



Comhairle Contae Chiarraí

Kerry County Council

Manager's Report and Recommendation, in accordance with Section 179 (3) (a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2017 for the following development;

NORTH KERRY GREENWAY (LISTOWEL TO LIMERICK COUNTY BOUNDS)



from

Ballygowloge in Listowel to the Limerick County Bounds

August 2018

*Prepared by:
Capital Infrastructure Unit,
Princes Quay,
Tralee.*



MANAGERS REPORT & RECOMMENDATION

for the

NORTH KERRY GREENWAY Listowel to Limerick County Bounds

Document Control

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A	Managers Report and Recommendation - North Kerry Greenway	AMC/EOB	TS

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

Kerry County Council has acquired the ownership of the disused railway line from the Limerick County Bounds to Tralee and proposes to develop a Greenway on part of this route from Listowel to Limerick County Bounds in line with national planning policy and local objectives.

The North Kerry Greenway (Listowel to Limerick County Bounds) is a project to progress the completion of approximately 10.5km of rural greenway along the existing corridor of this old railway line. It will connect with the existing Great Southern Trail, which extends from Abbeyfeale for about 40km in to County Limerick.

The key objectives of this project are:

- Develop the local tourist economy by building a safe cycling and walking amenity which allow locals and tourists to cycle safely in a car free environment.
- Provide a new strategic link between the rural towns of Listowel and Abbeyfeale by extending the Great Southern Trail into Kerry.
- Improve the social infrastructure available to the surrounding rural communities.
- Provide an amenity that allows for universal access attracting families, the elderly and disabled persons.
- Compliment a range of existing tourism trails throughout County Kerry.

Kerry County Council is strongly supportive of promoting tourism in North Kerry and welcomes the opportunity to develop and enhance the area with this greenway project. It will make a significant contribution to promoting increased economic activity in the region and will positively support the social fabric of the area. The proposed greenway will offer an opportunity to experience in a unique setting the beautiful rural landscape and scenery of North Kerry. People will also enjoy the cultural and heritage attractions available in the town of Listowel. This will promote the area's future potential as a place to live, do business and as a destination for tourists to visit.

It is consistent with both the *Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)* and the *Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021*; is supported by National policy and in particular the *National Planning Framework 2018-2027*, *Smarter Travel- A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009-2020* and *Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways- July 2018*.

There will be close collaboration between the communities along the Greenway and business interests in the design and delivery of the project.

The North Kerry Greenway will be multifunctional serving tourists, locals, schools and work travel needs. It will also complement a comprehensive range of existing and planned recreational trails throughout the area.

The purpose of this report is to evaluate the proposed development with respect to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in accordance with the criteria set out in Part XI of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2017 and Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2018

1.2 Proposed Development

The proposed development consists of the construction of approximately 10.5km of greenway along the route of the disused railway line from the Ballygowloge (Tim Kennelly) roundabout in Listowel to the Limerick County bounds.

The main works will include the following:

- The clearance of any organic material on the greenway footprint, retaining boundary hedgerows and boundary vegetation
- The laying of a 3-meter-wide bituminous tarmacadam surface on a crushed stone base to form the cycle and footpath track with a one-meter wide grass verge on each side of the paved surface
- Repair and upgrade of the existing drainage network
- Reinstatement of an underbridge structure at Skehanieran Lower and Shanacool
- Reinstatement of agricultural underpasses where necessary
- Provision of access controls (pedestrian/cycling friendly gates) road makings, traffic calming measures
- Provision of agricultural, combined and residential crossings
- Installation of safety barriers where required
- Boundary treatment works including the installation of stock proof fencing, security fencing, privacy screening, planting and boundary walls
- Protection and installation of cable ducting for existing fibre optic cable
- All other ancillary site works

It is not anticipated that there will be any significant difficulty removing scrub from the existing route corridor.

An invasive species survey of the proposed greenway has been undertaken as per Guidelines on The Management of Noxious Weeds and Non-Native Invasive Plant Species on National Roads Revision 1, December 2010 and species identified will be managed according to these Guidelines

The works will be completed in one phase as described in the associated project brief report. The design of the Greenway will be consistent with the technical requirements of TII DN-GEO-03047, Rural Cycle Scheme Design (Offline), April 2017 (RCD).

The route will remain within the existing railway corridor as indicated in the planning drawings.

1.3 Site Location and Description

The proposed route is approximately 10.5km in length and will begin at the Ballygowloge (Tim Kennelly) roundabout on the N69 in Listowel and follows the corridor of the disused railway line through the townlands of Ballygowloge, Dromin Lower, Skehanieran Lower, Bunagarha, Shanacool, Kilmeany, Shronebeirne, Lacka East (ED Kilmeany), Sluicequarter and Rathoran. It will finish at an existing amenity trail (Great Southern Trail) on the Limerick County Bounds.



Figure 1 Overall Route Corridor from Ballygowloge Listowel to Limerick County Bounds

1.4 Public Consultation



Figure 2: Public Information day and evening in Listowel Arms Hotel 24th May 2018

Non-Statutory Consultation – Information Day

A public Information day and evening was held in Listowel Arms Hotel on 24th May 2018 from 11.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m.

114 people from the local community and surrounding area signed the attendance record on the day but it is estimated that over 200 people attended the event. The majority of people in attendance were positive towards the scheme and welcomed the proposed greenway project. Most queries from adjacent landowners related to accommodation works, access points, crossings, fencing and screening provision where residential properties border the proposed corridor, responsibilities for ongoing maintenance.

Statutory Consultation

In accordance with S.179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2017 a Public Notice regarding the proposed works was advertised in the Kerry's Eye newspaper **from Thursday 28th June 2018 until Friday 27th July 2018**

13 No. Site Notices were erected on lands adjacent to the proposed route on **Thursday 28th June 2018** and inspected regularly hereafter. The site notices erected on a private road off the R523 at chainage 3350m in the townland of Bunagarha were removed when inspected on Thursday 28th June. These were re-instated on Friday 29th June 2018.

The Plans and Particulars for the development were on display **from Thursday 28th June 2018 until Friday 27th July 2018** at the following locations:

- ◆ Kerry County Council, Listowel Municipal District Office, Áras an Phiarsaigh, Listowel, Co. Kerry.
- ◆ Kerry County Council, Roads, Transportation & Safety Department, Room 115, Áras an Chontae, Rathass, Tralee, County Kerry.
- ◆ Kerry County Council Website www.kerrycoco.ie

Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development dealing with proper planning and sustainable development of the area were invited on or before **5.00 p.m. on Friday, 10th August 2018.**

98 No. Submissions were received by Kerry County Council as part of this statutory process.

Figure 3: Site Notice erected at Shanacool UBNK92



Figure 4: Site Notice erected at County Bounds



Figure 5: Site Notice erected at Bunaghara UBNK94



Figure 6: Plans and Particulars on public display



2. PERSONS OR BODIES WHO MADE SUBMISSIONS OR OBSERVATIONS WITHIN THE PRESCRIBED PERIOD

Table 1 below lists out the statutory bodies, community groups and persons who made submissions to Kerry County Council within the statutory time period.

Table 1; Lists of statutory bodies, community groups and persons who made a submission relevant to the proposed development.

SUBMISSION NO.	NAME
Statutory Bodies	
S-1	Graham Lennox Private Secretary, Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Dublin 2, County Dublin.
S-2	Mary Stack, Environmental & Planning National Tourism Development Authority, Fáilte Ireland, Dublin 1
S-3	Andrew A. Wilson, Senior Track & Structural Engineer, Iarnród Éireann, Limerick Junction Station, Co. Tipperary.
S-4	Kevin Lynch, Assistant Director, Southern Regional Assembly, Assembly House, O'Connell Street, Waterford
S-5	Michael McCormack, Senior Land Use Planner, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Parkgate Business Centre, Parkgate Street, Dublin 8.
Community Groups	
C-1	William Keane, Nenagh Walking Club
C-2	Liam O'Mahony, Cathaoirleach, Great Southern Trail,
C-3	Daisy Foley, Listowel Strollers Walking Group
C-4	Roger Garland, Keep Ireland Open, 43 Butterfield Drive Dublin 14
C-5	Tony Duggan, Listowel Community Centre
C-6	Colm Ryder, Chairperson, Cyclist.ie, c/o Dr Damien O'Tuama, National Cycling Coordinator, Cyclist.ie and An Taisce
C-7	Tadhg Moriarty, Hon Secretary, Listowel Cycling Club
C-8	Mary O' Hanlon Secretary of the Listowel Tidy Towns
C-9	Dominic Scanlon, Secretary of Listowel Celtic Soccer Club
C-10	John Jones, Kerry Cycling Campaign
C-11	Jimmy Deenihan, Chairperson of Kerry Recreation & Sports Partnership
C-12	Margaret Lynch, Secretary of Friends of Tralee-Fenit Greenway
General Submissions	
G-1	Declan Leahy, Bunghara, Listowel, County Kerry.
G-2	Seán, Unknown address.
G-3	Dr John Halknett, 71 Church Street, Listowel, County Kerry.
G-4	Denis Carroll, Curraghatoosane, Listowel, County Kerry
G-5	Deputy Michael Healy Rae, Sandymount, Kilgarvan, Co. Kerry.
G-6	Donal Donovan, Thornbury, Model Farm Road, Cork.
G-7	Jim McNamara Knockaderry, County Limerick.
G-8	Paddy and Anne Wilkinson, Knockroe, Borris, County Carlow
G-9	Jamie Keane, 39 Idrone Park, Dublin and 12 Courthouse Road, Listowel
G-10	Will Andrews, 7 Ranui Road, Stoke, Nelson, New Zealand.
G-11	Kieran Moloney, Unknown Address.
G-12	Noel Mooney, 59 Granville Road, Dun Laoghaire, County Dublin.

G-13	Jeremy Gould, Bunaghara, Listowel.
G-14	Ian McGrigor, Gortbrack Organic Farm, Ballyseedy, Tralee.
G-15	John Wade, Derry House, Cahirdown Close, Listowel, Co. Kerry
G-16	Kieran Ruttledge, CEO, Aqua Dome, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
G-17	Anne Galvin, Unknown Address.
G-18	Norma Martin, The Pigeons, Athlone.
G-19	Dominic Colbert, 118 Clonard Drive , Sandyford Dublin 16.
G-20	Joe and Ann O’Keeffe, Glenview, Kilmorna Listowel, Co. Kerry.
G-21	Fergus O’Keeffe, Kerry Mechanical Engineering Steel Works, Kilmorna, Listowel
G-22	Patrick McElligott & Geraldine Clancy McElligott, Kilmeany, Kilmorna, Listowel, Co. Kerry
G-23	John Corridan, Unknown Address.
G-24	Ross Griffin, Greenville Listowel, Co. Kerry
G-25	Vincent Carmody, Listowel, Co. Kerry
G-26	Paddy Keane, 12 the Meadows, Listowel, Co. Kerry
G-27	Mary O’Sullivan, Bolton’s Cross, Listowel, Skehanieran Co. Kerry.
G-28	Noel Lawlor, Bunaghara, Listowel, Co. Kerry
G-29	Pierce Walsh, John R’s Foodhall, 70 Church Street, Listowel, Co. Kerry.
G-30	Tom O’Grady, Ballybeggan, Tralee Co. Kerry
G-31	Colman O’Flaherty, Listowel, Co Kerry
G-32	Danny Moriarty, 1 Hampton Lodge Walk, Gracepark Road , Drumcondra, Dublin 9
G-33	Eugene T. Moriarty, Clieveragh, Listowel, Co. Kerry.
G-34	James Stack, West Limerick
G-35	John Grimshaw CBE, Founder of Sustrans and the National Cycle Network in UK
G-36	North Kerry Abandoned Railway Line Group
G-37	Brendan O’Callaghan, Barr na Feile, Kilmorna, Listowel County Kerry
G-38	Residents at Bunagarha, Listowel, Co. Kerry
G-39	Damien and Valerie Stack, Bunagarha, Listowel, Co. Kerry
G-40	Daniel Stack, Bunagarha, Listowel, Co. Kerry
G-41	Elaine Stack, Bunagarha, Listowel, Co. Kerry
G-42	Mary Ann O’Connor, Bunagarha South , Listowel, Co. Kerry
G-43	Francis and Anne O’Carroll, Shronebeirne, Kilmoran, Listowel, Co. Kerry
G-44	John Moriarty, Bunagarha, Listowel, Co. Kerry
G-45	John O’Carroll, unknown address.
G-46	Dympna O’Carroll, Listowel.
G-47	Garoid Pierse, An Duchas, Fenit Island Road, Fenit, Co. Kerry and Kildare.
G-48	Kay and Arthur Caball, The Haymarket, Limerick.
G-49	Edward Keane, Unknown Address.
G-50	Alan Chute, Unknown Address.
G-51	Mary Buckley, Unknown Address
G-52	Alan Lenihan, Limerick.
G-53	Frank McNerney, Unknown Address.
G-54	John O’Sullivan, Unknown Address.
G-55	Armél Whyte, Bistro Townhouse. Listowel, Co. Kerry.
G-56	Keith Phelan. 4 Kilfenora, Fenit, Co. Kerry.
G-57	Ann Sweeny, Unknown Address.
G-58	Claire Hanrahan, Listowel, Co. Kerry.
G-59	Aiden O’Connor, Mike the Pies and JD sports, Listowel town, Co. Kerry
G-60	Diarmuid Behan, Horseshoe bar and restaurant, Listowel
G-61	Gordon Flannery, Listowel, Co. Kerry
G-62	Sarah Moriarty, Kenny Heights, Listowel, Co. Kerry
G-63	Steve Jones, Listowel, Co. Kerry
G-64	Sean Broderick, Tae Lane, Listowel, Co. Kerry.

G-65	Niamh Canty, The Shebeen William St, Listowel, Co. Kerry
G-66	James Kenny, Secretary North Kerry Task Force
G-67	Loreto Weir, Listowel, Co. Kerry
G-68	Damien and Valerie Stack, Bunaghara, Listowel, Co Kerry
G-69	Leo and Clare Hudson, Bunaghara, Listowel, Co Kerry
G-70	Conor Moriarty, Unknown Address
G-71	Paul and Norma Stack, Bunagarha, Listowel, co. Kerry
G-72	Kenny Heights Residence Committee
G-73	Sarah Moriarty, Unknown Address
G-74	Patrick Barry, Unknown Address
G-75	Morice Hannon Grenville, Listowel, Co. Kerry
G-76	Michael Cronin, Unknown Address.

3. ISSUES RAISED, WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPER PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA, BY PERSONS OR BODIES WHO MADE SUBMISSIONS OR OBSERVATIONS, MANAGERS RESPONSE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Submission No. S-1

Graham Lennox Private Secretary, Office of the Minister

for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Dublin 2, County Dublin.

Submission

This submission from the Office of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and the Marine acknowledges receipt of the Part VIII Planning Application for North Kerry Greenway. It states that this correspondence will be brought to the Ministers attention at the next practical juncture. In the interim the correspondences are forwarded for the attention of the relevant Department Officials.

Managers Response

The submission by Office of Agriculture, Food and Marine is noted.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display.

Submission S-2

Mary Stack, Environmental & Planning National Tourism

Development Authority, Fáilte Ireland, Dublin 1

Submission

Fáilte Ireland is extremely supportive of this 10.5km development which provides for a unique way for visitors to experience Ireland and deliver the type of activities popular to overseas tourist – mainly walking and cycling. The proposal will provide a strategic link between the heritage town in Listowel and the existing Great Southern Trail which currently extends to the North Kerry/Limerick border, and if developed would provide a greenway of scale for North Kerry/Limerick.

Fáilte Ireland is also eager that this link between Kerry Border and Tralee is developed to ensure the full extent of the Great Southern Trail is realised.

Activity Tourism continues to grow but only if suitable infrastructure is delivered on the ground and in the right location. Walking and Hiking tourism is the most popular activity in Ireland especially with overseas visitors. In 2016 34% of visitors to Ireland partook in hiking / cross walking and 6% of visitors took part in cycling activities.

In 2013 Fáilte Ireland undertook significant cycling tourism market research to identify the potential market size for cycling in Ireland and also consumer preference in relation to location and types of trails. A core market potential of 19.5m people were identified in main European markets alone for cycling in Ireland. The largest potential market is Germany, due to its size and also the large portion of people who cycle abroad. The research determined that there is significant potential for the development of cycling in Ireland both from overseas visitors and domestic markets. Full details can be found at www.failteireland.ie/adventuretourism

The research also found that visitors have particular preference to the type of trails and services which they require while cycling:

- Scenery – beautify scenery and landscape.
- Segregated – Traffic Free
- Safe – flat surfaces and good services
- See and do – lots of activities, attractions and interesting villages.

Fáilte Ireland is extremely supportive of the proposed greenway in line with all proper planning and environmental criteria being met.

Managers Response

The submission by Fáilte Ireland is noted and welcomed.

This project will deliver on all four criteria set out in the Fáilte Ireland Report on Activity Tourism. It is Kerry County Council's intention to progress with development of the North Kerry Greenway from the Limerick / Kerry border to Listowel town and further to Tralee.

