

Oral hearing submission on behalf Pat Lynch

Irish rail has not responded to any of or simply ignored all the observations in my submission.

The closure of Coolmine level crossing will without doubt

Permanently divide our community restricting access to

1. Roselawn health centre/doctors, parks medical centre Carpenterstown and all doctors' surgeries at Laurel lodge the patients to all these facilities straddle rail line
2. Roselawn / Laurel lodge / Carpenterstown shops
3. 4 primary schools and Francis Xavier, St Patrick's Diswellstown, Scoil Thomas Laurel lodge, Scoil Colm Luttrellstown, St Mochtas, Scoil Olivier, all the above have students from both sides of the rail line and are within 1km from Coolmine rail station

The same can be said for the local 3 secondary schools all with a population of 1,200 students most of whom as students to have lunch at home to ease the pressure on the facilities. Schools are Coolmine community school Castleknock community college Luttrellstown community college. Without the level crossing the only way to access all seven schools should you need to will be Dr Troy bridge.

Irish Rail seem to think that the population of Carpenterstown/Coolmine. Only commute east-west and commute and the north-south traffic does not exist, nothing could be further from the truth. Coolmine level crossing is essential for family social life clubs and activities, indeed being in existence and a public right of way since early 1700's.

To date Dublin Fire Brigade choose Coolmine level crossing as a route of choice to access Laurel lodge/Castleknock.

Closure of the crossing will at least double the response time the alternate routes should they need to be used by emergency services in peak traffic time there will be no ability for vehicles to pull over and make space for the services to pass.

Irish Rail suggest the ensuing traffic problem are not their problem but as the sole signatory to the rail order its incumbent on them resolve these issues.

I welcome Irish Rail's relocation of proposed foot bridge at Coolmine train station this is long overdue as the current over bridge is unsafe and dangerous. That said the new location allows for the crossing to be left open.

Irish Rail accept that rail figures for 2017 to 2019 are down pre pandemic and post pandemic the projected figure going forward will be only 60% of these figures. Irish Rail have stated services will be provided by demand based on current demand there is no logical reason to permanently close the crossing as a community we are all well used to waiting for the barriers to lift and happy to do so going forward.

AN BORD PLEANÁLA

06 OCT 2023

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