon@dublinpeople.com) Web: [www.dublinpeople.com](http://www.dublinpeople.com)



Rob-



Rob-24/5/24  
DERA  
22/7/24

Mr. Bernard C Byrne,  
128 Newbrooke Avenue,  
Donaghmede,  
Dublin 13  
D13F1W1  
22nd July 2024

Ref: TTAS-MO-02688-2024

Dear Mr. Byrne,

On behalf of the Minister for Transport I wish to thank you for your correspondence in relation to the DART+ Coastal North project.

The DART+ Coastal North is part of the overall DART+ Programme, and will provide for electrified DART trains between Dublin city and Drogheda and an improvement to the existing DART services between Dublin city and Howth/Malahide. The project will significantly increase the peak hourly capacity and frequency on the Northern route between Dublin city and Malahide, Howth and Drogheda.

The Preferred Option at Howth Junction & Donaghmede Station includes construction of an extension to the existing Platform 2 and some associated track modifications. These modifications include construction of a new crossover to the east of the platforms, and alterations to existing OHLE, signaling and telecoms will also be required.

To achieve the peak capacity increases proposed by the DART+ Programme, the DART+ Coastal North project will seek a reconfiguration of Howth Junction and Donaghmede Station and the removal of existing



train crossing conflicts at the station which currently constrain capacity and train frequency on the network.

Public participation is a key element to the delivery of major infrastructure projects. There are three main opportunities for stakeholders to provide feedback to the scheme development and Railway Order approval process as outlined below:

1. Public Consultation No.1 on the Emerging Preferred Option which took place in Spring 2022;
2. Public Consultation No.2 on the Preferred Option, as outlined above, which took place in Spring/Summer 2023;
3. Statutory Consultation Period as part of the Railway Order application process, currently ongoing.

In direct response to feedback received in Public Consultation No.1, a variety of significant modification works are proposed to Howth Junction and Donaghmede Station to both improve the passenger experience generally, and to develop the station to better serve as an interchange station. The works will involve modifying the entrances to provide a more accessible, user friendly and customer focused station for all rail users, as well as improve the connection to the surrounding areas of Donaghmede and Kilbarrack. Upgrades will also take place to the footbridge and connections to the centre platforms, as well as the lighting, signage, and finishes throughout.

The DART+ Coastal North Railway Order application has recently been submitted to An Bord Pleanála. Following this submission, the public are currently invited to make submissions which will be duly considered by An Bord Pleanála as part of the decision-making process. This provides the public with further participation in the decision-making process for this project. Any person or body may make a submission or observation in writing to the Board in relation to the Railway Order application until September 20th 2024. Further information is available at the below

24/5/24



website:

<https://www.dartplus.ie/en-ie/railwayorder/further-information-on-the-railway-order-application-process-cn>

Yours sincerely,

---

Amanda Corley  
Private Secretary to Minister Ryan

*The Minister is a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015 (details available on [www.lobbying.ie](http://www.lobbying.ie))*

*Ref*

**DONAGHMEDE ESTATE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**  
**Bernard C. Byrne, Chairperson. 128 Newbrook Ave. Donaghmede**  
**DUBLIN 13 F1W1**

Patrick Gibney, Vice Chair, DERA

Deputy Eamon Ryan, TD., Minister for Transport & Environment,  
Dail Eireann, Leinster House, Dublin 2.

Re., DART Plus - Coastal North Project, >>> **REF. Copy** <<< May 24, 2024

Dear Minister Ryan,

Arising from the recent Annual General Meeting of our Donaghmede Estate Residents Association (DERA - Dublin 13) of which I am the current Chairperson, I am anxious to bring the above Project to your attention in so far as it will impact on our Local Railway Station - Howth Junction - Donaghmede and the community of Donaghmede. Letters we exchanged with the Project Team & Iarnrod Eireann - Irish Rail are available on request. We understand the major works planned within the Project for our above Station will involve expenditure of Euro 20 million and no doubt in the scheme of things will impact on our community in the reconstruction stage and later.