As requested the proposed greenway will be delivered in line with all proper planning and environmental criteria.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission S-3 Andrew A. Wilson, Senior Track & Structural Engineer, Iarnród Éireann, Limerick Junction Station, Co. Tipperary.

Submission

Iarnród Éireann have no objection to the proposed construction of a greenway on the route of the disused railway line from the townland of Ballygowloge (Tim Kennelly) roundabout in Listowel to the Limerick County Bounds for the sole use of pedestrian and cyclists only.

All rights must be reserved as per the conveyance dated 7th June 2017 between CORAS IOMPAIR EIREANN and KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL.

Prior to any works commencing on the North Kerry Line which may have the potential to damage or interfere with existing conduits (e.g. ducts, wires, cables, fibre optic cables, access chambers, radio communication masts and other communications media and infrastructure), two months written notice is to be given to this office. Such works shall not commence without obtaining the prior written consent of this office.

Managers Response

The submission by Iarnród Éireann is noted and welcomed.

The required notice period and consent criteria will be adhered to before any works would commence.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission S-4 Kevin Lynch, Assistant Director, Southern Regional Assembly, Assembly House, O'Connell Street, Waterford

Submission

The Southern Regional Assembly (SRA) acknowledges receipt of your letter dated 27th June 2018 and an invitation for observations to be considered as part of the Part VIII planning process to construct a greenway on the route of the disused railway line from the townland of Ballygowloge (Tim Kennelly) roundabout in Listowel to the Limerick County bounds for the sole purpose of pedestrians and cyclists.

The SRA note the project details which will provide a 10.5km rural greenway along the disused Great Southern Railway line from the Limerick County Bounds to Listowel.

The SRA consider it important to engage in this consultation process on matters of strategic importance to the sustainable economic growth of the region and welcome the opportunity. The proposal has been reviewed, relative to the South West Regional Planning Guidelines (SW RPGs) 2010-2022 and relevant

national policy. It should be noted that the SW RPGs 2010-2022 remain in force until a Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) has been adopted by the Regional Assembly.

The SRA have noted issues which are of a high level, strategic and regional nature, as opposed to the specific design details of the project. In this regard, the following objectives of the project are noted for their strategic importance in the sustainable development of the region:

- Develop the local tourist economy and compliment the range of tourism trails in the County and region.
- Provide a strategic link and sustainable travel infrastructure between the rural towns of Listowel and Abbeyfeale in Co. Limerick by extending the Great Southern Trail into Kerry.
- Improve social infrastructure to the surrounding rural communities.
- Inclusion of ducting for fibre optic communications, assisting digital and telecommunications infrastructure delivery throughout our rural region.
- Provision of an amenity designed with universal access for all.

The SRA note and welcome the strategic opportunities of the greenway project as a catalyst for cross county boundary collaboration and promotion of shared assets between North Kerry and South Limerick, which will deliver opportunities to strengthen the economy, amenities and vibrancy of towns and their rural catchments in this area. Such projects and network opportunities will be supported under the forthcoming Regional Spatial Economic Strategy for the Southern Region.

1.0 South West Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022 (SW RPGs 2010-2022)

This location of the Greenway is designated as the “Northern Area” under the SW RPG 2010-2022 spatial development strategy. Objective RSS-06 supports towns in this area to act as vibrant centres for employment and services with their catchment areas and promotes greater links to surrounding hinterlands. Sustainable diversification of the rural economy is also promoted in the RPGs. The North Kerry Greenway project is consistent as far as it is practicable with these objectives. Furthermore, the project will provide an active leisure, tourism and sustainable travel route and is consistent as far as it is practicable with the additional objectives and Sections of the SW RPGs 2010- 2022:

- RES-03 Tourism “it is an objective to protect existing tourism assets in the region and develop additional sustainable facilities for activity holidays, urban and rural tourism”.
- RES-05 supports the development of innovative and sustainable economic activity, for a diverse rural economy in our region.
- RSS-07 Section 5.4 of the SW RPGs 2010-2022 encourages increased levels of walking and cycling within the region. Creating safe and improved access to cycle and pedestrian walkways, integrating routes with public transport facilities and investing in networks that benefit both rural leisure and urban mobility are encouraged.
- Objective RTS-03 “Cycling and Walking” encourages the development of strategies for walking and cycling and promote the goals of Smarter Travel and promote plans in Local Authority areas for improvement in cycling and walking networks in a sustainable manner. It is an objective to promote the sustainable use of cycling and walking between town centres, employment and residential areas.
- Section 5.4.5 of the SW RPGs states proposed walking and cycling routes near nature conservation sites should be located and designed in such a manner to avoid undue disturbance/harm to species or habitats of conservation interest.

The SRA also note the proposal would be in accordance with objectives RD-28 to RD-31 of the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021 supporting walking, cycling and greenway networks in the County.

2.0 The North Kerry Greenway in the Context of the Forthcoming RSES

The SRA have commenced the process of making a Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the whole of the Southern Region. The purpose of the RSES is to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework (Ireland 2040 Our Plan) and the economic policies and objectives of the Government by providing a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the development of the region over a period of between 12 years and 20 years.

In this regard, key sections of the National Planning Framework which will be explored and further promoted in preparation of the RSES include enhanced walking and cycling facilities within our region. The North Kerry Greenway will be an important natural resource providing opportunities for both visitors and local people to be physically active in the great outdoors. The proposed project will assist in implementing the following Policy Objectives set in the National Planning Framework (NPF):

- National Policy Objective 22 seeks to “facilitate tourism development and in particular a National Greenways/Blueways and Peatways Strategy which prioritises projects on the basis of achieving maximum impact and connectivity at national and regional level”.
- In addition, active walking and cycle infrastructure within our region will support active health initiatives and healthy communities (National Policy Objective 26 and 27), support tourism and rural economic diversification (Section 5.4 of the NPF), encourage transition to sustainable modes of travel (criteria for compact smart urban and rural growth initiatives) and promote sustainable mobility (a strategic outcome under the NPF).
- Support sustainable development of rural towns and areas (NPO 15, NPO 18a)
- Ensure the creation of attractive, liveable, well designed, high quality urban places that are home to diverse and integrated communities that enjoy a high quality of life and well-being (NPO 4)
- Ensure the integration of safe and convenient alternatives to the car into the design of our communities, by prioritising walking and cycling accessibility to both existing and proposed developments, and integrating physical activity facilities for all ages (NPO 27)

The North Kerry Greenway project will also support the objectives set by Government in the National Physical Activity Plan for Ireland which seeks to increase the proportion of the population across each life stage (*Children, Adults, and Older Adults*) undertaking regular physical activity by 1% per annum across the lifetime of the plan.

Collaboration across Local Authority boundaries is a key-criteria considered in the awarding of Urban and Rural Regeneration and Development Funding to support National Strategic Outcomes of the NPF. The criteria promote cross-boundary collaborations at county and regional level to achieve more sustainable outcomes for rural communities. The North Kerry Greenway extending to the Limerick County bounds, extension of the Great Southern Trail into Kerry and strengthened sustainable travel links between the towns of Listowel and Abbeyfeale are positive examples of such collaboration. The shared assets and strengthened networks between settlements in boundary locations will help achieve National Strategic Outcomes across both Local Authority areas.

Conclusion

The proposed North Kerry Greenway is consistent as far as it is practicable with SW RPG 2010-2022 regional planning objectives supporting the sustainable economic development of towns and villages in our region, economic diversification of the rural economy, promotion of tourism, promoting walking and cycling as a sustainable travel mode and promoting an active, healthy region. Regional walking and cycling facilities such as Greenways will receive further focus in preparation of the RSES in accordance with national policy under the NPF.

From a strategic regional perspective, extension of the Great Southern Trail into Kerry and strengthened sustainable travel links between Listowel and Abbeyfeale enabled by the project are positive examples of cross-boundary collaboration at county and regional level to achieve more sustainable outcomes for rural

communities. The SRA support such collaborations, shared assets and strengthening networks between rural towns in boundary locations to help achieve National Strategic Outcomes under the NPF and meet criteria to assist the awarding of funding under the Urban and Rural Regeneration Development Funds which support implementation of the NPF.

The sustainable development of such facilities should be balanced with the protecting the regions' natural environment and habitats from adverse impacts as assessed under the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report accompanying the proposal.

Managers Response

The submission from the Southern Regional Authority is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display.

Submission No. S-5

Michael McCormack, Senior Land Use Planner, Transport

Infrastructure Ireland, Parkgate Business Centre, Parkgate Street, Dublin 8.

Submission

This submission from the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) acknowledges receipt of the Part VIII Planning Application for North Kerry Greenway.

Matters related to land use planning can be referred to the Land Use Planning Section. TII outlines the following observations for the Council's consideration;

It is noted that no details in relation to the proposed tie-in to the Ballygowloge (Tim Kennelly) Roundabout have accompanied the Part VIII proposal. Drawing no. 206-104 of the Part VIII documentation, detailing the tie-in location, identified a link to the existing pedestrian crossing infrastructure and indicated that the detailed junction design is to be finalised.

In the interests of safeguarding the safety of all road users including the vulnerable road users that will in particular be facilitated by the new Greenway, TII recommends that any works impacting the national road shall be undertaken in accordance with standards outlined in TII Publications and, where appropriate, subject to consultation and the agreement of TII.

The Authority requests that the foregoing observations are taken into account prior to the approval of the proposed Part VIII development.

Managers Response

The submission by TII is noted. The design at the entrance to the greenway in Ballygowloge close to the Tim Kennelly roundabout is being designed in accordance with TII requirements and will be agreed with TII following detailed design.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway.

Great news on proposed development as members of Nenagh Walking Club we have enjoyed the benefits GST and look forward to walking the North Kerry section of GST Greenway.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission

The Great Southern Trail Ltd. wholeheartedly supports the extension of the Greenway from the Limerick County Bounds to Listowel.

It is now thirty years since the Sustrans Report on the North Kerry Greenway was commissioned by Shannon Development. The failure of statutory bodies to proceed with this project led to the establishment of the voluntary organisation (GST) which succeeded after lengthy campaigning in realising the Rathkeale to Kerry border section. GST managed this section until it was handed over to Limerick city and County Council in 2015.

It has always been GST's objective to see the entire project completed to Tralee/Fenit and in this regard GST urge Kerry County Council to plan and make a funding application for the additional 27km link to incorporate the remainder of the North Kerry railway route through Lixnaw, Abbeydorney and Ardfert, which the Council now owns, thereby providing a continuous 90km+ Greenway from Rathkeale to Fenit.

This submission urges both local authorities to take cognisance of the response (below) of Minister Shane Ross to a recent Parliamentary Question (from Limerick T.D. Tom Neville) in which the Minister acknowledges the tourism potential of a Limerick to Tralee/Fenit Greenway:

'The Greenways Strategy will provide a framework for the development of Ireland's greenways and will determine the type of project to be funded by my Department over the coming decade. This is a long-term Strategy with the aim of increasing the number, length and regional spread of greenways across the country. It will set out guidance to project promoters including strategic nature, length, design standards, accommodation works and early consultation with communities and land owners along proposed routes. I plan to publish the Strategy in the coming month following which I plan to announce a funding call later in 2018 with a view to awarding funding to a number of projects for drawdown between 2019 to 2021. I was pleased to secure additional funding for greenways last year bringing the total available for the period 2018 to 2021 to €55.9m.'

There is no doubt that the extension of the Great Southern Greenway towards Limerick City and to Listowel/Tralee would increase the tourism potential of this route both in Limerick and Kerry.

Managers Response

This submission from GST is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display.

Submission No. C-3 Daisy Foley, Listowel Strollers Walking Group, 34 Kenny Heights, Cahirdown, Listowel

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway.

The author states *“On my own behalf & on behalf of Listowel Strollers walking group, I wish to support the continuation of the GST from the Limerick/Kerry border to Listowel. We have been campaigning for this for nine years.”*

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. C-4

Roger Garland, Keep Ireland Open, 43 Butterfield Drive Dublin 14.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway.

Keep Ireland Open wish to fully support this proposed Greenway. We would also like to mention that the link from Listowel - Lixnaw - Abbeydorney - Ardfert to Tralee needs to be completed.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed. It is Kerry County Councils intention to progress with the development of further sections of Greenway along the route of the old Great Southern Railway Line to Tralee. Currently there is also a separate Part VIII application to progress a greenway along the Tralee to Fenit Line.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. C-5

Tony Duggan c/o Listowel Community Centre, Listowel, Co. Kerry

Submission

The Listowel Community Centre is a not-for profit company limited by guarantee, run by a voluntary group of directors. Open seven days a week from 7.00am-9.30pm, with nineteen staff generating a turnover of €365,000 per annum.

In the last two years the Centre has undergone a huge development, estimated at over €1 million upon completion. This level of investment is made because the Centre can become an important economic generator for tourism, helping the town and locality get back on its feet again. The park is Listowel's and North Kerry's greatest tourism attraction in terms of visitor numbers and the Centre receives in excess of 50,000 visits per annum which is due to further increase upon completion of the development.

The research on Greenway's has been very positive to date and would serve to enhance the economy of the area and we believe we are ideally suited to be the start and finish point. The location and amenities in the park are family orientated with pitch and put, children's playgrounds, tennis courts, gym, sauna, steam room, walk ways, the garden of Europe, playing pitches and outdoor adult exercise machines, coupled with our new changing rooms, toilets and showers, all with universal access, will serve to enhance the visitors experience of the Greenway. Along with our extensive opening hours the Centre we intend to provide an outdoor green café and innovative-fun cycle hire such as

<https://www.facebook.com/InTheKnowInnovationAOL/videos/1932225213736799/>

The 2013 task force on North Kerry named tourism as being 50% of the economic generator for the area - Listowel and North Kerry needs a major tourism project to make this happen.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. C-6

Colm Ryder, Chairperson, Cyclist.ie

Submission

Cyclist.ie is Ireland's national cycling advocacy network, and the Irish member of the European Cyclists Federation. This proposed scheme has the potential to open up this area of Kerry to increased tourism levels, to encourage greater levels of walking and cycling locally in the immediate north Kerry corridor, and in particular to revitalise the villages/ towns as a desired destination. It should also help to increase the daily use of bicycles to access schools and to commute

Overall this submission is supportive of this scheme and the reasonable design quality. The submission has a number of comments to make, and seek clarification on, in relation to the posted documentation, and the route details.

- The drawings do not provide enough detail or actual cross sections to enable a critical examination of the overall proposals, particularly at road crossings. At this stage of development clear technical drawings should be supplied, to provide clarity on the actual proposals at a variety of locations along the route.
- There appears to be no clear proposals to provide a range of access points on to the Greenway.
- It is also not clear what arrangements, if any, will be put in place at any access points to the Greenway to ensure that motor vehicles will be unable to access it.
- Connectivity with Listowel Town centre - the proposed route begins at Ballygowloge (Tim Kennelly) roundabout and that there is absence of any indication in the project brief as to how users are expected to transit from the trail head to Listowel town centre despite one of the main objectives being '*Provide a new strategic link between the rural towns of Listowel and Abbeyfeale by extending the Great Southern Trail into Kerry*'. A properly laid out and well signed route from Ballygowloge to the town centre is critical for the success of this project. It is unacceptable to force cyclists out on to a roundabout on a busy national route, especially given that these users may have just cycled approximately 50km along a safe traffic free route and may have a false sense of safety.
- It is noted that that while there are footpaths on both the N69 and John B Keane road neither road has any cycle infrastructure.
- Greenway Width - Cyclist.ie suggests that 3 metres is 'minimum' standard width for a low volume route as defined in Table 4.1 of TII's 'Rural Cycleway Design' guidelines
- Surface Type - Cyclist.ie are happy to see that a bituminous tarmacadam surface is proposed for the greenway surface. This type of surface is the preferred surface for cyclists in general, but also for wheelchair and pram users.
- Soft Infrastructure' along the route - a full array of facilities and soft infrastructure are provided along the route, such as cycle stands, seating, lay-bys, viewing points as appropriate as this adds to the amenity value of the Greenway. Additionally, it is recommended that public art is integrated into the greenway to make it more attractive and stimulating

Managers Response

- Road Crossings

The safety and security of users of the Greenway and adjoining landowners is a priority for Kerry County Council and the design of the scheme will be in accordance with the design standards as set out in 'TII Publication; *Rural Cycle Scheme Design (Offline)*', April 2017.

Where the greenway crosses a public road, speed control mechanisms such as chicanes in association with appropriate advance signage and road markings will be erected along the route to require cyclists to stop and give way in accordance with the *Department of Transport Tourism and Sport (2010); 'Traffic Signs Manual'*. The arrangement at crossings of the greenway with private roads and residential access roads shall be treated in the same manner as public roads with the exception that yield signs rather than stops signs will be used on approach.

For safety reasons cyclists will be required to give way to traffic using the private road. Refer to additional detail drawings 202, 203 and 204 in Appendix 1 of this report for further details.

