

Greenway

WEST CORK GREENWAY - BANDON SECTIONS

Public Consultation No.1 Report



IE000864

A01 C01

30 September 2024

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Project Objectives	1
2	PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS.....	3
2.1	Purpose of this report.....	3
2.2	Overview	3
2.3	Promotion of the Public Consultation	4
2.3.1	Presentation to Elected Representatives	4
2.3.2	Press Release / Media Coverage	4
2.3.3	Newspaper Advertisements	5
2.3.4	Postcard / Leaflet Drop	5
2.3.5	Social Media	6
2.4	Communications Channels	6
2.4.1	Project Website.....	6
2.5	Public Information Event	6
3	PUBLIC CONSULTATION FEEDBACK	8
3.1	Overview	8
3.2	Feedback Received	8
3.2.1	Quantifiers used in this Report	10
3.2.2	Note on Data Privacy	10
3.3	Feedback by Theme	11
3.3.1	Project Need	11
3.3.2	Safety.....	12
3.3.3	Locations to be Served by the Greenway.....	13
3.3.4	Existing Walking and Cycleways	15
3.3.5	Commuting.....	15
3.3.6	Issues and Concerns	17
3.3.7	Environment and Biodiversity	19
3.3.8	Tourism	20
4	NEXT STEPS	21
4.1	Indicative Project Timeline	22

Tables

Table 1 - Submissions from local groups and businesses	9
Table 2 - Quantifiers	10
Table 3 - Locations suggested to be served by the Greenway	13

Figures

Figure 1 - Project objectives	1
Figure 2 - Project study area	2
Figure 3 - Public consultation overview	3
Figure 4 - Sample media coverage	4
Figure 5 - Sample of newspaper advertisement.....	5
Figure 6 - Sample social media posts	6
Figure 7 - Images from the public consultation events at Bandon and Clonakilty	7
Figure 8 - Locations in the study area where stakeholder said they lived.....	8
Figure 9 - Responses in relation to how stakeholders heard about the Greenway and public consultation	9
Figure 10 - Current issues stakeholders see with walking, wheeling or cycling.....	12
Figure 11 - Locations stakeholders said they would like the Greenway to go	13
Figure 12 - Locations in the study area that stakeholders work.....	16
Figure 13 - Stakeholders reasons for walking, wheeling or cycling	16
Figure 14 - Concerns stakeholders have in relation to the development of a future Greenway	17
Figure 15 - Indicative Project Timeline	22

Appendices

Appendix A	
A.1 Newspaper Advertisement	
Appendix B	
B.1 Public Consultation Postcard	
Appendix C	
C.1 Public Consultation Printed Leaflet	
Appendix D	
D.1 Public Consultation Event Displays	
Appendix E	
E.1 Feedback Form	

1 INTRODUCTION

Cork County Council are in the early stages of developing a greenway between Crossbarry, Bandon and Clonakilty with a link to Timoleague. The West Cork Greenway – Bandon Sections project is funded by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). RPS has been appointed by Cork County Council to provide multi-disciplinary consultancy services to progress the project through the design and planning stages, following Phases 1-4 of the TII Project Management Guidelines.

The project is currently at Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility. The purpose of Phase 1 is to develop and investigate in further detail the feasibility of the project, to identify a suitable study area for the examination of preliminary options and to implement the project management structure.

RPS is currently working on Phase 1 concept and feasibility for the West Cork Greenway – Bandon Section. As part of Phase 1 a study area was identified and a non-statutory public consultation to inform and engage with the general public and key stakeholders. Phase 1 also identifies the project objectives which feeds into the public consultation process. The public consultation on the study area took place between 13th May and 14th June 2024 inclusive.

