

Sligo County Council

Sligo Greenway

Public Consultation 3 Report

Reference: SG-ARP-PMG-P2-RP-007

Rev 01 | 28 May 2025



This report takes into account the particular instructions and requirements of our client. It is not intended for and should not be relied upon by any third party and no responsibility is undertaken to any third party.

Job number 294226-00

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1. Introduction

Sligo County Council (SCC) through the Sligo Regional Design Office are in the planning stages for a Greenway project entitled, 'The Sligo Greenway' from Collooney to Bellaghy. This Project which is funded by Transport Infrastructure Ireland will provide a public walking / cycling trail from Collooney to Bellaghy Co. Sligo. Arup have been appointed by SCC to provide multi-disciplinary engineering and other specialist consultancy services, consisting of all services and deliverables for the delivery of this Project through Phases 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the TII Project Management Guidelines.

The Study Area developed as part of this Project covers an area between Collooney and Bellaghy and includes the settlements of Coolaney, Tobercurry and Curry. The Project will investigate providing links to the National Mountain Bike Centre at Coolaney and would also eventually link to Sligo Town and Enniskillen, County Fermanagh via the planned cross border Sligo, Leitrim & Northern Counties Railway (SLNCR) Greenway.

The Greenway will be developed in accordance with the Department of Transport's *Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways* and *Code of Best Practice for National and Regional Greenways* (CBPN&RG) and delivered in line with TII Project Management Guidelines. TII's Project Management Guidelines, specifically PE-PMG-02047, state that consultation is required with the public at key stages. The purpose of the public consultation described within this report (hereafter referred to as Public Consultation No. 3) is to engage the public in the project delivery process and present the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor (EPRC). The consultation informs the public of the statutory processes and likely project timescales, seeks the public's cooperation and captures local knowledge on constraints and opportunities within the EPRC to develop the best solution.

This report has been prepared to document the findings of non-statutory Public Consultation No. 3 on The Emerging Preferred Route Corridor for the Project.

2. The Public Consultation Process

2.1 Aims

The aims of this public consultation were:

- To inform members of the public and other interested parties of the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor that has been developed as part of this phase and to explain the methodology and approach to the Option Selection process.
- To inform individual landowners who could be potentially impacted by the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor and inform them that the service of an Independent Agronomist is available to discuss concerns and to provide an impartial opinion on proposals.
- To provide an opportunity for members of the public and other interested parties to engage with the process and to share with the project team any relevant supporting information or additional constraints or opportunities that should be considered in Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation).
- To continue to develop relationships with communities and key stakeholders and to facilitate information sharing for this and future phases of the project.
- To encourage members of the public to engage directly with the project team.

2.2 Identification of the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor

The project team received TII approval to progress from Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility) to Phase 2 (Options Selection) in December 2023.

Public Consultation No. 2 took place between Monday 22nd January and Friday 16th February 2024. In this consultation the proposed Route Corridors were presented. The Project Liaison Officer (PLO) and key members of the Project Team were available to provide information on the proposed Route Corridors and enable stakeholders to provide feedback on the proposed options highlighting potential issues and opportunities.

A total of five Corridor Options and a Management Option were presented at Public Consultation 2. Following on from this Consultation these Corridor Options were subjected to an assessment in line with the requirements of PE-PAG-02036 – Appraisal of Active Modes to facilitate the identification of an Emerging Preferred Route Corridor.

The Emerging Preferred Route Corridor was displayed to the public at the third non-statutory public consultation which took place from 18th November 2024 to 20th December 2024.

Separate to the in-person displays, the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor and constraints data was presented by way of an interactive map which can be found at <https://sligogreenway.ie/mapping/>.

2.3 Public Consultation Period

To achieve the aims of the public consultation, information on the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor was presented to the public in person, online and in writing. The public were also notified of the public consultation period and consultation events through advertisement on different forms of media, including the project website, print, broadcast, and social media. Further details are included in Sections 2.3.1 to 2.3.10 below.

2.3.1 Project Website

A project website under the domain address of <https://sligogreenway.ie/> was launched prior to the commencement of the Public Consultation No.1 on the 29th May 2023 and remains the public's primary access point to online project information. It will remain active for the duration of the project and will be updated regularly as the project progresses.

The project website includes information regarding the background, project specific need and key objectives of the project. It also includes the following key information in relation to the public consultation events;

- Key details and link to Public Consultation 1 Report
- Key details and link to Public Consultation 2 Report
- Information relating to Online and In-Person events for Public Consultation 3
- Public Consultation 3 supporting information including Brochure, Flyer and Display Banners
- Interactive map which includes the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor
- Online feedback form where the public can make submissions
- Frequently Asked Questions and project specific responses.

The project website was updated with relevant consultation information prior to Public Consultation No.3 going live at 5pm on Monday 18 November.

2.3.2 Newspapers

Newspaper advertisements were published in three local newspapers, The Sligo Champion, The Sligo Weekender and The Western People week commencing 18th November 2024.

Copies of the newspaper advertisements are contained in Appendix A.

2.3.3 Broadcast Media – Radio

A radio advert was broadcast on the local radio station Ocean FM for 1 week commencing 19th November 2024, 4 times per day. In radio interviews, Councillor Marie Casserly provided insight into what the public can expect for subsequent stages of the project development.

2.3.4 Social Media

The Public Consultation was advertised on all Sligo Co Co Social media channels.

Copies of the social media posts are contained in Appendix B.

2.3.5 Postcards

Postcards were issued to 3,802 property owners using the An Post adMailer service. They were issued to all property owners within the study area but not within the EPRC.

A copy of the postcard is contained in Appendix C.

2.3.6 Stakeholder Letters

Postal letters were sent out to key Statutory and Non-Statutory stakeholders on 25th November 2024 to provide an update on the status of the project, inform of upcoming public consultation and invite feedback.

A copy of the letter is contained within Appendix D.

2.3.7 Landowner Letters

1,796 Landowner letters and maps were issued to property owners who are within 400m of the centreline of the EPRC and who may be affected by the EPRC.

A copy of the Letter is contained within Appendix E.

2.3.8 Printed Flyers

Printed flyers advertising the Sligo Greenway Public Consultation were displayed in various locations throughout the Study Area including petrol stations, shops, community centres, restaurants/hotels, public notice boards, and hardware stores.

Flyers were made available in SCC buildings for collection at Sligo County Hall, Riverside Sligo, Sligo City Hall, Quay St. Sligo, and Teach Laighne, Humbert Street, Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo. A copy of the printed flyer is contained in Appendix F.

2.3.9 Brochure and Feedback Form

A brochure was prepared to provide a brief introduction to the project, outline the previous work undertaken, highlight the project specific need, outline how the project will be progressed and present an indicative project timeline. The brochure contained details of the in-person public consultation events and invited readers to submit their views via a variety of different methods (e.g. post, email and/or the project website.)

The feedback form was prepared and made available to the public via the project website at <https://sligogreenway.ie/feedback-form/>.

Hardcopies of the brochure and feedback form were available by request via email to info@sligogreenway.ie, calling 0719111990 and/or collection at one of the following locations:

- Sligo County Council, County Hall, Riverside, Sligo, F91 Y763
- Sligo County Council, City Hall, Quay St., Abbeyquarter North, Sligo, F91PP44
- Teach Laighne, Humbert Street, Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo.

Additionally, hardcopies of the brochure and feedback form were available at the public consultation in-person events. Feedback forms were accepted by post, email to info@sligogreenway.ie, via the ‘contact us’ feedback page on the project website or in person during the consultation events. The closing date for submissions was the 20 December 2024.

Copies of the brochure and feedback form are included in Appendix G. The public were given a 32-day period to submit their feedback.

2.3.10 Notifying Other Stakeholders

The Elected Members within the municipal district of the Sligo Greenway Study Area were invited to attend an online Microsoft Teams meeting with the project team on 18th November. This meeting was intended to inform the Councillors of the process used by the project team to develop the Corridor Options and to answer any queries they may have in advance of the public consultation period. One Elected Member attended the meeting.

Three other Elected Members attended the in-person consultation appointments.

2.4 Public Consultation In-Person Events

During the public consultation period from 18 November 2024 to the 20 December 2024, two in-person events were held to allow the public to engage with the project team (via appointment only) and provide feedback on the project. The two in-person events were as follows, please refer to Appendix H for an image of the consultation venue.

- Public Consultation In-Person Event 1: Monday 2nd December 2024, 12:00-20:00hrs Teach Laighne, Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo.
- Public Consultation In-Person Event 2: Tuesday 3rd December 2024, 12:00-20:00hrs Teach Laighne, Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo.

The total number of visitors to attend the public consultation events across the two days was 75 with the following breakdown across the two events:

- Day 1, Teach Laighne – 38 meetings (48 names on sign-in sheet)
- Day 2, Teach Laighne – 24 meetings (27 names on sign-in sheet)

2.4.1 Independent Agronomist

An Independent Agronomist from Carroll Consultancy – Agricultural & Business Consultants, was available to the public to offer impartial opinions and advice on the proposals during the both In-Person Public Consultation Events.

3. Feedback from Public Consultation

3.1 Website Analytics

During the Public Consultation period from Monday 18 November 2024 to Friday 20 December 2024 the website received a total of 4283 views, with 2325 unique visitors: represented in Figure 1 and Figure 2 below.

Visitor numbers specifically indicate the count of distinct individuals who accessed the website during this period. It's important to note that a single user might view the site multiple times, so the number of visitors will never surpass the total views. It should be noted that each of these figures represents an increase from the second public consultation period.

Figure 1 below shows the dispersion of website traffic for each day of the consultation period with total number of visitors (unique visits) highlighted in purple and total views highlighted in red.

