

TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF WATERFORD

Re: Section 38 Road Traffic Act 1994 – Active Travel Scheme
Cheekpoint Village – New Footpath & Pedestrian Crossing

The following proposed Active Travel scheme was advertised for public consultation from Tuesday 31st May to Monday 27th June, 2022, inviting submissions before Monday 11th July 2022.

- Construction of a new Footpath (approx. 95m) and Pedestrian Crossing on Cheekpoint Road (L4082) between Russianside Crossroads and Cheekpoint Park.
- As part of the Active Travel works in the area, the objective is to improve walking routes, improve connections to existing public amenities and create a safe route and crossing point into the park and playground

Submissions:

Nine submissions were received during the statutory consultation period.

Submission No. 1 – Anthony Rogers

This submission objects to the scheme, suggesting that the proposal is aimed at people (and children) from outside the area who wish to use the playground, and not for local residents.

Other main points raised are:

- Cars parked on Marion Terrace footpath and bends on Back Road
- Need for footpath from the Crossroads to Village.
- Incorrect labelling of roads by the Council.
- Cutting back sides of roads to encourage walking in Cheekpoint.

Response to Submission No. 1

This proposal aims to encourage active travel for local residents, including local children who travel regularly from the school to the park and playground. It is proposed install public lighting along the footpath in the park.

The issue of cars parking on the footpath at Marian Terrace will be forwarded to the relevant department.

The issue of hedge cutting in the area will be forwarded to the relevant department.

Submission No. 2 – Avril Bowe

This submission welcomes the proposal highlighting the increased safety for children as a result of the scheme.

Response to Submission No. 2

Submission is noted.

Submission No. 3 – James St Ledger

This submission suggests that there is more of a need for a footpath down to Marion Terrace than what is being proposed. It also suggested that the proposed location of the scheme is dangerous with children playing ball games and dogs in the playground/playing field. There is also a concern that someone who might fall would not be seen for some time.

Response to Submission No. 3

To extend the proposed footpath to Marian Terrace may require the acquisition of private lands due to the available road width and the existing road alignment. However, the suggestion is noted and will be taken into consideration.

Submission No. 4 – Rosanna Bullon

This submission suggests that the proposal is only of benefit for people who use the playground and that a proposal should be looked at from the shop to the village, highlighting a health and safety issue with the bend on the road.

Response to Submission No. 4

This proposal aims to encourage active travel for local residents, particularly local children who travel regularly from the school to the park and playground. It is proposed install public lighting along the footpath in the park.

To extend the proposed footpath along the road to the village may require the acquisition of private lands due to the existing road width and alignment. However, the suggestion is noted and will be taken into consideration.

Submission No. 5 – Susan Jacob

This submission welcomes the proposal highlighting the improved safety for pedestrians in the area.

Response to Submission No. 5

Submission is noted.

Submission No. 6 – Susan & Gerard O Connor

This submission raises the following concerns in relation to the scheme:

- Move proposed entrance away from existing ditch and towards new wall to eliminate privacy issues.
- Retain existing tree on path.
- Stone finish to wall preferred to block wall, concern that children will climb over the wall if too low.
- Existing issue with drain at Snow Hill and new footpath, raised footpath suggested with new drain to reduce the issue.
- Potential privacy issues of new footpath's proximity to house.
- Need for footpath on opposite side of the road, reducing privacy issues.
- Maintenance assurances sought.
- Is original opening to park to remain open or closed?

Response to Submission No. 6

The exact location of the entrance can be agreed at detailed design stage and the concern for privacy is noted.

It is our intention to retain as much of the existing trees and shrubs as possible. The wall can be finished with a stone face if this is preferred by the residents of Snowhill View.

The drainage issue at the end of the estate can be accommodated as part of the works. Repairs to the existing footpaths within the estate can also be included.

To extend the proposed footpath to Marian Terrace may require the acquisition of private lands due to the existing road width and alignment. However, the suggestion is noted and will be taken into consideration.

Submission No. 7 – Theresa Sullivan

This submission relates to monitoring the stability of a section of raised footpath and road at Coolbunnia, Cheekpoint, and the possibility of construction vehicles causing additional stability issues.

Response to Submission No. 7

Your submission will be forwarded to the relevant department dealing with this matter.

Submission No. 8 – Anonymous

This submission raises the following concerns in relation to the scheme:

- Privacy issues by creating access to Snow Hill View.
- Removing existing stone wall and green screening.
- Children accessing main road from Avenue.
- Light from Belisha beacons into residential properties.
- Cars potentially parking at Crossroads, creating a hazard.
- Potential issue with cars braking at proposed crossing.
- Need for scheme & existing issues with footpaths and drainage.

Suggestion to create footpath between Mount Avenue and shop.

