



Leitrim County Council

Planning & Development Acts 2000 (as amended)
PART XI

Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)
PART 8

Planning Register Ref. No. 23-C-01

FOOTPATH AND PUBLIC LIGHTING ALONG THE R207, DRUMSHANBO

JUNE 2023

1.0 Introduction and Scheme Overview

Leitrim County Council is proposing to construct a footpath with public lighting on the R207 traversing the townlands of Corlough and Corrachuill in Drumshanbo. The proposed 1.8 metre – 2 metre wide footpath is located on the western side of the road for a length of approximately 505 metres. 14 No. 8-metre-high public lighting columns are proposed to be erected along the footpath. The proposed development will directly serve residents and visitors by providing safer walking infrastructure and will aid in reducing the speed of vehicles.

The site location can be seen outlined in red on the site location map below.

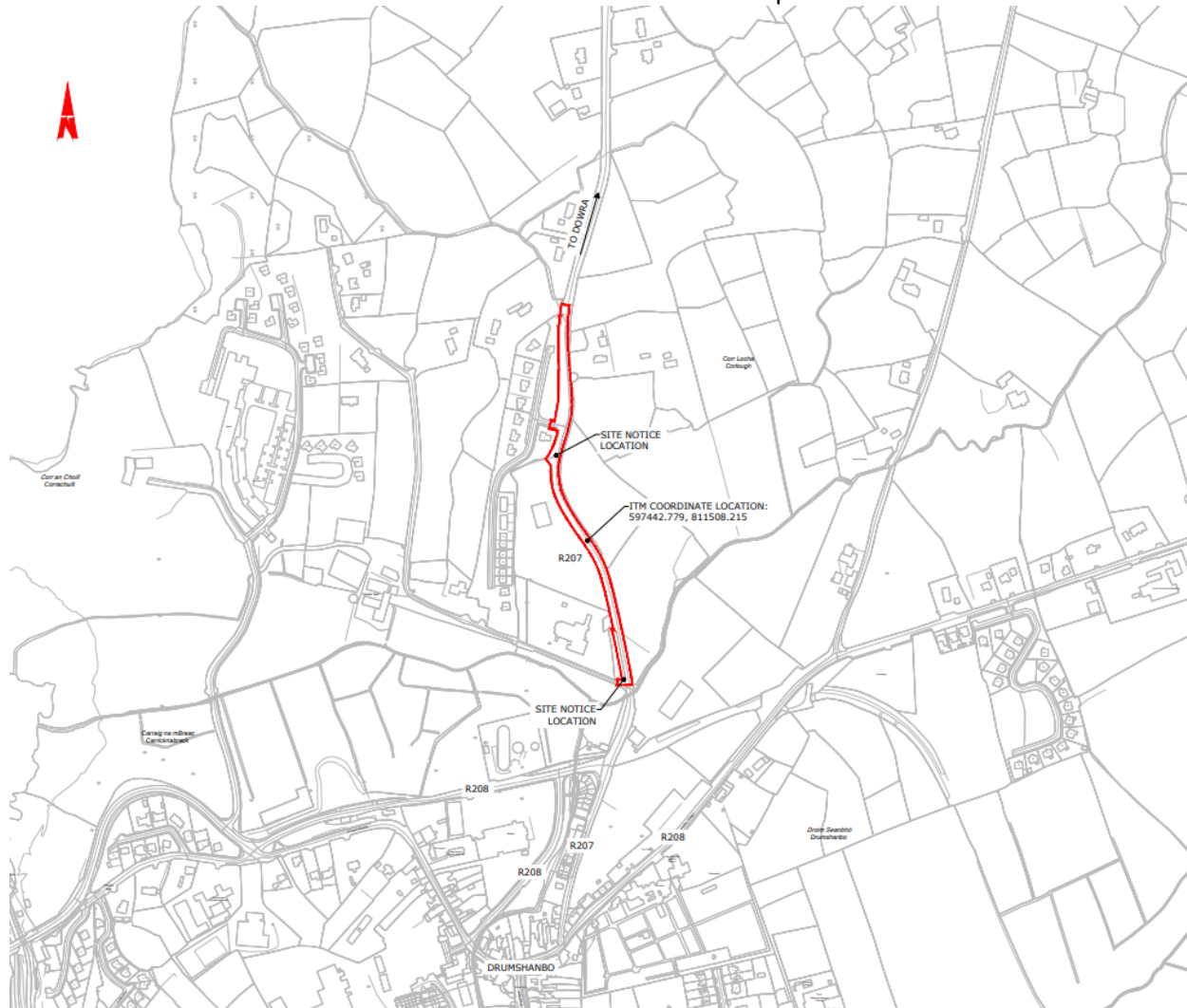


Figure 1 Location of Proposed Development

2.0 Public Consultation Process

The project was formally advertised for public consultation between 05 May 2023 and 02 June 2023. Details of the proposed works were available for inspection during normal office hours at the office of the Planning Authority and also on the Council website. The closing date for submissions was 19 June 2023.

2.1 Submissions/Observations and Responses

No submissions or observations have been received.

2.2 Internal & External Bodies

The proposal was referred to the following internal sections:

- District Engineer
- Senior Executive Engineer Road Design

2.3 Summary of Issues Raised and Responses

No responses have been received from referrals.

3.0 Assessment

The land on which the works are proposed are located adjacent Enterprise and Employment zoned lands to the development envelope boundary connecting the Radharc na Baile housing estate that is not currently served by a footpath.

As outlined in the Briefing Report, Leitrim County Council has a number of policies and objectives set out in the County Development Plan 2013-2029 which supports the provision of footpaths and lighting for all towns and villages in the County.

WC POL 1 - To promote walking and cycling as efficient, healthy and environmentally friendly modes of transport by securing the development of a network of direct, comfortable, convenient and safe cycle routes and footpaths, particularly in town centres and in the vicinity of schools.

WC POL 2 - To work with all relevant stakeholders to seek to ensure a significant increase in walking in Co. Leitrim, by emphasising the quality of the pedestrian and street environment, promoting simplified streetscapes and ensuring access for all.

