



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 have any comments regarding the route corridor options, or the route selection process?

Is there other relevant information you think should be shared and/or considered in relation to the route corridor options identified in Figure 1.

Public Consultation Information

As per the TII Code of Practice for Greenways, the route corridor options being considered are being put on display for the second Public Consultation for this project. Figure 1 illustrates the route corridor options being considered. More detailed maps of these routes are also published online, as part of this public consultation, and are available on Clare County Council's website www.clarecoco.ie. These drawings will be on display, with this brochure and a comment form, at the following two locations from Friday 9th September to Friday 30th September 2022:

- Kilrush Public Library
- Sweeney Memorial Library, Kilkee

Information sessions will be held on Wednesday 14th

September in Kilrush and Thursday 15th September in Kilkee at the above-mentioned locations, from 3:30pm to 8:30pm on each day with members of Clare County Council and the scheme consultants ROD in attendance. Private individual landowner consultations can be facilitated during the information sessions for potentially affected landowners.

Have your say

We invite members of the public and stakeholders to make a written submission. A hard copy comment form is available alongside the display information at 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 Section 1 PC2
PMO,
Clare County Council
Buttermarket Building,
Drumbiggle Road,
Ennis,
Co. Clare,
V95 DXP2

GREENWAY GUIDE TO PROCESS

WE ARE HERE

Route Corridor Options

- Scenic / Segregated / Sustainable / Strategic / See and Do (Five S)
- Environment / Economic / Engineering
- Public Consultation No 2
- Independent Agronomist in place for project duration

Preferred Route

- Farmer Agronomists / Property Advisors available to landowners
- Consultation meetings with individual landowners and / or representatives
- Accommodation works outlined and discussed / agreed

Environmental Evaluation

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Appropriate Assessment (AA)
- Natura Impact Statement (NIS)

Oral Hearing

- An oral hearing may be held by ABP to examine issues and concerns raised by persons with objections to / issues with the proposed Greenway
- Voluntary Land Acquisition Process continues

Construction of Greenway

- If the scheme is successful at the planning stage, the project promoter will proceed to construction, subject to Government funding

Constraints Study

- Map State-owned lands and stopping points
- Environmental / Physical / Archaeological
- Highlight opportunities and concerns
- Public Consultation No.1
- Project Agronomist (PA) in place for project duration

Preferred Route Corridor

- Farmer Agronomists / Property Advisors available to landowners
- Consultation meetings with individual landowners
- Public Consultation No 3

Preliminary Design

- Horizontal and vertical alignment established to determine precise land acquisition requirements
- Accommodation works agreed with landowners and /or representatives
- Voluntary Land Acquisition Process commences

Application to An Bord Pleanála

- Completion of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report/ Natura Impact Statement (NIS) where required
- Application Submitted to ABP including notice of the making of Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO)
- Voluntary Land Acquisition Process continues

ABP Decision

- ABP either approves the scheme, rejects the scheme or approves the scheme with modifications
- Where scheme is approved by ABP Voluntary Land Acquisition Process continues where applicable



West Clare Railway Greenway

Section 1: Kilrush to Kilkee

Public Consultation No.2

Public Consultation

Clare County Council is currently progressing Section 1 of the West Clare Railway Greenway project which will provide a recreational greenway between the towns of Kilrush and Kilkee, generally following the route of the former West Clare Railway, where feasible.

Public Consultation 1 was held from Monday 13th September to Monday 4th October 2021. A 'spider's web' of links was displayed at this public consultation, where these links were identified as having the potential to form part of a greenway route between Kilrush and Kilkee. As part of Public Consultation 1, the public was invited to submit their feedback in respect of these links. In parallel, various desk studies were undertaken by specialists in relation to the economic, engineering and environmental acceptability of these links. Clare County Council, together with the scheme consultants ROD, have both reviewed the submissions and the specialists' inputs and have

developed more refined route corridor options taking into account the concerns and comments received.

Initial Route Options Assessment

The 'spider's web' of links has been assessed by a team of engineers and environmental specialists, and an initial route option sifting process has been carried out to narrow down the links to those which are feasible going forward. This process was undertaken using Transport Infrastructure Ireland's (TII) Stage 1 Assessment headings of Engineering, Environment, and Economy, as outlined in TII's Project Appraisal Guidelines (PAG). The assessment identified those links which were deemed feasible and also those deemed not to be feasible under these headings, and which consequently would not be brought through to the Options Assessment Stage.

Where the removal of one link resulted in other links not forming a coherent or continuous route, these other links were subsequently removed from further consideration.



Route Corridor Options

A number of potential end-to-end route corridor options were developed using a combination of the viable links that emerged from the initial route options assessment process, as described over. A map illustrating the potential route corridor options is included in Figure 1 overleaf. The end-to-end route corridor options from Kilkee to Kilrush have been broken down into 5 sub-sections to assist with the route selection process as follows:

- Sub-section A from Kilkee to Blackweir Bridge
- Sub-section B from Blackweir Bridge to Moyasta
- Sub-section C from Moyasta to Carnacalla South
- Sub-section D from Carnacalla South to Kilrush Marina
- Sub-section E from Kilrush Marina to Cappagh Pier

In certain places within these sub-sections, only one viable option has emerged. In other places, there are a number of local corridor options remaining, including deviations from the original West Clare Railway route corridor. Where practicable, these corridors will make use of local roads, farm boundaries or field boundaries to minimise impacts on land-holdings. At this stage, all route corridor options are subject to ongoing ecological data collection and environmental studies, and will consider the physical constraints within or adjacent to all route corridors.

These route corridor options, referenced by sub-section, are shown on the map in different colours. The colour of each route corridor option has no significance, other than to differentiate it from other, alternative route corridor options.

Where these route corridor options exist within a given sub-section, each option has been assigned an identifying label in the form of Option A-1, Option A-2 etc. as shown in Figure 1, to assist you in referencing a particular route corridor option in your submission.

Next Steps

Following this public consultation, the information and submissions received will be reviewed by Clare County Council together with the scheme consultants ROD. This information will assist in informing the selection of the Preferred Route Corridor as part of a qualitative appraisal of the route corridor options. The qualitative appraisal of the route corridor options shown on Figure 1 will be carried out in accordance with the TII Project Appraisal Guidelines as a Multi-Criteria Analysis [MCA] under the following set criteria:

- Environment
- Safety
- Economy
- Accessibility & Social Inclusion
- Integration
- Physical Activity

A draft Options Selection Report will be prepared to assess each route corridor option through the MCA, which compares the relative advantages and disadvantages of options, while also highlighting areas that might warrant further thought and consideration. This process will result in the selection of the Preferred Route Corridor, which will be subject to a further public consultation at a later date.

Figure 1: Route Corridor Options

