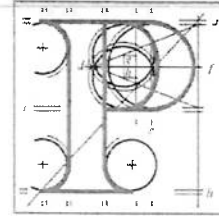


Our Case Number: ABP-320164-24



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

David Sweeney
Blue Water
Seaview Terrace
Howth
Dublin 13
D13FK10

Date: 08 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 submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed railway order and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter. Please accept this letter as a receipt for the fee of €50 that you have paid.


The Board will revert to you in due course with regard to the matter.

Please be advised that copies of all submissions / observations received in relation to the application will be made available for public inspection at the offices of the relevant County Councils and at the offices of An Bord Pleanála when they have been processed by the Board.

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 the meantime 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

RA05

Teil
Glao Áitiúil
Facs
Láithreán Gréasáin
Ríomhphost

Tel
LoCall
Fax
Website
Email

(01) 858 8100
1800 275 175
(01) 872 2684
www.pleanala.ie
bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Blue Water,

Seaview Terrace

Howth

D13FK10

20 September 2024

320164 Dart + Coastal North (2024): Effect on Howth: Sweeney Family Submission

Dear Sir/Madam,

The proposed changes to the Dart services in Howth will inconvenience this family in multiple ways listed below, all of which will necessitate family members returning to the use of private rather than public transport.

We strongly object to the changes to Dart services to and from Howth. Our family includes a mature student studying in UCD, Belfield. who now has a commuter journey of an hour and a half each way which amounts to a fifteen-hour weekly commute. We have another family member commuting to TCD and family members working in the city centre. We object to the changes on the following grounds:

1. The changes will add further delay to the UCD commute resulting in a four-hour journey per day which is twenty hours a week commuting time. If the proposed changes go ahead her daily commute will require four trains and two buses per day. Given her age (60+) this is exhausting and very unfair
2. Due to the cycle lanes being imposed at Fairview it has already become very difficult and close to impossible to travel to the city by car in good time.
3. Due to the exponential residential development of the Howth area and consequent additional car volume if these Dart service changes are introduced, the bus service, now having only a single lane into and out of Howth, will be delayed further resulting in a practically useless service which will add extra hours to our journeys.
4. If the changes are implemented trains arriving into Howth Junction from Northern stations will already be full so most passengers from Howth, Sutton and Bayside will be unable to join those trains. This would lead to unacceptable delays for our family members with strict time commitments at work, school or third level institutions.
5. One family member in her sixties strongly objects to spending dark winter nights or early dark mornings standing at Howth Junction to change trains. This station is reportedly the most dangerous train station in the country. This is evidenced by a woman who was recently knocked under a train by three thugs on bicycles as seen in the media. <https://www.breakingnews.ie/ireland/probation-for-second-teen-involved-in-howthjunction-dart-incident-1326569.html#:~:text=CCTV%20footage%20showed%20a%2017,aged%2017%2C%20with%20violent%20disorder.>

In addition, in the likely event of lift at Howth Junction being out of order this would mean that older people would have flights of steps to climb with heavy bags increasing the possibilities of falls and accidents.

6. Surveillance cameras at Howth Junction are not going to stop family members from being mugged or attacked by people high on crack cocaine, alcohol or worse.
7. At present the Dart service is not reliable with regular cancellations and delays. There is nothing in the plan which guarantees reliability into the future.
8. The greatly increased population of Howth arising from continuing development of apartments in the area will mean that an already insufficient Dart service will be overwhelmed by passengers, not just at Howth, but also at Bayside, and Sutton stations. Why should the long-time tax-paying residents of Howth be further victimized due to reckless over-development of the area with no planning for transport, parking, schools, shops, doctors, etc.
9. The resulting amount of time taken to change trains, the difficulty in boarding already full trains and the inevitable delays in the service will lead to substantial delays to travel by this family to work, school, third level institutions and Dublin city centre, let alone to other parts of the Dart line. The inevitable outcome will be that family members, like many others in our area, will resort to private transport by car so increasing traffic volumes and pollution on an already restricted route into central Dublin.

We believe that for the reasons set out above that it is essential that the current direct Dart service to and from Howth Station is maintained into the future,

Finally, adequate travel services are a basic right of a citizen and/or taxpayer. This family greatly resents the imposition of a 50 Euro charge in order for it to comment on a plan which will greatly harm those travel services. Imposition of this charge also potentially excludes a large cohort of less well-off people living in Howth, who would be more dependent on public transport, from objecting due to this charge, thus skewing the consultation process.

Yours sincerely,

David Sweeney

The Sweeney Family.