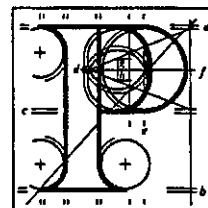


Our Case Number: ABP-314724-22



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Our Lady of Victories Church
Ballymun Road
Glasnevin
Dublin 9

Date: 16 December 2022

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 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 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.

If you have any queries in the meantime please contact the undersigned officer of the Board. 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

RA05

Tel	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glao Áitiúil	LoCall	1800 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	bord@pleanala.ie

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



Our Lady of Victories church,
Ballymun Road,
Glasnevin
Dublin 9

23rd November 2022

"Railway (MetroLink–Estuary to Charlemont via Dublin Airport) Order 2022".

To An Bord Pleanála

Please find attached the submission made by The Parish Pastoral Council of Ballymun Road, which is Our Lady of victories Church.

As per instructions the fee in our case is not payable as some of our lands maybe acquired under the draft Railway Order.

"How can I make a submission?"

*An Bord Pleanála will consider any submissions by any persons, made in writing from 7th October 2022 to 5.30pm on 25th November 2022 and accompanied by a fee of €50 in relation to the draft Railway Order, or in relation to the likely effects on the environment and the likely significant effects in the area concerned with European Sites if any, of the proposed railway works. **This fee is not payable by certain prescribed bodies or by persons whose lands may be acquired under the draft Railway Order.***

Yours sincerely

Fr. Frank Reburn, Co. PP, VF.

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
LDG-	_____
ABP-	_____
24 NOV 2022	
Fee: €	_____ Type: _____
Time: 12.08	By: <i>hand</i>



Our Lady of Victories Church,
Ballymun Road,
Glasnevin,
Dublin 9

21st November 22

"Railway (MetroLink–Estuary to Charlemont via Dublin Airport) Order 2022".

**Written submission to An Bord Pleanála
On behalf of
The Parishioners of Ballymun Road Parish,
Our Lady of victories Church, built 1969
Re: Collins Avenue Station**

We acknowledge the benefit that such a development would bring to our city. However, we feel that the proposal re Collins Avenue Station would impact greatly on the spirit and life of our church community.

As members of Our Lady of Victories' Church Parish Pastoral Council in the parish of Ballymun Road, representing the parishioners of the parish, we wish to submit the following concerns. We have examined and discussed these outlined plans at length. Our concerns have spanned far beyond the problematic pre-construction, construction, and delivery of the MetroLink Station within our church grounds, to the long-term future of our parish and community.

Our Lady of Victories parish is a vibrant community serving the pastoral needs of its parishioners. Our church is the centre of this vibrant community. We feel deep frustration and unease that our, and many past generations' spiritual faith family home for over 50 years, a place we hold precious at the deepest and dearest level, is under threat by the building of a station within our grounds. Arrangements for the CPO and use of the 'Plaza' area to the front of the church grounds are of concern. The CPO will deprive our community of this valuable space that has been used over the years for parish picnics and family days.

Unlike commercial buildings and sites where business can be relocated at a whim, this site and historical church: the first of its kind, post 2nd Vatican Council, caters to the spiritual and temporal needs of local families and three Primary schools. Our church has become a faith home, to which these people are spiritually and emotionally bonded, literally from cradle to grave.

Generations of parishioners have invested heart and soul (not to mention financially) in this church and grounds. Indeed, our very first Parish Priest, Fr Bernard Brady, was buried in the lawn in front of the church in 1987 (consult www.olv.ie/history). Trees have been planted, also, in the front lawn, marking special occasions in the history of the parish.

It would prove almost impossible to cope with the inaccessibility of our two major front entrances for funerals, weddings, special occasions, necessary and important to-ing, and fro-ing of groups of children and their teachers from our schools to the church. A number of these children suffer from disabilities such as ADHD, Autism with sensory issues and Down Syndrome and are particularly fragile, vulnerable, and especially frightened by noise and disruption. Some of our parishioners who struggle with mobility issues to get here will have further difficulties to endure. Their health and safety are a key concern. Following on from Covid restrictions, all parishes are trying to encourage their congregations to return, and the proposed works will make attending less appealing and very difficult. Many of the congregation are elderly and further inconvenience is unhelpful.

As a large church, seating almost 2000, we have become the focus for large Diocesan events and gatherings. School children from all over the diocese gather in our church for 'Emmanuel' and 'Laudate' practices and concerts, with many coaches ferrying the children to participate. We are called upon to host large funerals from our sister parishes from time to time. Logistically, it will be difficult for funeral and wedding parties to gather from the back of the church. We have more than 90 funerals annually. This will cause confusion at a time when families are vulnerable.

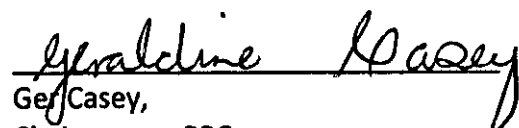
We now are the hub for the Syro Malabar community that use our church because of its size on a regular basis. The Syro Malabar community are an Indian faith community from all over the country that gather for their religious ceremonies. Not only does Our Lady of Victories Church provide a spiritual home but also it provides a social network for this migrant community.


Continuity and stability are very important in the life of our faith family, parishioners, and schools. Our church will not be able to operate as we need to because of the disruption this project will cause around and in the grounds of our church. This will lead to an irretrievable breakup and fragmentation of our parish community from which we will never recover.

The church building is one of the finest churches of its age on the Northside of Dublin with considerable architectural merit and has many decorative stained-glass windows; the main stained-glass artist, Helen Moloney, created stained glass windows for only 11 churches in Ireland so our windows are precious and rare. We have major concerns in relation to potential structural damage during construction works.

While recognising the value of this project and the work which has been done to date, we, as the PPC of Our Lady of Victories parish, fear that our very valid concerns will be ignored. In our opinion, it is imperative that conditions be imposed to alleviate the disruption that this project will cause to our community, our school population and our parishioners.

Yours sincerely


Ger Casey,
Chairperson, PPC


Fr. Frank Reburn, Co PP, VF,
President, PPC