

An Bord Pleanála

ref: Railway Order : Dart west Project

This observation is on behalf of myself and my family we are residents in Riverwood court Castleknock dublin 15 and live 500m from coolmine level crossing.

We do welcome the proposal to electrify and upgrade the line, But do not agree with the closing of the level crossings, without a proper assessment for the capacity . And the introduction of a fully automated rapid drop barrier system as is used for the dart line from Howth to Bray.

The closure of the coolmine level crossing which predates the construction of the canal in the 1790's and so a public right of way for hundreds of years, will mean a detour of 3km either to the west over Dr Troy Bridge and in doing so passing through 6 sets of traffic lights and passing the access point to 4 schools all of which are at capacity, making this travel almost impossible at morning time and indeed increasing the danger to traffic/pedestrians and cyclists. To the east the detour is even worse through laurel lodge and on to the castleknock Blanchardstown road which is already choked with traffic.

This proposal in its current form will only lead to greater numbers of pointless car journeys greater congestion and more fumes released into the atmosphere. There are no continuous cycle routes locally to accommodate a transition to bicycles and so force the cyclist on to the road to compete with the extra needless journeys being generated.

This proposal in its current form is only catering for movement of people from east to west and vice versa and for areas further west trying to access the city, it does not cater for the community of carpenterstown and clonsilla which are connected for generations by family social and sporting activities. And in its current form will mean extra longer car journeys required. There is no proposal for access north/south at this location.

Carpenterstown /Clonsilla has 3 lanes for vehicular traffic North and South within 1km of each other. And all are used extensively to serve the communities north and south of the canal /Railway line the proposal in its current form reduces this to 1 lane of traffic North and South over the Dr Troy bridge. This bridge begins south at the entrance to 3 Schools with a population of over 3,000 attending daily and travels north to an unsignalled single lane roundabout on the clonsilla road beside another school with an occupancy of 1,500 and the entrance to an industrial estate.

No provision on this proposal has been made to widen the bridge to 4 lanes by adding a bridge beside the current structure to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists and widen the road network to the N3 at junction 3 to relieve the traffic on to a major road and not have them choking up the estate road network in Carpenterstown and Clonsilla.

The effect of closing these level crossings will affect the 100,000 residents of Carpenterstown Clonsilla Blanchardstown Castleknock area by choking up the road network and making it impossible to travel north and south in our communities. More over this greatly affects over 10,000 residents over the age of 65 that live locally and alter their life.

No provision has been made for a lift for people with mobility issues at coolmine train station. In fact in the current proposal they are tasked with trying to use the biggest and highest bridge and

judging by the bridge installed at the new pelletstown station on the line it is very difficult for wheelchare users to use and its half the size of what is propose for coolmine.

No meangfull effort has been made by Irish Rail to hold full open and in person consultation on this radical proposal to annex off 2 communities. Despie the best efforts of these communities to get answers and solutions to these issues they have fallen on def ears, which for the organisation it is actually shamefull.

I call on the Board to

1 1 keep these crossing open untill such time that a full assesment of need and capacity is carreid out on the rail line and a fully automated rapid drop barrier system be installed to all crossings.

2. Provide an accurate traffic survey and work with Fingal Coco to resolve North/South traffic journeys in Clonsilla/Carpenterstown/Castleknock.

I look forward to your responce on this issue and ask to be able to attend any and all oral hearings

kind regards

Pat Lynch