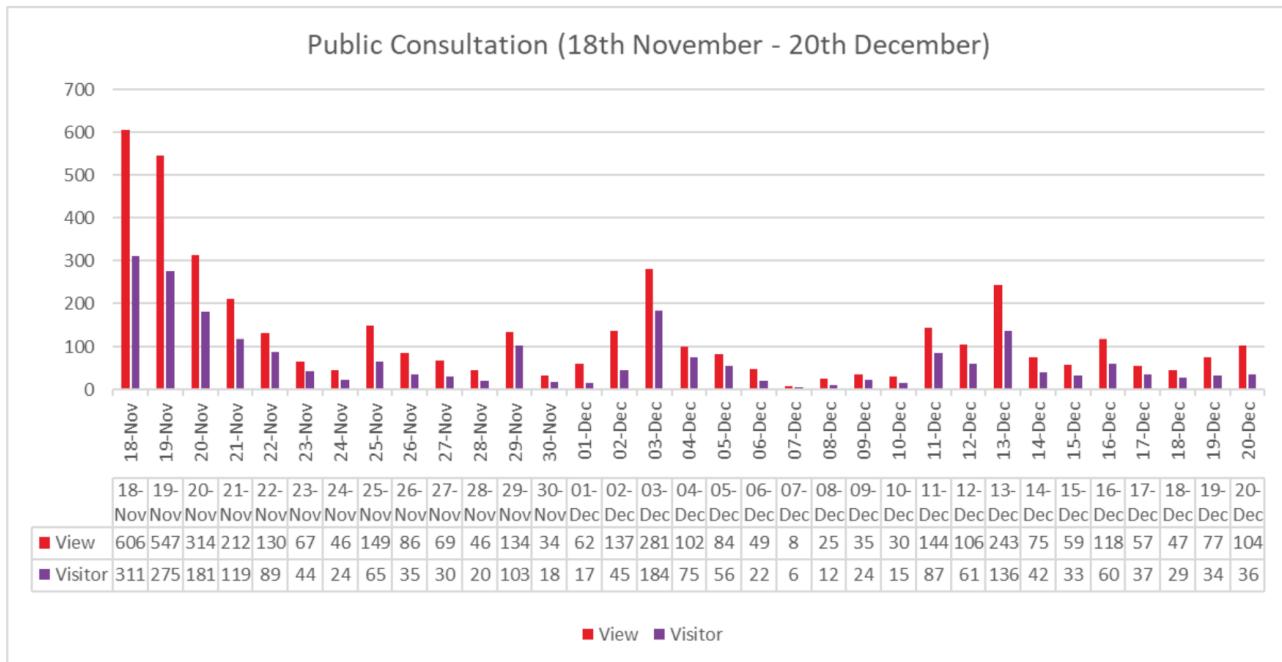


Figure 1: Public Consultation Website Views and Visitors

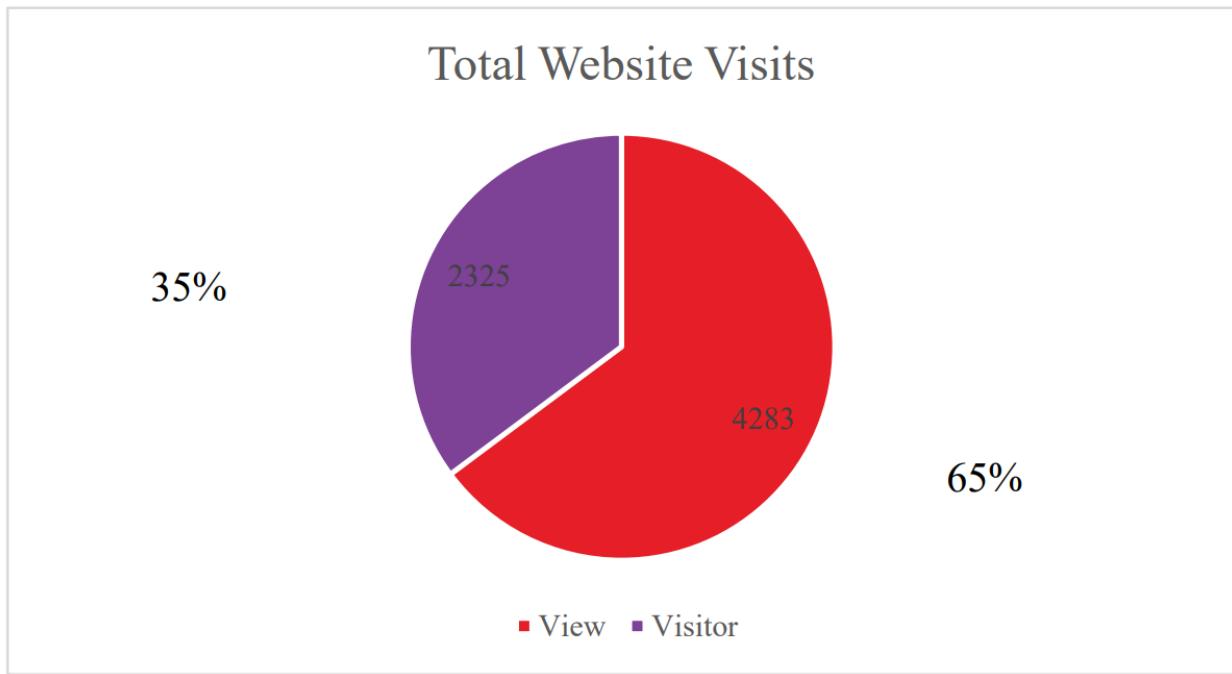


Figure 2: Total Number of Website Views and Visitors

Table 1 below outlines the total number of daily views and visitors to the Sligo Greenway website between 18th November and 20th December.

There were a large number of visitors during the first few days of the consultation period. With the highest number of website visits being on 18th November (311), the first day of the public consultation period.

Table 1: Number of Website Views and Visitors from 18th November – 20th December 2024

Date	View	Visitor
18-Nov	606	311
19-Nov	547	275
20-Nov	314	181
21-Nov	212	119
22-Nov	130	89
23-Nov	67	44
24-Nov	46	24
25-Nov	149	65
26-Nov	86	35
27-Nov	69	30
28-Nov	46	20
29-Nov	134	103
30-Nov	34	18
01-Dec	62	17
02-Dec	137	45
03-Dec	281	184
04-Dec	102	75
05-Dec	84	56
06-Dec	49	22
07-Dec	8	6
08-Dec	25	12
09-Dec	35	24
10-Dec	30	15
11-Dec	144	87
12-Dec	106	61
13-Dec	243	136
14-Dec	75	42
15-Dec	59	33
16-Dec	118	60
17-Dec	57	37
18-Dec	47	29
19-Dec	77	34
20-Dec	104	36

Table 2 below gives a high-level overview of the individual tab visits on the project website between Monday 18th November and Friday 20th December.

The most visited pages on the project website were the Home page and the Feedback Form with 775 and 767 respectively.

Table 2: Number of Visits to Individual Website Pages

Website Content	Total	URL
Home	775	https://sligogreenway.ie/
Feedback Form	767	https://sligogreenway.ie/feedback-form/
Public Consultation No. 3	633	https://sligogreenway.ie/public-consultation-3/
Mapping	261	https://sligogreenway.ie/mapping/
What's Happening Now	139	https://sligogreenway.ie/whats-happening-now/
About	57	https://sligogreenway.ie/about/
Public Consultation No. 1	53	https://sligogreenway.ie/public-consultation-no-1/
Public Consultation No. 2	51	https://sligogreenway.ie/public-consultation-no-2/
FAQs	49	https://sligogreenway.ie/faqs/
Contact	29	https://sligogreenway.ie/contact/
Accessibility Statement	4	https://sligogreenway.ie/accessibility-statement/
Home page / Archives	1	http://sligogreenway.wordpress.com/
Cookie Policy	1	https://sligogreenway.ie/cookie-policy/

Figure 3 below displays the number of visitors to the project website via the various search engines, third party websites and social media platforms. In a similar pattern to that observed in Public Consultation No.2, Search Engines & Facebook remain the chief means of referrals to project website beyond direct visitor access (i.e. typing www.sligogreenway.ie into their web browser).

