

GALWAY TO ATHLONE CASTLE NATIONAL CYCLEWAY SCHEME

PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT



Greenway

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GALWAY TO ATHLONE
CASTLE NATIONAL
CYCLEWAY SCHEME
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07 October 2020

 **Galway to Athlone
CYCLEWAY**

PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS REPORT

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Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	3
2	FIRST PUBLIC CONSULTATION.....	4
2.1	Consultation Events	4
2.2	Project Website	7
2.3	Event Advertising	7
2.4	Public Response	8
3	SUMMARY OF FIRST PUBLIC CONSULTATION	20

Appendices

Appendix A Consultation Materials

Appendix B Advertisements

Figures

Figure 2.1	Athlone Public Consultation (10 th August 2020).....	5
Figure 2.2	Ballinasloe Public Consultation (11 th August 2020)	6
Figure 2.3	Loughrea Public Consultation (13 th August 2020).....	6
Figure 2.4	Screenshot from www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com – Virtual Online Portal	7
Figure 2.5	Location of Respondents.....	9
Figure 2.6	Number of comments in relation to need for project	10
Figure 2.7	Number of comments in relation to attractions, locations, facilities and constraints	11
Figure 2.8	Number of comments in relation to concerns.....	12

Tables

Table 2.1	First Public Consultation – August 2020	4
Table 2.2	Public Display Venues – August 2020	5
Table 2.3	Event Advertisements.....	7
Table 2.4	Public Response Methods.....	8
Table 2.5	Route Suggestions	11
Table 2.6	List of Group Submissions.....	13
Table 2.7	Business Submissions.....	15
Table 2.8	Petition.....	17
Table 2.9	Stakeholder Consultation	17

1 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the Public Consultations held for the Galway to Athlone Castle National Cycleway and summarises the responses received.

The responses will be considered during the route option development stage of the project. The consultation process is being conducted in accordance with the Government's 'Strategy for the Development of National and Regional Greenways, 2018.'

The strategy outlines four stages of public consultations to inform and discuss a project with the public before submission to An Bord Pleanála. The stages are as follows:

1. The Study Area Public Consultation;
2. Route Corridor Options Public Consultation;
3. Preferred Route Corridor Public Consultation; and
4. Preferred Route Consultations with Individual Landowners.

The Public consultations provide opportunities for the public and landowners to highlight issues of concern or special interest which can be considered. The first public consultation (The Study Area Public Consultation) was held in August 2020 and are described in this report.

Chapter 2 contains the details of the consultations, feedback received, issues and concerns raised together with a summary of the comments received.

Chapter 3 contains the overall summary of the report and the consultations.

2 FIRST PUBLIC CONSULTATION

2.1 Consultation Events

Consultations were held between the 10th and 14th of August 2020 at the venues and times shown in Table 2.1. Maps of the study area were on display and boards contained information on the project. The displays could also be viewed at the locations outlined in Table 2.2 the week after the events. Information about the project was also available from commencement of the consultations through the virtual public consultation platform and on the project website (www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com).

The purpose of the first consultation was to present the study area to the public and invite them to give their opinions on the following:

- The need for the project;
- Possible routes that they believe should be considered by the project team;
- Locations, attractions or facilities in their area that could be attractive to cycleway users or would benefit from a cycleway;
- Constraints or barriers to a cycleway in their area; and
- Any other concerns or issues they wish to raise.

Feedback Forms were available at all events. Consultation materials used are included in Appendix A. Submissions could be made on the day, to the project office, by email or via the virtual consultation site.

In total 524 people attended the consultation over 5 days. Table 2.1 below, shows the attendance at each location. While no route options were shown at the consultations, many members of the public were familiar with the routes considered in 2015 and gave their opinions based on these routes.

Table 2.1 First Public Consultation – August 2020

Location	Date	Time	Approximate Number of Attendees
Shamrock Lodge Hotel, Clonown Road, Athlone	Monday 10 th August 2020	11am – 8pm	53
Shearwater Hotel Townparks, Ballinasloe	Tuesday 11 th August 2020	11am – 8pm	105
Raheen Woods Hotel Raheen, Athenry	Wednesday 12 th August 2020	11am – 8pm	160
Loughrea Hotel Athenry Road, Loughrea	Thursday 13 th August 2020	11am – 8pm	82
Maldron Hotel Carrowmoneash, Oranmore	Friday 14 th August 2020	11am – 8pm	124

Table 2.2 Public Display Venues – August 2020

Location	Date	Time
Áras an Chontae Prospect Hill, Galway	17 th – 21 st August 2020	10am – 4pm
Ballinasloe Area Office Civic Offices, Ballinasloe	17 th – 21 st August 2020	10am – 4pm
Áras an Chontae Roscommon	17 th – 21 st August 2020	10am – 4pm

The following Figure 2.1, Figure 2.2 and Figure 2.3 were pictures taken at some of the public consultations. The material on display at each event were identical.

Figure 2.1 Athlone Public Consultation (10th August 2020)



Figure 2.2 Ballinasloe Public Consultation (11th August 2020)



Figure 2.3 Loughrea Public Consultation (13th August 2020)

2.2 Project Website

The Project website is www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com. The website contains information in relation to the project. A virtual public consultation was available on the website for those unable to attend in person or those who preferred online access. Displays shown at events can be viewed here and feedback can be given through email, or via an online form.

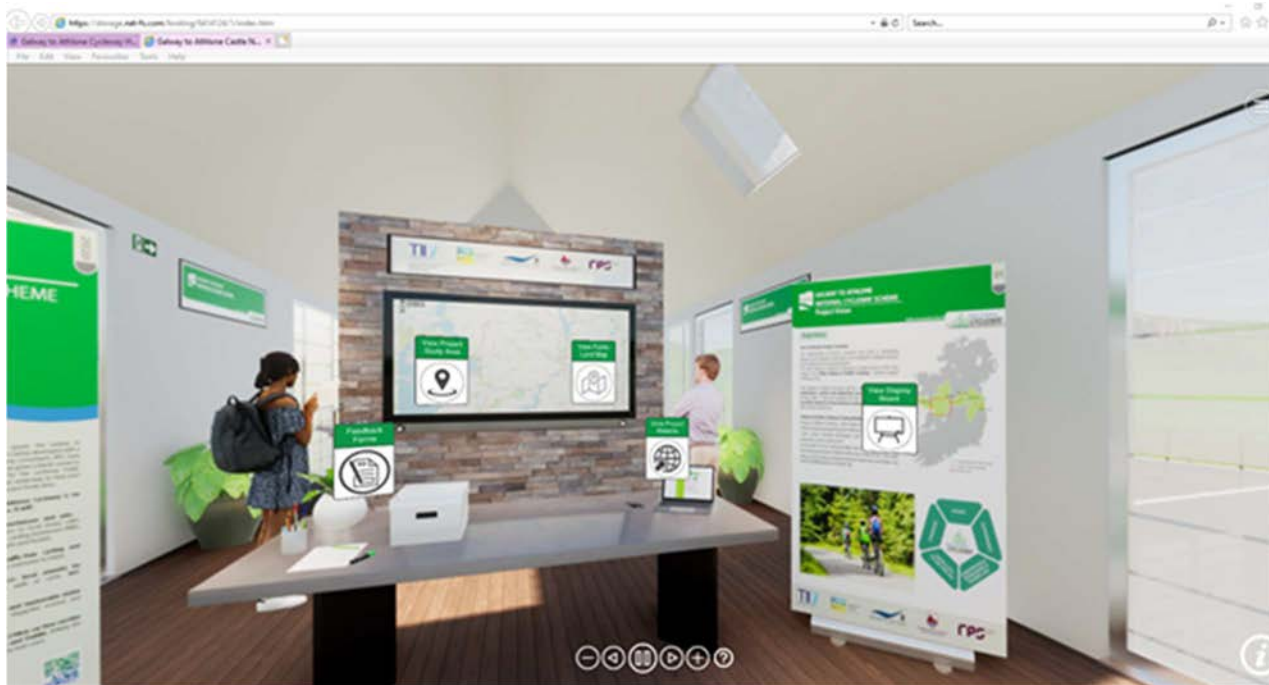


Figure 2.4 Screenshot from www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com – Virtual Online Portal

2.3 Event Advertising

The public consultations were advertised in local papers a week prior to the events being held, as shown in Table 2.3. Flyers were also sent to all postal addresses in the study area by An Post Commercial. The flyer and advertisements are shown in Appendix B.

Table 2.3 Event Advertisements

Newspaper	Date
Tuam Herald	Wednesday 05 th August 2020
Galway Advertiser	Thursday 06 th August 2020
Connacht Tribune	Friday 07 th August 2020
Roscommon People	Friday 07 th August 2020
Westmeath Independent	Saturday 08 th August 2020

2.4 Public Response

As indicated in 2.1 the purpose of the first consultation was to present the study area and invite opinions on need for the project, possible routes, local attractions, constraints and any other concerns. Providing a name and address was optional on the feedback form, and the project team has accepted all material submitted in good faith. One large petition was received. A number of form letters and a number of submissions were signed by multiple persons. Also, a significant number of duplicate submissions were received i.e. sent by email and hand delivered.

Following the consultation, well over 3,000 responses were received, considering individual submissions and signatures on group submissions. Many were individual submissions, with submissions also received from community groups and businesses.

Of these 909 were similar submissions received from the Greenway Action Group, stating a suggested methodology for route selection and proposed that the route need not be fully segregated or off road, and that compulsory purchase of land should never be used. It also proposed that the cycleway run parallel to the Galway to Athlone railway.

A petition with 2,179 names was received in support of the project. This was submitted by the Athlone to Ballinasloe Greenway Campaign. This presents a number of suggested routes and emphasises that the cycleway should pass through Ballinasloe.

Most respondents were in support of a cycleway through the study area. Many were opposed to a route through private lands and would only support a route through public lands or on-road facilities. Submissions were received from all across the study area. There was significant support a route paralleling the Galway to Athlone railway.

Submissions were received through number of methods, as shown in Table 2.4.