Response to Submission No. 8

This proposal aims to retain the privacy of Snowhill View by building a new wall and planting new hedges/shrubs to replace those that are removed – in consultation with residents.

The Belisha beacons will be installed so that the lights are aimed at the traffic and not directly in view of your property. We are happy to consult with residents before and during any construction process.

Signs and road markings, along with the proposed crossing, aims to encourage reduced speeds on this section of road.

The drainage issue at the end of the estate can be accommodated as part of the works. Repairs to the existing footpaths within the estate can also be included.

To extend the proposed footpath to Marian Terrace may require the acquisition of private lands due to the existing road width and alignment. However, the suggestion is noted and will be taken into consideration.

Submission No. 9 – Laurence Condon

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

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

This submission welcomes the proposal however highlights the following points:

- Bollards be incorporated on the new footpath to prevent cars parking on it.
- Will the proposed footpath be constructed with concrete making it accessible to wheelchair users, as well as the existing footpath in the park?
- Will the proposed belisha beacons be run during set times to avoid potential light pollution to residents?
- Will there be any site meetings with residents about the proposed works (some works may be required in relation to existing fences, hedging and drainage)?

Response to Submission No. 9

Your comments regarding the lack of accessibility due to uncontrolled parking has been noted. We will consider what measures can be put in place to maintain accessibility on the existing footpaths.

The proposed footpath will be of concrete construction and accessible to wheelchair users. The Park footpath will be of suitable material so that it is also accessible.

The light from the Belisha beacons will be directed at the traffic and should not cause nuisance to residents.

Meetings with affected residents will take place prior to any works commencing.

Recommendation:

We note that there is appetite for a new footpath from the cross to Marian Terrace. Delivery of this could be complicated due to the possible acquisition of private property to facilitate same. That said, the suggestions are noted, and the feasibility of the footpath will be explored.

It is now proposed that the scheme proceed to procurement and construction.

Your approval to proceed with the scheme is recommended and requested.

Fergus Galvin
Director of Services
Roads, Water and Environment
11th July 2022

Submission No. 1

I wish to object to the proposed footpath from Cheekpoint Crossroads to playground, Dobbyn's Field. I think it is a ridiculous plan and not aimed at the majority of residents (who are getting on in years) of Cheekpoint, but for people who drive here to the playground from other places with their Children, parking on the footpath at Marian Terrace (which I was told by two members of Council Roads dept. would be sorted two years ago) and on the bends on the Back Road down to the Village. People who live in Marian Terrace would have to go down the road to use new footpath to go up the road. Are you proposing that Cheekpoint residents would have to go through Dobbyn's Field on dark winter evenings/nights to go up or down to the village. No, I think most residents would always walk up the road using that dangerous bend below the Reading Room.

I believe if this footpath goes ahead we will never get a proper footpath from the Crossroads to the Village (especially if the proposed fifty houses are built in the village) linking with Marian Terrace footpath as the road is dangerous and full of bends.

Also I noticed you have the road on the left at the Crossroads labelled Snowhill View. ,This is wrong as the road has always been called The (Barrack) Street reflecting its history. Snowhill View is the Housing estate off it.

I have noticed that the Council gets a lot of local road names wrong, especially as Google maps have most of the Cheekpoint roads labelled wrong.

As part of Active Travel maybe cutting the side of the roads into and around Cheekpoint would be a very good way to encourage people to walk and cycle the roads as they are very overgrown and dangerous as one who does both has knowledge of.

Yours faithfully,
Anthony Rogers

Submission No. 2

Good afternoon

I would like to support the plans proposed for the Footpath and Pedestrian crossing in Cheekpoint as per plans in Consultation.

As a parent of two children who live between the school and the playground, this is of huge benefit to us. The safety of our children is of the utmost importance. A safe crossing en route to the park/playground is well overdue and plans are take into consideration the busy road, the lovely entrance to the park and the mine of sight for Pedestrians and motorists alike. This will allow them to safely walk more in the village to and from park and school. It compliments other path infrastructure completed over the past number of years.

We are happy to support this project

Avril Bowe

Submission No. 3

Dear Sir,

Regarding the proposed footpath for the village of Cheekpoint I fail to understand why the footpath is not being brought down to join the existing path at Marian Terrace and The Mount. This path is badly needed for access to the shop and then continued down to the village and the quay. There are a lot of older people living in this area who every day are being forced to walk on the road competing with cars. There seems to be no understanding for the safety of these people.

I myself and my wife have difficulty walking and, in my wife's case it is very likely that she might have to consider using a mobility scooter. The lack of a footpath would leave her housebound as it would not be an option to go on the public road. Surely safety for residents has to be the first concern. Unfortunately since the children's playing fields were established we experience large volumes of traffic with a continuous stream of visitors to these play areas.