Since May 16, 2023 and the display put on in the Marine Hotel, Sutton by the Project Team our Association has requested repeatedly & at meetings through their Stakeholder Engagement Manager- Chris Bradish that our Community in Donaghmede be afforded the consultative process relative to the major works planned for our Howth Junction - Donaghmede Station as was granted to other designated communities affected by the project. It is a sad reflection on the Project Team that not one item of information on the Project (to our knowledge) was circulated by the Team in our Donaghmede Estate.

We consider this a blatant form of exclusion and discrimination against our Community which we will not tolerate and are prepared to challenge.

Since our Estate received its first Residents in 1969 and the foundation of our Residents Association in 1971 we have maintained good relations with CIE and later with Irish Rail - Iarnrod Eireann (1987) through its Community Liaison officials.

Regretfully, the DART + Coastal North Project Team refused to engage constructively with our Association even with an arrangement we secured with the Manager, Donaghmede Shopping Centre to provide a unit in the Centre to mount a display relative to the major works planned for our Howth Junction-Donaghmede Station, already put on show at more favoured locations ! elsewhere but denied to the people of Donaghmede, this is not acceptable to us and as mentioned we regard it as a form of discrimination.

Minister Ryan, we urge you to support our rightful case for participation in the DART + CN Project, consultative process and we understand you may have such powers vested in your Ministry to put a stop to the discrimination exercised on us to date.

Look forward to your response, are available at your request to meet, Thank you.

Sincerely, Bernard C. Byrne, Chairperson, Donaghmede Estate Residents Association.  
128 Newbrook Avenue, Donaghmede, Dublin 13 F1W1. Tel. 01 - 8471577. (1971 - 2024)

A. B. P.

# Donaghmede Estate



# Residents Association

*Celebrating Our Golden Jubilee 2021-2022*

W: [www.dera.ie](http://www.dera.ie)

**Bernard C. Byrne**, *Chairperson & Community Relations*  
128 Newbrook Ave., Donaghmede, Dublin 13 FIW1 - Tel. (01) 847 1577

**Patrick Gibney**, *Vice-Chairperson, DERA* - Tel. (01) 877 1250

**Martin & Eamonn Patterson**, *Administration DERA* - Tel (01) 847 0723

**John O'Connor**, *Environmental Officer* - Tel.

**Susan Malone & Kathleen Ashmore**, *Environmental Team*

**Declan Rice**, *Health & Safety Officer, DERA*

**Leonie Doyle, Enda Mary Roche & Peter Stafford**, *Administration Support, DERA*

**Ciara Browne**, *Creator of the 'Fairy Garden' in Donaghmede DCC Park*

**Nuala Casey**, *Environmentalists & Team of Donaghmede DCC Park Volunteers*

c/c  
Ref.  
=

Mr. Jim Meade,  
Chief Executive Officer, Irish Rail - Iarnrod Eireann,  
Connolly Station, Dublin 1.

Re. DART + COASTAL NORTH Project.

April 2, 2024

Dear Mr.Meade,

I enclose copy of our letter - March 26, 2024 to Mr. Chris Bradish, Stakeholder, Manager, DART + Coast North Project. Since May 16, 2023 and the above Project display in the Marine Hotel, Sutton, Co. Dublin, Donaghmede Estate Residents Association (DERA) has requested the above Project Team that our community in Donaghmede be afforded the consultation process relative to the major project planned for our Howth Junction - Donaghmede Station as was done for other designated communities. At notime did the Project Team inform our Community of the proposed Project - not one item of information was circulated. We have repeated in our recent correspondence that this approach in the matter of information is unacceptable to us as.