- Access Points:

The North Kerry Greenway ultimately will start at the Limerick County Bounds near Abbeyfeale and finish at Fenit as part of the overall development of the Great Southern Greenway. As part of this application Kerry County Council is committed to providing public access point at Ballygowloge near the Tim Kennelly roundabout on the north east side of Listowel where users will have direct access to the greenway from the town. Concurrently there are separate plans to connect with the shared amenity space proposed for the Listowel Bypass along the route of the John B Keane Road. This shared space connects with the existing Sive Walk on the north west side of Listowel which continues along the route of the old railway line. There are also plans to develop another share amenity space from the Listowel Town Park which will connect to the proposed North Kerry Greenway.

There is one other public access point at the old railway station in Abbeyfeale. Local public access points at other sections may be accommodated by agreement at a later stage subject to local needs and approval.

The development of ancillary facilities including the provision of additional car parking facilities, if necessary, will require the acquisition of new lands not currently within the ownership of Kerry County Council. This is a matter that will be addressed in the future.

Unauthorised Access

Access control measures to prevent unauthorised motorised vehicular traffic, farm animals, horses etc will be adopted at access points with allowances made for access by emergency vehicles and maintenance crews only. The form of access control will vary depending on the location and restrictions proposed but will conform with the design standards set out in 'TII Publication; *Rural Cycle Scheme Design (Offline)*', April 2017 with reference to the Sustrans document '*A Guide to Controlling Access on Paths (2012)*'

Kerry County Council are committed to implementing the 7 principles of universal design into the detail design of the proposed greenway. These include:

- Principle 1: Equitable Use
- Principle 2: Flexibility in Use
- Principle 3: Simple and Intuitive Use
- Principle 4: Perceptible Information
- Principle 5: Tolerance for Error
- Principle 6: Low Physical Effort
- Principle 7: Size and Space for Approach and Use

- Ancillary Infrastructure

Kerry County Council recognises the importance of providing appropriate ancillary infrastructure to enhance the enjoyment and usability of a greenway. All ancillary infrastructure will be designed and implemented in accordance with the Department of Transport, Sport and Tourism's; '*Greenways and Cycle Routes Ancillary Infrastructure Guidelines*'.

However, the development of certain ancillary facilities including the provision of additional car parking facilities, if necessary, will require the acquisition of new lands not currently within the ownership of Kerry County Council. This is a matter that will be addressed in the future.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display.

Submission No. C- 7

Tadhg Moriarty, Hon Secretary, Listowel Cycling Club

Submission

This submission from the Listowel Cycling Club supports the proposed greenway for the following reasons:

- A safe amenity for Locals and Visitors alike
- It will enhance what this area has to offer
- Increase the importance of physical activity for all.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display.

Submission No. C-8

Mary O’ Hanlon Secretary of the Listowel Tidy Towns

Submission

Listowel Tidy Towns Group supports this long-awaited project of extending the greenway from the County Bounds to Listowel. This has been in the pipeline now for many years and would be a very welcome addition to both the economic and social aspects of the town.

As a community group, living and operating in Listowel the Tidy Towns would be fully behind this project.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. C-9

Dominic Scanlon, Secretary of Listowel Celtic Soccer Club

Submission

Listowel Celtic Soccer Club welcome the development of the above project.

As a provider of physical activity for male & female athletes throughout North Kerry & West Limerick this will further enhance the opportunities in the fight against obesity.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display.

Submission No. C-10

John Jones, Kerry Cycling Campaign

Submission

The Kerry Cycling Campaign welcomes and supports the development of the proposed greenway. It will make an important contribution to the cycling infrastructure in Kerry and will also will extend an existing long-distance greenway. It is hoped that the overall greenway will be extended both east and west connecting Limerick to Tralee in the near future. The benefits of the proposed greenway are as follows:

- It has great potential to open up North Kerry to increased tourism levels and serve as a major economic boost to the whole region.
- It will encourage greater levels of walking and cycling locally in the immediate vicinity of access points, particularly at Listowel.
- It provides a safe off-the-road amenity for vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists and will encourage sustainable travel.
- It complies with the recently published National Greenway Strategy which states that 'the development of Greenways relates to the development of Greenways of scale, i.e. for new developments or extensions of existing Greenways that are more than 20k or shorter distances where it is proposed to join a number of existing Greenways to form a longer, more strategic route.'

The Kerry Cycling Campaign have a number of constructive observations and recommendations to make.

- Requiring cyclists to dismount at crossings

It is noted that the proposals indicate the use of chicanes to encourage cyclists to dismount. This is contrary to the guidelines of TII's 'Rural Cycleway Design' of which 7.4.2 Single Carriageway Crossings states:

'chicanes or on approach stagger should be provided to slow cyclists on the approach crossings. This is for speed control rather than access control measure and should not force users to dismount'

- Access points

In order for the Greenway proposal to meet the stated objectives, safe and easy access to the Greenway and parking is essential. As it is currently being envisaged, there would only be two main access points, one in Listowel and one from the end of the existing greenway at the County boundary. While this may meet the needs of greenway users who are travelling the entire length of the greenway, it would not meet the needs of local users, whose primary usage may be commuting or shorter distance recreational. For these users proximate access is essential. Consideration should be given to providing access points at all possible locations.

- Width of the Greenway

Section 5.2 of the Project Briefing Document shows a typical cross-section which provides for a 2.5 metre to 3.0 metre wide greenway along the route. It is noted that Drawing 206-200 TYPICAL DETAILS does show a paved greenway width of 3.0 metres. It is recommended that this 3 metres be a minimum standard width for a low volume route as defined in Table 4.1 of TII's 'Rural Cycleway Design' guidelines.

The experience of established greenways in Ireland such as in Dungarvan and Westport suggests high volume traffic can be expected near towns and other significant access points and therefore the width should be increased where possible. It is noted that a tarmac wearing surface is proposed for the greenway. This is welcomed and is an essential requirement to ensure universal access to the facility for all users including wheelchairs and buggies.

- Signage

It is suggested that signage is provided for both those on the greenway i.e. pedestrians and cyclists, and also the general public who wish to access the greenway.

- Greenway Users: Distance signs, tourist information signs, location of facilities, connectivity with other infrastructure.
- General Public: Signage showing access points and parking.

The signage would be critical for a comprehensive promotion campaign for the Greenway, which have proved so successful in other counties (e.g. the Mayo and Waterford Greenways). Consideration should be given to co-ordinated marketing and branding with Limerick County Council.

- Facilities along the route.

Consideration should be given to providing seating, lay-bys, viewing points as appropriate as this adds to the amenity value of the Greenway.

- Overall co-ordination, development and maintenance of cycling infrastructure in Kerry.

The proposed greenway will be an important addition to the cycling infrastructure in Kerry. It is recommended that a Local Authority Cycling Officer is appointed at an appropriate senior level to oversee the delivery of the cycling related strategy.

- Oversee the development of a masterplan for all Cycle Paths & Greenways in Kerry prioritising the coherence of the network and linking greenways to the urban centres.
- Overview and input to all planning to ensure that every opportunity is availed of to improve the connectivity of the entire cycling network.
- Marketing and branding of the greenways.
- Maintenance of cycling infrastructure.

- Completion of the entire Great Southern Trail Cycleway.

Long distance cycleways are more attractive for tourists particularly where the origin or destination is already a tourist centred location. It is very important that the 27km "missing link" along publicly owned land from Listowel onwards to Lixnaw, Abbeydorney, Ardfert and Tralee would be completed as soon as possible. This would result in a continuous Greenway of about 90km+ westwards from Rathkeale, Co. Limerick. The additional link would also have significant benefits for sustainable transport and the communities along the route. Consideration should be given to working with Limerick County Council on consistent marketing of the greenway and exploring the possibilities of extending the greenway eastwards to Limerick and preferably to Lough Derg / Killaloe.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

- Requiring cyclists to dismount at crossings

Refer to Managers response to Submission C-6 in relation to Road Crossings.

- Access Points

Refer to Managers response to Submission C-6 in relation to Access Points.

- Width of the Greenway

Refer to Managers response to Submission C-10 in relation to Width of the Greenway

- Signage

Signage shall be provided along the entire length of the route and shall be in accordance with the Department of Transport, Sport and Tourism's; *'Greenways and Cycle Routes Ancillary Infrastructure Guidelines & Greenway Design and Brand Guidelines'* and where applicable in accordance with the *'Traffic Signs Manual'*.

- Facilities along the route.

Refer to Managers response to Submission C-6 in relation to provision of Ancillary Infrastructure.

- Overall co-ordination, development and maintenance of cycling infrastructure in Kerry.

Kerry County Council will be responsible for the operational management and maintenance of the greenway and ancillary infrastructure including the boundary walls and fencing. The Council will ensure that a Management and Maintenance Plan for the greenway will be fully developed in line with the Department of Transport, Sport and Tourism's; *National Greenway Strategy* and industry best practice such as *SusTrans Greenway Management Handbook*.

- Completion of the entire Great Southern Trail Cycleway.

It is Kerry County Councils intention to progress with the development of further sections of Greenway along the route of the old Great Southern Railway Line to Tralee. Currently there is also a separate Part VIII application to progress a greenway along the Tralee to Fenit Line.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display.

Submission No. C-11

Jimmy Deenihan, Chairperson of Kerry Recreation & Sports Partnership

Submission

This submission supports the proposed North Kerry Greenway.

This will have a significant economic and social benefit for the area. It will enhance Listowel as a tourist destination and also provide a safe cycling and walking / running trail for the local population. It will link Rathkeale and Listowel making the GST one of the longest in the Country. Local concerns regarding security and privacy can be addressed with modern fencing.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission C-12

Margaret Lynch, Secretary of Friends of Tralee-Fenit Greenway

Submission

This submission supports the proposed North Kerry Greenway. The submission welcomes the re-opening of the old North Kerry railway line as a public greenway route as it will be very beneficial to North Kerry to have such a facility in the locality which will benefit local residents of the surrounding area and tourists alike.

It is evident from other communities the positive impact Greenways can have on local economies through tourism, but equally as noteworthy are the health and well-being benefits experienced by individuals and families who use the trails. Similar projects, such as the 'Great Western Greenway', in Mayo the 'Great Southern Trail' in Limerick and the 'Waterford Greenway' have proven to be a great success in these aspects.

Routes like this are particularly highlighted for their importance within the National Cycle Policy Framework, Objective 3 states:

Greenways are especially important for, typically, the first 10km along the routes emanating from busy town centres which are heavily trafficked and particularly unattractive for inexperienced or very young cyclists.

The completion of the remainder of the Great Southern Trail would provide utility, tourist and recreational cyclists as well as pedestrians, runners and hikers with a dedicated long distance off road path linking the population centre of Listowel to its surrounding hinterland. The conversion of the Great Southern Trail (North Kerry Section) is an objective of the County Development Plan, the National Cycle Network, Bord Failte's Cycle Tourism strategy and would also form part of the trans-European route EuroVelo 1.

This submission outlines a number of queries and comments on the project:

- Width

The proposal stated that a surfaced pavement of 3m in width is to be constructed, we note that 3m is 'minimum' standard width for a low volume route as defined in Table 4.1 of TII's 'Rural Cycleway Design' guideline.

- Access Points to the Greenway

We advocate that as many access/egress points as possible and practical along the route be explored and formed to encourage wider usage and benefit by the host community and to increase its safety level for

users. It is important to ensure connectivity of these routes to residential areas, shops, schools and other facilities such as public transport stations/stops.

- Planting.

We would propose that liaison be made with the National Biodiversity Data Centre for any proposed planting with the possibility of the provision of a biodiversity trail and pollinator plan. That the adjacent pockets of land included within the route be planned for suitable planting and usage e.g. wildflower meadow, picnic/rest stop, lookout/information stop.

- Existing Signage and Signalling.

That an inventory of any old railway signage, signalling and other artefacts of railway heritage be undertaken and that they are protected and restored.

- Signage

That adequate signage for the Greenway should be placed along the route indicating access points on both the proposed and existing sections of the route, and that fingerpost signage is placed along the route to places of interest and to archaeological features.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

- Width of the Greenway

Refer to Managers response to Submission C-10 in relation to Width of the Greenway

- Access Points

Refer to Managers response to Submission C-6 in relation to Access Points.

- Planting

All proposed planting and landscaping shall be native and indigenous species. Existing boundaries consist of existing ditches or land drains, earth mounds, vegetation (trees and hedgerows), fencing, walls, slopes or embankments, grassed areas, structures and roads.

Where new boundary treatments are required they will consist of one of the following:

- Natural earth mounds
- Fencing – timber post and railing (stock proof) fencing
- Residential screenings (panel fencing)
- Grassed verge or hedgerows or open areas (existing embankments)

All residential screening will be in keeping with the scenic rural location, while meeting the needs of the residents.

- Signage

Signage shall be provided along the entire length of the route and shall be in accordance with the Department of Transport, Sport and Tourism's; '*Greenways and Cycle Routes Ancillary Infrastructure Guidelines & Greenway Design and Brand Guidelines*' and where applicable in accordance with the '*Traffic Signs Manual*'.

- Completion of the entire Great Southern Trail Cycleway.

It is Kerry County Councils intention to progress with the development of further sections of Greenway along the route of the old Great Southern Railway Line to Tralee. Currently there is also a separate Part VIII application to progress a greenway along the Tralee to Fenit Line

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway.

Just a short note to express my strong support for the work being done to progress the North Kerry Greenway. This will be a fantastic addition to Listowel (and we all hope that the Greenway can be extended from Listowel to Tralee/Fenit in the near future). I live in Bunagarha, am the father of 4 children and will be delighted that we will also have a very safe way of travelling to and from Listowel on a bike or by walking.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-2

Seán , Unknown address.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway.

The author states "I am delighted to hear that work is under way to extend the Great Southern way to Listowel and Tralee and on to Fenit. As a frequent user of the GS Trail I look forward to being able to continue into my own County. I am sure this extension will have great benefits to the North Kerry area as it will attract more visitors to the area."

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed. It is Kerry County Councils intention to progress with the development of further sections of Greenway along the route of the old Great Southern Railway Line to Tralee. Currently there is also a separate Part VIII application to progress a greenway along the Tralee to Fenit Line.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-3

Dr John Halknett, 71 Church Street, Listowel, County Kerry.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway.

The author states that "We have always recycled houses, even Listowel Garda Station burnt 100 years ago. Roads - Old Kenmare Road, a fantastic 16km hike. Ships - The Jeanie Johnson for example so why not an old railway. Please finish Listowel to Abbeyfeale at an early date. My patients really need a safe walking route/cycle track."

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-4

Denis Carroll, Curraghatoosane, Listowel, County Kerry.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway.

The author states that he has been involved in the Greenway project since 1985 when he attended the first meetings to be held proposing the use of the old railway line from Limerick to Tralee. In that time he has experienced a slow decline in the economic growth of North Kerry. He coached women's basketball since 1976 and the vast majority of the young girls that he coached have immigrated. He references Minister Jimmy Deenihan's report on the future of North Kerry showing two areas of potential growth - Tourism & Food. He also references George Lees report from Westport and the Waterford Greenway examples of the benefits to the local businesses from the Mayo and Waterford Greenways. He also highlights the health

benefits having been involved in sports for over 20 years he sees the negative effects of increased occurrence of Diabetes and the additional costs to the health service budget. He asserts that the railway lines are state property and doesn't have a problem with their development as a cycleway/walkway although he lives directly next to one.

He states that *"this walkway is badly needed and needs to get finished ALL the way from Kilmorna to the pier in Fenit for the very survival of North Kerry."*

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-5

Deputy Michael Healy Rae, Sandymount, Kilgarvan, Co. Kerry.

Submission

I write in support of the North Kerry Greenway. I wish to highlight that despite the fact that we are having two greenways progressed at present which I totally welcome. There remains a 27km gap in North Kerry with a stretch of the old railway still lying idle but now owned by Kerry County Council. Could I please point out that this missing link along publicly owned land from Listowel onwards to Lixnaw, Abbeydorney, Ardfert and Tralee still needs to be completed and would actually result in a continuous greenway of about 90km westwards from Rathkeale Limerick with all of the added benefits and positive affects that this would have to all communities enroute.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-6

Donal Donovan, Thornbury, Model Farm Road, Cork.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway.

The author states that *"although I live in Cork I am a great fan of the Great Southern Trail having walked most of it. I do hope that it will progress westwards from Abbeyfeale on what I gather is publicly owned land which would really crown a great project."*

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-7

Jim McNamara Knockaderry, County Limerick.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway.

The author states that *"as a cyclist walker and environmental activist I'm glad the project is progressing and looking forward to being able to travel it all the way from West Limerick to Tralee. As you are aware this corridor habitat is over a hundred years old and I'm asking that every effort be made in the timing of the work and control of vegetation to avoid the use of toxic chemicals, in order to minimize the disruption to the flora and fauna"*.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

An invasive species survey of the proposed greenway has been undertaken as per Guidelines on The Management of Noxious Weeds and Non-Native Invasive Plant Species on National Roads Revision 1, December 2010 and species identified will be managed according to these Guidelines.

