

TAYTO PARK ROLLERCOASTER

Image of Tayto Park
(Source; Tayto Park)



The owners of Tayto Park are looking for planning permission to construct another roller-coaster in the theme park. Tayto park provided 800 jobs in 2017. Tayto Park is an extremely important tourist destination in Meath which contributes positively to Ireland's economy. The owners believe that they need to create a new major attraction every few years to ensure the theme park is sustainable for the future.

The new coaster will attract more visitors to the park resulting in more jobs of 40 full time and 40 part-time and revenue for the theme park. The new rollercoaster named Coaster 21 will be two rollercoasters in one. Coaster 21 is planned to be one meter lower than the park's other rollercoaster, Cú Chulainn. There is an EU protected site – the river Nanny Estuary and Shore Special Protection Area (SPA) in the area which also needs to be considered when making a decision on the development.

The proposal was given planning permission by Meath County Council. However, the decision was appealed by local residents. The resident's houses are located 430 metres to the north of the Tayto Park site and 480 metres to the north east of the theme park.

Residents stated the existing roller-coaster produces rattling noises when moving as well as screaming from those on board while in use, which is every few minutes nine hours a day. The local residents are anticipating

further screaming from passengers which would lead to increase noise disturbances in the area. As there are two rollercoasters in one the residents think this will triple the noise that they experience currently. Although, the new rollercoaster is electric and may not produce the same level of noise the residents think there will still be noise from participants on board every time it is in use.

An Bord Pleanála who is the appeals board in Ireland will consider the noise impact the proposed development will have on the residents. They will have regard to the proximity to dwellings and ensure the rollercoaster would not affect the amenities of the properties in the area. They will also consider any likely environmental impacts the development may cause in the area. They will decide if the proposed development is at risk of flooding. The developer has highlighted the importance of adding new attractions to the park and if the development of the park does not go ahead the developer believes the future of the park will be brought into question.

A meeting will soon be held by An Bord Pleanála where the local residents and developer's views will be considered. An Bord Pleanála will take into account both viewpoints on the development and will decide the future of the rollercoaster.