KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh



Part 8 DISPLAY DOCUMENT

EXPLANATORY BOOKLET

Waterford to New Ross Greenway

November 2016

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# 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 and 3.

The proposed Greenway will be located along the disused railway line between Waterford City (Ferrybank) and the bridge crossing in New Ross town. The route of the disused railway runs east from Waterford city in Ferrybank which is a residential area on the edge of the city and then into open agricultural land. The route passes over and under several roadways, including the N29, after which it follows a northerly direction parallel to the N25 for c.3km veering north east towards the River Barrow and the town land of Carrigcloney. The proposed route passes through the River Barrow and River Nore SAC for c.1km where it bridges the Glenmore River. The route then continues north-west back towards the N25 running parallel until it emerges in Raheen, Rosbercon, New Ross. The existing railway tracks will be removed, and a 3m wide bituminous surface will be constructed in its place for the entire length, with several at grade road crossings

Brief description of the proposed works

The proposal put forward provides for the following:

* Removal of existing railway track
* Provision of a approximately 22km of 3m wide greenway
* Provision of at-grade crossing points as local roads intersect the greenway including access controls and additional road signage
* Provision of new bridge parapets

# 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 facilitate cycle tourism in the region. The aim of the project can be summarised as follows:

* Provide a safe environment for cyclists and walkers
* Provide a high quality facility in accordance with the national cycle standards to encourage cycle tourism in the region
* To conserve and upgrade the natural and built heritage of the area

The primary reasons for undertaking the project include;

* Improved cyclist safety arising from the construction of a predominantly ‘off road’ cycle track between Waterford and New Ross.
* 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 sense of place, a new pride within the local rural community, 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.
* The substantially improved visual amenity offered by the scheme will make the area a more attractive place to visit & live, which will in turn support the local business & commercial enterprises & will also promote tourism in the area.

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 benefits resulting from the completion of the project would include

* 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 provision of a greenway along the disused railway corridor will provide life and renewal to an area of land cutting through south east Kilkenny.
* The provision of the greenway will promote a sense of place, pride in the local rural community and urban areas in New Ross and Waterford, encourage tourism within the area and support local commercial enterprises by encouraging visitors to the area.
* The improvements arising from the scheme will in turn support the local business & commercial enterprises and will also promote tourism in the area.
* The scheme will offer improved recreational facilities for walking through the provision of an attractive environment and public space with new street lighting and safe road crossing points.
* Future connectivity to the Déise Greenway and the Red Bridge walking route in New Ross

# 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.

# Environmental Reports

A number of environmental reports have been carried out to inform the Part VIII application and to determine what, if any mitigation measures are required. The following reports were commissioned and are included in the appendices of this report:

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 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 9th of December 2016 to Friday the 27th of January 2017 inclusive**, at the following offices:

**Kilkenny County Council,** From 9am to 1pm & 2pm to 5pm

County Buildings, Monday to Friday (Except Public Holidays)

John Street, Kilkenny City

**Ferrybank Library,** Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays

Ferrybank Shopping Centre, From 10am to 1.30pm, 2.30pm to 5pm

Ferrybank, Wed 10am to 1.30pm, 2.30pm to 7pm

Co.Kilkenny Saturday 9.30am to 1.30pm

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New Ross Municipal District Office, Monday to Friday (Except Public Holidays)

Quay Street,

The Tholsel,

New Ross,

Co. Wexford

Details of the proposed development can be viewed at <https://consult.kilkenny.ie/> and [www.kilkennycoco.ie](http://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 the undersigned or sent to the following e-mail address Greenway@kilkennycoco.ie .

 The latest date for receipt of submissions on the above scheme is **Friday the 10th February, 2017**. Submissions should be clearly marked ‘**Waterford to New Ross Greenway’**.

**Simon Walton,**

**A/Director of Services**

**Kilkenny County Council**

**County Hall**

**John Street**

**Kilkenny**

The latest date for receipt of submissions on the above scheme is **the 10th of February, 2017**.

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT BY A**

**LOCAL AUTHORITY**

 **Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh**

 **Kilkenny County Council**



**Proposed development by a Local Authority**

**Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2010**

**Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2011**

**Waterford to New Ross Greenway**

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 which extend from within Waterford City and County Council’s administrative boundary through to Rosbercon, New Ross as a cycle and pedestrian route. The route which is 22km in length will begin at Abbey Road, Ferrybank, Waterford and will follow the disused line through or in close proximity to the townlands of Abbeylands, Rathculliheen, Gorteens, Drumdowney Lower, Rathpatrick, Luffany, Curraghmore, Ballyrowragh, Scartnamoe, Rathinure, Rochestown, Aylwardstown, Carrickcloney, Ballyverneen, Forestalstown, Shanbogh Upper and Raheen (Rosbercon), Co. Kilkenny

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
* Repair and upgrade of existing drains
* The marking of the aforementioned cycle and footpaths
* The upgrade and repair of existing bridges so as to accommodate the cycle /pedestrian route
* The installation of barriers for the safety of Greenway users
* Stock proof fencing
* Provision of agricultural crossings Security fencing
* Screen fencing
* Screen planting

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