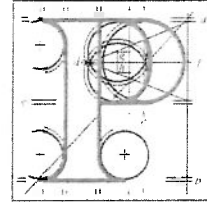


Our Case Number: ABP-320164-24



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Tom Brabazon
75 Grattan Lodge
Dublin 13

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 (01) 858 8100
Glaó Áitiúil 1800 275 175
Facs (01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin www.pleanala.ie
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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde 64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1 Dublin 1
D01 V902 D01 V902



Cllr. TOM BRABAZON



DONAGHMEDE WARD

The Secretary
An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
LDG- <u>075 703 24</u>	
ABP- _____	
23 OCT 2024	
Fee: € <u>50.00</u>	Type: <u>CASH.</u>
17th October 2024	
Time: <u>BOS</u>	By: <u>HAND</u>

Re: Observation on DART + COASTAL ROUTE Railway Order application

Dear Secretary,

Iarnród Éireann has made an application to An Bord Pleanála for a Railway Order which provides for the electrification of the rail line from Malahide to Drogheda. Whilst the additional extension of the DART service from Malahide to Drogheda is very welcomed for commuters and visitors all around and our environment it is clear that there are significant problems with the plan which must be addressed.

Following large meetings in Donaghmede and Sutton during September and a scrutiny of the application it is apparent that the residents from the areas currently served by the DART from Donaghmede/Howth Junction, Bayside, Sutton and Howth Stations are completely against the proposed changes. In particular there is a loss of direct services to and from Dublin City Centre to the Howth Peninsula during important times and there will be serious knock on effects on the surrounding road network due to the proposed shuttle service increasing the level crossing closure times. The proposed shuttle service will cause traffic carnage and as if things were not bad enough already trying to access the peninsula at any time of the day is difficult but increasing the down time for the four level crossings will create absolute traffic chaos. The only way of dealing with that traffic chaos is to engineer underpasses underneath the railway for vehicular traffic. It will of course create its own difficulties in terms of security, policing and potential anti-social behaviour and would not be regarded as a solution to the difficulties that might be experienced.

In addition the visitors to Dublin who are seeking a seaside day can remain on the DART and travel to Malahide and this will have a significant impact on the tourist industry in Howth and Sutton and indeed the increased traffic will turn people off travelling to Howth for events and thereby bringing any disposable income that they might have to other places that would not be so congested.

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STANDING UP FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Contact Tom

☎ 086 8092944

@ tom.brabazon@dublincity.ie

✉ 75 Grattan Lodge, Dublin 13

👤 Tom Brabazon

📧 Message Minder 8673940



Cllr. TOM BRABAZON

FIANNA FAÏL
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

DONAGHMEDE WARD

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The changeover on the DART for commuters and visitors will make the experience for the commuters and visitors alike burdensome and will discourage those from using this form of public transport which is not a good idea particularly in the current climate crisis. The application does not detail how and when the users of the shuttle service get off at Howth Junction/Donaghmede Station that there would be guarantee of a place on a DART particularly when it starts as far out as Drogheda.

Then whilst the electrification of the route and the provision of the DART to Drogheda is welcome in general terms the reliability of such a service will attract more train users and no guarantees have been given by Iarnród Éireann or the National Transport Authority that when the trains are full that there will be additional trains put on to cater for the awaiting people on the Howth Junction/Donaghmede Platforms. It has not been demonstrated that the current proposal will not take away from the efficiency of the current service.

It is suggested that the Board should seek not only an environmental impact assessment of the proposal but an economic impact assessment of same on particularly the Howth Peninsula and its economy and how it might affect employment in the area.

In addition it is submitted that the platform extension proposed at Donaghmede/Howth Junction is not large enough. The fear is that if there is any glitches in the system that the platform will become overfull and dangerous. In addition, the current and proposed layouts of Donaghmede/Howth Junction station are confusing to the commuter. It doesn't contain proper signage and there is nothing in this application that will improve this.

It has also emerged from public meetings which took place in Donaghmede and Sutton that the residents in Sutton were correctly and rightly consulted in respect of their views and wishes on this issue. However there was no such similar consultation with the public in the Donaghmede area and this was highlighted at a public meeting called by Donaghmede Estate Residents Association on 16th September 2024 last.

Continued on Page 3

STANDING UP FOR OUR COMMUNITY

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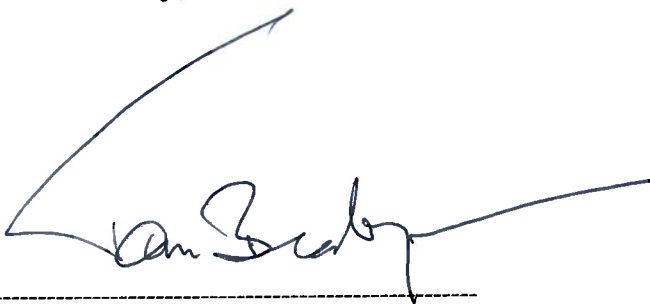
It is not acceptable for a publicly funded infrastructure project team to suggest that they have properly consulted all the affected people and commuters in the circumstances. Having one meeting in Sutton was insufficient. Having events in Sutton away from the affected area in Donaghmede were there is still a lot of confusion amongst residents as to what exactly is to take place in their local DART Station, what additional facilities are being supplied, what the construction process is, what noise levels will have to be suffered, what dust will have to be suffered and what additional traffic congestion will be required to extend the platforms and other changes.

I would go so far as to say that in the circumstances any public consultation prior to this was mere window dressing and not true, proper and genuine public consultation. In all of the circumstances I submit that at the very least there should be a proper public consultation. In addition the proposed shuttle service with the removal of direct routes to and from Howth Station and the City Centre should be dropped as part of this proposal.

I enclose herewith the sum of €50 being your fee for this observation.

Please take the above into consideration when deliberating on this matter.

Yours faithfully,



Councillor Tom Brabazon

Dublin City Councillor---Donaghmede Ward.