

To: Tim Butler, Director of Services

From: Arlene O' Connor, Senior Executive Planner

Proposal: Part VIII proposal – Loughmacask Link Road Phase 1(a)

Re: Screening for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Planning Legislation:

Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2020, 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 – 2020

Characteristics of Project

Under this Part VIII proposal, Kilkenny County Council are proposing the following;

- Construct Phase 1(a) of the Loughmacask Link Road, approximately 400m long, from the Kilkenny to Freshford Road at Talbotsinch, to the west side of the Dunningstown Road at Lousybush.
- Construct a new roundabout at the junction of the Loughmacask Link Road and the Kilkenny to Freshford Road at Talbotsinch.
- Construct a new section of road, approximately 100m long, from the end of the existing access road for Talbot's Gate and Talbot's Court housing estates, to the west side of the Dunningstown Road at Lousybush.
- Widen and upgrade the existing access road for Talbot's Gate and Talbot's Court housing estates, for approximately 300m.
- Provide footpaths and cycletracks on both sides of the Loughmacask Link Road from its junction with the Freshford road at Talbotsinch, to the west side of the Dunningstown road at Lousybush.
- Provide public lighting
- Provide a new watermain.
- Provide surface water drainage.
- Provide new boundary treatments to the rear of the proposed footpaths.
- Close the Duningstown Road immediately on the city side of the Loughmacask Link Road.
- Provide a new junction to access the new Loughmacask Link Road from the rural approach on the Dunningstown Road.
- Provide pedestrian and cycle access across the new Loughmacask Link Road from the rural and city sides of the Dunningstown Road.
- Provide two signal controlled raised pedestrian crossings, one adjacent to entrance to Talbot's Gate Housing estate, and the second at the junction of the new road and the Dunningstown Road.
- Relocate the existing trees to green spaces adjacent to the proposed roundabout at the junction of the new road and the Freshford Road.
- Construct two revised junctions on the Loughmacask Link Road to serve Talbot's Gate and Talbot's Court housing estates.

Location

The proposed road and associated works will run from the Kilkenny to Freshford Road at Talbotsinch, to the west side of the Dunningstown Road at Lousybush in Kilkenny city.

Type and characteristics of potential impact

From assessing the documentation associated with the proposed Loughmacask Link Road, Phase 1(a) in the city, which includes the construction of a new link road, a new roundabout, widening and upgrading of existing access road for Talbot's Gate and Talbot's Court housing estates, new footpath

and cycle tracks, two signal controlled raised pedestrian crossings, two revised junctions on the Loughmacask Link Road to serve Talbot's Gate and Talbot's Court housing estates, relocation of existing trees to green spaces adjacent to the proposed roundabout, the provision of public lighting, new surface water drainage and a new watermain, 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 of Kilkenny County Council, in relation to the proposed Part VIII works relating to the Loughmacask Link Road Phase 1(a) in Kilkenny city and this 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 are for the Loughmacask Link road Phase 1(a) and therefore it is recommended that no Environmental Impact Assessment Report is required for this Part VIII proposal, where the proposed road and associated works will run from the Kilkenny to Freshford Road at Talbotsinch, to the west side of the Dunningstown Road at Lousybush in Kilkenny city.

Signed: Arlene O' Connor,
Senior Executive Planner,
Kilkenny County Council.
6/4/2021