

TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE DUNGARVAN/LISMORE DISTRICT OF WATERFORD

Re: Active Travel Scheme - Knockateemore, Dungarvan

Over the past few weeks and months, Waterford City & County Council has received a significant number of representations, from both private citizens and councillors, seeking the clearing and upgrade of the pathway between the N-25 and the L-3166 at Knockateemore. These submissions suggest that the route should be opened to pedestrians to improve walking and cycling links locally.

The Active Travel team advertised the proposal for public consultation from 05th October 2022 to 28th October 2022.

A petition in favour of opening up the Boreen was received prior to the public consultation and is included in this report.

Submissions:

Nine submissions were received during the consultation period.

Dermot Walsh	hi i would like to know if there is any possibility of opening the old pathway between knockateemore borren and the N25 straight accross the road from the Abbeyside Gaa Pitch. i was born in Knockateemore and used this path all through my early years to go to hurling pitch and also to school in the Friary. i believe this would be great addition to the area as it would ease a little the congestion of cyclist on the road from Crucaín/river lane into abbeyside as this is already a very narrow road and quiet dangerous in my opnion. Also if a pedestrian crossing or some sort of traffic calming could be done at entrance to hurling Field that would be great also which would again help with health and safety concerns for all involved
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<p>Pat Walsh</p>	<p>Hi</p> <p>re: Boreen in Knockateemore.</p> <p>I was born and raised in Knockateemore, in my youth I used to walk and cycle this booreen to bring me to abbeyside Gaa fields(known as Cliffe's at the time before they moved to current location) and friends who live in the Burgery.</p> <p>I would love to see this booreen reopened and hence used by the kids in Knockateemore/Ballycoe as a short cut to Abbeyside GAA.</p> <p>On another front it recreate a link to history when this was an important part of the local community.</p>
<p>Kay McKiernan</p>	<p>I wish to request the opening up of the 'Old Boreen' (pathway between N25 and L3166) as it has been mostly out of commission in recent years. In the distant past, this 'Old Boreen' as it is affectionately known had been the preferred route to Abbeyside and Dungarvan to those of us who lived on Knockateemore Boreen and nearby and our only means of travel was shanks mare or a bike. We used this route when going to school in Abbeyside and later to secondary school in Dungarvan as it was shorter and safer than either the N25 or Strandside. Opening up this route would improve local pedestrian access to enable us to use this route when shopping and when just going for a quiet stroll.</p> <p>This route is not just of interest to the locals but also to the wider community. In the past, the people from Abbeyside and Dungarvan used it when out for a walk. They walked out the Burgery, up the Old Boreen and back home by the Strandside or vice versa.</p> <p>Opening up this route would facilitate all those of us - locals and the people of Abbeyside and Dungarvan who wish to leave our cars behind and 'get walking and cycling' and at the same time help the environment by reducing carbon emissions.</p> <p>Kind regards</p> <p>Kay McKiernan</p>