As part of this planning proposal an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening report was prepared and determined that the proposed work, individually, and in combination with other plans and projects, is not likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

An appropriate assessment screening was also prepared for the proposed project and determined that the proposed work, individually, and in combination with other plans and projects, is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (Natura 2000 Site).

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-8

Paddy and Anne Wilkinson, Knockroe, Borris, County Carlow.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway.

The author states that *"We would like to add our support for Kerry County Council's plans to extend the Great Southern Trail. The extension from Rathoran to Listowel, and hopefully onwards to Tralee will a wonderful asset for the hard-pressed cycling and walking community. We are mindful of the late great John B. Keane who wrote so wistfully on the old railway line with its connection to the outside world - it will be a most appropriate tribute to restore this historic line for local and indeed visitor enjoyment. Most importantly the addition of more designated cycle ways throughout Co. Kerry will be an essential ingredient towards public appreciation of the unique countryside, free from the relentless modern motorway development which offers little comfort for a healthy lifestyle".*

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-9

Jamie Keane, 39 Idrone Park, Dublin and 12 Courthouse Road, Listowel.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway.

The author lives in Dublin but grew up in Listowel and returns home regularly. Keeps active in the outdoors by walking, hiking and cycling. *"I have good amenities for this where I live in the foothills of the Dublin mountains. When I am home in Listowel I am struck by how limited the facilities are to be active in the outdoors. The Cows Lawn and the river are of course lovely but that is all there is. The cycle way would be a huge improvement in the outdoor amenities of the town. It would enable walkers and cyclists get hours of good exercise as well as provide the more casual walker and families with another outlet. From my involvement in the outdoor community I am sure that the Greenway would attract visitors to the town."*

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-10

Will Andrews, 7 Ranui Road, Stoke, Nelson, New Zealand.

Submission

This submission strongly supports the application for permission to construct the North Kerry Greenway. The author states that “I’m a resident of Dublin, living in New Zealand until Christmas. I have seen here the huge dividend that local communities earn from the tourist dollar that follows Greenways. Tourism cycling is huge in the EU and Kerry is missing out on a major market.

Please see these references for how just one Greenway has helped its local community in New Zealand-

- 'A report from the Central Otago District Council showed between spring of 2014 and autumn of 2015, users of the 152-kilometre trail injected around \$10.4 million into the local economy...' - <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/88967345/central-otago-rail-trail-highlights-opportunities-for-proposed-east-coast-cycleway>
- 'Rail trails in Central Otago have created jobs and boosted the local economy.' - <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/85198759/cycle-trail-a-17m-boost-for-central-otago>
- Economic impact and user survey report- <https://www.centralotagonz.com/PicsHotel/CentralOtagoRTO2014/Brochure/OCRT%20User%20Survey%20Analysis%202014-15.pdf>
- 'Otago cycle trails bring in \$20m' - [Otago Daily Times Online News](http://www.otago-daily-times.co.nz/news/2018/03/21/otago-cycle-trails-bring-in-20m/)
- 'Plans for three new Central Otago cycle trails' - <https://www.nzcycletrail.com/news/2018/plans-three-major-new-central-otago-cycle-trails/>

The proposed Greenway will enhance the local environment, contribute significantly to the national economy by attracting active, big-spending tourists from Germany, France and beyond, and provide a local transport option that will reduce dependence on cars and lifts for local journeys. But most importantly it has the potential to create a massive cash and jobs injection for the local economy.”

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-11

Kieran Moloney, Unknown Address.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway.

The author states that “it will bring a lot of tourists to North Kerry for the better of business that are suffering. It will also link in to the wild Atlantic way”

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-12

Noel Mooney, 59 Granville Road, Dun Laoghaire, County Dublin.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway.

The author states that “I think it will add greatly to Kerry's Tourism Attractions. It would be really nice if the Listowel to Tralee section of the old railway line was added to the existing Greenway at some future date”

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

It is Kerry County Councils intention to progress with the development of further sections of greenway along the route of the old Great Southern Railway Line.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-13

Jeremy Gould, Bunaghara, Listowel.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway.

The author states that *"I and my family frequently use the greenway that currently runs from Abbeyfeale to Rathkeale. It's a safe environment for my children to explore on foot and on bicycle. I cannot wait for the greenway to extend from the Kerry border into Listowel (and hopefully, eventually, all the way to Fenit). It will be a fantastic amenity for locals and tourists. Hopefully it will bring tourism (and jobs) to the local area. Maybe even my children will be able to ride their bikes to work"*

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed. It is Kerry County Councils intention to progress with the development of further sections of Greenway along the route of the old Great Southern Railway Line to Tralee. Currently there is also a separate Part VIII application to progress a greenway along the Tralee to Fenit Line.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-14

Ian McGrigor, Gortbrack Organic Farm, Ballyseedy, Tralee.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway.

The author states that *"I would just like to lend my support to both greenways - Fenit and Listowel. The only provision is that they be truly green and not ripped out and tarmacadamed sufficient to run a truck down as in other projects I have seen"*

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

The design of the Greenway will be consistent with the technical requirements of TII DN-GEO-03047, Rural Cycle Scheme Design (Offline), April 2017 (RCD).

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-15

John Wade, Derry House, Cahirdown Close, Listowel, Co. Kerry.

Submission

This submission raises concerns that any gates placed on the Greenways may not be user-friendly for wheelchair users, cyclists and persons pushing buggies.

This submission suggests that gates were installed on other Greenways which meant that the above-named users were unable to go through them.

Managers Response

Gates shall be provided onto the greenway from adjacent agricultural lands/residential properties where required. The scheme shall be designed to ensure access for all users; including families with buggies, wheelchair users and cyclists.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-16

Kieran Rutledge, CEO, Aqua Dome, Tralee, Co. Kerry.

Submission

This submission supports the extension of the North Kerry Greenway from the Limerick border to Listowel. It also states that it is wrong that the greenway currently stops at the Kerry County border. Kerry is supposed to be the premier Tourism County in Ireland and should be leading the way on developments like these.

Managers Response

This submission from the CEO of the Aqua Dome is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-17

Anne Galvin, Unknown Address.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-18

Ms Norma Martin, The Pigeons, Athlone.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway.

The author states that *"I am originally from North Kerry, now living in Athlone. In relation to the proposed Greenway, I would be fully supportive of the deployment & positives it will bring. From my experience the opening of the Greenway from Athlone to Mullingar has had a major positive impact on the area having brought in a lot of tourists, many of whom are families, cycling groups & keen cycling enthusiasts. As well as the obvious health benefits to those who use the Greenway, commercially the Greenway has been a huge success for Athlone town, Moate & Mullingar as line users tend to stop off in these towns for dinner, lunch or to visit tourist attractions."*

Cycling tourism is now beginning to take off in Ireland with groups partaking in cycling the different Greenways the country has to offer. It is a new way to experience hitherto unexplored parts of the country & see the wonderful wildlife & countryside which has remained hidden to most before the arrival of the Greenways."

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-19

Dominic Colbert, 118 Clonard Drive, Sandyford Dublin 16.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway.

The author states that *"as one who has witnessed the enormous economic and social benefits of the recently opened Waterford Greenway, I would like to record my support for the above. This is a great opportunity to develop a lasting piece of tourism and community infrastructure for present and future generations. I note, however, that a 27km "missing link" along publicly owned land from Listowel onwards to Tralee still needs to be completed to form a continuous 90km route. Surely, too good an opportunity to let slip particularly in light of the recently published 'Greenway Strategy'"*

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed. It is Kerry County Councils intention to progress with the development of further sections of Greenway along the route of the old Great Southern Railway Line to Tralee. Currently there is also a separate Part VIII application to progress a greenway along the Tralee to Fenit Line.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-20

Joe and Ann O’Keeffe, Glenview, Kilmorna Listowel, Co.Kerry.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-21

Fergus O’Keeffe, Kerry Mechanical Engineering Steel Works, Kilmorna, Listowel

Submission

This submission set out concerns regarding the proposed greenway.

Ger O’Keeffe, Consulting Engineers representing Fergus O’Keeffe detail their clients concern about the height of the existing bridge parapet wall. Their client gains access to his premises across an existing CIE bridge identified as OBNK91. Their client also has concerns regarding access and egress into his premises taking into consideration works that may be undertaken on the Greenway. In this regard their client would like Kerry County Council to take these concerns on board in relation to the Greenway and in relation to any works that might be necessary to be carried out to the bridge. Photographs of the bridge ID and parapet wall were enclosed with the submission.

Managers Response:-

The submission is noted.

The route of the proposed greenway crosses under an existing masonry bridge (CIE Ref No. OBNK91) at chainage 5825m in the townland of Kilmeany. The bridge carries a private road over the old railway line below.

As part of the detailed greenway design a visual inspection was carried out by RPS Consulting Engineers on the 25th June 2018. It was determined that the existing stone arch structure will be retained without any structural alterations required to the bridge. Minor repointing works will be required to the existing structure and vegetation removal carried out throughout to improve the durability of the existing structure.

A structural loading assessment of the existing bridge was not carried out as the proposed greenway will not affect the structural capacity of the bridge. For the purposes of the greenway works it is proposed to retain the existing masonry bridge as is with minor works carried out as outlined. Access and egress across the bridge will not be impacted.

Managers Recommendation:-

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-22

Patrick McElligott & Geraldine Clancy McElligott, Kilmeany, Kilmorna, Listowel.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway. They live on a 6-acre site in Kilmorna and their property lies adjacent to the proposed North Kerry Greenway and have expressed the following concerns in relation to the proposal.

- Property to be screened and fenced to protect their home and family
- Request a private access on to the greenway for their family
- No unauthorised entry

Managers Response

This submission is noted.

Accommodation works such as boundary treatments, gates, planting etc shall be agreed with the landowner prior to the completion of the works. This body of work is ongoing and will be finalised post this process. The type of fencing will be negotiated with the landowner prior to erection, having regard to their requirements relating to residential amenity and security.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-23

John Corridan, Unknown Address.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway stating that it will be a positive development for the local economy.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-24

Ross Griffin, Greenville Listowel, Co. Kerry.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway stating that it will be a positive development for the local economy. The author states that *"it is an incredibly positive motion which creates a multitude of opportunities for both the people of Listowel and its retailers as a safe amenity for adults and children alike, and another much-needed tourist artery which will add to the prosperity of the town. On behalf of my family, my friends and my neighbours in Greenville, particularly those with young families who are most likely to avail of such an amenity, I would urge support from all quarters to pass this motion and secure for it as much funding as it requires."*

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-25

Vincent Carmody, Listowel, Co. Kerry.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway stating that as a local, Listowel and North Kerry historian it is his view that the planned North Kerry Greenway will be of tremendous value in future years to both local residents and tourists who wish to incorporate a walking and cycling segment into their holiday. The author states *"I have been on the Rathkeale/Abbeyfeale, Waterford and Mayo Greenways and have been most impressed with each, all different and most pleasing. As someone who regularly gives walking tours of*

Listowel Town and am in regular contact with that type of visitor, I would congratulate the Kerry Co. Council on their initiative in turning the unused railway line into a recreational walk and cycleway”

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-26

Paddy Keane, 12 the Meadows, Listowel, Co. Kerry.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway stating that as a Listowel resident and a recreational walker he would like to record a very strong endorsement for the proposal to extend the Southern Trail into Kerry for the following reasons.

- The great advantage to the residents of the North Kerry area of a safe walking and cycling route.
- The obvious potential of such an amenity for increased tourism in the area.
- The desirability of such a safe environment where children can learn to cycle.
- The benefits, both commercial and social, evidenced from existing Greenway

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-27

Mary O’Sullivan, Bolton’s Cross, Listowel, Skehanieran Co. Kerry.

Submission

This submission strenuously objects to the proposed North Kerry Greenway on the following grounds.

- Claims her property has been subjected to ongoing flooding over the last number of years arising from road improvement works carried on the N69 at the junction with R523 which fronts her property.
- Claims that this inflow of water as result of said road works has also resulted in large volumes of water gathering on the railway line which heretofore did not have an issue. The railway corridor runs through her property and farm.
- It is the subject of a High court proceeding against Kerry County Council in relation to the matter.
- States that any drainage improvement works completed as part of the proposed greenway along the old railway line will lessen her legal case as it stands to remove evidence of previous flooding along the old railway line.

Managers Response

The legal case taken in relation to this matter is a separate issue and will be dealt with accordingly. The existing drainage system associated with the old railway line has become overgrown in places due to the lack of maintenance. Kerry County Council proposes to rehabilitate and maintain the existing drainage networks in addition to any other required drainage improvements to facilitate the greenway. Kerry County Council will be responsible for the operational management and future maintenance of the greenway and the associated drainage system. The proposed works will not adversely impact on the subject site.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission

This submission sets out the following concerns regarding the proposed greenway which crosses a private road in Bunaghara at chainage 3350m, the location of the removed CIE railway Underbridge ref no. UBNK94.

- There is an ongoing flooding issue on the road where the proposed greenway crosses the road. As the road is private the residents have been unable to get assistance from the Council.
- How will the flooding issue be resolved to allow for the proposed greenway if the proposal is to cross at grade.
- If granted planning the resident have access and egress concerns to and from their properties during the construction stage. The road is a cul-de-sac and there are several homes below the crossing.
- Duration of the planned construction works at this location.
- Requests that there would be no unauthorised parking outside his house or any other house while works are going on.

Managers Response

Kerry County Council propose to rehabilitate and maintain the existing drainage networks in addition to any other required drainage improvements to facilitate the greenway. The proposal at this location is to remove the remaining stone abutments and lower the exiting track for an at grade crossing. This will involve works to the existing drainage system and any flooding issue effecting the greenway and consequently the roadway at this location will be examined and addressed.

Appropriate traffic management procedures in line with the recommended DOT Traffic Management Guidelines will be implemented to minimise disruption to traffic on the road network at all times. The sequencing, phasing and timing of the works will be programmed to minimise any disruption to local residents during the duration of the works. It is expected that there will no loss of access or egress from effected properties. Unauthorised parking will not be allowed.

The exact duration of said works is subject to final detailed design but every effort will be made to minimise the duration.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-29**Pierce Walsh, John R's Foodhall, 70 Church Street, Listowel, Co. Kerry.****Submission**

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway stating that as business owner of a home bakery and delicatessen in town that it would be a significant development for Listowel in terms of job creation and feels the Listowel will be destination town for the greenway.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-30**Tom O'Grady, Ballybeggan, Tralee Co. Kerry.****Submission**

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-31

Colman O'Flaherty, Listowel, Co Kerry.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway stating that having spent his whole life in Listowel he is eagerly awaiting this greenway having recently visited Dungarvan and seen the positive impact it has had on the Town and its hinterland. He believes it would be a massive boost for the locality and the commercial status of the Listowel giving it an economic boost which could last for years and that it is essential for the future of the community.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-32 Danny Moriarty, 1 Hampton Lodge Walk, Gracepark Road , Drumcondra, Dublin 9.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway. He is originally from Listowel Town and visits Listowel regularly every year. He is a very experienced cyclist having raced and spent a lot of time cycling all over Ireland doing Audax events (www.audaxireland.org). He commutes to work as does his family. His family's experience of the Waterford Greenway last year demonstrated the benefits of greenways namely:

- the economic spin-off for small rural economies
- provides a safe environment for people to cycle and can have massive health gains.
- Universal usability by young and old encourages people of all abilities
- Would attract international visitors particularly from the growing niche of bike-packing cyclists.

Requests that surface is best in class in terms of finish and width as the road finish is a highly regarded factor among the cycling fraternity.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

The design of the scheme will be in accordance with the design standards as set out in 'TII Publication; 'Rural Cycle Scheme Design (Offline)', April 2017. The standard width of the proposed carriageway shall be 3m with an additional 1m wide verge and additional buffer provided at either side of the carriageway. The finished surface will be a bituminous tarmac surface on a crushed stone base. Consideration will be given to increasing the standard width in high volume traffic areas where applicable and in line with the design guidelines

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-33

Eugene T. Moriarty, Clieveragh, Listowel, Co. Kerry.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway. Eugene is a former international racing cyclist and current member of the Board of Directors Cycling Ireland. He believes the North Kerry Greenway will be an instrumental piece of infrastructure for North Kerry and the surrounding areas from an economic, infrastructural, social and health perspective.

He has lived in the Netherlands for a number of years and has witnessed how properly constructed, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure such as the Greenway can contribute to the economy and revive areas that are not so obvious. Additionally, the social and health benefits of this type of infrastructure are more than significant, quantifiable and widely documented, in many jurisdictions.

He suggests that it is constructed as part of a broader, deliberate, strategic infrastructure plan. A plan that adheres to international standards set by the Netherlands and Denmark at a minimum. By doing this, KCC will set North Kerry as the flag bearer and standard holder for the rest of the county and beyond.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-34

James Stack, West Limerick.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway. As a business owner in west limerick he sees the development of the North Kerry Greenway as a hugely positive initiative. It will be a huge boost to tourism in the area, something that must be developed in the North Kerry and West Limerick areas.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-35

John Grimshaw CBE, Founder of Sustrans and the National Cycle Network in UK

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway.