The proposal to put this footpath through a playground and a playing field seems to me to be ridiculous and frankly dangerous with children, dogs and ball games (like football and hurling) flying around all over the place. Surely this will in no way be a serious consideration for senior citizens residing in the village. Also on a winter's afternoon/evening should someone have a fall they would not be seen from the road and could be there for some time.

I trust that the above concerns will be given serious consideration.

Regards,

James St.Ledger

Submission No. 4

Dear Sir,

I'm concerned that the new footpath in Cheekpoint is only for the benefit of people using the play area. What we need is a footpath on the roadway from the shop to the village especially going around dangerous bends.

Elderly people myself included will not walk through a play area with children running around or use it during dark winter evenings.

This is a health and safety issue and it's only a matter of time before someone has an accident on the bend leading up to the shop.

I couldn't understand why the Council put in a pavement to accommodate the residents if Faithlegg but didn't do the same for the residents of Cheekpoint.

I trust the Council will rethink the layout of this pavement.

Yours faithfully,

Rosanna Bullon.

Waterford City and County Council, City Hall, The Mall, Waterford.
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Phort Láirge, Halla na Cathrach, An Meal, Port Láirge

Submission No. 5

Dear Ian,

With regard to the Council's proposal to install the above footpath, I would like to propose that this project would proceed for the following reasons:

This is a busy junction and a pedestrian crossing would make it safer for all who walk this road.

The road between the Crossroads & the park is particularly busy as so many children walk/run down from the shop to the park and a footpath would make it much safer for them.

It would safely complete the footpath all the way from Faithlegg Church & Faithlegg House Hotel to the park.

Regards & Thanks,

Susan Jacob

Submission No. 6

To Whom It May Concern,

We would like to suggest some changes to the new footpath and pedestrian crossing referenced above.

The new opening in the ditch and on to the pathway outside our house is being made directly opposite our door at the side of our home, people will be able to see straight into our kitchen. This is our main access door. We would like the new opening to be moved further up nearer to the proposed new wall giving access from Snowhill View to the pathway to the park. This would allow us to retain most of the ditch and hedge way directly below the proposed new access from the main road. We have been told that the opening will only be a double buggy size. By keeping the ditch it would give us some privacy from the road and mean less road noise.

We would also like to keep the big tree which is already on the path.

Regarding the new walls, we are concerned that they will be just left as block walls. A stone face or similar finish would make them look presentable and in keeping with the area. We are also concerned that if the wall is too low that children will try to climb or jump them which would be a safety risk.

There is a drain by the junction of where Snow Hill View and the pathway will meet. This drain is supposed to take water from the road when it rains as the water pours down our driveway otherwise. Unfortunately it has not been doing the job sufficiently and it needs attention. As our footpath is low it runs directly down our driveway and removes the cement from our drive which we need to keep replacing. We would suggest that the footpath is raised and that a new drain is put in place to take the water away properly. Otherwise the rain will gather at the new proposed wall and run even worse into our driveway which is a significant concern for us.

We would expect that the new pathway will be kept as much as possible away from our wall and further in the direction of the current ditch to allow us some privacy. The planting of some decorative trees and shrubs would also help to maintain our privacy.

Why was the footpath not planned for the other side of the road? The footpath would run along by the community hall, and the other street footpaths are on that side of the road. It also would not impact anyone's privacy. The pedestrian crossing could be down by Marian Terrace which would be much safer as the road is wider and traffic slows there.

We would like information regarding and assurance about the maintenance of any new wall, footpath or greenery.

Is the original opening into the park area on the corner just below our home to remain open or be closed? Why is that one not being used?

We would like to meet with the relevant project manager for this project (Ian Ludlow/Fergus Galvin both named on the sketch) to discuss these concerns before any work is started on the scheme.

Kindest Regards

Susan and Gerard O Connor

Submission No. 7

Ian,

I would like to have the following observation noted in relation to the construction of a new Footpath (approx. 95m) and Pedestrian Crossing on Cheekpoint Road (L4082) between Russianside Crossroads and Cheekpoint Park.

Background:

For some time now, questions have been raised relating to the stability of the elevated section of footpath and the L4082 road alongside this section of footpath in Coolbunna, Cheekpoint on the main and only road into Cheekpoint. Assurances were given relating to its current stability but no information provided relating to its previous condition from 2018/2019 onwards, raising concerns regarding its future stability. As previously informed to officials in Waterford City and County Council (WCCC), concerns have been outlined relating to my family homes and land, situated on this main road above this section of road and footpath. Due to damage occurring to same, monitoring is in place and ongoing as cause is not yet established. We, therefore, have grave concerns relating to an increase in heavy goods vehicles (HGV) entering the village for future construction works, should the weight of these vehicles cause further disturbance to this section of footpath and road and/or our homes and land.