Since our Donaghmede Community received its first residents in 1969 & the foundation of our Residents Association in 1971, we have maintained good community relations with CIE and later (1987) with Irish Rail. For many years on all projects this was done very successfully through your Community Liaison Officer, Joe Beardmore, who retired in recent times, and later by other company representatives, to the present day through our DCC Local meetings. DART + CN Project Team have refused to engage with us even with an offer we secured from Mr.Pat Mc Cabe, Manager, Donaghmede Shopping centre, to provide a Unit to put on the Project Display, relative to the major work planned for our Station- Howth Jct.- Donaghmede and already displayed at the Marine Hotel in Sutton. We will now make our case known to the wider community for the recognition we consider we have a right to, as we have stated in our letter of 26/3/24 to the Project Team. Our Committee felt you should be made aware of the situation

Sincerely, Bernard C. Byrne, Chairperson, Donaghmede Estate Residents Association (1971)  
C/C .. Mr. Barry Kenny, Head of Corporate Affairs & Media Communications, Irish Rail - Iarnrod Eireann.

*In Memory of Angela Owens creator of Angela's Green on Carndonagh Lawn & DERA Treasurer from 2002-2021*

DERA - All Ireland "Pride of Place" Award Winner

Citywide Award "Best Contribution to Community"

C/O Mr Bernard Byrne



Your ref IPID 8374  
Our ref 2024.02.20\_DART+CN\_8374\_DERA  
File ref 2024.02.20\_DART+CN\_8374\_DERA\_Response

February 20, 2024

Donaghmede Estate Residents Association,  
C/O Mr Bernard Byrne,  
128 Newbrook Avenue,  
Donaghmede,  
Dublin,  
D13 F1W1

DART+ Coastal North,  
Iarnród Éireann,  
Inchicore Works,  
Inchicore Parade,  
Dublin 8,  
D08 K6Y3

20 February 2024

Dear Donaghmede Estate Residents Association,

**Re: DART + Coastal North Project, Continued Engagement with DERA.**

I would like to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

In your letter you stated that you had not received any communication from our DART+ Coastal North project team since we met with you in Connolly Station back in December 2023. Your letter suggested that our team may have decided to ignore the concerns of the Donaghmede Estate Residents Association (DERA) by not contacting you. I would like to assure you that our team is in no way ignoring any concerns raised in relation to the DART+ Coastal North project proposals, from you or any other stakeholder. We take all feedback very seriously and ensure that all feedback is passed to the relevant team members so it is given all due consideration.

Further to the letter from DERA, received by our project team on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024, a letter of response was drafted and issued in reply on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024. I am sorry to hear that this letter did not reach you as intended, and I have now included a copy of that letter herein. Until today our team was unfortunately unaware that our previous written response had not reached you.

The included copy of our letter of 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024 seeks to address the concerns and issues raised in your letter of 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and in this instance we have issued this letter by registered post to ensure delivery. I do hope that it provides you with the information needed to address your concerns.

Yours Sincerely,

**Chris Bradish**  
**Stakeholder Manager - DART+ Coastal North**

Enclosed: Letter Referenced 2024.01.26\_DART+CN\_8374\_DERA

A & B P. L.A.S.

JANUARY 26, 2024



P10 P2

Your ref IPID 8374  
Our ref 2024.01.25\_DART+ CN\_8374\_DERA  
File ref 2024.01.25\_DART+ CN\_8374\_DERA\_Response

Donaghmede Estate Residents Association,  
C/O Mr Bernard Byrne,  
128 Newbrook Avenue,  
Donaghmede,  
Dublin,  
D13 F1W1

DART+ Coastal North,  
Iarnród Éireann,  
Inchicore Works,  
Inchicore Parade,  
Dublin 8.  
D08 K6Y3

26 January 2024

Dear Donaghmede Estate Residents Association,

**Re: DART + Coastal North Project, Continued Engagement with DERA.**

Further to our meeting with you on December 07<sup>th</sup> 2023 in Connolly Station’s boardroom, and your recent letter seeking a response, I am writing to you to provide some additional information regarding the progress of the DART+ Coastal North project and those topics discussed during the aforementioned meeting.

We recognise your association’s concerns relating to the consultation process carried out to date which have been clearly set out by you in each of our meetings with you since our second public consultation took place. As we discussed in each meeting, it is worth noting that each of our consultations have been open to all members of the public as a means of submitting feedback on the project. The in-person events organised were not constrained in any way and were located in what were considered to be locations that would be accessible to a wide audience. Our online webinar was provided as a means of reaching those members of the public who were unable to attend the in-person events. All project information was also published on our website for the public’s information, and we would again encourage you to submit a written response to these current project proposals for the project team’s consideration should you so wish.

