



To: An Cathaoirleach and each Elected Member of Kilkenny County Council

8th February, 2016

Re: Part VIII Planning Report for the Riverside Garden, Abbey Creative Quarter.

A Chara,

On 31st July, 2015 Elected Members approved the Abbey Creative Quarter Master Plan.

A key provision of the Masterplan is the development of public amenities and, in this vein, on Friday 20th November, 2015, Kilkenny County Council published proposals for the development of a 15m wide riverside garden between Bateman Quay and Greens Bridge. The riverside garden, as proposed, provides for linkages to the River Nore Linear Park. The closing date for the receipt of submissions was 29th January, 2016.

A total of 31 submissions were received on foot of the consultation process. The details of all submissions are set out in the attached report together with the Council's responses thereto. Member's attention is also drawn to the report of the Council's Planning Department in respect of the proposed development.

Taking account of the following;

- objectives of the City Development Plan 2014-2020,
- adoption, by the Elected Members, of the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan in July 2015,
- the contents of the attached Part 8 Report,

I recommend that the development proceeds, as proposed, to include any commitments given in response to the submissions made to the consultation process and the recommendations of the Planning Authority.

Simon Walton,
A/Director of Services.

Having considered the above, together with the Part 8 Public Consultation Report and the Planning Authority Report I recommend that the proposed development proceeds.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Colette Byrne". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal dashed line.

Colette Byrne,
Chief Executive Officer.

Riverside Garden Project Part VIII Public Consultation Report

Kilkenny County Council

February 2016

1.0 Introduction

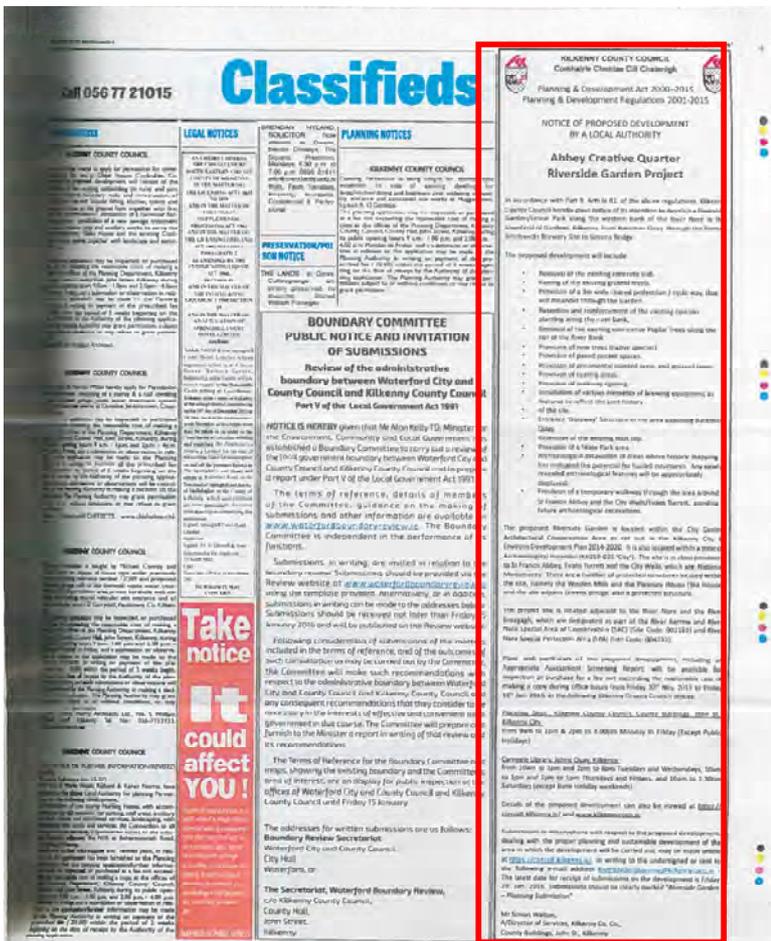
This document has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Part XI (Section 179) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 – 2015 and Part VIII of the Planning & Development Regulations, 2001 - 2015.

The proposed development will involve the development of a riverside garden / Linear Park along the western bank of the River Nore from Bateman Quay to Greens Bridge, through the former Smithwicks Brewery site. The proposed park will measure approx. 15m wide from the top of the riverbank into the former brewery site and will incorporate a 3m wide shared pedestrian / cycleway.

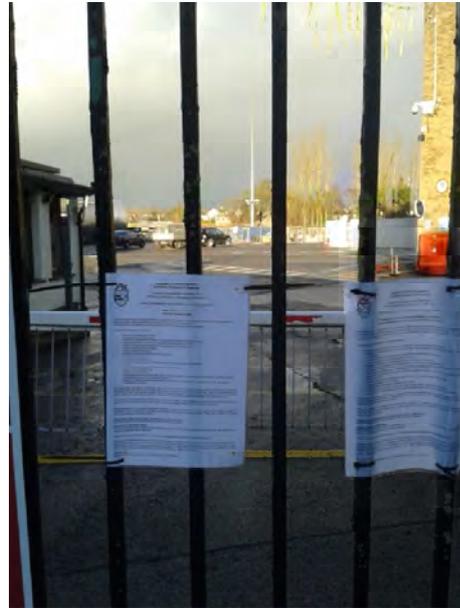
The pathway passes through a sequence of spaces of both naturalistic and ornamental planting, grass lawns and seating spaces, together with areas of hard landscaping. Provision is also made for a skate park within the site of the proposed development.

1.1 Public Consultation

The project was advertised by Notice in the Kilkenny People newspaper on the week ending Friday 20th Nov. 2015.



3 no. site Notices were also erected on the site of the proposed development, visible from Quay, Horse Barrack Lane and Greens Bridge. A copy of this notice is attached to Appendix 1.



Details of the proposed scheme were also advertised via Twitter and Facebook. Plans and particulars for the proposed Scheme were available for inspection from Friday 20th November 2015 to Friday 15th Jan 2016 at the following locations :

- Planning Dept., County Hall, John St., Kilkenny.
- Carnegie Library, Johns Quay, Kilkenny.
- www.kilkennycoco.ie

- <https://consult.kilkenny.ie/>

In addition, a non statutory public information evening was held on Thursday 10th December 2015 in the Maltings Building on Tilbury Place from 4.30pm to 7.30pm. This information evening was attended by Kilkenny County Council staff from the Project Office and the Planning Dept.. The purpose of the public information evening was to allow members of the public to review the project documents and to allow them the opportunity to discuss the proposed development with Kilkenny Co. Co. staff.

Submissions and observations were invited with respect to the proposed development dealing with the proper planning and development of the area in which the proposed development will be carried out, with a final date for receipt of submissions on Friday 29th January 2016.

The following Statutory Bodies were invited to make submissions on the scheme:

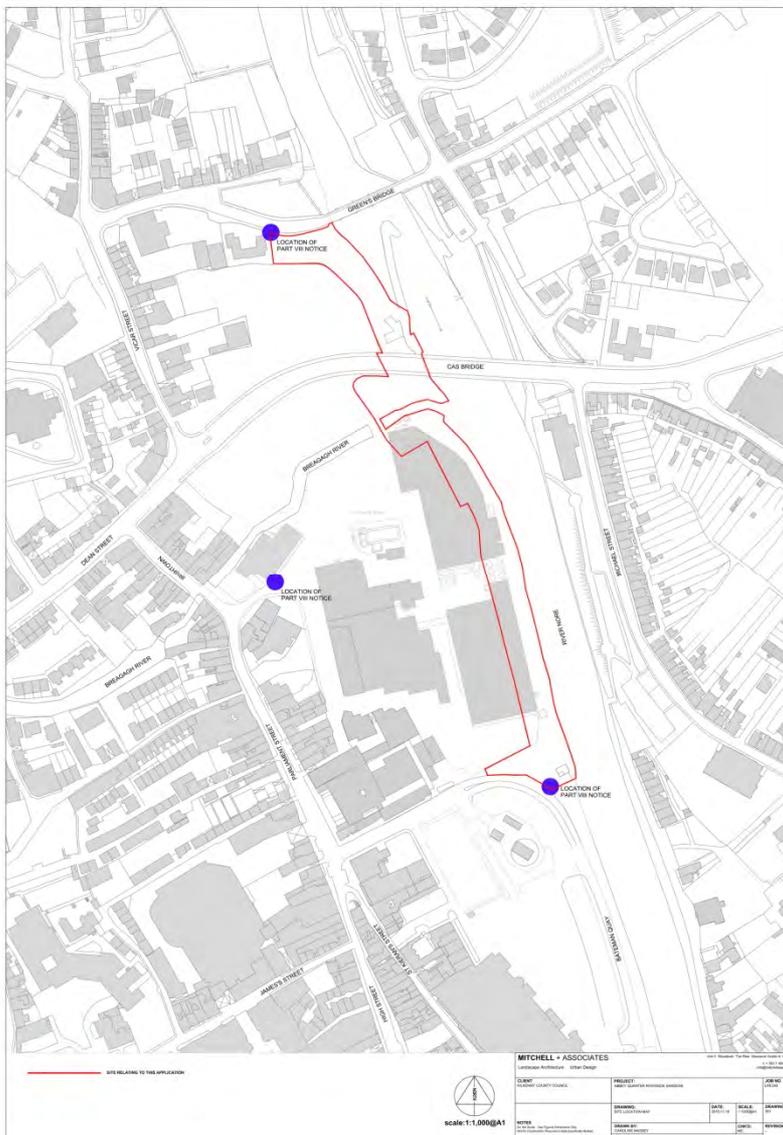
- An Comhairle Ealaíonn, 70 Merrion Square, Dublin 2
- Fáilte Ireland, 88-95 Amiens Street, Dublin 1.
- An Taisce, The National Trust of Ireland, Tailors Hall, Dublin 8.
- The Heritage Council,
- Inland Fisheries Ireland, Anglesea Street, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.
- Department of Arts, Heritage & The Gaeltacht, Newtown Rd, Wexford.
- Irish Water, HQ Offices, Coleville House, 24-26 Talbot St., Dublin 1.
- Office of Public Works, Trim, Co. Meath.
- Dept. of Environment, Community & Local Government, Custom House, Dublin 1.

The documents on public display were as follows :

- Design Statement
- Landscape Design Drawings
- Archaeological Assessment
- Appropriate Assessment Screening Report
- Ecological Impact Assessment
- Design Reports
 - Tree survey
 - Lighting Report
 - Drainage Report
 - Outline environmental Construction Management plan.

2.0 Brief description of the proposed works

2.1 Site Location



The site of the proposed development is located along the western bank of the River Nore through Kilkenny City, extending from the area of Bateman Quay to Greens Bridge.

The River Nore in Kilkenny City is designated as part of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC (Site code : 002162) and the River Nore SPA (Site Code : 004233).

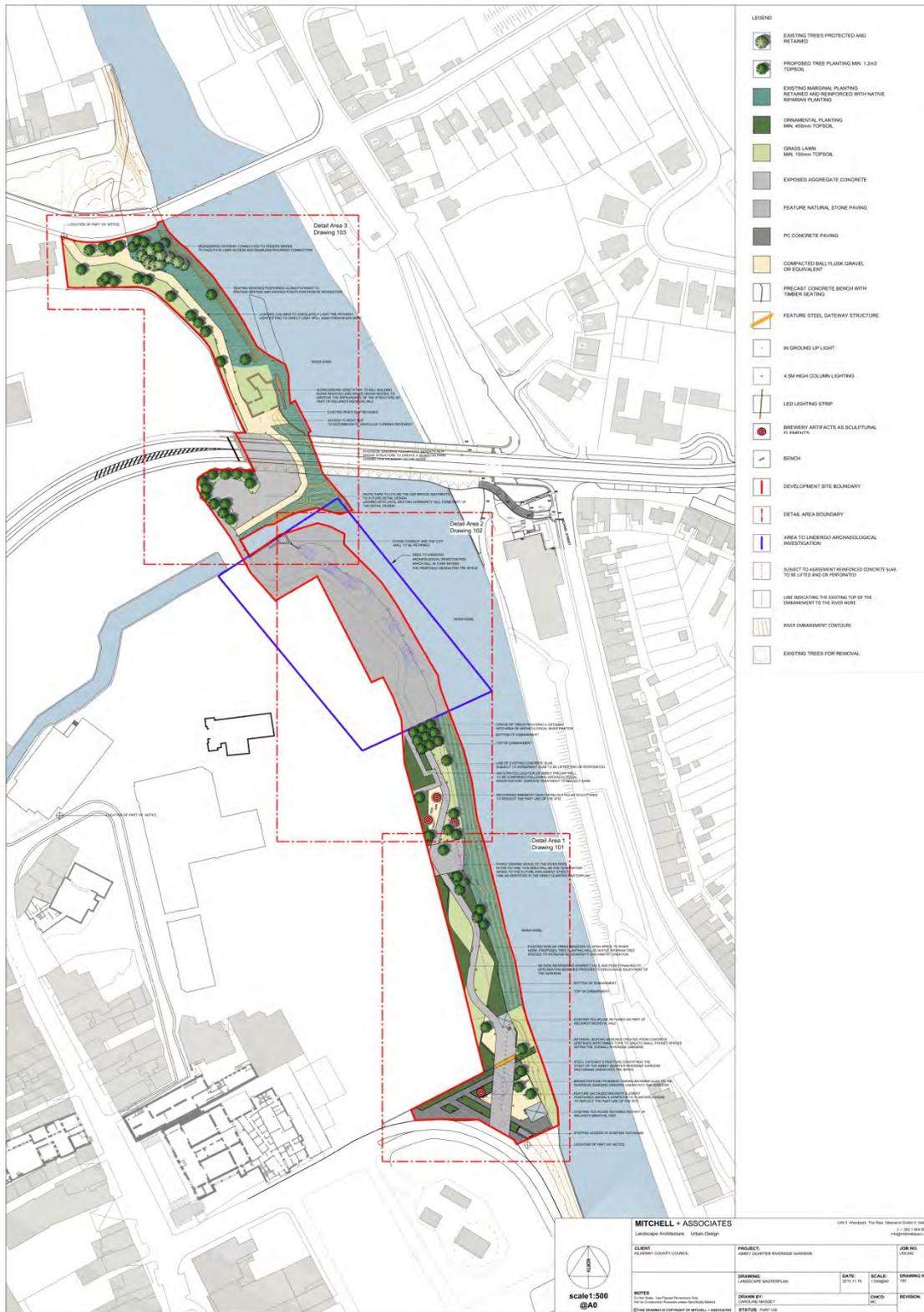
It is noted that the site is located within the City Centre Architectural Conservation Area and the zone of Archaeological potential for Kilkenny City.

2.2 Proposed Works

The proposed works involve the development of a riverside garden / linear park along the western bank of the River Nore from Bateman Quay to Greens Bridge.

Specifically the development will include the following :

- Removal of the existing concrete slab.
- Raising of the existing ground levels.
- Provision of a 3m wide shared pedestrian / cycle way.
- Retention and reinforcement of the existing riparian planting along the river bank,
- Removal of the existing non-native Poplar Trees along the top of the River Bank.
- Provision of new trees (native species)
- Provision of paved pocket spaces.
- Provision of ornamental planted areas and grassed lawns.
- Provision of seating areas.
- Provision of walkway lighting.
- Installation of various elements of brewing equipment as features to reflect the past history of the site.
- Entrance 'Gateway' Structure in the area adjoining Bateman Quay.
- Retention of the existing boat slip.
- Provision of a Skate Park area.
- Archaeological excavation of areas where historic mapping has indicated the potential for buried structures. Any newly revealed archaeological features will be appropriately displayed.
- Provision of a temporary walkway through the area around St Francis Abbey and the City Walls/Evans Turret, pending future archaeological excavations.



It must be noted that Variation no. 1 to the Kilkenny City & Environs Development Plan also included the following objectives :

3/ To provide for an urban park in the vicinity of St. Francis Abbey (National Monument) incorporating the City Walls, Evan’s Turret and St. Francis’ Well taking into account the recommendations of the

archaeological strategy developed in the preparation of the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan (as indicated on Fig 3.4) and subject to compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives and the provisions of the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan.

- 3J *To prepare a Heritage Conservation Plan for St. Francis Abbey, Evans' Turret and St. Francis' Well in the context of the existing City Wall conservation plan in conjunction with the Heritage Council, the Office of Public Works, the National Monuments Service, the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and other relevant stakeholders.*

Accordingly, the detailed design of the riverside garden / Linear park has not been completed in the area encompassing the City Walls / Evans Turret, St Francis Well and the St Francis Abbey precinct. The proposed development allows for the provision of a temporary walkway through this area of the site, pending future archaeological excavation of the area and the development of the Heritage Conservation Plan for the structures listed in objective 3J. This walkway will be temporary in nature and will be moveable to allow for the archaeological excavations of the area. As per the provisions of the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan, the final design of the park through this area will be informed by the findings of the archaeological excavations in this area.

3.0 Background and reasons for scheme

The area adjoining the western bank of the River Nore has a zoning objective for “.....*Amenity/Green Links/Biodiversity/Conservation.....*” in the Kilkenny City & Environs Development Plan 2014 – 2020.

The Development Plan also includes a specific objective 6B “*To complete the River Nore Linear Park within the lifetime of the plan*”.

The proposed riverside garden / linear park is located within the former Smithwicks Brewery site. With the decision of Diageo to close the Brewery and to centralise production facilities at the St James' Gate Brewery in Dublin, Kilkenny County Council agreed to purchase the site of the former brewery in 2012. During the period from 2012 – 2015, Kilkenny County Council developed a Masterplan or Urban Design Framework for the development of the former Brewery site. This Masterplan was agreed by the elected members of Kilkenny County Council in July 2015 and allowed for the provision of a riverside garden or linear park through the former Brewery Site, along the western bank of the river Nore

Furthermore, Variation no. 1 to the Kilkenny City & Environs Development Plan, adopted by Kilkenny County Council on 31st July 2015 included an objective 3H “*To provide for a linear park along the western bank of the River Nore connecting to the existing River Nore linear park north of Green's Bridge and the*

existing River Nore linear park south of the Masterplan area (Canal Walk) (as indicated on Fig 3.4) subject to compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives and the provisions of the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan”.

The provision of the riverside garden will be an integral part of the Medieval Mile Project, providing access to the heritage structures and National Monuments on the site of the Brewery, namely St Francis Abbey, City Walls, Evans Turret and St Francis’s well. Currently there is no public access to these structures as they are located within privately owned lands. The riverside garden will provide additional infrastructure for tourists that will further promote Failte Irelands Ancient East.

The provision of this riverside garden or linear park will link in with the existing riverside walking trails through the city centre. Existing riverside walks through the city extend for approx. 11km as far as Bennettsbridge in a southerly direction and for 2.6km in a northerly direction to Bishops Meadows. Currently there is a fracture in the walking trails through the former Brewery site, which does not facilitate access for the general public. Thus the provision of the riverside park through the Brewery site will further extend the riverside walking trails through the city centre.

4.0 Design Criteria

The park has been designed in accordance with the requirements of the relevant sections of the Building Regulations, taking into consideration the requirements and provisions of the following plans, policy and guidance documents

- Kilkenny City & Environs Development Plan 2014-2020.
- Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan.
- “Frameworks and Guidelines for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage” (1999) DAHG
- Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation (1999) DAHG
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities (Dept. of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.)

5.0 Submissions and Observations received in response to Public Consultation

Kilkenny County Council is in receipt of 31 no. of submissions in response to the public consultation for the proposed development.

Submissions / Observations were received from the following parties :

- Dept. of Arts, Heritage & the gaeltacht
- Water Sports Groups
- An Taisce
- Inland fisheries Ireland
- Aine Hickey
- Donal Coyne
- Kevin Flaherty
- Kersty Evans
- Happe House
- Maria Reade
- Gladys Bowles
- Alan Doran
- Brendan Cahill
- Ian Mullen
- Pat Cass
- Pauline Cass
- Terence Kelly
- Jerry Gardner
- Kathleen Phelan
- Cllr Breda Gardner
- Kieran Ellis
- Kieran Kelly
- Patricia Tyrell
- Lucy Glendinning
- Katharine Larkin
- Margaret O'Brien
- Enya Kennedy.
- S.A.O'Brien
- Claire Molloy
- Christopher O'Keefe
- Paddy O Ceallaigh

The following table summarises the submissions received and the responses to same. Full details of the Submissions received can be seen in Appendix 'B'

<p>Dept. of Arts Heritage & the Gaeltacht</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Concur with the proposed archaeological mitigation strategy outlined in the archaeological assessment report. Agrees that it is imperative that a programme of archaeological testing be carried out in the areas of proposed groundworks at the earliest possible stage in the development process, and the results shall inform and influence the final design details. The potential to display/present, incorporate and interpret any newly revealed archaeological features into the final detailed design plans for the linear park shall be assessed and agreed in consultation with the Dept. of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht. 2. The remains of a 17th/18th century quay wall were excavated in the area of the proposed 'Gateway' feature – there is potential to interpret and present this information when considering the final design plans for this area. 3. Detailed plans for the provision of a temporary walkway through the area around St Francis Abbey, St Francis' well and the City Walls / Evans Turret shall be prepared and finalised in consultation with the archaeological consultant. The proposals for this temporary walkway must be assessed and appropriate mitigatory measures agreed with the DAHG. 4. The archaeological assessment report prepared following completion of archaeological testing on site shall include proposals relating to the interpretation, presentation and protection of the National Monuments within the confines and vicinity of the Linear park. 5. The proposed Part 8 process for local authority own development does not contain a mechanism for further public consultation in respect of a two phase development. In this case there will be a need to further describe the proposed finished design of Detail Area 2 when the investigations are complete and interpretation has been made of the findings. The DAHG recommend sthat the planning authority commit itself to publicly advertising the final design and making available the documents that inform this design, prior to commencing work in this area. 6. The proposed text on the boards to be erected along the temporary hoarding boundary to the site shall be agreed with the architectural conservation officer of the local authority. 7. Any proposal for works to the ruined mill structure downstream of Greensbridge shall be agreed with the architectural conservation officer of the local authority. Any works affecting its character should be subject to planning permission. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted and agreed. 2. The findings of this archaeological excavation will be reviewed and will be taken into consideration in the preparation of the detailed design for the project, in consultation with the Dept. of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht. 3. Noted and agreed – Kilkenny County Council will agree details of the temporary walkway with the DAHG. 4. Noted and agreed. 5. The proposed development of the area shaded grey in Detailed area no. 2 will be subject to a separate Part VIII public consultation when the detailed design of the area has been prepared following archaeological excavations and the development of a Heritage Conservation Plan for the Heritage structures located in this area. 6. Noted and Agreed. 7. The proposed development proposes to cut back vegetation in the immediate vicinity of the mill structure. Any further works will be undertaken in consultation with the conservation officer.
<p>Water Sports Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kilkenny Water safety • Kilkenny Aqua Canoe Club • Thomastown Paddlers • Kilkenny Search & Recovery/Sub Aqua Club • Kilkenny Triathlon Club • Civil Defence • Kilkenny Recreational & Sports Partnership (KRSP) 	

<p>Welcome the proposed development of a Riverside Garden and the extension of the linear park through the city noting that the park will provide access to a riverside recreational public space and increase the attractiveness and aesthetics of the river in the heart of Kilkenny City – will also provide access to the National Monuments on the Brewery site.</p> <p>Notes that the use of the river has grown rapidly in recent years. Water based sports groups, together with KRSP have come together as a group to work towards ensuring ongoing access to the river in the city and the establishment of facilities for water users. Looking to provide a prominent, permanent and well designed base to facilitate continued use of the river by these groups and to allow for future growth in numbers using the river. This could provide the focus for the proposed River Nore Blueway.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Slipway at Greensbridge needs to be reinstated to accommodate the launch of rescue boats and recreational vessels. Slipway to be designed in accordance with best practice and European standards. Dedicated access route required along with parking. 2. There is a need for a range of welfare facilities incl. Toilet/Shower and changing facilities. A suitable room with tea/coffee making facilities is required for briefs and debriefs in particular when rescue teams come off the river. Could also be used as a training room. <p>Storage area is required for boating equipment.</p> <p>Suggests locating such a facility within the site proposed for housing to the north of the central access scheme or alternatively in a purpose built building towards the existing entrance on Green street.</p> <p>Details are provided of the reasons for requiring the provision of such a facility, including the potential for greater use of the river, facilitating Leisure tourist visits to Kilkenny and the potential to become a centre of excellence for a number of Kayaking disciplines due to the favourable water conditions in the area.</p> <p>Facility would also compliment the proposed Blueway project from north of Kilkenny City to Inistioge, with primary trail heads in Kilkenny City, Bennettsbridge, Thomastown and Inistioge.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Suggests that Chancellors Mill could be restored and utilised to increase the attractiveness of the site for visitors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted. • Noted – this is in line with the provisions of the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The existing slipway will be reinstated as part of the Central Access Scheme works. Improvement works and modifications to the existing slipway would need to be properly designed and assessed. The provision of improved access to the river is in line with the provisions of the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan. Whilst not specifically allowed for in the current park development, such works could be considered as a future project. The pathway proposed from Greens Bridge to the area of the existing slipway will be capable of accommodating very limited vehicular traffic to access the slipway. The details of any such vehicular access would need to be considered and agreed. 2. The provision of a welfare / storage facility is outside the scope of the proposed riverside garden project. However, such a facility would support the stated intention of the Masterplan to encourage and support the use of the river for a wide range of water sports. <p>The provision of the facility as outlined could be considered as a future project in the area.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The suggestion to restore the former Mill structure is in keeping with the provisions of the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan and options for the long term use of this protected structure will be considered in due course. The current proposal for the project is simply to remove some of the vegetation from around the structure to improve the presentation of the structure.
<p>An Taisce</p> <p>Welcomes a garden to complete the development of the River Nore Linear Park.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unclear what timescale is envisaged for the completion of the phased development. Desirable to have a walkway surrounded by 	<p>Noted.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is intended that the project will proceed on completion of the Part VIII Planning process and once Kilkenny County Council take possession of the site.