Table 2.4 Public Response Methods

Method of Response	Number of Responses
Feedback Form	415
Letters	370
Identical Letters	600
Email	230
Phone	2
Petitions	1 (2,179 signatures)

The majority of responses were received from those living within the study area. The biggest response came from the Ballinasloe area. A breakdown of responses by geographical areas can be seen in Figure 2.5.

One large petition was received from the Ballinasloe area.

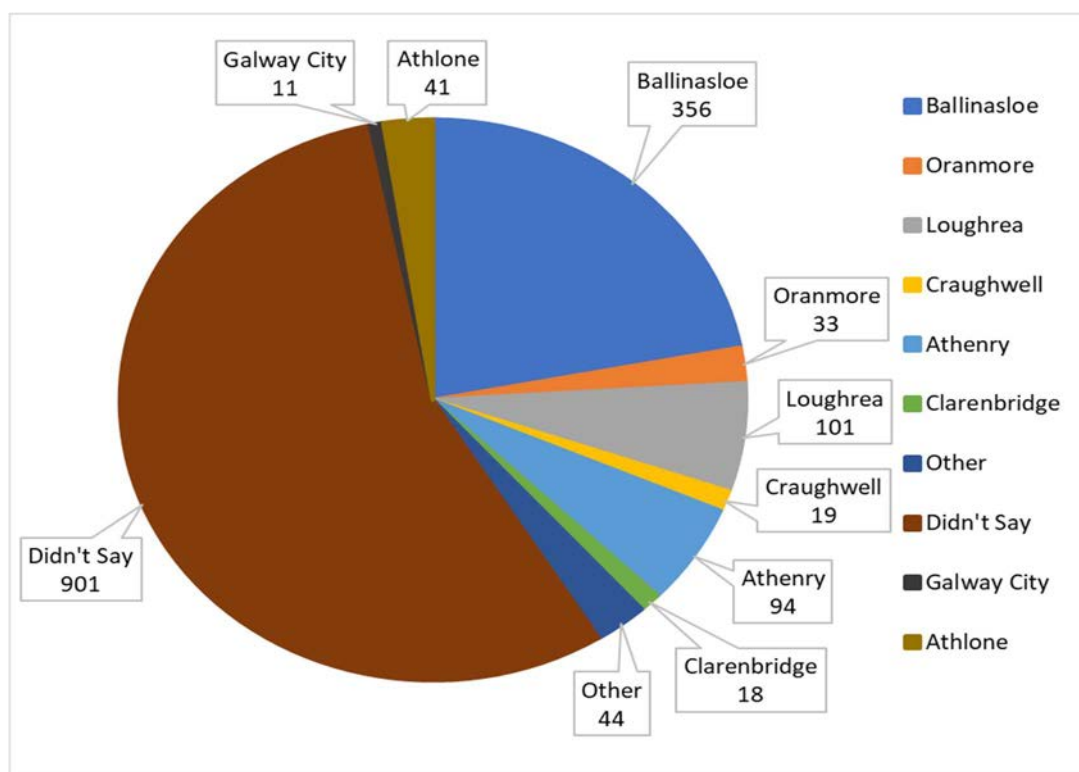


Figure 2.5 Location of Respondents

2.4.1 Individual Submissions

A total of 1,569 respondents provided submissions through feedback forms, letters, emails and phone calls.

106 identical form letters, with 196 names, were submitted from respondents stating that they were opposed to the use of privately owned land for the cycleway. 65 'Denial of Access to My Property' letters with 96 names were received. Some of these submissions suggested a route adjacent to the existing Galway to Athlone railway line. Many of these submissions were also received by email. Where an identical submission was received twice, for example by email and hardcopy, it has been counted as a single submission. This letter was also received signed by 600 people.

The identical form letters requested a fair and transparent process in the delivery of the cycleway route. They stated that compulsory purchase and severance of private land holdings should not occur. Security, privacy and safety issues for adjacent landowners was also highlighted as concerns.

50 photocopies of the Feedback Form were received with no names stating, 'no compulsory purchase', 'no land severance' and 'use rail corridor' were not added to the totals.

The Feedback Form asked for comments under the following headings:

- Need for the project;
- Possible Routes;
- Attractions, Locations Facilities and Constraints
- And Concerns or Issues.

A total of 87 respondents provided little or no comment.

2.4.1.1 Need for the Project

Comments received in relation to the need for the project were split into general themes as shown in Figure 2.6.

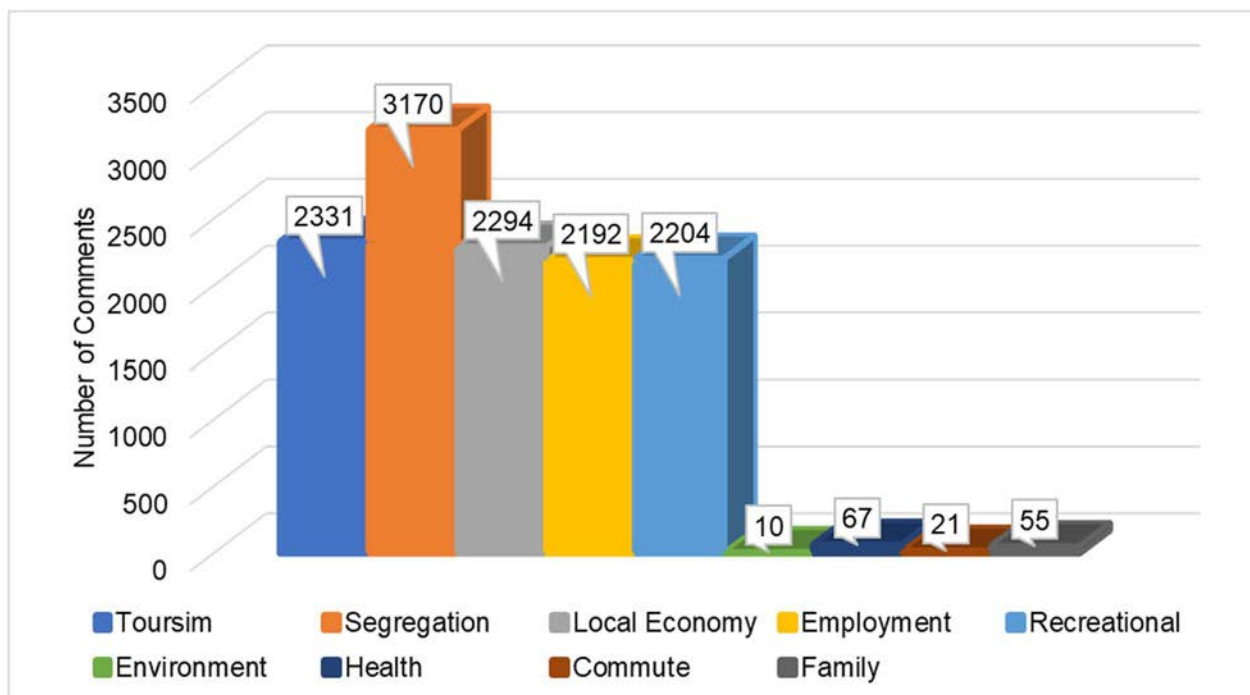


Figure 2.6 Number of comments in relation to need for project

The majority of comments suggest that respondents consider that the cycleway can be a significant tourist attraction which will bring positive impacts to the local economy and increase employment in their area.

Some respondents considered that a safe fully segregated off road cycleway would be preferred, but there was also a large number of submissions stating that quiet country roads should also be considered, and that segregation may not be desirable in towns.

Emphasis was put on cycling for recreational use which can improve the users physical and mental health.

Some suggested the cycleway could be used for commuting in urban areas, to reduce the number of cars on the road and help the environment by lowering carbon emissions.

2.4.1.2 Possible Routes

Most respondents commented on a possible route or a destination they felt should be on the cycleway. Many suggested a route along the existing railway line and/or through Ballinasloe. Some suggested a route should be connected to existing and future trails or other greenways in the area. Towns with good public transport facilities were highlighted in particular as a useful stopping point. Comments also suggested that, where possible, state owned land should be used.

Some of the suggested routes and stopping points are listed in Table 2.5.

Table 2.5 Route Suggestions

Route / Location	Number	Route / Location	Number
Clonmacnoise	44	Attymon	8
Shannonbridge	41	Athenry	87
Ballinasloe	211 (and petition of 2,179)	Clarinbridge	24
Aughrim	15	Oranmore	25
Woodlawn	9	Galway to Athlone Railway Line	930
Loughrea	17	R446 (old N6) Route	20
Portumna	5	Ballinasloe Grand Canal and BnM Rail Route	18 (and petition of 2,179)
Woodford	4	Ballinasloe to Galway Railway line	Petition of 2,179

2.4.1.3 Locations, Attractions, Facilities and Constraints

Feedback for this section was split into the themes shown in Figure 2.7.

