

Oral Hearing ABP-314724-22

Terry (Teresa) Reid and Denis McLoughlin

9 Dartmouth Square

We are the owners of 9 Dartmouth Square West. Our home is located directly beside the proposed site for the Charlemont Metrolink Station. It is a protected structure in an Architectural Conservation Area. In the 37 years that we have owned our home we have endeavoured to maintain it to a high standard.

We would like to fully endorse the presentations already made to the Oral Hearing on our behalf by McCabe Durney Barnes, Malone O'Regan, Garland and Geotech.

However, it is alarming to hear that the proposed 9 years of relentless piling, excavating, drilling and blasting have the potential, in the view of our independent experts to cause "significant structural distress", have our homes become "unliveable", suffer a "loss of structural integrity", suffer damage, noise and vibration.

While TII may say that they that they "don't believe that there will be any settlement and "don't foresee catastrophic failure". Their own analysis shows settlement of up to 45mm – more than enough to cause significant structural damage to our homes.

TII can develop models to try to predict the experience that we will have during this build. We don't need models because for the last 4 years, we have been living with the practical day to day experience of living next to a development that included enabling works for the station box of the proposed Charlemont Station.

- The cumulative noise from piling, excavation, drilling, delivery and removal using fleets of trucks at times made my home unusable.
- The vibrations were so severe that pictures shook on walls and crockery shook in the cupboards. We are left with cracked plasterwork in our bedrooms.
- A fissure has opened between a riser and tread at the top of our staircase.
- The lead in our roof valley developed cracks which lead to serious water ingress. We have had to strip areas of plasterwork in our bedrooms back to brick, have them replastered and repainted.

TII wish us to live with an even greater level of disturbance than this for a further 8 or 9 years.

Yesterday, TII referred to providing additional support for any particularly sensitive residents. I don't believe that finding this level damage to our home and disruption to our lives unacceptable makes us particularly sensitive.

It is striking that TII talk about having focused their analysis on No 15 Dartmouth Square but do not appear to have been inside the property. In addition it was clear from yesterday's discussion that no analysis has been done on whether the properties have any level of foundation.

What do we want

The analysis done to-date, particularly in terms of settlement, is too vague to allow the granting of the Railway Order. We believe that a much more extensive analysis of the potential damage to our home is a pre-requisite before there could be any consideration of a granting of permission for the works at Charlemont.