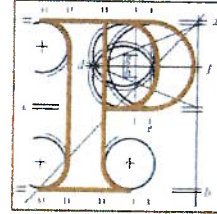


Our Case Number: ABP-320164-24



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Paul Burke & Diane Hanrahan
36 St. Nesson's Terrace
Howth
D13 C990

Date: 24 October 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

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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

Re: ABP 311802-21 Planning Application for Dart + Coastal North 2024

**Submission and Objection from Paul Burke and Diane Hanrahan, 36 St Nesson's Terrace
Howth, Co Dublin, D13 C990 Email: Paulburke99@gmail.com 087 2562837**

17 Oct 2024

We would like to object to this proposal on 2 grounds: 1. Huge Traffic disruption and 2. Dart journey Disruption as below. At a stroke this proposal will gridlock Howth Roads blocking access and break a perfectly good functioning Dart service. A huge screw up of a plan is being forced on us.

1.Traffic Disruption:

Traffic into and out of Howth is currently very slow with long waiting times at Sutton Cross and at the level crossing. It's a mess and a bottleneck. Effectively Sutton and Howth are hemmed in by having access by only one main crossroad. In the past 3 years our view is that Traffic has increased by at least 50% due to building and is due to further increase as over 600 approx apartments are due onstream in the next 2 years. Howth, Baldoyle and Bayside is now a very busy area and living here is getting unpleasant. Howth is now a huge draw from the surrounding new developments especially in Clongriffin.

This is making residents in Howth becoming prisoners at weekends as one cannot get in or out easily. At least 3 times in the past month I gave up trying to get out in a reasonable time. This is not fair, and we don't need more choking off of our only artery.

Railway Crossings:

Currently there are always long queues going to and coming from Baldoyle and I have noticed that these queues are now backing up on to the Howth Road on all 3 sides waiting for the barrier to lift. Any increase in frequency of trains will only cause further delays and is not progress.

The current frequency is only acceptable if the Barriers are lifted more quickly. A week ago, I had to wait 4 minutes as 2 trains were trying to synchronise. Yes! And why is this slow operation not fixed?

How are Emergency Services to get through when needed if there are more barriers down more frequently. This is a big Health and Safety issue and is not acceptable.

We expect reasonable motor and truck access to not be degraded further. Disabled people and families and workers need their cars and easy motor access.

Dart Disruption and Inconvenience:

As soon as I saw the plan and the artwork of the new connection at Howth Junction, we knew that this could be fait accompli as happened in Bray despite assurances and the Public Consultation is window dressing and Eamon Ryan's announcements have made this more like a decision being rammed through.

The Howth to Connolly route has been successfully **working since 1885 I think**, so why break it up and add 20 mins to a journey. This is the extra time needed to change exit and be assured of catching another train at Howth Junction for Connolly.

This is not an upgrade or progress or a solution but a Gerry job posing as infrastructure plan.

Noting the huge crowds at rush hour and at weekends getting on to the Dart, this change will be a huge challenge. Forget about **even getting a seat after the change** ...it's a problem on the Drogheda line now! Tough if you are elderly and have bad mobility.

See Bayside at rush hour and the number joining. Add in 1.5M tourists in Howth, most of who are already confused by the name and the change at HJ would be difficult as it's just not a simple change going North.

Howth Junction is a miserable place and is unmanned and has a large anti-social situation and is a menacing place especially at night. Would you allow your daughter or school children change trains after 7 pm there! Eh no.

Disabled and Elderly People will be disadvantaged and would have a nightmare trying to get on a lift twice and over the tracks. Irish Rail can't even keep the existing lifts working despite assurances. No escalators proposed to ease the change ...just a floor and paint job proposed!

Irish weather is bad and if it is raining or cold or dark we will just not use the Dart as it will be a negative and we will drive if there is a change. We might drive to Raheny and park if a better option. We will save the extra time that would have to be allowed for a change like 15-20 mins yo be sure of a connection.

Conclusion:

This proposal is **not acceptable and unworkable** and is a slap in the face to current users from Dublin to Howth and back and motorists. It's a cheap option and the result will be 2 networks one from Howth that won't work as designed and one from Drogheda that won't work well either. Standing journeys will be the new normal if this goes ahead. Irish Rail don't generate much confidence for reliability currently.

Additionally, traffic will be further gridlocked by this illogical plan. Please also ask Irish Rail to fix the current speed of the barriers.

Drogheda Dart can only work by the addition of extra lines either at Connolly or along the M1 as some have proposed.

Dump this Dart option please and execute the infrastructure investment properly and especially leave our road access alone.

Howth does not need more Darts as it works perfectly well now and don't touch it!

Paul Burke and Diane Hanrahan