Following our meetings with you, our project team has given further consideration to your request to take a unit in Donaghmede shopping centre and hold an additional consultation event in the Donaghmede locality. Unfortunately, as our formal period of consultation has ended, we are not in a position to accede to this request.

We also acknowledge your association’s frustration and anger in relation to the article published in the Irish Times following the in -person events we held as part of Public Consultation No.2. As we have previously stated multiple times during our past meetings and correspondences, however, this article was written and published independently of Iarnród Éireann and is a matter that is not within our control and you will need to pursue this with the Irish Times.

We would like to note once again that the Donaghmede area stands to benefit from the DART+ Coastal North proposals both in terms of the improved rail services and upgrades to Howth Junction & Donaghmede Station that the project will deliver. Howth Junction & Donaghmede Station is the only station within the project extents where such improvements and investment are currently proposed, and we would invite you to review the extents of these proposals.

The project team currently expects to make an application to An Bord Pleanála later this spring for the DART+ Coastal North project. Work is ongoing to finalise the necessary documentation, which will be submitted as part of the Railway Order (RO) application process. The application will include an Environmental Impact Assessment report (EIAR), which will provide details of assessments of impacts relevant to the project and details of mitigation measures proposed to address these issues. Further to the application, the RO documents submitted to an Bord Pleanála will be available for viewing at selected public buildings within the project extents and will also be published online. Details of these locations and the website will be published in a national and local newspapers, those that are referenced as part of the project will receive an information pack in the post and those that registered an interest in the project will also be emailed to notify them of the lodgement. Following the application to an Bord Pleanála, there will then be a period of statutory consultation and any impacted party or member of the public will be entitled to make a submission to an Bord Pleanála detailing their observations or concerns. Given the scale of the project, it is anticipated that there will be an oral hearing into the scheme. Those that have made a written submission will be invited to ask questions of the project team at the oral hearing.

I do hope that the above provides you with the information needed to address your concerns.

Yours Sincerely,



**Chris Bradish**  
**Stakeholder Manager - DART+ Coastal North**



- An Bord Pleanála -

## Donaghmede Estate Residents Association



**Bernard C. Byrne, Chairperson**  
128 Newbrook Ave., Donaghmede, Dublin 13  
Tel. (01) 847 1577  
**Michael Raftery, Vice-Chairperson**  
Tel. (01) 847 0723  
**Martin Patterson, Kay Ashmore**



**Patrick Gibney, Vice-Chairperson**  
Tel. (01) 8771250  
**Naomi Doyle**  
Environmental Officer  
**David Browne**  
Community Relations Officer  
**Declan Rice**  
Health & Safety Officer  
**Susan Malone**

## Autumn 2023 Newsletter

Dear Friends & Neighbours.

### Autumn Newsletter 2023 Continued

#### DART + Coastal North Project

This development is the extension of the DART on the NORTHERN Line beyond Malahide, the current DART terminus - to Drogheda in the coming year's, by far the longest DART extension since its opening in July 1984, from then Donaghmede residents have enjoyed the benefit of the service to the city centre & south east.

DART stands for - Dublin Area Rapid Transit. DERA has followed this DART Extension Project closely and expressed great disappointment with the Project Team at the failure to engage with DERA and our Donaghmede Community in the consultation process, as they have done with others on the route of the proposed electrification development. We are currently in a dialogue with the Project Team (representing Irish Rail) to have a consultative process initiated with DERA as our community representative. We are satisfied the Project will impact on our Howth Junction - Donaghmede Station, as it is planned for a major re-design of the Station and the operation of the DART at some stage in the future.

In terms of Train operation our Railway Station must be the busiest suburban on the Commuter Network. We will keep our residents up-dated on the outcome of our dialogue with the Project Team when it develops beyond the current stage and we do so in the interest of our residents and their future Rail transport needs.

