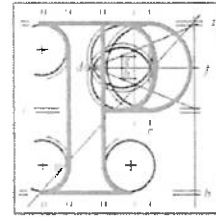


Our Case Number: ABP-316272-23



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

St. Louis High School
c/o Cliona McDonough
Charleville Road
Rathmines
Dublin 6

Date: 24 April 2024

Re: Bus Connects Templeogue/Rathfarnham to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme
Templeogue/Rathfarnham to City Centre

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above-mentioned proposed road development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

Please note that the proposed road development shall not be carried out unless the Board has approved it or approved it with modifications.

If you have any queries in the mean time, 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,

Eimear Reilly
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737184

HA02

Teil
Glao Áitiúil
Facs
Láithreán Gréasáin
Ríomhphost

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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Kevin McGettigan

From: Eimear Reilly
Sent: Thursday 4 April 2024 15:57
To: Kevin McGettigan
Subject: FW: Submission from St Louis High School - CASE reference number ABP-316272-23
Attachments: Submission from St Louis High School to LAPs@pleanala.ie Mar 26th 2024.pdf

From: LAPS <laps@pleanala.ie>
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 10:08 AM
To: Eimear Reilly <e.reilly@pleanala.ie>
Subject: FW: Submission from St Louis High School - CASE reference number ABP-316272-23

From: Cliona McDonough <cmcdonough@stlouishighschool.ie>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 4:28 PM
To: LAPS <laps@pleanala.ie>
Subject: Submission from St Louis High School - CASE reference number ABP-316272-23

Caution: This is an **External Email** and may have malicious content. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the ICT Helpdesk.

 [Submission from St Louis High School to LAPs@pleanala.ie Mar 26th 2024.pdf](#)

A Chara,

Please find attached a submission from St Louis High School Ref ABP-316272-23. We look forward to hearing from you.

With kindest regards,

Clíona McDonough



Clíona McDonough

Principal

St. Louis High School

Clíona NicDhonncha

Príomhoide

Ard Scoil San Lughaidh

Charleville Rd, Rathmines, Dublin 6.

D06F860

T: 01 4975458

E: cmcdonough@stlouishighschool.ie

www.stlouishighschool.ie

Bóthar Rath Luirc, Rathmaonais, BÁC 6.

D06F860

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ST. LOUIS HIGH SCHOOL



26th March 2024

Case Reference Number ABP-316272-23

**Cliona McDonough
St Louis High School,
Charleville Rd.,
Rathmines, Dublin 6
D06F860**

To whom it may concern,

St Louis High School, Charleville Rd., Rathmines, Dublin 6 has been in the Rathmines area since 1913. It is an all-girls' post-primary school under the trusteeship of the Le Chéile Schools Trust.

We are the only all-girls' non fee-paying (voluntary sector) post-primary school in the Rathmines area. The school has an excellent reputation, providing a rich, inclusive and holistic post-primary education for girls.

We are bound by the Department of Education and Skills and the Education Acts. Under the Education Act 1998 Section 6(C) schools are '*to promote equality of access to and participation in education and whereby students may benefit from education*' and Section 6 (C) (M) 'subject to this Act and in particular section 15 (2) (d) *establish and maintain the policy admissions which provides maximum accessibility to the school.*

As part of these requirements functional accessibility by reason of accessible public transport is a cornerstone for students and families to enable them to access St Louis High School. Through state investment and school fundraising we have an expletory campus that enables girls of all abilities and needs to access a non-fee-paying school, the only non-fee-paying girls' school within 5km of St Louis High School.

Rathmines as a district centre and its environs shows more similarity to the City Centre than a suburban centre. It has low levels of car ownership stretching into the Kimmage, Crumlin, Drimnagh, Ballyfermot and Walkinstown areas, the natural hinterland for Rathmines facilities and functions. Such areas are also classified as high on the Truz Hasse/Pobal deprivation score and as such are more lightly to require high-quality accessible public transport. The spine model bypasses the functionality of services that exist within Rathmines (a town that was voted as Ireland's most liveable in the Irish Times in 2012) and how people from within its hinterland access these services, both lower and higher order functions. The map showing the combined activity density is higher than sections of the city core. We note that the removal of the 18-bus route is now causing considerable difficulty for students from these areas in directly accessing Rathmines. They now must use the S2 route and link up with other buses coming directly into Rathmines. This is adding considerably to the length of journey to and from school for these young people. Added to that, there is reportedly a waiting time of up to 20 minutes to facilitate a driver change over on the S2 route to the journey time for these students.

Where once a journey was around a direct 40 mins to Rathmines, it is now taking anything between

CHARLEVILLE ROAD, RATHMINES, DUBLIN 6. TEL: 497 5458 FAX: 497 3728 E-MAIL: stlouishs.rathmines@gmail.com
BÓTHAR RÁTH LUIRC, RÁTH MAONAIS, BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 6. FÓN: 497 5458 FAX: 497 3728 E-MAIL: stlouishs.rathmines@gmail.com

Principal: Ms. Cliona McDonough Deputy Principal: Ms. Sinéad Thornton

an hour and a half to two hours. This is simply not sustainable for these students and their families moving forward.

