

KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh



PART 8 DISPLAY DOCUMENT
EXPLANATORY BOOKLET

Vicar St Improvement Scheme
August 2020

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1.0 Introduction

This document has been prepared in compliance with Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2010 and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2011.

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.

The objective of the project is to change Vicar St. from a two-way system to a one-way system going inbound, to widen the existing footpaths and provide cycle lanes thus improving the safety of public road users and pedestrians.

The works shall comprise of

- Reducing the road width to suit one-way traffic while widening the footways on either side and the addition of contraflow cycle lane.
- Removing the existing mini-roundabout and replacing it with a t-junction
- Upgrading of the existing road surface and footways,
- Realignment of road gullies to suit the proposed carriage way width.
- Undergrounding of any overhead electrical cables.
- Relocation of signalised pedestrian crossing with additional signals

2.0 Background and Reasons for Scheme

Vicar St is located within Kilkenny city bordered by Troy's Gate to the north and Dean St to the south. It is currently a two-way carriage way that is used by both passenger vehicles and the city bus service. Existing footways are below the desired minimums for safe pedestrian use and there is no dedicated cycle lane currently on Vicar St.

Kilkenny County Council, as the project promoter, proposes to undertake the improvement works on Vicar St. The purpose of these works is to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists and to improve current traffic movements for locals and visitors to the city. The aims of the project can be summarised as follows:

- Improved safety for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Improved traffic movements by changing from a two-way carriage way to a one-way southbound route.

Project Benefits

The proposed works will offer substantial benefits to locals and tourists visiting Poulanassy Waterfall. The benefits resulting from the completion of the project would include;

- Wider footways for pedestrians which will provide safer access to the city
- Improvement works to carriageway
- Addition of dedicated cycle lane to encourage cyclists to use the route.

3.0 Design Criteria

The project is designed in accordance with the County Kilkenny Rural Design Guide. A Preliminary Design has been carried out in accordance with this standard and is included in the appendices of this report.

4.0 Environmental Reports

An Appropriate Assessment (Screening) Report was carried out by EnviroGuide Consulting. This report concluded that the project presents no adverse impacts on the conservation objectives of any site designated under the European Habitats Directive.

5.0 Archaeological Reports

An Archaeological Impact Assessment was carried out by Colm Flynn Archaeology. This report concluded that the project presents no known impacts on any archaeology in the vicinity of the works.

6.0 Architectural Reports

An Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment was carried out by Brian Dunlop Architects. This report concluded that the project will have no negative impacts and would be positive for the existing buildings and structures in the St. Canice's Architectural Conservation Area.

7.0 Funding

Funding will be required from a number of State Departments and State Agencies. Kilkenny County Council will seek funding from any such sources should a planning consent materialise for this project.

8.0 Programme

Works will be programmed by the appointed contractor. An indicative programme is provided as follows.

- The existing road surface to be planed off.
- Existing overhead cables to be undergrounded.
- New kerb lines to be installed and all existing road gullies to be realigned to the new kerb line.
- Asphalt finish to be laid along the new carriageway.
- Footways to be of a suitable material for pedestrian use.
- Existing pedestrian crossing on Green Street to be relocated with additional signals at Troy's Gate.
- New road markings indicating the new cycle lane to be marked on the new asphalt surface.
- New road signage to be installed.
- It is anticipated that the project will take 10 weeks to complete.

9.0 **Public consultation**

Plans and particulars of the proposed development will be available for inspection from **Monday 17th August 2020 to Thursday 17th September 2020 inclusive**, at the following offices:

Planning Department,
Kilkenny County Council,
County Hall,
John Street, Kilkenny City

From 9am to 1pm & 2pm to 4pm
Monday to Friday

City Hall,
High Street,
Kilkenny

From 9am to 1pm & 2pm to 4pm
Monday to Friday

Details of the proposed development can be viewed at <https://consult.kilkenny.ie/> and www.kilkennycoco.ie

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/>, in writing to **Planning Section, Kilkenny County Council, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny** or sent to the following email address planning@kilkennycoco.ie

The latest date for receipt of submissions on the above scheme is Monday 28th September 2020. Submissions should be clearly marked 'Vicar Street Improvement Scheme'.