

To: Declan Senior Executive Engineer Thomastown/ Callan Area Office

From: Catriona Bambrick Executive Planner

Proposal: Part VIII proposal –Knocktopher to Ballyhale Footway Scheme

Re: Environmental Impact Assessment – Screening for Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

Planning Legislation:

Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2019, Schedule 5, Part 1 and 2
European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018
Article 75 which amends Article 120 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001
Planning and Development Act 2000 – 2019

Characteristics of Project

Under this Part VIII proposal, Kilkenny County Council are proposing to develop a footpath to link the villages of Ballyhale and Knocktopher.

- 858m of continuous footpath 1.2 – 1.8m wide.
- Public Lighting including ducting chambers and columns.
- Associated road markings, signage, surface water drainage, fencing and soft landscaping.

Location

The footpath will be located along the northern verge of the R712 from Ballyhale secondary school to the R713/ R448 junction at Ballyhale approximately 858m long continuous 1.2-1.8m in width.

Type and characteristics of potential impact

From assessing the documentation associated with the proposed alterations and considering the extent of works are all internal modifications along with the use being changed to office, it is considered that the proposed development works are significantly below sub threshold Part 2 activities and having regard to the environmental sensitivities of this area and the potential impacts based on the following environmental factors;

- Population and human health
- Biodiversity, with particular attention to special and habitats protected under the Birds and Habitats Directives
- Land, soil, water, air and the landscape
- Climate
- Interaction between above
- Expected effects from relevant major accidents and / or disasters

it is determined that no Environmental Impact Assessment Report is required.

An Appropriate Assessment Screening report was also carried out by the Planning Authority, in relation to the proposed Part VIII works at Ballyhale/ Knocktopher and these concluded that significant impacts on any Natura 2000 site can be ruled out therefore it was determined that a Natura Impact Assessment was not required.

Conclusion

It is determined that based on the above preliminary examination, there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development works which to construct a footpath linking Ballyhale and Knocktopher villages and therefore it is recommended that an Environmental Impact Assessment Report is not required for this Part VIII proposal.

Signed: Catriona Bambrick,
Executive Planner,
Kilkenny County Council.
14/01/2020