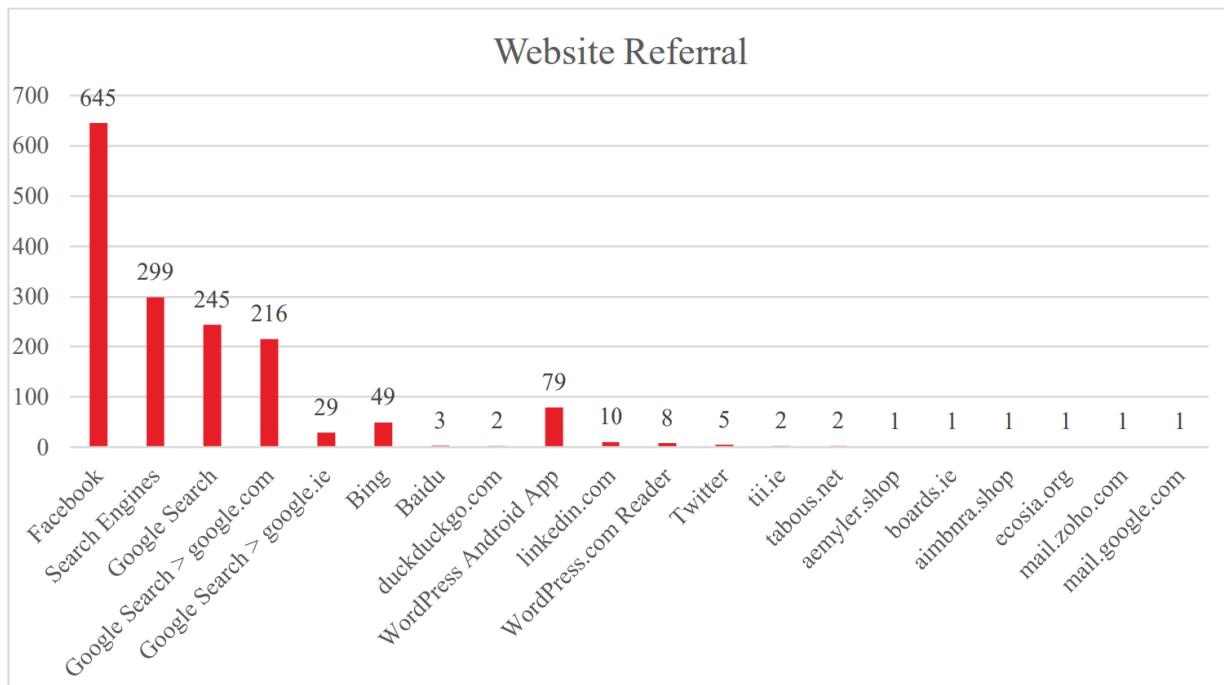


Figure 3: Top Third Party Website Referrals

Figure 4 below displays the top 5 countries in the world where the website was accessed from during this period. Website traffic from Ireland and the UK still make up the vast majority of visitors to the site. However, there are still a number of international visitors outside these two jurisdictions, with 175 combined visits from web users in United States, Netherlands and Finland.

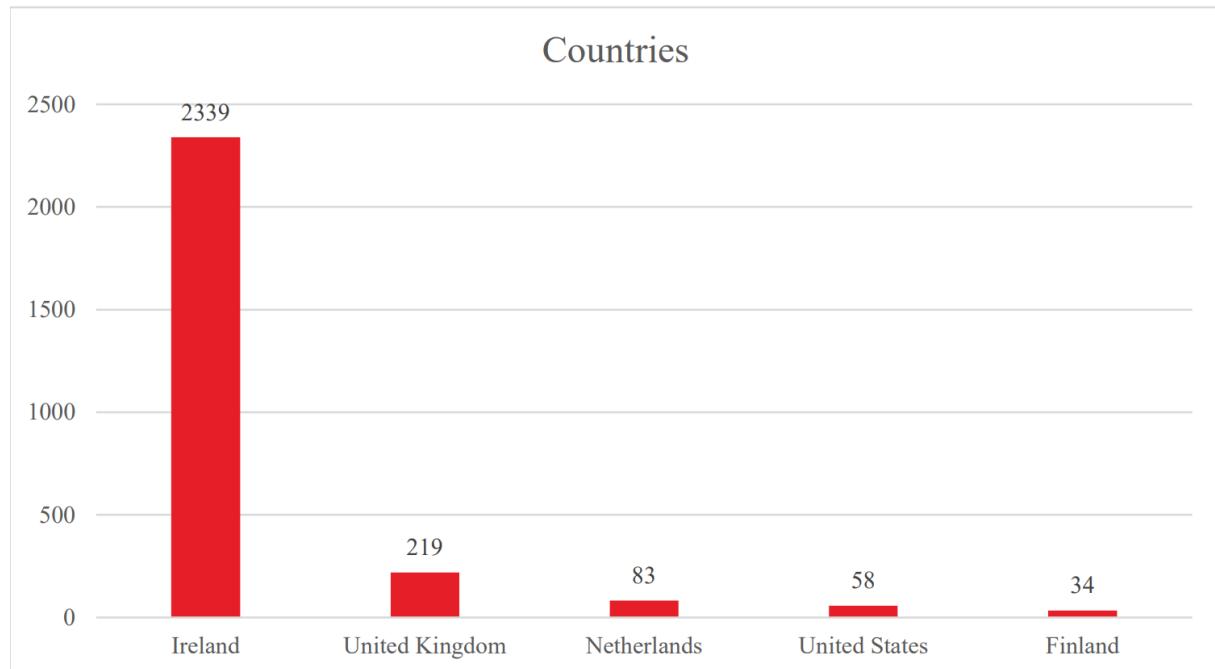


Figure 4: Top Five Countries of Origin for Project Website Access

3.2 Overview

Throughout the public consultation period submissions were accepted via feedback forms during the consultation events, the ‘contact us’ page on the website, by post and by email.

During the public consultation period, 370 submissions were received digitally via the project website, via post and in-person during the two consultation events.

304 of those submissions were feedback forms. The feedback form included the question ‘would you use the Greenway?’. 74% (225) of those answered yes, 23% (70) answered no, and 3% (9) had no response.

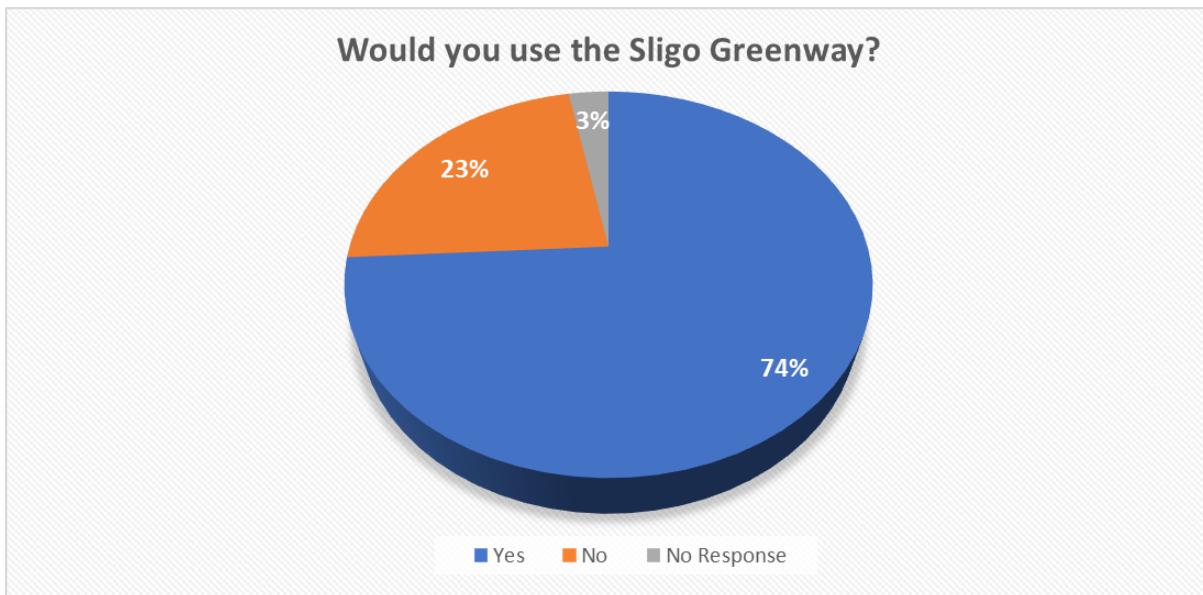


Figure 5: Public Consultation Feedback

Verbal feedback during the in-person events was varied. There were many individuals who expressed very positive opinions on the project noting the benefits it could bring for the local community in terms of active travel and generating jobs. There were also individuals who expressed negative opinions on the project due to the potential impact the scheme could have on the disused railway corridor. Many of these individuals expressed their wishes to see the Western Rail Corridor reopened to help connect County Sligo to wider Ireland and stimulate regeneration the area.

A common theme from the verbal feedback was that a greenway in the area is welcomed but not at the expense of reopening the railway line. However, there were also a number of individuals who recognised the potential benefits of the EPRC following the route of the disused railway line noting less impacts on individual landowners and land severance. Many individuals appreciated the potential benefits associated with reuse of the already existing infrastructure.

Throughout the public consultation period submissions were also received from local and national organisations and groups as listed below;

- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
- Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
- Collooney Greenway Support Group
- Tubbercurry Chamber of Commerce
- Disabled Persons’ Organisation
- Inland Fisheries Ireland
- Bellaghy Development Committee

- West On Track
- Irish Rail

A sample of some of the submissions received from the public has been included in Table 1 in section 3.3. A Frequently asked Questions “FAQs” tab is also included on the project website, and this aims to answer the main themes within these submissions (where appropriate) and the common questions during the consultation events (see Appendix I).

3.3 Thematic Summary of Submissions

The Feedback submissions have been categorised under the following headings:

1. Fully supportive of the Sligo Greenway EPRC
2. Supportive of a Greenway but not at the expense of the railway
3. Not supportive of a greenway
4. Other correspondence

These categories are represented in the chart in Figure 6 below.

Out of the 370 submissions there was a large proportion of positive feedback highlighting that there is a strong appetite for the project to continue and succeed.

75% (277) of responses were positive and supportive of the Greenway.