<p>Justin Walsh</p>	<p>I refer to the old boreen which has been closed between the N25 and the L3166 for numerous years now. During my childhood I availed of this boreen to cycle to my local GAA club as it proved to be a quicker but more importantly safer way to travel.</p> <p>With the recent rise in population in the Knockateemore area I believe it would be highly beneficial to the local community if the boreen was opened once more. It would provide a more time efficient and safer way for the children of the area to get to and from facilities such as the GAA club as well as a variety of schools.</p>
<p>Suzanne & Eamonn Gough</p>	<p>Dear Active Travel Team,</p> <p>With reference to the above and to your letter of 3rd October, 2022, we wish to make our submission and observations regarding same.</p> <p>I, Suzanne Gough (previously Hickey) have lived on this bohreen all my life. During my childhood, I remember the Fives' Family herding their cows up and down the bohreen in order to access their land for grazing. In later years, this practice stopped as the animals could not be herded on the N25. Since then, the upper part of the bohreen near Knocateemore became overgrown and access became very limited. Walking through was all you could do, if at all.</p> <p>While we both have no objections to the re-opening of the pathway to pedestrians and cyclists only, we believe the following would need to be delivered by the Council, to ensure the safety of users, before the opening up of the bohreen for same;</p> <p>Pedestrian crossing (with Traffic Lights similar to the one at Tournore) at the end of the Bohreen for cyclists/pedestrians to cross the N25 to the correct side of the road for cycling into town or to gain access to the GAA Grounds.</p> <p>Proper resurfacing of the bohreen and maintenance of same. This Bohreen over the years gets quite a battering following heavy rain and the surface gets washed away as a result. Adequate drainage should be put in place along with a safe surface for cyclists/pedestrians to use.</p> <p>There should be bollards installed where the furthest up house is located, advising cyclists to dismount and walk the rest of the way to the end of the road. The road is busy with cars gaining access to their houses and as it is quite narrow all the way, people who would not be familiar with the area might not realise there would be cars accessing same.</p> <p>We want to re-iterate our major concerns regarding the junction where the L3166 meets the N25. Having raised a young family at this location, this junction remains a serious concern for me and my neighbours for our children who need to cross the N25. Our children are aware of the need to dismount and check your surroundings before crossing the road, however, other children from neighbouring areas might not be fully aware of how fast the traffic travels on the N25 and would speed down the Bohreen and end</p>

Waterford City and County Council, City Hall, The Mall, Waterford.

Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Phort Láirge, Halla na Cathrach, An Meal, Port Láirge

out in the middle of the road before they know it. This is why a cyclist dismount sign should be installed along with residential area of the Bohreen and a Pedestrian Crossing with lights should be installed on the N25 to cross the road.

If you require any further information or clarification on the above, please do not hesitate to contact either of us on the mobile numbers below to discuss same.

Yours sincerely,

Eamonn Gough [REDACTED]
Suzanne Gough [REDACTED]

Kaye Murray	<p>Dear Active Travel Team,</p> <p>I am living in Monang, Abbeyside and have 4 children of primary school age, all of whom are involved in the Abbeyside GAA club. Saturday mornings and 2 evenings each week are spent driving the children from Monang to the GAA pitch in Abbeyside.</p> <p>I sincerely welcome this proposal as I feel it will give the children the opportunity to cycle to the pitch from our house. There are many other children on our road that are involved in Abbeyside GAA who could also potentially avail of this cycle path/walkway.</p> <p>The one concern I have is in relation to crossing the N25 from the boren side to the GAA grounds. Without an adequate crossing for cyclists/pedestrians I feel that the benefits of reopening this boren would be minimal. I would not be comfortable allowing my children to use this pathway to get to the GAA grounds without an adequate crossing in place.</p> <p>I thank you for your proposal and your work so far in getting this project off the ground.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p> <p>Kaye Murray</p>
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Michael Flynn

Hi Ian,

I welcome all new active travel schemes but I have the following comments on the reopening of proposed route for walking and cycling.

- The proposed route connects two public roads where no proper footpaths currently exist. If the aim of an active travel scheme is to help people reduce their reliance on their car by allowing children to cycle to school, travel to sports facilities, work etc should it not be connected to be able to do so. If that is the aim I think the scheme should be extended to include making the L3166 one-way (the existing width at little more than 4m would suggest it is only suitable as such) and install a footpath connecting the proposed route entrance on the L3166 to footpaths on the Old Hospital Road L3165. A pedestrian priority crossing should also be included at that junction.

- The next step could be to continue directly across the L3165 and down the lane/trunk road into Cruachán Estate, ultimately to a riverside walkway along the banks of the Colligan all the way into Dungarvan. This would be a beautiful route much more inviting than the narrow L3165 footpath at present.