Our residents are reminded of a report on the DART + Coastal North Project that appeared in The Irish Times on May 17 following a public display and consultative process held in the Marine Hotel, Sutton the day before. In the course of an interview with the Times a DART commuter (or prospective ) is alleged to have made adverse comments (quoted) on the prospects of travelling through Howth Junction - Donaghmede, and encountering a certain kind of passenger, which reflected adversely on our Station & the people who use it. Following the publication of the article in The Irish Times, DERA took up with the Editorial Team & made our views known, refuting any such comments, their Team has responded to us in an amicable way and DERA is considering its next move in this contentious issue. We will keep our Residents advised of developments.

AN B. Plans.

Donaghmede Estate



Residents Association

Celebrating Our Golden Jubilee 2021-2022

W: www.dera.ie

- Bernard C. Byrne, Chairperson & Community Relations**  
128 Newbrook Avenue, Donaghmede, Dublin, D13 FIW1 - Tel. 01 8471577
- Patrick Gibney, Vice Chairperson, DERA** - Tel. 01 8771250
- Martin & Eamonn Patterson, Administration DERA** - Tel. 01 8470723;
- John O'Connor, Environmental Officer**
- Susan Malone & Kathleen Ashmore, Environmental Team**
- Declan Rice, Health & Safety Officer, DERA**
- Leonie Doyle & Enda Mary Roche, Administration Support DERA**
- Ciara Browne, Creator of the 'Fairy Garden' in Donaghmede DCC Park**
- Nuala Casey, Environmentalist & Team of Donaghmede DCC Park Volunteers**



Mr. Chris Bradish,  
Stakeholder Engagement Manager, DART + COASTAL NORTH PROJECT,  
Iarnrod Eireann - Irish Rail, Inchicore Railway Engineering Works,  
Inchicore, Dublin 8.

June 21, 2023

Dear Mr. Bradish,

I refer to our meeting at the DART + Coastal North Project open day and display for the Project in the Marine Hotel, Sutton on May 16, 2023. There I took the opportunity to inform you that no engagement has taken place with our Community in Donaghmede either on the current Phase 2 or Phase 1 of the Project. Obviously the project Team do not think we are worthy of Consultation. Howth Junction - Donaghmede Railway Station is at the heart of our Community in Donaghmede and for more than half a century our Residents Association (DERA) has engaged with CIE - IRISH RAIL CONCERNING OUR STATION, indeed our Association is CURRENTLY CELEBRATING 175 Years of our Junction to Howth in 1847 (see enclosed). In fact we plan in late Autumn to have a local Exhibition in Donaghmede marking this event & our DERA Golden Jubilee 1971 - 2023.

I must inform you our Committee will not accept being ignored and we will take whatever measures necessary to make this known and rectify it.

The Irish Times published a feature on the phase 2 part of the Project on May 17 the day after the Marine Hotel Expo., which we regard as an insult to our Community, we are in correspondence with The Irish Times Editor on the matter, we are not prepared to let the issue stand in what ever action it requires. We suggest you engage with DERA to redress the failure in the first place to consult with us, all information received is second hand !

Sincerely, Bernard C. Byrne, Chairperson, DERA-128 Newbrook Ave., Donaghmede, D13 FIW1

→ C/C Mr. Barry Kenny, Head of Corporate Affairs, Iarnrod Eireann, Connolly Station. D1  
.....Mr. Kenny, above for your *Special Attention* - thank you. BCByrne

Mr. Pat Gibney, Vice Chair DERA, 4 Donaghmede Rd. D.13. tel 01 877 1250 & DERA EC

In Memory of Angela Owens creator of Angela's Green on Carndonagh Lawn & DERA Treasurer from 2002-2021

DERA - All Ireland "Pride of Place" Award Winner

Citywide Award "Best Contribution to Community"

Copy An Bord Pleanála.

DONAGHMEDE ESTATE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION-1971- 2023. Tel. 01 - 847 1577  
BERNARD C. BYRNE, Chairperson, 128 Newbrook Ave., Donaghmede, Dublin 13 F1W1

Letters to the Editor,  
The Irish Times,  
Dublin 2.

May 21, 2023.