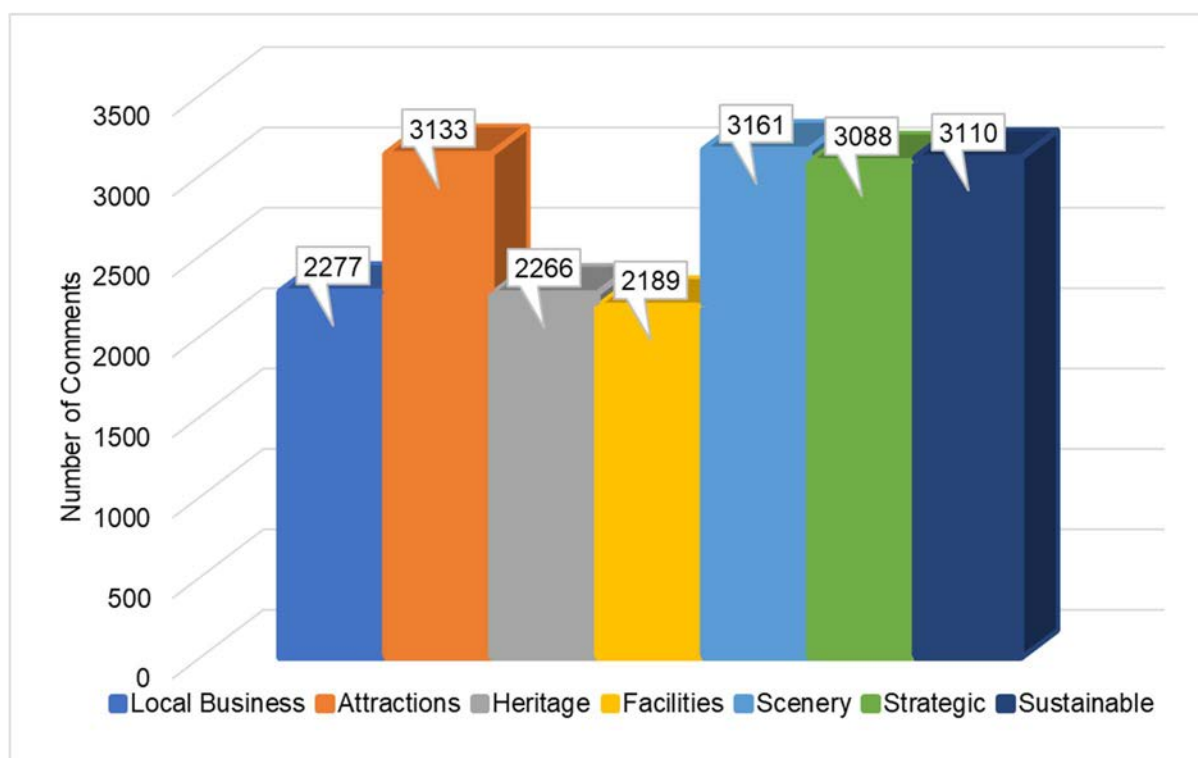


Figure 2.7 Number of comments in relation to attractions, locations, facilities and constraints

Respondents highlighted local businesses such as hotels, bars, cafes, restaurants and shops which would facilitate cycleway users. Local attractions, heritage sites, places of interest and things to do that would benefit a cycleway and its users were put forward. These attractions include Clonmacnoise, the site of the Battle of Aughrim, Athenry Castle, Esker Monastery and Lough Rea. Scenery was also highlighted as an important feature to the cycleway. It was recommended by many that the cycleway should be located in scenic areas.

Some highlighted Special Areas of Conservation as a constraint. Comments also suggested the cycleway should have general facilities such as toilets, adequate lighting, camping spots, parking along with access for emergency vehicles and those with mobility issues.

2.4.1.4 Concerns or Issues

The general themes of concerns and issues raised are shown in Figure 2.8.

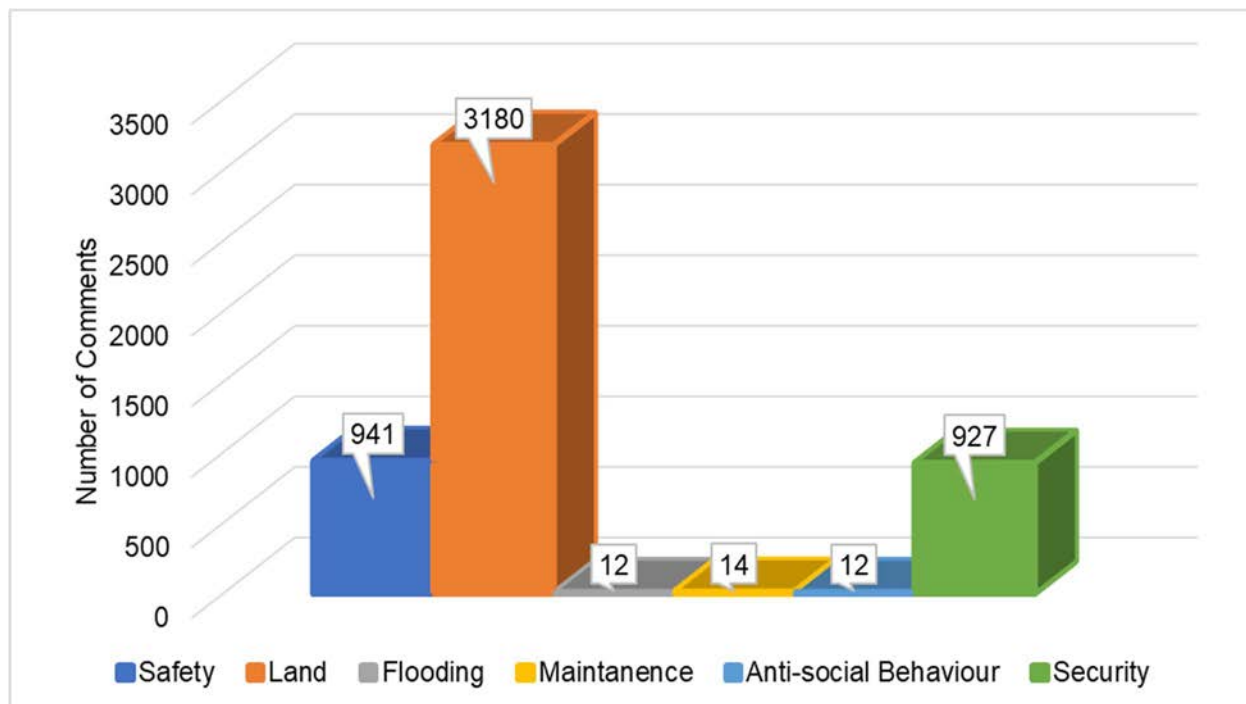


Figure 2.8 Number of comments in relation to concerns

The following are some of the concerns and issues raised from the feedback provided:

It was clear that the use of private land is the greatest cause for concern on the project and in particular:

- Perceived lack of a fair and transparent process towards landowners in the area;
- Severance of private land holdings without landowner consent;
- The use of compulsory purchase of land to deliver the project;
- Disturbance of existing businesses and farming activities;
- Health, safety, biosecurity and security issues for adjacent farms and livestock;
- Cycleway user safety adjacent to farms and existing roads;
- Flooding of the cycleway near the River Shannon and Galway Bay;
- Lack of suitable facilities and attractions or sites of interest;
- Lack of adequate maintenance and upkeep on the cycleway;
- Anti-social behaviour that could disturb nearby residents; and
- Privacy and liability issues due to potential trespassing on private land adjacent to the cycleway.

2.4.2 Group Submissions

There were 21 submissions from groups, which are listed in Table 2.6.

Table 2.6 List of Group Submissions

Group	Theme/Comments
Future Looking Athenry Group (FLAG)	Athenry town centrally located with excellent infrastructure. Places of interest were listed. Athenry has a heritage centre which hosts many events.
Ballinasloe Tennis Club	Newly developed sports club with facilities, open until 10pm. Suggests route linked to tennis club.
19 th Galway, Athenry Scouts	Scouts suggest Greenway though Athenry would be invaluable. The Greenway offers a safe place to cycle. Promotes good physical and mental health. Would support the Greenway in the Athenry area.
Smarties Montessori School	Would be a great benefit to Athenry. A list of attractions was included. Good infrastructure in the town to support cycleway.
Drum Heritage Group	Drum Heritage centre has three sites St. Brigid's Holy Well, Abbey Ruins and old Cemetery. A list of attractions for tourists was given.
Wheels of Athenry	A group looking for bike friendly routes in Athenry. Cycleway route through Teagasc road to Derrydonnell and on to Oranmore. If not through Athenry then bring route through Craughwell.
Athenry Tidy Towns	Athenry Tidy Towns are very excited about a route going through Athenry. Amenities and facilities were listed. A proposed route was attached and use of public land around Athenry was suggested.
Creagh National School	Creagh National School submitted 83 letters written by the students at the school. The theme of the letters was positive to having a cycleway through the town of Ballinasloe.
Shannonbridge Action Group	Shannonbridge Action Group supports a route along either side of the Shannon through the village of Shannonbridge and on to Ballinasloe. Not bringing the cycleway through Shannonbridge would be a missed opportunity to link other routes and to develop Irelands Hidden Heartlands.
Coastal Action Group	Group of Landowners along the coast close to Galway City. They support the cycleway from Dublin to Galway. Strongly emphasised the need for local community support. Combination of segregated cycleway, cycle lane and shared use should be considered. Public lands and rural roads should be used.
Ballinasloe Area Community Development (BACD)	Full support to the project and a route which goes through Ballinasloe. Ballinasloe has excellent infrastructure to support the project. Facilities in the town include sports facilities, local businesses, accommodation and a hospital. Ballinasloe is a hub for Irelands Hidden Heartlands with many amenities. Ballinasloe needs the cycleway to revitalise the town.