John is the founder of Sustrans and National Cycle Network in the UK and a Trustee of Greenway and Cyclerroutes Limited. The author states that *"I am writing in support of proposals to make a continuous Greenway from Limerick to Listowel and eventually to Tralee.*

Earlier this year I cycled the whole length of the opened route from Rathkeale to the Kerry Border and it would have been tremendous to have gone further especially as my relatives originated from Ardfert. On the same visit we cycled the Waterford Greenway, and the Westport Greenway and I would urge your Council to emulate the standards of these popular projects.

I have been building paths for 40 years now and can with some confidence confirm that the popularity of Greenways depends upon the continuity of route, the absence of barriers, its linkage into towns and settlements and the overall attractiveness and interest along the route.

In these respects, the opened sections of the Great Southern Trail is rather deficient. Its highlight – the Barnagh Tunnel and stunning approach cuttings have been bypassed, and the detailing of farm and road crossings are very poor and unnecessarily costly. Hopefully these matters can be corrected, but for the moment the usage of the Trail must suffer.

From my earlier study, now decades old, I can recall the need to plan your route very carefully so that it is really attractive, and to build to a standard which positively encourages cycling. The urban sections and connections are of immense importance as these are where the users live, and where, unless you are careful, horrendous discontinuities occur.

The North Kerry Greenway is a tremendous opportunity for creating a new tourist attraction, as well as a route of daily use to local people, and I strongly urge you to create it as part of Ireland's remarkable strategy for traffic free Greenways.

If there is any way in which I can support, or assist with this project, please let me know"

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

It is Kerry County Councils intention to progress with the development of further sections of Greenway along the route of the old Great Southern Railway Line to Tralee. Currently there is also a separate Part VIII application to progress a greenway along the Tralee to Fenit Line.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-36

North Kerry Abandoned Railway Line Group

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway but has outlined the following concerns:

- In supporting the plan for the North Kerry Greenway, which will be an invaluable asset to Listowel and North Kerry the North Kerry Abandoned Railway Line Group wishes to stress the importance of security health and safety for walkers, cyclists, landowners and householders.
- To ensure health and safety for all, the concerns of the landowners and householders must be acknowledged and prioritised, and their proposals implemented regardless of cost factor
- The landowners are working their farms and their holding 365 days a year. Certain proposals will have to be adopted and structures, namely overpasses and underpasses, put in place to guarantee that these landowners will be able to continue working their land without interference in perpetuity
- On the 07/06/2017 in our written presentation to the Chief Executive of Kerry County Council, the inclusion of "overpasses and underpasses" was prioritised as item no 1 on the list of items deemed to be integral components of the Accommodation Works. The inclusion of overpasses and underpasses is fundamental to the success of the project.

The submission is undersigned by:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Denis Stack(Farmer) | Dromin Lower, Listowel |
| 2. John O'Connor (Farmer) | ShroneBeirne, Kilmorna, Listowel |
| 3. John Fitzmaurice (Farmer) | Bunagara, Listowel |
| 4. John Moloney (Farmer) | Sluicequarter, Kilmorna, Listowel |
| 5. Seán McCarthy (Farmer) | Sluicequarter, Kilmorna, Listowel |
| 6. Monty Falvey (Farmer) | Ballylahive, Abbeydorney |
| 7. Michael Lyons (Farmer) | ShroneBeirne, Kilmorna, Listowel |
| 8. Francis O'Carroll (Farmer) | ShroneBeirne, Kilmorna, Listowel |
| 9. Patrick Lane (Farmer) | Sluicequarter, Kilmorna, Listowel |
| 10. Matt Dillon (Farmer) | Sluicequarter, Kilmorna, Listowel |
| 11. Brendan O'Callaghan (Landowner) | ShroneBeirne, Kilmorna, Listowel |

Managers Response

This submission and concerns outlined are noted.

The safety and security of users of the Greenway and adjoining landowners and farmers is a priority for Kerry County Council and the design of the scheme will be in accordance with the design standards as set out in 'TII Publication; 'Rural Cycle Scheme Design (Offline)', April 2017.

The Council recognises that a proposal to construct a Greenway through or along private land and farms could impact on the landowner's business. In line with the National Greenway Strategy it is the Council's intention to ensure that any potential negative impact on a landowner's business or livelihood is negated and that all farmers can continue making an uninterrupted living from their land. The provision of suitable and justifiable accommodation works, such as underpasses or overpasses for significant sized dairy herds as utilised on the Waterford Greenway Charter of Accommodation Works and fencing to protect landholdings will be an essential part of mitigating the impact of the project.

Kerry County Council are currently negotiating crossings of the proposed greenway with all landowners and farmers along the route corridor. This will form part of a Schedule of agreed accommodation works. All established existing agricultural and residential/combined crossings will be honoured and regularised where feasible. Other Accommodation works such as boundary treatments, stock fencing, gates, planting etc shall be agreed with the landowner in advance of any works commencing.

The type of crossings to be agreed will be on a case by case basis and in accordance with an agreed Charter for Accommodation Works.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-37

Brendan O'Callaghan, Barr na Feile, Kilmorna, Listowel County Kerry

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway but has outlined the following concerns:

- To ensure health and safety for all, the concerns of the landowners and householders must be acknowledged and prioritised, and their proposals implemented regardless of cost factor.
- Uninterrupted access and use of their adjoining lands in perpetuity.
- They have been resident at this location for 53 years
- The family cares for an elderly disabled brother who needs 24hour medical care, 365 days a year. His health, wellbeing and home care is priority and should not be compromised or disadvantaged by the proposed greenway.
- No unauthorised access. They have been robbed a number of times and it was confirmed by the Garda Síochána that the point of entry and exit was the abandoned railway line.
- Their crossing is used for livestock, farm machinery, deliveries including medical supplies etc
- They have invested substantially in their property and do not want it devalued in any way
- Isolated location and feel that they would be an obvious target if they do not get the necessary protections

To ensure this they require the following

1. An overpass to allow uninterrupted use of their avenue/crossing. The overpass is to be walled off across the railway line and ties to the screening either side to ensure no ingress to their lands
2. Concrete walled screening with stone face (or similar) to a height of 2.75m from their boundary with the Anne Maire Keane and Patrick Cotter to their boundary with Michael Lyons.
3. Provision for existing and future utility services to be provided for in the proposal
4. Full signage at their road entrance and at the crossing with exact wording and placement to be agreed
5. Unauthorised access to the Feale to be blocked from the greenway
6. Indemnity by KCC from all claims arising from any accidents, injury and or fatality due to the greenway and its use.

The submission also queries what measures will be used to prevent antisocial behaviour, criminality, littering, alcohol and drug use and whether CCTV cameras be installed where instances of same occurred. They require the above requirements to be agreed in writing with Kerry County Council.

The submission is undersigned by members of the North Kerry Abandoned Railway Line Group:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Denis Stack(Farmer) | Dromin Lower, Listowel |
| 2. John O'Connor (Farmer) | ShroneBeirne, Kilmorna, Listowel |
| 3. John Fitzmaurice (Farmer) | Bunagara, Listowel |
| 4. John Moloney (Farmer) | Sluicequarter, Kilmorna, Listowel |
| 5. Seán McCarthy (Farmer) | Sluicequarter, Kilmorna, Listowel |
| 6. Monty Falvey (Farmer) | Ballylahive, Abbeydorney |
| 7. Michael Lyons (Farmer) | ShroneBeirne, Kilmorna, Listowel |
| 8. Francis O'Carroll (Farmer) | ShroneBeirne, Kilmorna, Listowel |
| 9. Patrick Lane (Farmer) | Sluicequarter, Kilmorna, Listowel |
| 10. Matt Dillon (Farmer) | Sluicequarter, Kilmorna, Listowel |

Managers Response

This submission and concerns outlined are noted.

Refer to managers response for submission G-36 in relation to agreements on accommodation works and the Council's policy on mitigating any potential negative impacts. The type of fencing will be negotiated with the landowner prior to erection, having regard to their requirements relating to residential amenity and security. This body of work is ongoing and will be finalised post this process.

The safety and security of users of the Greenway and adjoining landowners and farmers is a priority for Kerry County Council and the design of the scheme will be in accordance with the design standards as set out in 'TII Publication; *Rural Cycle Scheme Design (Offline)*', April 2017.

Kerry County Council will be responsible for the operational management and maintenance of the greenway and ancillary infrastructure including the boundary walls and fencing. The Council will ensure that a Management and Maintenance Plan for the greenway will be fully developed in line with the Department of Transport, Sport and Tourism's; *National Greenway Strategy* and industry best practice such as *SusTrans Greenway Management Handbook*.

A standard Code of Conduct will be in place for the greenways guided by the principles of the Leave No Trace Ireland Movement. If required bye-laws will be implemented. An accreditation system will also be developed to ensure regular inspections and inclusion of the greenway on an accredited trail Register maintained by Sport Ireland.

Signage shall be provided along the entire length of the route and shall be in accordance with the Department of Transport, Sport and Tourism's; *'Greenways and Cycle Routes Ancillary Infrastructure Guidelines & Greenway Design and Brand Guidelines'* and where applicable in accordance with the *Traffic Signs Manual'*

Liability for the proposed development will remain with Kerry County Council.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Privacy screening and boundary fencing be installed to provide adequate screening between the greenway and the dwelling to ensure that the residential amenity and security of the property is protected.

This submission supports the project in general but objects to the proposed at grade crossing of their private access road in Bunaghara at chainage 3,360m. This is the location of the removed CIE railway Underbridge (Ref No. UBNK94). The residents outlined the following concerns:

- The status of private road will be compromised
- The security and safety of the residents and their properties will be compromised
- Developing an opportunity for pedestrians/cyclist to access this private road will create a safety risk for both pedestrians/cyclists and the private residents who are using their private road
- It will enable a 4/5-mile circuit for pedestrians/cyclists who will access the R523 which has had several road accidents and fatalities in recent years.
- It will become an unauthorised public access point for the greenway which does not have the proper facilities e.g. parking, insurance cover, or have the support of the residents of the said private road.

The residents expressed that their preferred option would be an underpass of their private road and feel that their health and safety would be protected by this proposal.

The submission is undersigned by: Damian Stack, Valerie Stack, Ger Moloney, Aine Moloney, John Moriarty, Daniel Stack, Paul Halton, Rose Halton, Robert O'Connor, Nora Mary O'Connor, Matt Canty, Kay Canty, Thomas Stack, Bridie Stack, James Dore, Teresa Dore, Bill Gleeson, Mai Gleeson, Paul Stack, Norma Stack, Helen Farley, Allen McCarthy. Neil Tackaberry and Ildiko Bajzat.

Managers Response

This submission and concerns outlined are noted.
Refer to submission G-37 regarding security issues.

The safety and security of users of the Greenway and adjoining landowners is a priority for Kerry County Council and the design of the scheme will be in accordance with the design standards as set out in 'TII Publication; *Rural Cycle Scheme Design (Offline)*', April 2017.

A number of potential options for the proposed crossing at this location were examined as follows: -

- Road Underpass - reinstatement of the underbridge
- Road Overpass – greenway under the existing road
- At grade crossing – existing abutments to be removed and embankments lowered.

The proposal for an at grade crossing at this location is the recommended option given the existing constraints presented at this location. This recommendation was based on a detailed engineering, economic and environmental assessment.

Where the greenway crosses a public road, speed control mechanisms such as chicanes in association with appropriate advance signage and road markings will be erected along the route to require cyclists to stop and give way in accordance with the *Department of Transport Tourism and Sport (2010); 'Traffic Signs Manual'*. The arrangement at crossings of the greenway with private roads and residential access roads shall be treated in the same manner as public roads with the exception that yield signs rather than stops signs will be used on approach.

For safety reasons cyclists will be required to give way to traffic using the private road. Refer to additional detail drawings 202, 203 and 204 in Appendix 1 of this report for further details.

As it is a private road there will be no signage or information provided indicating the crossing as a public access point. However, signage indicating that it is a private road and that no unauthorised access or parking will be allowed will be installed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-39**Damien and Valerie Stack, Bunagarha, Listowel, Co. Kerry****Submission**

This submission confirms commitment to cooperate with the proposed North Kerry Greenway but requests a block wall screening to a height of 2.5m and written confirmation of same.

Managers Response

This submission is noted.

Refer to managers response for submission G-36 in relation to agreements on accommodation works. The type of boundary treatment will be negotiated with the landowner prior to erection, having regard to their requirements relating to residential amenity and security. This body of work is ongoing and will be finalised in advance of any works commencing.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Privacy screening and boundary fencing be installed to provide adequate screening between the greenway and the dwelling to ensure that the residential amenity and security of the property is protected.

Submission No. G-40**Daniel Stack, Bunagarha, Listowel, Co. Kerry****Submission**

This submission confirms commitment to cooperate with the proposed North Kerry Greenway. Mr Stack requests confirmation in writing of accommodation works previously discussed on site with Kerry County Council Engineer to include:

- Privacy screening consisting of a block wall to a height of 2.5m,
- Stock proof fencing along all boundaries to be installed and maintained by KCC
- Slip road on the southern side of his boundary parallel with the greenway
- Cattle underpass.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Refer to managers response for submission G-36 in relation to agreements on accommodation works. The type of boundary treatment will be negotiated with the landowner prior to erection, having regard to their requirements relating to residential amenity and security. This body of work is ongoing and will be finalised in advance of any works commencing.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-41**Elaine Stack, Bunagarha, Listowel, Co. Kerry****Submission**

This submission confirms commitment to cooperate with the proposed North Kerry Greenway but has concerns in relation to security and privacy. Ms Stack requests confirmation in writing of accommodation works previously discussed on site with Kerry County Council Engineer to include:

- Privacy screening consisting of a block wall to a height of 2.5m,

- Reduction of the height of the proposed greenway to below the level of her back garden to prevent unauthorised access.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Refer to submission G-36 in relation to agreement on accommodation works

Refer to submission G-37 regarding security issues.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display.

Privacy screening and boundary fencing be installed to provide adequate screening between the greenway and the dwelling to ensure that the residential amenity and security of the property is protected.

Submission No. G-42

Mary Ann O'Connor, Bunagarha South, Listowel, Co. Kerry

Submission

This submission has no objection to the North Kerry Greenway but has the following concerns:

Mary owns farmland and an old quarry (pre-1966 planning) in the townland of Skehanerin that borders the southern boundary of the proposed greenway. Her family uses the private access road at Skehanerin (chainage 1,300m) where the proposed greenway calls for the reinstatement of the removed Rail Underbridge UBNK95 with a precast box culvert. They want to ensure that they can continue to access their lands with agricultural vehicles/machinery and trucks and that sufficient clearance is provided. They also request that the damaged stream drainage culvert is repaired and that they be notified if any of the groundworks is put out for public tender.

Managers Response

This submission is noted.

The pre-cast reinforced concrete underpass has been designed to allow sufficient clearance for access by agricultural vehicles and complies with the current statutory standards. Any works to be issued for public tender will be advertised on www.e-tenders.gov.ie subject to public procurement procedures and thresholds.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display.

Submission No. G-43

Francis and Anne O'Carroll, Shronebeirne, Kilmorna, Listowel, Co. Kerry

Submission

The O'Carroll family farm borders the southern boundary of the proposed greenway from chainage 7,050m to 7,275m in Kilmorna adjacent to the old Kilmorna Railway Station. The entrance to their farm is located at chainage 7,070m. This submission outlines the following concerns:

- Require unencumbered safe access to their farm and do not wish to be inconvenienced by the public walking and cycling across their entrance.
- Entrance to their farm is extremely busy with constant flow of agricultural traffic entering and exiting day and night such as milk and feed trucks, tractors and trailers, silage and slurry contractors.
- Their farm is a base for other farms located in the area and silage/slurry movements are constant
- The access road is extremely narrow with a restricted view due to a bend on the lane way.
- Contractors employ drivers who are on a tight schedule and may not be familiar with the access
- The crossing is very unsafe and feel that an accident is inevitable
- Privacy and security will be destroyed

- Unauthorised access and trespassing onto their farm and dwelling will be inevitable
- Require an overpass to ensure uninterrupted and safe access and egress from their farm
- Safety, security and business continuity will require their traffic to be separated from the greenway
- Kerry County Council will be liable for any accidents or incidents on the proposed greenway

Managers Response

This submission is noted.

Refer to submission G-38 in relation to this crossing at Bunaghara.

Refer to submission G-37 regarding security issues.

The safety and security of users of the Greenway and adjoining landowners is a priority for Kerry County Council and the design of the scheme will be in accordance with the design standards as set out in 'TII Publication; *Rural Cycle Scheme Design (Offline)*', April 2017.

The proposal for an at grade crossing at this location is the recommended option given the existing constraints presented at this location. This recommendation was based on a detailed engineering, economic and environmental assessment.

