KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh



Part 8 DISPLAY DOCUMENT

EXPLANATORY BOOKLET

Waterford to New Ross Greenway at Aylwardstown

January 2018

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# Introduction

This document has been prepared in compliance with Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2016 and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2000-2017.

The background and reason for the scheme in relation to proper planning and sustainable development are set out below and the description of the proposed improvement works associated with this scheme are set out in Section 2.

**Brief description of the proposed works: -**

The project involves the development of the disused railway line on lands at Aylwardstown, Glenmore as a cycle and pedestrian route. This section of proposed Greenway forms part of a larger proposed Greenway of some 22 km following the disused railway line, extending from Ferrybank, South Kilkenny to New Ross, Co. Wexford which is currently under consideration by Kilkenny County Council.

This section of the route comprises 660 metres in length and will begin on the railway line at CH 11+900 adjacent to the railway bridge UBJ443 at local road LP 7515-19 at the townland of Aylwardstown. The route continues along the disused railway line, adjacent to farm holdings to the level crossing, also at Aylwardstown, where a private laneway off local road no. L-7516-9, crosses the railway line at CH 12+500.

The proposal put forward provides for the following:

* The clearance of vegetation on the rail line corridor, retaining boundary hedgerows and boundary vegetation
* The lifting of the old rails.
* The laying of a 3 metre wide bituminous surface on a crushed stone base to form the cycle and footpath track
* Accommodation works consisting of screen walls, screen fencing, security fencing, agricultural crossings to facilitate landowners
* Repair and upgrade of existing drains
* The marking of the aforementioned cycle and footpaths
* The upgrade and repair of the existing bridge so as to accommodate the cycle /pedestrian route
* The installation of barriers for the safety of Greenway users
* Stock proof fencing

# Background and reasons for scheme

Kilkenny County Council as the project promoter proposes to undertake the construction of a Greenway between Waterford and New Ross on the disused railway corridor. The purpose of these works is to provide a safe walking and cycling environment for local people and to facilitate cycle tourism in the region. This Part 8 planning process refers to a short section of this overall Greenway which was to originally be diverted onto a local road at Aylwardstown to avoid passing in close proximity to a working farm. Arising from the public consultation process, a number of significant concerns have been raised in relation to this diversion onto the public road, that warranted further and more detailed analysis of the route options. This Part 8 is a result of that route options study which concluded that the Greenway should remain on the disused railway line with accommodation works to provide for local landowners to minimise impact on farming operations. Iarnród Éireann will provide a lease or licence agreement to Kilkenny County Council for the development of the

entire route as a cycle and footpath on the disused railway line.

Accommodation works will be discussed and finalised with each individual landowner on this section of route at Aylwardstown as is the case with the larger 22 km proposed Greenway.

The aim of the project can be summarised as follows:

* Improved recreational facilities for walking and cycling through the provision of the greenway which provides an attractive environment and public space with safe road crossing points.
* Provide a high quality facility in accordance with the national cycle standards to encourage cycle tourism in the region as per The TII latest Publication on Rural Cycleway Design (Offline) published in April 2017.
* Improved recreational facilities for walking and cycling through the provision of the greenway which provides an attractive environment and public space with safe road crossing points.
* On completion the greenway it will promote a new sense of place around the disused railway line which was once a key feature connecting local communities.
* Encourage tourism in the area and support local commercial enterprises by encouraging locals and tourists alike to cycle and visit the area.
* Improve the connectivity between rural areas in south east Kilkenny and surrounding areas.

Project Benefits

* The proposed works will offer substantial benefits to the local community, local businesses and will increase the potential for tourism in the area.
* The provision of the greenway will provide a safe facility for people of all ages to walk and cycle safely between Waterford (Ferrybank) and New Ross.
* The improvements arising from the scheme will support the local business & commercial enterprises and will also promote tourism in the area.
* Future connectivity to the Déise Greenway and the Red Bridge walking route in New Ross is planned emphasising the regional nature of this project.

# Design Criteria

The project is designed in accordance with the TII National Rural Cycle Scheme Design Document TD 300. A Preliminary Design has been carried out in accordance with this standard and is included in the appendices of this report.

The **TII latest Publication on Rural Cycleway Design (Offline)** published in April 2017.

It defines the following: Greenway - A cycleway that caters for pedestrian and cyclists in a recreational environment

# Environmental Reports

A number of environmental reports have been carried out to inform the larger Part VIII application over 22 km of which this section at Alywardstown forms part, and to determine what, if any mitigation measures are required. The following reports were commissioned and are included in the Part 8 documentation:

EIA Screening

To determine if an Environmental Impact Assessment is required for the proposed scheme.

Appropriate Assessment Screening

An AA Screening report has been prepared to determine the potential effects, if any, of the proposed scheme on sites with European conservation designations, *i*.*e*. Natura 2000 sites located near the proposed route of the scheme.

Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA)

The aim of the EcIA process is to ensure that projects that may potentially affect protected and/or ecologically sensitive sites, habitats and/or species are assessed in advance so that the competent authority is aware of what those effects are likely to be. To ensure that full consideration can be given to the impacts of the proposed development on strictly protected species listed on Annex IV of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (the Habitats Directive).

