
Appendix D



Córas Iompair Éireann

DART+ West Ashtown Consultation

from 09/03/2022 to 06/04/2022

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Ashtown Stables ‘here to stay’ after U-turn on Dart expansion plans

Tony McCullagh

A HORSE-RIDING centre in west Dublin has been given a reprieve after Irish Rail was forced to abandon plans that would have resulted in the permanent loss of the stables.

As part of the Dart-West project, the company planned to acquire Ashtown Stables to facilitate a level crossing construction compound and a pedestrian/cycle route.

However, an alternative plan has been put forward following widespread local opposition and threats of legal action.

Campaigners claimed there had been inadequate public engagement, no independent oversight and an “undemocratic” consultation process.

The owners of Ashtown Stables said they only became aware of Irish Rail’s intention to “completely destroy” their property when they saw details of the proposal in the Dart-West brochure.

They had warned that any attempt to take some or all of their land would result in “prolonged legal action and unnecessary delays” to the project.

Irish Rail said a revised preferred option for the crossing at Ashtown had been developed in response to public consultation submissions.

“The previous preferred option included stairs and a lift at Ashtown station, with a vehicular underpass going through the land of Ashtown Stables,” a spokesperson said.

“The revised preferred option largely avoids Ashtown Stables, moving the vehicular crossing 75 metres further to the west.

Support

“The primary pedestrian and cycle route will now be along Ashtown Road, with a pedestrian and cycle bridge at the station to facilitate crossing of the railway and canal.”

Fine Gael Senator Emer Currie urged the community to engage with the latest consultation to see how they feel about new proposal.

“This process may be ongoing but there is no going backwards – Ashtown Stables is here to stay,” she said.

Ms Currie said of the 8,000

submissions received as part of the Dart-West consultation, more than 6,000 related to the Ashtown proposal.

“I would say the majority of the submissions were in favour of the electrification of the line, but they want a solution that is favourable to the local community,” Ms Currie said.

She believes there are now “lessons to be learned” following the controversy.

“When they’re working on projects like this, Irish Rail need to ensure they’re not just coming up with functional solutions,” she said.

A localised public consultation on the revised Dart-West plan for Ashtown will run until April 6.



Tánaiste Leo Varadkar and Senator Emer Currie visit the stables

Media Source Online Visits 3,859,246

Ashtown Stables 'here to stay' after u-turn on Dart expansion plans

...forced to abandon plans that would have resulted in the permanent loss of the stables. As part of the **Dart+** West project, the company had planned to acquire Ashtown Stables to facilitate a level crossing ...

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kildarestreet.com | 10/03/2022

Media Source Online Visits 74,832

Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport Rail Network

... 56. To ask the **Minister for Transport**, Tourism and Sport the way he is prioritising plans for the **DART** Interconnector as per the Programme for Government commitment; and if he will make a statement on the...

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dublinlive.ie | 10/03/2022

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Ashtown Stables owners 'delighted' business to remain open as DART West project to be re-assessed



...option - Option Selection Report has been prepared and will be provided on the project website www.dartplus.ie. Read more: Under-threat Dublin stables owners hail 'great support' as campaign to save them...

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