Group	Theme/Comments
The Compliance Team	<p>Full support to the project and a route which goes through Ballinasloe. Ballinasloe has excellent infrastructure to support the project.</p> <p>Facilities in the town include sports facilities, local businesses, accommodation and a hospital. Ballinasloe is a hub for Irelands Hidden Heartlands with many amenities. Ballinasloe needs the cycleway to revitalise the town.</p>
Kilcolgan Community Development	<p>Kilcolgan would be an ideal destination on route between Clarinbridge and Kinvara. The village has local businesses, accommodation and many historical sites in the area. Some key attractions were listed.</p>
Ballinasloe Town Team	<p>Active group to promote and develop the town of Ballinasloe. The town must be on the route to keep the town as a meeting place for walkers, cyclists and path users. Ballinasloe is a key destination which can link the cycleway to trails and attractions in the area.</p> <p>Ballinasloe has a lot to offer with many businesses, accommodation, sports and a theatre. A list of attractions in the area was provided.</p>
Rosway Walkers	<p>Full support of project going through Ballinasloe. Safe place for people to walk and cycle. Improve people's mental health and wellbeing and encourages sociable behaviour.</p> <p>Ballinasloe has rich archaeological and architectural heritage which will attract tourism.</p>
Woodford Parish Development	<p>Proposed a route which utilises mostly public land in a community that supports the greenway. The route provides much to see and do with historical attractions, biodiversity, arts and culture and local restaurants.</p>
Green Party	<p>In favour of the project and delighted to see its progression.</p> <p>Greenway positive for tourism in the west. The route should pass key locations so it can be used to commute especially in East Galway City which will help congestion.</p> <p>Funding should be provided for these areas to be connected to the cycleway. Families and e-scooters should be catered for.</p>
Oranmore Community Development Association	<p>Oranmore Community Development is in full support of the project. Oranmore is a key location on the route from Athenry by the railway and from the south from Gort, Kinvara and Clarinbridge.</p> <p>Oranmore has local businesses, accommodation, historical sites and scenery that will attract visitors.</p>
The LARC Committee	<p>Loughrea Arts, Recreation and Culture promotes arts and culture in Loughrea. The cycleway is a positive move towards improved tourism in the area.</p> <p>Loughrea has unique attractions which would attract visitors.</p> <p>Loughrea is a key town along the route and must be included in the cycleway.</p>
Oranmore Athenry Ballinasloe Greenway Group	<p>Supports the cycleway as an opportunity to make East and Mid-Galway a centre for Greenways and cycling in Ireland. The group suggested a route between the existing railway and motorway. The submission was endorsed by several community groups.</p>

Group	Theme/Comments
Ballinasloe Fair and Festival	Fully in support of the cycleway coming through Ballinasloe. The town needs new attractions to secure more tourists to the area. The October Fair is one of the oldest events in Ireland which attracts visitors from all over the world in off season time of year. The project would benefit local businesses and create new opportunities in the area.
Conservation Volunteers Galway	Route selection bring close views of EU Annex 1 Habitats with access to public owned EU Annex 1 Habitats. Route should minimise destruction of EU Annex 1 Habitats. Construction should use minimum carbon energy and maximum recycled material.
Killimordaly Kiltullagh Community Centre Development Committee	Requested consideration of connecting 5 points of interest with the cycleway for the benefit of both tourists and local population

2.4.3 Business Submissions

There were 15 Business submissions. Table 2.7 contains a list of the business submissions with main themes and comments.

Table 2.7 Business Submissions

Business	Theme/Comments
Raheen Woods Hotel Athenry	Would love the cycleway to go through Athenry. Athenry is a medieval town with great infrastructure, people, scenery, amenities, environment and local support. Key to success would be the approach to landowners.
The Square Inn Athenry	Athenry is an ideal location for the cycleway route. Athenry has infrastructure, accommodation, attractions which are listed and local businesses. Athenry has everything the cycleway user needs.
Mike Walsh Butcher Athenry	Athenry needs this to make our town prominent in business. Too many businesses closed, the town needs more people.
Oranmore Business Network Oranmore	Economic return as Ireland has significant tourist appeal. Will attract eco-friendly user. Encourages healthy lifestyle. Different criteria needed to create community buy in. Consultations used to evaluate alternatives. Use state owned land and permissive access where possible. CPO should not be used. Oranmore represents a natural crossing point for the cycleway. PDF was attached to submission.
Healy's Pharmacy Ballinasloe	Would be a great economic boost for the town of Ballinasloe. Maximise tourism. The town has great scenery and historic sites.

Business	Theme/Comments
Gadget Tec Ballinasloe	Great for the town and the Ballinasloe community.
Dillon's Tyres	Fully support the cycleway.
Garbally Oil Ballinasloe	Fully support the cycleway.
Easyfix Ballinasloe	Fully support the cycleway.
Murphy's Pharmacy Ballinasloe	Badly needed.
Bridgewell Engineering Shannonbridge	Support the cycleway coming through Shannonbridge. The village would be a delightful stop for a cycle break. The cycleway would boost the economy. Scenic and historic locations and plenty of choice eating and socialising.
KPW Ballinasloe	The cycleway must go through Ballinasloe to enhance the cycleway for the end user. Ballinasloe has easy access to infrastructure. Local facilities and amenities listed. Ballinasloe needs the cycleway to boost economy.
Gallagher's Ballyfa	Gallagher's fully support the cycleway go through Woodlawn, New Inn and Ballyfa. Currently we welcome cyclists every day.
Barry's Cycle's Ballinasloe	A cycleway would be a safe place for the kids to older pensioners with no traffic and great scenery. Route suggestion Clonmacnoise, Shannonbridge and Ballinasloe. As a local bike shop, we support all cyclists from young to old. During lockdown cycling increased due to less traffic and this would offer a great alternative. Looking at setting up bike rentals between Athlone and Loughrea and could have drop-offs along the route. Lots of local attractions.
Dervan's Fashion Loughrea	Project definitely needed. Route chosen should be attractive to users and beneficial as much of the locations between Athlone and Galway as possible. Ballinasloe, Loughrea, Craughwell and Oranmore best route. Could be linked to Athenry via a north/south cycleway. These towns have excellent existing tourist facilities.

2.4.4 Petitions

One petition was received, as listed in Table 2.8.

Table 2.8 Petition

Petition From	Number of Signatories	Theme/Comments
Athlone-Ballinasloe Greenway Campaign	2,179	<p>Essential to bring cycleway through Ballinasloe.</p> <p>The group consulted with 36 stakeholders and groups to make an informed submission.</p> <p>The town has much to offer the cycleway in terms of scenery and heritage.</p> <p>The cycleway is needed to boost the economy of Ballinasloe by increasing tourism.</p> <p>The proposed route from Athlone to Ballinasloe runs along the BNM lands and the Grand Canal and then follows the railway to Galway.</p> <p>CPO and land severance should not be used.</p> <p>Infrastructure, accommodation and hospital in the town can support tourism brought by the cycleway.</p>

2.4.5 Other Stakeholders

A number of key stakeholders to the project were identified and contacted in writing to inform them of the proposed Galway to Athlone Cycleway. These stakeholders were invited to submit any observations or comments. Table 2.9, lists the stakeholders where a response was received.

Table 2.9 Stakeholder Consultation

Stakeholder	Date Contacted	Response Date	Theme/Comments
Coillte TEO	14/07/2020	14/07/2020	Welcomes the Development of the Cycleway and would support the use of Coillte Forest estates for the cycleway where appropriate.
Cycling Ireland	10/08/2020	21/08/2020	Very supportive of the Cycle and looking forward to updates.
Department of Rural and Community Development	10/08/2020	12/08/2020	Welcomes development of the cycleway. Potential to increase cycling infrastructure in the area with positive local impact. Possible inclusion of existing Trails in East Galway and Roscommon.
European Cyclist Federation	10/08/2020	14/09/2020	Pleased with the development as level of cycling is increasing across Europe.

PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS REPORT

Stakeholder	Date Contacted	Response Date	Theme/Comments
			<p>Guidance on route itineraries and rules for certified EuroVelo Routes were provided.</p> <p>Highlighted that at least one point of access to public transport should be provided along route.</p>
Failte Ireland	10/08/2020	10/08/2020	Very supportive of the project and are liaising with the project team to identify key attractions and sites of interest for Cycleway users within the Study Area.
Iarnrod Eireann	10/08/2020	02/09/2020	<p>Supportive of cycling schemes in Ireland.</p> <p>IE stated that no surplus land was available within the railway corridor. Raised safety concerns in relation to crossings and fencing.</p>
Irish Farmers Association	10/08/2020	11/08/2020	<p>Submission supporting rights of farmers potentially impacted by the project.</p> <p>Recognises the importance of cycleway projects but opposes the use of CPO.</p> <p>Use of state-owned land to be maximised and routes suggested by farmers should be considered.</p> <p>No farms should be divided by the cycleway.</p> <p>Meaningful consultation with farmers should be prioritised in groups rather than individually unless requested.</p>
Sport Ireland Outdoors	10/08/2020	10/09/2020	<p>Have a keen interest in cycleway projects and have been involved in the Dublin to Galway Cycleway.</p> <p>Encourages outdoor activities promoting physical and mental wellbeing which can be supported by a well-designed cycleway and will also benefit tourism and economy.</p> <p>Important to focus on a traffic free cycleway as this will attract maximum domestic and overseas users as seen from other projects.</p> <p>The consultation process is vital part to gain support from the local communities.</p>
Office of Public Works	10/08/2020	04/09/2020	Welcomes the cycleway and a more detailed proposal so a definitive comment can be made.

PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS REPORT

Stakeholder	Date Contacted	Response Date	Theme/Comments
Waterways Ireland	10/08/2020	10/08/2020	Thanked for the opportunity to comment and will revert in due course.

3 SUMMARY OF FIRST PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The first Public Consultation for the Galway to Athlone Castle cycleway project was held in August 2020.

The purpose of the consultation was to present the study area to the public and invite them to give their opinions on the cycleway.

The consultation was very well attended with a total 524 people attending the events. Members of the project team were present to discuss the project with the public. There was a strong interest in the project expressed at the events, with very good engagement and many useful discussions held during the events.

The project team emphasised that the project was starting again from a 'clean slate', with no routes proposed at this point. It was also emphasized that there would be strong consultation with landowners throughout the project development and that a key project aim would be to progress the project in collaboration with affected landowners.

Following the consultations, a large number of submissions were received. Most were individual submissions, with submissions also received from community groups and businesses.

Most respondents were in support of a cycleway through the study area. Many were opposed to a route through private lands and would only support a route through public lands or on-road facilities. Submissions were received from all over the study area.

There were a number of key issues that were raised in many submissions. These included:

- The benefits that a cycleway would bring to rural communities and towns;
- A desire from many people to have the cycleway in their locality, especially the towns and villages;
- Concern about the use of privately owned land for the project, especially working farms;
- Impacts of a cycleway on farming activities, though severance, loss of land and reduced security;
- The potential use of Compulsory Purchase Orders.

The majority of respondents recognised the need for the cycleway. They felt it would increase tourism in the area, benefit the local economy, and provide recreational and health benefits. Many respondents gave comments in relation to a route or part of a possible route.