1. 52% (192) of those being fully supportive of the Sligo Greenway EPRC.
2. 23% (85) were supportive of a Greenway but not at the expense of the railway.
3. 21% (77) were not supportive of a Greenway.
4. 4% (16) submissions were other correspondence i.e. queries regarding greenway, requests for greenway info etc

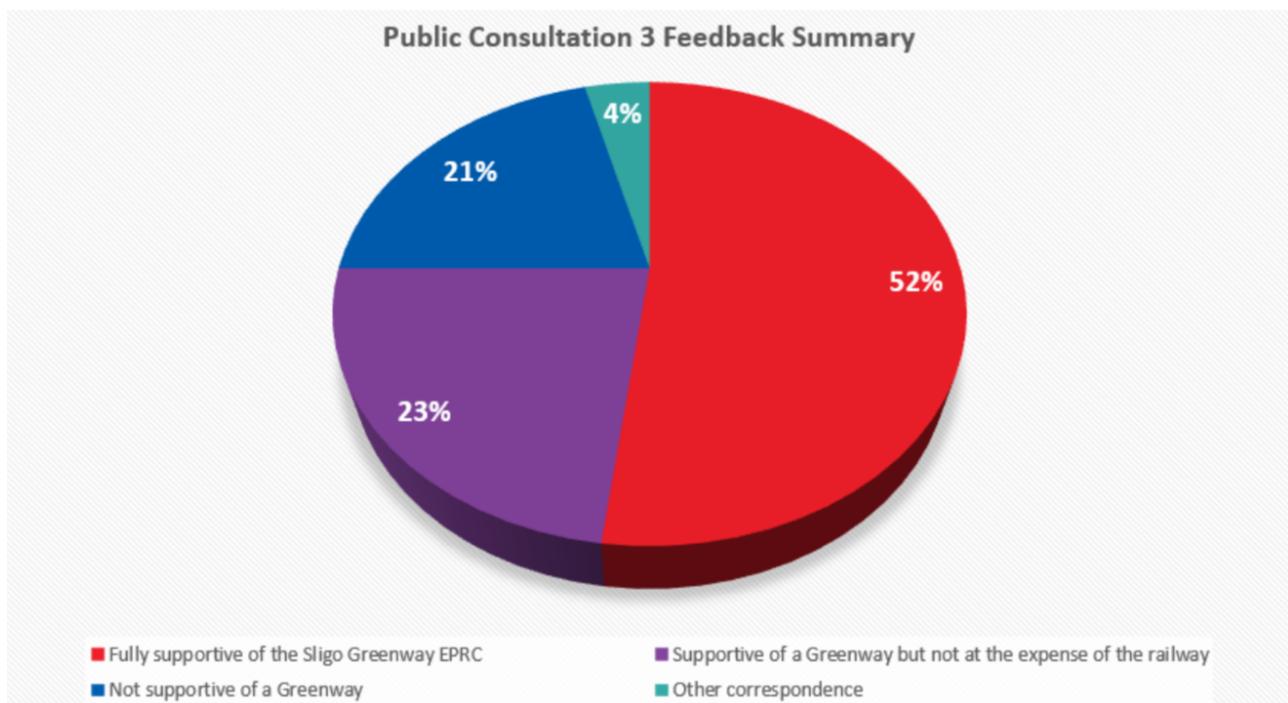


Figure 6: Public Consultation 3 Feedback Summary

3.3.1 Public Consultation Submissions

Several written submissions and occasions of verbal feedback received during the consultation were similar in nature, expressing common concerns and/or messages of support for the proposed Greenway.

In response to the submissions received a “FAQs” section is included on the project website. The FAQs section of the website will be updated as required throughout the project and as a minimum, reviews will be undertaken after any future consultation. A copy of the initial 23 FAQs is included in Appendix I of this report.

With such a high volume of responses and considerable overlap in text, Table 3 was produced to present a sample of the submissions received. Whilst not a conclusive representation of the submissions made, the table aims to demonstrate the variety of feedback submitted via the various channels.

Where submissions contained identifiable information, this has not been published to maintain anonymity for the individual and to ensure compliance with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) requirements.

Where “...” is included below (Table 3) this indicates that a passage of text has been omitted.

Table 3: Sample of Submissions Received

Summary
“I am a supporter of Greenways not but answered No if it built on the Collooney to Claremorris railway line. I live ... railway line and look forward to it reopening in the near future. As a result, I fail to understand why anyone in Sligo would want to destroy and jeopardise the opportunity to connect by railway to Galway by even suggesting making the Claremorris to Collooney into a Greenway. What an economic, social and infrastructural loss it would be to Co. Sligo.”
“The Sligo Greenway will be a catalyst for the development of the South Sligo region and for the Northwest in general. It will bring new life to the area, stimulating new and existing business, leading to job growth. At the same time, it will encourage local people to embrace a green form of transport and provide jobs and new business that is desperately needed.”
“The closed railway route from Collooney to Charlestown will be the perfect route to place the Sligo Greenway. I full support this route selection. The route has been closed as a railway for over 50 years and the All Island Railway Strategy has made it clear this is not a route that will be re-opened at any time before 2050, the greenway is the perfect way to protect the route in public ownership”
“I enjoy cycling and walking the various greenways across the county, and I'd love to visit when this one is up and running. It sounds like a great route. I'm a Dublin resident, but I visit the west of Ireland quite often.”
“The Western Rail Corridor is a Critical piece of Public Infrastructure and must NOT be interfered with under any circumstances. Our region must get proper investment to develop, and this includes critical public transport services, so the full retention of the permanent way is essential. Any attempt to tamper with the line should only be viewed as acts of shortsightedness and vandalism and must be avoided at all costs. Rail infrastructure is a valuable resource and must be nurtured, protected and supported.”
“I have major concerns about the proposed scheme. My primary mode of transport is rail; I work part-time in Dublin. Any attempt to remove rail links is a mistake as I believe it is a major element of environmentally friendly transport options”
“Please save this railway. Please don't put a greenway on it. Please put the greenway at a safe distance from the railway. Thanks”
“As the Emerging Preferred Route corridor follows the route of the disused railway, I am delighted with this choice for the Sligo Greenway for the following reasons: 1. The Emerging Preferred Route Corridor passes through all the main towns and villages, thus increasing opportunities for new and existing businesses in the tourism sector. 2. The Emerging Preferred Route Corridor along the disused railway line is the most cost-effective route in that it mitigates the impact on private lands and maximises use of available public lands.”

3.3.2 Irish Rail Submission

On the 20th December 2024 a submission was received from the Chief Executive of Irish Rail where they outlined their observations on the EPRC. The following was noted:

- *The recently published All-Island Strategic Rail Review does not include a recommendation to progress with the restoration of the Claremorris-Collooney section of the Western Rail Corridor before 2050. However, Recommendation 32 of the All-Island Strategic Rail Review does state the intention by both the Department of Transport and the Department for Infrastructure (Northern Ireland) to 'Review and update the All-Island Strategic Rail Review once a decade, taking account of latest policies and developments.' With this in mind, and the long-term economic and social development aspirations of the North West, larnród Éireann is not in a position to support the Greenway on the existing alignment at this time.*
- *larnród Éireann is open to engagement with Sligo County Council to explore the development of the Greenway alongside the currently disused railway line, such that any Greenway alignment provides sufficient clearances to allow the railway to operate and co-exist alongside the Greenway upon its reintroduction. larnród Éireann is aware that this Greenway project has been progressed in recent years by the Local Authority and wishes to support its progress in line with the latter restrictions outlined.*
- *larnród Éireann's 'IRL1 Standard IE Structure Gauge' requires that any structure be at least 4500mm from the nearest rail and anything below this distance must be designed for collision loads.*

4. Conclusion

Sligo County Council values the opinion of the community on the project and welcomes comments from the public and interested parties. Public consultation forms an important part of the design development process and allows the public to bring constraints and opportunities to the project team which will further inform the development of options.

The feedback received surrounding the scheme and options has been positive and there is an appetite for the project to succeed. While there are concerns regarding the impact the project could have on the reopening of the Western Rail Corridor, generally the proposed provision of safe walking and cycling infrastructure across the region and the opportunities arising from providing a greenway in the area was well received.

The Project Liaison Officer and project team are reviewing and responding to feedback received through this public consultation and will be engaging with potentially impacted landowners throughout the planning process. This feedback and engagement will form an important part of the development of an alignment within the Preferred Route Corridor.

As Irish Rail are a key stakeholder in this project, continued liaison between the project design team and Irish Rail is vital to allow an optimised solution to be developed.

Appendix A

Newspaper Articles

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH
SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
www.sligococo.ie



The Sligo Greenway – (Collooney to Bellaghy)
Public Consultation No. 3

Sligo County Council through the Sligo Regional Design Office are planning for a Greenway project entitled, 'The Sligo Greenway' from Collooney to Bellaghy. This project which is funded by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) will provide a public walking / cycling trail from Collooney to Bellaghy in Co. Sligo.

It is envisaged that the development of the Sligo Greenway has the potential to attract domestic and international visitors to explore and stay in the region, as well as to enhance connectivity between local communities. It also has the potential to link into the proposed Sligo, Leitrim, Northern Counties (SLNCR) Greenway, which would result in over 100km of Greenway from Enniskillen in Co. Fermanagh to Bellaghy in Co. Sligo.

Arup is appointed by Sligo County Council to provide multi-disciplinary engineering and other specialist consultancy services to progress the Project through Phases 1-4 of the TII Project Management Guidelines.

The Project is currently at Phase 2 - Options Selection. The purpose of Phase 2 is to examine options to determine a Preferred Option. During Phase 2, all reasonable / feasible options have been examined and their costs, benefits and effects on the environment assessed. Following this assessment, an Emerging Preferred Corridor has been identified and a third Public Consultation will be held to inform stakeholders and the Public of the Emerging Preferred Corridor.

Public consultation forms an important part of advancing the design process towards the development of route options within the Emerging Preferred Corridor and allows the involvement of the public in identifying key constraints and opportunities.

The Third Public Consultation runs from **Monday 18 November 2024 to Friday 20 December 2024**. This consultation is being held through the project website which contains all the relevant project information. This includes an interactive map which will display the Study Area, the identified opportunities and constraints, and the Emerging Preferred Corridor. The project website also contains a FAQs tab and a feedback page for the submission of comments or queries. The project website is accessible at www.sligogreenway.ie.

