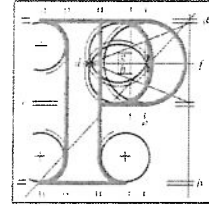


Our Case Number: ABP-320164-24



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

James & Emma Bradley
Devenish
30 Claremont Road
Howth
D13 CY51

Date: 05 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.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board at 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
Glaó Áitiúil	LoCall	1800 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	bord@pleanala.ie

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

An Bord Pleanála
64 Malborough Street,
Rotunda,
Dublin 1

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
LDG-	<u>075640-24</u>
ABP-	
21 OCT 2024	
Fee: €	<u>50.00</u> Type: <u>(AM)</u>
Time: <u>12.16</u>	By: <u>HAND</u>

Devenish
30 Claremont Road
Howth
D13 CY51

2 October 2024

Consultation re planning application of Dart and Coastal North extension to Drogheda

Ref 320164

Dear Sir or Madam,

I'm writing to you to submit our observations and concerns in respect of the proposed changes to the dart services to and from Howth dart station.

My wife Emma, three kids and I live in a cul de sac (with above address) where 8 residential houses and Howth lodge apartments are located. At the entrance to the cul de sac there is a level crossing (see map image) which we must travel across to access our homes.

Currently when the train is travelling towards Howth or into Dublin city centre, the level crossing barriers close off access to the cul de sac for approximately 5-10mins. At peak times there are trains travelling in each direction every 20 minutes, and the barrier blocks access to our homes somewhere between 15-30 minutes per hour. The actual time will depend on if trains going in opposite direction coordinate crossing at the same/similar time. However, I believe the majority of the time they don't coordinate, and coordination may happen at other locations.

On the northside of the barrier (or cul de sac side), we and other people are often left waiting at the barrier for quite some time before being able to leave and continue on our journey. There is no other vehicular access to the road and therefore we are effectively trapped until the barrier comes back up. In an emergency situation the time delay leaving the road to access medical assistance (or for an ambulance/fire brigadeg coming in) could be disastrous for all residents.

On the southside of the barrier (or main Howth road side), there is space only for two cars to wait safely off the main road. When the barrier is down, two cars often fill this space, and any further cars are required to wait on the main road. This is an extremely dangerous and vulnerable position, being situated on a tight bend that has seen numerous road traffic accidents over the years.

Over the last few years/decade there has been a material increase in the volume of traffic and size of vehicles travelling along the Howth road, particularly large lorries due to construction of buildings in Howth and coming into collect fish stocks from the harbour. Consequently the main road in and out of Howth has become much busier and has heavier vehicles, further increasing the risks associated with waiting on the road. Often you can be sitting in the car

with the family when the barriers are down, three or more spaces back feeling very unsafe that a vehicle behind could hit the back of the car.

The above is setting the scene of how we currently access our home in our cul de sac and the daily operation for residents of the cul de sac.

Changes

The proposed changes to the dart services would mean that at peak times as many as 12 trains per hour could be passing through the level crossing, with the associated closures then necessitated. We believe this will aggravate the current problem of traffic backing onto the main road, increasing safety risks and impairing our right to freedom of movement and access to our homes. There will be a far greater incidence of stoppages for two trains (where there is not enough time between trains for the barrier to lift) which are particularly problematic as these can leave vehicles waiting for up to 10 minutes with more scope for build-up of waiting vehicles on to the main road.

Additionally we have concerns about other ways in which the proposed DART changes will affect us and the wider community. The proposed plans involve all Howth customers changing trains at Howth Junction and Donaghmede Station. Howth Junction is unsafe and poorly designed. Any DART customers with impaired mobility will be greatly disadvantaged, especially as lifts are often broken. I have concerns for the safety of young people in particular waiting at a busy station in an area with much reported antisocial behaviour. Howth / Sutton is an incredibly popular destination both for tourists and day trippers from the city centre which can result in the DART being extremely packed in the summer months. There would then be crowds of people waiting to change at Howth Junction, increasing safety risks.

Increases in closure times at other level crossings, in particular Station Road and Baldoyle Road in Sutton will exacerbate existing traffic congestion issues. On summer weekends with all the visitors to the peninsula (who must pass through the two roads at Sutton Cross), traffic can be backed up for miles.

These are our concerns, and we would appreciate if you could give due consideration to the above.

Your sincerely,

James & Emma Bradley

James Bradley



19th October 2024.



residents in
cul de sac

Howth Lodge
apartments

cul de sac

Level
crossing

Sutton
←

towards
Howth village