



### Public Consultation Information

As per the TII Code of Practice for Greenways, the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor being considered is put on display for the third Public Consultation for this project. Figure 1 illustrates the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor being considered. The public consultation material along with more detailed maps are also available online, as part of this public consultation, on the project website [www.westclarerailwaygreenway.ie](http://www.westclarerailwaygreenway.ie) or Clare County Council's website [www.clarecoco.ie](http://www.clarecoco.ie). These drawings will also be on display, with this brochure and a comment form, at the following two locations from Friday 15th March to Friday 12th April 2024:

- Sweeney Memorial Library, O'Connell Street, Kilkee, Co. Clare
- Kilrush Public Library, O'Gorman Street, Kilrush, Co. Clare

Information sessions will be held on Wednesday 20th March in Sweeney Memorial Library, Kilkee and Thursday 21st March in Kilrush Public Library from 3:30pm to 8:00pm on each day, with members of Clare County Council and the scheme consultants ROD in attendance. Private individual landowner consultations can be facilitated by appointment outside of these hours 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](mailto:wcrgreenway@rod.ie) or by post to:

West Clare Railway Greenway Section 1 PC3  
PMO,  
Clare County Council  
Buttermarket Building,  
Drumbiggle 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 Section 1 Public Consultation.

# GREENWAY GUIDE TO PROCESS

### 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

### WE ARE HERE

### 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. 3

### 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.

The project is currently progressing through Phase 2 Options Selection, which involves the assessment of Route Corridor Options to determine a Preferred Route Corridor Option. Following on from Public Consultation 2 which was held in September 2022, Clare County Council, together with the scheme consultants ROD, have taken into account the concerns and comments received from PC2 and have conducted further studies and evaluations on the Route Corridor Options previously outlined. Based on the feedback from Public Consultation No.2, minor amendments to some route corridor options were made and a number of alternative corridors were considered where local deviations were requested via feedback from the public and were considered feasible. The Route Corridor Options have thereafter been assessed by a team of experts, to arrive at the identification of an emerging preferred route corridor.

The emerging preferred route corridor has been identified based on an appraisal undertaken to assess the impacts of each route corridor option on addressing identified issues or opportunities, meeting the project objectives and the probability of impacts occurring. An options assessment process has been undertaken in line with the Transport Appraisal Framework (Department of Transport), assessing each of the route corridor options under the headings of Accessibility, Social, Land Use, Safety, Climate Change and Local Environment. Every effort has been made to identify the route corridor that maximises the benefits for local communities and supports potentially affected landowners. A third non-statutory public consultation is now being held to inform the public of the option selection process and to invite feedback on the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor. Following this public consultation, the Phase 2 Options Selection process will conclude with the identification of the Preferred Route Corridor.

## Emerging Preferred Route Corridor

Potential Route Corridor Options were presented during Public Consultation No.2 and following some minor amendments to the corridors based on feedback from the public, a detailed assessment has been undertaken and an Emerging Preferred Route Corridor has been identified. The route was broken down into 5 sub-sections in PC No.2 as set out below, to allow local corridors to be assessed independently:

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

An Emerging Preferred Route Corridor has now been identified for each of the Sub-Sections A - D and these have been amalgamated to form the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor. Sub-section E will no longer form part of the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor as it is now proposed to conclude the greenway in Kilrush at the end of Sub-Section D. A map illustrating this Emerging Preferred Route Corridor is included in Figure 1 overleaf.

Where practicable, this corridor will make use of local roads, farm boundaries or field boundaries to minimise impacts on land-holdings. At this stage, the route corridor is subject to ongoing ecological data collection and environmental studies and the design development of the route will consider the physical constraints within or adjacent to the corridor.

## Next Steps

We wish to continue to work with the public and potentially affected landowners to determine the best route and design within the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor. Following this public consultation, the information and submissions received will be reviewed by Clare County Council together with the scheme consultants ROD to inform the selection of the Preferred Route Corridor. The Option Selection Report will be published once the feedback is received, and the preferred route corridor is selected. The project team will continue to consider the Five S's; the Rural Cycleway Design standards; the scheme objectives; and minimising the impact on landowners by following field and property boundaries to reduce severance when developing the design of the preferred route. Consultation meetings will be held with affected landowners during the development of the route within the preferred route corridor.

A number of trail heads and parking facilities will also be required along this section of the West Clare Railway Greenway at significant entry/exit points, to provide car parking and bike parking. If resources permit, facilities may also include toilets and changing rooms. The location and design of these facilities will be considered and assessed as part of the design development once the preferred route is confirmed.

## 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 Emerging Preferred Route Corridor, or the route selection process?
- Is there other relevant information you think should be shared and/or considered in relation to the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor identified in Figure 1?

Figure 1: Emerging Preferred Route Corridor