1.1 Project Objectives

The key objectives of this project are to provide a greenway which is sustainable, accessible, safe and attractive for locals and visitors. In achieving these objectives, the project will facilitate:

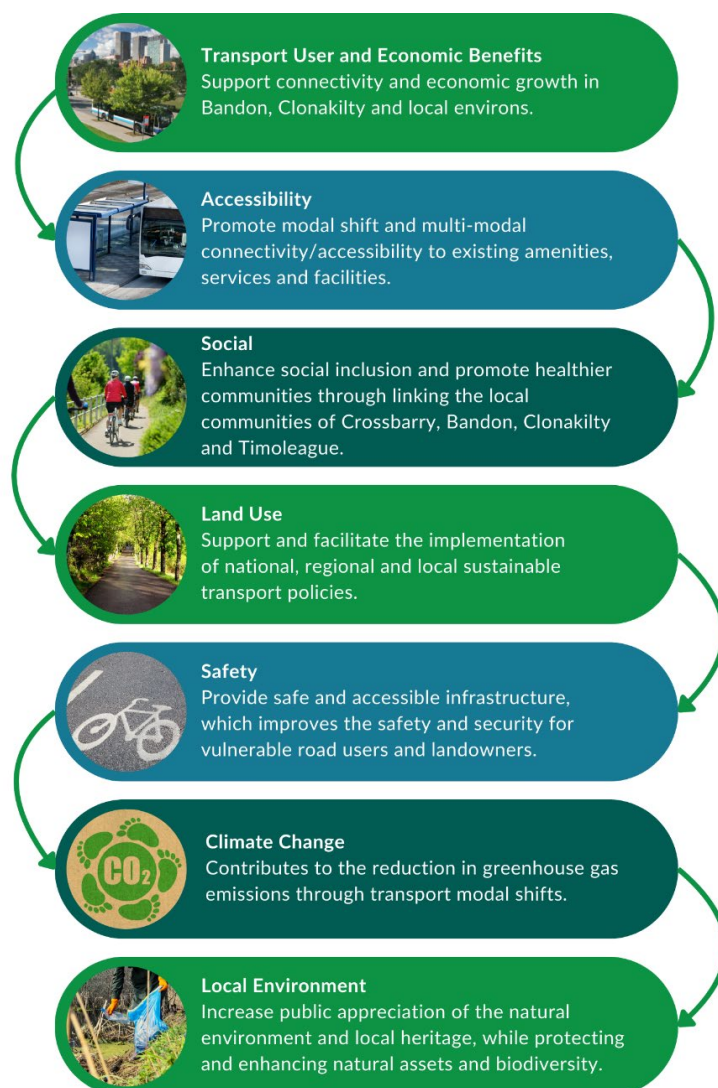


Figure 1 - Project objectives



Figure 2 - Project study area

2 PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS

2.1 Purpose of this report

The objective of this report is to detail the public consultation process and to record the feedback given during the first non-statutory public consultation for the West Cork Greenways Bandon Sections project. This early public consultation aimed to generate awareness of the project with local communities around the project study area and get feedback on the project proposals.

2.2 Overview

The public consultation for the project was held from 13th May to 14th June 2024. This section outlines the consultation process and the tools and channels used to generate awareness of the consultation. The figure below details the engagement with the project team during the consultation. The public consultation allows the project team to understand the views of the public, their expectations of the project, to harness their local knowledge and to explain the project to them.



Figure 3 - Public consultation overview

2.3 Promotion of the Public Consultation

This section outlines the consultation process and the tools and channels used to generate awareness of the project in advance of the consultation.

2.3.1 Presentation to Elected Representatives

A presentation to local elected representatives from the study area was made on 3rd May 2024 prior to the commencement of the public consultation period. The presentation covered the project, its objectives, timelines, the study area, and the upcoming public consultation. This presentation took place in-person in Clonakilty and was well received and welcomed by members.

2.3.2 Press Release / Media Coverage

A press release was issued to local and national news outlets by Cork County Council to announce the launch of the public consultation. Following the release, online and local media outlets covered the launch of the public consultation including the three below; The Southern Star, The Echo Live.ie and Agriland who published a stories about the public consultation on their websites.