- A crossing point is required at the junction between the proposed route and the N25. Everyday I see children cycling the wrong way out from town in the in-bound cycle lane into oncoming traffic to get to the Abbeyside/Ballincourthy GAA grounds. Why are they doing this? Because it is not safe to cycle in the appropriate out-bound cycle lane and cross the N25 at the entrance to the GAA grounds. A pedestrian / cyclist priority crossing is required at this location. The width of road that has to be crossed here to get to the GAA grounds from the opposite side of the road is significant because of the totally unnecessary 2m+ wide waste of space hatched central margin in the middle of the road. In my opinion traffic would move much slower if this central margin was removed and both traffic lanes adjoined each other directly for the entire length of the N25 from the beginning of the 60kmph zone to the Coolagh Roundabout, this is a failing of the previous works carried out by Roads Dept. a couple of years ago allowing traffic to travel faster. If this central margin was removed it would surely enable a grass margin either side of traffic lanes to segregate cycle lanes and footpaths from vehicular traffic.

- Vehicular traffic can obviously access the proposed route from the N25 currently. Whatever measures are implemented to prevent vehicles travelling the whole way through to the L3166 I ask that they not include kissing gates or other such obstructions to universal access. If chicane gates are to be used as on the Greenway I ask that they be adequately spaces to allow bikes pulling trailers or larger mobility scooters more easily navigate.

- I would ask that existing hedgerows be maintained as much as possible.

Regards,

Michael Flynn

Caroline Enright	Please see attached a submission from residents of the L3167 who will be directly affected by this proposed scheme.
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Ian Ludlow,
Staff Officer,
Active Travel Team,
Waterford City & County Council,
Menapia Building,
The Mall,
Waterford.

27th October 2022

**Re: Proposal to re-instate pedestrian link between:
N25 & L3166 at Skahanard & Knockateemore**

We the undersigned broadly welcome the proposal to clear and upgrade the pathway between the N-25 and the L-3166 at Knockateemore for walking and cycling links locally.

However, we would like to point out that security of the homes that are located between the L-3166 and the N25 is a concern. Some of these homes, would if the pathway is re-instated, directly adjoin the pathway with no screening between these homes and the pathway. Some of these homes are occupied by retirees who have concerns regarding home security. Lighting the pathway should be considered however this lighting should be sympathetic to wildlife by:

- Positioning lights as low as possible and aiming them downwards
- Fitting hoods over the light to reduce light pollution of the night sky
- Using PIR motion sensors or timers so the lights only come on when required
- Choosing low-intensity lighting and warmer hues (warm white, yellow or amber)

Furthermore, the pathway at present is a wildlife haven. Any potential for adverse impacts on wildlife due to the re-instating of

the pathway should be assessed prior to any works taking place and any such impacts avoided/mitigated. Any hedge cutting to re-instate the path or to maintain it must be avoided between 01st March to 31st August. The use of herbicides/weed killer with a potential to impact wildlife should be avoided in re-instating and maintaining the path.

To facilitate the aim to allow children in particular cycle or walk to for example Abbeyside GAA grounds a pedestrian crossing where the L-3166 joins the N-25 should be considered.

Yours Sincerely

For Jimmy Julie O'Donnell
Máire Keenan
Caroline Donnelly
Eada Donnelly

<p>Billy Hickey</p>	<p>I have been living on Knockateemore Boreen since 1995. In that time there has been a huge increase in the population of the area especially with the developments at Cruachan and River Lane.</p> <p>Consequently, the number of children wishing to access the GAA field of Abbeyside Ballinacourty has also increased in line with the increase of population.</p> <p>It only make sense that as much as possible is done to allow children make there way safely to the GAA field especially as the N25 was classified last September as the most dangerous road in Ireland.</p> <p>I support the proposal to develop the old access route towards the GAA Field from Knockateemore Boreen as outlined in your drawing and also suggest that provision is also made (traffic calming, pedestrian crossing) to allow the children to safely cross the N25.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>Billy Hickey</p>
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The Móinteán
Knockateemore
Dungarvan
Co. Waterford
August 2022

Councillor Seamus O'Donnell
Member, Waterford County Council

Re. 'Old Boreen', Knockateemore

Dear Councillor O'Donnell,

We are writing to request that the 'Old Boreen', an old right-of-way linking Knockateemore and the Burgery (opposite Abbeyside/Ballinacourty GAA grounds), be reopened and brought back into use by the County Council. At present, it is overgrown and in a state of neglect.

