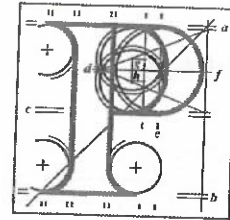


**Our Case Number:** ABP-314724-22

**Planning Authority Reference Number:**



**An  
Bord  
Pleanála**

Brigid Purcell (People Before Profit representative)  
5 Pigeon House Road  
Ringsend  
Dublin 4

**Date:** 26 January 2023

**Re:** Railway (Metrolink - Estuary to Charlemont via Dublin Airport) Order [2022]  
Metrolink. Estuary through Swords, Dublin Airport, Ballymun, Glasnevin and City Centre to  
Charlemont, Co. Dublin

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent submission (including your fee of €50) in relation to the above-mentioned proposed Railway Order and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

The Board will revert to you in due course with regard to the matter.

Please be advised that copies of all submissions/observations received in relation to the application will be made available for public inspection at the offices of the relevant County Council(s) and at the offices of An Bord Pleanála when they have been processed by the Board.

More detailed information in relation to strategic infrastructure development can be viewed on the Board's website: [www.pleanala.ie](http://www.pleanala.ie).

If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact the undersigned. Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde  
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D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 V902

Yours faithfully,

PP 8M

Niamh Thornton  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: 01-8737247

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**Submission on:**  
**Railway (Metrolink - Estuary to Charlemont via Dublin Airport) Order [2022]**  
**Reference: NA29N.314724**

I write to request that An Bord Pleanála refuses approval for this Railway Order. The proposal to demolish the Markievicz Sports and Fitness Leisure Centre, the 70 apartments in College Gate and the 8 homes on Townsend Street, is both unacceptable and unnecessary.

This is not an objection to the MetroLink project as a whole, but to the planned destruction of this inner city community and extremely valuable public amenity.

The Markievicz Leisure centre includes the only 25 metre public swimming pool in the south inner city, and a fantastic gym. This public amenity is vital for the mental and physical health of everyone who lives and works in the city. The pool is used by people traveling from all over the city. Everyone, from school children to senior citizens, from people doing physical rehabilitation to competitive swimmers, rely on this facility. It is also a vital social outlet for all the people who use it.

The 78 homes proposed to be demolished are all built in recent years and of high quality. The demolition of these homes would mean the clearance of an inner city community, and a significant loss of high quality housing during the state's worst housing crisis.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland's (TII) own Environmental Impact Assessment Report submitted with the application describes the impact on the population of the area of this proposed demolition as "significant". (Volume 2, Introduction and Project Description, 7.7.10.9.2)

Following objections about the temporary effects during construction on Na Fianna GAA pitches in Glasnevin and on the Luas Green Line service from Dunville Avenue, TII performed extremely significant u-turns in relation to their plans for the Griffith Park Station and the upgrade of the Luas Green Line.

And so I cannot accept that they are unable to amend their plans for the Tara MetroLink station in order to avoid the permanent loss of a significant number of good quality homes and the only public 25 metre swimming pool and gym in the city centre, at such a time of crisis in housing and homelessness.

I am concerned that the proposed demolition is considered necessary because it will result in extremely valuable development land then being available for sale by TII. In October 2018, before the public consultation process was complete, Hugh Creegan, Deputy CEO of the National Transport Authority (NTA) wrote to Dublin City Councillors:

"the route does require the acquisition of the swimming pool and the block of apartments [approx 70] with all of the implications that arise from that".

"It is worth noting that, following construction of the station, the above-ground space is still available for development," he added.

I feel that even the possibility that these 78 homes and the leisure centre are being demolished in order to help fund the project, needs to be thoroughly examined.

For the above reasons, I request that An Bord Pleanála refuses approval for this Railway Order.

Brigid Purcell  
People Before Profit representative for Dublin Bay South  
5 Pigeon House Rd, Ringsend, Dublin 4