

Non Statutory Public Consultation

Abbeyfeale Greenway Connection Active Travel Scheme



November 2023

Rev.	Status	Prepared By	Approved By	Date
0	Draft for NTA Review	L. Kennedy	S. Kennedy	15.11.2023
1	FINAL	L. Kennedy	<i>See mfg.</i>	17.09.2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Introduction.....	1
2	Potential Route Options.....	2
3	Summary: Feedback from the Non Statutory Public Consultation	3
4	Summary	4

Appendix 1 – Route Options Drawings

1 INTRODUCTION

The Abbeyfeale Greenway Connection Active Travel Scheme [the proposed Scheme] is a project proposed by Limerick City and County Council and is being funded by the National Transport Authority. Following a competitive tendering process, Fehily Timoney & Company (FTC) were appointed in Q4 of 2022 for Stage 2 – Concept Development and Options Selection and Stage 3 Preliminary Design.

The scheme aims to improve active travel arrangements between the popular Limerick Greenway and the nearby town of Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick. The scheme begins at the existing Limerick Greenway Car Park, located just off the R524 Regional Road, and terminates at the N21 in Abbeyfeale. The project will involve the installation of new cycle and pedestrian infrastructure over an approximate distance of 1km with the aim of improving active travel connectivity in the area. The scheme will form a positive active travel option for users, giving walking and cycling access to local schools, sports grounds, shops, and community facilities where possible. An initial study area was established by our appointed consultants which is highlighted in Figure 1 below. All routes presented in this report are contained within this boundary.



Figure 1.1

As part of the route options study, a non-statutory public consultation was held over a period of 4 weeks in November 2023 to allow members of the public to give their views. Information on the route options was made available by:

- Visiting the in-person information session in Teach na Feile, Abbeyfeale on Thursday, November 9th, between 4pm and 7pm.
- Accessing mypoint.limerick.ie, viewing soft copies of proposals and/or providing an online submission.
- Viewing hard copies of preliminary options and drawings for the scheme which will be available in Abbeyfeale Library, County Hall, Dooradoyle and City Hall, Merchants Quay between Thursday, November 9th, 2023 and Thursday, December 7th, 2023

The information session was well attended on the evening of November 9th with a good level of engagement and discussion with people from all sectors of the Abbeyfeale community on the route options on display.

2 POTENTIAL ROUTE OPTIONS

As part of the options development process, several routes were considered within the scheme area. Overall, a total of 7 no. route options were developed for inclusion with both on-road and greenfield routes being considered. These routes are outlined in detail in Appendix 1 - drawing no. P22-141- INFO-0001 - 0007. An overview of each route is shown below in Figure 1-2.

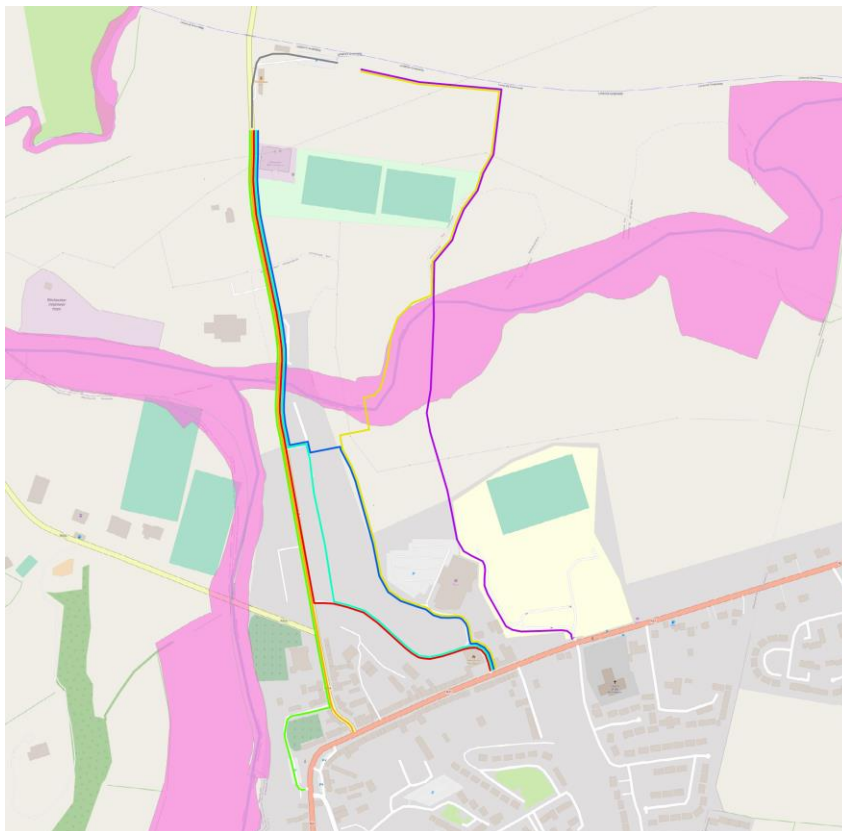


Figure 1.2

3 SUMMARY: FEEDBACK FROM THE NON STATUTORY PUBLIC CONSULTATION

A total of 37 submissions were received during the course of the 4 week non-statutory consultation. The following is a summary of key issues raised (in no particular order) with regard to the route option presented:

- *Key objective must be to get people into the town square for businesses*
- *Support for the purple route as being the least impactful for businesses*
- *Support for the Green route as being the most direct into the town square*
- *Objection to the purple and green route due to the potential environmental impact on the River Allaughan*
- *Concerns over using the existing bridge for cyclists due to large volumes of HGV's and agricultural vehicles on the R524*
- *Objections to the removal of parking on New Street*
- *Objection to the removal of existing loading bays on New Street*
- *Objection to the removal of parking on New Street due to impact on existing residents*
- *Objection to the reduction of available parking on New Street for pickup and set-down at the Boys NS and the playschool*
- *Existing properties would be devalued along New Street*
- *Concerns around cyclist safety due to existing traffic levels around the NCT Centre, Mart, Colbert Terrace junction and joys corner*
- *Safety concerns around the increasing use of e-scooters*
- *Support for the red and cyan routes on Colbert Terrace provided further connection to the town square can be provided via main street*
- *Suggested land/buildings be acquired on the Green route at Church Lane to widen the space available*
- *Economic impact to existing business due to removal of parking facilities and request for a cost benefit analysis to be undertaken*
- *Provide further linkage to schools other key residential areas of the town*
- *Provide further linkage to the greenway to the east of the town near Mountmahon*
- *Suggestions to bring the scheme as far as the south side of the bridge and to create a secure bike parking facility for people to walk up town from there*
- *Lack of support expressed for the yellow & purple routes due to lack connectivity to residential areas of the town and not attractive for tourists*

4 SUMMARY

Further analysis of the route options will now be undertaken by the Active Travel team and FTC in conjunction with the NTA on route options. The options report will be finalised as per NTA Project Approval Guidelines including a Multi-criteria Analysis to determine the preferred route. Once a preferred route has been selected, preliminary design stage will commence with a view to the statutory public consultation in accordance with the Planning and Development Acts being progressed.