Many years ago when the 'Old Boreen' was still open, the children and adults living nearby used it widely for walking and cycling. It was a beautiful right-of-way through the fields, much loved and enjoyed by all who knew it, with its grassy surface, high ditches on either side, and many intriguing twists and turns. For us children, it was a wonderworld. Exiting the boreen at the Burgery was like emerging from a magical medieval pathway and re-entering, mysteriously, our normal, everyday lives of family, school, games and farm. In a word, we loved the 'Old Boreen', and although now 'full of years', we still talk and reminisce about our childhood adventures there. It is now sad for us to see it so neglected.

When we were young the older generation used to tell us that the boreen was an old Mass path and this added to its status and importance as a right-of-way used by the people when their faith, and indeed their very lives, were under grave threat. The boreen also has a well and we were told that it was important to keep it open and accessible.

We have great affection for the 'Old Boreen'. Although now scattered throughout the country, we always talk about it when we meet at family occasions, as you would talk about a good, kind, trusted old neighbour. The environment makes us and in many ways, the 'Old Boreen' and the lands around it, have made us.

In our conversations about our old friend, we now envisage the 'Old Boreen' as a potentially superb part of Dungarvan's walking and leisure infrastructure. With little expenditure, it could be part of a delightful walking route taking in Dungarvan/Abbeyside, the Burgery, the 'Old Boreen', Knockateemore Boreen, and back to Dungarvan via Strandside North (with its very welcome new footpath). The key to such a development is bringing the 'Old Boreen' back into use for walkers. The boreen would also be the route's unique selling point.

We feel sure that walkers will get the same enjoyment and the same health benefits from the 'Old Boreen' as we did.

We would be very grateful if the Council would consider this proposal regarding the 'Old Boreen'.

Yours sincerely,

Kay Mc Keenan
Patsy Mc Keenan
Frank Cogan
Lindy Mason
Ellen Bee.
MARION KIELY-
Jim Kiely
Ann McGrath
Bob Dee
KEVIN DEE
Damien Dee
Alan Tracy
Maura Tracy
Michael Kiely
Marian Kiely
Edel Walsh
Vera Collins
Evan Collins
David Collins
Niamh Collins
Eimear Collins
Claire Mickey
Billy Hickey

David Mickey
John Callender
Deirdre Callender
Stephen Callender
Shane Callender
Pauline Cogan
Maurice Kiely
Roger Kiely
Angela Kiely
Caitriona Kiely
Charlotte Catty
Faith Catty
Mary Kief.
Siobhán Kief
Niamh Kiely
Sei o'Boora
Mary Power
Patrick Halpin
Merton Hickey
Claire Hickey
Ann Silva
ANITA COMANESCO
May Lacey
Louise O'Mahony
Catherine Nugent

Michael Nugent
Michael Gerard Nugent Weber E&F

Susan Nugent

Richard Nugent

Brian Keenan

Niamh O'Mahony

John Keenan

Scán Kiely

Touss Kiely

Noelle Hayes

Maire O'Driscoll

Willie O'Driscoll

Susan Kiely

DEIAN Kiely

DI Kiely

Pat Power

Colette Power

Recommendation:

Following the public consultation there appears to be broad support for this proposal. However, the following points have been raised during the consultation:

- A number of submissions identified a requirement for a pedestrian crossing at the path's junction with the N25 - allowing access to the residential areas to the east and the GAA club.
- A requirement for the installation of bollards to control access & resurfacing on the boreen was identified by several submissions.
- That consideration be given to the installation of public lighting on the route was also raised during the consultation process.
- That appropriate measures be taken to maintain & protection the existing biodiversity in the area was raised during the consultation process.
- Security issues and privacy issues were raised by several residents as part of their submission.

We now intend to seek funding of deliver this scheme and progress to detailed design. This will require further engagement with residents in the area, particularly with those living immediately next to the proposed route.

We would like to thank everyone who made a submission on this consultation.

James Murray
Senior Engineer, Active Travel
07th November 2022