Where the greenway crosses a public road, speed control mechanisms such as chicanes in association with appropriate advance signage and road markings will be erected along the route to require cyclists to stop and give way in accordance with the *Department of Transport Tourism and Sport (2010); 'Traffic Signs Manual'*. The arrangement at crossings of the greenway with private roads and residential access roads shall be treated in the same manner as public roads with the exception that yield signs rather than stops signs will be used on approach.

For safety reasons cyclists will be required to give way to traffic using the private road. Refer to additional detail drawings 202, 203 and 204 in Appendix 1 of this report for further details.

As it is a private road there will be no signage or information provided indicating the crossing as a public access point. However, signage indicating that it is a private road and that no unauthorised access or parking will be allowed will be installed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display.

Privacy screening and boundary fencing be installed to provide adequate screening between the greenway and the farm dwelling to ensure that the residential amenity and security of the property is protected.

Submission No. G-44

John Moriarty, Bunagarha, Listowel, Co. Kerry

Submission

This submission objects to the proposed at grade crossing of a private access road at chainage 3,360m, the location of the removed CIE railway Underbridge UBNK94 in the townland of Bunaghara. Mr Moriarty's property borders the northern boundary of the disused railway and runs 360 meters in length from chainage 3,000m to chainage 3,360m. The dwelling house is setback approximately 50 meters from the northern boundary line. He has outlined the following concerns in relation to the proposed greenway.

- Existing private road would become a de-facto access/exit point to the proposed greenway.
- Unauthorised access, security and privacy would be negatively impacted
- Conflict between residents accessing their properties and users of the proposed greenway
- Requires confirmation of the controls proposed to prevent unauthorised access
- Overpass is his preferred option and suggests that the residents would be willing to provide the necessary temporary wayleaves, road closures etc to facilitate the construction of the overpass.
- Confirmation of the type of boundary treatments to be provided to protect his property.

- Confirmation that Kerry County Council will be responsible for the management, maintenance and the security of the proposed greenway going forward in perpetuity and that an annual maintenance programme will be established and funded accordingly thereafter.

Managers Response

This submission and concern are noted.

Refer to submission G-38 in relation to the crossing at Bunaghara.

Refer to submission G-36 in relation to accommodation works.

Refer to submission G-37 in relation to security issues and unauthorised access

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display.

Submission No. G-45

John O'Carroll, unknown address.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-46

Dympna O'Carroll, Listowel.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway. She is living in Listowel for the past 30 years and is alarmed at the significant loss of jobs over the years. She believes the above initiative will improve the prospect for tourism related jobs in the North Kerry area and will bring a lot more visitors to Listowel.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-47

Garoid Pierse, An Duchas, Fenit Island Road, Fenit, Co. Kerry and Kildare.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway.

He is a native of Listowel and his parents have a farm in Bunaghara through which the disused railway line cuts through. They are 100% supportive of the proposed greenway. He has a young family and would love to be able to cycle from County Limerick Listowel and on to Fenit / Tralee in a safe greenway. The relatively flat landscape through which the old Limerick to Tralee / Fenit Railway line passes makes it ideal for young families. Since 2013, He has administered the "Great Southern Greenway Listowel" Facebook page. The page currently has 3276 followers. They hope that with the correct funding and investment all reasonable privacy and access concerns will be met.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-48

Kay and Arthur Caball, The Haymarket, Limerick.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway and extending the great southern trail from Limerick to Listowel. The author states that based on his experience of using the great southern trail that *“the people who like to walk and cycle are a peaceful lot, not given to anti-social behaviour, interested in exercise, local history and appreciative of the countryside. To be able to continue from Abbeyfeale to Listowel would open up a new and scenic part of the trail. It would bring business, visitors both local and international and is an opportunity not to be missed.”*

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-49

Edward Keane, Unknown Address.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway and extending the Great Southern Trail from Limerick to Listowel and outlines the following benefits:

- Potential to bring a significant boost to the economy of the area as occurred in Waterford
- Provide a beneficial public amenity where young and old can bike safely.
- Research has established that bike trails need to be a certain length to bring significant economic impact. Large parts of the Great Southern Trail are already in place. An extension into North Kerry will benefit Listowel, one of Ireland's Heritage towns as it is in a prime place to be the focal point for accessing the trail.
- The creation of Listowel as a focal visiting site would have significant spin off for other North Kerry attractions such as Carraigafoyle, Ardfert Cathedral, and Rathoo Round Tower.
- Extension of the trail would help to spread tourism around the County of Kerry, helping to alleviate pressure on Killarney and Dingle.
- The Great Southern Trail has the potential to significantly extend the tourist season in the area.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-50

Alan Chute, Unknown Address.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway.

This is a very important initiative to ensure Listowel is included. Rural life, family life and tourism will all benefit from this extension

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-51

Mary Buckley, Unknown Address.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway.

Welcomes the greenway walkway to Listowel as the roads around Listowel are too dangerous with the amount of traffic to cycle with kids. She looks forward to another place in Listowel to cycle or go for a run bar the town park which is their only escape from the streets at present. Hopefully this opportunity will bring more tourists to Listowel and in turn more employment to the area.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-52

Alan Lenihan, Limerick.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway and extending the Great Southern Trail from Limerick to Listowel.

The author states the although he is not a regular cyclist he greatly enjoyed the last few years on vacation in Ireland near cycling greenways. His experience of the Mayo and Waterford Greenway and the Great Southern Trail shows that extending the GST to Listowel would be a major boost to local tourism and that the presence of the greenways inspires local businesses in food, accommodation and bicycle rentals. He understands from talking to tourists is that Irelands Greenways are too short and there is a demand by tourists that want to spend a week in Ireland cycling up to 50 km a day. None of Irelands current greenways meet these lengths and that by extending the Great Southern Trail to Listowel it could offer this.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed. It is Kerry County Councils intention to progress with the development of further sections of Greenway along the route of the old Great Southern Railway Line to Tralee. Currently there is also a separate Part VIII application to progress a greenway along the Tralee to Fenit Line.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-53

Frank McNerney, Unknown Address.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway and extension of the Great Southern Trail to Listowel.

The author states that the *“West Limerick Greenway is a fantastic amenity which currently ends at the Kerry border. I and my friends regularly drive to Abbeyfeale and Templeglantine to walk it. Extending it to Listowel would provide Kerry with the same amenity and a wonderful tourist attraction. As a value for money investment it is a no-brainer.”*

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-54

John O’Sullivan, Unknown Address.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway and outlines the following observations

- Greenway will add substantially to North Kerry's Tourism offering, not just in Listowel but also in to the surrounding area. It will also add to North Kerry's undiscovered and un-promoted unique tourism assets, particularly its heritage, historical sites, historical links with France, Spain and further afield, all of which would give a unique tourism product for the entire North Kerry region.
- Being part of the Eurovelo route and extending the West Limerick route which is in existence for some years, will also enhance its attraction and success.
- Will provide additional employment prospects
- North Kerry must be acknowledged by Kerry County Council as having significant tourism potential and the incorrect statements in Council's LCA and planning zoning must be removed urgently.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-55

Armél Whyte, Bistro Townhouse. Listowel, Co. Kerry.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway and outlines the following observations:

- Essential to the town of Listowel and environs. It's time for Kerry county council to promote North Kerry as an area of tourism.
- Listowel people strive to have a historical literary racing town along with art festivals to be proud of.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-56

Keith Phelan. 4 Kilfenora, Fenit, Co. Kerry.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway and outlines the following observations:

- Welcomes the re-opening of the old North Kerry railway as a public greenway route as it will be very beneficial to the community to have such a facility in the locality.
- Experience from other communities in Mayo and Waterford have demonstrated the positive transformative impact Greenways can have on local economies through tourism as well as the health and well-being benefits experienced by individuals and families who use the trails.
- In the current climate, any initiative that can have a positive impact on all levels of community is to be encouraged and supported.
- Looks forward to future developments progressing this greenway along the publicly owned land towards Tralee and Fenit which would result in a significant route of almost 100km.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

It is Kerry County Councils intention to progress with the development of further sections of Greenway along the route of the old Great Southern Railway Line to Tralee. Currently there is also a separate Part VIII application to progress a greenway along the Tralee to Fenit Line

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-57

Ann Sweeny, Unknown Address.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-58

Claire Hanrahan, Listowel, Co. Kerry.

Submission

This submission supports the proposed North Kerry Greenway. The submission states that she has two boys and that the greenway would be a wonderful safe amenity on which to cycle.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display.

Submission No. G-59

Aiden O'Connor, Mike the Pies and JK sports, Listowel, Co. Kerry

Submission

This submission from Mike the Pies pub and JK Sports shop in Listowel is supportive of the proposed North Kerry Greenway. The boost that the greenway has given for Waterford and Mayo can be replicated in Listowel.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-60

Diarmuid Behan, Horseshoe bar and restaurant, Listowel

Submission

This submission from The Horseshoe bar and restaurant is supportive of the proposed North Kerry Greenway and will provide a boost to the town.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-61

Gordon Flannery, Listowel, Co. Kerry

Submission

The proposed greenway would be a huge boost and advantage for the town of Listowel. As a local publican in Listowel and an active charity fundraiser I would think it would be a huge boost and advantage for the town to see the Greenway coming here.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-62**Sarah Moriarty, Kenny Heights, Listowel, Co. Kerry****Submission**

The residents of Kenny heights are excited and upbeat about this amazing amenity coming to the town and being so close to us. The residents cannot currently cycle in our own town as it is too dangerous but with this greenway it will open up so many opportunities for the residents of the local area.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-63**Steve Jones, Listowel, Co. Kerry****Submission**

This submission supports the proposed North Kerry Greenway. The submission states that greenway from Abbeyfeale to Rathkeale is a wonderful facility and that more greenways are needed for safe cycling and walking especially for children.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-64**Sean Broderick, Tae Lane, Listowel, Co. Kerry.****Submission**

This submission from the Tae Lane Business supports the proposed greenway

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-65**Niamh Canty, The Shebeen William St, Listowel, Co. Kerry****Submission**

The Shebeen William Street supports this development and the increase in visitors to Listowel and North Kerry it will bring.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display.

Submission No. G-66**James Kenny, Secretary North Kerry Task Force****Submission**

This submission referred to a report by the North Kerry Task Force which was drafted in 2013 and refers to Section 2.6 which relates to the proposed greenway extension from Kilmorna into Listowel. It states that this report has since been overtaken by the successful Waterford Greenway.

Managers Response

Kerry County Council is strongly supportive of promoting tourism in North Kerry and welcomes the opportunity to develop and enhance the area with this greenway project. It will make a significant contribution to promoting increased economic activity in the region and will positively support the social fabric of the area.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-67

Loreto Weir, Listowel, Co. Kerry

Submission

The author states that “trails and greenways positively impact individuals and improve communities by providing not only recreation and transportation opportunities, but also by influencing economic and community development. Some of the many trails and greenways benefits include:

- making communities better places to live by preserving and creating open spaces;
- encouraging physical fitness and healthy lifestyles;
- creating new opportunities for outdoor recreation and non-motorized transportation;
- strengthening local economies;
- protecting the environment; and
- preserving culturally and historically valuable areas.

Many people realise exercise is important for maintaining good health in all stages of life. However, many do not regularly exercise. Country roads are now dangerous with huge farming machinery always on the go has created a dangerous place for people to walk or cycle. The statistics reflect how many people were killed on our roads last year cycling or walking. For this reason, it is important to get the Great Southern Trail extension to Listowel completed.

In communities across the country, people do not have access to trails, parks, or other recreation areas close to their homes. Trails and greenways provide a safe, inexpensive avenue for regular exercise for people living in rural, urban and suburban areas.

Open spaces have disappeared at an alarming rate to make room for new development. People spend far too much time in traffic, detracting from time that could be better spent with their families and friends.

Both trails and greenways help communities build pride by ensuring that their neighbourhoods are good places to live, so that children can safely walk or bike to a park, school, or to a neighbour’s home. Trails and greenways help make communities more attractive and friendly places to live”.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display.

Submission No. G-68

Damien and Valerie Stack, Bunaghara, Listowel, Co Kerry

Submission

This submission states a commitment to co-operate with the above proposed development. However, an at grade crossing of the private road adjacent to this property is not acceptable. Requesting an underpass or an overbridge at this location, without giving access to the private road and the road levels adjusted to suit.

Consultation with KCC officials agreed to block wall screening to height of 2.5m on the bounds of the Greenway and the property. A written agreement to reflect this is requested before planning permission is approved.

Managers Response

Refer to submissions G-38 and G-39.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display.

Privacy screening and boundary fencing be installed to provide adequate screening between the greenway and the dwelling to ensure that the residential amenity and security of the property is protected.

Submission No. G-69

Leo and Clare Hudson, Bunaghara, Listowel, Co Kerry

Submission

This submission supports the proposed North Kerry Greenway but has the following concerns.

- Proposed route runs to the rear of the residence at Bunaghara with approximately 1 metre between our site boundary and the route. While supportive of this development adequate fencing must be put in place between the greenway and the site boundary to prevent trespassing onto their property.
- Request an access to the greenway via a secure gate from this property if possible.
- Existing flooding problem at the point of the proposed crossing of the private road leading to their house at Bunaghara. At times of heavy rainfall this road is impassable. It is imperative that this flooding issue is resolved if the greenway is to proceed as it will seriously impact on the proposed crossing also.

Managers Response

Refer to submissions G-36 in relation to agreements on accommodation works and the Council's policy on mitigating any potential negative impacts. The type of fencing will be negotiated with the landowner prior to erection, having regard to their requirements relating to residential amenity and security. This body of work is ongoing and will be finalised post this process.

Refer to submission G-28 in relation to flooding at this location.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display.

Submission No. G-70

Conor Moriarty

Submission

The proposed greenway will be a great addition to both Listowel and North Kerry.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display.

Submission No. G-71

Paul and Norma Stack, Bunagarha, Listowel, co. Kerry

Submission

The proposed development will run to the rear of boundary of this person property at Bunagarha Listowel. The following observations are made:

- No objection to the proposed development and welcome the amenity.
- Security is a concern as the rear of the property is bounding the route

- A large shed is constructed within meters of the greenway which the contents are valuable.
- Security fencing is sought at the rear of the property and a secure access point to allow this family access onto the route.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Accommodation works such as boundary treatments, gates, planting etc shall be agreed with the landowner prior to the completion of the works. This body of work is ongoing and will be finalised post this process. The type of fencing will be negotiated with the landowner prior to erection, having regard to their requirements relating to residential amenity and security.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-72

Kenny Heights Residence Committee

Submission

This submission supports the proposed North Kerry Greenway

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

Submission No. G-73

Sarah Moriarty

Submission

This submission supports the proposed North Kerry Greenway. It would be a huge asset to our town of Listowel.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display.

Submission No. G-74

Patrick Barry

Submission

This submission supports the proposed extension of the Great Southern Greenway to Listowel. As a proud Listowel man, I and indeed my family, view this greenway as absolutely vital to our town. It goes without saying what an amenity like this could bring to Listowel and the surrounding areas going forward.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display.

Submission No. G-75

Morice Hannon Grenville, Listowel, Co. Kerry

Submission

This submission supports extension of the North Kerry Greenway. The safe environment for children will be a huge asset.

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display.

Submission No. G-76

Michael Cronin, Unknown Address.

Submission

This submission supports the North Kerry Greenway.

The author states “The greenway will be a great idea to Listowel – walking, cycling, etc”

Managers Response

This submission is noted and welcomed.

Managers Recommendation

No amendments to the project that went on public display

4. EVALUATE THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPER PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA

The need for the proposed scheme is supported by European, National, Regional and Local Policies.

The development is consistent with the following National, Regional and Local Plans and Strategies:

- Project Ireland 2040: The National Planning Framework
- Project Ireland 2040: National Development Plan 2018-2027
- Smarter Travel: A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009-2020
- The National Cycle Policy Framework, 2009 – 2020
- Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways- July 2018
- South West Regional Assembly – Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022
- Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021
- The Draft Tralee Municipal District Plan 2018-2024
- The Kerry Local Economic and Community Plan 2016 - 2021
- County Kerry Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2020

Relevant supporting planning policies and objectives from each of these documents is set out in detail in *APPENDIX 3* of this report.

The resulting benefits of the scheme are far reaching and will address the identified need for the project in the area. The benefits can be summarised and grouped into six main categories:

- It will act as a catalyst for increased tourist visiting the area
- It will generate increased economic activity
- It will promote rural regeneration – agri-tourism
- It will enhance cultural and heritage awareness and community identity
- It will provide an accessible recreational amenity for local use
- It will improve health and wellbeing in the Local Community through active living

For a peripheral rural County like Kerry tourism provides the greatest potential to address economic and social decline.

Government policy as outlined in ‘Energising Ireland’s Rural Economy’ recognises the need for rural area to capitalise on their indigenous assets to provide employment and rural regeneration. This proposed development satisfies this policy.

