



**An Bord Pleanála,**  
64 Marlborough Street,  
Dublin,  
D01 V902

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023

**Re: Pedestrian and Cycle Link between River Nore Linear Park (Bishops Meadows) and Riverside Garden (Abbey Quarter)**

**Application to An Bord Pleanála for the approval under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)**

A Chara,

Kilkenny County Council hereby applies for approval, in accordance with the provisions of Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), for the construction of a new Pedestrian and Cycle Link between River Nore Linear Park (Bishops Meadows) and Riverside Garden (Abbey Quarter) in the townlands of Gardens in Kilkenny City.

The proposed development comprises the provision of a pathway for pedestrians and cyclists between Riverside Garden and River Nore Linear Park. A section of the pathway will be constructed as an elevated boardwalk along the western bank of the river Nore. The proposed development also includes public lighting, surfacing and associated site clearance works. To the North, the pathway will connect to the existing riverside walk at Bishops Meadows. To the South, the pathway will cross beneath the R886 (New Road) through an existing arch which forms part of the western approach to Green's Bridge.

The construction of the proposed pedestrian and cycle link are key components of the Kilkenny County Development Plan 2021 – 2027 and is specifically provided for under the following objectives:

**Objective C3C** Improve Trails, Greenways and Walkways, including the construction of a Boardwalk at Green's Bridge to link the River Nore Riverside Walk with the new Riverside Linear Park in the Abbey Quarter and onwards to the Canal Walk, and New urban park in Abbey Quarter.

**Objective C5P** Construct a Boardwalk at Green's Bridge to link the River Nore Riverside Walk with the new Riverside Linear Park in the Abbey Quarter and onwards to the Canal Walk.

**Objective C6N** To construct a boardwalk at Green's Bridge to link the River Nore Riverside Walk at Riverside Drive with the new Riverside Linear Park in the Abbey Quarter and onwards to the Canal Walk.

**A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been prepared as part of the application for approval in respect of the proposed development.**

An EIA Screening determination has been completed by Kilkenny County Council in support of this application. The EIA Screening determination has been informed by an EIA Screening Report prepared by SLR, which is included as part of the Plans and Particulars forming this submission.

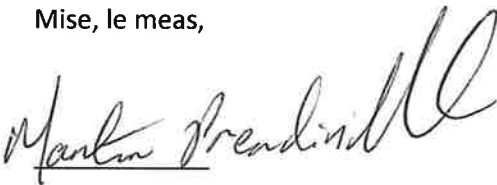
On completion of the screening assessment required for sub threshold developments, it is concluded that due to its nature, scale and location, the Project is not likely to have significant effects on the environment and therefore does not require EIA.

I enclose herewith the following documentation in accordance with Article 249 of the Planning and Development Regulations (as amended) in support of the application.

- (a) 2 Hard copies of the plans and particulars of the proposed development.
- (b) 2 Hard copies of the Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for the proposed works.
- (c) 2 Hard Copies of the Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report.
- (d) A soft copy (USB) of the plans & particulars and the NIS for the proposed development.
- (e) A copy of the newspaper notice published in the Kilkenny People, dated the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and the site notices erected on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023.
- (f) A copy of the list of prescribed bodies to which notice was sent under section 177AE and a copy of each notice sent.

The public notice for the proposed development outlines that the public consultation period will run from Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 (inclusive of both dates).

Mise, le meas,



Martin Prendiville,  
Director of Finance,  
Kilkenny County Council.