

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Gallops Residents Association in Leopardstown, Dublin 18. Our estate has over 700 houses and 2,000 residents.

Overall, we recognise the need for a strategic plan on transport for the Greater Dublin Area (GDA), so that the public get a better service, resources are used more efficiently and there is less impact on the environment. Our estate is bordered by the green Luas line, so we feel very lucky to have such an excellent public transport service on our doorstep.

Unfortunately, there is one downside to this, which is that our estate, along with the neighbouring estates in Leopardstown Valley and Ballyogan, are sandwiched between the Luas line and the M50. This means that we must cross the Luas line to exit our estate by car.

We are aware that public transport policy wants to get people out of their cars, however it is folly to ignore the fact that the size of the GDA and the lack of planning in the previous decades, means that citizens are still very dependent on cars to function in their daily lives. To add to this, the unprecedented development of the Cherrywood area and the high levels of residential development in our own local area, much of it due to the Luas, means that the time it takes residents to exit our estate at peak times in the morning, is getting longer and longer.

We now have a situation where we have traffic jams inside the Gallops, with people queuing to get out of feeder roads on to the main road that runs through the estate. This problem is only going to get worse as the Luas operators are likely to increase both the tram size and the frequency to meet the demand of Cherrywood and all the residential developments currently being constructed in our local area. Indeed, it could be the case that residents in our estate who do use the Luas, will have difficulty getting on to it in the future, because trams will be full well before they reach us. This could force more people back into cars and exacerbate the problem further.

In summary, we would kindly request that the transport strategy addresses the following issues:

1. How is the Luas going to meet the demands of the population growth in its catchment area, based on current and planned residential development?
2. How can you reduce the delays incurred by car-bound residents of the Gallops, in exiting the estate, to make journeys that they cannot make by public transport?

Regards,

Kevin Windle
Chairman
On behalf of the Gallops Residents Association