



Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing to you to explain our concerns about the planned closure of Coolmine Level Crossing for the Dart West upgrade.

We live with our family in Delwood on the north side of the train tracks. We cross the train tracks several times each week as we have friends in Carpenterstown and we are members of sports clubs therein. We cross the tracks numerous times each week to attend training for GAA. We both volunteer as coaches. It currently takes 10/15 minutes to reach training. If Coolmine level crossing closes, this travel time will double at the very least. Each of us use our cars to carry equipment such as footballs, med bags, sliotars etc. so cycling or walking are not viable options. We also give lifts to other players. My daughters also attend lessons in Luttrellstown Community School during the week. I have tried using the alternative route and the travel time is double that than the route via the level crossing (and this is before any additional traffic is factored in). We are a busy family who work hard to support healthy and happy lives for our children. Closure of the level crossing will divide our existing community into two parts and have a huge impact on our family and all of our neighbours.

While we understand the need for greater public transport options, such developments need to take account of existing long established communities. It is unreasonable to suggest that the only viable option for Dart West is to close Coolmine level crossing on a permanent basis. Level crossings exist on lots of busy rail lines. Retaining the level crossing while acknowledging it will be closed for longer periods in the future would be significantly better than permanent closure.

The proposed traffic adjustments to absorb traffic from Coolmine are not practical. The current traffic can't be accommodated over the existing bridges let alone adding in more traffic. From our house we would need to pass through several junctions before getting near the area where potential road improvements would be made. The existing proposal pays lip service to the needs of the local community while in fact ignoring those needs entirely.

Access to the carpark in Coolmine would be prevented with the closure of the level crossing resulting in the use of the local estates for parking.

The closure of the level crossing will have devastating consequences for our family and our community. We urge you to support the need for Coolmine level crossing to be retained or replaced and not to allow the current unfair proposal be advanced further.

Yours sincerely,

Helena and John Coggins