<p>floriferous lawn/meadow and to have the trees established a.s.a.p.. The detailed provision of pocket gardens, paved areas and seats and industrial sculptures will work best when the garden is integrated with the greater brewery site and no longer shielded off by boundary hoarding.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Hopes that “entrance gateway” will bear no resemblance to image shown in Plate 14. If metal frame is to be used, it should be discretely embedded in the existing limestone wall at Bateman Quay. The brewery site should blend seamlessly with the medieval city and should not have ‘statement’ entrances. 3. The LED lighting strip in the walkway has no place in a medieval city – distinctive paving could be used at the entrance. 4. Reservations about the 3m route through the garden being used by cyclists. Cyclists will have access to the Brewery site through the proposed ‘street’. 5. Welcomes the retention and reinforcement of the river bank planting. Also, the use of mainly native species is welcomed. Refers to list of pollinator plants which will be posted on the National Diversity Centre website in the spring. 6. Notes that the narrow nature of the park will preclude the use of tall trees, but suggests that some tall trees could be used if the lower branches are removed. Suggests that Fruit trees and herbs would be a valued addition for wildlife. 7. Suggests that consideration should be given to the ‘greening’ of the CAS bridge with vertical climbers or attached plants and to fitting bat boxes beneath the bridge. 8. Notes that the use of some local fossil limestone paving would enhance the space – concerned that use of paving materials seen throughout Kilkenny may include imported materials such as those used on the Parade. 9. Welcomes the proposal to have targeted test excavation works to inform the design process of the garden. The removal of the concrete slab will facilitate planting and excavation works. 10. Welcomes the proposed provision of a temporary walkway through the central archaeological area so that the public can visually connect with the archaeological excavations. 11. Supports the recommendations to stabilise, conserve and sensitively incorporate protected structures and archaeological monuments into the riverside garden. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The proposed “entrance gateway” is to be incorporated into the existing wall, with the wall to be extended to the top of the river bank. The issue raised in the submission will be considered in the detailed design of this element of the project. 3. The LED lighting strip will be removed and replaced with distinctive paving as suggested. 4. The park is intended as a recreational space, with a meandering path. Over time with the development of the overall Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan Area there will be additional circulation routes to accommodate more direct movement of pedestrians and cyclists. As the pathway meanders, it is intended for the slower movement of people rather than commuter use. The park should be considered as an all-inclusive space with no one user receiving priority over another 5. Noted – to be reviewed in the completion of the proposed planting design. 6. Trees to be planted in the park will be native species, with the height of these trees to be cognisant of their location in the city centre and their proximity to the buildings proposed in the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan. There may be scope for the planting of taller tree types away from proposed buildings. The suggested use of fruit trees and herbs will be considered in the detailed planting design, particularly give that historically such planting would have been present in the area – as outlined in Section 7.5 of the Archaeological Impact assessment “...consideration should be given to the redevelopment of orchards and planting regimes that include vegetables and herbs..” 7. Planting in the area of the Central Access Scheme bridge will be considered in conjunction with the Road Project Team, giving consideration to the suggestion outlined in the submission. 8. Noted and agreed. However, the sourcing of materials used on the site must comply with the requirements of procurement legislation. 9. Noted. 10. Noted. 11. Noted.
<p>Inland Fisheries Ireland</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome the proposals for the development of a linear park / river walk / riverside gardens 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted

<p>particularly in urban areas as such development significantly improve the amenity value of the river and riverside zone.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> It is essential that such developments protect and where possible enhance riparian habitat – having considered the details of the proposed development in this regard, IFI has no objection to the development as proposed. Highlights the requirement for advance consultation by the contractor with IFI prior to commencement of works. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Noted Noted – this requirement will be incorporated into the contract documentation.
<p>Aine Hickey</p> <p>Overall is impressed by the plans for the riverside park but as a cyclist can see possible improvements with the design.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Suggests that the park to the south of the Breaghagh should be considered a place mainly for pedestrians. Once the rest of the site is developed there should be a cycle track along the main road through the site. At the southern end of the park, the shared pedestrian / cycleway ends in a bus stop – where is a cyclist to go ? Makes suggestions for how the bus stop & cycleway could be accommodated – suggests provision of a pedestrian / cycle crossing at this location Lady Desart Briage, which is meant to be a cycle and pedestrian bridge, does not work for cyclists. Asks that consideration be given to how a cyclist should get from the park to Canal square to the south. Questions how pedestrians and cyclists will get from the bridge (CAS) to the park. Suggests the provision of a cycle underpass under the CAS bridge. Suggests the idea of making the river more accessible and providing direct access to the river. 	<p>Noted</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The park is intended as a recreational space, with a meandering path. Over time with the development of the overall Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan Area there will be additional circulation routes to accommodate more direct movement of pedestrians and cyclists. As the pathway meanders, it is intended for the slower movement of people rather than commuter use. The park should be considered as an all-inclusive space with no one user receiving priority over another Noted – the detailed design of this area needs to consider the issue of the bus stop. Noted, however this area is outside the scope of the proposed development. The details of the submission will be referred as appropriate. Noted. Whilst the area is outside the scope of the proposed development it is relevant in the context of how cycling facilities through Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan area are integrated into the city – the issue should be considered in this context. The proposed development does not currently allow for direct access from the Central Access Scheme to the park and the greater site of the former Brewery. However, the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan allows for the provision of an Urban street through the former Brewery site that will provide an access from the Central Access Scheme to the site. Objective 3P of the Kilkenny City & environs development Plan outlines an objective to “...provide for an urban street of pedestrian and cyclist priority between the Central Access Scheme and Bateman Quay crossing the River Breaghagh at the existing bridge crossing....” <p>This urban street will provide access from the CAS to the proposed park – the provision of such a street will be subject to a future Part VIII public consultation process.</p> <p>Provision will be made for cyclists to pass under the Central Access Scheme in the area adjoining the proposed skate park.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Whilst not included in the current proposed development, the provision of direct access to the river is in line with the provisions of the Abbey creative Quarter Masterplan. The provision of such a facility should be considered in the future.
<p>Donal Coyne</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Full archaeological (<i>assessment?</i>) needs to be carried out before any work is done on the site 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> As outlined in the Public Consultation documents, the archaeological impact assessment for the project outlines the proposed archaeological works that will be undertaken for the project. Specifically it is proposed that “..... test excavation will establish the possible below ground presence of archaeological features....” and “....a programme of test excavation will be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist under license to the National Monuments Service of the Dept. of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht”

<p>2. <i>Why start this only to dig it up at a later date.</i></p>	<p>2. The sections of park to be completed as outlined in the Public Consultation Documents will not need to be excavated in future following completion of the works.</p>
<p>Kevin Flaherty</p> <p>1. Public want archaeological explorations to drive and inform the rest of the project. Refers to Councils proposition to place a concrete slab temporarily until the archaeological dig can take place. Contends that if the proposed park & garden go in there will never be a full archaeological excavation. Refers to wastefulness of putting in a park and garden only to dig it up when the archaeological work starts.</p> <p>2. Submits that the buildings should be built before the landscaping.</p>	<p>1. The archaeological impact assessment for the project outlines the proposed archaeological works that will be undertaken for the project. Specifically it is proposed that “..... test excavation will establish the possible below ground presence of archaeological features....” and “....a programme of test excavation will be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist under license to the National Monuments Service of the Dept. of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht”</p> <p>Details of the known archaeology of the site, that have been gathered to date from documentary and cartographic sources, have been taken into consideration in the development of the park design to date.</p> <p>Variation no. 1 to the Kilkenny City & Environs Development Plan 2014-2020 includes an objective “.....To prepare a Heritage Conservation Plan for St. Francis Abbey, Evans’ Turret and St. Francis’ Well in the context of the existing City Wall conservation plan in conjunction with the Heritage Council, the Office of Public Works, the National Monuments Service, the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and other relevant stakeholders....” As a result, this area, Highlighted in grey on the scheme drawings, and labelled as an “area to undergo archaeological investigation which will inform the proposed design for the space” has been omitted from the current Part VIII proposals pending the preparation of the Heritage Conservation Plan. A temporary walkway will be provided through this area utilising the <u>existing</u> concrete slab. There is no proposal to construct a new concrete slab through that area in the short term, although some works will be required to provide an even surface through the area.</p> <p>2. The proposed riverside garden, whilst designed to integrate into the overall Brewery site when it is developed, is capable of being developed as a project in its own right. This provides a recreational facility for the people of Kilkenny in the short term, facilitating public access to the Brewery site.</p>
<p>Kersty Evans</p> <p>1. Likes the idea of a park along the river but questions the idea of developing it before other elements of the site. Public have indicated that full archaeological assessment should be undertaken before anything is built or developed. It would make more sense to build the houses and protect the existing buildings as a top priority.</p> <p>2. Refers to Kilkenny Co. Co. stating that they want to start the park project first in order to avail of grant from ‘Tourist Board’ – states that they may have to dig it up again which does not make sense.</p>	<p>1. The archaeological impact assessment for the project outlines the proposed archaeological works that will be undertaken for the project. Specifically it is proposed that “..... test excavation will establish the possible below ground presence of archaeological features....” and “....a programme of test excavation will be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist under license to the National Monuments Service of the Dept. of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht”</p> <p>Details of the known archaeology of the site, that have been gathered to date from documentary and cartographic sources, have been taken into consideration in the development of the park design to date.</p> <p>2. The sections of park to be completed as outlined in the Public Consultation Documents will not need to be excavated in future following completion of the works.</p> <p>As outlined in the public consultation documents, the park will be developed on a phased basis.</p> <p>Variation no. 1 to the Kilkenny City & Environs Development Plan 2014-2020 includes an objective “.....To prepare a Heritage Conservation Plan for St. Francis Abbey, Evans’ Turret and St. Francis’ Well in the context of the existing City Wall conservation plan in conjunction with the Heritage Council, the Office of Public Works, the National Monuments Service, the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and other relevant stakeholders....” As a result, this area, Highlighted in grey on the scheme drawings, and labelled as an “area to undergo archaeological investigation which will inform the proposed design for the space” has been omitted from the current Part VIII proposals pending the preparation of the Heritage Conservation Plan. A temporary walkway will be provided through this area utilising the <u>existing</u> concrete slab. Some minor works may be required in this area to provide an even surface in the short term.</p> <p>The permanent design of the park in this area will be subject to a future</p>

<p>3. States that the area along the City Walls, tower and around the Abbey and the area between same is most important by KCC wants to put in a 'temporary slab' in this area.</p> <p>Queries will archaeological excavation ever be undertaken.</p> <p>4. Wild river bank, where swans nested last summer should remain as it is and wildlife protected.</p> <p>5. Park should be designed around the Abbey along the river taking archaeology into consideration.</p>	<p>Part VIII public consultation.</p> <p>3. The importance of the area referred to in the submission is agreed – the importance of this area has been highlighted in both the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan and the design of the River Garden Project. As outlined above, the temporary walkway through this area will utilise the existing concrete slab – there is no proposal to provide a 'temporary slab' through this area as suggested.</p> <p>Kilkenny County Council is committed to the implementation of the Archaeological strategy as outlined in the Masterplan for the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan</p> <p>4. As outlined in the public consultation documents, it is proposed that the “...existing marginal planting” along the river bank “...will be retained and reinforced with native riparian planting” This will assist in maintaining the ecological corridor along the river bank.</p> <p>Any particular requirements for the protection of wildlife, including swans, in this area will be agreed with the National Parks & Wildlife Service.</p> <p>5. Noted and agreed. This is as per the archaeological strategy for the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan.</p>
<p>Happe House</p> <p>1. Archaeology must be done before work on the park starts.</p> <p>2. Swans spot should be kept wild and exactly as it is</p> <p>3. Extra Green Space is needed between the Abbey and the Brewhouse.</p> <p>4. Skatepark should go somewhere safer and more visible than under the bridge.</p> <p>5. Park should be wider than suggested, because it is too narrow for cyclists, people walking, children playing, people sitting etc.</p>	<p>1. Agreed. As per the public consultation documents it is proposed that “..... test excavation will establish the possible below ground presence of archaeological features.....” and “.....a programme of test excavation will be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist under license to the National Monuments Service of the Dept. of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht”</p> <p>2. As outlined in the public consultation documents, it is proposed that the “...existing marginal planting” along the river bank “...will be retained and reinforced with native riparian planting” This will assist in maintaining the ecological corridor along the river bank.</p> <p>The details of additional planting in these areas will be agreed with a suitably qualified ecologist. The planting of tall grasses such as pendulous sedge along with upper bankside scrub will discourage public access from these areas. Should additional measures be required these will be agreed with the relevant expert authorities.</p> <p>3. The area between the Brewhouse and the Abbey is outside the scope of proposed development outlined in this Part VIII public consultation. However, it is noted that the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan allows for the provision of an urban Park measuring approximately 1 hectare in the area surrounding the Abbey. This Urban Park, will be subject to a separate Part VIII public consultation process in due course, with the detailed design of this urban park to be informed by the archaeological excavation of the area and the preparation of a Heritage Conservation Plan for the Heritage structures in that area.</p> <p>4. The location of the skate park, in the area to the south of the Central Access Scheme, has been chosen as it will be a very visible site, offering passive surveillance from the adjoining Central Access Scheme. In addition, the proposed riverside pathway will pass directly beside the skate park, providing further passive surveillance of the area. Public lighting will also be provided in the area.</p> <p>It is noted that in a recent presentation to Kilkenny County Council by Urban Sports Kilkenny (set up to develop and support skating in Kilkenny) they stated that they “...would like to officially endorse the proposed location for the skate park as located in plans for the new phase of the linear park”, noting that “...the proposed skate park is in a central location which will have a significant positive effect on the usage of the amenity” They further note that “...the safety of users is paramount. It would appear that the proposed park is situated next to a path that leads under the CAS Bridge. Ensuring both passive surveillance and overnight security of the park would have to be an integral part of the design”</p> <p>As noted in the public consultation documents, “...liaising with local skating community will form part of the detail design” for the skate park.</p> <p>5. The proposed Riverside Garden / Linear Park is an extension / continuation of the existing linear park through the city centre. The average width of the proposed park from the top of the riverbank is</p>

<p>6. Garden should be less structured, less formal, have less concrete, be more natural.</p>	<p>approx. 15m wide. This width is in keeping with the linear park in other areas of the City Centre. (see Appendix D for comparison). It is further noted that the proposed park leads to the proposed urban park around St Francis Abbey, which will measure approx. 1 hectare in area. This is a very significantly sized park area in the context of its City Centre location and will provide an appropriate setting for the National Monuments located in that area.</p> <p>6. The park has been designed to create a number of interesting and varied spaces along the length of the park.. In the area from the tea houses at Bateman Quay to the area of St Francis' well, a distance of approx. 150m, the retention and reinforcement of the riparian planting along the riverbank will provide a natural and informal riverside boundary to the park. However, the overall structure of the park through this area needs to be more formal to allow it to integrate with the proposed adjoining buildings, as provided for in the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan.</p> <p>In the area to the north of the Central Access Scheme, the garden will be less formal with the provision of a gravel pathway, grassed areas and riparian planting along the riverside</p>
<p>Maria Reade</p> <p>1. Archaeology must be done before work on the park starts.</p> <p>2. Swans spot should be kept wild and exactly as it is.</p> <p>3. Extra Green Space is needed between the Abbey and the Brewhouse.</p> <p>4. Skate park should go somewhere safer and more visible than under the bridge.</p> <p>5. Park should be wider than suggested, because it is too narrow for cyclists, people walking, children playing, people sitting etc.</p>	<p>1. Agreed. As per the public consultation documents it is proposed that “..... test excavation will establish the possible below ground presence of archaeological features.....” and “.....a programme of test excavation will be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist under license to the National Monuments Service of the Dept. of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht”</p> <p>2. As outlined in the public consultation documents, it is proposed that the “....existing marginal planting” along the river bank “....will be retained and reinforced with native riparian planting” This will assist in maintaining the ecological corridor along the river bank.</p> <p>The details of additional planting in these areas will be agreed with a suitably qualified ecologist. The planting of tall grasses such as pendulous sedge along with upper bankside scrub will discourage public access from these areas. Should additional measures be required these will be agreed with the relevant expert authorities.</p> <p>3. The area between the Brewhouse and the Abbey is outside the scope of proposed development outlined in this Part VIII public consultation. However, it is noted that the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan allows for the provision of an urban Park measuring approximately 1 hectare in the area surrounding the Abbey. This Urban Park, will be subject to a separate Part VIII public consultation process in due course, with the detailed design of this urban park to be informed by the archaeological excavation of the area and the preparation of a Heritage Conservation Plan for the Heritage structures in that area.</p> <p>4. The location of the skate park, in the area to the south of the Central Access Scheme, has been chosen as it will be a very visible site, offering passive surveillance from the adjoining Central Access Scheme. In addition, the proposed riverside pathway will pass directly beside the skate park, providing further passive surveillance of the area. Public lighting will also be provided in the area.</p> <p>It is noted that in a recent presentation to Kilkenny County Council by Urban Sports Kilkenny (set up to develop and support skating in Kilkenny) they stated that they “...would like to officially endorse the proposed location for the skate park as located in plans for the new pahse of the linear park”, noting that “....the proposed skate park is in a central location which will have a significant positive effect on the usage of the amenity” They further note that “...the safety of users is paramount. It would appear that the proposed park is situated next to a path that leads under the CAS Bridge. Ensuring both passive surveillance and overnight security of the park would have to be an integral part of the design”</p> <p>As noted in the public consultation documents, “...liaising with local skating community will form part of the detail design” for the skate park.</p> <p>5. The proposed Riverside Garden / Linear Park is an extension / continuation of the existing linear park through the city centre. The average width of the proposed park from the top of the riverbank is approx. 15m wide. This width is in keeping with the linear park in other areas of the City Centre. (see Appendix D for comparison). It is further noted that the proposed park leads to the proposed urban park around St Francis Abbey, which will measure approx. 1 hectare in area. This is a very significantly sized park area in the context of its City Centre location</p>

<p>6. Park is too close to the proposed road to be safe for use as a park.</p> <p>7. Garden should be less structured, less formal, have less concrete, be more natural.</p>	<p>and will provide an appropriate setting for the National Monuments located in that area. (subject to separate Part VIII public consultation)</p> <p>6. It is unclear from the submission which “<i>proposed road</i>” is being referred to.</p> <p>The park will cross under the Central Access Scheme (CAS), which is currently under construction. As the park and the CAS are grade separated, there is no conflict between road users and park users. Thus, a safety issue does not arise.</p> <p>The park will use the existing bridge in the former Brewery site to cross over the River Breagagh. This bridge will also be used by the proposed Urban street through the former Brewery site as proposed in the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan. As per the provisions of the Kilkenny City & environs development Plan 2014-2020, it is proposed that this street will be of “<i>...pedestrian and cyclist priority...</i>” with “<i>...traffic management measures on the street such as to inhibit the flow of through traffic and heavy goods vehicles</i>” As the proposed urban street will be of pedestrian and cyclist priority, it is not envisaged that a safety issue will arise at this interface between the street and the park, however this issue will need to be considered in the design of the urban street.</p> <p>Consideration could be given at a later date to the provision of a separate pedestrian bridge crossing of the River Breagagh. This could only be considered once the archaeology of the area around Evans Turret and the City Walls has been resolved and in the context of the Heritage Conservation Plan to be prepared for these structures.</p> <p>7. The park has been designed to create a number of interesting and varied spaces along the length of the park.. In the area from the tea houses at Bateman Quay to the area of St Francis’ well, a distance of approx. 150m, the retention and reinforcement of the riparian planting along the riverbank will provide a natural and informal riverside boundary to the park. However, the overall structure of the park through this area needs to be more formal to allow it to integrate with the proposed adjoining buildings, as provided for in the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan.</p> <p>In the area to the north of the Central Access Scheme, the garden will be less formal with the provision of a gravel pathway, grassed areas and riparian planting along the riverside.</p>
<p>Gladys Bowles</p> <p>1. No works should commence until an archaeological dig is done.</p> <p>2. Refers to the proposal for a temporary slab – questions the material to be used in building same.</p> <p>3. Biggest concern is in relation to the wildlife – have they been considered at all.</p> <p>4. Swans spot should be kept wild and exactly as it is.</p>	<p>1. Agreed. As per the public consultation documents it is proposed that “<i>..... test excavation will establish the possible below ground presence of archaeological features....</i>” and “<i>....a programme of test excavation will be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist under license to the National Monuments Service of the Dept. of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht</i>”</p> <p>2. Variation no. 1 to the Kilkenny City & Environs Development Plan 2014-2020 includes an objective “<i>.....To prepare a Heritage Conservation Plan for St. Francis Abbey, Evans’ Turret and St. Francis’ Well in the context of the existing City Wall conservation plan in conjunction with the Heritage Council, the Office of Public Works, the National Monuments Service, the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and other relevant stakeholders....</i>” As a result, this area, Highlighted in grey on the scheme drawings, and labelled as an “<i>area to undergo archaeological investigation which will inform the proposed design for the space</i>” has been omitted from the current Part VIII proposals pending the preparation of the Heritage Conservation Plan. A temporary walkway will be provided through this area utilising the <u>existing</u> concrete slab. Some minor works may be required in this area to provide an even surface in the short term.</p> <p>3. The impact of the proposed development on Wildlife has been considered in the design of the proposed development – full details of the Ecological Impact Assessment and the Appropriate Assessment Screening have been included in the Part VIII public consultation documentation.</p> <p>4. As outlined in the public consultation documents, it is proposed that the “<i>....existing marginal planting</i>” along the river bank “<i>....will be retained and reinforced with native riparian planting</i>” This will assist in maintaining the ecological corridor along the river bank.</p> <p>The details of additional planting in these areas will be agreed with a suitably qualified ecologist. The planting of tall grasses such as pendulous sedge along with upper bankside scrub will discourage public</p>

<p>5. Extra Green Space is needed between the Abbey and the Brewhouse.</p> <p>6. Skate park should go somewhere safer and more visible than under the bridge.</p> <p>7. Park should be wider than suggested, because it is too narrow for cyclists, people walking, children playing, people sitting etc.</p> <p>8. Park is too close to the proposed road to be safe for use as a park.</p> <p>9. Garden should be less structured, less formal, have less concrete, be more natural.</p>	<p>access from these areas. Should additional measures be required these will be agreed with the relevant expert authorities.</p> <p>5. The area between the Brewhouse and the Abbey is outside the scope of proposed development outlined in this Part VIII public consultation. However, it is noted that the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan allows for the provision of an urban Park measuring approximately 1 hectare in the area surrounding the Abbey. This Urban Park, will be subject to a separate Part VIII public consultation process in due course, with the detailed design of this urban park to be informed by the archaeological excavation of the area and the preparation of a Heritage Conservation Plan for the Heritage structures in that area.</p> <p>6. The location of the skate park, in the area to the south of the Central Access Scheme, has been chosen as it will be a very visible site, offering passive surveillance from the adjoining Central Access Scheme. In addition, the proposed riverside pathway will pass directly beside the skate park, providing further passive surveillance of the area. Public lighting will also be provided in the area.</p> <p>It is noted that in a recent presentation to Kilkenny County Council by Urban Sports Kilkenny (set up to develop and support skating in Kilkenny) they stated that they <i>"...would like to officially endorse the proposed location for the skate park as located in plans for the new phase of the linear park"</i>, noting that <i>"...the proposed skate park is in a central location which will have a significant positive effect on the usage of the amenity"</i> They further note that <i>"...the safety of users is paramount. It would appear that the proposed park is situated next to a path that leads under the CAS Bridge. Ensuring both passive surveillance and overnight security of the park would have to be an integral part of the design"</i></p> <p>As noted in the public consultation documents, <i>"...liaising with local skating community will form part of the detail design"</i> for the skate park.</p> <p>7. The proposed Riverside Garden / Linear Park is an extension / continuation of the existing linear park through the city centre. The average width of the proposed park from the top of the riverbank is approx. 15m wide. This width is in keeping with the linear park in other areas of the City Centre. (see Appendix D for comparison). It is further noted that the proposed riverside park leads to the proposed urban park around St Francis Abbey, which will measure approx. 1 hectare in area. This is a very significantly sized park area in the context of its City Centre location and will provide an appropriate setting for the National Monuments located in that area. (subject to separate Part VIII public consultation)</p> <p>8. It is unclear from the submission which <i>"proposed road"</i> is being referred to.</p> <p>The park will cross under the Central Access Scheme (CAS), which is currently under construction. As the park and the CAS are grade separated, there is no conflict between road users and park users. Thus, a safety issue does not arise.</p> <p>The park will use the existing bridge in the former Brewery site to cross over the River Breagagh. This bridge will also be used by the proposed Urban street through the former Brewery site as proposed in the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan. As per the provisions of the Kilkenny City & environs development Plan 2014-2020, it is proposed that this street will be of <i>"...pedestrian and cyclist priority..."</i> with <i>"...traffic management measures on the street such as to inhibit the flow of through traffic and heavy goods vehicles"</i> As the proposed urban street will be of pedestrian and cyclist priority, it is not envisaged that a safety issue will arise at this interface between the street and the park, however this issue will need to be considered in the design of the urban street.</p> <p>Consideration could be given at a later date to the provision of a separate pedestrian bridge crossing of the River Breagagh. This could only be considered once the archaeology of the area around Evans Turret and the City Walls has been resolved and in the context of the Heritage Conservation Plan to be prepared for these structures.</p> <p>9. The park has been designed to create a number of interesting and varied spaces along the length of the park.. In the area from the tea houses at Bateman Quay to the area of St Francis' well, a distance of approx. 150m, the retention and reinforcement of the riparian planting along the riverbank will provide a natural and informal riverside boundary to the park.</p>
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	<p>However, the overall structure of the park through this area needs to be more formal to allow it to integrate with the proposed adjoining buildings, as provided for in the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan.</p> <p>In the area to the north of the Central Access Scheme, the garden will be less formal with the provision of a gravel pathway, grassed areas and riparian planting along the riverside.</p>
<p>Alan Doran</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Archaeology must be done before work on the park starts. 2. Swans spot should be kept wild and exactly as it is. 3. Extra Green Space is needed between the Abbey and the Brewhouse. 4. Skate park should go somewhere safer and more visible than under the bridge. 5. Park should be wider than suggested, because it is too narrow for cyclists, people walking, children playing, people sitting etc. Cyclists & Pedestrians need completely separate paths. 6. Park is too close to the proposed road to be safe for use as a park. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agreed. As per the public consultation documents it is proposed that <i>".... test excavation will establish the possible below ground presence of archaeological features...."</i> and <i>"....a programme of test excavation will be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist under license to the National Monuments Service of the Dept. of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht"</i> 2. As outlined in the public consultation documents, it is proposed that the <i>"....existing marginal planting"</i> along the river bank <i>"....will be retained and reinforced with native riparian planting"</i> This will assist in maintaining the ecological corridor along the river bank. <p>The details of additional planting in these areas will be agreed with a suitably qualified ecologist. The planting of tall grasses such as pendulous sedge along with upper bankside scrub will discourage public access from these areas. Should additional measures be required these will be agreed with the relevant expert authorities.</p> 3. The area between the Brewhouse and the Abbey is outside the scope of proposed development outlined in this Part VIII public consultation. However, it is noted that the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan allows for the provision of an urban Park measuring approximately 1 hectare in the area surrounding the Abbey. This Urban Park, will be subject to a separate Part VIII public consultation process in due course, with the detailed design of this urban park to be informed by the archaeological excavation of the area and the preparation of a Heritage Conservation Plan for the Heritage structures in that area. 4. The location of the skate park, in the area to the south of the Central Access Scheme, has been chosen as it will be a very visible site, offering passive surveillance from the adjoining Central Access Scheme. In addition, the proposed riverside pathway will pass directly beside the skate park, providing further passive surveillance of the area. Public lighting will also be provided in the area. <p>It is noted that in a recent presentation to Kilkenny County Council by Urban Sports Kilkenny (set up to develop and support skating in Kilkenny) they stated that they <i>"...would like to officially endorse the proposed location for the skate park as located in plans for the new phase of the linear park"</i>, noting that <i>"....the proposed skate park is in a central location which will have a significant positive effect on the usage of the amenity"</i> They further note that <i>"...the safety of users is paramount. It would appear that the proposed park is situated next to a path that leads under the CAS Bridge. Ensuring both passive surveillance and overnight security of the park would have to be an integral part of the design"</i></p> <p>As noted in the public consultation documents, <i>"...liaising with local skating community will form part of the detail design"</i> for the skate park.</p> 5. The proposed Riverside Garden / Linear Park is an extension / continuation of the existing linear park through the city centre. The average width of the proposed park from the top of the riverbank is approx. 15m wide. This width is in keeping with the linear park in other areas of the City Centre. (see Appendix D for comparison). It is further noted that the proposed riverside park leads to the proposed urban park around St Francis Abbey, which will measure approx. 1 hectare in area. This is a very significantly sized park area in the context of its City Centre location and will provide an appropriate setting for the National Monuments located in that area. (subject to separate Part VIII public consultation) 6. It is unclear from the submission which <i>"proposed road"</i> is being referred to. <p>The park will cross under the Central Access Scheme (CAS), which is currently under construction. As the park and the CAS are grade separated, there is no conflict between road users and park users. Thus, a safety issue does not arise.</p> <p>The park will use the existing bridge in the former Brewery site to cross</p>

<p>7. Garden should be less structured, less formal, have less concrete, be more natural.</p>	<p>over the River Breagagh. This bridge will also be used by the proposed Urban street through the former Brewery site as proposed in the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan. As per the provisions of the Kilkenny City & environs development Plan 2014-2020, it is proposed that this street will be of “...pedestrian and cyclist priority...” with “...traffic management measures on the street such as to inhibit the flow of through traffic and heavy goods vehicles” As the proposed urban street will be of pedestrian and cyclist priority, it is not envisaged that a safety issue will arise at this interface between the street and the park, however this issue will need to be considered in the design of the urban street.</p> <p>Consideration could be given at a later date to the provision of a separate pedestrian bridge crossing of the River Breagagh. This could only be considered once the archaeology of the area around Evans Turret and the City Walls has been resolved and in the context of the Heritage Conservation Plan to be prepared for these structures.</p> <p>7. The park has been designed to create a number of interesting and varied spaces along the length of the park.. In the area from the tea houses at Bateman Quay to the area of St Francis’ well, a distance of approx. 150m, the retention and reinforcement of the riparian planting along the riverbank will provide a natural and informal riverside boundary to the park. However, the overall structure of the park through this area needs to be more formal to allow it to integrate with the proposed adjoining buildings, as provided for in the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan.</p> <p>In the area to the north of the Central Access Scheme, the garden will be less formal with the provision of a gravel pathway, grassed areas and riparian planting along the riverside.</p>
<p>Brendan Cahill</p> <p>1. Archaeology must be done before work on the park starts.</p> <p>2. Much larger green perimeter area is required around the Abbey.</p> <p>3. Skate park should go somewhere safer and more visible than under the bridge.</p> <p>4. Park should be wider to accommodate busy two way ‘pedestrian / public traffic’</p>	<p>1. Agreed. As per the public consultation documents it is proposed that “..... test excavation will establish the possible below ground presence of archaeological features....” and “....a programme of test excavation will be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist under license to the National Monuments Service of the Dept. of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht’</p> <p>2. The area around the Abbey is outside the scope of proposed development outlined in this Part VIII public consultation. However, it is noted that the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan allows for the provision of an urban Park measuring approximately 1 hectare in the area surrounding the Abbey. This Urban Park, will be subject to a separate Part VIII public consultation process in due course, with the detailed design of this urban park to be informed by the archaeological excavation of the area and the preparation of a Heritage Conservation Plan for the Heritage structures in that area.</p> <p>3. The location of the skate park, in the area to the south of the Central Access Scheme, has been chosen as it will be a very visible site, offering passive surveillance from the adjoining Central Access Scheme. In addition, the proposed riverside pathway will pass directly beside the skate park, providing further passive surveillance of the area. Public lighting will also be provided in the area.</p> <p>It is noted that in a recent presentation to Kilkenny County Council by Urban Sports Kilkenny (set up to develop and support skating in Kilkenny) they stated that they “...would like to officially endorse the proposed location for the skate park as located in plans for the new pahse of the linear park”, noting that “....the proposed skate park is in a central location which will have a significant positive effect on the usage of the amenity’ They further note that “...the safety of users is paramount. It would appear that the proposed park is situated next to a path that leads under the CAS Bridge. Ensuring both passive surveillance and overnight security of the park would have to be an integral part of the design”</p> <p>As noted in the public consultation documents, “...liaising with local skating community will form part of the detail design” for the skate park.</p> <p>4. The proposed Riverside Garden / Linear Park is an extension / continuation of the existing linear park through the city centre. The average width of the proposed park from the top of the riverbank is approx. 15m wide. This width is in keeping with the linear park in other areas of the City Centre. (see Appendix D for comparison). It is further noted that the proposed riverside park leads to the proposed urban park around St Francis Abbey, which will measure approx. 1 hectare in area.</p>