The proposed greenway will offer an opportunity to experience in a unique setting the beautiful rural landscape and scenery of North Kerry and will open the area in a sustainable manner to additional tourists who may not have intended to visit the area.

The project will provide direct employment in service related industries in the local economy and, as an activity attraction has the potential to extend the tourism season and provide increased year round demand.

This is a unique local asset and one which can be utilised for the benefit of the local community. The health benefits of cycling is universally recognised and the promotion of cycling is enshrined at all levels of national and local policy.

The greenway has the potential to serve as a sustainable connection to local heritage by providing sustainable access to areas which are not currently easily accessible by pedestrians and cyclists. This will provide a sense of place and understanding of the past by drawing greater attention and appreciation to the railway heritage and cultural assets of the region.

The greenway will provide a safe segregated environment for cyclists and walkers and act as a stimulus to encourage greater participation in outdoor activity for local and visitors alike. Presently cyclists and walkers are using the local road network. This greenway development will be accessible to all users, including locals and visitors, families and the elderly, as a segregated route.

The development will also maximise the safety of vehicle users by minimising the number of pedestrian and cyclist using busy local roads.

As part of this planning proposal an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening report was prepared and determined that the proposed work, individually, and in combination with other plans and projects, is not one which requires a Mandatory EIA and is not likely to have a significant effect on the environment. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required in this instance.

An appropriate assessment screening was also prepared for the proposed project and determined that the proposed work, individually, and in combination with other plans and projects, is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (Natura 2000 Site), and as such, a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment / Natura Impact Statement is not required in this instance.

5. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

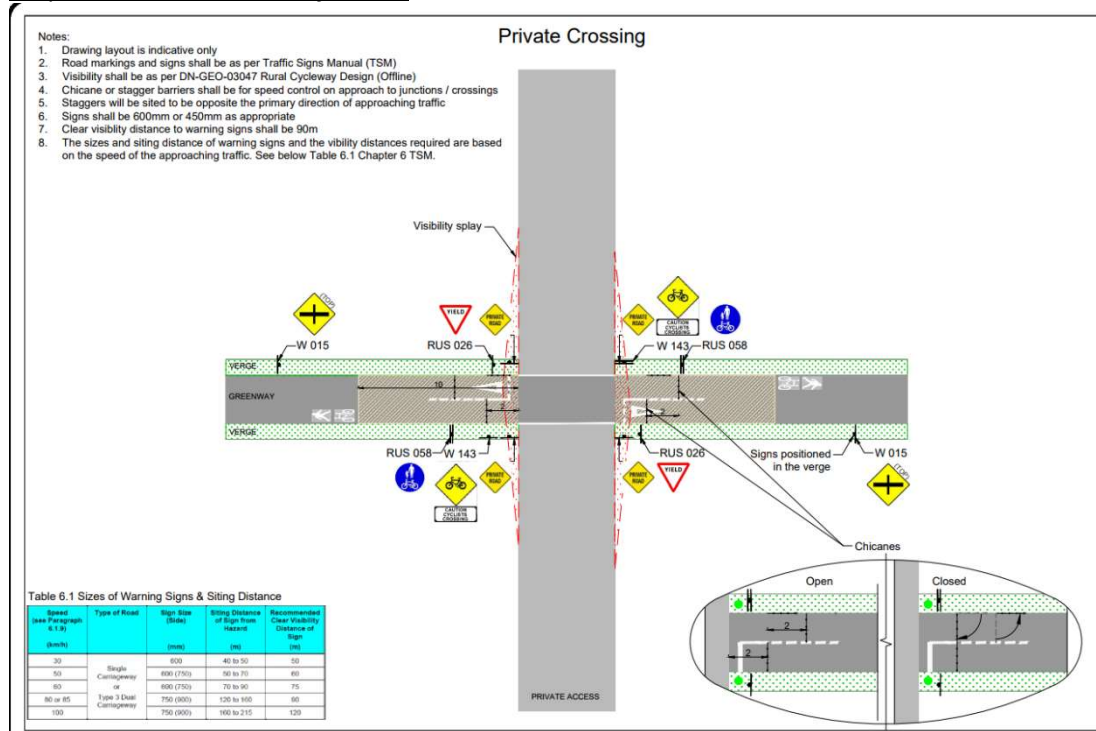
Proposed amendment no. 1

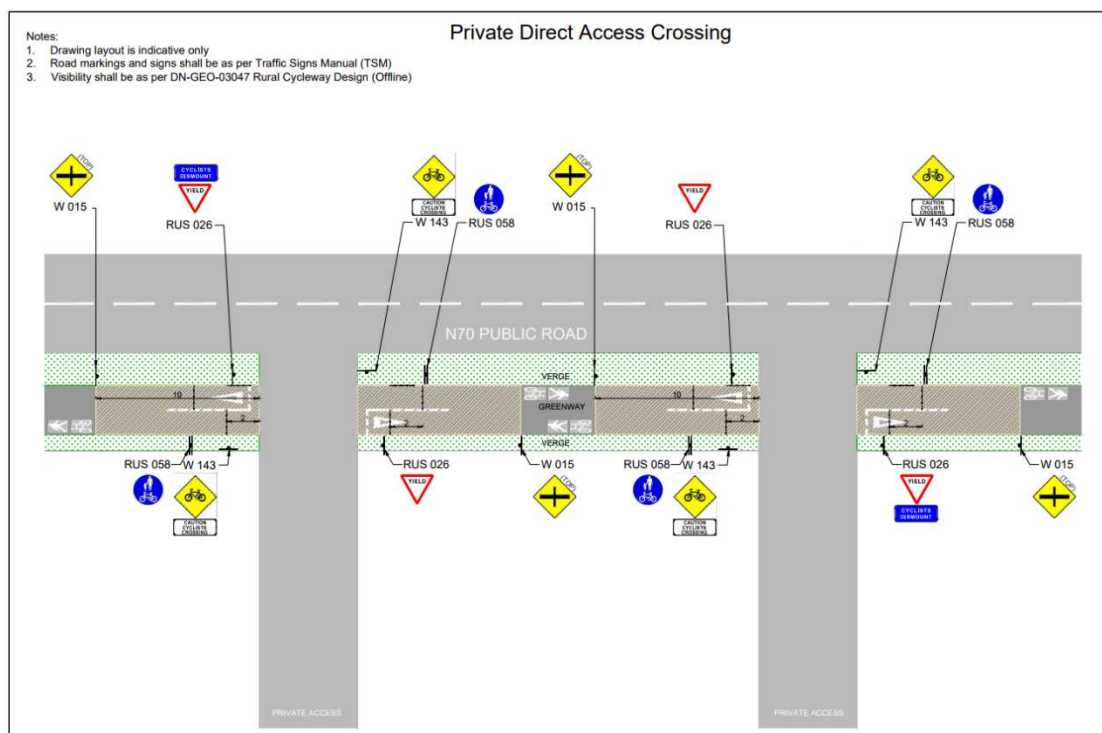
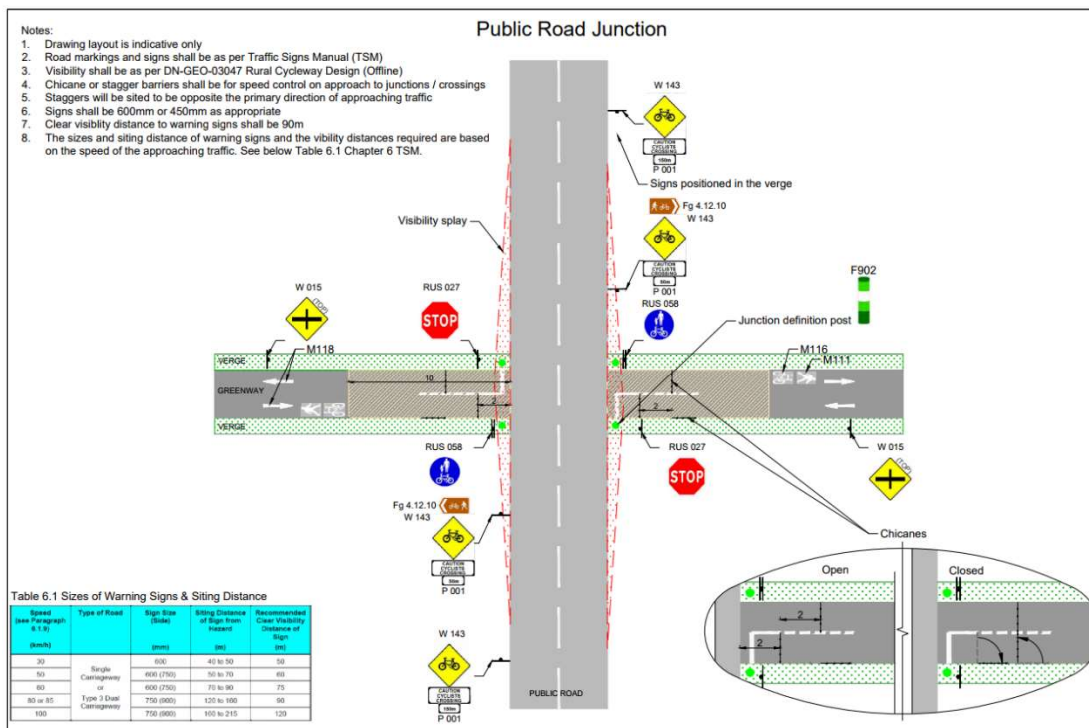
Additional details provided where the greenway meets existing private road crossings, public road crossings and where residential accesses intersect the proposed greenway are set out in drawings no. 202-204 included *Appendix 1* of this report.

It is considered that the proposed greenway on the route of the former railway line, will not have an adverse effect on the area, but rather will be a positive contribution, socially, economically and environmentally to the North Kerry region.

Proposed Amendment No. 1

Proposed Additions to Draft Plans






6. RECOMMENDATIONS

Having considered the proposed development with regard to section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2016, the proposal is considered to be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. Consequently, it is recommended to proceed with the development with minor amendments to the proposal that went on public display, as outlined in section 5 of this report.

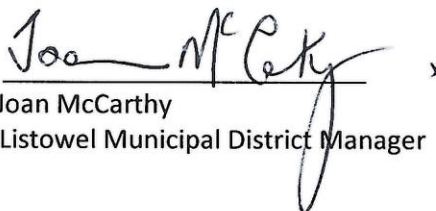
Recommended:


Anna Meria Costelloe – Assistant Planner CIU

Approved:


Tom Sheehy – Senior Engineer CIU

Signed:


Joan McCarthy
Listowel Municipal District Manager

Appendix 1. Drawings

FIRST SCHEDULE

Having regard to the location of the site within the Listowel / Ballybunion Functional Local Area Plan 2013-2019 and to the availability of services, it is considered that, subject to compliance with the conditions set out in the Second schedule, the proposed development would not seriously injure the amenities of the area or of property in the vicinity, would be acceptable in terms of traffic safety and convenience and would not therefore be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

SECOND SCHEDULE

The development shall be carried out in accordance with the plans and particulars dated June 2018 and August 2018 and entitled 'North Kerry Greenway'.

Reason: To regulate and control the layout of the development.

All excavations and construction works shall be carried out between the hours of 0800 and 1800 Monday to Friday inclusive, and between the hours of 0800 and 1300 on Saturdays only. No work shall be carried out on Sundays or Bank Holidays.

Reason: In the interest of residential amenity.

Good site management practices should be adopted during site construction to prevent discharge of silt/hydrocarbon contaminated waters to storm or surface water drainage systems, e.g. through the use of silt traps and/or interceptors, these shall be maintained at regular intervals during construction.

Reason: To protect the existing environment.

During site construction phase, adequate measures shall be implemented in order to prevent the deposition of material from the site on to the public road

Reason: To avoid a traffic hazard.

All screening proposals to be agreed prior to the commencement of development

Reason: In the interests of orderly development.

Inland Fisheries Ireland shall be consulted and engaged with throughout the construction of the proposed development.

Reason: To protect the existing environment.

Appendix 3. Supporting Planning Policies and Objectives

Project Ireland 2040: The National Planning Framework

As a strategic development framework, Ireland 2040 - Our Plan sets the long-term context for the country's physical development and associated progress in economic, social and environmental terms.

The vision for Ireland in 2040 is:

For the highest possible quality of life for people and communities, underpinned by high quality, well managed built and natural environments.

Sustainable self-reliance based on a strong circular economy and significant progress towards a low carbon, climate-resilient society while remaining an open, competitive and trading economy.

The Framework sets out the key goals and objectives for the State, and central to this framework is the theme of Planning and Investment to Support Rural Job Creation in particular:

"The development of greenways, blueways and peatways offer a unique alternative means for tourists and visitors to access and enjoy rural Ireland. The development of a strategic national network of these trails is a priority and will support the development of rural communities and job creation in the rural economy, as well as the protection and promotion of natural assets and biodiversity."

The NPF is supported by a series of National Strategic Outcomes which the Framework seeks to deliver. The most pertinent Outcomes in the context of the proposed development are as follows:

National Strategic Outcome 3: Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities

"A strong start has also been made in the development of a national long-distance Greenway/ Blueway Network. Such a network, including rural walking, cycling and water-based recreation routes, as well as 'peatways', has demonstrated major potential to bring new life to regional and rural locations through the "win-win" scenario of increased tourism activity and healthier travel. Developing this network further will diversify our rural economy by embracing the potential for a major expansion in the demand for activity based tourism."

National Strategic Outcome 7: Enhanced Amenities and Heritage

"Attractive places include a combination of factors, including vitality and diversity of uses, ease of access to amenities and services supported by integrated transport systems and green modes of movement such as pedestrian and cycling facilities. Appealing places are also defined by their character, heritage and sense of community. This includes attractive buildings and street layouts, civic spaces and parks and regeneration of older areas and making places feel safe through active use and design."

The proposed Greenway aligns itself with both the strategic outcomes and objectives of this framework. The relevant National Policy Objectives in support of the proposed development are set out hereunder:

Objective No.	The National Planning Framework
National Policy Objective 16	Target the reversal of rural decline in the core of small towns and villages through sustainable targeted measures that address vacancy and deliver sustainable reuse and regeneration outcomes.
National Policy Objective 17	Enhance, integrate and protect the special physical, social, economic and cultural value of built heritage assets through appropriate and sensitive use now and for future generations.
National Policy Objective 18a -	Support the proportionate growth of and appropriately designed development in rural towns that will contribute to their regeneration and renewal, including interventions in the public realm, the provision of amenities, the acquisition of sites and the provision of services.
National Policy Objective 21 -	Enhance the competitiveness of rural areas by supporting innovation in rural economic development and enterprise through the sustainable diversification of the rural economy into new sectors and in particular those with a low or zero carbon output
National Policy Objective 22	Facilitate the development of a National Greenways/Blueways and Peatways Strategy which prioritises projects on the basis of achieving maximum impact and connectivity at national and regional level.
National Policy Objective 27	Ensure the integration of safe and convenient alternatives to the car into the design of our communities, by prioritising walking and cycling accessibility to both existing and proposed developments, and integrating physical activity facilities for all ages.

National Policy Objective 64	Improve air quality and help prevent people being exposed to unacceptable levels of pollution in our urban and rural areas through integrated land use and spatial planning that supports public transport, walking and cycling as more favourable modes of transport to the private car, the promotion of energy efficient buildings and homes, heating systems with zero local emissions, green infrastructure planning and innovative design solutions.

Project Ireland 2040: National Development Plan 2018-2027

The National Development Plan 2018-2027 (NDP), published in February 2018 in tandem with the National Planning Framework (NPF), seeks to drive Ireland's long term economic, environmental and social progress over the next decade, in accordance with the spatial planning context of the NPF.

The key role of the NDP is to set out the updated configuration for public capital investment over the next 10 years to achieve the National Strategic Outcomes as set out within the NPF.

National Strategic Outcome 3, Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities

The NDP outlines a number of key rural initiatives, that set out to revitalise rural areas and to enhance economic growth. The Rural Recreation Infrastructure Scheme is regarded as the most applicable scheme to the proposed greenway project:

"The Rural Recreation Infrastructure Scheme supports the development and necessary maintenance, enhancement or promotion of recreational infrastructure throughout Ireland in light of the huge potential to develop the economic value of Activity and Recreational Tourism by Local Authorities, State Agencies and communities. Initiatives funded covered a broad spectrum, and range from walking trails to greenways and blueways."

Investment in activity based tourism, including greenways, is recognised as a priority over the duration of the NDP lifespan, which will comprise of measures to support further regional investment in existing experience brands, including the Wild Atlantic Way.

Chapter 5: National Strategic Outcomes and Public Investment Priorities, summarises the status of greenway strategies within the State, anticipating the ongoing development of greenways over the duration of the NDP.

The National Development Plan reiterates the core national strategic objectives and outcomes of the National Planning Framework. The NDP earmarks future investment in greenways and recreational based tourism across the State over the duration of its lifespan.

Smarter Travel: A New Transport policy for Ireland 2009-2020

Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future, prepared by the Department of Transport, sets out a broad vision for the future of transportation in Ireland and establishes associated objectives and targets.