In addition, there will be the opportunity to book an appointment to meet with the Project Team to raise queries and provide feedback on the Emerging Preferred Corridor. These appointments can be made via the online booking system on the project website or by calling **071 9111950** before **Wednesday 27 November**.

In-person Public Consultation Details (AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY)
 In-person appointments are available on the following days:

- Public Consultation - Day 1: Monday 2nd December 2024, 12.00-20.00 Teach Laighe, Humbert Street, Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo, F91 Y328
- Public Consultation - Day 2: Tuesday 3rd December 2024, 12.00-20.00 Teach Laighe, Humbert Street, Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo, F91 Y328

Hardcopies of brochures and comment sheets will be available for collection during the public consultation period from Sligo County Council offices at the addresses set out below. Alternatively, please call 071 9111950 or email info@sligogreenway.ie to request a copy.

Sligo County Council Office Addresses

Sligo County Council, County Hall, Riverside, Sligo, F91 Y783	Sligo County Council, City Hall, Quay St, Abbeyquarter North, Sligo, F91 PP44	Sligo County Council, Teach Laighe, Humbert Street, Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo, F91 Y328
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Public Consultation Feedback

Comment sheets can be submitted to the Sligo Regional Design Office in the following ways:

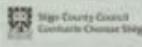
1. Via the "Contact Us" feedback page on the project website www.sligogreenway.ie;
2. By email to info@sligogreenway.ie; or
3. By return of post to the freepost address below:

Sligo Regional Design Office, Sligo County Council, Unit 1, The Embankment, Castle Street, Freepost FSG7627, Sligo, F91 E4XY.

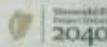
The closing date for submissions is **4pm on 20th December 2024**.

Sligo County Council values the opinion of the public regarding the project and welcomes any comments or feedback.

For further information please log on to www.sligogreenway.ie.



Sligo.



ARUP



Sligo.

Appendix B

Social Media Posts

 **Sligo County Council**  · [Follow](#)
18 November at 17:24 · 

The Sligo Greenway, Third Public Consultation on the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor runs from 5pm on Monday 18th November to 4pm on Friday 20th December.

Full details at: <https://sligogreenway.ie/public-consultation-3/>



The Sligo Greenway Public Consultation
No.3 – Emerging Preferred Route Corridor

18th November 2024 to 20th December 2024

This Consultation is being held through the project website
www.sligogreenway.ie
which contains all the project information.

Sligo.    

33  10 comments 29 shares

 Like  Comment  Share

Sligo County Council Facebook Posts Before and During Public Consultation Period



Sligo County Council @sligococo · Nov 18

...

The Sligo Greenway, Third Public Consultation on the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor runs from 5pm on Monday 18th November to 4pm on Friday 20th December.

Full details at: sligogreenway.ie/public-consult...



Sligo County Council Twitter Posts Before and During Public Consultation Period

Appendix C

Postcard



Sligo Greenway Collooney to Bellaghy



Sligo.

anpost
commerce

AdMailer

Return address: Unit 4, Broomhill Business Park, Tallaght, Dublin 24

Sligo County Council are pleased to inform you that the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor for the Sligo Greenway - Collooney to Bellaghy Project has been published.

This correspondence has been issued to property owners who are within the study area but are now not impacted by the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor for the Sligo Greenway.

The Third Public Consultation for the Sligo Greenway Collooney to Bellaghy Project is being held from **Monday 18 November to Friday 20 December 2024**. During this period the public may view the Public Consultation No.3 information online at www.sligogreenway.ie and make a submission to the project team.

In person appointments will be held on the **02nd & 03rd of December 2024** in **Teach Laighe, Humbert St, Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo**. To book your appointment, please do so online at www.sligogreenway.ie or alternatively phone the Sligo Regional Design Office on **071 9111950** before **Wednesday 27th November**.

Hardcopies of brochures and comment sheets will be available for collection during the public consultation period from Sligo County Council offices at the addresses set out below. Alternatively, please call **071 9111950** or email info@sligogreenway.ie to request a copy.

Sligo County Council Office Addresses

Sligo County Council,
County Hall,
Riverside,
Sligo,
F91 Y763.

Sligo County Council,
City Hall,
Quay St.,
Abbeyquarter North,
Sligo,
F91 PP44.

Sligo County Council,
Teach Laighe,
Humbert Street,
Tubbercurry,
Co. Sligo,
F91 Y328.

For all information relating to this project please visit www.sligogreenway.ie

Postage Paid Postas locta	Baile Átha Cliath
L	Ceadúnas 10154

Appendix D

Stakeholder Letter



To the relevant Stakeholder

25th November 2024

RE: The Sligo Greenway – (Collooney to Bellaghy) Public Consultation No.3

A Chairde,

Sligo County Council through the Sligo Regional Design Office are in the early stages of planning for a Greenway project entitled, '*The Sligo Greenway*' from Collooney to Bellaghy. This project which is funded by Transport Infrastructure Ireland will provide a high-quality greenway from Collooney to Bellaghy Co. Sligo.

It is envisaged the development of *The Sligo Greenway* has the potential to attract domestic and international visitors to come, explore and stay in the region. It also has the potential to link into the proposed Sligo, Leitrim and & Northern Counties Railway (SLNCR) Greenway, which would result in over 100km of Greenway from Enniskillen to Bellaghy, Co. Sligo.

Arup has been appointed by Sligo County Council to provide multi-disciplinary engineering and other specialist consultancy services to progress the project through Phases 1-4 of the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Project Management Guidelines.

The Project is currently at Phase 2 - Options Selection. The purpose of Phase 2 is to examine options to determine a Preferred Option. During Phase 2, all reasonable / feasible options have been examined and their costs, benefits and effects on the environment assessed. Following this assessment, an Emerging Preferred Corridor has been identified and a third Public Consultation is being held to inform stakeholders and the Public of the Emerging Preferred Corridor.

The Third Public Consultation runs from Monday 18 November 2024 to Friday 20 December 2024. This consultation is being held through the project website which contains all the relevant project information. This includes an interactive map which will display the Study Area, the identified opportunities and constraints, and the Emerging Preferred Corridor. The project website also contains a FAQs tab and a feedback page for the submission of comments or queries. The project website is accessible at www.sligogreenway.ie.

In addition, there will be the opportunity to book an appointment to meet with the Project Team to raise queries and provide feedback on the Emerging Preferred Corridor. These appointments



can be made via the online booking system on the project website or by calling 071 9111950 before **Wednesday 27th November**.

Open Public Consultation Details (AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY)

In-person public consultation events are as follows:

Public Consultation - Day 1: Monday **2nd December 2024, 12.00-20.00 Teach Laighne** Humbert Street, Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo, F91 Y328.

Public Consultation - Day 2: Tuesday **3rd December 2024, 12.00-20.00 Teach Laighne** Humbert Street, Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo, F91 Y328.

Public Consultation Feedback

Comment sheets can be submitted to the Sligo Regional Design Office in the following ways:

1. Via the "Contact Us" feedback page on the project website www.sligogreenway.ie
2. By email to info@sligogreenway.ie; or
3. Free post to:

Sligo Regional Design Office,
Sligo County Council,
Unit 1,
The Embankment,
Castle Street,
Freepost FSG7627,
Sligo,
F91 E4XY.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE SHLIGIGH

ÁRAS CONTAE COIS ABHAINN SLIGEACH

SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY HALL RIVERSIDE SLIGO

T: +353 71 911 1111 E: info@sligococo.ie

F: +353 71 914 1119 W: www.sligococo.ie

Hard copies of brochures and comment sheets are available for collection from Sligo County Council offices (addresses below). Alternatively, please email info@sligogreenway.ie or call (071) 9111950 to request copies of same.

Sligo County Council County Hall, Riverside, Sligo, F91 Y763	Sligo County Council City Hall, Quay St., Abbeyquarter North, Sligo, F91PP44	Sligo County Council, Teach Laighne, Humbert Street, Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo, F91 Y328.
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The closing date for submissions is **4pm on 20th December 2024**.

The above information is available on the project website; however, we want to ensure that you are aware of the public consultation event taking place for the Sligo Greenway.

As set out above the public consultation concludes on Friday 20th December 2024, however, we would encourage you to engage with this process by making a submission on the project.

We are also available to meet with you at an arranged time to discuss the Sligo Greenway project further if required.

Mise le Meas

Richard McMahon

Project Liaison Officer

Appendix E

Landowner Letter

Group Ref:

Date: 15th November 2024

Re: Sligo Greenway – Collooney to Bellaghy – Publication of the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor

Dear Sir / Madam,

Sligo County Council are pleased to inform you that the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor¹ for the Sligo Greenway - Collooney to Bellaghy Project has been published. The publication of the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor represents a key milestone on this nationally significant project which forms part of Project Ireland 2040¹.

The Sligo Greenway - Collooney to Bellaghy Project website is the main platform to communicate information & updates to the public (www.sligogreenway.ie). Mapping, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and all information published on the project to date is available from the website.

This information pack has been issued to each property owner located within or adjacent to the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor. Contact details for property owners are based on information supplied to Sligo County Council by the Property Registration Authority¹. It is not possible to verify the completeness, or accuracy of this contact information; therefore, any inaccuracies are regrettable but unavoidable.

To verify ownership details, a form has been included with this information pack.