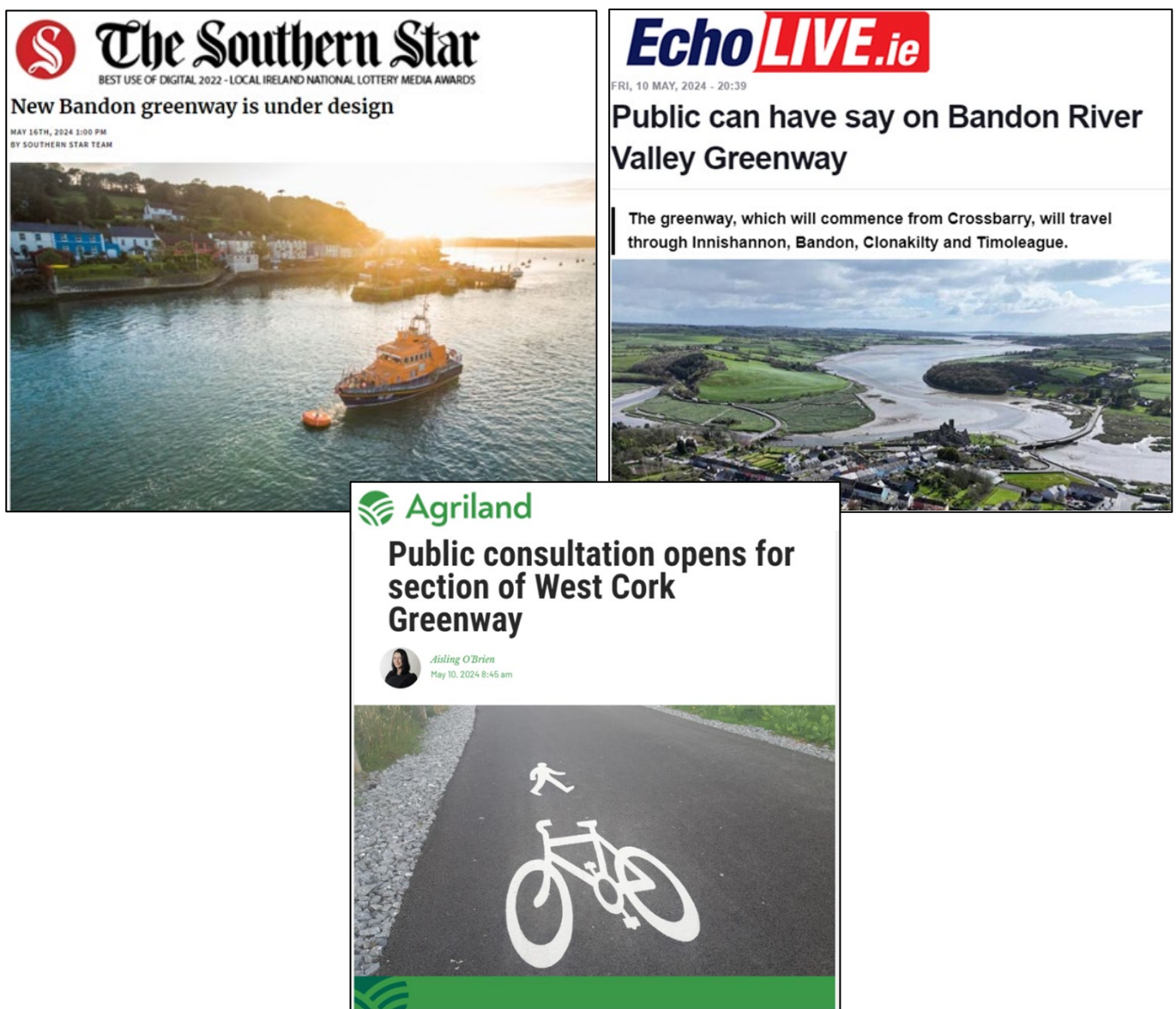


Figure 4 – Sample media coverage

2.3.5 Social Media

To further promote the consultation, Cork County Council used its social media channels to issue updates on the consultation process. Posts were made on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn at the beginning of the consultation and on 31st May, 6th June and 11th June.