WC POL 3 - To design pedestrian and cycling infrastructure in accordance with the principles, approaches and standards set out in the National Cycle Manual, the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets and international best practice.

WC POL - 4 To require that consideration be given to sustainable transport movement at the earliest design stage of development proposals, to ensure accessibility by all modes of transport and all sections of society and promote the provision of parking space for bicycles in development schemes.

WC OBJ 3 - To improve the streetscape environment for pedestrians, cyclists, and people with special mobility needs by providing facilities to enhance safety and convenience, including separation for pedestrian infrastructure from vehicular traffic.

DSO 17 - Maintain and enhance accessibility to and within the town centre in respect of pedestrian and cycle access, public transport and car parking, with particular regard to the needs and access for people with disabilities.

DSO 23 - Advance the provision of footpath and public lighting in the town to ensure that all multiple housing developments are connected to the town centre.

In light of the above specific policies and objective, and to the general support in the County Development Plan 2023-2029 relating to improvement of, and the provision of, safe pedestrian footpaths and to encourage safe walking, it is considered that the proposed development is consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and is appropriate to the area.

3.1 Appropriate Assessment

Natura 2000 sites are protected habitats for flora and fauna of European importance. They comprise Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), designated under the Birds Directive. The conclusion of the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report (Habitats Directive) is that the proposed development will have no significant adverse impacts upon the qualifying interests of any Natura 2000 site.

The Planning Authority has considered the Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment (AA). The Planning Authority considers that the information before it, is adequate to allow the carrying out of an

Appropriate Assessment. There are no other projects that the Planning Authority consider to be intrinsically linked to the proposed project. In completing the Appropriate Assessment, the Planning Authority considered, in particular, the likely direct and indirect impacts arising from the proposed development, both individually or in combination with other plans or projects and the conservation objectives for the European Sites in the vicinity or with a direct connection to the proposed development.