¹ See Glossary of Terms

Sligo County Council requests that this form be completed and returned to the freepost address listed below or submitted online at the following address:

🌐: www.sligogreenway.ie

✉: **Sligo Regional Design Office, Sligo County Council, Unit 1, The Embankment, Castle Street, Freepost FSG7627, Sligo, F91 E4XY**

Map(s) of land/property registered in the ownership/part ownership of the addressee(s), and its location in relation to the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor is enclosed with this letter.

Following publication of the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor, the project is now entering a period of public consultation.

The Third Public Consultation runs from **Monday 18 November 2024 to Friday 20 December 2024**. This consultation is being held through the project website which contains all the relevant project information.

Submissions to the project team can be made through the project website, via email to info@sligogreenway.ie or by freepost to the address listed above.

During this period the public may attend in person appointments and make a submission to the project team.

In person appointments will be held on the **02nd & 03rd of December 2024** in **Teach Laighne, Humbert St, Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo**. To book your appointment, please do so online at www.sligogreenway.ie or alternatively phone the Sligo Regional Design Office on 071 9111950 before Wednesday 27th November.

Scanning this QR code will bring you directly to the Sligo Greenway Public Consultation booking page.



Sligo County Council would like to take this opportunity to thank the public for their cooperation and patience on this project to date and looks forward to working together to deliver this important piece of infrastructure for the northwest region.

Yours Sincerely,
The Project Team,
Sligo Regional Design Office

Glossary of Terms

Project Ireland 2040:

Project Ireland 2040 is the government's long-term overarching strategy to make Ireland a better country for all and to build a more resilient and sustainable future. The strategy ensures the alignment of investment plans with the stated National Strategic Objectives for 2040 in a considered, cohesive and defined manner. Further information is available on <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/09022006-project-ireland-2040/>

Property Registration Authority:

The Property Registration Authority (PRA) is the State organisation responsible for the registration of property transactions in Ireland.

Emerging Preferred Route Corridor:

The Emerging Preferred Route Corridor (shown orange on the accompanying mapping) represents the lands within which the scheme could be developed. This Corridor is typically 200m wide with some locally narrowed areas which are due to constraints within built up urban areas. The design will be progressed during the next Phase of the project which is referred to as Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation. A sufficient level of detail will be developed to establish land take requirements (with the intention to utilise state owned lands to the greatest extent possible and in doing so minimising potential impacts on privately owned lands) and to progress the Project through the statutory planning processes.

Appendix F

Printed Flyer



Glasbhealach Shligigh The Sligo Greenway

Collooney to Bellaghy



Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

Public Consultation No. 3 Emerging Preferred Route Corridor



INTRODUCTION

Sligo County Council through the Sligo Regional Design Office are planning for a Greenway project entitled, 'The Sligo Greenway' from Collooney to Bellaghy. This project which is funded by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) will provide a public walking / cycling trail from Collooney to Bellaghy Co. Sligo.

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

This Project is currently at Phase 2 - Options Selection. During Phase 2 all reasonable/feasible options have been examined and their costs, benefits and effects on the environment have been interrogated. Following this assessment, an **Emerging Preferred Route Corridor** has been identified and a third Public Consultation is being held to inform stakeholders and the Public of the Emerging Preferred Corridor.

ONLINE PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Public Consultation on the Emerging Preferred Corridor runs from **Monday 18 November 2024 to Friday 20 December 2024**. This consultation is being held through the project website which contains all the project information. This includes an interactive map which will display the Study Area, the identified opportunities and constraints, and the Emerging Preferred Corridor. The project website also contains a FAQs tab and a feedback page for the submission of comments or queries.

IN-PERSON PUBLIC CONSULTATION

In-person Public Consultation is by **appointment only** and will be held over two days.

Dates:

Monday 02nd and Tuesday 03rd
December 2024

Times:

12.00-20.00

Location:

Teach Laighne,
Humbert Street,
Tubbercurry,
Co. Sligo
F91 Y328.



These appointments can be made via the **online booking system** on the project website or by calling **(071) 9111950** before Wednesday 27th November.

www.sligogreenway.ie

For further information please go to: www.sligogreenway.ie



Sligo.

Sligo County Council
Comhairle Chontae Shligigh

SLIGO
OIFIG DEARTHA RÉGIUNACH.
REGIONAL DESIGN OFFICE

ARUP

Appendix G

Brochure and Feedback Form



Glasbhealach Shligigh The Sligo Greenway



Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

Collooney to Bellaghy

Public Consultation No. 3 Emerging Preferred Route Corridor

18th November 2024 to 20th December 2024



Sligo.



Sligo County Council
Comhairle Chontae Shligigh

SLIG 
OIFIG DÉARTHA RÉGIONACH
REGIONAL DESIGN OFFICE

ARUP

INTRODUCTION

Sligo County Council through the Sligo Regional Design Office are planning for a Greenway project entitled, 'The Sligo Greenway' from Collooney to Bellaghy. This project which is funded by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) will provide a public walking / cycling trail from Collooney to Bellaghy Co. Sligo. Arup has been appointed by Sligo County Council to provide multi-disciplinary engineering and other specialist consultancy services to progress the project through Phases 1-4 of the TII Project Management Guidelines.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

This project is proposing to provide a public walking / cycling trail which links Bellaghy with Collooney, County Sligo. The project will investigate providing links to the National Mountain Bike Centre at Coolaney. The project would also eventually link to Sligo Town and Enniskillen, County Fermanagh via the planned cross border Sligo, Leitrim, Northern Counties Railway (SLNCR) Greenway. Local communities and organisations including the Sligo Greenway Co-op have been to the fore in developing the idea of a Greenway from Bellaghy to Collooney. While this project will utilise works previously undertaken it will formally appraise all viable options that would provide a public walking / cycling trail linking Bellaghy to Collooney to ensure that advantages and disadvantages of the various options are considered, and the emerging preferred option represents the best solution.



PROJECT SPECIFIC NEED

The need for the Sligo Greenway is underpinned by the necessity to provide facilities which enable physical activity in a safe environment for all, together with the need to connect rural communities using sustainable modes for short trips and strengthen rural economies and communities, whilst enhancing amenity and heritage. The surrounding areas contain attractive scenery and an opportunity for users to interact with nature whilst benefitting from outdoor activity.

The development of the Sligo Greenway will increase the region's outdoor recreation infrastructure and boost its reputation as a destination for adventure activity and tourism. In doing so, the Greenway will offer a significant opportunity to increase visitor numbers, which will have a positive impact upon rural communities and economies and will encourage the development of a tourism-based industry in the area.

It will aid connectivity to local attractions and cultural heritage sites such as the Sligo Way, Knocknashee Megalithic Site, Muckelty Hill and the National Mountain Bike Centre at Coolaney.

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

This Project is currently at Phase 2 - Options Selection. During Phase 2 all reasonable/feasible options have been examined and their costs, benefits and effects on the environment have been interrogated. Following this assessment, an Emerging Preferred Corridor has been identified and a third Public Consultation is being held to inform stakeholders and the Public of the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor.

Please note that the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor varies in width. In most locations the corridor is 200m wide, however in more constrained locations the width has been reduced to a minimum of 50m. The final design for the proposed Greenway will be significantly less than this (typically in the order of 10m). Accordingly, there is scope within the corridor to design the alignment of the proposed Greenway. This will be investigated further in Phase 3 - Design & Environmental Evaluation.

Project Phasing & Timeline

Phase 1

Concept and Feasibility

We identified a suitable study area to engage stakeholders to undertake constraints mapping and development and assessment of route options.

Study Area and Constraints

Public Consultation No. 1
Study Area & Constraints

Approval Point

Phase 2

Options Selection

We will identify key constraints to the project development and develop and assess feasible solutions in line with the project objectives so as to select a preferred option.

Options Selection

Public Consultation No.2
Proposed Options

Landowner Consultation

Selection of Preferred Option

Public Consultation No.3
Preferred Option

Landowner Consultation

Approval Point

Phase 3

Design & Environmental Evaluation

We will develop the design of the preferred solution to a sufficient level of detail to establish land take requirements and undertake environmental evaluation so as to identify and mitigate impacts.

Design

Environmental Evaluation

Landowner Consultation

Approval Point

Phase 4

Statutory Process

We will advance the project through the Statutory Process to ensure that the project is developed in accordance with planning, environmental and other relevant legislation.

Planning Application

Statutory Process

Decision

Approval Point

Phase 5 & 6

Enabling & Procurement

Phases 5 & 6 will be subject to planning approval and funding for the project to proceed.

Enabling & Procurement

Construction & Implementation



Emerging Preferred Route Corridor Option Plans

In the following pages the Emerging Preferred Corridor has been divided into two sections for display purposes. Southern and Northern Sections.