## DART + COASTAL NORTH

Sir, I refer to the Howth DART feature by your Dublin Editor-Olivia Kelly in your issue of May 17, 2023, may I inform Editor Kelly, that added to Howth Junction is Donaghmede since the station was re-constructed in 2005, the name change was at the request of residents. I attended the DART + Coastal North Project information display in the Marine Hotel, Sutton on May 16., I will reserve my comments on the Project until Donaghmede has its formal Public Consultation process which we have requested, as we too as a community are impacted by the changes proposed.

However, I must challenge comments made by one of the people interviewed by Ms Kelly for her feature that ours is a 'dangerous station' and the person in the interview goes on to elaborate on his outrageous views of the people who are likely to board the train at Howth Junction - Donaghmede Station. As a resident of Donaghmede Estate for over 52 years and daily used the Train service I totally refute this slur on our community and indeed the passengers who use the Station. Incident of an anti social nature are likely to occur anywhere, I can honestly say Howth Junction - Donaghmede is as safe as you will find on the DART or Commuter Network, upwards of over 200 trains daily use our Station and from an operational aspect it is possibly the busiest of all suburban stations.

Incidentally we understand the people responsible for the Train incident involving the young lady on the day were not from the Donaghmede area and as reported were removed from the DART. It is most disappointing that your Dublin Editor and The Irish Times so freely allowed such a diatribe and slight on our community to pass without challenge. From my experience, the person interviewed is wrong also about the operation of the lifts at our Station.

Our views on the future design of Howth Junction - Donaghmede Station will be made known when we are afforded the opportunity in the Consultation process which we await confirmation of.

Yours etc.,  
Bernard C. Byrne, Chairperson, Donaghmede Estate Residents Association, Dublin 13.  
( All - Ireland Pride of Place Winner )

See attached Copy of  
The Irish Times Report  
of May 17, 2023.



*Bernard C. Byrne*

128 Newbrook Avenue, Donaghmede, Dublin 13 FI W1, Ireland

Telephone 00-353-1-8471577

# Howth Dart users face widespread disruption over line extension

IRISH TIMES  
WEB.  
MAY 17  
2023

OLIVIA KELLY  
Dublin Editor

Howth and Sutton Dart users are facing major changes to their daily commute with potential "shuttle" trains splitting their trip to Dublin city following the extension of the Dart line to Drogheda.

At a busy public information event in the Marine Hotel in Sutton yesterday evening Irish Rail outlined its plans for DART + Coastal North, part of the €2.6 billion extension of Dart services from Dublin to Drogheda, Celbridge and Maynooth, first announced 18 years ago.

DART + Coastal North will extend the electrification of the Northern Line to bring Darts from Malahide to Drogheda with a significant increase in frequency along the line. However, to sustain these additional services, Irish Rail is proposing some trains from Howth could run as feeder services to Howth Junction with passengers having to change trains to continue into the city.

Splitting the trip would represent the biggest change for Dart users in Howth since the service went live in 1984 with many residents attending the information sessions feeling they were being asked to take an unfair hit to accommodate travellers further up the line.

"We have had direct train services from Howth for 179 years," said Valerie Darby, whose family have lived in the

Howth for generations. "The reason we are being subject to this is because they are extending the service to Drogheda and there are going to be lots of extra trains on the line, but our direct service will be cut off - we are being sacrificed for Drogheda" she said.

"I think these consultation things are a done deal before you even get here. Are they going to have a train waiting for me when I get off at Howth junction?"

## €2.6bn

The cost of the extension of Dart services to Drogheda, Celbridge and Maynooth

Ian Byrne from Sutton described the information event as "window dressing" designed to distract from the poor public transport serving the area.

"The real problem is a lack of a co-ordinated strategy for Howth which includes trains, buses and the road network. There is no coordination between the different transport entities. The whole thing is chaos."

The more frequent closure of level crossings due to the additional train services will create "massive traffic problems" yet people would be more likely to return to their cars if they were forced to switch trains to get into the city he said.