An example of the Facebook and Instagram posts can be seen below. At the time of writing, the Cork County Council Facebook page has 41,000 likes and its Instagram page has 7,080 followers.

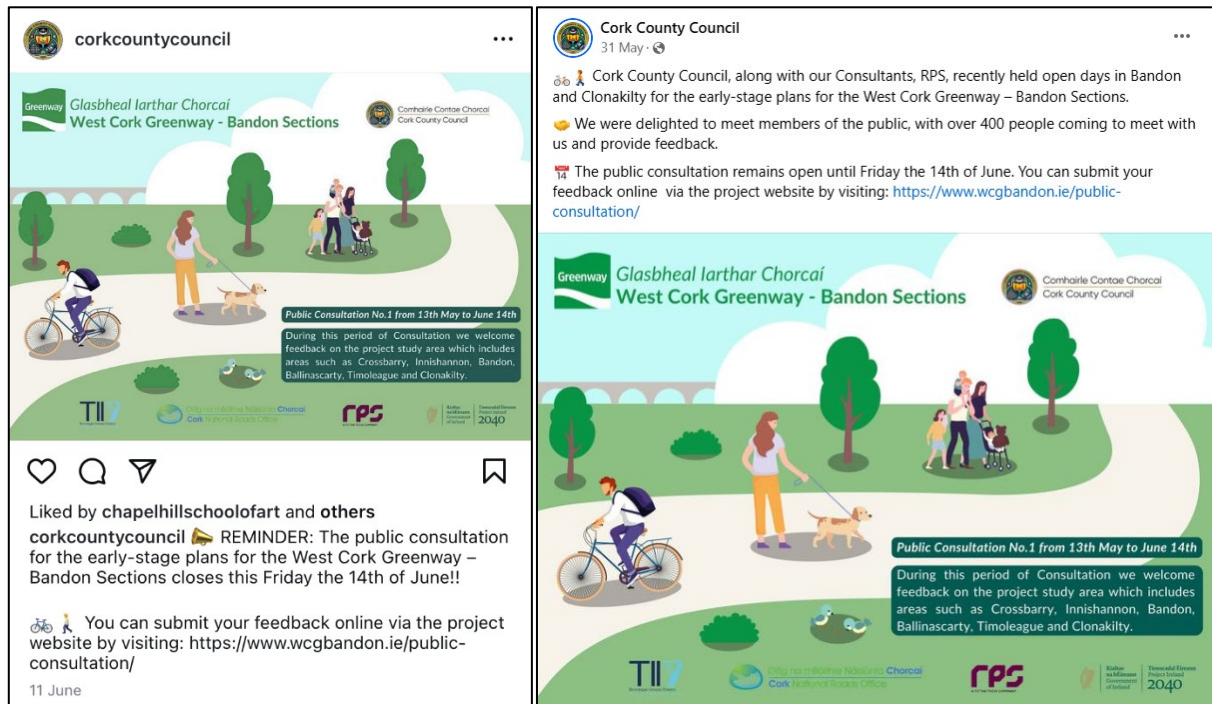


Figure 6 - Sample social media posts

2.4 Communications Channels

2.4.1 Project Website

A project website www.wcgbandon.ie was created to make project information easily accessible for all stakeholders.

The website provides the opportunity to view all published information and be kept up to date with the project as it develops. All public consultation materials, mapping and other documents that the project publishes will be available on the website to access. The project website during periods of consultation will also offer stakeholders the opportunity to submit feedback on the project through an online form. The website offers stakeholders who cannot attend engagement events in person the opportunity to learn about the project. The project team contact details can be found on the website for anyone with specific queries and questions.

Over the course of the public consultation the website attracted 138 visitors.

