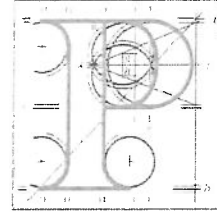


**Our Case Number:** ABP-320164-24

**Planning Authority Reference Number:**



**An  
Bord  
Pleanála**

Donahies Residents' Association  
c/o Aisling Jones  
8 Kilmoroney Close  
Donahies  
Donaghmede

D13H7Y5

**Date:** 06 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

<b>Tel</b>	<b>Tel</b>	(01) 858 8100
<b>Glaó Áitiúil</b>	<b>LoCall</b>	1890 275 175
<b>Facs</b>	<b>Fax</b>	(01) 872 2684
<b>Láithreán Gréasáin</b>	<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.pleanala.ie">www.pleanala.ie</a>
<b>Ríomhphost</b>	<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:bord@pleanala.ie">bord@pleanala.ie</a>

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde Baile Átha Cliath 1 D01 V902	64 Marlborough Street Dublin 1 D01 V902
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Aisling Jones  
Chairperson  
Donahies Residents' Association  
8 Kilmoroney Close  
Donahies  
Donaghmede  
D13H7Y5

DART+ Coastal North Railway Order 2024  
An Bord Pleanála  
4 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you on behalf of the residents of the Donahies, Donaghmede, Dublin 13 as Chairperson of the Donahies Residents' Association. The Donahies Residents' Association represents 679 homes in the Donahies, Donaghmede, Dublin 13 area and has been in operation for over 50 years.

We are formally making an observation on the DART+ Coastal North Railway Order 2024 Case Number 320164.

Although Donaghmede residents welcome the funding allocation and redevelopment of their local DART station "Howth Junction- Donaghmede" residents are deeply disheartened and shocked by the lack of meaningful engagement and communication regarding this costly redevelopment of their local DART station located in Donaghmede.

On 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024 we met with residents of the entire Donaghmede, Dublin 13 area at a meeting led by Donaghmede Estate Residents Association (DERA) which elected representatives also attended. We are supporting the DERA submission that there was a significant failure on behalf of Irish Rail DART+ project team to meaningfully engage and communicate project plans with residents in Donaghmede area on this multi million euro major rebuild of our Howth Junction – Donaghmede Mainline – DART station (involving track and structure layout and reorganisation & DART Services).

There was no public display or any informational session for those resident in the vicinity who will be the primary users of Howth Junction - Donaghmede DART station. There was also no information circulated via mailings on the proposed redevelopment of the DART station. Irish Rail have dedicated staff in the capacity of stakeholder engagement on the DART+ project team specifically for this project yet they have neglected to engage with two active residents' associations or Donaghmede residents, missing the opportunity to foster dialogue and gather feedback on their design. This engagement is crucial to ensure the proposed project plans aligns with the public's best interests and is suitable for planning review and approval by An Bord Pleanála.

Instead of actively seeking out and consulting Donaghmede residents, as one would expect from an organisation seemingly intent on stakeholder engagement or involved in the spending of substantial public funds on permanent infrastructure, the Irish Rail DART+ project team has taken a tokenistic and superficial approach. This has resulted in ignoring and overlooking the largest population, those in Donaghmede, who will be most impacted by this redevelopment.

Attempts were made by Donaghmede Estate Residents Association (DERA) to support Irish Rail to put on a display of the project plan and design in Donaghmede Shopping centre where maximum exposure and awareness would have been facilitated for these project plans. This and continued requests for a dedicated information session for Donaghmede residents, were not facilitated.

We believe the communication on these project plans matter was severely lacking although the residents in Drogheda, Howth, Sutton and Malahide were targeted for at least some consultation. The lack of dialogue and meetings means that this permanent and publicly funded development cannot be guaranteed to be in the public's best interest.

This lack of meaningful engagement with Donaghmede residents is a significant oversight in the submission and cannot be ignored. We respectfully request that An Bord Pleanála defer this Strategic Infrastructure Development planning request pending meaningful consultation with residents in the Donaghmede area. Unless Donaghmede residents are aware of this project plans and knowledgeable about their content very limited observations will be forthcoming which undermines the entire planning process for this very important project.

Donaghmede Estate Residents Association (DERA) represent close to 1,000 homes and Donahies Residents' Association 679 homes which makes up a significant proportion of the 10,000 residents in the Donaghmede, Dublin 13 area who were not consulted or informed on this project plan.

We thank you for your consideration and eagerly await the decision on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Aisling Jones

Aisling Jones

Chairperson

Donahies Residents' Association