



SENATOR  
**Mary Fitzpatrick**

SPOKESPERSON FOR HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT & HERITAGE



To whom it may concern,

October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Please consider the following observations in response to the non-statutory public consultation on DART+West upgrade of Maynooth mainline rail service:

- ✓ The proposed provision of more frequent, reliable, affordable, and environmentally efficient public transport service through the upgrading of the Maynooth line to a Dart Service is welcome for Dublin City and County.
- ✓ The proposed compulsory purchase of Ashtown Equestrian Centre must be rejected. Ashtown Stables are of significant social, cultural, sporting, environmental and tourist value to the local area and the city generally. The stables should be protected and preserved. An alternative solution must be found to avoid destruction of this important amenity and facility.
- ✓ Design of the upgrade must recognise, respect, and protect the local architectural heritage of the area including Milhouse, Pelletstown House, Mill Pond and Ashtown House.
- ✓ The underground tunnel is a very unattractive and threatening. The significant local concerns over the proposal for an underground tunnel must be responded to and an alternative, safer and more inviting design devised which addresses security issues and eliminates anti-social behaviour.
- ✓ The removal of the level crossing at Ashtown will split the community. Ashtown, Pelletstown and Navan road is a very socially connected area and the proposal to sever this community is unwelcome and must be reconsidered. The proposal blocks the physical connection is of great concern and the proposal to provide an overpass and lift is problematic and falls short of what can be achieved.
- ✓ Further consideration should be given to exploring the feasibility of option 9, which would eliminate the level crossings having to be removed.
- ✓ Irish Rail should revise their plans to take on board and reflect the concerns of the local community.
- ✓ Irish Rail should conduct a further round of non-statutory public consultation with the local community on their revised plans prior to applying for a railway order.

I commend and support everyone, including the individual residents, residents' groups and businesses, who engaged in the consultation process.

I ask Irish Rail to publish on-line a detailed written response to all the issues raised by Ashtown Stables & Navan Road Community Council.

With thanks

Senator Mary Fitzpatrick

**SENATOR MARY FITZPATRICK**  
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