Q2
2023

Q1
2024

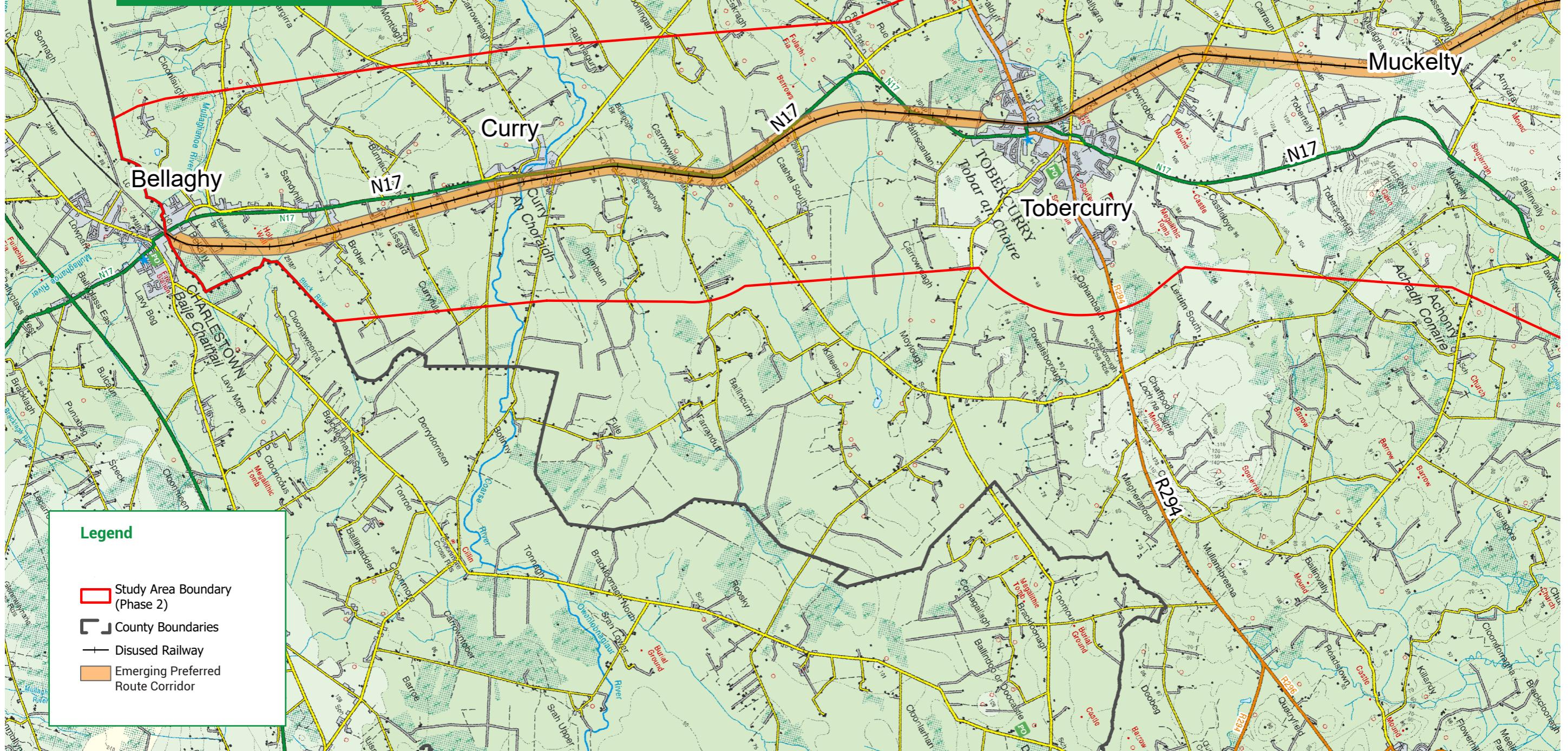
Q4
2024

2025 /
2026

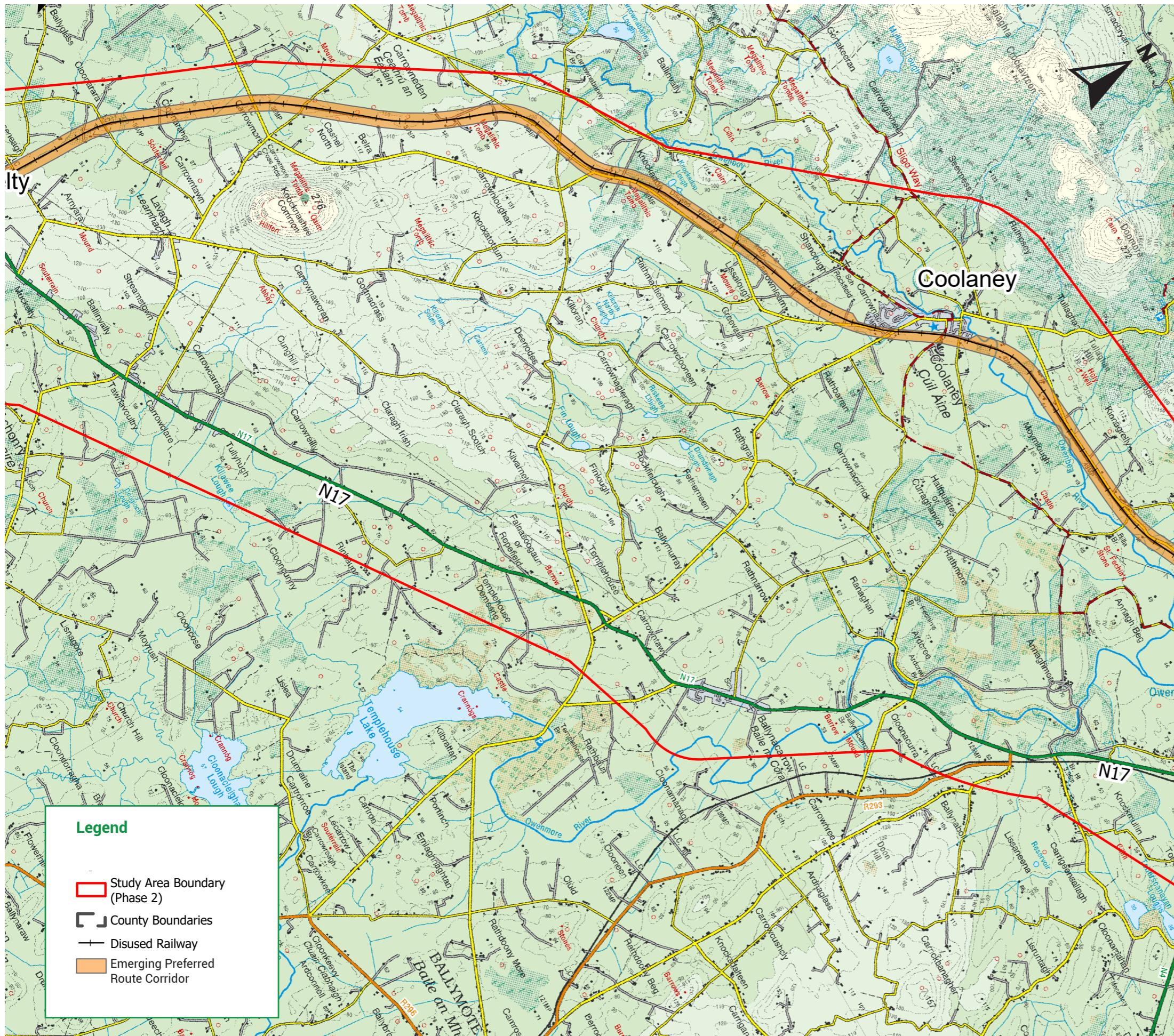
TBC

TBC





The Sligo Greenway - Emerging Preferred Route Corridor



Emerging Preferred Route Corridor

Northern Section

Full details on the Emerging Preferred Corridor Option will be available to view on the Project website (www.sligogreenway.ie) from 5pm Monday 18th November 2024



IN-PERSON PUBLIC CONSULTATION

In-person Public Consultation is by **appointment only** and will be held over two days.

Dates:

Monday 02nd and Tuesday 03rd December 2024

Times:

12.00-20.00

Location:

Teach Laighne,
Humbert Street,
Tubbercurry,
Co. Sligo
F91 Y328.



These appointments can be made via the **online booking system** on the project website **www.sligogreenway.ie** or by calling **(071) 9111950** before Wednesday 27th November.

www.sligogreenway.ie

Sligo County Council values the opinion of the public regarding the project and welcomes any comments or feedback from interested parties.

The closing date for submissions is 4pm on 20th December 2024.

Sligo County Council
County Hall,
Riverside,
Sligo
F91 Y763

Sligo County Council
City Hall,
Quay St.,
Abbeyquarter North,
Sligo
F91PP44

Sligo County Council
Teach Laighne,
Humbert Street,
Tubbercurry,
Sligo
F91 Y328

Data Protection: By providing my details in this Feedback Form, I consent to the use of my personal data in accordance with Sligo County Council's Privacy Notice which is available at: https://www.sligococo.ie/gdpr/SligoCoCo_DataPrivacyStatement.pdf



QR Code - Project website



Glasbhealach Shligigh The Sligo Greenway

Collooney to Bellaghy



Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

Public Consultation No. 3 Emerging Preferred Route Corridor

Monday 18th November 2024
to Friday 20th December 2024

Feedback Form Please tell us your views!

Name

Contact No.

Date

E-mail

Do you live / own
property in the Emerging
Preferred Route Corridor

Yes

No

Address

Eircode / Postcode

If you live / have
property in the
Emerging Preferred
Route Corridor is it:

Residential

Commercial

Farm

Other

If you have been assigned a group
reference number please state here:



Would you use the
Greenway?

Yes

No

See overleaf



Sligo.



Sligo County Council
Comhairle Chontae Shligigh

SLIGO
OIFIG DÉARTHA RÉIGÍUNACH.
REGIONAL DESIGN OFFICE

ARUP

If you have specific information relating to the Emerging Preferred Corridor, or if you would like to make any other comments about the proposed scheme, please let us know:

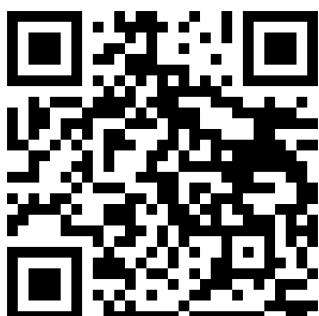
(please use additional paper and include supporting documents / images / maps if you wish)

Submitting your feedback form



Complete Online

www.sligogreenway.ie



Return by Email

info@sligogreenway.ie



Freepost

Sligo Regional Design Office,
Sligo County Council,
Unit 1,
The Embankment,
Castle Street,
Freepost FSG7627,
Sligo
F91 F4XY

Sligo County Council values the opinion of the public regarding the project and welcomes any comments or feedback from interested parties.