Comments on attractions, locations, facilities and constraints were mainly in relation to local businesses that could facilitate cycleway users and key locations of heritage and attractions that would benefit the user. Scenery was also highlighted as an important feature to the cycleway. The constraints highlighted were generally in relation to agriculture and protected and conservation areas.

Appendix A

Consultation Materials



GALWAY TO ATHLONE NATIONAL CYCLEWAY SCHEME



A fresh new start for the Galway
to Athlone Cycleway



After a five-year pause, the Galway to Athlone Cycleway is being developed with a fresh new start. New consultants, RPS, have been appointed and given a blank canvas to develop a route for the cycleway. Public consultation is now underway to hear your views on the proposed Study Area.

The Galway to Athlone Cycleway is for local communities. It will:

Support local businesses and jobs – cyclists need access to local shops, cafes, pubs, post offices, cycling businesses, B&Bs, camping sites, hotels and hostels.

Provide **safe, traffic-free cycling and walking routes** for everyone to enjoy.

Provide a valuable **local amenity for communities** to walk or cycle, **365-days-a-year**.

Deliver a **quality and memorable visitor experience** with impactful scenery and points of interest.

Complete a circa **270km car-free corridor between Galway and Dublin**, linking the Atlantic coast to the East coast.



Coronavirus COVID-19



COVID - 19 has affected the early stages of the Project in a number of ways.

The initial Public Consultations have been delayed due to the prohibition on public gatherings.

The opening of the Project Office has been delayed until August 24th.

We are:

- **Encouraging online consultation through the website www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com**
- **Providing displays and response sheets at these locations**

**Áras an Chontae,
Prospect Hill,
Galway,
H91 H6KK.**

**Ballinasloe Area Office
Civic Offices, Ballinasloe,
Co. Galway,
H53 A7K7.**

**Áras an Chontae
Roscommon,
Co. Roscommon,
F42 VR98.**

- **Facilitating individual consultations at the Project Office from 24th August by calling (091) 509267 or emailing info@galwaytoathlonecycleway.com**

We will continue to seek to engage effectively while maintaining social distancing and strict hygiene for as long as is necessary

Project Vision

Part of Ireland's longest Cycleway

The Department of Tourism, Transport and Sport is developing National and Regional Greenways across Ireland to enhance tourism and contribute to rural development.

The new Galway to Athlone Cycleway is a large section of the even bigger circa **270km Galway to Dublin Cycleway** – Ireland's longest Cycleway so far.

The Galway to Dublin Cycleway will be a **world class amenity for pedestrians, cyclists and wheelchair users to enjoy** – locals and tourists alike. It will even facilitate the first leg of the **international EuroVelo network of long-distance cycling trails in Europe** and will link Galway to Moscow!

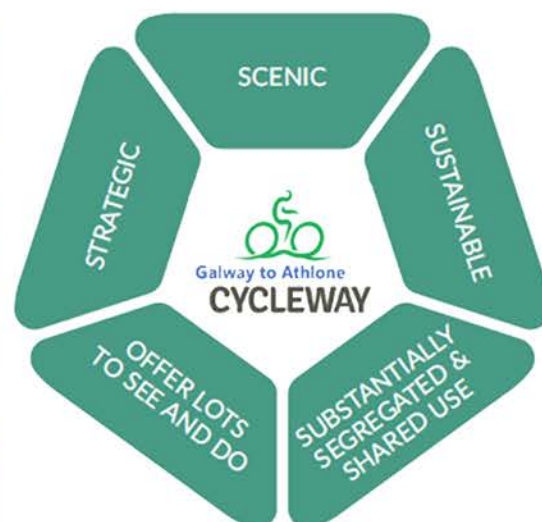
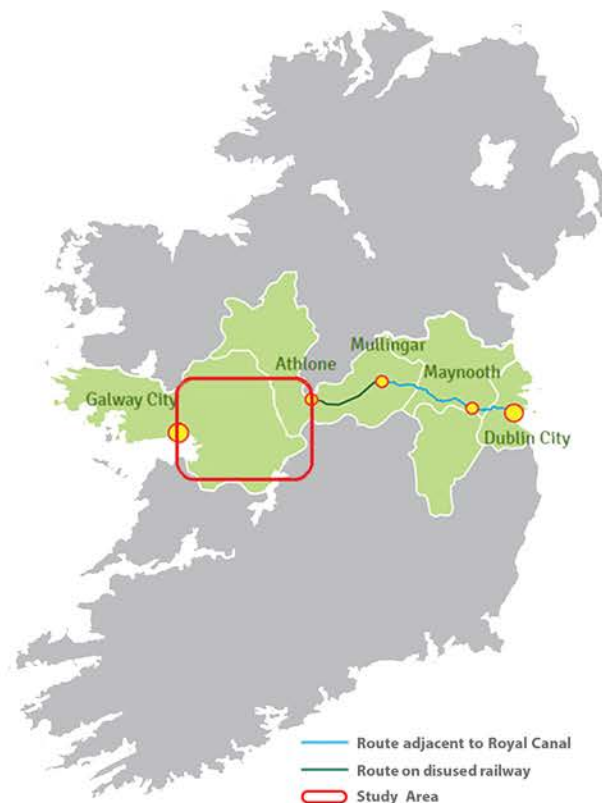
Galway to Dublin Cycleway is being developed in phases:

Galway to Athlone Cycleway – early stages of new project underway.

104km already developed between Athlone and Maynooth.

1.5km section between Whitegates and the Marina in Athlone expected to open in spring 2021.

Construction of new cycleway bridge over the Shannon, connecting the existing greenway to Athlone Castle, due to start in 2021. Two major urban sections being developed between Maynooth and Dublin city; and from Ballyloughane to Galway city.



Who will use the Cycleway?

Despite our underdeveloped profile as a cycle destination, 242,000 overseas visitors to Ireland included a cycle trip in their holidays in 2014 and the estimated income from these visitors was over €231 million. (See Table 01)

A strong business case can be made for the development of cycling tourism with some significant markets to target if the right infrastructure can be delivered on the ground.

Market research into the potential for cycling in Ireland identified a core market potential of over 20 million visitors in a number of our key overseas markets.

Visitors	Numbers	Total Spend
Britain	44,000	€24.2 million
North America	22,000	€26.2 million
Northern Europe	154,000	€145.3 million
Other Areas	22,000	€36.2 million
Total	242,000	€231.9 million

Table 1.

Visitors

Market research has identified two segments for the Galway to Dublin Cycleway as a priority focus for Ireland in the main overseas markets. It looks at why people take holidays and what they want to feel during and after their visit. Importantly both segments are responsible tourists and leave a holiday destination as they found it. These segments are:

1. Culturally Curious

They choose their holiday destinations carefully and are independent active sightseers looking to visit new places, and expand their experience by exploring landscapes, history and culture. They are unlikely to return for some time once they have visited a new place, and often travel in a couple or as individuals and rarely in a family group. The Culturally Curious visitor is interested in all that a place has to offer, and are attracted to authentic travel. They love to delve deeper into the history of a location, and crave unusual experiences and enjoy connecting with nature and wandering off the beaten track.

2. Great Escapers

They are often couples, approximately 30 years old, some with babies or quite young children. They are specifically interested in rural holidays and travel very much as a couple or family. Great Escapers are on holiday for a break and to get physical with nature. They are more likely to take part in slightly more strenuous, but not extreme, exploration. They are interested in getting connected to nature especially the more remote and exciting places.

Benefits for Community and Region - Health and Well being

The health of our population is also a major focus. Inactivity and sedentary behaviours are associated with numerous chronic diseases. With people no active.

Greenways provide an excellent opportunity for Irish people to participate in healthy outdoor activity.

Types of Cycleway Users

1. Commuters

Local people living, studying and working adjacent to route



2. Leisure Cyclists & Walkers

Individuals, families and groups cycling and walking for recreation, fun and fitness interest.



3. Touring Cyclists

Visitors journeying from place to place from stages of up to 100km per day



National Physical Activity Plan for Ireland - Get Ireland Active

"Physical inactivity is a demonstrated clear risk to health and wellbeing in Ireland. Physical inactivity and sedentary behaviours are associated with numerous chronic diseases. With people no longer as physically active as they should be, there are many threats to our health and wellbeing from being inactive"



GALWAY TO ATHLONE NATIONAL CYCLEWAY SCHEME

Creating Opportunities for Rural Ireland

03

Public Consultation No.01

Galway to Athlone
CYCLEWAY

Who Can Get Involved?

The Galway to Athlone Cycleway depends on the whole community to make it a reality and a memorable experience for those who will use it.

People who own land along the route, the farming community, local B&B's, hotels and hostels and camping sites all have an important role in its success.

Local shops, pubs and supply stores and Post Offices all stand to benefit from the opportunities that come with increased visitor numbers.