The changes to the 18-bus route are having a profound impact on students from these areas and St Louis High School is extremely concerned that the traditional catchment areas of Crumlin; Ballyfermot; Walkinstown and Drimnagh are being impacted badly in this regard. Students from these areas have stated that they cannot stay to engage with after-school activities, due to the length of time it takes them to get home and many are arriving in late on a continuous basis to school, due to the length of the morning journeys. Therefore, the changes to the 18-bus route are directly impacting on students' wellbeing and access to education. These changes are also being felt by other services within the area, from shopping, entertainment, health, banking, education from pre-school through to further and higher education, fitness and leisure, access to faith-based worship for all faiths, community centres, senior services, social welfare and citizens' information.

Our school community comprises of 648 students with 65 members of staff. We have a 62% mode share using public transport to access school daily. Public transport, by means of bus, is the only way these students can access school. Our students, like all second-level students, have to carry heavy school bags, PE gear, Art or Home Economic supplies, projects and/or musical instruments to school. Therefore, bus interchanges on cold wet winter mornings or evenings will not work well for young girls, and families will either bypass public transport or bypass Rathmines and St Louis High School as a choice of educational establishment for their children. Often when families have an education link with an area, they will use the additional services in that area. If there are no reasonable transport links this will not occur. This diminishes not only our school; it reduces the economic and social viability of Rathmines as a strong district centre and as a counterpole in some areas to the City Centre. We note that recently, there are more businesses closing in Rathmines which long-term does not auger well for the area.

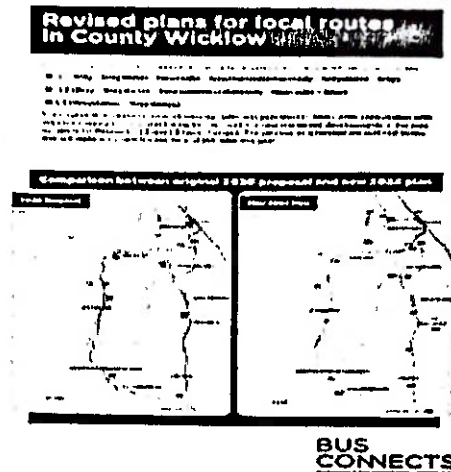
The school community is extremely concerned about the changes to the bus routes and frequency of routes that bring students to our school especially with the removal of the 18-bus route. We attract students from a very wide catchment area as explained above with approximately 35 primary schools providing us with students. Unlike primary schools, it would be expected that post-primary school students would come from a wide catchment area, outside the ability of students to walk or cycle.

The number 18 (S2) has a 12% mode share and the frequency of service at every 20 minutes, with an increased journey length is proving to be a disimprovement in service for our students, from especially the western zone from Crumlin, Drimnagh, Ballyfermot, Walkinstown, Cherry Orchard and Palmerstown. We require a 10-minute frequency at least on this elongated service. We require that the original 18 bus-service be re-instated, West of Crumlin to ensure that students do not have to use bus interchanges along their route or at least a local bus to cater for the gap that has appeared in the S2 service.

We note the inclusion of a new no. 15 service but the frequency of this service does not compensate for the cumulative loss of the combined frequency and dependability of 83/A, 18 and 15. The loss of the 83/A is a huge loss to Rathmines and its hinterland. It makes up 14% of our mode share and acts as a local distributor route for the district. Students and families are being seriously compromised by these changes which their parents state is negatively affecting their wellbeing and access to education. If future St Louis High School students and future students with disabilities find that the new bus routes to the school are not serving their needs, they will not be able to attend our school, rendering the school's ability to maintain numbers extremely challenging. The bus connects model

has significantly underestimated the effect that this service provides to Rathmines and district. It removes the option for up to 5 of our feeder schools to attend St Louis High School.

We note that in Greystones, Co. Wicklow, the NTA and Bus Connects have now addressed shortfalls that emerged with changes in the new bus services for Greystones, Newcastle and Bray. See below.



We ask that NTA and Bus Connects address the shortfall in service to Rathmines and provide public bus service to address this as a matter of urgency.

We hope that you will take our concerns on board. We have previously raised these concerns with you during the planning phase of these routes. Now that these routes are being experienced daily by students and their families, our concerns are born out of a lived experience, an experience that is having an extremely negative impact on students and potentially on the sustainable future of St Louis High School. The school and affected families have raised these serious concerns with all our local public representatives and with an Bord Pleanála, Bus Connects and NTA.

Rathmines and indeed the entire catchment needs to maintain a school of this nature and calibre and given the huge state and community investment it is an excellent example of value for money in educational, social, community and infrastructure terms. The calibre of education provided in St Louis High School has been recognised in Department of Education inspection reports over the years and also, most recently in an article in the Irish Times, March 2nd 2024. This investment for the future should be protected to maintain the excellent holistic results that have accrued to date.

Thank you for taking the time to read our submission and we hope that it will be taken into account when reviewing bus routes and their frequencies. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our concerns with you in Bus Connects at your earliest convenience.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Cliona McDonough
Secretary to the Board of Management - St Louis High School
Principal