The closing date for submissions is 4pm on 20th December 2024.

Data Protection: By providing my details in this Feedback Form, I consent to the use of my personal data in accordance with Sligo County Council's Privacy Notice which is available at: https://www.sligococo.ie/gdpr/SligoCoCo_DataPrivacyStatement.pdf

Appendix H

Image of Public Consultation Venues



Appendix I

FAQs

Q1: Who is running the project?

A1: Sligo County Council through the Sligo Regional Design Office are in the early stages of planning for a Greenway project entitled, ‘The Sligo Greenway’ from Collooney to Bellaghy. This project which is funded by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) will provide a public walking / cycling trail Greenway from Collooney to Bellaghy Co. Sligo. Arup has been appointed by Sligo County Council to provide multi-disciplinary engineering and other specialist consultancy services to progress the project through Phases 1-4 of the TII Project Management Guidelines.

Q2: What is a Greenway?

A2: TII defines a Greenway as “...a cycleway that caters for people walking, wheeling and cycling in a mainly recreational environment.” Where a cycleway is “...an offline public road reserved for the exclusive use of people cycling or people walking, wheeling, and cycling. All mechanically propelled vehicles, other than mechanically propelled wheelchairs and electric bikes, are prohibited from entering except for the purpose of maintenance and access.”

Q3 What is the width of the Study Area?

A3: The width of the Study Area was developed during Phase 1 – Concept and Feasibility. At its narrowest the Study Area is ≥ 3 km. In developing the Study Area a radius of 1.5km was set around the population centres of Collooney, Coolaney, Tobercurry, Curry and Bellaghy. 1.5km was selected on the basis that “average urban commuter cycling speeds are up to 20 km/h” which translates to a ≤ 10 -minute cycle to and from the greenway to the centre of each town / village. A similar principle was then applied to the areas in between these population centres with the Study Area then expanded to capture nearby opportunities and / or constraints. During Phase 2 the Study Area was increased to include a 500m buffer from all proposed Corridor Options.

Q4 How has the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor of the Greenway been decided?

A4: The Project is being developed in line with TII Project Management Guidelines and the Code of Best Practice for National and Regional Greenways (CBPN&RG). Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility identified an appropriate Study Area and a long list of route options. During Phase 1 the long list of options were examined in terms of their feasibility, conceptually and practically, to achieve the Project objectives as part of the Preliminary Options Assessment and some were ruled out.

During Phase 2 Options Selection the viable Corridor Options (presented during Public Consultation No.2) were evaluated by undertaking an appraisal of the quantifiable and non-quantifiable impacts. This appraisal was in accordance with Project Appraisal Guidelines Unit: 13.0 Appraisal of Active Modes under the headings of Transport User Benefits and Other Economic Impacts, Accessibility Impacts, Social Impacts, Land Use Impacts, Safety Impacts, Climate Change Impacts, Local Environmental Impacts. The appraisal scored each Corridor Option under these headings and the Corridor with the highest score was selected as the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor.

Q5: What is the width of the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor?

A5: The width of the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor varies. In most locations the Corridor is 200m wide, however in more constrained locations the width has been reduced to a minimum of 50m. The width selected provides flexibility and sufficient scope to vary the exact route of the proposed greenway to avoid constraints, allow for construction and operation of the greenway, and accommodate necessary elements such as earthworks, drainage / environmental features, boundary treatment, accommodation works and public facilities such as bins, toilet facilities, rest / picnic areas, fishing platforms, slipways, trailheads, parking areas, etc.

Q6: When will the exact route of the Greenway be decided?

A6 The route of the Greenway will be developed during Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation. The purpose of this Phase is to develop the design of the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor to a stage where sufficient levels of detail exist to establish land-take requirements and to evaluate potential environmental impact. Phase 3 will take place in 2025 and 2026.

Q7 : What will be the width of the finished Greenway?

A7: As the detailed design has not begun the width of the finished Greenway is not yet known. As this will most likely be a Shared Use (2-way) facility the absolute minimum width of the finished greenway is likely to be of the order of 5-7m (paved width of 3-5m), excluding necessary elements such as earthworks, drainage / environmental features, boundary treatment, accommodation works and public facilities such as bins, toilet facilities, rest / picnic areas, fishing platforms, slipways, trailheads, parking areas, etc.

Q8 : When will the landowners directly affected by the Emerging Preferred Corridor Option be contacted?

A8 : Every landowner directly affected by the Emerging Preferred Corridor Option has been sent a letter as part of the third Public Consultation event.

Q9 : Will my house be given the same level of importance as other constraints when selecting the route within the Emerging Preferred Corridor Option?

A9 : Your house is an important constraint and will be considered among all the constraints when selecting the preferred option.

Q10: How will land be acquired?

A10: It is anticipated that the majority of the lands required for the Greenway will be provided through the use of state-owned lands.

In cases where private land acquisition is necessary after the route of the Greenway has been decided, we will engage with individual landowners to negotiate a route that minimises the impact on their farm or property holdings. Voluntary Land Acquisition Agreements will be pursued wherever possible. Please refer to the Code of Best Practice for National and Regional Greenways for further information.

Q11: How do I find out about compensation?

A11: The Code of Best Practice for National and Regional Greenways sets out guidance around compensation, payments, etc. for landowners affected by a greenway project. The code is available from the tii.ie and gov.ie websites.

Q12: When is the earliest timeframe that the project could be built? / When will the project be submitted for planning permission and get planning consent?

A12: The project is currently programmed to begin Phase 3 Design & Environmental Evaluation in 2025. Once the Phase 3 is complete a planning application will be submitted and the competent authority (an Bord Pleanála &/or Sligo County Council) will dictate the project timeline and their decision date. Subject to planning approval and funding for the project to proceed it will subsequently take time to complete the detailed design and appoint a contractor. The duration for construction is currently unknown as the extents of the project are still unknown at this Phase.

Q13: How do I contact a member of the Project team to discuss the project?

A13: You can contact the Project Team either through the “[Contact Us](#)” page on this project website, by email to info@sligogreenway.ie or by post to the Sligo Regional Design Office, Sligo County Council, Unit 1, The Embankment, Castle Street, Sligo, F91 E4XY

Q14: Why is the project starting again from a blank canvas? What has happened to the previous project?

A14: Previous studies have assessed the viability of providing a Greenway within the railway corridor. In 2022 TII published new standards and guidelines for Greenways, and it is important to start from a blank canvas to fully understand what the issues are and what is the most optimal solution.

Q15: Why were a number of alternative Corridor Options considered along with the disused railway corridor?

A15: Despite the latest design guidance and policy encouraging the use of “state-owned land”, and “disused railway infrastructure” quoted as an example we were required to formally appraise all viable alternatives as part of the TII Appraisal Process. This process ensures that the advantages and disadvantages of the various options are considered, and the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor represents the best solution.

Q16: How will potential impacts on ecology be managed?

A16: The design team are at the very early stages in the development of a greenway in this area. The recorded (and potential) presence of protected species and habitats was identified in the Study Area as part of the Phase 1 Feasibility Report. As the design and route selection process continues, a series of robust and comprehensive ecological surveys will be carried out to evaluate the ecological baseline within the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor. This will inform the final selected route, the design of the greenway and the identification of appropriate mitigation measures.

Through careful design and route selection processes, we are confident that a Greenway can be designed within the Study Area without significant impacts on Key Ecological Receptors.

Q17: How will potential impacts on protected European Sites be managed?

A17: The design team are at the very early stages in the development of a greenway in this area. The protection of the natural environment is one of the key considerations that informs the design process and even at this early stage, the various designated sites within the study area have been identified as key ecological receptors.

Q18: How will biosecurity and/or disease control be managed?

A18: The Sligo Greenway project will comply with all regulations relating to biosecurity and / or disease control as direct by the Department of Agriculture.

Q19: How will farm severance be treated?

A19: Where practical farm severance will be minimised by following field boundaries. If severance to an integral part of the farm operation is unavoidable, consideration may be given to structures / crossing and/ or compensation. This will be assessed on a case-by-case basis taking account of the farm operation.

Q20: What will be boundary treatment between the Greenway and my property?

A20: The type of boundary treatment will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and agreed with each landowner. An example of standard fencing detail can be found here: <https://www.tiipublications.ie/library/CC-SCD-00301-03.pdf>

Q21: My property is remote. How will my security concerns be addressed?

A21: Concerns will be discussed with individual landowners once the emerging preferred route has been identified. Where practical, the Greenway will be routed to stay away from houses and/or farm buildings. Where necessary, screening such as hedges, fences or other suitable screening will be used to provide adequate privacy.

Q22: What type of public facilities will be provided?

A22: As the route design has not begun a complete list of public facilities is not yet known. The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport have published Greenways and Cycle Routes Ancillary Infrastructure Guidelines and facilities typically provided along Greenways can include bins, toilet facilities, rest areas, picnic benches, fishing platforms, slipways for canoes / kayak access to rivers, parking areas, trailheads and viewing spots.

Q23: What sort of business opportunities will the greenway bring?

A23: The development of the Sligo Greenway is envisaged to attract domestic and international visitors to come, explore and stay in the region. It aims to unlock the tourism potential of the communities it traverses and provide opportunities for the development of a local tourism-based industry in the area.

Q24: Will horses be allowed on a greenway?

A24 No, horses will be prohibited. Use of the Greenway will be restricted to people walking, wheeling, and cycling.