<p>5. Garden should be more informal formal, have less concrete, be more natural.</p> <p>6. Original wild riverbank should be preserved where the swans nested / hatched last season – suggests backdrop of a high green hedge. Must not have a repeat of having nowhere for wildlife to leave water for rest or safety – consider otters.</p>	<p>This is a very significantly sized park area in the context of its City Centre location and will provide an appropriate setting for the National Monuments located in that area. (subject to separate Part VIII public consultation)</p> <p>The park is intended as a recreational space, with a meandering path. Over time with the development of the overall Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan Area there will be additional circulation routes to accommodate more direct movement of pedestrians and cyclists. As the pathway meanders, it is intended for the slower movement of people rather than commuter use. The park should be considered as an all-inclusive space with no one user receiving priority over another</p> <p>5. The park has been designed to create a number of interesting and varied spaces along the length of the park.. In the area from the tea houses at Bateman Quay to the area of St Francis' well, a distance of approx. 150m, the retention and reinforcement of the riparian planting along the riverbank will provide a natural and informal riverside boundary to the park. However, the overall structure of the park through this area needs to be more formal to allow it to integrate with the proposed adjoining buildings, as provided for in the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan.</p> <p>In the area to the north of the Central Access Scheme, the garden will be less formal with the provision of a gravel pathway, grassed areas and riparian planting along the riverside.</p> <p>6. As outlined in the public consultation documents, it is proposed that the “...existing marginal planting” along the river bank “....will be retained and reinforced with native riparian planting” This will assist in maintaining the ecological corridor along the river bank.</p> <p>The details of additional planting in these areas will be agreed with a suitably qualified ecologist. The planting of tall grasses such as pendulous sedge along with upper bankside scrub will discourage public access from these areas. Should additional measures be required these will be agreed with the relevant expert authorities.</p> <p>The provision of a high green hedge at the top of the river bank as suggested would result in the proposed park being cut off from the river. This is in conflict with the provisions of the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan, where the public consultation process highlighted the need to open the river up to the city.</p>
<p>Ian Mullen</p> <p>1. Archaeology must be done before work on the park starts. Proposal to complete the park before archaeology is baffling and suspects that archaeological works would never be done.</p> <p>2. Park should consist of a significant wild area with less concrete to maintain ‘environmental profile’ of the river bank. Swans nesting spot must be maintained and protected.</p> <p>3. Park is too narrow to accommodate pedestrians, cyclists, buggies, dog walkers, children.</p> <p>4. Extra Green Space is needed between the Abbey and the Brewhouse – preferable to concrete and would demonstrate commitment</p>	<p>1. Agreed. As per the public consultation documents it is proposed that “.... test excavation will establish the possible below ground presence of archaeological features....” and “....a programme of test excavation will be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist under license to the National Monuments Service of the Dept. of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht”</p> <p>2. The park has been designed to create a number of interesting and varied spaces. In the area from the tea houses at Bateman Quay to the area of St Francis' well, a distance of approx. 150m, the retention and reinforcement of the riparian planting along the riverbank will provide a natural and informal riverside boundary to the park. However, the overall structure of the park through this area needs to be more formal to allow it to integrate with the proposed adjoining buildings.</p> <p>In the area to the north of the Central Access Scheme, the garden will be less formal with the provision of a gravel pathway, grassed areas and riparian planting along the riverside.</p> <p>3. The proposed Riverside Garden / Linear Park is an extension / continuation of the existing linear park through the city centre. The average width of the proposed park from the top of the riverbank is approx. 15m wide. This width is in keeping with the linear park in other areas of the City Centre. (see Appendix D for comparison). It is further noted that the proposed riverside park leads to the proposed urban park around St Francis Abbey, which will measure approx. 1 hectare in area. This is a very significantly sized park area in the context of its City Centre location and will provide an appropriate setting for the National Monuments located in that area. (subject to separate Part VIII public consultation)</p> <p>4. The area between the Brewhouse and the Abbey is outside the scope of proposed development outlined in this Part VIII public consultation. However, it is noted that the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan allows</p>

<p>to the park and not traffic.</p> <p>5. Location of the skate park under the bridge is courting danger – should be relocated to open area.</p>	<p>for the provision of an urban Park measuring approximately 1 hectare in the area surrounding the Abbey. This Urban Park, will be subject to a separate Part VIII public consultation process in due course, with the detailed design of this urban park to be informed by the archaeological excavation of the area and the preparation of a Heritage Conservation Plan for the Heritage structures in that area.</p> <p>5. The location of the skate park, in the area to the south of the Central Access Scheme, has been chosen as it will be a very visible site, offering passive surveillance from the adjoining Central Access Scheme. In addition, the proposed riverside pathway will pass directly beside the skate park, providing further passive surveillance of the area.</p> <p>It is noted that in a recent presentation to Kilkenny County Council by Urban Sports Kilkenny (set up to develop and support skating in Kilkenny) they stated that they “...would like to officially endorse the proposed location for the skate park as located in plans for the new phase of the linear park”, noting that “...the proposed skate park is in a central location which will have a significant positive effect on the usage of the amenity” They further note that “...the safety of users is paramount. It would appear that the proposed park is situated next to a path that leads under the CAS Bridge. Ensuring both passive surveillance and overnight security of the park would have to be an integral part of the design”</p> <p>As noted in the public consultation documents, “...liaising with local skating community will form part of the detail design” for the skate park.</p>
<p>Pat Cass</p> <p>1. Archaeology must be done before work on the park starts.</p> <p>2. Swans spot should not be touched – should be left as is.</p> <p>3. Park should be wider than suggested, because it is too narrow for cyclists & people walking.</p> <p>4. Park is too close to the proposed road to be safe for use as a park.</p>	<p>1. Agreed. As per the public consultation documents it is proposed that “.... test excavation will establish the possible below ground presence of archaeological features....” and “...a programme of test excavation will be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist under license to the National Monuments Service of the Dept. of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht”</p> <p>2. As outlined in the public consultation documents, it is proposed that the “...existing marginal planting” along the river bank “...will be retained and reinforced with native riparian planting” This will assist in maintaining the ecological corridor along the river bank.</p> <p>The details of additional planting in these areas will be agreed with a suitably qualified ecologist. The planting of tall grasses such as pendulous sedge along with upper bankside scrub will discourage public access from these areas. Should additional measures be required these will be agreed with the relevant expert authorities.</p> <p>3. The proposed Riverside Garden / Linear Park is an extension / continuation of the existing linear park through the city centre. The average width of the proposed park from the top of the riverbank is approx. 15m wide. This width is in keeping with the linear park in other areas of the City Centre. (see Appendix D for comparison). It is further noted that the proposed riverside park leads to the proposed urban park around St Francis Abbey, which will measure approx. 1 hectare in area. This is a very significantly sized park area in the context of its City Centre location and will provide an appropriate setting for the National Monuments located in that area. (subject to separate Part VIII public consultation)</p> <p>4. It is unclear from the submission which “proposed road” is being referred to.</p> <p>The park will cross under the Central Access Scheme (CAS), which is currently under construction. As the park and the CAS are grade separated, there is no conflict between road users and park users. Thus, a safety issue does not arise.</p> <p>The park will use the existing bridge in the former Brewery site to cross over the River Breagagh. This bridge will also be used by the proposed Urban street through the former Brewery site as proposed in the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan. As per the provisions of the Kilkenny City & environs development Plan 2014-2020, it is proposed that this street will be of “...pedestrian and cyclist priority...” with “...traffic management measures on the street such as to inhibit the flow of through traffic and heavy goods vehicles” As the proposed urban street will be of pedestrian and cyclist priority, it is not envisaged that a safety issue will arise at this interface between the street and the park, however this issue will need to be considered in the design of the urban street.</p> <p>Consideration could be given at a later date to the provision of a separate</p>

	<p>pedestrian bridge crossing of the River Breagagh. This could only be considered once the archaeology of the area around Evans Turret and the City Walls has been resolved and in the context of the Heritage Conservation Plan to be prepared for these structures.</p>
<p>Pauline Cass</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Archaeology must be done before work on the park starts. 2. Swans spot on the river bank must not be touched and left wild. 3. More Green Space is needed between the Abbey and the Brewhouse. 4. Skate park should go somewhere more open than under the bridge. 5. Park is too close to the proposed road to be safe for use as a park. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agreed. As per the public consultation documents it is proposed that <i>".... test excavation will establish the possible below ground presence of archaeological features...."</i> and <i>"....a programme of test excavation will be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist under license to the National Monuments Service of the Dept. of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht"</i> 2. As outlined in the public consultation documents, it is proposed that the <i>"....existing marginal planting"</i> along the river bank <i>"....will be retained and reinforced with native riparian planting"</i> This will assist in maintaining the ecological corridor along the river bank. The details of additional planting in these areas will be agreed with a suitably qualified ecologist. The planting of tall grasses such as pendulous sedge along with upper bankside scrub will discourage public access from these areas. Should additional measures be required these will be agreed with the relevant expert authorities. 3. The area between the Brewhouse and the Abbey is outside the scope of proposed development outlined in this Part VIII public consultation. However, it is noted that the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan allows for the provision of an urban Park measuring approximately 1 hectare in the area surrounding the Abbey. This Urban Park, will be subject to a separate Part VIII public consultation process in due course, with the detailed design of this urban park to be informed by the archaeological excavation of the area and the preparation of a Heritage Conservation Plan for the Heritage structures in that area. 4. The location of the skate park, in the area to the south of the Central Access Scheme, has been chosen as it will be a very visible site, offering passive surveillance from the adjoining Central Access Scheme. In addition, the proposed riverside pathway will pass directly beside the skate park, providing further passive surveillance of the area. Public lighting will also be provided in the area. It is noted that in a recent presentation to Kilkenny County Council by Urban Sports Kilkenny (set up to develop and support skating in Kilkenny) they stated that they <i>"...would like to officially endorse the proposed location for the skate park as located in plans for the new phase of the linear park"</i>, noting that <i>"....the proposed skate park is in a central location which will have a significant positive effect on the usage of the amenity"</i> They further note that <i>"...the safety of users is paramount. It would appear that the proposed park is situated next to a path that leads under the CAS Bridge. Ensuring both passive surveillance and overnight security of the park would have to be an integral part of the design"</i> As noted in the public consultation documents, <i>"...liaising with local skating community will form part of the detail design"</i> for the skate park. 5. It is unclear from the submission which <i>"proposed road"</i> is being referred to. The park will cross under the Central Access Scheme (CAS), which is currently under construction. As the park and the CAS are grade separated, there is no conflict between road users and park users. Thus, a safety issue does not arise. The park will use the existing bridge in the former Brewery site to cross over the River Breagagh. This bridge will also be used by the proposed Urban street through the former Brewery site as proposed in the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan. As per the provisions of the Kilkenny City & environs development Plan 2014-2020, it is proposed that this street will be of <i>"....pedestrian and cyclist priority...."</i> with <i>"....traffic management measures on the street such as to inhibit the flow of through traffic and heavy goods vehicles"</i> As the proposed urban street will be of pedestrian and cyclist priority, it is not envisaged that a safety issue will arise at this interface between the street and the park, however this issue will need to be considered in the design of the urban street. Consideration could be given at a later date to the provision of a separate pedestrian bridge crossing of the River Breagagh. This could only be considered once the archaeology of the area around Evans Turret and the City Walls has been resolved and in the context of the Heritage

	Conservation Plan to be prepared for these structures.
<p>Terence Kelly</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Archaeology must be done before work on the park starts. 2. Swans spot should be kept wild and exactly as it is. 3. Extra Green Space is needed between the Abbey and the Brewhouse. 4. Skatepark should go somewhere safer and more visible than under the bridge. Teenagers need sunshine. 5. Park should be wider than suggested, because it is too narrow for cyclists, people walking, children playing, people sitting etc. 6. Park is too close to the proposed road to be safe for use as a park. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agreed. As per the public consultation documents it is proposed that <i>"..... test excavation will establish the possible below ground presence of archaeological features...."</i> and <i>"....a programme of test excavation will be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist under license to the National Monuments Service of the Dept. of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht"</i> 2. As outlined in the public consultation documents, it is proposed that the <i>"....existing marginal planting"</i> along the river bank <i>"....will be retained and reinforced with native riparian planting"</i> This will assist in maintaining the ecological corridor along the river bank. The details of additional planting in these areas will be agreed with a suitably qualified ecologist. The planting of tall grasses such as pendulous sedge along with upper bankside scrub will discourage public access from these areas. Should additional measures be required these will be agreed with the relevant expert authorities. 3. The area between the Brewhouse and the Abbey is outside the scope of proposed development outlined in this Part VIII public consultation. However, it is noted that the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan allows for the provision of an urban Park measuring approximately 1 hectare in the area surrounding the Abbey. This Urban Park, will be subject to a separate Part VIII public consultation process in due course, with the detailed design of this urban park to be informed by the archaeological excavation of the area and the preparation of a Heritage Conservation Plan for the Heritage structures in that area. 4. The location of the skate park, in the area to the south of the Central Access Scheme, has been chosen as it will be a very visible site, offering passive surveillance from the adjoining Central Access Scheme. In addition, the proposed riverside pathway will pass directly beside the skate park, providing further passive surveillance of the area. Public lighting will also be provided in the area. It is noted that in a recent presentation to Kilkenny County Council by Urban Sports Kilkenny (set up to develop and support skating in Kilkenny) they stated that they <i>"...would like to officially endorse the proposed location for the skate park as located in plans for the new pahse of the linear park"</i>, noting that <i>"....the proposed skate park is in a central location which will have a significant positive effect on the usage of the amenity"</i> They further note that <i>"...the safety of users is paramount. It would appear that the proposed park is situated next to a path that leads under the CAS Bridge. Ensuring both passive surveillance and overnight security of the park would have to be an integral part of the design"</i> As noted in the public consultation documents, <i>"...liaising with local skating community will form part of the detail design"</i> for the skate park. 5. The proposed Riverside Garden / Linear Park is an extension / continuation of the existing linear park through the city centre. The average width of the proposed park from the top of the riverbank is approx. 15m wide. This width is in keeping with the linear park in other areas of the City Centre. (see Appendix D for comparison). It is further noted that the proposed riverside park leads to the proposed urban park around St Francis Abbey, which will measure approx. 1 hectare in area. This is a very significantly sized park area in the context of its City Centre location and will provide an appropriate setting for the National Monuments located in that area. (subject to separate Part VIII public consultation) 6. It is unclear from the submission which <i>"proposed road"</i> is being referred to. The park will cross under the Central Access Scheme (CAS), which is currently under construction. As the park and the CAS are grade separated, there is no conflict between road users and park users. Thus, a safety issue does not arise. The park will use the existing bridge in the former Brewery site to cross over the River Breagagh. This bridge will also be used by the proposed Urban street through the former Brewery site as proposed in the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan. As per the provisions of the Kilkenny City & environs development Plan 2014-2020, it is proposed that this street will be of <i>"....pedestrian and cyclist priority...."</i> with <i>"....traffic management measures on the street such as to inhibit the flow of through traffic and</i>

<p>7. Garden should be less structured & be more natural.</p> <p>8. Objects to proposed Variation no. 1 to the Kilkenny City & Environs Development Plan – variation is premature.</p>	<p><i>heavy goods vehicles</i>” As the proposed urban street will be of pedestrian and cyclist priority, it is not envisaged that a safety issue will arise at this interface between the street and the park, however this issue will need to be considered in the design of the urban street.</p> <p>Consideration could be given at a later date to the provision of a separate pedestrian bridge crossing of the River Breaghagh. This could only be considered once the archaeology of the area around Evans Turret and the City Walls has been resolved and in the context of the Heritage Conservation Plan to be prepared for these structures.</p> <p>7. The park has been designed to create a number of interesting and varied spaces along the length of the park.. In the area from the tea houses at Bateman Quay to the area of St Francis’ well, a distance of approx. 150m, the retention and reinforcement of the riparian planting along the riverbank will provide a natural and informal riverside boundary to the park. However, the overall structure of the park through this area needs to be more formal to allow it to integrate with the proposed adjoining buildings, as provided for in the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan.</p> <p>In the area to the north of the Central Access Scheme, the garden will be less formal with the provision of a gravel pathway, grassed areas and riparian planting along the riverside.</p> <p>8. Variation no. 1 to the Kilkenny City & Environs Development Plan 2014 – 2020 was approved by Kilkenny Co. Co. on 31st July 2015.</p>
<p>Jerry Gardner</p> <p>1. Thorough Archaeological investigation must be carried out before any other works.</p> <p>2. Suggests that works on the park will be impacted by ongoing works on the CAS (Central Access Scheme) and the development of the brewery site – better to delay work on the park until these projects are completed.</p> <p>3. Suggests that the skatepark should be a visible part of the CAS rather than being tucked under the bridge</p> <p>4. Proposed park width is too narrow.</p> <p>5. It is also located too close to traffic.</p>	<p>1. Agreed. As per the public consultation documents it is proposed that “..... <i>test excavation will establish the possible below ground presence of archaeological features.....</i>” and “.....<i>a programme of test excavation will be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist under license to the National Monuments Service of the Dept. of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht</i>”</p> <p>2. The timing of commencement of works on the proposed riverside garden project will need to take into consideration the programme for construction work on the adjoining Central Access Scheme site. The proposed riverside garden project is an integral part of the development of the Brewery Site.</p> <p>3. The location of the skate park, in the area to the south of the Central Access Scheme, has been chosen as it will be a very visible site, offering passive surveillance from the adjoining Central Access Scheme. In addition, the proposed riverside pathway will pass directly beside the skate park, providing further passive surveillance of the area. Public lighting will also be provided in the area.</p> <p>It is noted that a recent presentation by Urban Sports Kilkenny to Kilkenny Co. Co. they stated that they “...<i>would like to officially endorse the proposed location for the skate park as located in plans for the new phase of the linear park</i>”, noting that “.....<i>the proposed skate park is in a central location which will have a significant positive effect on the usage of the amenity</i>” They further note that “...<i>the safety of users is paramount. It would appear that the proposed park is situated next to a path that leads under the CAS Bridge. Ensuring both passive surveillance and overnight security of the park would have to be an integral part of the design</i>”</p> <p>As noted in the public consultation documents, “...<i>liaising with local skating community will form part of the detail design</i>” for the skate park.</p> <p>4. The proposed Riverside Garden / Linear Park is an extension / continuation of the existing linear park through the city centre. The average width of the proposed park from the top of the riverbank is approx. 15m wide. This width is in keeping with the linear park in other areas of the City Centre. (see Appendix D for comparison). It is further noted that the proposed riverside park leads to the proposed urban park around St Francis Abbey, which will measure approx. 1 hectare in area. This is a very significantly sized park area in the context of its City Centre location and will provide an appropriate setting for the National Monuments located in that area. (subject to separate Part VIII public consultation)</p> <p>5. The location of the park, along the riverbank, is intended to separate the park from traffic. The park will be in close proximity to the proposed Urban Street (as outlined in the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan and objective 3P of the Kilkenny City & Environs Development</p>

<p>6. Park is too small – should be more green space between the Abbey and the Brewhouse.</p> <p>7. More natural approach required to the design – current proposal features too much concrete – leave some parts wild.</p> <p>8. Preservation, encouragement and care of wildlife needs to be of a higher priority eg swans spot.</p>	<p>Plan) in the area of the existing bridge over the River Breaghagh. However, given that this street is to be of “...pedestrian and cyclist priority...” with “...traffic management measures on the street such as to inhibit the flow of through traffic...” there will be minimal interface with traffic in that area.</p> <p>6. The area between the Brewhouse and the Abbey is outside the scope of proposed development outlined in this Part VIII public consultation. However, it is noted that the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan allows for the provision of an urban Park measuring approximately 1 hectare in the area surrounding the Abbey. This Urban Park, will be subject to a separate Part VIII public consultation process in due course, with the detailed design of this urban park to be informed by the archaeological excavation of the area and the preparation of a Heritage Conservation Plan for the Heritage structures in that area.</p> <p>7. The park has been designed to create a number of interesting and varied spaces along the length of the park.. In the area from the tea houses at Bateman Quay to the area of St Francis’ well, a distance of approx. 150m, the retention and reinforcement of the riparian planting along the riverbank will provide a natural and informal riverside boundary to the park. However, the overall structure of the park through this area needs to be more formal to allow it to integrate with the proposed adjoining buildings, as provided for in the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan.</p> <p>In the area to the north of the Central Access Scheme, the garden will be less formal with the provision of a gravel pathway, grassed areas and riparian planting along the riverside.</p> <p>8. The impact of the proposed scheme on wildlife has been considered in the design of the proposed development – details of the Ecological Impact Assessment and the Appropriate Assessment screening have been provided in the public consultation documentation.</p> <p>As outlined in the public consultation documents, it is proposed that the “...existing marginal planting” along the river bank “...will be retained and reinforced with native riparian planting” This will assist in maintaining the ecological corridor along the river bank.</p>
<p>Kathleen Phelan</p> <p>1. Archaeology must be done before work on the park starts.</p> <p>2. Swans spot should be kept wild and exactly as it is.</p> <p>3. Extra Green Space is needed between the Abbey and the Brewhouse.</p> <p>4. Skate park should go somewhere safer and more visible than under the bridge.</p>	<p>1. Agreed. As per the public consultation documents it is proposed that “.... test excavation will establish the possible below ground presence of archaeological features....” and “....a programme of test excavation will be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist under license to the National Monuments Service of the Dept. of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht”</p> <p>2. As outlined in the public consultation documents, it is proposed that the “...existing marginal planting” along the river bank “...will be retained and reinforced with native riparian planting” This will assist in maintaining the ecological corridor along the river bank.</p> <p>The details of additional planting in these areas will be agreed with a suitably qualified ecologist. The planting of tall grasses such as pendulous sedge along with upper bankside scrub will discourage public access from these areas. Should additional measures be required these will be agreed with the relevant expert authorities.</p> <p>3. The area between the Brewhouse and the Abbey is outside the scope of proposed development outlined in this Part VIII public consultation. However, it is noted that the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan allows for the provision of an urban Park measuring approximately 1 hectare in the area surrounding the Abbey. This Urban Park, will be subject to a separate Part VIII public consultation process in due course, with the detailed design of this urban park to be informed by the archaeological excavation of the area and the preparation of a Heritage Conservation Plan for the Heritage structures in that area.</p> <p>4. The location of the skate park, in the area to the south of the Central Access Scheme, has been chosen as it will be a very visible site, offering passive surveillance from the adjoining Central Access Scheme. In addition, the proposed riverside pathway will pass directly beside the skate park, providing further passive surveillance of the area. Public lighting will also be provided in the area.</p> <p>It is noted that in a recent presentation to Kilkenny County Council by Urban Sports Kilkenny (set up to develop and support skating in Kilkenny) they stated that they “...would like to officially endorse the proposed location for the skate park as located in plans for the new phase of the</p>

<p>5. Park should be wider than suggested, because it is too narrow for cyclists, people walking, children playing, people sitting etc.</p> <p>6. Park is too close to the proposed road to be safe for use as a park.</p> <p>7. Garden should be less structured, less formal, have less concrete, be more natural.</p>	<p><i>linear park</i>", noting that "...the proposed skate park is in a central location which will have a significant positive effect on the usage of the amenity" They further note that "...the safety of users is paramount. It would appear that the proposed park is situated next to a path that leads under the CAS Bridge. Ensuring both passive surveillance and overnight security of the park would have to be an integral part of the design"</p> <p>As noted in the public consultation documents, "...liaising with local skating community will form part of the detail design" for the skate park.</p> <p>5. The proposed Riverside Garden / Linear Park is an extension / continuation of the existing linear park through the city centre. The average width of the proposed park from the top of the riverbank is approx. 15m wide. This width is in keeping with the linear park in other areas of the City Centre. (see Appendix D for comparison). It is further noted that the proposed riverside park leads to the proposed urban park around St Francis Abbey, which will measure approx. 1 hectare in area. This is a very significantly sized park area in the context of its City Centre location and will provide an appropriate setting for the National Monuments located in that area. (subject to separate Part VIII public consultation)</p> <p>6. It is unclear from the submission which "proposed road" is being referred to.</p> <p>The park will cross under the Central Access Scheme (CAS), which is currently under construction. As the park and the CAS are grade separated, there is no conflict between road users and park users. Thus, a safety issue does not arise.</p> <p>The park will use the existing bridge in the former Brewery site to cross over the River Breagagh. This bridge will also be used by the proposed Urban street through the former Brewery site as proposed in the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan. As per the provisions of the Kilkenny City & environs development Plan 2014-2020, it is proposed that this street will be of "...pedestrian and cyclist priority..." with "...traffic management measures on the street such as to inhibit the flow of through traffic and heavy goods vehicles" As the proposed urban street will be of pedestrian and cyclist priority, it is not envisaged that a safety issue will arise at this interface between the street and the park, however this issue will need to be considered in the design of the urban street.</p> <p>Consideration could be given at a later date to the provision of a separate pedestrian bridge crossing of the River Breagagh. This could only be considered once the archaeology of the area around Evans Turret and the City Walls has been resolved and in the context of the Heritage Conservation Plan to be prepared for these structures.</p> <p>7. The park has been designed to create a number of interesting and varied spaces along the length of the park.. In the area from the tea houses at Bateman Quay to the area of St Francis' well, a distance of approx. 150m, the retention and reinforcement of the riparian planting along the riverbank will provide a natural and informal riverside boundary to the park. However, the overall structure of the park through this area needs to be more formal to allow it to integrate with the proposed adjoining buildings, as provided for in the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan.</p> <p>In the area to the north of the Central Access Scheme, the garden will be less formal with the provision of a gravel pathway, grassed areas and riparian planting along the riverside.</p>
<p>Cllr. Breda Gardner</p> <p>1. Full archaeological investigate required prior to commencement of works.</p> <p>2. Larger footprint required for park allowing lots of open space, seating facilities and protection of natural habitats.</p>	<p>1. Agreed. As per the public consultation documents it is proposed that ".... test excavation will establish the possible below ground presence of archaeological features...." and "...a programme of test excavation will be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist under license to the National Monuments Service of the Dept. of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht"</p> <p>2. The proposed Riverside Garden / Linear Park is an extension / continuation of the existing linear park through the city centre. The average width of the proposed park from the top of the riverbank is approx. 15m wide. This width is in keeping with the linear park in other areas of the City Centre. (see Appendix D for comparison). It is further noted that the proposed riverside park leads to the proposed urban park around St Francis Abbey, which will measure approx. 1 hectare in area. This is a very significantly sized park area in the context of its City Centre location and will provide an appropriate setting for the National</p>

<p>3. Housing to be surrounded by Green Area and not exposed to urban Traffic.</p> <p>4. Retention of old names / places / people that are historically connected to the area of the development.</p> <p>5. Include the Photographic Archives of Kilkenny photographer Tom Brett which include photos of Major Events in Smithwicks from the 1960's.</p>	<p>Monuments located in that area. (subject to separate Part VIII public consultation)</p> <p>As outlined in the public consultation documents, it is proposed that the “...existing marginal planting” along the river bank “...will be retained and reinforced with native riparian planting” This will assist in maintaining the ecological corridor along the river bank.</p> <p>3. The site of the proposed social and community housing to the north of the Central access scheme will be bounded by the park on the riverside boundary of the site. The design and layout of the housing scheme will need to give consideration to the issue of green areas and proximity to traffic as highlighted.</p> <p>4. There is merit in this suggestion – this should be considered in due course as the development of the overall Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan progresses.</p> <p>5. There is merit in this suggestion in the context of the development of the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan Area. There will be opportunities in the development of the various proposed buildings in the Masterplan area for the presentation of these and other photos reflecting the long history of the site.</p>
<p>Kieron Ellis</p> <p>1. Archaeology must be done before work on the park starts.</p> <p>2. Swans spot should be kept wild and exactly as it is.</p> <p>3. Extra Green Space is needed between the Abbey and the Brewhouse.</p> <p>4. Skate park should go somewhere safer and more visible than under the bridge.</p> <p>5. Park should be wider than suggested, because it is too narrow for cyclists, people walking,</p>	<p>1. Agreed. As per the public consultation documents it is proposed that “.... test excavation will establish the possible below ground presence of archaeological features....” and “....a programme of test excavation will be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist under license to the National Monuments Service of the Dept. of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As outlined in the public consultation documents, it is proposed that the “...existing marginal planting” along the river bank “...will be retained and reinforced with native riparian planting” This will assist in maintaining the ecological corridor along the river bank. <p>The details of additional planting in these areas will be agreed with a suitably qualified ecologist. The planting of tall grasses such as pendulous sedge along with upper bankside scrub will discourage public access from these areas. Should additional measures be required these will be agreed with the relevant expert authorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The area between the Brewhouse and the Abbey is outside the scope of proposed development outlined in this Part VIII public consultation. However, it is noted that the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan allows for the provision of an urban Park measuring approximately 1 hectare in the area surrounding the Abbey. This Urban Park, will be subject to a separate Part VIII public consultation process in due course, with the detailed design of this urban park to be informed by the archaeological excavation of the area and the preparation of a Heritage Conservation Plan for the Heritage structures in that area. The location of the skate park, in the area to the south of the Central Access Scheme, has been chosen as it will be a very visible site, offering passive surveillance from the adjoining Central Access Scheme. In addition, the proposed riverside pathway will pass directly beside the skate park, providing further passive surveillance of the area. Public lighting will also be provided in the area. <p>It is noted that in a recent presentation to Kilkenny County Council by Urban Sports Kilkenny (set up to develop and support skating in Kilkenny) they stated that they “...would like to officially endorse the proposed location for the skate park as located in plans for the new phase of the linear park”, noting that “...the proposed skate park is in a central location which will have a significant positive effect on the usage of the amenity” They further note that “...the safety of users is paramount. It would appear that the proposed park is situated next to a path that leads under the CAS Bridge. Ensuring both passive surveillance and overnight security of the park would have to be an integral part of the design”</p> <p>As noted in the public consultation documents, “...liaising with local skating community will form part of the detail design” for the skate park.</p> <p>5. The proposed Riverside Garden / Linear Park is an extension / continuation of the existing linear park through the city centre. The average width of the proposed park from the top of the riverbank is</p>

<p>children playing, people sitting etc.</p> <p>6. Garden should be less structured, less formal, have less concrete, be more natural.</p>	<p>approx. 15m wide. This width is in keeping with the linear park in other areas of the City Centre. (see Appendix D for comparison). It is further noted that the proposed riverside park leads to the proposed urban park around St Francis Abbey, which will measure approx. 1 hectare in area. This is a very significantly sized park area in the context of its City Centre location and will provide an appropriate setting for the National Monuments located in that area. (subject to separate Part VIII public consultation)</p> <p>6. The park has been designed to create a number of interesting and varied spaces along the length of the park.. In the area from the tea houses at Bateman Quay to the area of St Francis' well, a distance of approx. 150m, the retention and reinforcement of the riparian planting along the riverbank will provide a natural and informal riverside boundary to the park. However, the overall structure of the park through this area needs to be more formal to allow it to integrate with the proposed adjoining buildings, as provided for in the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan.</p> <p>In the area to the north of the Central Access Scheme, the garden will be less formal with the provision of a gravel pathway, grassed areas and riparian planting along the riverside.</p>
<p>Kieran Kelly</p> <p>1. Linear park is wasting 'Bord Failte' money. Was told at the Public Information evening that the "...park will be developed in two sections" and that "...the reason for doing this is that they had to spend money from Bord Failte or they would lose it." He was further told that the Council proposed to "...implement one design for part of the walkway, they would then find money for the archaeological dig and implement another design on the second phase depending on what they find during the dig." States that at the public consultation people requested that the archaeological dig be done before the development – questions why push forward just because you have a grant</p> <p>Council should look at the area as a whole and not waste Bord Failte money.</p>	<p>1. As per the public consultation documents for the proposed development, the overall park will be developed on a phased basis. The areas of the park included in this part VIII public consultation will be the first phase of the park development, providing a riverside park facility in the short term to the general public and providing access for the public into the Brewery site in the short term.</p> <p>As per the public consultation documents, archaeological test excavations will be undertaken in this area in advance of work on the construction of the park.</p> <p>Variation no. 1 to the Kilkenny City & Environs Development Plan 2014-2020 includes an objective ".....To prepare a Heritage Conservation Plan for St. Francis Abbey, Evans' Turret and St. Francis' Well in the context of the existing City Wall conservation plan in conjunction with the Heritage Council, the Office of Public Works, the National Monuments Service, the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and other relevant stakeholders...." As a result, this area, highlighted in grey on the scheme drawings, and labelled as an "area to undergo archaeological investigation which will inform the proposed design for the space" has been omitted from the current Part VIII proposals pending the preparation of the Heritage Conservation Plan. A temporary walkway will be provided through this area utilising the existing concrete slab.</p>
<p>Patricia Tyrell</p> <p>1. Metal Archway does not reflect or interpret the typical archway in medieval Kilkenny and is more representative of an industrial city in terms of materials, angular shape and proportions. It will dwarf the teahouse and is completely out of scale with them and is in no way sympathetic to them.</p> <p>2. Opportunity to create a quiet and natural park is being lost by combining the path and cycleways. It is internationally recognised as being less than optimum due to the conflict between cyclists and pedestrians.</p> <p>3. "Materials Palette" notes that the paving material in use throughout Kilkenny City will be used in the park. As the native stone in Kilkenny and on the streets of Kilkenny is Limestone it is surprising to read on and find that "Granite flag paving and blocks to areas of importance" are proposed.</p> <p>4. Refers to Kilkenny having a distinctive</p>	<p>1. The proposed "entrance gateway" is to be incorporated into the existing wall, with the wall to be extended to the top of the river bank. The issue raised in the submission will be considered in the detailed design of this element of the project.</p> <p>2. The park is intended as a recreational space, with a meandering path. Over time with the development of the overall Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan Area there will be additional circulation routes to accommodate more direct movement of pedestrians and cyclists. As the pathway meanders, it is intended for the slower movement of people rather than commuter use. The park should be considered as an all-inclusive space with no one user receiving priority over another</p> <p>3. There can be issues with slip resistance with Limestone paving, particularly during wet weather. However there will be some scope for incorporating localised areas of limestone paving in the detailed design eg limestone surround to paved areas or similar.</p> <p>4. It is proposed to incorporate a small number of items from the brewery as</p>