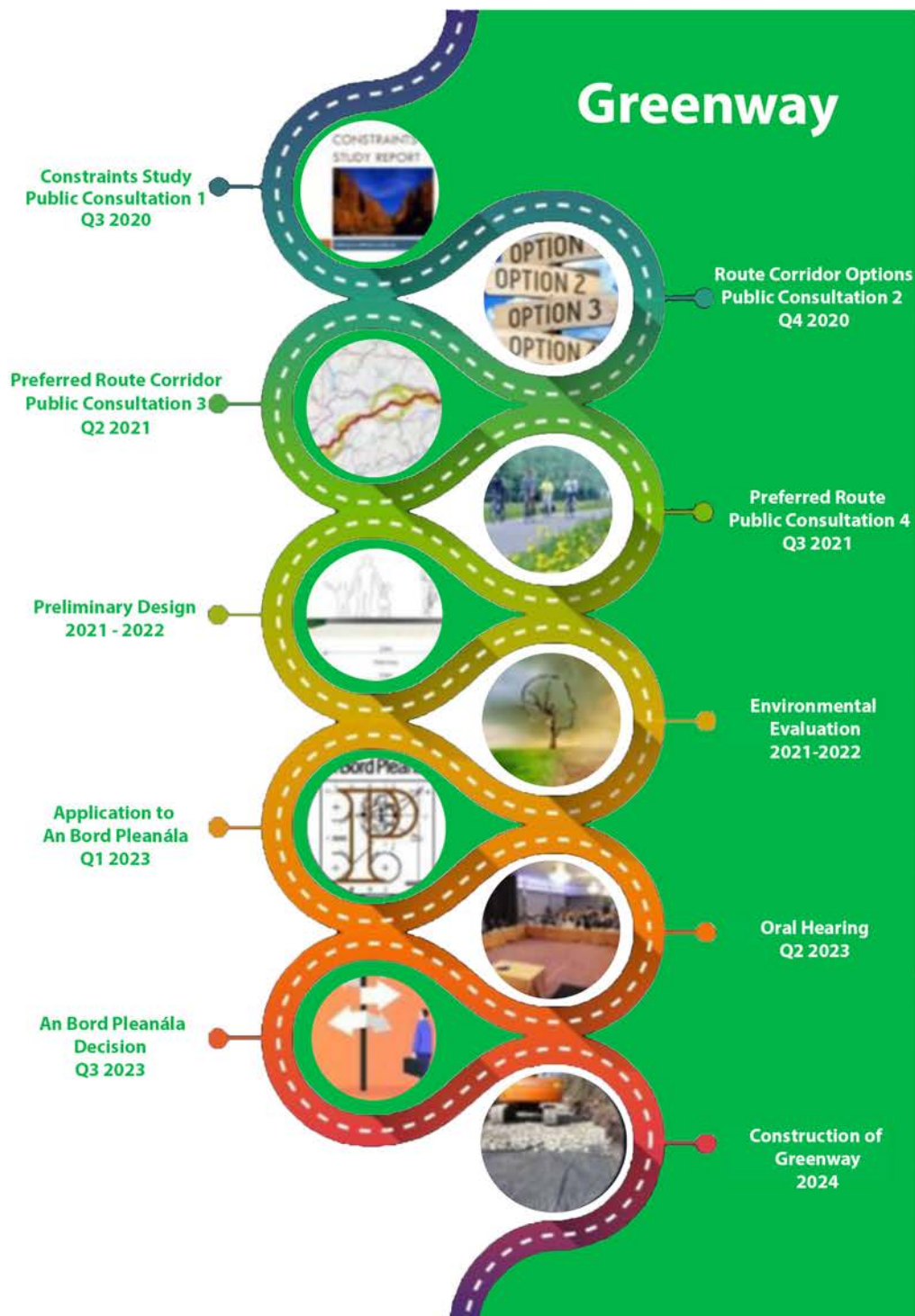
Community groups and interests are vital to the creation of new ideas and helping tourism information centres and services.

Ideas with Opportunities....



- **Farmers**
- **Landowners**
- **Local Shops**
- **Local Hotels and B&B's**
- **Heritage Centres**
- **Sports & Recreation Facilities**
- **Arts & Cultural Groups**
- **Transport Services Providers**





New Government Guidelines mean that **Public Consultation** will be a vital element of this new project.

The **Government's Strategy for the Development of National and Regional Greenways** (2018) sets out the process that all projects must follow, before a route is selected and planning consent is sought from An Bord Pleanála.

Four stages of public consultation will be held on the new Galway to Athlone Cycleway to inform the public and discuss the project before it is submitted to An Bord Pleanála.

Stages of public consultation:

Study Area Public Consultation	– now, August 2020
Route Corridor Options Public Consultation	– Late 2020
Preferred Route Corridor Public Consultation	– Mid 2021
Preferred Route Consultations with individual landowners	– from Mid 2021



GALWAY TO ATHLONE NATIONAL CYCLEWAY SCHEME

Get Involved

05

Public Consultation No.01



Have Your Say

We Would like to hear your views on the project at this stage.

The purpose of this first public consultation is to present the Study Area and hear your feedback on it. We want to hear your views on the following:

- The need for the project,
- Possible routes that you believe should be considered by the project team,
- Locations, attractions or facilities in your locality that could be attractive to cycleway users, or would benefit from a cycleway,
- Constraints or barriers to a cycleway in your area.



The project team will be available to meet with the public at the project office, by appointment.

Please contact us to arrange a meeting



You can make submissions or observations by:

Email:

info@galwaytoathlonecycleway.com

Website:

www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com

Phone No: (091) 509267

Information on the project will be on display at:

Public Consultation Venues	Dates	Times
Shamrock Lodge Hotel, Clonown Road, Athlone N37 CK73	Mon 10 th August	11am – 8pm
Shearwater Hotel, Townparks, Ballinasloe H53 F5P9	Tue 11 th August	11am – 8pm
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Loughrea Hotel, Athenry Road, Loughrea H62 Y189	Thurs 13 th August	11am – 8pm
Maldron Hotel, Carrowmoneash, Oranmore H91 K7FA	Fri 14 th August	11am – 8pm

**Galway to Athlone
Cycleway Project Office,
Society Street,
Ballinasloe,
Co. Galway
Ireland**

Project Information will be on display at Local authority

Public Display Venues	Dates	Times
Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway, H91 H6KX	17 th - 21 st August	10am – 4pm
Ballinasloe Area Office, Civic Offices, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, H53 A7K7	17 th - 21 st August	10am – 1pm 2pm – 4pm
Áras an Chontae, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon, F42 VR98	17 th - 21 st August	10am – 1pm

Submissions or observations may also be made at these public displays

Project News and updates will be available on
www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com



Working With You

Landowner Engagement

A **Code of Best Practice and Guide to Process for National and Regional Greenway Projects** is also being finalised to guide the process for procuring land for the Cycleway.

We aim to route the cycleway through publicly owned lands, and avoid working farms, wherever practicable.

However, we do envisage that it will be necessary to build some of it on land that is now privately owned.

Where this is needed, we will work with the farmer to pick the least disruptive route possible, likely to be along the farm boundary.

A Code of Practice is being prepared, in consultation with several farming groups, to set out and guide this process.

There will be a number of dedicated Project Liaison Officers (PLOs) from the Local Authorities and Consultants.

These PLO's will be the main point of contact for the landowner, and will ensure that the farmers interests and concerns are considered in all decisions.

The local authority will also pay for an independent agronomist to advise and assist the farmer during the process.

Where private land is needed for the cycleway, we will strive to purchase it through a voluntary agreement, if at all possible.

The Project Liason Officers will be available to meet meet Landowners, either on their farm or in the Project Office, throughout the project.

The goodwill and cooperation of the farming community is important to make the cycleway a success.

Real and open engagement with the community will be central to everything we do.





Economy



Safety


Physical
Activity


Environment


Accessibility/
Inclusion


Integration

Objectives for developing the Galway to Dublin Cycleway

- Establish a traffic-free connection from Galway to Dublin that is safe, attractive and comfortable;
- Create an engine to drive growth, supporting the national and local economies;
- Provide opportunities for new and existing businesses and communities;
- Maximise the value of existing infrastructure and natural amenity;
- Protect areas of environmental sensitivity through the design process and in future maintenance and management;
- Develop a tourism experience that caters for a broad range of visitors;
- Be designed to international best practice and in accordance with adopted standards;
- Maximise the existing and proposed investment by Fáilte Ireland;
- Facilitate regular access to visitor attractions and services along the corridor;
- Facilitate connections with public transport hubs;
- In line with the Government's five 'S' criteria - Scenic, Sustainable, Strategic, Segregated and lots to See and do, in conjunction with environmental, engineering and financial considerations.





GALWAY TO ATHLONE NATIONAL CYCLEWAY SCHEME Feedback Form



Public Consultation No. 1

1. **Name:** _____
(Optional)

Address: _____
(Optional)

Phone: _____
(Optional)

Email: _____
(Optional)

2. **Do you live in the Study Area?** ☐ Yes ☐ No

3. **If you live / have property in the Study Area, is it:**

Farm / Agricultural Land ☐ Residential ☐ Commercial ☐

Other / Additional Details: _____

4. **We would like to hear your views on the project at this stage:**

This can include your opinion on the:

- Need for the project;
- Possible routes that should be considered;
- Locations, attractions or facilities in your locality that could be attractive to cycleway users, or would benefit from a cycleway, constraints or barriers to a cycleway in your area;
- Any concerns or issues you may have at this stage.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

The details will only be used for the purposes of contacting you in relation to the scheme.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK



GALWAY TO ATHLONE NATIONAL CYCLEWAY SCHEME



Foirm Aiseolais

Comhairliúchán Poiblí Uimh. 1

1. Ainm:

(Roghnach) _____

Seoladh:

(Roghnach) _____

Fón:

(Roghnach) _____

Ríomhphost:

(Roghnach) _____

2. An bhfuil cónaí ort sa Limistéar Staidéir? ☐ Tá ☐ Níl

3. Má tá cónaí ort nó má tá maoín agat sa Limistéar Staidéir, an:

Talamh Feirme /
Talmhaíochta é ☐

Maoín
Chónaithe í ☐

Maoín Tráchtála í ☐

Sonraí Eile / Breise:

4. Ba mhaith linn dá roinnfeá do thuairimí linn maidir leis an tionscadal ag an tráth seo:

Is féidir do thuairim maidir leis:

- An ngá atá ann don tionscadal;
- Na bealaí féideartha a cheart a bhreithniú;
- Na háiteanna, díol suntais nó na saoráidí atá i do cheantar a d'fhéadfadh a bheith tarraingteach d'úsáideoirí an rotharbhealaigh nó go mbeadh an rotharbhealach ina bhuntáiste don cheantar;
- Aon imní nó aon saincheist a d'fhéadfadh a bheith agat ag an tráth seo a chur san áireamh.



Comhairliúchán Poiblí Uimh. 1

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Is chun teagmháil a dhéanamh leat maidir leis an scéim agus sin amháin a bhainfear leas as na sonraí.