# Funding

At the time of producing this explanatory document there is no funding commitment in place to enable the delivery of the proposals for which planning is being sought. However the Programme for Partnership Government includes a commitment to the development of a national greenway network and any planning consent for the Waterford to New Ross Greenway including the section at Aylwardstown will enhance the funding opportunities for the delivery of the project. Funding will be required from a number of State Departments and State Agencies and Kilkenny County Council will seek funding from any such sources should a planning consent materialise for this project.

# Public consultation

Plans and particulars of the proposed development will be available for inspection from **Friday the 12th of January, 2018 to Friday the 9th of February 2018 inclusive**, on the consult website : <https://consult.kilkenny.ie/en> , and at the following offices:

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| --- | --- |
| **Location** | **Opening Hours** |
| Planning Department, Kilkenny County Council, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny | From 9am to 1pm & 2pm to 5pmMonday to Friday (Except Public Holidays) |
| Ferrybank Library,Ferrybank Shopping Centre,Ferrybank,Co. Kilkenny | Tuesday, Thursday and FridaysFrom 10am to 1.30pm, 2.30pm to 5pmWednesday 10am to 1.30pm, 2.30pm to 7pmSaturday 9.30am to 1.30pm  |
| Ferrybank Area Office,Ferrybank Shopping Centre,Ferrybank,Co. Kilkenny | From 9am to 1pm & 2pm to 5pm Monday to Friday (Except Public Holidays) |
| Kilkenny County Council, Ferrybank Area Office, Ferrybank,Co. Kilkenny | From 9am to 1pm & 2pm to 5pmMonday to Friday (Except Public Holidays) |
| Wexford County Council New Ross Municipal District Office, Quay Street,The Tholsel,New Ross,Co. Wexford | From 9am to 1pm & 2pm to 5pmMonday to Friday (Except Public Holidays) |

# 7.0 Submissions

Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development will be carried out, may be made

* online at <https://consult.kilkenny.ie/en> or
* via email to GreenwayAylwardstown@kilkennycoco.ie
* in writing to the Planning Department, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny

The latest date for receipt of submissions on the above scheme is **Friday the 23rd of February, 2018**.

Submissions should be clearly marked **‘Aylwardstown Section - Waterford to New Ross Greenway’.**

**Appendix 1 – Public Notice**

**LOCAL AUTHORITY**

**Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh**

**Kilkenny County Council**



**Proposed development by a Local Authority**

**Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2016**

**Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2017**

**Waterford to New Ross Greenway at Aylwardstown**

In accordance with Part 8, Article 81 of the above Regulations, Kilkenny County Council as lead authority hereby gives notice of proposals pertaining to the following development:

The development of the disused railway line on lands at Aylwardstown, Glenmore as a cycle and pedestrian route. This section of proposed Greenway forms part of a larger proposed Greenway of some 22 km following the disused railway line, extending from Ferrybank, South Kilkenny to New Ross, Co. Wexford, currently under consideration by Kilkenny County Council.

This section of the route comprises 660 metres in length and will begin on the railway line at CH 11+900 adjacent to the railway under bridge UBJ443 at local road LP 7515-19 at Aylwardstown. The route continues along the disused railway line adjacent to farm holdings to the level crossing, also at Aylwardstown, where a private laneway off local road no. L-7516-9, crosses the railway line at CH 12+500.

The works will include the following:

* The clearance of vegetation on the rail line corridor, retaining boundary hedgerows and boundary vegetation
* The lifting of the old rails.
* The laying of a 3 metre wide bituminous surface on a crushed stone base to form the cycle and footpath track
* Accommodation works consisting of screen walls, screen fencing, security fencing, agricultural crossings to facilitate landowners
* Repair and upgrade of existing drains
* The marking of the aforementioned cycle and footpaths
* The upgrade and repair of the existing bridge so as to accommodate the cycle /pedestrian route
* The installation of barriers for the safety of Greenway users
* Stock proof fencing

Plans and particulars of the proposed development will be available for inspection from **Friday the 12th of January, 2018 to Friday the 9th of February 2018 inclusive**, on the consult website : <https://consult.kilkenny.ie/en> at the following offices:

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|  |  |

Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development will be carried out, may be made

* online at <https://consult.kilkenny.ie/en> or
* via email to GreenwayAylwardstown@kilkennycoco.ie
* in writing to the Planning Department, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny

The latest date for receipt of submissions on the above scheme is **Friday the 23rd of February, 2018**.

Submissions should be clearly marked **‘Aylwardstown Section - Waterford to New Ross Greenway’.**

**Sean McKeown,**

**Director of Services,**

**Kilkenny County Council,**

**County Buildings,**

**John Street,**

**Kilkenny**

**Appendix 2**

**Schedule of Drawings accompanying this Part 8 Planning Application**

* Drawing No. 17006-100 - PROPOSED KEY PLAN & SITE LOCATION OF GREENWAY AT AYLWARDSTOWN - CH11+930m TO CH12+500m
* Drawing No. 17006-101 - PROPOSED ALIGNMENT OF GREENWAY AT AYLWARDSTOWN - CH11+930m TO CH12+500m
* Drawing No. 17006-102 - PROPOSED GENERAL LAYOUT AT AYLWARDSTOWN - CH11+930m TO CH12+500m (SHEET 1 OF 2)
* Drawing No. 17006-103 - PROPOSED GENERAL LAYOUT AT AYLWARDSTOWN - CH11+930m TO CH12+500m (SHEET 2 OF 2)