The AA screening process has considered potential effects which may arise during the construction and operational phases as a result of the implementation of the project. Through an assessment of the pathways for effects and an evaluation of the project characteristics, taking account of the processes involved and the distance of separation from European sites, it has been evaluated that there are no likely significant adverse effects on the qualifying interests, special conservation interest or the conservation objectives of any designated European site.

The proposed project is 4.6km away from the closest Natura site (Cuilcagh-Anierin Uplands SAC 000584). Given the nature of the proposed work, the scale and the localised and temporary nature of the potential effects, the proposed project will not lead to any significant effects in-combination with effects arising from any other plans or projects.

The Planning Authority noted that the proposed development is not directly connected with or necessary for the management of a European Site and considered the nature, scale and location of the proposed development. The Planning Authority concludes that, by itself or in-combination with other plans and projects in the vicinity, the proposed development would not be likely to adversely affect the integrity of the European Sites, in view of the sites' stated conservation objectives. Consequently, a Stage Two AA (Natura Impact Statement) is not required.

3.2 Environmental Impact Assessment

An Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report was completed for the proposed development. The Screening Report has concluded that there is no requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out as it is not considered to be required for the proposed development as it does not fall into any of the project types outlined in Part 1, Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) or in Part 2 of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). Nor does it correspond to any category in the Roads Act 1993 (as amended). For the avoidance of doubt, the project has nonetheless been reviewed against prescribed criteria for determining whether or not a development is required to be subject to EIA. This assessment finds that the proposed development is not likely to result in significant effects on the environment. It is therefore concluded that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the development.

4.0 Recommendation

On the basis of the reports which were prepared and formed part of the Part 8 public consultation exercise, the Planning Authority is satisfied that the proposed development adheres to, and is consistent with, the policy framework contained with the statutory Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029. The Planning Authority is equally satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely impact upon the local receiving environment and that the development would accord with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

The conclusion of this assessment is that the County Development Plan is fully supportive of providing the proposed footpath, public lighting, and associated works. The Planning Authority supports the principle of the proposed development which accords with the stated policy framework contained in the County Development Plan.

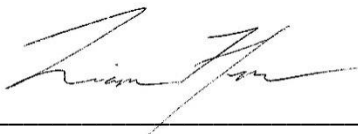
Section 179(3) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, requires the preparation of a report by the Chief Executive of the Local Authority following the placing of the Part 8 application on

public display. This report shall culminate in a recommendation *whether or not the proposed development should be proceeded with as proposed, or as varied or modified as recommended in the report or should not be proceeded with, as the case may be.*

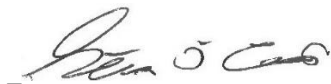
It is recommended that the proposed development be proceeded with as proposed subject to the inclusion of the attached recommended conditions in Appendix 1.



Deirdre Lardner
Assistant Planner
19 June 2023



Liam Flynn
A/Senior Executive Planner
19 June 2023



Shay O'Connor
Acting Director of Services

Appendix 1 Schedule of Conditions

1. The development shall be executed generally in accordance with plans, particulars, details and specifications lodged as part of the Part 8 public consultation documentation, save, as is herein under otherwise required or as agreed in writing with the Planning Department prior to the commencement of development.
2. The lighting used shall be wildlife friendly and shall be in accordance with best practice guidelines in that regard. The most suitable or effective down-lighter lighting system, which emits the least damaging or disruptive light waves for wildlife, shall be used.
3. All excavated material shall be disposed of in a proper and environmentally friendly manner. Where appropriate, i.e., if works are being undertaken by an outside contractor, licenses for these works shall be obtained prior to commencement. Details of, and locations of, landfills or sites to be utilised for the disposition of excavated material, shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing, with the Planning Department, following consultation with the Environment Department of Leitrim County Council.