A QR code printed in the newspaper advertisements and gave direct access to the project website.

2.5 Public Information Event

Public consultation events are an important part of the engagement process. They provide members of the public with an opportunity to meet with the project team, learn about the proposed project, ask questions and discuss the project.

The project team held two public consultation events during the consultation in Bandon Town Hall on Tuesday 21st May 2024 and in O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty on Wednesday 22nd May 2024. Both events were held from 2-8pm. More than 400 members of the public attended the consultation events.

Public Consultation Findings Report

Public information events also enable the project team to harness local knowledge and identify opportunities / constraints in relation to the project.

Project leaflets and maps of the study area were made available for stakeholders to view and take away. The leaflet available at the information events can be seen in **Appendix C** of this document. The Public Consultation questionnaire was also available at the information events.

The Public Consultation Event Display materials can be seen in **Appendix D** of this document.

Images from the public consultation events are below.



Figure 7 - Images from the public consultation events at Bandon and Clonakilty

3 PUBLIC CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

3.1 Overview

This section summarises the submissions received during the consultation. All feedback received during the consultation has been considered, including emails and feedback forms from both in person and online submission.

The project team would like to thank everyone for taking the time to learn about the West Cork Greenway – Bandon Sections project and for submitting feedback.

3.2 Feedback Received

An online form was made available on the project website to enable stakeholders to submit feedback directly to project team. The feedback form asked respondents for their views on the greenway project. In total, 245 submissions were received. The feedback received is categorised and summarised in Section 3.3 below.

The feedback form can be seen in **Appendix E**.

The figure below shows the location within which submissions said they lived. The majority of submissions (120) said that they lived in Clonakilty and Environs. The next largest response was from Bandon and Environs (34).