GO RAIBH MAITH AGAT AS D'AISEOLAS

Appendix B

Advertisements



GALWAY TO ATHLONE NATIONAL CYCLEWAY SCHEME

Public Consultation No.1



Project Vision

The vision for the project is to develop a world class trail, from Galway to Athlone, that will complete the Galway to Dublin route, which is of a scale and singularity that will allow Ireland to tap into the growing tourism market for cycling. It will be scenic, sustainable, be a strategic link, with lots to see and do, be substantially segregated from motor traffic and welcome a wide variety of users. It will be developed in co-operation with local communities and offer real benefits to them.

Progress to Date

The Project was paused in 2015 following identification of a preferred route corridor. It is now restarting and the project is to be progressed from a clean slate, with no route corridor favoured at this stage.

A dedicated Project Office has been established in Ballinasloe, where the Consultants and Project Liaison Officers from Galway, Roscommon and Westmeath County Councils will be available to meet landowners and the public.

Meetings at the Project Office are strictly by appointment due to the COVID-19 Restrictions.

Have your say

We would like to hear your views on the project at this stage

This can include your opinion on the

- need for the project,
- possible routes that should be considered,
- locations, attractions or facilities in your locality that could be attractive to cycleway users, or would benefit from a cycleway,
- constraints or barriers to a cycleway in your area,
- any concerns or issues you may have at this stage.

A series of public consultations will be held between the 10th and 14th August, where you may meet members of the team and discuss the project or make a submission or observation. Maps of the study area will be on display. No route corridors are proposed at this stage.

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Information on the project will also be made available at public displays at the following local authority offices between the 17th and 21st August, where submissions or observations may be made.

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Ballinasloe Area Office, Civic Offices, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, H53 A7K7	17 th - 21 st August	10am – 1pm 2pm – 4pm
Áras an Chontae, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon, F42 VR98	17 th - 21 st August	10am – 1pm

Information on the project is available on www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com and the Project Team are available to meet at the Project Office **by appointment from August 24th**. Please contact us to arrange a meeting.

All materials on display at the Public Consultations shall also be available through the 'Virtual Consultation Room' on the website. We encourage people to **engage online** where possible to limit numbers at the physical venue.



- Route adjacent to Royal Canal
- Route on disused railway
- Study Area

You can make submissions or observations by:

Email:

info@galwaytoathlonecycleway.com

Website:

www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com

Phone No: (091) 509267



Galway to Athlone Cycleway Project Office,
Society Street, Ballinasloe,
Co. Galway, H53 T320.

Project News and updates will be available on
www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com

Fís an Tionscadail

Is é fís an tionscadail ná forbairt a dhéanamh ar chonair den chéad scoth ó Ghaillimh go Béal Átha Luain, a chuirfidh críoch leis an mbealach ó Ghaillimh go Baile Átha Cliath a bheidh ar an scála agus saoihiúlacht a chuirfidh ar ár gcumas anseo in Éirinn leas a bhaint as an margadh turasóireachta atá ann don rothaíocht, margadh atá ag fás. Nasc álainn, inbhuanaithe agus straitéiseach a bheidh ann, ina mbeidh go leor le feiceáil agus le déanamh agus a bheidh scartha amach go suntasach ó thrácht mhótair agus a mbeidh fáilte roimh réimse éagsúil úsáideoirí úsáid a bhaint as. Déanfar é a fhorbairt i gcomhar le pobail áitiúla agus beidh tairbhí cearta le baint acu as.

Dul Chun Cinn go Dtí Seo

Cuireadh stad leis an Tionscadal in 2015 i ndiaidh conair bhealaigh níos feara a aithint. Tá sé ar tí tosú arís anois agus táthar ag cur tús úr nua leis an tionscadal, cé nach bhfuil aon chonair bealaigh fabhráithe ann ag an bpointe seo.

Bunaíodh Oifig Tionscadail ar leith i mBéal Átha na Sluaighe, áit a mbeidh Comhairleoirí agus Oifigigh Idirchaidrimh Tionscadail ó Chomhairlí Chontae na Gaillimhe, Ros Comáin agus na hIarmhí ábalta teacht le chéile le húinéirí talún agus leis an bpobal.

Is trí choinne amháin atá na cruinnithe san Oifig Tionscadail, agus sin go docht, mar gheall ar Shrianta COVID-19.

Roinn do thuairimí linn

Ba mhaith linn dá roinnfeá do thuairimí linn maidir leis an tionscadal ag an tráth seo

Is féidir do thuairim maidir leis

- an ngá atá ann don tionscadal,
- na bealaí féideartha a cheart a bhreithniú,
- na háiteanna, díol suntas nó na saoráidí atá i do cheantar a d'fhéadfadh a bheith tarraingteach d'úsáideoirí an rotharbhealaigh nó go mbeadh an rotharbhealach ina bhuntáiste don cheantar,
- na srianta nó bacainn i gcoinne rotharbhealaigh i do cheantarsa,
- aon imní nó aon shaincheist a d'fhéadfadh a bheith agat ag an tráth seo a chur san áireamh.

Reachtálfar sraith de chomhairliúcháin phoiblí idir an 10 agus an 14 Lúnasa trína mbeidh tú ábalta ábalta bualadh le baill den fhoireann agus an tionscadal a phlé nó aighneachtaí nó breithniúcháin a dhéanamh. Beidh léarscáileanna den limistéar staidéir in airde. Níl aon chonairí bealaigh beartaithe ag an bpointe seo.

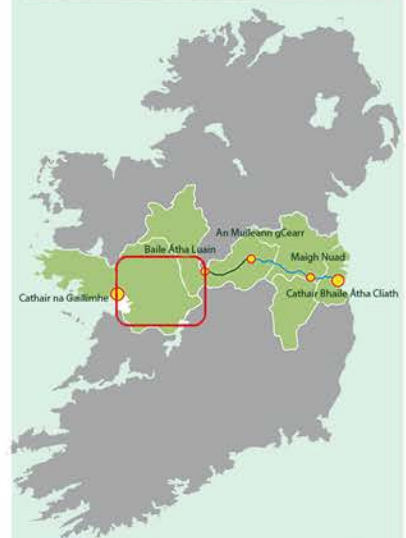
Ionaid Comhairliúcháin Phoiblí	Dátaí	Am
Óstán an Shamrock Lodge, Bóthar Chluain Eamhain, Baile Átha Luain N37 CK73	Dé Luain an 10 Lúnasa	11am – 8pm
Óstán Shearwater, Páirceanna an Bhaile, Béal Átha na Sluaighe	Dé Máirt an 11 Lúnasa	11am – 8pm
Óstán an Raheen Woods, Raheen, Baile Átha an Rí H65 E443	Dé Céadaoin an 12 Lúnasa	11am – 8pm
Óstán Bhaile Locha Riach, Bóthar Átha an Rí, Baile Locha an Rí H62 Y189	Déardaoin an 13 Lúnasa	11am – 8pm
Óstán Maldron, Ceathrú na Manaoise, Orán Mór H91 K7FA	Dé hAoine an 14 Lúnasa	11am – 8pm

Cuirfear eolas maidir leis an tionscadal ar fáil ag taispeántí poiblí a bheidh ar siúl ag oifigí na n-údarás áitiúil a leanas idir an 17 agus an 21 Lúnasa agus beifear ábalta aighneachtaí nó breathnuithe a dhéanamh acu.

Ionaid na dTaispeántí Poiblí	Dátaí	Am
Áras an Chontae, Cnoc na Radharc, Gaillimh, H91 H6KX.	17 - 21 Lúnasa	10am – 4pm
Oifig Cheantair Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe, Oifigí Cathartha, Béal Átha na Sluaighe, Co. na Gaillimhe H53 A7K7	17 - 21 Lúnasa	10am – 1pm 2pm – 4pm
Áras an Chontae, Ros Comáin, Co. Ros Comáin, F42 VR98	17 - 21 Lúnasa	10am – 1pm

Bualadh leis an bhFoireann Tionscadail ag Oifig an Tionscadail trí **choinne a dhéanamh ón 24 Lúnasa ar aghaidh**. Déan teagmháil linn chun cruinniú a shocrú.

Beidh an t-ábhar ar fad a bheidh ar taispeánt ag na Comhairliúcháin Phoiblí ar fáil tríd an **'Seomra Comhairliúcháin Fíorúil'** atá ar an láithreán gréasáin. Molaimid do dhaoine a bheith rannpháirteach ar líne nuair is féidir chun teorainn a chur le líon na ndaoine a thiocfaidh chomh fada leis an ionad fisiciúil.



— Bealach le taobh na Canálach Ríoga
— Bealach ar iarnród atá pléite
□ Limistéar Staidéir

Is féidir aighneachtaí nó breithniúcháin a dhéanamh ar: Ríomhphost:

info@galwaytoathlonecycleway.com

Láithreán Gréasáin:

www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com

Teil:

(091) 509267



Oifig Tionscadail an Rotharbhealaigh ó Ghaillimh go Baile Átha Luain, Sráid an Chumainn, Béal Átha na Sluaighe, Co. na Gaillimhe, H53 T320.

Beidh nuacht agus nuashonraithe maidir leis an tionscadal ar fáil ar

www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com



Galway to Athlone National Cycleway Scheme Public Consultation No.1

Project Vision

The vision for the project is to develop a world class trail, from Galway to Athlone, that will complete the Galway to Dublin route, which is of a scale and singularity that will allow Ireland to tap into the growing tourism market for cycling. It will be scenic, sustainable, be a strategic link, with lots to see and do, be substantially segregated from motor traffic and welcome a wide variety of users. It will be developed in co-operation with local communities and offer real benefits to them.