<p>landscape of the natural and the historic. Dotted 'found' items along the park will create clutter and distraction from the essential character of the area.</p> <p>5. As a semi natural area beside the River Nore, the conservation should be on restoring the green and natural core of the city that existed prior to the flood works, with emphasis on hardwood trees and an understory of semi natural planting.</p> <p>6. Recent flood events would suggest that the River Nore will not flood in Kilkenny City. If it does, the River Breaghagh will also flood and raising the site levels along the river will trap water coming from the Breaghagh rather than prevent water rising from the Nore.</p> <p>Raising of the banks by 1.5 metres will create a hazardous area at the riverside of the park.</p> <p>7. Linear Park should be designed as part of the Abbey Creative Quarter Project integrated into a larger green space / public park, a lasting legacy to the people of Kilkenny.</p>	<p>sculpture with the proposed park – the inclusion of these items in the development is to reflect the past brewing history of the site. As noted, the placing of these items must be such that they do not create clutter within the park.</p> <p>5. New trees will be planted along the park, with native tree species to be used. The existing riparian planting along the riverbank will be retained and reinforced with additional native riparian planting. In other areas to be planted it is intended to use a mix of plant types to ensure seasonal interest.</p> <p>6. The site specific flood risk assessment for the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan identified the required finished floor levels for the buildings within the site, to ensure that these buildings would not flood for a 1 in 1,000 year flood event. The levels of the park have been designed to accommodate these finished floor levels. This does not require the raising of the site levels by 1.5m as suggested.</p> <p>It is noted that the top of river bank levels along the site are above the 1 in 100 year flood level (as provided for in the Kilkenny Flood Relief Scheme)</p> <p>As outlined in the cross sections for the proposed development, the existing ground level will be maintained at the top of the river bank, with levels then rising from this level across the width of the park to meet the proposed raised building levels. The profile of the river bank will not change as a result of the proposed development.</p> <p>7. Noted and Agreed – this is as per the provisions of the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan.</p>
<p>Lucy Glendinning</p> <p>1. Public have clearly asked that extensive archaeological assessment be done within this area before anything else is started. Why are the council considering doing work on the park prior to doing what the public want.</p> <p>2. The most important findings are likely to be along the old city walls, in the vicinity of the Tower, around the Abbey itself and in the space between the Abbey and the Tower. States that this is precisely the space where the council are putting the garden/park and they are going to do it without doing any archaeology first.</p> <p>3. Council states that there is money available from the Tourist Board – states that “...<i>there is money available for these sort of projects on a fairly regular basis</i>” If the council are planning to construct the garden and then do the archaeological work, then money is being squandered.</p> <p>4. The proposed project will cost well over a million euro so even with €200,000, we the people will have to come up with at least another million euro or so for the park – where is that going to come from.</p> <p>5. 15m is far too narrow for an area of this size for any sort of real park area – suggests that the propose park is “...<i>a walk/cycle path with a bit of greenery</i>”</p>	<p>1. As per the public consultation documents it is proposed that “..... <i>test excavation will establish the possible below ground presence of archaeological features...</i>” and “.....<i>a programme of test excavation will be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist under license to the National Monuments Service of the Dept. of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht</i>”</p> <p>2. Agreed – this is in line with the findings of the Archaeological strategy prepared for the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan.</p> <p>Variation no. 1 to the Kilkenny City & Environs Development Plan 2014-2020 includes an objective “.....<i>To prepare a Heritage Conservation Plan for St. Francis Abbey, Evans’ Turret and St. Francis’ Well in the context of the existing City Wall conservation plan in conjunction with the Heritage Council, the Office of Public Works, the National Monuments Service, the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and other relevant stakeholders...</i>” As a result, this area, Highlighted in grey on the scheme drawings, and labelled as an “<i>area to undergo archaeological investigation which will inform the proposed design for the space</i>” has been omitted from the current Part VIII proposals pending the preparation of the Heritage Conservation Plan.</p> <p>The permanent design of the park in this area will be subject to a future Part VIII public consultation.</p> <p>3. There is part funding available from Failte Ireland to progress the project as proposed. As outlined in the public consultation documents, archaeological test excavation works will be undertaken in advance of the park construction works – money will not be ‘squandered’ as suggested.</p> <p>4. Funding for the overall project will be confirmed in due course.</p> <p>5. The proposed Riverside Garden / Linear Park is an extension / continuation of the existing linear park through the city centre. The average width of the proposed park from the top of the riverbank is approx. 15m wide. This width is in keeping with the linear park in other areas of the City Centre. (see Appendix D for comparison). It is further</p>

<p>6. Wild bank must be protected where the swans nest. Seeks commitment from the Council that this area will be completely left alone.</p>	<p>noted that the proposed riverside park leads to the proposed urban park around St Francis Abbey, which will measure approx. 1 hectare in area. This is a very significantly sized park area in the context of its City Centre location and will provide an appropriate setting for the National Monuments located in that area. (subject to separate Part VIII public consultation)</p> <p>6. As outlined in the public consultation documents, it is proposed that the “...existing marginal planting” along the river bank “....will be retained and reinforced with native riparian planting” This will assist in maintaining the ecological corridor along the river bank.</p> <p>The details of additional planting in these areas will be agreed with a suitably qualified ecologist. The planting of tall grasses such as pendulous sedge along with upper bankside scrub will discourage public access from these areas. Should additional measures be required these will be agreed with the relevant expert authorities.</p>
<p>Katharine Larkin</p> <p>1. Requirement for Appropriate Assessment and for Environmental Impact Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlines the designation of the adjoining rivers Nore and Breaghagh as part of the River Barrow & Nore SAC and the River Nore SPA and the characteristics of same • States that the project is a component of a wider project, the redevelopment of the former brewery site , a brownfield site of over 12 acres. • Considers that the proposed development should be considered to require EIA as cumulative sub threshold development – also considers that the proposed development in its own right warrants EIA due to the complex and significant nature of impacts likely to arise. Refers to Dept. of Environments submission in relation to Variation no. 1 to the Kilkenny City & Environs Development Plan which refers to the need to consider the need for EIA for individual developments. • States that it is proposed to raise the level of the ground by 1.2 metres requiring the import of 60,000 cubic metres of fill, requiring thousands of movements of heavy goods vehicles in close proximity to the Natura 2000 sites, thus having an impact on the the SAC/SPA. There is no site specific flood risk assessment to justify the extent of the proposed flood prevention works. Claims that the SFRA with the Masterplan is based on outdated and superceded data – states that recent flood levels at the site significantly exceeded previous estimated maximums. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted. • Noted • The proposed development is sub threshold for the EIA requirements as set out in Schedule 5 “Development for the purposes of Part 10” of the Planning & development Regulations 2001-2015. <p>Kilkenny County Council considers that the likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development can be ruled out in this instance. In light of the submission received, Kilkenny County Council has re-considered this issue in detail – this has reaffirmed the original view that the likelihood of significant effects on the environment can be excluded in this case.</p> <p>The overall Masterplan for the development of the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan has been subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The provision of the riverside Garden project is consistent with the provisions of the Masterplan and has taken into consideration the requirements of the SEA.</p> <p>2. The site specific flood risk assessment for the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan recommended floor levels for the proposed buildings within the Masterplan area to ensure that they would not flood for a in in 1,000 year flood event. It should be noted that the current top of riverbank levels to the south of the River Breaghagh are set above the 1 in 100 year flood level following the construction of the Kilkenny City flood Relief Scheme.</p> <p>There will be some raising up of site levels to integrate the park with the proposed new building floor levels to the south of the River Breaghagh. (the proposed increase in levels can be seen in the cross section drawings of the proposed development)</p> <p>The existing top of river bank levels will be maintained to ensure that the proposed works will not impact on the riverbank. The proposed park will slope gently away from the top of river bank level. Some of the required raising of ground levels will be accommodated within raised planted or grassed beds in the park.</p> <p>Proposed Ground Levels in the area to the north of the River Breaghagh will be similar to existing levels.</p> <p>The design documents state that the park levels will be raised by “<u>up to 1.2m</u>” This is the maximum rise in level above the existing top of riverbank level.</p> <p>The stated 60,000 m3 of fill in the Masterplan Area is grossly incorrect. Fill requirements to raise the existing ground levels for the proposed park project will be in the order of 1,300 m3.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impacts of demolition works including ground disturbance caused by archaeology should be considered cumulative with the Garden project and other elements of the masterplan for the brewery site in preparing a full appropriate assessment. • States that there are plain and clear impacts likely to arise under the headings of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Construction Impacts ◦ Long Term Impacts Suggests that it is not credible to suggest there is certainty that the works along with the proposed works under the Masterplan can be carried out with no cumulative significant impacts of the River Nore. • Suggests that pages 35-36 of the Screening Report indicate that the screening relies on mitigation. • States that the Ecological Impact Assessment does not obviate the need for Environmental Impact Assessment and full AA. • Requests that Kilkenny County Council contact An Bord Pleanála in order to scope an EIA of the Masterplan and of the individual component projects of this project. <p>2. Status of Masterplan as Framework for the Park Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes that the Masterplan is described in a CEO report of 2015 as 'live' and subject to change. Masterplan may be broad brush but an adopted Development Plan policy or objective cannot be 'live' and changing day by day. <p>Requests the planning authority to complete and finalise work on the project Masterplan. The definitive version of the Masterplan should be based on a full and complete planning assessment of environmental impacts and constraints in a timely way.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggests that full and systematic EIA is likely to reveal fatal flaws in the sustainability of the entire project. <p>3. Design</p>	<p>The Site Specific Flood risk Assessment for the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan is based on the most up to date information available through the Office of Public Works Catchment Flood risk Assessment and Management programme (CFRAM). Recent flood events did not exceed previously estimated maximums as claimed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both the demolition works (undertaken by Diageo) and the River Garden Project have been subject to Appropriate Assessment – these assessments included consideration to potential cumulative effects. • The cumulative impact of individual projects has been and will be considered as the individual projects proceed. • The Screening does not rely on mitigation measures as suggested. The project has been screened for AA without mitigation measures. • Agreed. The need for EIA and AA are considered on their own merits. • The Masterplan has been subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment. An SEA is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant effects of implementing a plan or programme. <p>Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is generally used for describing the process of environmental assessment for individual projects.</p> <p>The Riverside Garden Project is in line with the provisions of the SEA for the abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan and has given consideration to the requirements of the SEA.</p> <p>The proposed development is sub threshold for the EIA requirements as set out in Schedule 5 "<i>Development for the purposes of Part 10</i>" of the Planning & development Regulations 2001-2015.</p> <p>Kilkenny County Council considers that the likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development can be ruled out in this instance. Accordingly, it is not proposed to contact An Bord Pleanála in relation to the proposed project as suggested.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development Plan policy and objectives do not change from "...day to day..." There is a formal process for the statutory periodic review of Development Plans in accordance with the requirements and provisions of the Planning & Development Act 2000-2015. Outside of these periodic reviews, Development Plans Policies and objectives can be changed by way of Variation, which is subject to a statutory procedure. <p>Objective 3L of the Kilkenny City & Environs Development 2014-2020 outlines an objective to "Finalise and Adopt the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan and to incorporate it into the Kilkenny City & Environs Development Plan 2014-2020 as a separate future Variation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The overall Masterplan for the development of the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan has been subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The provision of the riverside Garden project is consistent with the provisions of the Masterplan and has taken into consideration the requirements of the SEA.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design of the path should not be finalised prior to the implementation of an archaeological strategy agreed with the Dept. of the Environment. • Ground level of the park should not be raised as proposed – there is no fully researched justification for the elevated level proposed. • Notes that the important pedestrian link across the Breaghagh River is annotated as temporary – this link is essential if the linear walk is to function as a continuous Kilkenny City/Nore Valley riverside path. • Zig zag nature of the pathway is unnecessary and aesthetically is in conflict with the surroundings of Kilkennys predominantly symmetrical 18th and 19th century heritage townscape. • Issue of contamination of the site as outlined in the Ove Arup license report lodged with the EPA should be fully resolved within an EIA process and any necessary mitigation carried out before public use of the site for recreation. • Project should omit all plantings of any non native flowers, shrubs or trees. Project should be designed to reinforce biodiversity and reinforce the wildlife corridor. • Programme of regular removal of invasive species should be included in any permission. • Sites for bats should be provided and any opportunity to provide habitat for kingfishers should be provided. • Welcomes provision of skatepark but location tucked under the CAS bridge is lacking in passive surveillance. Vital that skater community is consulted. • Suggests that a large number of native broadleaf trees should be planted along both sides of the path. • Welcomes the retention of a boat slipway and requests that KCC liaise closely with canoe and kayak groups on any works that may affect river access. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The detailed design of the project will be subject to the detailed archaeological requirements of the Dept. of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht • The details and reasoning for raising the ground levels of areas of the park are outlined above. • The park will utilise the existing bridge over the River Breaghagh. Consideration could be given at a later date to the provision of a separate pedestrian bridge crossing of the River Breaghagh. This could only be considered once the archaeology of the area around Evans Turret and the City Walls has been resolved and in the context of the Heritage Conservation Plan to be prepared for these structures. • It is proposed that the route of the pathway will meander gently in the area from the Tea Houses to the area of St Francis' well. • The previous use of the site as a Brewery was subject to an Integrated Pollution Prevent & Control from the EPA. On the closure of the Brewery site, it was a requirement that the license be surrendered to the EPA. In accepting the surrender of the IPPC license, the EPA has stated that <i>"...the agency is satisfied that licensable activities have ceased at the installation and that the condition of the installation is not causing or likely to cause environmental pollution and the site of the activity is in a satisfactory state"</i> Notwithstanding this, the development of the site will give consideration to the previous use of the site and the potential for contamination. • The palette of plant species used shall be based on a range of largely native species. As suggested in the submission, the project will be designed to reinforce biodiversity and to reinforce the wildlife corridor. • Noted. • The provision of bat boxes in the area of the park will be considered in the detailed design – this is in line with the provisions of the Ecological Impact assessment. • The location of the skate park, in the area to the south of the Central Access Scheme, has been chosen as it will be a very visible site, offering passive surveillance from the adjoining Central Access Scheme. In addition, the proposed riverside pathway will pass directly beside the skate park, providing further passive surveillance of the area. Public lighting will also be provided in the area. It is noted that in a recent presentation to Kilkenny County Council by Urban Sports Kilkenny (set up to develop and support skating in Kilkenny) they stated that they <i>"...would like to officially endorse the proposed location for the skate park as located in plans for the new pahse of the linear park"</i>, noting that <i>"....the proposed skate park is in a central location which will have a significant positive effect on the usage of the amenity"</i> They further note that <i>"...the safety of users is paramount. It would appear that the proposed park is situated next to a path that leads under the CAS Bridge. Ensuring both passive surveillance and overnight security of the park would have to be an integral part of the design"</i> As noted in the public consultation documents, <i>"...liaising with local skating community will form part of the detail design"</i> for the skate park. • This will be considered in the detailed planting design for the site. • Noted and agreed.
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<p>4. Proposed Structures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No details are provided of the proposed archway entrance or of the items of brewery equipment to be provided along the walk. Suggests that the proposed archway is at odds with the tea houses – as the walkway is part of a much longer Nore Valley walk, this point is not an entrance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed design for an “<i>entrance gateway</i>” will be reviewed. It should be noted that the proposed entrance gateway is intended as a contemporary interpretation of the typical archways found in the city whilst noting that the park is to be constructed through a former industrial site. The proposed “<i>entrance gateway</i>” is to be built into the existing stone wall at this location – it will not be free standing (the photo shown in the Landscape design statement was simply intended to give an idea of the general design concept)
<p>Margaret O’Brien</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the archaeology must be done before any work on the park starts, as per the expert advice and public opinion that inform the Master Plan for the area. the swan's nesting ground, namely the wild river bank along the line of the of the Poplar trees must be kept wild and exactly as it is. extra green space is needed between the Abbey and the Brewhouse. the skatepark should go somewhere safer and more visible than under the bridge. the proposed park should be wider than is suggested. It is currently too narrow for cyclists, people walking, children playing, people sitting etc. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed. As per the public consultation documents it is proposed that “<i>.... test excavation will establish the possible below ground presence of archaeological features....</i>” and “<i>....a programme of test excavation will be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist under license to the National Monuments Service of the Dept. of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht</i>” As outlined in the public consultation documents, it is proposed that the “<i>....existing marginal planting</i>” along the river bank “<i>....will be retained and reinforced with native riparian planting</i>” This will assist in maintaining the ecological corridor along the river bank. The details of additional planting in these areas will be agreed with a suitably qualified ecologist. The planting of tall grasses such as pendulous sedge along with upper bankside scrub will discourage public access from these areas. Should additional measures be required these will be agreed with the relevant expert authorities. The area between the Brewhouse and the Abbey is outside the scope of proposed development outlined in this Part VIII public consultation. However, it is noted that the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan allows for the provision of an urban Park measuring approximately 1 hectare in the area surrounding the Abbey. This Urban Park, will be subject to a separate Part VIII public consultation process in due course, with the detailed design of this urban park to be informed by the archaeological excavation of the area and the preparation of a Heritage Conservation Plan for the Heritage structures in that area. The location of the skate park, in the area to the south of the Central Access Scheme, has been chosen as it will be a very visible site, offering passive surveillance from the adjoining Central Access Scheme. In addition, the proposed riverside pathway will pass directly beside the skate park, providing further passive surveillance of the area. Public lighting will also be provided in the area. It is noted that in a recent presentation to Kilkenny County Council by Urban Sports Kilkenny (set up to develop and support skating in Kilkenny) they stated that they “<i>...would like to officially endorse the proposed location for the skate park as located in plans for the new pahse of the linear park</i>”, noting that “<i>....the proposed skate park is in a central location which will have a significant positive effect on the usage of the amenity</i>” They further note that “<i>...the safety of users is paramount. It would appear that the proposed park is situated next to a path that leads under the CAS Bridge. Ensuring both passive surveillance and overnight security of the park would have to be an integral part of the design</i>” As noted in the public consultation documents, “<i>...liaising with local skating community will form part of the detail design</i>” for the skate park. The proposed Riverside Garden / Linear Park is an extension / continuation of the existing linear park through the city centre. The average width of the proposed park from the top of the riverbank is approx. 15m wide. This width is in keeping with the linear park in other areas of the City Centre. (see Appendix D for comparison). It is further noted that the proposed riverside park leads to the proposed urban park around St Francis Abbey, which will measure approx. 1 hectare in area. This is a very significantly sized park area in the context of its City Centre location and will provide an appropriate setting for the National Monuments located in that area. (subject to separate Part VIII public consultation)

<p>6. the park is too close to the proposed road to be safe for use as a park</p> <p>7. the garden should be less structured, less formal, have less concrete, be more natural than is suggested.</p> <p>8. the EIS and archaeological reports that inform this presentation are insufficient, particularly in context of other proposed development on this site.</p>	<p>6. It is unclear from the submission which “<i>proposed road</i>” is being referred to.</p> <p>The park will cross under the Central Access Scheme (CAS), which is currently under construction. As the park and the CAS are grade separated, there is no conflict between road users and park users. Thus, a safety issue does not arise.</p> <p>The park will use the existing bridge in the former Brewery site to cross over the River Breagagh. This bridge will also be used by the proposed Urban street through the former Brewery site as proposed in the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan. As per the provisions of the Kilkenny City & environs development Plan 2014-2020, it is proposed that this street will be of “...<i>pedestrian and cyclist priority</i>...” with “...<i>traffic management measures on the street such as to inhibit the flow of through traffic and heavy goods vehicles</i>” As the proposed urban street will be of pedestrian and cyclist priority, it is not envisaged that a safety issue will arise at this interface between the street and the park, however this issue will need to be considered in the design of the urban street.</p> <p>Consideration could be given at a later date to the provision of a separate pedestrian bridge crossing of the River Breagagh. This could only be considered once the archaeology of the area around Evans Turret and the City Walls has been resolved and in the context of the Heritage Conservation Plan to be prepared for these structures.</p> <p>7. The park has been designed to create a number of interesting and varied spaces along the length of the park.. In the area from the tea houses at Bateman Quay to the area of St Francis’ well, a distance of approx. 150m, the retention and reinforcement of the riparian planting along the riverbank will provide a natural and informal riverside boundary to the park. However, the overall structure of the park through this area needs to be more formal to allow it to integrate with the proposed adjoining buildings, as provided for in the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan.</p> <p>In the area to the north of the Central Access Scheme, the garden will be less formal with the provision of a gravel pathway, grassed areas and riparian planting along the riverside.</p> <p>8. The archaeological report provided is consistent with the provisions of the Archaeological strategy for the development of the abbey creative Quarter Masterplan Area. All archaeological works will be undertaken to the detailed requirements of the Dept. of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht.</p> <p>The proposed development is sub threshold for the EIA requirements as set out in Schedule 5 “<i>Development for the purposes of Part 10</i>” of the Planning & development Regulations 2001-2015.</p> <p>Kilkenny County Council considers that the likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development can be ruled out in this instance.</p>
<p>Enya Kennedy</p> <p>1. Wants to see the park completed but not at the expense of archaeological work. Archaeology must be done first and should inform the design of the full site.</p> <p>2. Width of the park is far too narrow – it should be at least 25 metres</p> <p>3. Suggests that there was considerable objection to the park being included in its current form in</p>	<p>1. Agreed. As per the public consultation documents it is proposed that “...<i>test excavation will establish the possible below ground presence of archaeological features</i>...” and “...<i>a programme of test excavation will be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist under license to the National Monuments Service of the Dept. of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht</i>”</p> <p>2. The proposed Riverside Garden / Linear Park is an extension / continuation of the existing linear park through the city centre. The average width of the proposed park from the top of the riverbank is approx. 15m wide. This width is in keeping with the linear park in other areas of the City Centre. (see Appendix D for comparison). It is further noted that the proposed riverside park leads to the proposed urban park around St Francis Abbey, which will measure approx. 1 hectare in area. This is a very significantly sized park area in the context of its City Centre location and will provide an appropriate setting for the National Monuments located in that area. (subject to separate Part VIII public consultation)</p> <p>3. The detailed design of the park is not included in the Masterplan for the Abbey Creative Quarter.</p>

<p>the Masterplan for the Abbey Creative Quarter</p> <p>4. Design is too formal with too much concrete – it should be less structured.</p> <p>5. Suggests if there is a need for a cycle/walking track when the “urban Street” is to be prioritised for cyclists.</p> <p>6. The road is too wide – it should be narrowed and the park widened.</p> <p>7. The swans should not be disturbed. The trees should be retained to provide screening and a barrier.</p> <p>8. Skate park is in the wrong place.</p> <p>9. Seating should be usable – wood would be the preferred option.</p> <p>10. Green area around St Francis Abbey is not big enough.</p>	<p>4. The park has been designed to create a number of interesting and varied spaces along the length of the park.. In the area from the tea houses at Bateman Quay to the area of St Francis’ well, a distance of approx. 150m, the retention and reinforcement of the riparian planting along the riverbank will provide a natural and informal riverside boundary to the park. However, the overall structure of the park through this area needs to be more formal to allow it to integrate with the proposed adjoining buildings, as provided for in the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan.</p> <p>In the area to the north of the Central Access Scheme, the garden will be less formal with the provision of a gravel pathway, grassed areas and riparian planting along the riverside.</p> <p>5. The park is intended as a recreational space, with a meandering path. Over time with the development of the overall Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan Area there will be additional circulation routes to accommodate more direct movement of pedestrians and cyclists. As the pathway meanders, it is intended for the slower movement of people rather than commuter use. The park should be considered as an all-inclusive space with no one user receiving priority over another</p> <p>6. See response to item 2 above. The width of the street will be considered at the time of the detailed design of the street.</p> <p>7. As outlined in the public consultation documents, it is proposed that the “...existing marginal planting” along the river bank “...will be retained and reinforced with native riparian planting” This will assist in maintaining the ecological corridor along the river bank.</p> <p>It is proposed to remove the existing poplar trees. These trees were planted as a means of screening the brewery buildings. As per the tree survey, a number of the trees need to be removed immediately due to the presence of decay. As stated in the tree survey report “<i>The knock on effect of the removal of these trees will be that the further opening up of the line of trees will lead to full or partial failure of remaining trees</i>” It is further noted that a number of the trees fell over the course of this winter. For these reasons it is recommended to proceed with the removal of these trees as proposed.</p> <p>8. The location of the skate park, in the area to the south of the Central Access Scheme, has been chosen as it will be a very visible site, offering passive surveillance from the adjoining Central Access Scheme. In addition, the proposed riverside pathway will pass directly beside the skate park, providing further passive surveillance of the area. Public lighting will also be provided in the area.</p> <p>It is noted that in a recent presentation to Kilkenny County Council by Urban Sports Kilkenny (set up to develop and support skating in Kilkenny) they stated that they “...would like to officially endorse the proposed location for the skate park as located in plans for the new phase of the linear park”, noting that “...the proposed skate park is in a central location which will have a significant positive effect on the usage of the amenity” They further note that “...the safety of users is paramount. It would appear that the proposed park is situated next to a path that leads under the CAS Bridge. Ensuring both passive surveillance and overnight security of the park would have to be an integral part of the design”</p> <p>As noted in the public consultation documents, “...liaising with local skating community will form part of the detail design” for the skate park.</p> <p>9. It is agreed that the proposed seating should be useable. The material of the seats will be considered in the detailed design of the scheme, giving consideration to expected lifespan of the product, maintenance requirements etc</p> <p>10. The area around the Abbey is outside the scope of proposed development outlined in this Part VIII public consultation. However, it is noted that the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan allows for the provision of an urban Park measuring approximately 1 hectare in the area surrounding the Abbey. This Urban Park, will be subject to a separate Part VIII public consultation process in due course, with the detailed design of this urban park to be informed by the archaeological excavation of the area and the preparation of a Heritage Conservation Plan for the Heritage structures in that area</p>
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Christopher O'Keefe

1. Part of a larger development which requires an EIS
2. Archaeology must be done first before work on the park starts.
3. Swans spot must be kept wild and exactly as it is
4. Extra green space needed between the Abbey and the Brewhouse
5. Skate park should go somewhere safer and more visible than under the bridge
6. Park should be wider
7. Cycle path is less than the national recommendation
8. Cycle lane runs into bus stop – dangerous
9. Park is too close to the proposed road to be

1. The overall Masterplan for the development of the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan has been subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The provision of the riverside Garden project is consistent with the provisions of the Masterplan and has taken into consideration the requirements of the SEA.
2. Agreed. As per the public consultation documents it is proposed that “..... *test excavation will establish the possible below ground presence of archaeological features....*” and “.....*a programme of test excavation will be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist under license to the National Monuments Service of the Dept. of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht*”
3. As outlined in the public consultation documents, it is proposed that the “.....*existing marginal planting*” along the river bank “.....*will be retained and reinforced with native riparian planting*” This will assist in maintaining the ecological corridor along the river bank.

The details of additional planting in these areas will be agreed with a suitably qualified ecologist. The planting of tall grasses such as pendulous sedge along with upper bankside scrub will discourage public access from these areas. Should additional measures be required these will be agreed with the relevant expert authorities.
4. The area between the Brewhouse and the Abbey is outside the scope of proposed development outlined in this Part VIII public consultation. However, it is noted that the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan allows for the provision of an urban Park measuring approximately 1 hectare in the area surrounding the Abbey. This Urban Park, will be subject to a separate Part VIII public consultation process in due course, with the detailed design of this urban park to be informed by the archaeological excavation of the area and the preparation of a Heritage Conservation Plan for the Heritage structures in that area.
5. The location of the skate park, in the area to the south of the Central Access Scheme, has been chosen as it will be a very visible site, offering passive surveillance from the adjoining Central Access Scheme. In addition, the proposed riverside pathway will pass directly beside the skate park, providing further passive surveillance of the area. Public lighting will also be provided in the area.

