



WEST CLARE RAILWAY GREENWAY

SECTION 1: KILRUSH TO KILKEE

We Need Your Input

The project is for your area, and for the people of your area. We would therefore like to hear your views:

- Do you think the project is a good idea and will it benefit the area?
- Do you have any comments on the suggested possible route options shown in the attached drawing, either positive or negative?
- Do you have ideas on further potential route options not included on the drawing to date?
- Do you have any other ideas or design considerations relevant to the project that you would like the project team to consider?
- Is there other relevant information you think should be shared and/or considered?

Public Consultation Information

The map overleaf illustrates an overview of the route options being considered. More detailed maps of these routes are also published as part of this public consultation, and are also available on Clare County Council's website www.clarecoco.ie. These drawings will be on display alongside this brochure and a comment form at the following three locations from Monday 13th September to Monday 4th October 2021:

- Kilrush Library
- Sweeney Memorial Library Kilkee
- Clare County Council, Áras Contae an Chláir, Ennis

Have Your Say

We invite members of the public and stakeholders to make a written submission. A hard copy comment form is available at Clare County Council Offices in Kilrush and Ennis as well as the libraries in Kilrush and Kilkee. Alternatively the comment form can be downloaded from Clare County Council's website and returned by email to wcrgreenway@rod.ie or by post to:

West Clare Railway Greenway
Public Consultation No. 1 PMO,
Clare County Council
Áras Contae an Chláir,
New Road,
Ennis
Co. Clare
V95 DXP2

To accommodate any members of the public who may not have access to email or post, a telephone facility will also be made available through ROD Consulting Engineers where members of the public can make a formal submission. If you would like to avail of this option, please contact 01 294 0800 and reference the West Clare Railway Greenway Public Consultation.

Project Background

Clare County Council is currently progressing Section 1 of the West Clare Railway Greenway project which aims to provide a recreational greenway between the towns of Kilrush and Kilkee, following the route of the former West Clare Railway where feasible. The West Clare Railway between Kilrush and Kilkee closed in 1961 and since then the main transport corridor between the two towns has been the N67 National Road. The West Clare Railway Greenway project will develop a new walking and cycling corridor between these two seaside towns, providing a high-quality attraction and amenity to locals and tourists alike, and building on the success of the Waterford Greenway and the Limerick Greenway.

Where possible, it is hoped that the greenway can utilise intact sections of the former railway line, as it offers a relatively flat, largely continuous and 'ready-made' route that runs between the town settlements and explores both the natural and built heritage along the route. There will be sections where the former railway is not available, and deviations onto alternative routes or local roads will be examined to ensure continuity and a high quality, attractive facility.

Roughan and O'Donovan [ROD] Consulting Engineers has been appointed by Clare County Council to assist in undertaking a detailed options appraisal and preliminary design for the proposed greenway supported by a team of environmental specialists. A 'spider's web' of indicative route options has been identified as shown overleaf and in the public display drawings. This will ensure that all potential routes have been identified and considered in the option selection process.

Project to Date

The Project Team has been examining the feasibility of developing the project, which has to date included:

Mapping:

- Variations of all potential routes within the study area, along previous railway lines, roads, hedges and field boundaries;
- Existing roads, rivers, towns and villages, amenities, places of interest, including the former railway line from Kilkee to Kilrush and the associated bridges and buildings; and
- Land ownership boundaries, both private and public.

Preliminary Consultations

Clare County Council has been liaising with members of the community, and has held initial exploratory discussions with some landowners and other stakeholders to seek their initial opinions of the project. Feedback to date has been broadly positive, generally indicating the viability of the project subject to identifying a feasible route and design considerations at various locations.

This process is ongoing and the project team now wishes to seek your input through this Public Consultation process.