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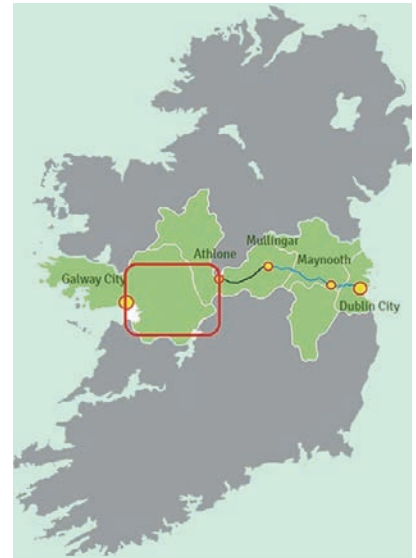
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www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com

Phone No: (091) 509267

Project News and Updates
will be available on:
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Scéim Náisiúnta Rotharbhealaigh ó Gaillimh go Baile Átha Luain Comhairliúchán Poiblí Uimh. 1

Fís an Tionscadail

Is é fís an tionscadail ná forbairt a dhéanamh ar chonair den chéad scoth ó Gaillimh go Béal Átha Luain, a chuirfidh críoch leis an mbealach ó Gaillimh go Baile Átha Cliath a bheidh ar an scála agus saothrúilacht a chuirfidh ar ár gcumas anseo in Éirinn leas a bhaint as an margadh turasóireachta atá ann don rothaíocht, margadh atá ag fás. Nasc álainn, inbhuanaithe agus straitéiseach a bheidh ann, ina mbeidh go leor le feiceáil agus le déanamh agus a bheidh scartha amach go suntasach ó thrácht mhótair agus a mbeidh fáilte roimh réimse éagsúil úsáideoirí úsáid a bhaint as. Déanfar é a fhorbairt i gcomhar le pobail áitiúla agus beidh tairbhí cearta le baint acu as.

Dul Chun Cinn go D tí Seo

Cuireadh stad leis an tionscadal in 2015 i ndiaidh conair bhealaigh níos fearr a aithint. Tá sé ar tí tosú arís anois agus táthar ag cur tús úr nua leis an tionscadal, cé nach bhfuil aon chonair bealaigh fabhráithe ann ag an bpointe seo.

Bunaidh Oifig Tionscadail ar leith i mBéal Átha na Sluaighe, áit a mbeidh Comhairleoir agus Oifigigh Idirchaidrimh Tionscadail ó Chomhairlí Chontae na Gaillimhe, Ros Comáin agus na hIarmhí ábalta teacht le chéile le húnéirí talún agus leis an bpobal.

Is trí choinne amháin atá na cruinnithe san Oifig Tionscadail, agus sin go docht, mar gheall ar Shrianta COVID-19.

Roinn do thuairimí linn

Ba mhaith linn dá roinneá do thuairimí linn maidir leis an tionscadal ag an tráth seo. Is féidir do thuairimí maidir leis na nithe seo a leanas a chur san áireamh:

- an ngá atá ann don tionscadal,
- na bealaí féideartha a cheart a bhreithniú,
- na háiteanna, díol suntais nó na saoráidí atá i do cheantar a d'fhéadfadh a bheith tarraingteach d'úsáideoirí an rotharbhealaigh nó go mbeadh an rotharbhealach ina bhuntáiste don cheantar, na srianta nó bacainn i gcoinne rotharbhealaigh i do cheantarsa, aon inné nó aon shaincheist a d'fhéadfadh a bheith agat ag an tráth seo.

Reáchtálfar sraith de chomhairliúcháin phoiblí idir an 10 agus an 14 Lúnasa trína mbeidh tú ábalta bualadh le baill den fhoireann agus an tionscadal a phlé nó aighneachtaí nó breithniúcháin a dhéanamh. Beidh léarscáileanna den limistéar staidéir in airde. Níl aon chonair bealaigh beartaithe ag an bpointe seo.

Ionaid Comhairliúcháin Phoiblí	Dátaí	Am
Óstán an Shamrock Lodge, Bóthar Chluain Eamhain, Baile Átha Luain N37 CK73	Dé Luain an 10 Lúnasa	11am - 8pm
Óstán Shearwater, Páirceanna an Bhaile, Béal Átha na Sluaighe H53 F5P9	Dé Máirt an 11 Lúnasa	11am - 8pm
Óstán an Raheen Woods, An Ráithín, Baile Átha an Rí H65 E443	Dé Céadaoin an 12 Lúnasa	11am - 8pm
Óstán Bhaile Locha Riach, Bóthar Átha an Rí, Baile Locha Riach H62 Y189	Déardaoin an 13 Lúnasa	11am - 8pm
Óstán Maldron, Ceathrú na Manaoise, Órán Mór H91 K7FA	Dé hAoine an 14 Lúnasa	11am - 8pm

Cuirfear eolas maidir leis an tionscadal ar fáil ag taispeántaí poiblí a bheidh ar siúl ag oifig na n-údarás áitiúil a leanas idir an 17 agus an 21 Lúnasa agus beifear ábalta aighneachtaí nó breathnuithe a dhéanamh acu.

Ionaid na dTaispeántaí Poiblí	Dátaí	Am
Áras an Chontae, Cnoc na Radharc, Gaillimh H91 H6KX	17 - 21 Lúnasa	10am - 4pm
Oifig Cheantair Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe, Oifigí Cathartha, Béal Átha na Sluaighe, Co. na Gaillimhe H53 A7K7	17 - 21 Lúnasa	10am - 1pm 2pm - 4pm
Áras an Chontae, Ros Comáin, Co. Ros Comáin, F42 VR98	17 - 21 Lúnasa	10am - 1pm

Tá eolas faoin tionscadal le fáil ar www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com. Is féidir bualadh leis an bhFoireann Tionscadail ag Oifig an Tionscadail trí choinne a dhéanamh ón 24 Lúnasa ar aghaidh. Déan teagmháil linn chun cruinniú a shocrú.

Beidh an t-ábhar ar fad a bheidh ar taispeántaí ag na Comhairliúcháin Phoiblí ar fáil tríd an 'Seomra Comhairliúcháin Fíorúil' atá ar an láithreán gréasáin. Molaimid do dhaoine a bheith rannpháirteach ar líne nuair is féidir chun teorainn a chur le líon na ndaoine a thiocfaidh chomh fada leis an ionad fisiciúil.



Is féidir aighneachtaí nó breithniúcháin a dhéanamh trí:


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Beidh nuacht agus nuashonraithe
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Galway to Athlone

National Cycleway Scheme

Public Consultation No.1

Project Vision

The vision for the project is to develop a world class trail, from Galway to Athlone, that will complete the Galway to Dublin route, which is of a scale and singularity that will allow Ireland to tap into the growing tourism market for cycling. It will be scenic, sustainable, be a strategic link, with lots to see and do, be substantially segregated from motor traffic and welcome a wide variety of users. It will be developed in co-operation with local communities and offer real benefits to them.

Progress to Date

The Project was paused in 2015 following identification of a preferred route corridor. It is now restarting and the project is to be progressed from a clean slate, with no route corridor favoured at this stage.

A dedicated Project Office has been established in Ballinasloe, where the Consultants and Project Liaison Officers from Galway, Roscommon and Westmeath County Councils will be available to meet landowners and the public.

Meetings at the Project Office are strictly by appointment due to the COVID-19 Restrictions.

Have your say

We would like to hear your views on the project at this stage. This can include your opinion on the:

- need for the project,
- possible routes that should be considered,
- locations, attractions or facilities in your locality that could be attractive to cycleway users, or would benefit from a cycleway, constraints or barriers to a cycleway in your area, any concerns or issues you may have at this stage.

A series of public consultations will be held between the 10th and 14th August, where you may meet members of the team and discuss the project or make a submission or observation. Maps of the study area will be on display. No route corridors are proposed at this stage.

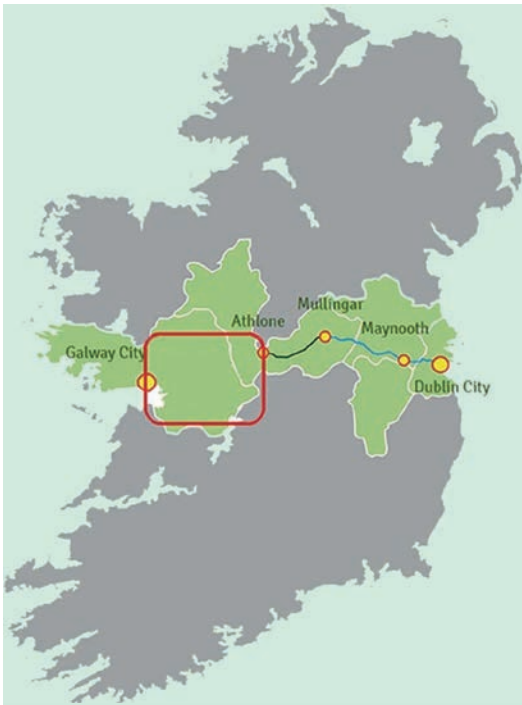
Public Consultation Venues	Dates	Time
Shamrock Lodge Hotel, Clonown Road, Athlone N37 CK73	Mon 10th August	11am - 8pm
Shearwater Hotel, Townparks, Ballinasloe, H53 F5P9	Tue 11th August	11am - 8pm
Raheen Woods Hotel, Raheen, Athenry H65 E443	Wed 12th August	11am - 8pm
Loughrea Hotel, Athenry Road, Loughrea H62 YI89	Thurs 13th August	11am - 8pm
Maldron Hotel, Carrowmoneash, Oranmore H91 K7FA	Fri 14th August	11am - 8pm

Information on the project will also be made available at public displays at the following local authority offices between the 17th and 21st August, where submissions or observations may be made.

Public Display Venues	Dates	Time
Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway, H91 H6KX	17th - 21st August	10am - 4pm
Ballinasloe Area Office, Civic Offices, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, H53 A7K7	17th - 21st August	10am - 1pm 2pm - 4pm
Áras an Chontae, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon, F42 VR98	17th - 21st August	10am - 1pm

Information on the project is available on www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com and the Project Team are available to meet at the Project Office by appointment from August 24th. Please contact us to arrange a meeting.

All materials on display at the Public Consultations shall also be available through the 'Virtual Consultation Room' on the website. We encourage people to engage online where possible to limit numbers at the physical venue.



You can make submissions or observations by:

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Comhairliúchán Poiblí Uimh. 1

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