It is noted that in a recent presentation to Kilkenny County Council by Urban Sports Kilkenny (set up to develop and support skating in Kilkenny) they stated that they “...*would like to officially endorse the proposed location for the skate park as located in plans for the new phase of the linear park*”, noting that “.....*the proposed skate park is in a central location which will have a significant positive effect on the usage of the amenity*” They further note that “...*the safety of users is paramount. It would appear that the proposed park is situated next to a path that leads under the CAS Bridge. Ensuring both passive surveillance and overnight security of the park would have to be an integral part of the design*”

As noted in the public consultation documents, “...*liaising with local skating community will form part of the detail design*” for the skate park.
6. The proposed Riverside Garden / Linear Park is an extension / continuation of the existing linear park through the city centre. The average width of the proposed park from the top of the riverbank is approx. 15m wide. This width is in keeping with the linear park in other areas of the City Centre. (see Appendix D for comparison). It is further noted that the proposed riverside park leads to the proposed urban park around St Francis Abbey, which will measure approx. 1 hectare in area. This is a very significantly sized park area in the context of its City Centre location and will provide an appropriate setting for the National Monuments located in that area. (subject to separate Part VIII public consultation)
7. The proposed width of 3m is in line with the requirements of the National Cycle Manual.
8. Noted – the detailed design of this area needs to consider the issue of the bus stop.
9. It is unclear from the submission which “*proposed road*” is being referred

<p>safe for use as a park</p> <p>10. Garden should be less structured, less formal, have less concrete, be more natural</p> <p>11. Modification of riverbank is inappropriate</p>	<p>to.</p> <p>The park will cross under the Central Access Scheme (CAS), which is currently under construction. As the park and the CAS are grade separated, there is no conflict between road users and park users. Thus, a safety issue does not arise.</p> <p>The park will use the existing bridge in the former Brewery site to cross over the River Breagagh. This bridge will also be used by the proposed Urban street through the former Brewery site as proposed in the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan. As per the provisions of the Kilkenny City & environs development Plan 2014-2020, it is proposed that this street will be of "....pedestrian and cyclist priority...." with "....traffic management measures on the street such as to inhibit the flow of through traffic and heavy goods vehicles" As the proposed urban street will be of pedestrian and cyclist priority, it is not envisaged that a safety issue will arise at this interface between the street and the park, however this issue will need to be considered in the design of the urban street.</p> <p>Consideration could be given at a later date to the provision of a separate pedestrian bridge crossing of the River Breagagh. This could only be considered once the archaeology of the area around Evans Turret and the City Walls has been resolved and in the context of the Heritage Conservation Plan to be prepared for these structures.</p> <p>10. The park has been designed to create a number of interesting and varied spaces along the length of the park.. In the area from the tea houses at Bateman Quay to the area of St Francis' well, a distance of approx. 150m, the retention and reinforcement of the riparian planting along the riverbank will provide a natural and informal riverside boundary to the park. However, the overall structure of the park through this area needs to be more formal to allow it to integrate with the proposed adjoining buildings, as provided for in the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan.</p> <p>In the area to the north of the Central Access Scheme, the garden will be less formal with the provision of a gravel pathway, grassed areas and riparian planting along the riverside.</p> <p>11. As outlined in the public consultation documents, it is proposed that the "....existing marginal planting" along the river bank "....will be retained and reinforced with native riparian planting" This will assist in maintaining the ecological corridor along the river bank.</p>
<p>Claire Molloy</p> <p>1. Archaeology must be done before any work on the park starts.</p> <p>2. Swans spot must be kept wild and exactly as is.</p> <p>3. Extra green space is needed between the Abbey and the Brewhouse.</p> <p>4. Skatepark should go somewhere safer and more visible than under the bridge.</p>	<p>1. Agreed. As per the public consultation documents it is proposed that ".... test excavation will establish the possible below ground presence of archaeological features...." and "....a programme of test excavation will be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist under license to the National Monuments Service of the Dept. of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht"</p> <p>2. As outlined in the public consultation documents, it is proposed that the "....existing marginal planting" along the river bank "....will be retained and reinforced with native riparian planting" This will assist in maintaining the ecological corridor along the river bank.</p> <p>The details of additional planting in these areas will be agreed with a suitably qualified ecologist. The planting of tall grasses such as pendulous sedge along with upper bankside scrub will discourage public access from these areas. Should additional measures be required these will be agreed with the relevant expert authorities.</p> <p>3. The area between the Brewhouse and the Abbey is outside the scope of proposed development outlined in this Part VIII public consultation. However, it is noted that the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan allows for the provision of an urban Park measuring approximately 1 hectare in the area surrounding the Abbey. This Urban Park, will be subject to a separate Part VIII public consultation process in due course, with the detailed design of this urban park to be informed by the archaeological excavation of the area and the preparation of a Heritage Conservation Plan for the Heritage structures in that area.</p> <p>4. The location of the skate park, in the area to the south of the Central Access Scheme, has been chosen as it will be a very visible site, offering passive surveillance from the adjoining Central Access Scheme. In addition, the proposed riverside pathway will pass directly beside the skate park, providing further passive surveillance of the area. Public</p>

<p>5. Park should be wider than suggested.</p> <p>6. Garden should be less structured, less formal, have less concrete and be more natural.</p>	<p>lighting will also be provided in the area.</p> <p>It is noted that in a recent presentation to Kilkenny County Council by Urban Sports Kilkenny (set up to develop and support skating in Kilkenny) they stated that they “...would like to officially endorse the proposed location for the skate park as located in plans for the new phase of the linear park”, noting that “...the proposed skate park is in a central location which will have a significant positive effect on the usage of the amenity” They further note that “...the safety of users is paramount. It would appear that the proposed park is situated next to a path that leads under the CAS Bridge. Ensuring both passive surveillance and overnight security of the park would have to be an integral part of the design”</p> <p>As noted in the public consultation documents, “...liaising with local skating community will form part of the detail design” for the skate park.</p> <p>5. The proposed Riverside Garden / Linear Park is an extension / continuation of the existing linear park through the city centre. The average width of the proposed park from the top of the riverbank is approx. 15m wide. This width is in keeping with the linear park in other areas of the City Centre. (see Appendix D for comparison). It is further noted that the proposed riverside park leads to the proposed urban park around St Francis Abbey, which will measure approx. 1 hectare in area. This is a very significantly sized park area in the context of its City Centre location and will provide an appropriate setting for the National Monuments located in that area. (subject to separate Part VIII public consultation)</p> <p>6. The park has been designed to create a number of interesting and varied spaces along the length of the park.. In the area from the tea houses at Bateman Quay to the area of St Francis’ well, a distance of approx. 150m, the retention and reinforcement of the riparian planting along the riverbank will provide a natural and informal riverside boundary to the park. However, the overall structure of the park through this area needs to be more formal to allow it to integrate with the proposed adjoining buildings, as provided for in the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan.</p> <p>In the area to the north of the Central Access Scheme, the garden will be less formal with the provision of a gravel pathway, grassed areas and riparian planting along the riverside.</p>
<p>Paddy O’Ceallaigh</p> <p>1. Asks the Council to indicate whether an appropriate assessment is required.</p> <p>2. Asks Council why a full EIS is not required for the defunct Brewery site in total.</p> <p>3. Submits that these works in their scope and methodology and scope will further bury known archaeological remains.</p> <p>4. Riverside garden that offered views of ‘living archaeology digs’ would be a huge draw for locals and tourists</p> <p>5. Suggests that the wild riparian riverbank between the old tea house and the breaghagh be preserved.</p> <p>6. Submit that KCC enforces against the contractor who damaged the River Nore during KCAS phase 1 in stream works.</p> <p>7. Submit that damage that was indicated in Oct 2014 Ecofact report be remediated.</p>	<p>1. An Appropriate Assessment Screening was undertaken for the proposed development, which concluded that significant impacts can be ruled out.</p> <p>2. The Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan has been subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment.</p> <p>2. As per the public consultation documents it is proposed that “..... test excavation will establish the possible below ground presence of archaeological features....” and “.....a programme of test excavation will be undertaken by a qualified archaeologist under license to the National Monuments Service of the Dept. of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht”</p> <p>These test excavations are “...proposed to further inform the design process and add to the information that has been gathered to date from documentary and cartographic sources” The presentation and interpretation of below ground archaeological features will be considered in the final design, in consultation with the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht” .</p> <p>4. Agreed. It is intended that the provision of the park as proposed will facilitate public access to the proposed archaeological excavations in the area of St Francis’ well, the city walls, Evans Turrett and St Francis Abbey.</p> <p>5. As outlined in the public consultation documents, it is proposed that the “...existing marginal planting” along the river bank “...will be retained and reinforced with native riparian planting” This will assist in maintaining the ecological corridor along the river bank.</p> <p>6. This is outside the scope of the proposed development.</p> <p>7. This is outside the scope of the proposed development.</p>

<p>8. Submit that where possible native and locally sourced materials be used.</p> <p>9. Strip of land envisaged seems very narrow and too close to a proposed road.</p>	<p>8. Agreed – subject to compliance with the requirements of procurement legislation.</p> <p>9. The proposed Riverside Garden / Linear Park is an extension / continuation of the existing linear park through the city centre. The average width of the proposed park from the top of the riverbank is approx. 15m wide. This width is in keeping with the linear park in other areas of the City Centre. (see Appendix D for comparison). It is further noted that the proposed riverside park leads to the proposed urban park around St Francis Abbey, which will measure approx. 1 hectare in area. This is a very significantly sized park area in the context of its City Centre location and will provide an appropriate setting for the National Monuments located in that area. (subject to separate Part VIII public consultation)</p> <p>It is unclear from the submission which “<i>proposed road</i>” is being referred to.</p> <p>The park will cross under the Central Access Scheme (CAS), which is currently under construction. As the park and the CAS are grade separated, there is no conflict between road users and park users. Thus, a safety issue does not arise.</p> <p>The park will use the existing bridge in the former Brewery site to cross over the River Breagagh. This bridge will also be used by the proposed Urban street through the former Brewery site as proposed in the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan. As per the provisions of the Kilkenny City & environs development Plan 2014-2020, it is proposed that this street will be of “...<i>pedestrian and cyclist priority</i>...” with “...<i>traffic management measures on the street such as to inhibit the flow of through traffic and heavy goods vehicles</i>” As the proposed urban street will be of pedestrian and cyclist priority, it is not envisaged that a safety issue will arise at this interface between the street and the park, however this issue will need to be considered in the design of the urban street.</p>
<p>S.A. O'Brien</p> <p>1. Objects to the use of the Part VIII process to expedite the proposal.</p> <p>2. No EIA screening report provided showing the reasons with reference to Annex III of the EIA Directive why it was found that no EIA was deemed to be necessary.</p> <p>3. Objects to the meandering line of the pathway which would cause cyclists travelling at speed to change course in order to negotiate the bends.</p> <p>4. Planting should be well advanced in growth to create a feeling of a mature, well established setting. In recognition of the brewing history at the site suggests a selection of appropriate apple trees be integrated into the Diageo site.</p> <p>Believes that the installation of industrial brewing equipment will downgrade the built and natural heritage capital at this location. Suggests that there should be no sculptural elements of the brewing process placed as features in the vicinity of the SAC.</p>	<p>1. Part VIII of the Planning & development Regulations 2001-2015 set out the requirements in respect of specified development by, on behalf of, or in partnership with local authorities. The proposed development is consistent with the provisions of these regulations and thus it is appropriate that Kilkenny County council comply with the requirements of Part VIII of these regulations.</p> <p>2. The proposed development is sub threshold for the EIA requirements as set out in Schedule 5 “<i>Development for the purposes of Part 10</i>” of the Planning & development Regulations 2001-2015.</p> <p>Kilkenny County Council considers that the likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development can be ruled out in this instance. In light of the submission received, Kilkenny County Council has re-considered this issue in detail – this has reaffirmed the original view that the likelihood of significant effects on the environment can be excluded in this case.</p> <p>3. The park is intended as a recreational space, with a meandering path. It is not intended that there would be any cyclists “...<i>travelling at speed</i>...” as suggested. Over time with the development of the overall Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan Area there will be additional circulation routes to accommodate more direct movement of pedestrians and cyclists. As the pathway meanders, it is intended for the slower movement of people rather than commuter use. The park should be considered as an all-inclusive space with no one user receiving priority over another</p> <p>4. The selection and specification of suitably sized trees will be considered in the preparation of the detailed design for the project.</p> <p>The suggested use of apple trees will be considered in the detailed planting design, particularly give that historically such planting would have been present in the area – as outlined in Section 7.5 of the Archaeological Impact assessment “...<i>consideration should be given to the redevelopment of orchards and planting regimes that include vegetables and herbs</i>...”</p> <p>The concerns highlighted in the submission are noted. The use of some</p>

<p>5. Suggests that Information signs be provided to highlight the full extent of the variety of life forms that the River Nore supports including the Hard Freshwater Pearl, Kingfisher, Salmon, otters etc.</p> <p>6. Objects to the proposed metal gateway arch in the absence of a photograph of a specific proposal for same – suggests that public would be well able to find their way into garden without the need for this elaborate over dramatised eyesore (referring to photo in Figure 14 of the Design statement)</p> <p>7. The development of the brewery site is being divided down into individual smaller sites. It is not acceptable to have the cumulative impact of individual projects within the site avoid EIA .</p>	<p>elements of brewery equipment as sculpture in the park is intended to reflect the recent brewing history of the site . Such elements will need to be sensitively incorporated into the park, with suitable soft landscaping to respect the natural heritage of the area.</p> <p>5. There is merit in the suggestion that information signs be incorporated into the park layout. Such signs should be considered in the detailed design of the park, with the text of any such signage to be agreed with the Heritage Officer and the National Parks & wildlife Service.</p> <p>6. It is proposed that the metal archway will be incorporated into the existing stone wall at this location, noting that it is proposed to extend the stone wall towards the top of the riverbank.</p> <p>7. The proposed development of the overall brewery site has been outlined in the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan. This Masterplan has been subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment. The proposed Riverside Garden project is consistent with the provisions of the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan.</p>

In addition, the following submissions were received from internal departments within Kilkenny County Council.

(note the Senior Planners report is included separately in Appendix A

<p>Kilkenny County Council Conservation Officer</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notes the care and attention paid in the archaeology report to the outline documentation and understanding the historical/social/architectural significance and evolution over time of the rich built heritage which survives in the area of the proposed development. 2. Notes that proposals for built heritage are very much at an outline stage and protected structure legislation does not allow for the granting of outline planning permission. Has no objection to Part VIII on condition that any future proposals to the protected structures/national monuments along its route are considered under separate future Part VIII submissions. Any future part VIII proposals for works to upstanding historical remains/structures should be accompanied by an Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment. 3. Questions if the restoration / conservation of Greens Bridge has been considered as its presence will have a big contribution to make to the setting of the park and views from the park of the river. 4. Questions if the impact on historic structures of raising the site levels by 1.2m has been considered. 5. Highlights that the proposed levels in the area of the northernmost teahouse should be considered in the context of future access to the structure. Similar issues will arise for Evans Turret and Wall walk and for the buildings to the north of the Breagagh. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted 2. The area of the National Monuments within the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan is specifically excluded from this development proposal. Variation no. 1 to the Kilkenny City & Environs Development Plan 2014-2020 includes an objective “.....To prepare a Heritage Conservation Plan for St. Francis Abbey, Evans’ Turret and St. Francis’ Well in the context of the existing City Wall conservation plan in conjunction with the Heritage Council, the Office of Public Works, the National Monuments Service, the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and other relevant stakeholders....” As a result, this area, Highlighted in grey on the scheme drawings, and labelled as an “area to undergo archaeological investigation which will inform the proposed design for the space” has been omitted from the current Part VIII proposals pending the preparation of the Heritage Conservation Plan. The permanent design of the park in this area will be subject to a future Part VIII public consultation. 3. The conservation and restoration of Greens Bridge is outside the scope of this project. However, proposals for such works are to be developed by Kilkenny Co. Co. as a separate project. Greens Bridge will be a very important feature along the proposed park development, with the park offering views of this historic and impressive structure. 4. The site specific flood risk assessment for the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan recommended floor levels for the proposed buildings within the Masterplan area to ensure that they would not flood for a in in 1,000 year flood event. It should be noted that the current top of riverbank levels to the south of the River Breagagh are set above the 1 in 100 year flood level following the construction of the Kilkenny City flood Relief Scheme. There will be some raising up of site levels to integrate the park with the proposed new building floor levels to the south of the River Breagagh. The existing top of river bank levels will be maintained to ensure that the proposed works will not impact on the riverbank. The proposed park will slope gently away from the top of river bank level. Some of the required raising of ground levels will be accommodated within raised planted or grassed beds in the park. The design documents state that the park levels will be raised by “<u>up to</u> 1.2m” This is the maximum rise in level above the existing top of riverbank level. Whilst the area of St Francis Abbey, the city walls, Evans turret and St Francis Well are excluded from this project, it is expected that future design ground levels in this area will be similar to existing ground levels in these areas (subject to the findings of archaeological investigations in this area) Ground levels and the impact of same on the historic structure in this area will be considered in the preparation of the Heritage Conservation Plan for these structures. Ground levels in the area to the north of the river Breagagh will be similar to existing ground levels. 5. Noted – this will be reviewed and considered in the detailed design of the area.
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<p>Recommends no objection to the proposed development subject to condition.</p>	
<p>Kilkenny County Council Heritage Officer</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The section of the River Breagagh, from the Watergate to the River Nore should be incorporated into the Proposed Riverside garden Project. 2. Welcomes the inclusion of native tree and native “ornamental” plant species in the landscape plan but recommends that a wider palette of native herbaceous and shrubby species be included. Recommends that landscape design should incorporate a higher proportion of native plants (which flower at different times of the year – list provided) and non native but pollinator friendly species be considered. 3. Native plants should be of local provenance where possible (refer to objective 3F of the Kilkenny City & Environs Development Plan) 4. Recommends that species snowberry “Symphoricarpos alba” in not included in the planting proposal as it is included on the amber list of invasive species. Recommends that best practice measures are put in place to ensure that the potential for introduction and spread of invasive species is minimised / negated. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The area of the river Breagagh is within the archaeologically sensitive area which is currently outside the scope of this project pending the archaeological investigation of the area and the preparation of a Heritage Conservation Plan for the area. The detailed design of this area will be considered once these investigations and the Conservation Plan have been agreed. 2. These issues will be considered in the preparation of the detailed planting programme for the development. 3. Noted and agreed (subject to procurement legislation requirements). 4. Noted and agreed
<p>Kilkenny County Council Accessibility Officer</p> <p>“Overall view is that the current design provides great scope for achieving a riverside garden which is truly accessible throughout, thereby offering equitable access and use.”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consultation required with Access Officer in relation to choices for various elements of the detailed design including paving surfaces, litter bins, furniture, drainage gratings, manhole covers etc 2. Recommends review of stepped access to the first tea House to ensure compliance with Part M of the Building regulations. 3. Recommends further consultation with the Access officer in relation to the integration of the second tea house into the overall design 4. Review proposed gradient at Greens Bridge entrance to the Park. 5. Recommends provision of Seating in the area of the slipway and the skate park. 6. Recommends that all seating be set back from the pathway / circulation route 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted and agreed. 2. Noted – to be reviewed in detailed design 3. Noted – to be reviewed in detailed design 4. Noted – to be reviewed in detailed design 5. Noted – to be reviewed in detailed design 6. Noted – to be reviewed in detailed design

Appendix A

Senior Planners Report

Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh

Kilkenny County Council

Part 8 Planning Report



Planning & Development Act 2000-2015 Planning & Development Regulations, 2001 - 2015

Part VIII – Riverside Garden Project

Development: The development of a Riverside Garden/Linear Park along the Western Bank of the River Nore in the Townland of Gardens, Kilkenny, from Bateman Quay, through the former Smithwicks site to Green's bridge.

1. The Subject Site

The proposed works are for the Riverside Garden Project along the Western bank of the river Nore stretching from Bateman Quay, through the former Smithwicks brewery site to Greens Bridge.

2. Proposed Development

The proposed development of the Riverside Garden will include :

- Removal of the existing concrete slab.
- Raising of the existing ground levels.
- Provision of a 3m wide shared pedestrian / cycle way, that will meander through the Garden.
- Retention and reinforcement of the existing riparian planting along the river bank,
- Removal of the existing non-native Poplar Trees along the top of the River Bank.
- Provision of new trees (native species)
- Provision of paved pocket spaces.
- Provision of ornamental planted areas and grassed lawns.
- Provision of seating areas.
- Provision of walkway lighting.
- Installation of various elements of brewing equipment as features to reflect the past history of the site.
- Entrance 'Gateway' Structure in the area adjoining Bateman Quay.
- Retention of the existing boat slip.
- Provision of a Skate Park area.

- Archaeological excavation of areas where historic mapping has indicated the potential for buried structures. Any newly revealed archaeological features will be appropriately displayed.
- Provision of a temporary walkway through the area around St Francis Abbey and the City Walls/Evans Turret, pending future archaeological excavations.

3. Screening for Appropriate Assessment

The project site is located adjacent to the River Nore and the River Breagagh, which are designated as part of the River Barrow and River Nore Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (Site Code: 002162) and River Nore Special Protection Area (SPA) (Site Code: 004233).

As the proposed development is located adjacent to the River Nore/River Barrow Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the River Nore Special Protection Area (SPA), the proposed works were screened for potential to significantly impact on the conservation objectives of the abovementioned Natura 2000 sites. It was concluded that there is no anticipated impact on these sites and phase 2 Natura Impact Statement is therefore not required.

4. Kilkenny City and Environs Development Plan 2014-2020 and Masterplan:

(i) Objectives:

The Masterplan for the Brewery site was adopted on the 31st of July 2015 and includes the proposed Linear Park as an objective.

Objective 6B – It is an objective to complete the River Nore Linear Park within the lifetime of the plan.

(ii) Zoning

The site is zoned “General Business”, the objective of which is ‘*to provide for general development*’. In accordance with Section 9.4.5 of the City & Environs Development Plan, permitted uses in an area zoned “General Business” include dwellings, retailing, offices, public places and places of assembly, cultural or educational buildings etc. The proposal is for a range of uses including education, research & development and/or office. I consider that the proposed riverside garden is compatible with all these uses and the current zoning.

(iii) Conservation

The proposed Riverside Garden is located within the City Centre Architectural Conservation Area as set out in the Kilkenny City & Environs Development Plan 2014-2020. There are a number of protected structures located within the site, namely the Woollen Mills and the Pleasure House (Tea House) and the site adjoins Greens Bridge, also a protected structure.

The Tea Houses and Woollen Mills are the only protected structures within the current phase of the development. Green’s Bridge is the termination point of the development as proposed under this application, with the Abbey and Evan’s Turret both being within close proximity but not subjected to disturbance under this first phase of development. It is considered that the proposed garden will enhance the setting of all of these structures and hence will benefit the preservation and heritage value of same.

(iv) Archaeology

The site is located within the Zone of Notification of recorded monuments.

Objective 7H is to 'protect and enhance archaeological sites, monuments (including their setting), underwater archaeology, including those that are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places, and in the Urban Archaeological Survey of County Kilkenny or newly discovered sub-surface archaeological remains'.

It is also located within a zone of Archaeological Potential (KK019-026 'City'). The site is in close proximity to St Francis Abbey, Evans Turret and the City Walls, which are National Monuments.

An Archaeological Impact Assessment was undertaken by Courtney Deery. The proposed works will take place on a phased basis allowing archaeological testing and excavation as part of the process to inform the future design of the garden. To this end a comprehensive method statement has to be drafted. The archaeological report was based on published and unpublished examinations and recommends that an archaeological investigation takes place within the National Monument Area and throughout areas that require test excavation so as to inform the future design of the garden. As such, archaeological investigation will take place after demolition works have been completed.

The development has been divided into two phases, the first being the subject of this Part VIII application. The second phase will follow once the archaeological excavations and assessments have been completed and will form the subject of a separate Part VIII application.

4. Assessment

The proposed development would firstly comprise of the removal of a strip of concrete slab, approximately 15m in width, that covers most of the brewery site and which formed the base of the brewery buildings along the river bank (now in process of being demolished). The proposal is for this 15m wide strip along the river to be landscaped so as to create a the riverside walk along the entire frontage of the Brewery site (with the exception of the area to be archeologically tested), extending past the proposed new Central Access Scheme Bridge and down to Greens Bridge where the current proposal will terminate.

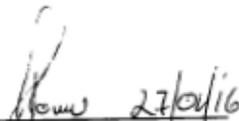
As this assessment focuses on the principle and context of the garden it does not include an appraisal of the design which is a function of the Parks section. The existing tea houses will mark the entrance to the site from Bateman Quay. The proposed walkway will commence to the South East of the first teahouse from Bateman Quay and at this stage will feature natural stone paving. As the path reaches the line of the exiting brewery site wall, it meets a structural steel gateway whereafter it starts to meander. At this point the footpath finish will change to concrete. The meandering footpath then turns to a pocket paved space from where it continues to meander past proposed brewery artefacts until it terminates in a grove of trees where phase 2 archaeological studies have to be completed. A temporary walkway is proposed to continue further around St. Francis Abbey and the City Walls and past the area subject to archaeological excavations until it meets up with the park again on the Central Access Scheme (CAS) side of the brewery bridge across the River Breagagh. From this point the footpath will be finished in natural stone but changes to gravel or equivalent where it provides access to the skate park proposed between the river Breagagh and the Central Access Scheme Street. From here the gravel footpath will continue under the CAS Bridge, past the proposed boat slip and old mill and on to Green Street where it will link up with the exiting walkway continuing further towards Bishopsmeadows. Lighting columns are proposed along the full length of phase one.

In terms of the principle of the proposed riverside garden, the Planning Authority is satisfied that the proposed linear garden/park complies with the objectives of the Development Plan and the Abbey Quarter Master Plan. Questions do however arise related to the phasing of the garden which may need to be addressed from an operational point of view include pedestrian access arrangements around the area of the archaeological dig, the detailed layout of the skatepark and the matter of the interface with future buildings along the garden.

Conclusion and Recommendation.

The Planning Authority considers that the proposed development is consistent with proper planning and sustainable development of the area and recommends that the Part VIII be agreed subject to the following:

- **A comprehensive archaeological construction method statement has to be agreed.**
- **The detailed design of the skatepark is agreed with the relevant stakeholders prior to its installation.**
- **That any design changes that occur as a result of the archaeological investigation are agreed with the Planning Department**


Nicolaas Louw
Senior Executive Planner


Denis Malone
Senior Planner


A.M Walsh
Senior Executive Officer

Appendix B

Submissions Received (external)



An Roinn
Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta

Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Planning Ref: **Part 8 Riverside Garden**
(Please quote in all related correspondence)

22 December 2015

Director of Services - Planning
Kilkenny County Council
County Hall
John Street Lower
Kilkenny
R95 A39T

Via email to planning@kilkennycoco.ie

Re: Notification to the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht under Article 28 (Part 4) or Article 82 (Part 8) of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended.

Proposed Development: Part 8 application for proposed development of a riverside garden along the western bank of the River Nore through the former Smithwicks Brewery Site, Kilkenny

A chara

On behalf of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, I refer to correspondence received in relation to the above. Outlined below are heritage-related observations/recommendations of the Department under the stated heading(s).

Archaeology

It is noted that the proposed development is located adjacent to National Monument 72, St Francis Abbey, Kilkenny. The National Monument is in the ownership of the Minister and is subject to statutory protection under the National Monument Acts 1930 to 2004. The proposed linear park incorporates Evans Tower and associated City Wall (Area 2 as identified in the Part 8 proposal) which form part of the above National Monument area. The development site is located within the confines of Recorded Monument KK019-026 *city*, which is subject to statutory protection in the Record of Monuments and Places, established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994.

An archaeological assessment report prepared by Courtney Deery Archaeological and Heritage Consultancy has been included in the Part 8 submission. The main features of the proposed development have been listed by Kilkenny County Council in the project description and include the following:

1. Removal of the existing concrete slab.
2. Raising of existing ground levels.
3. Provision of a 3m wide shared pedestrian/cycle way.
4. Retention and reinforcement of the existing riparian planting along the river bank.
5. Removal of the existing non-native Poplar Trees along the top of the River Bank.
6. Provision of new trees (native species).
7. Provision of paved pocket spaces.
8. Provision of ornamental planted areas and grassed lawns.

9. Provision of seating areas.
10. Provision of walkway lighting.
11. Installation of various elements of brewing equipment as features to reflect the past history of the site.
12. Entrance 'Gateway' Structure in the area adjoining Bateman Quay.
13. Retention of the existing boat slip.
14. Provision of a Skate Park area.
15. Archaeological excavation of areas where historic mapping has indicated the potential for buried structures. Any newly revealed archaeological features will be appropriately displayed.
16. Provision of a temporary walkway through the area around St. Francis Abbey and the City Walls/Evans Turret, pending future archaeological excavations.

The archaeological assessment examines the potential impact of the proposed development on the archaeological heritage located within the confines and vicinity of the proposed linear park. We concur with the proposed archaeological mitigation strategy outlined in the archaeological assessment report. The Department agrees that it is imperative that a programme of archaeological testing be carried out in the areas of proposed groundworks at the earliest possible stage in the development process and the results shall inform and influence the final design details. The potential to display/present, incorporate and interpret any newly revealed archaeological features into the final detailed design plans for the linear park shall be assessed and agreed in consultation with the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

In this regard, it was suggested at the meeting with Kilkenny County Council on 07/10/2015 that the proposed detailed design and layout for the 'Gateway' feature located at the southern end of the park should consider the previous archaeological findings in this area. The remains of a 17th/18th century quay wall were excavated in this area on Bateman Quay (Licence 01E554) and there is potential to interpret and present this information when considering the final design plans for this area.

The programme of archaeological testing shall proceed on site following the completion of demolition works, stabilisation and conservation works (existing Ministerial Consent C607 granted to Diageo) and once Kilkenny County Council has taken ownership of the site. Archaeological testing in the vicinity of the National Monuments shall require Section 14 Ministerial Consent under the National Monuments Act 1930 (as amended). All other archaeological testing shall be carried out licensed under the National Monuments Acts 1930-1994. The National Monuments Service shall be consulted in this regard in advance of the submission of any such applications to carry out archaeological investigative works.

Detailed plans/drawings for the provision of a temporary walkway through the area around St. Francis Abbey, St. Francis' Well and the City Walls/Evans Turret shall be prepared and finalised in consultation with the archaeological consultant and the heritage authorities. It is understood that a separate Part 8 proposal will be submitted for works in this area (including Detail Area 2 as shown in the current Part 8) at a later date and will require the preparation of a Conservation Plan but it is imperative that the potential impact of the proposed 'temporary' arrangement for this area, as proposed in the current Part 8, is also fully assessed and appropriate mitigatory measures agreed with the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in advance of site works.

The archaeological assessment report prepared following the completion of archaeological testing on site shall include proposals relating to the interpretation, presentation and protection of the National Monuments within the confines and vicinity of the Linear Park including Evans Tower, City Wall, St. Francis' Well and St. Francis Abbey. The report shall also include proposed mitigatory measures including further testing, excavation, monitoring and/or preservation in-situ as appropriate, for discussion and agreement with the heritage authorities. The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht will comment with regard to any further archaeological requirements following receipt of this report.