"To double the level cross-

ing closures from 21-22 per cent to 55 per cent will create massive traffic in both directions. No way is there the capacity on the roads to handle the amount of residential development going on here. This is a sticking plaster approach, not a coordinated strategic approach to the traffic problems. We have to move towards more public transport, not a reduced shuttle service."

The fact the change would occur at Howth Junction was a particular worry for many residents. The station became the focus of safety concerns two years ago when a 17-year-old girl was knocked under a stationary train in an incident involving a group of young men who had been ejected from the train due to complaints of anti-social behaviour.

"That is a dangerous station. There are attacks, muggings, even now going through it you say to yourself 'I hope no one gets on our carriage'," Sutton local Lea Banks said. "But if people have to change trains, tourists will be sitting ducks. What about people in wheelchairs and buggies? They say there will be two lifts, but the lifts never work anyway. And by the time the train gets to Howth Junction, you'd be lucky to get standing room. No one from Irish Rail here today lives out here so they have no concept of what it's like to live here and you can't make that a non-dangerous station just by putting lights in."

Project manager for Dart + Coastal Paul Wilcock said Irish Rail recognised there were problems with the station and said the plan included an €18 million investment in its upgrade.

"We have heard people's concerns and in reaction to that and we have looked at upgrading the existing Howth Junction and Donaghmede Station. We're going to improve the entrances, we're going to improve access, we're going to improve the stairs and the bridge. People had concerns about lighting and their perception of how safe the station is and we have come up with a plan that we think mitigates those concerns. We understand that we have to build confidence for passengers using Howth Junction."

The work will be subject to an application to An Bord Pleanála later this year and it is envisaged the full upgrade programme will be completed in 2029. While this will enable the Howth shuttle service to be introduced, how that service would operate is yet to be determined Irish Rail communications manager Barry Kenny said.

"What we are doing here is building the infrastructure to allow the shuttle service. If we were to run the network to the maximum capacity, you would run a straight line service through from Drogheda and Malahide and have a shuttle to Howth Junction," he said.

Copy. An Bord Pleanála.



# THE IRISH TIMES

## EDITOR'S OFFICE

22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2023.

Mr. Bernard C. Byrne,  
Chairperson,  
Donaghmede Estate Residents Association,  
128 Newbrook Avenue,  
Donaghmede,  
D13 F1W1

Dear Mr Byrne,

I write in response to your letters of May 21<sup>st</sup>, July 31<sup>st</sup> and September 18<sup>th</sup>.

A notice appears regularly in bold on the Letters to the Editor page which states: "The Irish Times receives a great many letters each day and it is possible to find space for only a small selection." A longer version of that note, which appears when space permits, advises readers: "We regret that we cannot give prior notice of a letter's publication date, acknowledge unpublished letters, or discuss the merits of individual letters". Given the large volume of correspondence we receive, it is not our policy to acknowledge Letters to the Editor or to explain why a particular letter was not published.

With regard to your concerns about the article in question, our journalist attended a public information event in Sutton on May 16<sup>th</sup> at which Irish Rail outlined its plans for DART + Coastal North. The article accurately reported that the proposal would involve some trains from Howth running as feeder services to Howth Junction with passengers having to change trains to continue into the city. It further reported on the fact that the change at Howth Junction was a particular worry for many of those at the event and that the station became the focus of safety concerns when a 17-year-old girl was knocked under a stationary train. The article included the comments of Miriam Kinane from Howth who said she was particularly concerned about the safety of children and older people changing trains at Howth Junction and Sutton local, Lea Banks, who expressed concerns about attacks and muggings. It also included project manager Paul Wilcock's comment that Irish Rail recognised there were problems with the station.

1.T

We acknowledge your disappointment that your letter was not published and your wish to highlight the perspective of your community on this issue. In your first letter, you said you would reserve your comments on the DART+ Coastal North project and the future design of your local station until Donaghmede had its formal public consultation process. If you are now in a position to give the views of the association, we could arrange for our Dublin Editor to speak to you or one of the other officers of the association in that regard.

Please let me know if this is something that would be of interest to you and your association.

Yours sincerely,



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**Roddy O'Sullivan,**  
**Editor's Office**

P.P.