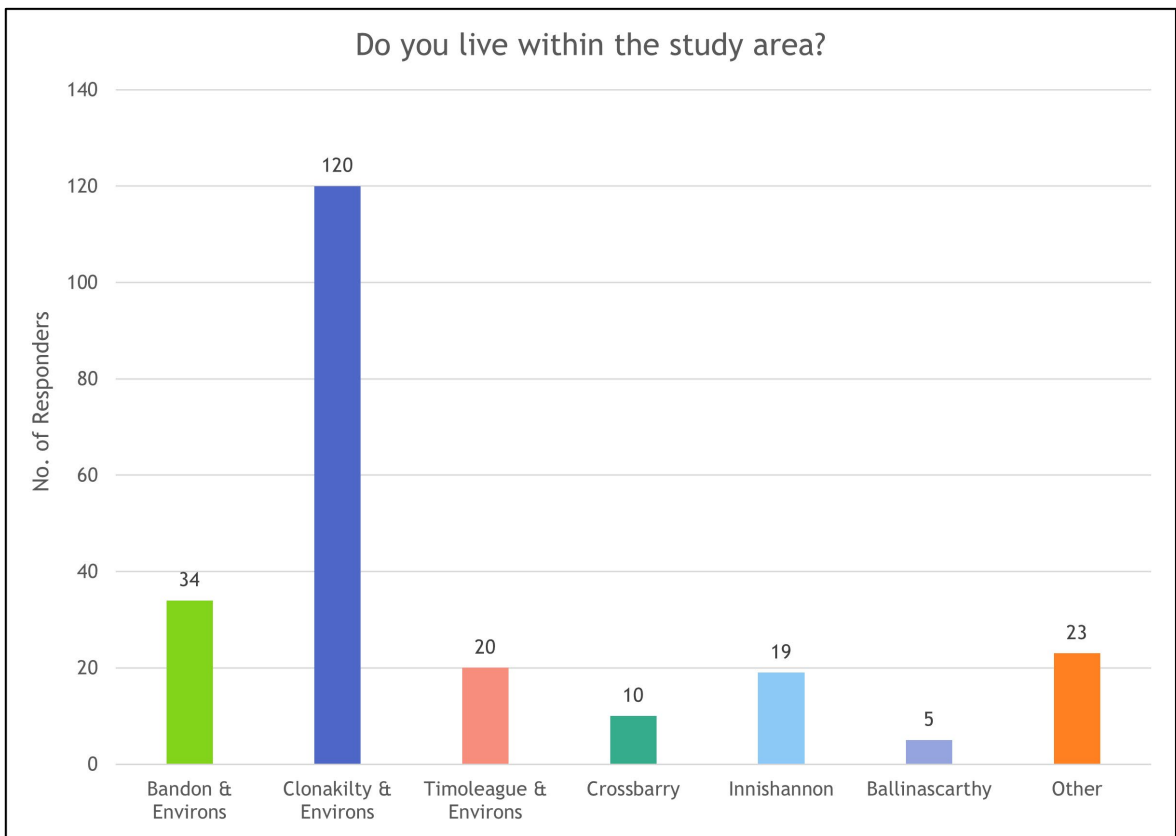


Figure 8 - Locations in the study area where stakeholder said they lived

Public Consultation Findings Report

A number of elected representatives gave feedback on the project over the course of the public consultation. The following groups and businesses made submissions to the consultation:

Submissions from local groups and businesses	
Bandon Connects	Inchydoney Residents Association
Bandon Environmental Group	Inchydoney Walkway Committee
Bandon Sustainable Energy Community	Inchydoney Island Lodge & Spa
Ballineen and Enniskeane Development Association	Inchydoney Surf School
Barryroe Walking Club	Innishannon Tidy Towns
Clonakilty Women's Shed	Innishannon Traffic Action Group
Courtmacsherry Community Shop Cooperative Society Limited	Keohane Readymix Ltd
Crossbarry Community Action Group	O'Donovans Hotel
Clonakilty Tidy Towns	St. Joseph's Girls NS
Cork Transport and Mobility Forum	Seven Heads Walk Committee
Courtmacsherry Development Association	Timoleague Tidy Towns
Foley's pub	Timoleague Community Association
	West Cork TREC

Table 1 - Submissions from local groups and businesses

The figure below shows that a large number of respondents (98) heard about the project on social media, and 94 heard about it via word of mouth. The next largest method was via posters.