Architectural Heritage

This proposed development was discussed at pre-planning stage with the Department. A number of items require to be more fully described, particularly the element of the site identified as Detail Area 2 on the site layout, comprising the lands at and near the upstanding part of the city wall and mural tower. The development is to be undertaken in two phases, with the above area omitted from the design detail at present. This is to allow targeted archaeological investigation when the Council is handed the site by Diageo.

The Part 8 process for local authority own development does not contain a mechanism for further public consultation in respect of a two-phase development; nor does the process explicitly allow for conditions to be attached. In this case there will be a need to further describe the proposed finished design for Detail Area 2 when the investigations are complete and interpretation has been made of the findings, which will inform the final landscaping design. The Department recommends that the planning authority commit itself, in the notice pursuant to Article 84 (2) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), to publicly advertising the final design and making available the documents, such as archaeological reports, that inform this design, prior to commencing work on this area.

There is to be a temporary 2.4m high timber hoarding along the western boundary of the site. Reference is made to colourful story boards or similar but no detail is included in the material forwarded to the Department. The text of such boards and the design in general should be agreed with the architectural conservation officer of the local authority.

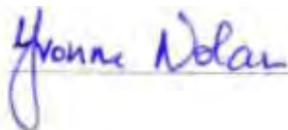
Mention is made in the archaeological report of removal of overgrowth at the protected ruined mill building downriver of Greensbridge and of clarification being required on the stability of the structure (paragraph 8.17). Any proposal for works to this structure (or affecting it) should be agreed with the architectural conservation officer of the local authority. Any proposals that would affect its character should be subject to a further grant of planning permission.

The landscaping plan does not identify any of the brewery artefacts that might be incorporated, and it is understood by the Department from the meeting held on 7.10.15 that they are presently in the possession of the demolition contractor. It would be useful to confirm that the demolition contractor is willing to have all such artefacts viewed and to hand over those which the planning authority would like to obtain for the park.

You are requested to send further communications to Development Applications Unit (DAU) via **eReferral**, where used, or to manager.dau@ahq.gov.ie; if emailing is not possible, correspondence may alternatively be sent to:

The Manager
Development Applications Unit
Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

Is mise, le meas



Yvonne Nolan
Development Applications Unit
Tel: 053-911 7382

Proposal for Submission:

Abbey Quarter Riverside Garden Part VIII Consultation

The clubs and organisations signed below, welcome the proposed development of a Riverside Garden and the extension of the Linear Park, along the western bank of the River Nore. This will provide access to a riverside recreational public space and increase the attractiveness and aesthetics of the river in the heart of Kilkenny city.

The opening up of the previously inaccessible area of the Brewery Site and access to the three National Monuments; St Francis Abbey, the city Walls and Evans Turret, is also welcome.

The river has been utilised for recreation and training by canoe clubs, Water Safety, Civil Defence, Fire Services, Sub Aqua Clubs and Triathlon Clubs. The use has been growing rapidly over the last few years, with the increase in popularity of open water swimming and other water based sports.

These groups together with Kilkenny Recreation and Sports Partnership have come together to work towards ensuring ongoing access to the river in the city and establishing facilities for water users.

A prominent, permanent and well-designed base will facilitate continued use by the groups identified below and allow for further growth in the numbers using the river and the various activities on the river.

Potentially, this could also become the most important access point on the proposed River Nore Blueway, an important link in the development of outdoor tourism for the Kilkenny region.

The following elements would need to be incorporated into future plans to ensure the benefits of the river could be maximised in the heart of the city.

Access

The slipway at Greens Bridge would need to be reinstalled to accommodate the launch of rescue boats and other recreational vessels. Water level and flow is ideal at this point to ensure safe use of the slipway by all users. The slipway should be designed in accordance with best practice and European standards and in line with national guidelines.

A dedicated route for emergency access is essential from this access point.

Parking is also required to accommodate emergency vehicles and trailers. E.g. jeep, trailer and rescue boats.

The slip currently being used under the castle is unsuitable from the point of access, security and parking.

Toilet / Shower and Changing Facilities

The groups involved have identified the need for Toilet/ Shower and Changing Facilities. A room and tea/coffee making facilities is also required for briefs and debriefs, in particular when rescue crews come off the water. This could also be used by clubs as a meeting space and training room.

Storage

Storage is required adjacent to the river for Canadian Canoes, Kayaks, water safety equipment, buoys, pontoons and access ramps. The storage area needs to be large enough to facilitate the groups equipment.

Pontoons / Water Polo Pitch

Pontoons would facilitate safe access for open water events such as Triathlons & Swims. A permanent canoe polo facility could easily be incorporated in this area also.

Options for Storage and Toilet/Shower and Changing Facilities

A preferred option for the location the Toilet/Shower and Changing Facilities would be to incorporate the facilities into the Brewery Site, currently identified for housing development. The possibility of locating these within the new housing development could be explored. This would be an ideal location for the storage of boats and other equipment for use in the river. Ideally, this facility would require the installation of a flood gate into the surrounding wall to allow direct access to the river, reducing the portage of equipment.

The option of a new purpose built building could be explored in the River Garden, close to the existing entrance on Green Street. This could incorporate storage and toilet/shower and changing facilities and a club room. This building could be designed to complement the river garden and the attractiveness of the new public park with the backdrop of Greens Bridge.

Potential for Greater Use

Currently, there are at least 2500 individual uses of the River Nore in the city in a year and this could be greatly increased if facilities were in place.

Leisure Tourist visits to Kilkenny, day trips, leisure boats and river tours

Triathlons and Open Water Swims

Kayaking Schools, Stand Up Paddleboarding, Rowing Clubs

Play boating and training at Greens Bridge weir, Dragon Boat Racing

Potential as a centre of excellence for a number of kayaking disciplines with deep, relatively calm water, illuminated by street light for night training and a competition venue for national canoe polo events.

Proposed Nore Valley Blueway

The Nore is a total of 140km long and is navigable by small vessels along its full length. The most popular access points for existing recreational river users are Kilkenny City, Bennettsbridge and Thomastown.

The Nore is one of the 3 sister rivers that flow into the sea at Waterford Harbour with The Barrow and The Suir. There are Blueway projects currently being developed on the Barrow and Suir which would complement a Blueway Development in the Nore Valley.

The proposed Blueway trail forms a linear network of trails from Bleach Road at the Northern end of Kilkenny City to Inistioge. The primary trail heads will be located in Kilkenny City, Bennettsbridge, Thomastown and Inistioge.

Trail 2 of the Proposed Blueway from Greens Bridge to Dukes Meadow is approximately 1.9km (40mins for recreational users) and could become the highlight of the Nore Valley Blueway offering a unique visitor experience by travelling through Kilkenny's heritage sites on the river, combined with a thrilling yet safe white-water experience, complimenting Kilkenny's current activities for visitors.

Potential for Future Developments

Chancellors Mill could potentially be restored and utilised to increase the attractiveness of the site to visitors. Possible options could include an interpretive centre on the trail head / tea/coffee rooms etc.

Interested Groups: Kilkenny Water Safety, Kilkenny Aqua Canoe Club, Thomastown Paddlers, Kilkenny Search and Recovery/Sub Aqua Club, Kilkenny Triathlon Club, Tri Grand Prix, Civil Defence, Kilkenny Recreation and Sports Partnership

Cover Letter

An Taisce welcomes the opportunity to offer some comments on the proposed design for the riverside garden.

Regards,

Mary T. Brennan (Hon Secretary, An Taisce, Kilkenny Association)

[General:](#)

Chapter:

[Introduction](#)

We welcome a garden to complete the development of the River Nore Linear Park. It is however unclear from the documentation provided what time scale is envisaged for completion of the phased development. It is desirable to have a walkway surrounded by floriferous lawn/meadow and to have trees established as soon as possible. The detailed provision of pocket gardens, paved areas, seats and industrial sculptures will work best when the garden is integrated with the greater Brewery site and no longer shielded off by boundary hoarding.

[Landscape Design](#)

Chapter:

[Landscape Design Statement](#)

We hope that the 'Entrance gateway structure' bears no resemblance to the image shown in Plate 14. If a metal frame is to be used we suggest it should be discretely embedded in the existing limestone wall at Bateman Quay. The Brewery site should blend seamlessly with the medieval city centre and not have 'statement' entrances. The LED lighting strip in the walkway at the entrance has no place in a medieval city. However there could be a distinctive paving at the entrance.

We have reservations about the 3 m route through the garden being used by cyclists. This route should primarily be for pedestrians and wheelchair users. Cyclists should be separated or required to dismount in the interests of safety and peaceful enjoyment by pedestrians who are being encouraged by the design to enjoy the planting, artworks and views. Cyclists will have access to the Brewery site through the proposed 'Street'.

Planting: We welcome the retention and reinforcement of the river bank planting. The commitment to the use of mainly native species is also desirable. For plants favoured by pollinators throughout the seasons the National Biodiversity Centre are proposing to put a list on their website in Springtime see www.biodiversityireland.ie. It is unfortunate that the narrowness of the park precludes large stately trees but some tall trees could be included if the lower branches are removed as they grow. Fruit trees and herbs would be a valued addition for wildlife.

Most planting would benefit from removal of the concrete slab. Consideration should be given to greening the CAS bridge with vertical climbers or attached plants, and to fitting bat boxes beneath the bridge under Bat Conservation Ireland guidance.

Paving Materials: It is proposed to use paving materials seen throughout Kilkenny City. We are concerned that this will include imported materials such as those used on the Parade. Use of some local fossil limestone paving would enhance the space.

[Archaeology](#)

Chapter:

[Archaeology Reports](#)

We welcome the proposal to have targeted test excavation works to inform the design process of the garden. Removal of the concrete slab would facilitate both planting and excavation works.

We also welcome the proposed provision of a temporary walkway through the central archaeological area so that the public can visually connect with the archaeological investigations.

We support the recommendations to stabilize, conserve and sensitively incorporate protected structures and archaeological monuments into the riverside garden e.g. the 'sentry style' Tea House, Evan's Tower, wall walk and the mill.

29th January 2015

Mr Simon Walton,
Acting Director of Services,
Kilkenny County Council,
County Buildings,
John Street,
KILKENNY.

ABBAY CREATIVE QUARTER – RIVERSIDE GARDENS PROJECT

PART 8, ARTICLE 81 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 2001-2015

Dear Mr Walton,

Thank you for your Councils' letter dated 18th November 2015 and enclosures inviting the submission of observations in relation to the above proposed development. Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) welcome proposals for development of linear parklands/river walks/riverside gardens particularly in urban areas as such developments significantly improve the amenity value of the river and riverside zone. It is essential that such developments protect and where possible enhance riparian habitat and in this regard, having examined the documentation forwarded, Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) has no objection to the development as proposed.

Noting the requirement for advance consultation by your contractors with us prior to the commencement of construction works and the obligation to comply with our requirements, I attach herewith a copy of IFI's Guidelines on Protection of Fisheries During Construction Works in and Adjacent to Waters. I would be obliged if you would ensure these are provided to contractor.

I wish to thank your Council for consulting with us.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this submission.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick Kilfeather

Patrick Kilfeather

Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer - Inland Fisheries Ireland – Clonmel

[Aine Hickey](#)

28.01.2016 - 7:55pm

Cover Letter

Please, please, please – watch this video on Junction Design in the Netherlands: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XpQMgbDJPok&list=PLB271D0D935C03800&index=22>

It's 5:09min long. If this doesn't inspire you to design better cycling infrastructure, nothing will!

I have looked over the plans for the riverside park and overall I'm impressed. I can see a lot of good work has gone into the planning and designs.

I am also a cyclist. I base my experience of living for many years in the Netherlands. And I can see some possible improvements with your design.

It is worth noting that there are no roads or parking spaces in the design, so encouraging people who will be living and working in the area to cycle is important. Otherwise all the surrounding roads will become full of parked cars.

It's also worth noting that we have an aging population. Good quality cycle tracks can be used by people with mobility scooter and electric bikes. The Kilkenny twenty years in the future will have a lot more pensioners than today.

South of the Breagath

Chapter:

Landscape Drawings

I think the park south of the Breagath should be considered a place mainly for pedestrians. Once the rest of the Abbey Quarter is finished, there should be a cycle track along the main road through the site, so cyclist shouldn't be cycling along this part of the park at any speed. The current design allows for this, with just a small improvement.

National Cycle Manual (<https://www.cyclemanual.ie/manual/>) recommends a clearance of 2.5m for cyclists. Just keep this in mind with the trees planted near the paths.

At the south of the park, the shared pedestrian/cycle way ends in a bus stop. If someone is on a bike where do they go? Recommending that they cycle on the footpath isn't great.

Nearby, is the Lady Desert Bridge. This is meant to be a cycle and pedestrian bridge, but from a cyclist point of view, it fails. If you are coming over the bridge toward the Dunnes Stores side, you are met with rails stopping a bike getting on the road. To get on the road, you must make a sharp 90 degree turn and cycle along a small footpath for a few metres. Entering the road or crossing the road here isn't great either. With just a little bit of thought this could have been so much better.

At the end of the park, would it be possible to move the bus stop, so cyclist could go directly onto the road? Could there be a nice smooth exit for them? Cyclist will leave the park and go left and right. How will they cross the road?

Ideally, I would like to see the bus stop moved or the path not ending at the bus stop. It would be great to see the cycle track go behind the bus stop, so there is not conflict between buses and cyclists. Further on, at the end

of the park, the shared path/cycle way could join up with the cycle track. A pedestrian crossing and cycle crossing could be added here, to allow users to cross the road.

Need some inspiration:



- National Bike manual - <https://www.cyclemanual.ie/manual/detailsright/busstops/>



- <http://irishcycle.com/2014/07/30/images-dutch-cycle-paths-and-why-we-get-it-so-horribly-wrong/>

- Cycling around a Dutch bus stop <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Pvhkx0153k&index=35&list=PLB271D0D935C03800>

Really want a challenge:

Think about how cyclist will travel from this park down along by the river towards Canal Square. Could there be a two way cycle path in the future along here. How would this effect the space at the bottom of the park? Could we plan for it now?

[North of Breagath and the Central Access Scheme](#)

Chapter:

[Landscape Drawings](#)

Here is what could be the biggest problem with the park design. How to cross the road? How do pedestrians and cyclist get from the bridge to the park?

To understand the issue we need to step back a little from the park design and look at the

- Drawing No. 1 from the Central Access Scheme http://www.kilkennycoco.ie/eng/Publications/Council_Publications/KCAS-Public-Screen-Presentation.pdf
- Riverside-Garden-Project-Details-Area-3.jpg <https://consult.kilkenny.ie/en/system/files/materials/1427/Riverside-Garden-Project-Details-Area-3.jpg>

I've attached a really bad attempt of overlaying the above with the park design to try to highlight the problem.

There will be access from the south that's not shown. But what if someone is on the north side? There is no access across the road. Sure, a pedestrian could cross the road elsewhere, but what about cyclists? How do they cross the road?

There are footpaths and cycle lanes on the bridge and approaching roads. This means pedestrians and cyclists will be crossing the bridge. I'm sure some of them will want to access to the park. I think this is a very important point as cyclist will be accessing the whole site from this point.

There are two possible solutions.

1. Have a crossing point on the bridge at the entrance to the site – This doesn't really effect the current park plans.
2. Have access to the site from both sides of the bridge, with a cycle path going under the bridge – this could have a big effect on the plans.

Basically have a cycling underpass. The means that if I am cycling north and wanted to access the Abbey Quarter, instead of cycling right, I would cycle left, and under the bridge. Similar someone wanted to cycle over the river, they would cycle under the bridge and then turn left to join the bridge.

With this option, there would need to be dedicated cycle paths under the bridge at least as far at the bridge over the River Breagath. This means the skate park won't fit where it is.

Also, the angle of the path to the north of the Breagath joining the bridge isn't safe for cyclists moving at any speed.

Attachments:

cas_crossing.png

And one non cycling idea

Chapter:

Landscape Drawings

I thought this project was very nice: <http://landarch.com/the-best-way-to-work-with-the-land-at-riverside-lunen/>



I really like the idea of making the river more accessible and touching the water.

-----Original Message-----

From: donal coyne

Sent: 22 January 2016 14:58

To: River Garden Planning

Subject: Linear park

I wish to object on the grounds that a full archeological needs to be carried out before any work is done on this site.

Furthermore why would ye start this only to dig it up at a later date. Another waste of taxpayers money

Yours sincerely

Donal coyne

Sent from my iPhone

From: kevin flaherty

Sent: 22 January 2016 15:09

To: River Garden Planning

Subject: Kevin Flaherty Submissions on River Garden

I am writing this to voice some concerns I have about the proposed Linear Park and the gardens etc. Whilst the idea of a linear park might sound nice I submit that contrary to all the information evenings and consultations I attended in regards to this and the Brewery site the overwhelming outcome was that the public wanted the archaeological explorations and subsequent discoveries to drive and inform the rest of the project. This is included on all the drawings and literature the council has produced in relation to the site. As far as I can see it is the promise of 200,000 grant from the tourist board that is informing this plan not the archaeology as we the public wanted. I also submit that the councils proposition to place a concrete slab temporarily until the archaeological dig can take place hardly inspires confidence. I refer you to the temporary measure of the footpath on Greens Bridge (almost 50 yrs old now) and the even more recent temporary railings on the Butter Slip. It is my contention that if the proposed park and garden goes in first there will never be a full archaeological investigation done as the park and gardens are going all along the most archaeologically significant parts of the site, namely along the riverbank around Evans Turret and the old city wall. If anything else there is a pure wastefulness in resources to put in a park and garden only to dig them up when the archaeology starts. This does not even mention the fact that whilst there is in the region of 200,000 to 300,000 grant available for this project it will cost well in excess of 1 million so the grant pales into insignificance when taken in the real context of the cost of the project. When I tried to get answers to this question at the information night about the rest of the money that we the people will have to come up with I was fobbed off repeatedly with the amount of grant we were getting.

I submit that an alternative plan of building the buildings before the landscaping as would happen in all other building projects should be pursued. It seems positively nonsensical to build the garden first. Would anyone building a house lay the lawn and landscape the garden before building walls, foundations and lay sewerage pipes etc? I'm sure any grant being offered will be available again after an archaeological investigation can be performed and for this to subsequently fully inform the site as we have been told over and over again would be the case.

From: Kersty Evans
Sent: 26 January 2016 01:24
To: River Garden Planning
Subject: Riverside Garden - Planning Submission

Riverside Garden/Park - Planning Submission

I like the idea of a park along the river, but it seems peculiar to develop it before anything else. At the brewery site consultation workshops a vast majority of the public agreed that a full archaeological assessment should be made before anything would be built or developed. It would make more sense to build the houses and preserve the existing buildings like St. Francis Abbey as top priority.

The Council says that they are getting €200,000 from the Tourist Board this year for the park. So that's why they want to start the whole brewery site redevelopment with the garden. However, they may then have to dig it up again, which makes no sense at all.

The most important area is along the old city walls, by the Tower and around the Abbey and the space between the Abbey and the Tower. This is the area designated for the garden/park. The council says they want to put a 'temporary slab' all over this area, and will do the Archaeology some time in the future. 'Temporary' seems to be a very flexible word in Kilkenny. The ugly chrome railings in the middle of the Butterslip were supposed to be 'temporary'. So it looks like the archaeology may never be done and the 'temporary slab' (a very unattractive term for a park area) may stay forever.

I also believe strongly that the wild river bank, where the swans nested last summer, should remain as it is and the wildlife protected.

The park should be designed around the Abbey along the river and taking all archaeological finds into consideration, this could be a great historical trail boosting tourism in Kilkenny.

Kersty Evans

From: Happe House
Sent: 29 January 2016 11:01
To: River Garden Planning
Subject:

I submit that:

the archaeology must be done before any work on the park starts.

the swan's spot, must be kept wild and exactly as it is.

extra green space is needed between the Abbey and the Brewhouse.

the skatepark should go somewhere safer and more visible than other than under the bridge.

the park, by the river, should be wider than is suggested, because it is too narrow for cyclists, people walking, children playing, people sitting etc.

the garden should be less structured, less formal, have less concrete, be more natural than is suggested.

-----Original Message-----

From: Maria Reade

Sent: 29 January 2016 11:54

To: River Garden Planning

Subject: Riverside Garden - planning submission

I submit that:

the archaeology must be done before any work on the park starts,

the swan's spot, must be kept wild and exactly as it is,

extra green space is needed between the Abbey and the Brewhouse,

the skatepark should go somewhere safer and more visible than other than under the bridge,

the park, by the river, should be wider than is suggested, because it is too narrow for cyclists, people walking, children playing, people sitting etc.

the park is too close to the proposed road to be safe for use as a park,

the garden should be less structured, less formal, have less concrete, be more natural than is suggested.

Maria J. Reade
8 Broguemakers' s Hill
Greenshill,
Kilkenny

From: gladys bowles

Sent: 29 January 2016 12:10

To: River Garden Planning

Subject: "Riverside Garden- Planning Submission"

Why do Kilkenny Council insist on Plowing through with this it,s like putting the Cart before the horse .It was clear at all the consultations that no works should commence until an archaeological dig was done ,Why Build a Garden before the house is in Order

The very fact that you named the Project Riverside Garden is very confusing because people are looking for Linear Park Project .

I submit that this Garden is been rushed through purely so that you have to spend huge amount of money by the end 2016 what a waste from the tourist Board WHY not use some the €200,000 to do a garden at the Tea house the Proposed entrance of the site and wait for the rest until archaeological dig /and Buildings are done You say you are putting a Temporary slap on or around this area what is it concrete/ tarmac/ Limestone WHAT Please specify , over this area, everything with ye seems to do is temporary Like Greenbridge / Butterslip If ye do this No Archaeological dig will ever be done ,Where you intend to put this Park or Garden is around the Tower And Abbey exactly where there is likely be very interesting stuff found I am not in favour of this mass slabbing of what ever it is you want to put over it

My Most concern is about is about the wild life have you consider them at all ? what is your plan for this area ?, I do hope that this will NOT be touched

I submit that:

the archaeology must be done before any work on the park starts.

the swan's spot, must be kept wild and exactly as it is.

extra green space is needed between the Abbey and the Brewhouse.

the skatepark should go somewhere safer and more visible than other than under the bridge.

the park, by the river, should be wider than is suggested, because it is too narrow for cyclists, people walking, children playing, people sitting etc.

the garden should be less structured, less formal, have less concrete, be more natural than is suggested.

Gladys Bowles

From: Alan Doran
Sent: 29 January 2016 12:12
To: River Garden Planning
Subject: Riverside Garden - Planning Submission

Riverside Garden - Planning Submission - Alan Doran.

I submit that:

The archaeology must be done before any work on the park starts.

The swan's spot, must be kept wild and exactly as it is. Please do not destroy this part of the riverbank. Leave alone what has worked as nature intended.

Extra green space is needed between the Abbey and the Brewhouse.

The skatepark should go somewhere safer and more visible other than under the bridge. This is common sense in this day & age.

The park, by the river, should be wider than is suggested, because it is too narrow for cyclists, people walking, children playing, people sitting etc. Cyclists & Pedestrians need completely separate paths because as a cyclist, my experience of the shared space on the ring road is not the safest at times. There have been a few near collisions between walkers & cyclists.

The park is too close to the proposed road to be safe for use as a park.

The garden should be less structured, less formal, have less concrete, be more natural than is suggested.

Many thanks
Alan Doran.

From: Brendan Cahill
Sent: 29 January 2016 12:31
To: River Garden Planning
Subject: Riverside Garden - Planning Submission

Riverside Garden - Planning Submission ;

35 Wolfe Tone St.,Kilkenny;

I submit above all else, that the archaeological exploration work must be done , and be seen to be done, before any work on the park begins.

A much larger green perimeter area be made surrounding the Abbey.

That the skatepark should go somewhere more visible than under the bridge, for safety of users and the public.

The park alongside the river be made wider to accommodate busy two way pedestrian /public traffic .

The garden layout should be more informal, have less concrete, be more natural than is suggested.

That the original wild riverbank be preserved along the riverbank area where the swans nested / hatched last season, perhaps with a backdrop of a high green hedge rather than a wall for safety and privacy to encourage re use by wildlife / swans etc. There must not be a repeat of having nowhere for wildlife to leave the water for rest or safety , The otters especially, must have somewhere to go ashore when needs must.

Regards ,

Brendan Cahill.

From: Iain Mullen
Sent: 29 January 2016 12:41
To: River Garden Planning
Subject: Riverside Garden - Planning Submission

A chara,

I wish to submit my thoughts on the proposed linear park development.

I believe that before any work commence a full archaeological survey be completed, the proposal to complete the park & then do the archaeological work is baffling & I suspect would never get done.

The park should consist of a significant wild area, with less concrete to maintain the environmental profile of the riverbank. In tandem the Swan's nesting spot must be maintained & protected.

The park by the river is too narrow to accommodate pedestrians, cyclists, buggies, dog walkers, children etc.

Extra green space between the Brew House & the Abbey would be preferable to the concrete & demonstrate a commitment to the park & not traffic.

Lastly the plan for the skatepark under the bridge I believe is courting danger & should be relocated to an open area.

Kind regards

Iain Mullen
1 Clarnwood
Freshford Road

From: Pat Cass
Sent: 29 January 2016 12:50
To: River Garden Planning
Subject: Riverside garden planning submission

This is my submission on riverside garden.

The archaeology must be done before any work on the park begins.

The river bank where the swans nest should not be touched and it should be left as it is.

The park, beside the river should be left wider than suggested because it is too narrow for cyclists and people walking.

The park is too close to the proposed road to be safe for use as a park.

Patrick Cass,
27, Wolfe Tone Street,
Kilkenny.

From: Pauline Cass
Sent: 29 January 2016 13:06
To: River Garden Planning
Subject: River Garden - Planning Submission

This is my submission on the riverside garden.

I submit that the archaeology MUST be done before any work on the park starts.

The riverbank where the swans nest must not be touched and left wild.

More green space is needed between the Abbey and the Brewhouse.

The skate park should not be shoved down in the corner under the bridge and be in a more open space, our kids deserve this, they have waited long enough.

The park is too close to the proposed road to be safe for use as a park.

Archaeology needs to be done first . Start listening to the citizens of Kilkenny this is what they stated they wanted at the public consultations.

Pauline Cass,
27, Wolfe Tone Street,
Kilkenny.

Riverside Garden - Planning Submission

For Kilkenny brewery Park

My Name is Terence Kelly

29th January 2016

"Riverside Garden- Planning Submission"Terence Kelly.

I submit that:

The archaeology must be done before any work on the park starts.

the swan's spot, must be kept wild and exactly as it is.

extra green space is needed between the Abbey and the Brewhouse.

the skatepark should go somewhere safer and more visible than under the bridge the Teenagers need sunshine

the park, by the river, should be wider than suggested, because it is too narrow for cyclists, people walking, children playing, people sitting etc.

the park is too close to the proposed road to be safe for use as a park.

the garden should be less structured, be more natural than is suggested.

I **OBJECT TO** THE PROPOSED VARIATION NO 1. TO THE KILKENNY CITY AND ENVIORS DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2014 TO 2020.

The variations to the plan are premature. It dose not take into account the strongly held views of the public work shops.

The Plan is incomplete.

to: rivergardenplanning@kilkennycoco.ie

From: Jerry Gardner
Sent: 29 January 2016 13:50
To: River Garden Planning
Subject: Riverside Garden - Planning Submission

Dear Sir / Madam,

I would like to make the following submission regarding the proposed linear park in Kilkenny by the Brewery site.

1. A thorough archaeological investigation of the area should be carried out prior to the commencement of any works. This is of higher importance than any other consideration.
2. Why the rush? Surely the park will be impacted by ongoing works on the CAS and development of the brewery site: it would be better to delay work on the park until these are completed.
3. I would also like to see the skatepark as a visible part of the linear park, rather than being tucked away under the bridge.
4. The proposed width is very narrow, and I believe it would serve the people better if it was wider. It also appears to be close - dangerously close - to traffic. Indeed, the park as it stands is too small - eg it would be nice to have more green space between the Abbey and the Brewhouse.
5. As far as possible, there should be a more natural approach to the design - the current proposal features too much concrete, and some parts should be left wild..
6. Preservation, encouragement and care for wildlife needs to be of a higher priority, eg the swan's spot.

Yours etc

Jerry Gardner, Hillview House, Cloghabrody, Thomastown, Co Kilkenny.

-----Original Message-----

From: kathleen phelan

Sent: 29 January 2016 14:36

To: River Garden Planning

Subject: Riverside Garden-Planning Submission,

I Kathleen Phelan submit that:

The archaeology must be done before any work on the park starts.

The swan's spot, must be kept wild and exactly as it is.

Extra green space is needed between the Abbey and the Brewhouse.

The skatepark should go somewhere safer and more visible than under the bridge.

The park, by the river, should be wider than is suggested, because it is too narrow for cyclists, people walking, children playing, people sitting etc.

The park is too close to the proposed road to be safe for use as a park. The garden should be less structured, less formal, have less concrete, be more natural than is suggested.

Regards Kathleen Phelan.

From: Breda Gardner
Sent: 29 January 2016 14:39
To: River Garden Planning
Subject: Linear Park submission

Please make note of the following in the planning of Linear Park :

Full archaeological investigation prior to commencement of works.

Larger footprint for park, allowing lots of open space, seating facilities and protection of natural habitats.

Housing surrounded by Green Area and not exposed to Urban Traffic .

Retention of old names, areas / places / people that are historically connected to the area development ie Sandybanks, Mayfair, Savoy, The Bull Ring, Bretnagh River, Weir etc. Also other names like Challenors (where old mill was), and other Family Names associated with the area like Tommy Delaney who was a former employee of Smithwicks and Former Mayor of The City, ditto Messrs Kelly and Brennan.

Include the Photographic Archives of Kilkenny Photographer Tom Brett which include Photographs of Major Events in Smithwicks Brewery from the 1960s to the Brewery Closure .

He also has photos of Smithwick Family Members of Brewery Management and Staff as well as photos of Famous Landmarks like The Mayfair Ballroom and The Savoy Cinema . Also The Famous Franciscian Abbey which has been associated with Smithwicks Brewery for many years and ought to featured in the Development .

Kindest Regards

Cllr Breda Gardner

-----Original Message-----

From: Kieron Ellis

Sent: 29 January 2016 15:03

To: River Garden Planning

Subject: "Riverside Garden - Planning Submission

Dear Sir /Madam

"Riverside Garden- Planning Submission"..... I Kieron Ellis.