The main objectives are to reduce dependency on car travel and long-distance commuting, increase public transport modal share and encourage walking and cycling in line with national policies such as the National Cycle Policy Framework. This policy document sets out key goals, targets and actions, by 2020 and include the following:

"Our vision is to create a strong cycling culture in Ireland and ensure that all cities, towns, villages and rural areas will be cycling friendly. Cycling will be a normal way to get about, especially for short trips. Next to walking, cycling will be the most popular means of getting to school, both for primary and secondary school."

The proposed greenway will act as a connectivity link between the local communities and in turn encourage a cycling culture locally.

The National Cycle Policy Framework, 2009 – 2020

The National Cycle Policy Framework 2009 – 2020 aims to provide a common, integrated basis for the long-term development and implementation of cycling policies among various sectors and levels of government.

The National Cycle Policy Framework outlines key objective which are relevant to the creation of cycle friendly environments including greenways. These key objectives are outlined hereunder:

Objective No.	The National Cycle Policy Framework, 2009 – 2020
Objective 1	Support the planning, development and design of towns and cities in a cycling and pedestrian friendly way
Objective 3	Provide designated rural signed cycle networks providing especially for visitors and recreational cycling
Objective 4	While the main target of the cycle tourism strategy is visitors-both overseas and domestic-the secondary target market is recreational cyclists. From the perspective of the National Cycle Policy Framework encouraging recreational cycling is a key element of creating a

	cycling culture in Ireland and recreational routes in and around urban areas, which, in turn link to rural areas are very important
Objective 5	Ensure that all the surfaces used by cyclists are maintained to a high standard and are well lit
Objective 6	Ensure that all cycling networks – both urban and rural – are signposted to an agreed standard

Strategy for the Future Development of Greenways (May 2017) – Public Consultation Paper

In May 2017 the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport launched a public consultation process on the future development of Greenways. A key objective identified in the National Cycle Policy Framework published by the Department in 2009 is to “provide designated rural cycle networks providing especially for visitors and recreational cycling”. This Strategy is aimed at responding to this objective as well as also responding to the Draft aims and objectives as set out in the National Planning Framework.

Regional Policy

South West Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2020

The current South West Regional Planning Guidelines formulate public policy for the functional administrative areas of Kerry County Council, Cork County Council and Cork City Council. The RPGs are clearly linked to and support national investment priorities and are designed to strengthen integrated approaches to policy making and planning at local level, in line with the national planning framework.

Sustainable growth is a key theme of the Guidelines, relating to the development and strengthening of the regional economy; the quantum and location of future housing; environmental improvement and sustainable living with a high level of service integration, all within the context of heightened protection of the region’s biodiversity.

As outlined in Section 1.3.40 of the South West Regional Authority Regional Planning Guidelines 2010 – 2022:

‘The unique landscape and diversity of the South West region has the potential to further contribute to the overall quality of life and attractiveness of the south west as a location in which to settle or visit. Among such is the potential in the region to sustainably develop significantly more walking and cycling routes, yachting marines and other sporting, recreational, cultural and heritage facilities.’

Section 3.2.24 Rural Economy and Diversification of the Regional Planning Guidelines states that:

“The traditional mainstays of rural employment have been in decline for some time. Mechanisation and technological advances have contributed significantly to this decline. There is a need for new initiatives which will support rural diversification, innovation and enterprise development:

- Facilitate innovative approaches to identify new products and markets to increase rural employment (in the existing sectors).

- New sustainable tourism initiatives in appropriate locations.”

The relevant objectives in support of the proposed development are set out hereunder.

Objective No.	South West Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2020
	It is an objective to;
RES-03 Tourism	Protect existing tourism assets in the region and develop additional sustainable facilities for activity holidays, urban and rural tourism.
RES-05 Rural Diversification	Promote rural diversification through building local rural capacity by upskilling and making appropriate provision in development and local plans to foster local entrepreneurial activity and encouraging innovative and sustainable economic activity.
RTS-03 Cycling and Walking	Encourage the development of strategies for walking and cycling that promote the goals and aspirations of Smarter Travel and the National Cycle Policy Framework. Specifically, the region’s local authorities should prepare plans for improvement to the cycling and walking networks in urban areas, linking areas of population growth and employment, in a sustainable manner.
	Continuously improve the quality of life for residents of and visitors to the region and to create an increased awareness of sense of place.
	Ensure that social and community infrastructures in terms of housing, educational, public transport, recreational and health facilities are developed in a timely and sustainable

REAS-07 Social and Community Infrastructure	manner to cater for increasing population levels. Special care needs to be taken to ensure that adequate levels of essential service provision continues in rural area of the region.
	It is an objective to encourage local authorities to protect and enhance public open space and recreational facilities in a sustainable manner and recognise the importance of protection of urban wildlife corridors and sites of nature conservation importance.

Local Policy

Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021

The Kerry County Development Plan, adopted in February 2015, sets out the strategic framework for the sustainable development and land use planning for the County of Kerry from 2015 to 2021.

The Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 amended section 10 of the Principal Act by introducing the requirement of a Core Strategy that shall "ensure that the development objectives in the Development Plan are consistent, as far as possible, with national and regional development objectives set out in the National Spatial Strategy/National Planning Framework and Regional Planning Guidelines". Among the strategic aims of core strategy are:

Set out a vision and blueprint for the future sustainable development of the County and maximise the counties potential in the context of the South West region.

Support sustainable tourism development in Kerry and strengthen the contribution that tourism makes to the local communities, culture and economy of the County.

Promote and support the integration of land use and transport and encourage modal shift to greater use of sustainable modes of transport, including public transport, walking and cycling.

As a mechanism to achieving these strategic aims, The County Development Plan encourages the sustainable development of walking and cycling routes, through the re-use of the existing former railway lines as 'greenways' for the purposes of promoting cycling and walking. The relevant policies and objectives in supports of the proposed development are set out hereunder. Of these, Objective T-27 is particularly pertinent.

Objective No.	Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021 Tourism and Recreation
	It is an objective of the Council to;
T-5	Promote the sustainable development of tourist related infrastructure such as transport access, appropriate facilities and high-quality tourist accommodation, in appropriate locations where proposals are in accordance with the provisions of this Plan.
T-10	Support and facilitate, in conjunction with other bodies and agencies, the sustainable development of Kerry as a world class destination for sports and recreation related tourism.
T-11	Promote and facilitate the sustainable development of outdoor activities, in appropriate locations, such as walking, rambling, cycling and adventure with specialised wellness centres and facilities in association with Tralee IT, Failte Ireland, National Trails Office, Irish Sports Council, Kerry Education and Training Board and other relevant National and County based department and agencies.
T-20	Facilitate the sustainable provision, at appropriate locations, of a network of quality pathways and associated car parks for walkers and cyclists and horse riders that are attractive and free of vehicle traffic.
T-23	Actively encourage and seek to facilitate appropriate and sustainable development of integrated cycle routes throughout the County in association with other agencies.
T-26	Co-operate with the National Trails Office, Fáilte Ireland, National Way Marked Way Advisory Council and other relevant bodies, in order to support the sustainable development, maintenance and enhancement of the trail development throughout the County, both urban and rural, in an environmentally sustainable way.
T-27	Promote and facilitate the sustainable re-use of existing former railway lines for amenity purposes, such as cycleways, walkways and other recreational activities in order to develop a network of 'green routes' throughout the County.
T-28	Support the sustainable development of a national cycle network and the development of a EuroVelo project, in particular the Atlantic Coast route where it passes through the County

Objective No.	Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021 Transport and Infrastructure
	It is an objective of the Council to;
RD-4	Facilitate the sustainable provision of the necessary Infrastructure at appropriate locations, required to promote sustainable economic and social development of the County.
RD-8	Support sustainable travel in the County and implement the key goals, targets and actions as contained in Smarter Travel- A Sustainable Transport future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009-2020 and the National Cycle Policy Framework.
RD-13	Encourage an increase of non-car based transport within the County.
RD-14	Promote the sustainable development of walking, cycling, public transport and other sustainable forms of transport such as car sharing and car-pooling, as an alternative to private car, by facilitating and promoting the development of necessary infrastructure and by promoting initiatives contained in Smarter Travel, A Sustainable Transport Future 2009-2020.
RD-28	Promote the sustainable development of walking, cycling, public transport and other sustainable forms of transport as an alternative to private car, by facilitating and promoting the development of necessary infrastructure and by promoting initiatives contained in Smarter Travel, A Sustainable Transport Future 2009-2020.
RD-30	Support the sustainable establishment of a network of “Greenways” as outlined in Table 7.4 within the County and adjoining Counties where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment, including the integrity of a Natura 2000 network. (Table 7.4 - from Farranfore to Caherciveen/ Renard Point).
RD-31	Support the sustainable establishment of a network of interlinked cycle ways and walk ways within the County and the adjoining Counties including: Tralee-Fenit, Lough Leane Loop, Glenbeigh-Renard Great Southern Trail Ballyseedy-Blennerville-Spa and linking them where possible, where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have a significant effect on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network.
RD-33	Protect all existing or historical rail lines and associated facilities from redevelopment for non-transport related purposes in order to protect their future use as an operational transportation networks or for green cycle or walking routes.

This plan also promotes sustainable growth by encouraging rural enterprise and rural diversifications. Objective ES-28(13) supports the provision of farm-tourism enterprises such as the renovation of farm buildings for tourism purposes, walking, cycling, angling, pony trekking and bird watching, subject to compliance with normal planning criteria and development management standards.

The Kerry Local Economic and Community Plan

The Kerry Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021 sets out the actions and objectives for the promotion and strengthening of the economy and communities of Kerry.

Through the development of a coordinated interagency approach, The Kerry Local Economic and Community Plan identifies three aspects (socio-economic statements) to guide the formation of objectives to tackle the key economic and community concerns for Kerry.

These are as follows:

Economic Development and Job Creation - To promote a robust and diverse economy, supported by a well-developed education and training model, enabling a sustainable population and vibrant communities throughout the county.

Quality of Life - To promote a high quality of life, based around a clean natural environment, good quality local services, a strong sense of place and culture and meaningful participation in decision making.

Community and Social Inclusion - To promote social and economic inclusion and reduction of social inequalities, particularly targeting areas and communities in Kerry experiencing social disadvantage, marginalised groups or those at risk of exclusion.

These socio-economic statements have assisted in the formation of a number of goals, objectives and actions. The goals, objectives and actions in supports of the proposed greenway are set out hereunder.

Goal	Objective	Action
1.3 Sustainably Maximise Growth Opportunities for Kerry	1.3.8 Actively promote the sustainable development of tourism in the county through the development and implementation of appropriate plans and strategies.	1.3.8.3 Undertake further work on route options and feasibility studies for potential development of Greenways in the county, in line with national Greenways guidelines.
		1.3.8.4 Further to proper planning and sustainable development support completion of existing Greenway development (South Kerry, North Kerry and Fenit Greenways) and investigate the feasibility of linking up the North and South Kerry Greenways.
2.5 Promote population health & well-being drawing on the social determinants of health (covering social aspects including education, environment, sport & physical activity, housing, economic status)	2.5.2 Promote an increase in physical activity levels across the county for all.	2.5.2.1 Promote and develop free recreation facilities as part of a drive to increase physical activity levels and opportunities in the county for all. This work programme to be carried out in cooperation with the Kerry County Tourism Strategy.
3.8 To ensure that appropriate needs based social and community infrastructure is prioritised in creating sustainable communities and a sense of belonging for both new and more established areas throughout the county	3.8.8 Improve the liveability of communities through improved local facilities	3.8.8.1 Support the development of safe walking routes and other recreation opportunities in communities involving vulnerable road users in the design, included in which should be better signage and mapping facilities

County Kerry Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2022

The County Kerry Tourism and Action Plan, adopted in July 2016, set out the priorities and investment plans for the county over the 2016 to 2022 period. The County is hugely dependant on Tourism with one in five employed in this Sector at the present time. The visitor numbers are growing – 1.7 million visitors to the County, and this Plan shows how vital it is that the County has a shared vision and a shared ambition to support this expanding Industry and Enterprise. The Tourism Strategy works to the principles of the National Tourism Policy as outlined in ‘People, Place & Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025’ and forms an integral part of the County Kerry Local Economic and Community Plan. This plan recognises that physical infrastructure forms an integral part of Kerry’s tourism package. Infrastructure determines the future growth potential of the region, its competitiveness and has a direct bearing on the visitor’s holiday experience and whether or not the visitor will return and recommend the destination to others. It covers many areas including transportation links, infrastructure, and product development, quality of the environment, and visitor facilities among others.

Developing and enhancing Kerry’s tourism infrastructure is a key objective of this strategy.

A key priority in achieving this objective includes upgrading visitor facilities at seaside resorts, trail heads and link up Greenways, walking and cycling trails. One of the key actions identified this plan is the development of greenways, throughout the County.

***Appendix 4. Determination Statements on AA and EIA Screening of the Part 8
North Kerry Greenway***



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**North Kerry Greenway Proposal
(Listowel to Limerick County Bounds)**

**Planning Authority Environmental Impact Assessment
Screening Determination Statement**

Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Statement

Kerry County Council as Competent Authority determines that the proposed project, individually, and in combination with other plans and projects, is not one which requires an EIA and is not likely to have a significant effect on the Environment. Therefore, it is determined that an Environmental Impact Statement / Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIS/EIAR) is not required in this instance.

It is considered that the EIA Screening Report prepared by the Environmental Assessment Unit dated August 2018 contains a fair and reasonable assessment of the likelihood of significant effects of the development on the Environment. That assessment is adopted as the assessment of Kerry County Council.

Reasons for Determination

It is noted that the Environmental Impact Assessment Screening exercise prepared by the Environmental Assessment Unit has been carried out giving full consideration to the plans and particulars of the proposed development, to submissions and observation received following the statutory public consultation period as well as to the EIA Directive (85/337/EEC) codified by Directive 2011/92/EU and amended by way of Directive 2014/52/EU and in particular to Annex I, II.IIA and III of that Directive, which set out requirements for mandatory and sub-threshold EIA.

In summary, the likely impacts on the environment of the proposed development were assessed. No significant effects on the environment were identified. The incorporation of standard construction stage water quality and invasive species management measures has been influential in ensuring the prevention of environmental impacts. The proposal makes use of the existing disused railway infrastructure, whose integrity is in good condition. This reduces the potential for impact on the environment.

Signed:


Michael Scannell

**Director of Services / Stiúrthóir Seirbhísí, Economic & Community
Development / Forbairt Eacnamaíochta & Pobail**

Date:


30/8/2018



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**North Kerry Greenway Proposal
(Listowel to Limerick County Bounds)**

**Planning Authority Habitats Directive Assessment
Screening Determination Statement**

Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening Statement

Kerry County Council as Competent Authority determines that the proposed works, individually, and in combination with other plans and projects, are not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (Natura 2000 Site), and as such, a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment / Natura Impact Statement is not required.

It is considered that the AA Screening Report prepared by the Environmental Assessment Unit and dated August 2018 contains a fair and reasonable assessment of the likelihood of significant effects of the development on European sites. That assessment is adopted as the assessment of Kerry County Council.

Reasons for Determination

It is noted that the Appropriate Assessment Screening report dated August 2018 has been carried out giving full consideration to the plans and particulars of the proposed development, to submissions and observation received following the statutory public consultation period, to European sites located in the vicinity and to all of the matters referred to in S177 (U) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

In summary, following the screening of the proposed development for possible significant effects on the European sites listed in the above reports, no likely significant effects were identified. The reasons are summarised as follows:

- The nature and scale of the works required to facilitate the construction of the greenway within a relatively intact former railway line are not complex.
- The habitats found within and adjoining the former railway corridor are not annexed habitats. There is therefore no potential for direct impacts on Qualifying Interest habitat associated with the Lower River Shannon SAC.
- Potential for Qualifying Interest habitat degradation resulting from the potential spread of non-native invasive plant species is not considered to be significant having regard to the location and extent of infestations within the site relative to the location of Natura 2000 sites.
- Potential for impact on Fisheries in tributaries of the River Feale is possible but any such impact is not likely to significantly effect Qualifying Interests of the Lower River Shannon SAC. These fisheries may form part of Otter diet. However, Otter are adaptable generalist feeders capable of availing of alternative prey in the area.
- The potential for indirect impacts on Qualifying Interest habitats and species located in the Lower River Shannon SAC downstream of the proposed site works is



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not likely to be significant in this instance having regard to the scale of pollution possible, to the natural buffering capacity available in the connecting drainage conduits and to the dissipation and assimilation capacities of receiving waters. EPA Water Quality monitoring results suggests that water quality in the River Feale did not deteriorate following the development of the Limerick section of the Greenway – with high ecological status maintained.

- The proposal does not impact on River or Stream bridges and is not one which could impact on or disturb Otter movements in the landscape either at the construction or operational stage.

Signed:


Michael Scannell

**Director of Services / Stiúrthóir Seirbhísí, Economic & Community
Development / Forbairt Eacnamaíochta & Pobail**

Date:

30/8/2018