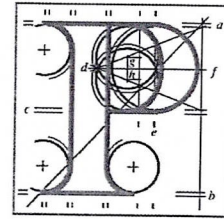


**Our Case Number:** ABP-314724-22



**An  
Bord  
Pleanála**

Nuala Kelly  
64 Shandon Park  
Phibsborough  
Dublin 7  
D07 XP30

**Date:** 18 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.

Yours faithfully,



Niamh Thornton  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: 01-8737247

<b>Tel</b>	<b>Tel</b>	(01) 858 8100
<b>Glaó Áitiúil</b>	<b>LoCall</b>	1800 275 175
<b>Facs</b>	<b>Fax</b>	(01) 872 2684
<b>Láithreán Gréasáin</b>	<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.pleanala.ie">www.pleanala.ie</a>
<b>Ríomhphost</b>	<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:bord@pleanala.ie">bord@pleanala.ie</a>

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902

Nuala Kelly  
64 Shandon Park  
Phibsborough  
Dublin 7 D07 XP30

**Re: Case reference NA29N.314724**

**Description: Railway (Metrolink Estuary to Charlemont via Dublin Airport) Order [2022]**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I welcome the extension of the deadline for making observations to An Bord Pleanála on MetroLink's Railway Order application. I welcome, also, the principle of developing a high frequency metro railway for Dublin city.

It makes some sense in the long-term sense to develop a high frequency metro line through the city of Dublin, however, the 'MetroLink' project seems to be one of those projects that keeps being stalled for a variety of reasons and then amended in following iterations in ways that do not always make sense from an environmental, social, cost or design perspective.

While I have concerns about some of the proposed route plans, e.g. in relation to Phibsborough / Crossguns area, I want to concentrate in this submission on the proposals for Metrolink route in the vicinity of Tara Street Station.

In this regard, I wish to note my objection to the proposed demolition of Dublin City Council's Markievicz sport and leisure centre, to facilitate a Tara Street interchange, for the following reasons:

- **Loss of the only publicly accessible swimming pool / leisure centre in city centre**  
The Markievicz sport and leisure centre managed by Dublin City Council is a vitally important facility for local people, for people working nearby, for tourists and more recently for schools and community groups. It is astonishing to think it might be demolished to facilitate a line that could be moved, with some thought and consideration, to a less intrusive or impactful location nearby. If such specific space is required, could a bank or business be removed instead of a community facility and, crucially – many homes?
- **Loss of vital homes in the vicinity of Tara Street**  
To demolish seventy-eight housing units in the College Gate apartment block, in addition to a terrace of social housing, is totally unacceptable during a time of severe housing shortage, homelessness and increasing costs of construction. This aspect of the proposal, in my view, runs counter to modern European (and Dublin) urban planning vision to create a thriving, living city with an appropriate housing mix, businesses, shops and social amenities. Notwithstanding the need for an urban

Metrolink from the airport, this must be achieved with minimum impact on other human rights provisions eg housing, environmental, social and cultural.

- **Environmental, Social and Cultural impact**

The area around Pearse street and Tara Street will become impossible for people to navigate as the proposed plans do not seem to have included any measures to facilitate active travel, green space or traffic calming – this is indeed surprising given the stated vision in the Climate Action Plan 2022 to create sustainable, green, and carbon neutral infrastructure and space for communities and visitors in a living city. Instead, the real risk, should the plan go ahead for this section, is that the area will have little commercial or cultural attractions, reduced footfall and loss of amenity for the remaining residents in the area.

- **Learn from good practice in other cities**

In other cities metros have been constructed underground without impacting on the buildings above. It is not too late for underground construction to be considered for at least this section. Local and indeed citywide consultation would have prevented demolition without considering or proposing alternatives.... for example, at minimum, to build and provide an alternative publicly owned and accessible swimming pool and apartment block nearby in the city centre. The proposals for the nearby Georges Dock outdoor swimming pool do not compensate for the loss of an all-year-round indoor facility that people of all ages, abilities, social class can enjoy. In a post pandemic society, this type of facility is essential for health and well-being (in line with Healthy Ireland Strategy) as it requires little other resources or capacities to participate. For me and for the many other diverse users of the pool, it is a lifeline.

I hope that my observations will not seem trite. Having witnessed the many able bodied, disabled (intellectually and physically), elderly, young, men, women and children using the pool, it is not imaginable to think that it is dispensable. And Dublin City Council do a wonderful job in managing it efficiently and inclusively

Yours sincerely

Nuala Kelly