Submit that:

the archaeology must be done before any work on the park starts.

the swan's spot, must be kept wild and exactly as it is.

extra green space is needed between the Abbey and the Brewhouse.

the skatepark should go somewhere safer and more visible than other than under the bridge.

the park, by the river, should be wider than is suggested, because it is too narrow for cyclists, people walking, children playing, people sitting etc.

the garden should be less structured, less formal, have less concrete, be more natural than is suggested.

[Abbey Creative Quarter Riverside Garden Project - Part VIII Consultation](#)

[Kieran Kelly](#)

23.01.2016 - 8:57am

Submission:

Waste of Board Failte & Public money on premature project.

Waste of Board Failte & Public money on premature project.

Chapter:

[Archaeology Reports](#)

The linear park is wasting Bord Failte money. At the public information evening a gentleman representing the council informed me that they will be doing the linear park in two sections. The reason for doing this is they had to spend public money from the Bord Failte or they would lose it. He informed me, that if they didn't spend it before the end of 2016 they would lose this money. He informed me, they would implement one design for part of the walkway, they would then find money for the archeologically dig and implement another design on the second phase depending on what they found during the dig. I hate seeing the council spending public money just because they have a grant. Also, it is a waste of public money as the council have to match the funding from money sourced locally. The Brewery site is a great opportunity for Kilkenny and the council are developing this area without any serious consideration for the area. As the council representative told me, *"we are developing this now before the archaeological dig is done because we have a grant, IT IS BEST NOT TO LOOSE A GRANT OR WE WON'T GET MORE, WE HAVE TO SPEND IT BEFORE THE END OF 2016"*

At the public consultation people requested that the archaeological dig be done before the development. Why push forward just because you have a grant?

I do not believe this is best practice. I think it is about time the council listened to the people, give the area some real consideration, look at the area as a whole and not waste Bord Failte money and council money. Please think sensibly about the development of the brewery site for the people of Kilkenny, for future generations and for tourists to the area. OUR FUTURE OF THE CITY DEPENDS ON IT.

Kilkenny County Council, you have been entrusted with the development of our city. You have made a mistake on the development of the CAS. Please don't make another foolish mistake.

To the future success of our city.

Consultation:

[Abbey Creative Quarter Riverside Garden Project - Part VIII Consultation](#)

[Patricia Tyrrell](#)

29.01.2016 - 2:00pm

[Metal Archway](#)

Chapter:

[Landscape Design Statement](#)

The metal archway does not reflect or interpret the typical archway in medieval Kilkenny and is more representative of an industrial city in terms of materials, angular shape and proportions.

It will dwarf the teahouse and is completely out of scale with them and in no way sympathetic to them.

[Shared Cycle and Pathways](#)

Chapter:

[Landscape Design Statement](#)

The opportunity to create a quiet and natural park is being lost by combining the paths and cycleways. It is internationally recognised as being less than optimum due to the conflict between cyclists and pedestrians. Please see link below

<https://www.cyclemanual.ie/manual/thebasics/1-9-pedestrians-and-cyclists/>

[Materials](#)

Chapter:

[Landscape Design Statement](#)

It is stated under 'Materials Palette' that the paving material in use throughout Kilkenny City will be used in the park. As the native stone in Kilkenny and on the streets is Limestone it is surprising to read on and find "Granite flag paving and blocks to areas of importance"

[Wayfinding](#)

Chapter:

[Landscape Design Statement](#)

Kilkenny has a distinctive landscape - a combination of the natural and the historic - the teahouses would be a case in point.. Dotting 'found' items along the park will create clutter and distraction from the essential character of the area.

As a semi-natural area beside the River Nore the concentration should be on restoring the green and natural core of the city that existed there before the flood relief works with an emphasis on hardwood trees and an understory of semi-natural planting to underpin this Special Area of Conservation.

Site Levels

Chapter:

Landscape Design Statement

As evidenced by recent flood events, it seems highly unlikely that the River Nore will flood in Kilkenny City. If it does the River Breagagh will also flood and raising the site levels along the river are more likely to trap water coming from the Breagagh than prevent water rising from the Nore. Where is the engineering evidence for this approach?

The river is already canalised and building the banks 1.5metres above this will create a hazardous area at the river side of the park (which then will have to be fenced off no doubt).

Integration of the Landscape Design

Chapter:

Landscape Drawings

The Linear Park should be designed as part of the Abbey Quarter Project integrated into a larger green space/public park, a lasting legacy for the people of Kilkenny.

From: Lucy Glendinning
Sent: 28 January 2016 21:20
To: River Garden Planning
Cc: KK Coco
Subject: "Riverside Garden - Planning Submission"

To Whom it may concern

Please find attached my submission with regard to the Riverside Garden.

Kind regards

Lucy Glendinning

I would like to make the following submission on the Linear Park.

- 1 As it can be seen from the vast majority of previous submissions following the public consultation on the brewery site, the public clearly asked that extensive archaeological assessment be done within this area BEFORE anything else was started on. So I would like to know WHY are the Council considering doing work on a park (albeit rather a meagre one) prior to doing what the public want?
- 2 It is accepted that most of the important findings are likely to be along by the old city walls, in the vicinity of the Tower, around the Abbey itself and in the space between the Abbey and the Tower. But this is precisely the space that the Council are putting the garden/park on. And they are doing it without doing any Archaeology first. Unfortunately Kilkenny's reputation for doing things on a "temporary" basis is very poor.... The appalling mess that was made of Greensbridge in the 1960's still remains to this day, among others.
- 3 Archaeology must be done as number 1 priority
- 4 The Council say that there is money available from the Tourist Board, and so to get it they have to take it now. This is nonsense. There is money available for these sort of projects on a fairly regular basis. If the Council are planning to lay this garden and then to do the archaeological work at a later date, surely money is being squandered, particularly as the Council have to match the amount on top of what they will already be spending.
- 5 What is being proposed for this area will cost well over a million euro, so even with €200,000, we the people, have to come with at least another million euro or so for the park, and where is that going to come from?
- 6 15m is far too narrow for an area of this size to allow for any sort of a real park area, including natural areas which should encourage wildlife – this is just a walk/cycle path with a bit of greenery. We have torn up and cut down trees and vegetation all over the city and we have absolutely destroyed the Peace Park between the monstrosity that is CAS and the lines of stone and tarmac that are fast encroaching on any areas of green. Any beautiful or wild areas are fast being obliterated. The wild bank must be properly protected where the swans nest, or we will lose them too. I would like an undertaking from the Council that at the very least, this area be completely left alone.

Kilkenny County Council

Comhairle Chontae Cill Chainnigh

Director of Services

Planning Department

Rivergardenplanning@kilkennycoco.ie

Planning & Development Act 2000–2015

Planning & Development Regulations 2001-2015

Abbey Creative Quarter

Riverside Garden Project

Dear Sirs

The Riverside Garden project site is a highly environmentally sensitive location, part of which is within Natura 2000 sites (see below) and all of which is immediately adjacent them. It is also a brownfield site with a history of pcb and other spillages and hydrocarbon contamination. It is proposed as part of this project to break up the existing concrete shell/cap over the riverside site and to import a very large amount of material with which the ground level would be raised to avoid flooding.

1. Requirement for Appropriate Assessment and for Environmental Impact Assessment

i) The project site is located adjacent to the Breaghagh River and the River Nore in Kilkenny City. The RiverNore in Kilkenny City is designated as part of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC (Site Code: 002162) and River Nore SPA (Site Code: 004233).

The site is also selected for the following species listed on Annex II of the same directive – Sea Lamprey, River Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Nore Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Crayfish, Twaite Shad, Atlantic Salmon, Otter, Desmoulin's Whorl Snail and the Killarney Fern.

It is in an important location within the viewshed of Kilkenny Castle: the site's backdrop is the historic city centre of Kilkenny and the two Cathedrals, its foreground the river.

ii) I note that this project is a component of a wider project, the redevelopment of the

former Diageo Brewery, a brown field site of over 12 acres subject of the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan, in which is proposed also retention and extension of the Mayfair block for offices use, the retention and extension of the Brew House to form an office/ retail block and a large complex of new office blocks and retail space, accessed via the CAS bridge.

iii) It is my view that the proposed Riverside Garden project should be considered to require EIA as cumulative sub-threshold development (taken together with the proposed development within the 'Creative Quarter' Abbey Masterplan and with the Variation 1 objective to create a roadway linking the CAS bridge with Bateman Quay) and furthermore in its own right warrants EIA as a sub threshold Urban Development due to the complex and significant nature of impacts likely to arise.

I quote in this regard the submission of the Department of the Environment in relation to Variation 1 to the Kilkenny City Development plan, which said

The Local Authority needs to consider whether individual proposed developments within the Framework Plan area will be subject to Environmental Impact Assessment, as the redevelopment of this quarter could be characterised as an "urban development project", as it is located within an urban landscape of "historical, cultural and archaeological significance" (see EIA Directive 2011/92/EU Annex II, 10 (b) and Annex III, 2(c)(viii) and successive 2014 legislation)

iv). It is proposed to raise the level of the ground by 1.2 metres as a flood prevention measure. Overall, including the Park/linear walk, the proposed raising of the ground across the Masterplan site if completed would entail importation into the site and spreading/compaction of over 60,000 cubic metres of material. This in turn would involve thousands of movements by heavy vehicles in immediate vicinity of the Natura 2000 sites. It is not credible in my view that these works could be completed without the possibility of significant impacts on the adjacent and in part overlapping SAC/SPA.

There is no site specific flood risk assessment provided for the Riverside Garden project to justify the extent of the proposed flood prevention works, which will impact directly upon otter and other designated habitat. The SFRA with the Masterplan is based on outdated and superceded data given progress on the CFRAM process, emerging experience of impacts of climate change, and the recent flood levels (this December/January) at the site which significantly exceeded previous estimated maximums. In my view a new SFRA study is needed for the site as a whole and as well as one for each sub component including the Riverside Garden/walk.

v.) There are current substantial demolition works in progress on the site (KCC Ref Diageo Ireland P 19/07/20130). A fire has taken reported as having taken place on the site during the course of these works. (27/1/2015) This project further proposes the demolition of the concrete cap over the site, beneath the footprint of Part VIII development. There appear to be no proposal to carry out an environmental study of the site (including assessment of any contamination arising) post demolition in spite of obvious risks of contamination during demolitions. The issue of residual contamination is also not addressed in spite of the brown field and long term industrial character of the site.

Recent Ove Arup and Malone O'Regan studies lodged with the EPA since 2013 have indicated ongoing problems at or arising from the site, with hydrocarbon and other

substances, and continued levels of PCBs in lampreys in the Breagh which enters the Nore in the Riverside Garden site rendering them unfit for consumption. PCBs are a serious threat to otters and to human health. Ove Arup indicated in 2013 contamination levels that may exceed those acceptable for a childrens' play area. The impacts of demolition works and residual contamination which may be disturbed by the proposed works including ground disturbance caused by archaeology should in my view be considered as cumulative with the Riverside Garden project and with the other elements of the Masterplan for the brewery site, and the other sub-components of the Masterplan project in preparing full Appropriate Assessment. Provision for long term monitoring of the site according to best practice in redevelopment of brown field sites should also be made. The site should be assessed for contamination post demolition, and also continuously monitored after commencement of works on the site. Any contamination should be remediated in a best practice manner.

vi) In a project of this type there are plain and clear impacts likely to arise as a minimum

- construction impacts including noise, lights, sedimentation, potential accidents and spillages, disturbance of ground contamination, impacts on water quality in the event of concrete being in contact with river water or with surface water entering the river

- long term impacts including urbanisation impacts, impacts on archaeology and townscape, disturbance, introduction and/or spreading of invasive species including Japanese Knotweed and Himalyan Balsam (which directly threaten the integrity of the site) potential long term effects on human health if contamination issues remain.

While only a small portion of the site is within the SAC/NHA, its entirety abuts the Natural 2000 sites. The River Breagh which transects the site should be considered a 'pathway'. Proximity means that surface water run off is a certainty and wind can move and deposit loose materials. All historic on-site draining will also act as a pathway.

I note that the Kilkenny Linear Park Construction Environmental Management Plan which forms part of the Part VIII documentation states

The construction operations and activities will potentially give rise to noise, vibration and dust, have an adverse visual impact and cause disturbance to wildlife, their habitats and to archaeological remains. Construction may also cause minor, intermittent and short term disruption to traffic. The management plan goes on to list numerous other potential impacts.

It would not be credible to suggest there is certainty that the above works along with the very extensive construction works proposed under the Masterplan can be carried out with no cumulative significant impacts on the River Nore SPA/SAC.

vii) The AA Screening Report asserts that surface water from within the development will not enter / leach to the river. No indication is given as to how this might be prevented. In any event, mitigation measures are beyond the scope of a Screening Report and should be dealt with in a full Appropriate Assessment.

The Test Is: Can it be ruled out that the Plan / Project will NOT have any significant adverse effects on any Natura 2000 site? If not, then next stage AA must be proceeded to.

It appears from page 35-36 that the Screening relies on mitigation. Reliance in the Screening for Appropriate Assessment on mitigation including 'best practice' measures is contrary to regulations and pursuant guidance, which says that mitigation should not be considered in screening. This is in order that alternatives should be fully considered in the context of next stage (s) AA.

Viii) A further "Ecological Impact Assessment" is submitted which provides additional data and some analysis on species. The status of this report is unclear to me, but it does not fulfill the requirement for Appropriate Assessment or for Environmental Impact Assessment and does not have due regard to the significant impacts listed above in terms of source, path, receptor analysis of the project or in terms of cumulative impact. It therefore does not obviate the need for Environmental Impact Assessment and full AA of the project.

Viii) In view of the above both Appropriate Assessment and an EIA are required for the Masterplan as whole and for the components of it, including the Riverside Garden/linear walk. I request Kilkenny County Council to make contact with An Bord Pleanála as provided for under the Planning and Development Act 2000 and Planning and Development Regulations 2001 in order to scope an EIA of the Masterplan and of the individual component projects of this project, including the proposed road link from the CAS bridge.

2. Status of the Masterplan, as Framework for the Park Project

x) I note that the Masterplan, which is the planning framework of which the Riverside Garden is a component, although referenced by variation into the County Development Plan 2014-2020, is described in a CEO's report of 2015 as 'live' and subject to change. A Masterplan may be broad brush, but an adopted Development Plan policy or objective cannot be 'live' and changing day to day.

The purpose of a Development Plan is to give reasonable certainty regarding the policies and plans of a planning authority, following consultation with the public and statutory bodies, and for that reason a live and changing document can not be made binding in any statutory way, as this would be counter to statutory obligations regarding consultation and participation.

In addition to preparing an EIA for the Brewery site project, including this Riverside Garden project, I request the planning authority to first complete and finalise the work on the project Masterplan, including the additional studies and measures referred to and recommended in the CEO's reports on Variation One, and if the Masterplan is to remain endorsed in the Development Plan, the planning authority should in my view commit itself to a definitive version, based on a full and complete planning assessment of environmental impacts and constraints, in a timely way.

However, it is also my view that full and systematic Environmental Impact Assessment is likely to reveal fatal flaws in the sustainability of the entire project as currently presented, which would lead to its very substantial revision and reduction in scale (complete lack of car parking, serious adverse impacts on heritage, and continued flood risk being amongst the most obvious significant constraints on the site).

3. Design

xi) In making the following remarks and suggestions on the proposals for the site, I am doing so on the basis that the project requires EIA and full AA and that no permission or approval should be granted pending same.

The comments are made as suggestions for reconsideration of design, which I hope that the Council will consider whilst preparing documentation for a revised design to be assessed along with EIA and AA.

The design of the path and of the Masterplan area as a whole should not be finalised prior to implementation of an archaeological strategy agreed with the Department of the Environment. I quote the Department's submission to Kilkenny County Council on Variation 1 regarding the whole Masterplan area i.e. the brewery site -

It is imperative that the findings and recommendations of the archaeological strategy influence and inform the final design and development layout within the overall Framework Plan.

xii) The ground level of the park should not be raised as proposed – there is no fully researched justification provided for the elevated level proposed, which would create a hazard for children (slope declining to the river), which would put much of the river out of view to walkers, and which cannot in any case be guaranteed to be above flood level at all times. Other, lower, sections of the Nore Valley linear path at Kilkenny City flood periodically without undue inconvenience to the public.

Xiii) I note that the important pedestrian link across the Breagagh River is annotated as temporary. This link is essential if the linear walk is to function as a continuous Kilkenny City/Nore Valley riverside path linking with the existing riverside walk to the north of the city. The location of a long term viable link should be indicated.¹

The provision of a continuous River Nore walking route is clearly desirable from a human health, recreational and amenity viewpoint. However, the visually busy 'mini Barcelona' zig zag promenade proposed is unnecessary, and aesthetically is in conflict with the surroundings and ambience of Kilkenny's predominantly symmetrical 18th and 19th century heritage townscape, including the facing landscape and townscape on the opposite (east) bank of the Nore.

Furthermore, walkers and local pedestrians will be irritated by being made to walk 'a long way around' on this zig zag path and will tend to walk along a more direct 'desire line' creating an unsightly informal earth path crossing grassed areas of the site. A revised design should run parallel to the river, along the obvious river walk desire line, rather than a zig zag route.

Xiiii) Given the Ove Arup license report lodged with the EPA which question the safety to childrens' play due to contamination levels in parts of the brewery the site, the issue of contamination should be fully resolved within an EIA process and any necessary mitigation carried out before public use of the site for recreation.

xv) The project should omit all plantings of any non native flowers, shrubs or trees, in view of the SPA/NHA location. I request that all planting in the project should be designed to reinforce biodiversity and to reinforce the wildlife corridor. Non native decorative plants should not be used.

Xvi) A programme of regular removal of invasive species should be built in to any permission or approval by condition.

Xii) Sites for bats should be provided and any opportunity to provide habitat suited to kingfishers should be provided.

Xii) I would welcome provision of a skate park. The proposed location of the skatepark tucked under the CAS bridge is seriously lacking in passive surveillance. Skating is attractive to watch and should not be viewed as something to be hidden away. There is also a potential noise issue for any nearby residences arising from the echo under a bridge structure which should be assessed. Safety and sustainability considerations dictate that good passive surveillance (ie public overlooking) should be a principle in providing open recreational facilities. This area should be very well lit and / or alternative locations within the brewery site in better public view and use should be considered. However, most importantly it is vital that the skater community is consulted and listened to regarding the location, surfacing and design of this element of the park.

I include a photograph from the 20th century of the view from Greens Bridge to Kilkenny Castle, taking in the site on the west bank. The river edges at that stage were tree lined, providing a very beautiful vista to the castle. A return vista from the castle to bridge existed of similar quality. I also include photographs of an otter eating salmon at the site, in 2011, to emphasise the importance of the banks to wildlife.

I request that a substantial larger number of native broadleaf trees including ash, oak and willow should be planted along both sides of the path than are shown in the application drawings. This tree planting provides an opportunity to enhance the city centre and to mitigate and soften visual impacts of the CAS bridge, which intrudes into the classic vistas between the castle and Greens bridge referred to above. It also will assist in providing habitat for birds and cover for wildlife.

I welcome retention of a boat slipway and request that Kilkenny County Council should liaise closely with canoe and kayak groups on any works that may affect river access.

4. Proposed Structures

No detailed drawings are provided of the design of the proposed archway entrance at Bateman Quay or of the items of brewery equipment proposed for location along the walk.

In my view, the type of archway suggested would be an unnecessary and intrusive element at odds with the tea houses, which are protected structures. The new walkway is part of the much longer Nore Valley walk and as such this point is not an 'entrance'.

The archway in fact would negatively visually sever the continuity of the Nore River walk.

If such structures and industrial remains are to be erected, I request that a separate planning application providing full details of same should be made. Whilst a memorial to brewery workers would be of interest, visual clutter would be best avoided.

Conclusions

Subject to a systematic sustainable and unrushed planning approach, this project would provide and improve riverside amenity and recreation in Kilkenny City of real and lasting community and environmental value.

I ask the County Council to have regard to the expressed wishes of the people of Kilkenny and to proceed with the development of the garden project in a way that is in tune with the local environment, with the heritage and the unique ambience of Kilkenny and that takes the opportunity to enhance wildlife habitat and restore beauty to the City's river banks, so 'serving the people, preserving heritage'.

Yours sincerely,

Katharine Larkin

B.A. History of Art and Architecture
M.Phil Town Planning

29.1.2016



Otter, July 2011, Kilkenny City Centre



View South from Greens Bridge, to Kilkenny Castle, mid 20th Century

From: Margaret O'Brien
Sent: 29 January 2016 16:45
To: River Garden Planning
Subject: Riverside Garden- Planning Submission

Riverside Garden-Planning Submission.....Margaret O' Brien.

While a park/garden is welcome in the area I submit that progressing with the park/garden plan is premature as this time. Proceeding with the garde/park without first carrying out archaeological investigation is contrary to Departmental and other expert advice. It is also contrary to Council commitment in the master Plan. It is contrary to the City & Enviorns Development Plan. It is a waste of taxpayer's money and local and Failte Ireland's funds.

I further submit that:

the archaeology must be done before any work on the park starts, as per the expert advice and public opinion that inform the Master Plan for the area.

the swan's nesting ground, namely the wild river bank along the line of the of the Poplar trees must be kept wild and exactly as it is.

extra green space is needed between the Abbey and the Brewhouse.

the skatepark should go somewhere safer and more visible than under the bridge.

the proposed park should be wider than is suggested. It is currently too narrow for cyclists, people walking, children playing, people sitting etc.

the park is too close to the proposed road to be safe for use as a park.

the garden should be less structured, less formal, have less concrete, be more natural than is suggested.

the EIS and archaeological reports that inform this presentation are insufficient, particularly in context of other proposed development on this site.I submit that:

the archaeology must be done before any work on the park starts.

the swan's spot, must be kept wild and exactly as it is.

extra green space is needed between the Abbey and the Brewhouse.

the skatepark should go somewhere safer and more visible than under the bridge.

the park, by the river, should be wider than is suggested, because it is too narrow for cyclists, people walking, children playing, people sitting etc.

the park is too close to the proposed road to be safe for use as a park.

the garden should be less structured, less formal, have less concrete, be more natural than is suggested.

[Abbey Creative Quarter Riverside Garden Project - Part VIII Consultation](#)

[Enya Kennedy](#)

29.01.2016 - 3:54pm

Cover Letter

I make this submission on the Linear Park as I believe that it is the best way forward for this site, I also wish to state my considerable disappointment in the lack of communication of Kilkenny county council about this project considering the amount of time and effort that went into the boundary submissions process, I feel that all issues that affect the people of the city and county should be given equal consideration, and this project is in no ways a small project it will have considerable impact on the city for many years to come.

I also wish to note that on the day the public information session that the staff who attended did not seem to be clear on the funding of this project and in fact it was denied that any match funding was required. Surely all staff attending such sessions should be aware of all of the facts to ensure that there is no miscommunication to the public

Introduction

Chapter:

[Introduction](#)

The plan for a park in this area is a good idea, but the time frame is wrong, yes i want to see the park completed but not at the expense of the archeological work, I understand the time constraints by Failte Ireland grant but that can be reapplied for if necessary. I also question how the council plan to pay for the match funding of this project which I understand to be in the region of 1 Million Euro given the considerable costs already incurred in the CAS project.

Landscape Design Statement

Chapter:

[Landscape Design Statement](#)

Site Location

The width of the Park at 15 metres is far too narrow, it should be at least 25 metres to provide a functional user friendly space.

Kilkenny City and Environs Development Plan

The park is an objective of the plan that is to be completed by 2020 there is no rush to to this now for the sake of a 300,000 euro

The park is part of the Masterplan, you will note that there was considerable objection to the park being included in the plan in it's current form to this plan.

Design

Why continue to call this a "Creative Quarter" when there is documentation that has been sought out that makes it clear that this is a business park.

The design of this project is too formal and contains too much concrete, it should have a less structured feel to it, I also do not see how so much can be fitted in to a space so narrow and still have room for a cycle/walking track, is there need for such a track when there is an "urban Street" that is supposed to be prioritised for cyclists just beside it, The road is too wide it should be narrowed and the park widened.

Swans

The swans that nest on the riverbank should not be disturbed, the park should begin away back from them with the trees left alone to provide screening for them and as a natural barrier from the water.

Site Archeology

The Archeology must be done first, the archeology should inform the design of the whole site, the following is taken from your own document, from this it is clear that to properly conserve the history of the national monuments on this site, that the archeology must be done first

"These excavations are required to answer key questions about the history and development of the site and to gather information to appropriately conserve the upstanding monuments and understand their setting"

Skate Park

A skatepark is most welcome and much over due but this is really the wrong place for it, either put the skate park in a more prominent part of the park or give the skaters a proper indoor park, it is proposed that the abutments of the bridge form part of the park, what height are these? Social housing will be at the other side, the bridge is so low that it will surely become an area for anti social behaviour, our skaters deserve much much better than this.

Seating

All seating in the park should be usable not anything like what has been put on the parade or the canal walk, wood would be the preferred option.

St Francis Abbey

The green area around St Francis Abbeys is just not big enough, as a national monument it needs to be the central feature of the whole site and the green space around it should show its significance to the whole space.

[Archaeology Reports](#)

Chapter:

[Archaeology Reports](#)

This is part of a larger plan/project and requires an EIS as there is further work to be done on the site that will have considerable impact.

The archeology needs to be done first before any other work on the site so services for water etc can be planned.

[Ecological Impact Assessment](#)

Chapter:

[Environmental Reports](#) » [Riverside Gardens Ecological Impact Assessment](#)

There needs to be a full EIS for this plan/project

Ballyredding
Bennettsbridge
Co. Kilkenny
29th Jan, 2016

The Planning Department
Kilkenny County Council
County Hall,
John Street,
Co. Kilkenny

Part 8 - Abbey Creative Quarter /Riverside Garden Project

Dear Sirs,

I herewith object to granting/approving the current proposal referred to and contained in the above mentioned Part 8 proposal on the following basis;

Observation 1. - Part VIII process

I object to the council using a Part 8 process to expedite this proposal. As I understand the public have no right of appeal in these matters other than costly court action.

Observation 2. - EIA Screening

There is no EIA screening report provided on the website showing the reasons with reference to Annex III of the EIA Directive why it was found that no EIA was deemed to be necessary. The project involves removal/demolition works to a concrete slab, raising of existing ground levels within a stones throw of River Nore and River Barrow SAC(2162), SPA(4233). This proposal clearly has a cumulative impact with other existing proposals for the entire Diageo site and should have had a publicised EIA screening report or an EIA.

Observation 3. 'Meandering' through the 'Linear' Garden

I object to the zig zag meandering line of the pathway through the plan view of the 'linear' park which would cause cyclists traveling at speed to change course in order to negotiate the bends. This path should run parallel to the river in a linear fashion to allow slow moving pedestrians with/without children to enjoy and appreciate a continuous view of the river environment without interruption by having to negotiate visually disruptive and fussy bends. Please keep the path moving in a straight line through the site and following the existing line of the river in so far as is possible.

It would be preferable to direct cyclists along another route and to keep this route dedicated for pedestrians. The path could be narrowed down from 3 meters to 2 meters and the excess construction materials used to extended the path beyond Green's bridge with a view to linking up with the rural river walk at Green Street.

Observation 4. - Planting and Brewery 'Artifacts'

Any trees introduced must be well advanced in growth for the purpose of creating the feeling of a mature well established setting that would soften the impact of any future development. It must be noted that the brewing practices associated with

this site today did not begin with Smithwicks and in fact began with the monks of St. Francis' Abbey Brewery shown on the OSI 25" historic map. In a gesture of recognition to the establishment of a brewery at this site by the former monks and with reference to the remains of St. Francis' Abbey, designated as National Monument I would like to see a selection of appropriate apple trees integrated into the Diego site and/or linear gardens. In view of the proximity to the SAC/SPA site, the proposal should not use any plants of non native origin.

In the interest of visual amenity and maintaining respect for the River Nore and Barrow SAC and SPA I believe that installing industrial brewing equipment as features within the park will downgrade the built and natural heritage capital at this location. There must be no sculptural elements of the brewing process placed as features in the vicinity of the SAC. It will present visual clutter and impact on the integrity of the natural heritage environment.

I submit that the remains of St. Francis' Abbey coupled with the unique River Nore and Barrow SAC and SPA must clearly be signaled to represent the primary heritage capital assets at this location.

Observation 5. Information Sign

In the interest of raising awareness about the value of the River Nore and Barrow SAC and SPA and the fact that the world's only population of hard freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera* live in this River. The notice should describe the program underway to increase the population of adult mussels from the almost extinct figure of 300. It should aim to not only inform but also involve the public in maintaining the water quality of the river by highlighting the full extent of the variety of life forms that the river supports including the Kingfisher, Salmon and Otters. With increased public access to the bank of the river there would also be increased chances for litter to be deposited and this must be discouraged from the outset.

Observation 6. Metal Archway at Entrance

In the absence of any photograph of a specific proposal for the proposed metal gateway arch intended to present a contemporary interpretation of the typical archway found across Kilkenny city, I object to this element of the proposal. If it looks anything like Figure 14 in the landscape design statement I am totally opposed to this intrusive structure being placed at the entrance to St. Francis' Abbey Riverside Garden and which will frame access to a unique Special Area of Conservation. The public would be well able to find their way into the garden without the need for this elaborate over dramatised eyesore at the entrance to an environmentally sensitive natural habitat. All that is required to draw the attention of visitors is a clearly labelled tasteful sign. If the teahouse and was functioning, it is likely that there would be a natural attraction to this location.

Observation 7. - Project Splitting

The development of the Brewery site is being divided down into individual smaller projects. It is not acceptable to have the cumulative impact of individual projects within the site avoid EIA of the likely environmental impact of developing the full site.

In conclusion on the basis of project splitting, no EIA Screening Report, no EIA and no right of appeal to An Bord Pleanala, I therefore urge you to recommend refusal of this Part 8 proposal.

I look forward to receiving a receipt of acknowledgement for this submission.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

S.A. O'Brien

-----Original Message-----

From: Claire Molloy

Sent: 29 January 2016 19:01

To: River Garden Planning

Subject: Riverside garden - planning Submission

From Claire Molloy

I submit that the archaeology MUST be done before any work on the park starts.

The swan's spot, must be kept wild and exactly as it is.

extra green space is needed between the Abbey and the Brewhouse. The skatepark should go somewhere safer and more visible other than under the bridge.