In going forward:

As a result, my questions are to WCCC Planning Authority and/or other relevant sections of WCCC:

- We have been informed that this road is the responsibility of the local authority (WCCC) and not Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). Will monitoring of this section of main road and footpath take place during this development?
- If movement is detected, what will WCCC do to act upon this?
- What measures would be in place to monitor our homes and land and, should anything untoward occur, what steps undertaken?
- Who is the named planner responsible?

Sent for and on behalf of my family.

Regards,

Theresa Sullivan

Submission No. 8

A Chara

I am a resident at no [REDACTED] and feel any development or change to the end of my Avenue will have an impact on all of the avenue and indeed to Motorists and pedestrians of the whole Village. I do not think breaking a new entrance into Snow Hill View for the sake of of the active travel scheme is in the best interest of the residents of this Avenue. This is a quite Avenue closed off from the main road with a screen of privacy from a natural hedgerow, there are mature trees growing and numerous young beech trees have been planted here in recent years there is also a dry stone wall that begins here and surrounds the whole Park which took 5 years to build and cost thousands of Euros

* the proposal would tear down this natural dry stone wall and trees to build a wall of whatever material is affordable to the council at time, taking away the green screening we have from the main road

* safety of children running onto the main road from the Avenue that has always been a safe place to play is an issue, lots of grand children visit here and play on the avenue.

* the flashing lights from the Belisha beacons are directly in view of windows on the lower side of of the Avenue these windows are of bedroom and living room areas. I invite a member of the planning team to come visit my home and to guarantee me that I won't have flashing lights in my bedroom window or in my view as I sit in my living room.

* will people going to the park then abandon their cars at the crossroads if there is a new entrance close by making the already dangerous Crossroads a hazard

* I have made it my business to stand on the side of the road of the proposed crossing. I observed cars coming around the lower bend at a speed that would Deem braking hard necessary at this crossing.

* there are already four other openings to the park. no one in checkpoint has asked for this development, but they have asked for repair of existing footpaths, for example the footpath in snowhill view has not been touched since the houses were built 40 years ago, and is in bad repair, chippings from it are constantly blocking drains resulting now in flooding at the front of my house which i have to go out in torrential rain to sweep away from my front door.

For all these points I would ask you to consider an alternative. The people of Cheekpoint have been asking for a continuation of the existing footpath from the Mount Avenue to the shop at the crossroads for many years, the road is dangerous for pedestrians from where the footpath ends. It would be in line with the active travel Ethos providing a safe walk down to the entrance of the park from the crossroads through the park and into the village you could also go further along the footpath and access the Strand. The existing entrance on the Dangerous bend under Snow Hill View could be closed to stop crossing from the footpath there. From the gated entrance of the park there is a clear View up and down the road from either side that local people enter and exit from already without issue, there could be slowing of traffic here with signage.

I hope this project will not be ploughed through without thought for the needs of the residents here and I look forward to contact from you over specifically the issue I have with the beacons location affecting my well being in my own home.

Yours Sincerely

Submission No. 9

Hi Ian,

The construction of a new footpath with pedestrian crossing in Cheekpoint village is a much needed and very welcome addition to the current footpath infrastructure. My family live in the house on the Crossroads adjacent to the proposed new footpath and have a son who is a wheelchair user. We would ask that the use of bollards on the new footpath be incorporated, as was done at the Faithlegg school crossing, so as to prevent the footpath being used as a car parking facility and preventing the intended pedestrian use of the footpath. This has been a particular problem at the Crossroads and on the opposite side of the road outside the shop, where it has constant obstructions on the footpath from cars parked on it, to pallets being stored on it. This situation makes it impossible to navigate with a wheelchair or a child's buggy and forces people out into the road, when there is a perfectly good footpath there for pedestrian use!

Also, will the new footpaths be constructed of concrete all the way into the Park (shown on your map in yellow) and the existing footpath in the park (shown on your map in green) be fully accessible to disabled users? As the Park is not currently accessible to these users! The proposed Belisha beacons, are these to be 24 hour flashing lights or will they be set to daytime and evening use only? The reason for this would be the light pollution caused during the night that will affect those living around them!

On a personal note, will you be making contact with myself to discuss the proposed works, as my family will be directly affected by these works and to establish if I can be of any assistance to you in the construction of the new footpath next to our property? i.e., the removal of existing hedge and fencing! Also, you may need to take into account the addition of a pipe under the proposed footpath for future connection to the mains sewage scheme for this dwelling house, so as not to affect the footpath going forward.

Looking forward to seeing this happen and to hearing from you.

Yours Thankfully,

Laurence Condon & Family.