The park, by the river, should be wider than is suggested, because it is too narrow for cyclists, people walking, children playing, people sitting etc.

The garden should be less structured, less formal, have less concrete, be more natural than is suggested.

Best Regards,

Claire

Claire Molloy

From: Christopher O'Keeffe
Sent: 29 January 2016 17:08
To: River Garden Planning
Cc: Christopher O'Keeffe
Subject: Riverside Garden - Planning Submission

I submit that:

This is part of a larger development which requires an EIS.

the archaeology must be done before any work on the park starts.

the swan's spot, must be kept wild and exactly as it is.

extra green space is needed between the Abbey and the Brewhouse.

the skatepark should go somewhere safer and more visible than under the bridge.

the park, by the river, should be wider than is suggested, because it is too narrow for cyclists, people walking, children playing, people sitting etc.

Cycle path width less the national recommendation

Cyclelane runs into bus stop, dangerous.

the park is too close to the proposed road to be safe for use as a park.

the garden should be less structured, less formal, have less concrete, be more natural than is suggested.

Modification of riverbank inappropriate

Regards,

Christopher O'Keeffe

5 Greenfields

Freshford road

-----Original Message-----

From: Padraig O' Ceallaigh

Sent: 29 January 2016 17:05

To: River Garden Planning

Subject: Riverside garden- planning submission

To whom it concerns,

The following are my observations which will constitute my submission relating to the 'Riverside garden- planning submission'.

Firstly, any development of this kind may have a harmful impact on the adjacent cSAC River Nore: can the council indicate whether they believe an appropriate assessment is required. In fact, can council explain why a full EIS is not required for the defunct brewery site in total?

I submit that these works in their scope and proposed methodology will further bury known archaeological remains, the importance of which presumably remains relatively unknown: I submit that these known ruins, both above ground, underground and under water be explored; I submit that the coco apply to international donors if needs be to help in the significant costs to unearth this exciting prospect.

I submit that notwithstanding the significant funding pledged by Fáilte Ireland that must be matched by coco: that this financial enticement alone, should not be the guiding reason to lead this project.

I submit that any riverside garden that offered views of 'living archaeology digs' would be a huge draw to locals and tourists alike; I submit follow the archaeology, have open digs integrated in this proposed garden project if needs be.

I submit that the wild riparian riverbank between the old tea house and the breagagh be preserved; and the habitats of all wildlife along it; they're are nesting swans halfway along that bank and they add hugely as a feature and reminder of the delicate environment along the cSAC River Nore; a Natura 2000 priority European protected site.

I submit that the coco enforces against the contractor who damaged the river Nore during KCAS phase 1 instream works as now cumulative impacts must be anticipated regarding any developments bordering a cSAC river. This was foreseeable and preventable.

I submit that the damage that was indicated by the October 2014 ECOFACT report be remediated.

I submit that where possible only native and locally sourced materials be used.

Regards etc,

Paddy Ó Ceallaigh

The strip of land envisaged seems very narrow and too close to a proposed road; I submit that it be widened and or broadened.

Appendix C

Submissions received (KCC Internal)

KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

Planning Department, Conservation Section

PLANNING REF: Part VIII Riverside Garden Project.

ADDRESS: Abbey Creative Quarter.

APPLICANT: Kilkenny County Council.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:

STATUTORY PROTECTION:

RPS: A number of structures are included on the RPS – See Courtney Deery report submitted with Part VIII.

NIAH: A number of structures are included on the NIAH - See Courtney Deery report submitted with Part VIII.

ACA: Located in the City Centre ACA.

APPLICATION RECEIVED ON: 22nd December 2015.

DATE OF REPORT: 2nd February 2016.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Protection and enhancement of upstanding monuments and historic structures

p. 42 – In the conclusions section to the Courtney Deery report, the consultants state: Central to the development of the riverside garden is the necessity to protect and enhance the historic character, the monuments, their setting, views *and to propose and encourage the creation of new vistas along the River Nore to existing landmark sites*. The development of a park provides the opportunity to improve the presentation, legibility and civic amenity of the cultural heritage assets which align the western bank of the River Nore while promoting the public's understanding and knowledge of historical Kilkenny.

Recommendations:

The development/construction of the park will evolve in a staged sequence with temporary design works taking place within National Monuments areas and areas that require test excavation.

- The proposal includes for: archaeological investigation
- Stabilisation of upstanding historic structures
- Public information through signage
- Appropriate interpretation and presentation of upstanding historic structures

Stage 1: Advanced Works

Enabling public access to Evan's Tower and Wall Walk – development of long term options will need to consider the authentic interpretation of the monument and the user experience.

Such works to be considered in the context of a **Conservation Plan** for the heritage structures on the site.

Stage 2: Preparatory Works:

Lifting the concrete slab will be done in the presence of a monitoring archaeologist.

Stage 3: Test Excavation

The results of **environmental analysis from archaeological investigations** of the riverside garden area may assist in **planting choices**.

Stage 4: Upstanding structures:

It is an objective that all historic structures are incorporated in a sensitive and appropriate manner within the riverside garden. All historic structures must be made safe to allow public access, input from a conservation specialist will be required to determine that this criteria has been met.

The five sites in question are: Tea Houses (by 2), Evan's Tower and Wall Walk and the Mill Site.

The Teahouses:

These will form part of the entrance feature to the park from Bateman Quay.

The restoration of the internal plasterwork which adds to the significance of the northernmost Teahouse should be seen as a priority.

Any works in and around these structures should be guided by a conservation architect/engineer.

Possible uses of these structures should be discussed between heritage authorities and Kilkenny County Council. Ensuring their future use is the best way to maintain them into the future.

Evan's Tower and Wall Walk

The national monument is to be stabilised and conserved (made good) as part of the Ministerial Consent for the demolition works to the Brewery Site. This work will require a multidisciplinary team of archaeologists, conservation architect and engineer and specialists in traditional building skills – eg stone masons.

As part of the Riverside Garden it would be preferable to have the monument fully integrated and accessible to the public.

The conservation and sustainable future use of the building is a long-term objective of the riverside garden project.

The Mill Structure

Works required to allow this building to be accessible to the public once again (following CAS works):

Clearance of vegetation

Condition survey by a conservation specialist

Consideration to be given to lighting and signage as ways of providing interest and raising awareness of the structure.

Green's Bridge

There will be no impact on this protected structure.

CONSERVATION OFFICER COMMENTS

1. High Standard of Archaeological Impact Assessment

The care and attention paid in the Courtney Deery report to the outline documentation and understanding the historical/social/ architectural significance and evolution over time of the rich built heritage which survives along the River Nore in the area proposed for the Riverside Park is very welcome and shows a commitment on the part of Kilkenny County Council to have due regard to the importance of this built social and cultural inheritance which it will be the privilege of the public to now have open access to as part of this exciting opening up of this section of the west bank of the River Nore.

2. Outline nature of proposals

I note however, that the many of the proposals for the built heritage are still very much at an outline stage. As part of protected structures legislation the granting of outline planning permission is not permitted for the good reason that proposals to protected structure require significant detail to ensure the works have as little impact on the character and our understanding of the structures as possible. I have no objection to the granting of the Part VIII for the Riverside Garden on the condition that any future proposals to the protected structures/national monuments along its route are considered under separate future part VIII submissions fulfilling the necessary requirements of the planning process in relation to Part IV of the Planning and Development Act.

Any future part VIII submissions relating to proposals for works to upstanding historical remains/structures should be accompanied by an Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment which deal specifically and in detail with proposed works/change of use. The historical evolution of the buildings should be thoroughly understood and uses should be devised which have a minimal impact on their significance. Chosen repair materials should be appropriate to the age/construction technology used in the existing buildings, new interventions should be minimal and of their time so that there is a clear and visible distinction, within the framework of a coherent design, between the old and new.

3. Green's Bridge

Although Green's Bridge is not located physically within the boundary of the proposed Part VIII site, its presence will have a big contribution to make to the setting of the park and views from the park of the river.

Has the restoration/conservation of Green's Bridge (NIAH reference 12004007 and RPS ref D4), a significant piece of 18th century architect-designed road engineering, been considered?

This bridge will become more visible not only from the riverside park but from the central access scheme bridge, and as such it is essential that its improvement and maintenance be considered.

It is a beautiful structure and one of a group of bridges in Kilkenny county including Inistioge Bridge and Graiguenamanagh bridge which were designed by George Smith after the great flood of 1763. The design is after the Roman bridge at Rimini as depicted by Andrea Palladio in his *Four Books of Architecture* (1570). It is therefore a highly significant part of our 18th century architectural heritage and is a much-neglected asset of Kilkenny's historical city centre. The building of the CAS will take considerable traffic pressure off this bridge and could allow for long awaited conservation works eg the reinstatement of the parapet on the north side, removal of growth and

vegetation and any repairs necessary to the carved decorative stonework so that the bridge can become a well-cared for part of the setting of the Riverside Park and of the new bridge.

4. Site Levels:

In the Landscape Design Statement produced by Mitchell and Associates there is a reference to site levels. In this there is a proposal to construct the riverside gardens at a height of 1.2m above existing ground level. Has the impact of this proposal on the existing historic structures within the site been carefully considered?

In considering re-use of the northernmost Teahouse structure (which has recently been the subject of conservation repair works to the roof and consolidation works to the structure carried out by Kilkenny County Council with the assistance of a grant from the Structures at Risk Fund in 2015), accessibility by the public at both basement level and main floor level is an essential requirement for any proposed new use. The levels around this building will need to be carefully considered in an integrated way to accommodate a publicly accessible new use for this building while achieving an appropriate setting which will enhance both the park and the building for the public. Similar issues will arise for Evan's Turret and Wall Walk and for the Mill buildings north of the Breagagh.

RECOMMENDATION

There are no objections on conservation grounds provided the above comments are taken into consideration and the following conditions attached to the Part VIII permission:

1. Any future proposals to the protected structures/national monuments along the Riverside Park route must be considered under separate future part VIII submissions fulfilling the necessary requirements of the planning process in relation to Part IV of the Planning and Development Act.
2. Any future part VIII submissions relating to proposals for works to upstanding historical remains/structures should be accompanied by an Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment which deal specifically and in detail with proposed works/change of use. The historical evolution of the buildings should be thoroughly understood and uses should be devised which have a minimal impact on their significance. Chosen repair materials should be appropriate to the age/construction technology used in the existing buildings, new interventions should be minimal and of their time so that there is a clear and visible distinction, within the framework of a coherent design, between the old and new.
3. Although Green's Bridge is not located physically within the boundary of the proposed Part VIII site, its presence will have a big contribution to make to the setting of the park and views from the park of the river. The restoration/conservation of Green's Bridge (NIAH reference 12004007 and RPS ref D4), a significant piece of 18th century architectural heritage should be considered an integral component of the Nore Riverside Park Project and detailed proposals should be prepared and works budgeted for and scheduled as part of this project.
4. In considering re-use of the northernmost Teahouse structure (which has recently been the subject of conservation repair works to the roof and consolidation works to the structure carried out by Kilkenny County Council with the assistance of a grant from the Structures at Risk Fund in 2015), accessibility by the public at both basement level and main floor level is an essential requirement for any proposed future new use. The levels around this building will need to be carefully considered in an integrated way to accommodate a publicly accessible new use for this building while achieving an appropriate setting which will enhance both the park and the building for the public. Similar issues will arise for Evan's Turret and Wall Walk and for the Mill buildings north of the Breagagh. Levels in the context of these structures will require careful consideration.

2nd February 2016

Aine Doyle

Date

Architectural Conservation Officer,

Kilkenny County Council.

Riverside Gardens Project - Submission

I welcome the proposed Riverside Gardens initiative. The project has the potential to be a key element in the Green Infrastructure¹ of the city – providing an area for recreation, amenity, biodiversity and the setting for the built heritage assets of the Abbey Creative Quarter.

Clarification

- Unfortunately due to time constraints and work pressure I have not been able to review all documents in the Part 8 application – I have had to limit my review to one element of the project, i.e green infrastructure, planting & invasive species, and have reviewed only the following documents:
 1. Landscape Drawings
 2. Final Design Statement
- It is understood that there will be no significant negative impact on the habitats and integrity of the River Nore, however I have not had the opportunity to review the AA or Ecological Impact Assessment.

Comments

1. Incorporate the River Bregagh into the proposed Riverside Gardens Project

The section of the River Bregagh, from the Watergate to the River Nore is within the Abbey Creative Quarter, and should be incorporated into the proposed Riverside Gardens Project as a key element of the city's green infrastructure.

The Bregagh is a significant tributary of the River Nore in Kilkenny City and a key element of the city's green infrastructure. It is an important wildlife corridor, linking the agricultural lands and habitats to the west of the city with the habitats of the River Nore. The Kilkenny County Council report "*Habitat Survey Report. The Council's of the City and County of Kilkenny. Habitat Survey and Mapping. 2010*" identifies that east to west ecological linkages across the city are weak and recommends that green infrastructure links to the River Nore are strengthened, particularly between the River Bregagh and the River Nore. See attached Fig 3.1 and Section 4.1.3 of the report.

http://www.kilkennycoco.ie/eng/Services/Heritage/Habitat_Survey_and_Mapping_of_Kilkenny_City.html

This Green Infrastructure approach is supported by the South East Regional Guidelines. The *Kilkenny City & Environs Development Plan 2014-2020* recognises the importance of green infrastructure; its role in strategic planning and its role in assisting the protection of Natura 2000 sites and biodiversity (section 7.2.2 Green Infrastructure)

2. Native Plant Species

The inclusion of native tree and native "ornamental" plant species in the landscape plan is welcomed. However, it is recommended that a wider palette of native herbaceous and shrubby species be included.

Native species add to the biodiversity value of the area. Their use is particularly appropriate in such close proximity to the River Nore (SAC) and facilitates best practice in conservation management in the river corridor and city. They are also particularly important for attracting pollinator species such as bees and

¹ Green Infrastructure can be defined as strategically planned and interconnected networks of green space and water capable of delivering ecosystems services and quality of life benefits to people.

insects, many of which are under threat of extinction in Ireland and globally. Through the work of the Kilkenny Heritage Forum, Kilkenny County Council supports the All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020. www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/irish-pollinator-initiative/all-ireland-pollinator-plan/

In order to address the policies of the *All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020* and of the *Kilkenny City & Environs Development Plan 2014-2020* (Objective 7F) it is recommended that the landscape design should incorporate a higher proportion of native plants (which flower at different times of the year) and that the additional native species listed in Appendix 1, and the non-native but pollinator friendly species listed in Appendix 2, should be considered for inclusion. It is recommended that details of same are supplied by the landscape design contractors prior to final approval of the landscape plan.

3. Local Provenance of Native Species

All native plants used in the proposed design should where possible be of local provenance as per Objective 7F of the Kilkenny City & Environs Development Plan 2014-2020. It is recommended that details of same are supplied by the landscape design contractors prior to final approval of the landscape plan.

4. Invasive Species Control

I note that the species snowberry "*Symphoricarpos alba*" is included in the list of ornamental species to be included in the planting. This plant is on the Amber list of invasive species (<http://invasivespeciesireland.com/toolkit/risk-assessment/amber-list-recorded-species/>) as it has potential to impact on native species and habitats and Natura 2000 sites. It is recommended that this plant is not included in the planting scheme.

It is recommended that appropriate best practise measures are put in place to ensure that the potential for introduction and spread of invasive species, such as Japanese Knotweed, as part of the landscaping works is minimised/negated. This is in-line with Development Management Standard 7.2.7 in the Kilkenny City & Environs Development Plan 2014-2020.

The best practise guidelines in the NRA publication "*Guidelines on the Management of Noxious Weeds and Non-Native Invasive Plant Species on National Roads. 2010*" should be adhered to and a soil management plan prepared.

Dearbhala Ledwidge, Heritage Officer

Appendix 1

Native Plants (the numbers indicate the month in which the plant flowers) (Source: National Biodiversity Data Centre, pers comm.).

Hawthorn (5-6)
Ivy (9-11)
Bird's foot trefoil (6-9)
Knapweed (6-9)
Scabious (7-8)
Senecio(6-9)
Thistle (7-9)
Vetch (5-9)
Achillea(7-9)
Bluebell (4-6)
Brassica (4-8)
Butterbur (3-5)
Charlock (4-7)
Coltsfoot (3-4)
Daucuscarota(6-8)
Dead-nettle (2-11)
Fleabane (7-8)
Forget-me-not (4-9)
Foxglove (6-9)
Geranium sp(5-9)
Goldenrod (7-10)
Hawksbeard (6-9)
Heathers (8-9)
Hogweed (6-9)
Melilotus(6-9)
Mignonette (5-9)
Mustard (5-9)
Radish (6-7)
Rape (4-6)
Red bartsia(6-9)
Rosebay willowherb(7-9)
Stachys(7-9)
Turnip (5-8)
Veronica (3-9)
Vetchling(5-8)
Wild marjoram (7-9)

Appendix 2 : Non native pollinator- friendly species

Horse chestnut (4-6)
Lime (6-7)
Sycamore (4-6)
Apple (4-5)
Plum (4-5)
Currant (4-5)
Cherry (4-5)
Raspberry (6-8)
Firethorn (5-6)
Berberis(4-5)
Borage (4-10)
Rosemary (4-6)
Thyme (5-8)
Lavender (6-8)
Sage (6-8)
Basil (7-9)
Oregano (6-8)
Aster (7-10)
Allium (6-8)
Comfrey (3-6)
Crocus (2-3)
Bellflower (6-9)
Calamint(5-9)
Catmint (5-9)
Coneflower (7-10)
Delphinium (6-7)
Gaillardia (6-9)
Globe thistle (7-8)
Heathers (8-9)
Phacelia (4-12)
Poppy (5-10)
Pulmonaria(3-5)
Rock rose (5-7)
Salvia (6-9)
Stonecrop (7-9)
Sunflower (8-10)
Verbena (7-10)
Viper's bugloss (6-7)

KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

Planning Department

Building Control Section (Part M)

Report on Part 8 Development Proposal

ADDRESS: Abbey Creative Quarter – Riverside Garden Project.

REQUESTED BY:

Tony Lauhoff, Senior Executive Engineer, Kilkenny County Council.

and Evelyn Graham, Access Officer, Kilkenny County Council.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: Part 8; a Riverside Garden/Linear Park along the western bank of the River Nore in the townland of Gardens, Kilkenny, from Bateman Quay, through the former Smithwicks Brewery Site to Greens Bridge.

DATE OF REPORT: 4th February 2016

Our Ref : Report - 2015-12-15 Riverside Garden - on former Smithwicks brewery site.docx

Preamble

Kilkenny County Council has to fulfil the statutory requirement that people can access and use the services it provides including elements of the public realm such as the proposed riverside garden. The requirements come from the Disability Act 2005, and include the accessibility of parks and heritage sites. New local authority services and built facilities should be accessible to people with disabilities, as far as practicable, with access built into plans and designs from inception to completion. New or improved facilities should be designed and constructed to meet accessibility standards

Introduction

This report looks at the accessibility and universal design aspect of the proposed works. It is concerned with issues that affect how people will access and use the park. The level of legibility of external environments is of great importance in accessibility, as it determines the ease or difficulty with which people find their way and interact with an environment. Environments designed so that key functional constituents “speak for themselves” facilitating the ease of movement for people, is a principal requisite of universal design.

The proposed park is to form a link between two existing parks along the Nore, and is also to provide a route into the as of yet to be developed Abbey Creative Quarter, and forms a component of the Mediaeval Mile project. Along its route the park encounters numerous historic buildings and national monuments, and will flank a proposed city park at Saint Francis' Abbey.

When addressing the requirements of universal access consideration and due regard has to be given to certain existing elements which will dictate design proposals, and the setting of the proposals within the larger context of the Abbey Creative Quarter as adopted under Variation No 1 of the City and Environs development Plan 2014-2020.

The Riverside Garden/Linear Park

This area will serve as a future access route to the Abbey Creative Quarter as well as the Various National Monuments. It will also serve as a walking cycling route through the heart of Kilkenny City, the location is ideal for a commuting cycle route given the locations of the various existing and proposed bridges, which serve to interconnect both sides of the Nore River.

Selection of materials is critical, as the design, texture and colour of all elements are all of great importance, as they have a direct bearing on accessibility. All items from street and park furniture to external elements and surfaces need to be considered carefully. For example, consultation would be required by us for choices in litterbins and paving surfaces. Consideration also has to be given towards the location and type of drainage gratings to be used. Surfaces should be smooth and should be slip resistant in all weather conditions. Surfaces that glare in wet conditions are to be avoided. In principle the proposed materials are acceptable. Consultation with the Access Officer would be required before surface materials are chosen.

The southern entrance at Bateman Quay has a combination of a stepped and gently sloped approach routes. There are concerns about the compliance with Part M of the stepped approach to the first tea house. It is uncertain if these steps are proposed as new, if so compliance is required. Levels given on plan do not correspond with the requirements; the steps would appear to have risers of 116mm (150-180, goings 300-450mm required). Handrails also not included, as well as on the edges handrails would also be required in the centre as the width is over 2 metres wide. Consultation with the Access Officer would be required before handrails are chosen.

Historic early 19th Century Teahouses survive at the southern end of the park, at the Bateman Quay entrance. Marker in ground lights direct movement into the gardens and toward the second teahouse. This more northerly teahouse just inside the park entrance has two entrances on adjoining perpendicular walls, there is approximately a two metre difference in level between the entrances. The drawings do not depict this aspect. We would request that the design of the shared pedestrian/cycle way is altered to cater for the difference in levels of the entrances to this building, thereby enhancing the visual experience of this architectural feature. Consultation with the Conservation/Access Officer(s) is recommended for the integration of the Second Teahouse into the overall design. We would also request that consideration is given to avoiding types of in ground lighting which causes glare.

Installation of various elements of brewing equipment as features to reflect the past history of the site is proposed along the length of the meandering route, For the most part they are sensitively placed adjacent to but not on the pathway. The opportunity to provide informal seating places are located near them has not been lost.

Universal design advocates legibility in areas of different usage, to enable all to understand and use a space. Inside the linear park the layout of the routes is such that routes generally appear to be hazard free.

The creation of a shared surface access route through along the length of the park provides increased options of access for the widest range of pedestrian users. Rationalisation of the levels In the interest of flood protection also favours accessibility. Gradients are good, not exceeding 1:20 in steepness, and less than 500mm rise per gentle slope. Except at the tie in with the existing Greens Bridge to the north. Here a gradient of 1:14 was noted on plan. Care will need to be taken at to ensure that accessibility is optimised at the Green's Bridge entrance to the Riverside Gardens.

The southern more permanent areas have proposals of exposed aggregate concrete to the shared pedestrian and cycle path, and granite flag paving and blocks to areas of importance including areas adjacent to the Tea Houses and the pocket space to the Parliament Street connection. These materials are acceptable in principle.

The middle section of the route runs through an area of archaeological interest where further investigations are to be carried out, consequently the route takes on a more temporary nature here, being

subject to realignment in tandem with the progression of the archaeological investigations. Compacted gravel to the temporary pathway is proposed here. Compacted gravel is also proposed along the northern length of the park between the Breaghagh River and Green's Bridge. Compacted gravel is acceptable provided that the type and level of compaction provides a cycle and wheelchair friendly route.

The portion of the path between the Breaghagh River and Green's Bridge is proposed to be wide enough to allow occasional vehicle access to facilitate the uses the existing boat slip. Seating is noted along the edge of this route. However none is proposed near the slipway, or near the proposed Skate Park. We would advocate that the provision of seating at these points would be of benefit to people accompanying those involved in the water sports and skating activities.

Lighting standards are depicted just outside the route, this is welcomed. A combination of filter fin and swale drainage systems run along the majority of the route, manholes are depicted adjacent to but not on the pedestrian /cycle route. From an accessibility point of view this is welcomed as it obviates the requirement for drainage gratings, which can be a hazard.

On the paved entrance and pocket areas linear drainage with gratings is used. Gratings are generally to the edges and some manholes also appear on the pedestrian route. Differences in materials and size of drainage runs can constitute a hazard for people. Consultation with the Access Officer is advised in the choices made for drainage gratings and manhole covers.

Most of the seating is indicated as being set back from the flow of pedestrian and cyclist movement. Some seats are positioned in the cycle/walkway, and not set back, thus the clear effective width of the shared way is reduced at these points. Until the Abbey Creative Quarter development is complete, this linear park will be the only route free of vehicles available to cyclists and pedestrians on the west bank of the Nore. Therefore ensuring that the route maintained as free from accidents is imperative. Furthermore for those seated being on the edge of a circulation route can be uncomfortable. The measure of setting seating back from the circulation route would maintain clutter-free pedestrian routes, and provide for ease of movement and comfort of seating. We would request that all seating be recessed back from the route, in the interest of comfort and safety for all park users.

Seating and other such items of park furniture should be of a suitable design, to be easily discernable and not to cause a hazard to people. Information regarding external lighting columns, seating, and litter bins etc., would be required. Consultation with the Access Officer is recommended in the choices made for park furniture.

Signage can facilitate way finding, but it is not the sole solution to navigating a particular site. However, it can play a role in complimenting and enhancing the legibility of an environment if it is designed to be clear, easily understood, and positioned where it can be easily identified.

Conclusions and Synopsis,

From an accessibility point of view, the proposals for the public riverside garden/linear park are to be welcomed. A free flowing barrier-free pedestrian friendly environment is proposed, with sensitive location of park furniture and features.

Consultation with the Access Officer would be required before choices are made on materials and their location, such as park furniture, drainage gratings, and other surface materials.

There are concerns about the compliance with Part M of the stepped approach to the first tea house at Bateman Quay. If these steps are proposed as new compliance with Part M would be required. Consultation with the Access Officer would be required.

Consultation with the Conservation/Access Officer(s) is recommended for the integration of the Second Teahouse into the overall design.

We would also request that consideration is given to avoiding types of in ground lighting which causes glare.

The opportunity to provide informal seating places located near circulation routes has not been lost, and is welcomed.

Rationalisation of the levels In the interest of flood protection also favours accessibility. The provision of a series of gentle slopes is welcomed.

Care will need to be taken at to ensure that gradients and accessibility is optimised at the Green's Bridge entrance to the Riverside Gardens.

The proposals of exposed aggregate concrete to the shared pedestrian and cycle path, and granite flag paving and blocks to areas of importance are acceptable in principle.

In the areas of archaeological interest, and between the Breagagh River and Green's Bridge compacted gravel is acceptable provided that the type and level of compaction provides a cycle and wheelchair friendly route.

The provision of seating near the slipway, and near the proposed Skate Park would be of benefit to people accompanying those involved in the water sports and skating activities

The arrangement of lighting standards and the use of filter fin and swale drainage systems are welcomed as they help to maintain a barrier free and hazard free pathway.

Consultation with the Access Officer is advised in the choices made for drainage gratings and manhole covers in areas where linear drainage is proposed.

We would request that all seating be recessed back from the route, in the interest of comfort and safety for all park users.

Consultation with the Access Officer is recommended in the choices made for park furniture, such as seating, and litter bins etc.

The overall view is that the current design provides great scope for achieving a riverside garden which is truly accessible throughout, thereby offering equitable access and use.

Anne Britton Technician Building Control (Part M) Kilkenny County Council

Appendix D

Review of existing park widths in City Centre





Approx. 11m



Approx. 11m



Approx. 11m



Approx. 13m



Approx. 18m

Appendix E

Planning Notice



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL Comhairle Chontae Cill Chainnigh

Planning & Development Act 2000–2015
Planning & Development Regulations 2001-2015

NOTICE OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT BY A LOCAL AUTHORITY

Abbey Creative Quarter Riverside Garden Project

In accordance with Part 8, Article 81, of the above regulations, Kilkenny County Council hereby gives notice of its intention to develop a Riverside Garden/Linear Park along the western bank of the River Nore in the townland of Gardens, Kilkenny, from Bateman Quay, through the former Smithwicks Brewery Site to Greens Bridge.

The proposed development will include :

- Removal of the existing concrete slab.
- Raising of the existing ground levels.
- Provision of a 3m wide shared pedestrian / cycle way, that will meander through the Garden.
- Retention and reinforcement of the existing riparian planting along the river bank,
- Removal of the existing non-native Poplar Trees along the top of the River Bank.
- Provision of new trees (native species)
- Provision of paved pocket spaces.
- Provision of ornamental planted areas and grassed lawns.
- Provision of seating areas.
- Provision of walkway lighting.
- Installation of various elements of brewing equipment as features to reflect the past history of the site.
- Entrance 'Gateway' Structure in the area adjoining Bateman Quay.
- Retention of the existing boat slip.
- Provision of a Skate Park area.
- Archaeological excavation of areas where historic mapping has indicated the potential for buried structures. Any newly revealed archaeological features will be appropriately displayed.
- Provision of a temporary walkway through the area around St Francis Abbey and the City Walls/Evans Turret, pending future archaeological excavations.

The proposed Riverside Garden is located within the City Centre Architectural Conservation Area as set out in the Kilkenny City & Environs Development Plan 2014-2020. It is also located within a zone of Archaeological Potential (KK019-026 'City'). The site is in close proximity to St Francis Abbey, Evans Turret and the City Walls, which are National Monuments. There are a number of protected structures located within the site, namely the Woolen Mills and the Pleasure House (Tea House) and the site adjoins Greens Bridge, also a protected structure.

The project site is located adjacent to the River Nore and the River Breagagh, which are designated as part of the River Barrow and River Nore Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (Site Code: 002162) and River Nore Special Protection Area (SPA) (Site Code: 004233).

Plans and particulars of the proposed development, including an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report, will be available for inspection or purchase for a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy during office hours from Friday 20th Nov. 2015 to Friday 15th Jan. 2016, at the following Kilkenny County Council offices:

Planning Dept., Kilkenny County Council, County Buildings, John St., Kilkenny City
from 9am to 1pm & 2pm to 4.00pm Monday to Friday (Except Public Holidays)

Carnegie Library, Johns Quay, Kilkenny
from 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 8pm Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm Thursdays and Fridays, and 10am to 1:30pm Saturdays (except Bank Holiday weekends).

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

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 Rivergardenplanning@kilkennycoco.ie. The latest date for receipt of submissions on the development is Friday 29th Jan. 2016. Submissions should be clearly marked "Riverside Garden – Planning Submission"

Mr Simon Walton,
A/Director of Services, Kilkenny Co. Co., County Buildings, John St., Kilkenny.

Appendix F

Scheme overview