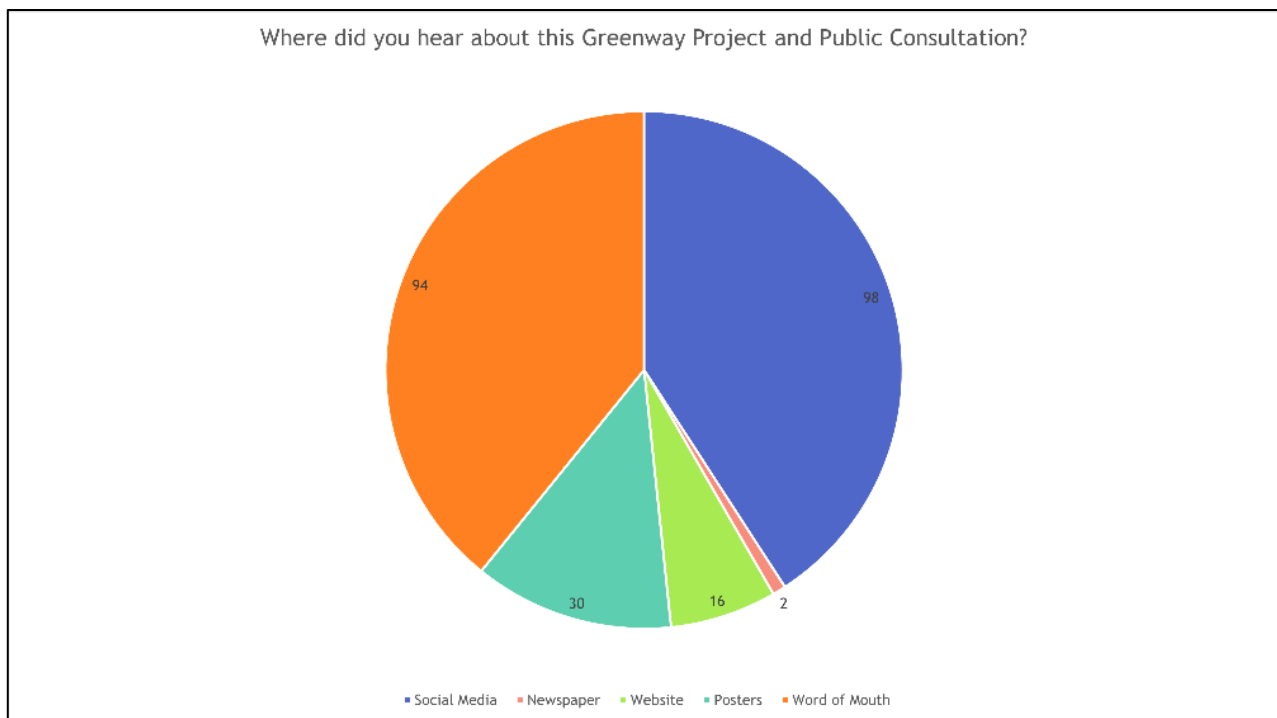


Figure 9 - Responses in relation to how stakeholders heard about the Greenway and public consultation

3.2.1 Quantifiers used in this Report

The following quantifiers are used in this section of the report to indicate the level of feedback received in relation to particular themes as raised during the public consultation process;

Quantity	Descriptor
1	A Respondent
2+	Several Respondents
10+	Multiple Respondents
20+	Many Respondents
123+	A Majority of Respondents

Table 2 - Quantifiers

3.2.2 Note on Data Privacy

In compliance with data protection regulations, the names of individuals who submitted questions or provided feedback have not been published. Feedback on behalf of businesses, groups and organisations is attributed.

3.3 Feedback by Theme

3.3.1 Project Need

Many submissions welcomed the proposed project and explained the benefits that it could bring to local communities, businesses, and tourists. Stakeholders made suggestions to aid in its development including listing local areas that the greenway should serve, users to be included and links to other existing walkways/greenways and disused railway lines. Calls for the greenway development to be expedited and planned appropriately were called for in responses. A few respondents commented that the greenway would significantly enhance health and well-being, attract tourists, and provide a valuable amenity for the area.

The proposed project was requested to include local historical sites and major population areas to maximise its use. Several respondents called for the project to improve safe access to Inchydoney, as submissions said it is currently a safety issue.

Some respondents shared concerns about the speed of the project's implementation. They referenced the success of existing greenways in the country as evidence of their positive impact in local areas.

One respondent said in relation to the project that “the benefits are endless” and requested that “when calculating the costs I hope we can look at not just what it costs to construct but the cost of not preserving our historical monuments” also stating that the cost on people's health by not providing safety shared green spaces would be significant.

Several submissions referenced the carbon emissions that could be reduced if the greenway is developed and serves employment areas.

A few submissions requested that a dog friendly park or recreation area be provided in Clonakilty and Bandon as part of the project.

The following were suggested in individual submissions;

- The connection of towns and villages such as Ballinascorthy, Clonakilty, Courtmacsherry, Bandon, Innishannon, Timoleague and Ballineen/Enniskeane.
- The project focuses on connecting the major population centres,
- A combination of Greenway and Rothar roads should be used in the project,
- That the Greenway provides infrastructure including toilets and rest stations,
- That the greenway utilises the old West Cork railway lines,
- The extension and improvement of existing walkways/footpaths
- That the greenway prioritises local communities rather than tourists,
- The inclusion of equestrian uses as part of the greenway,
- Consultation with local groups involved in cycling/walking,
- A separation between the walking and cycling side of the Greenway.

3.3.2 Safety

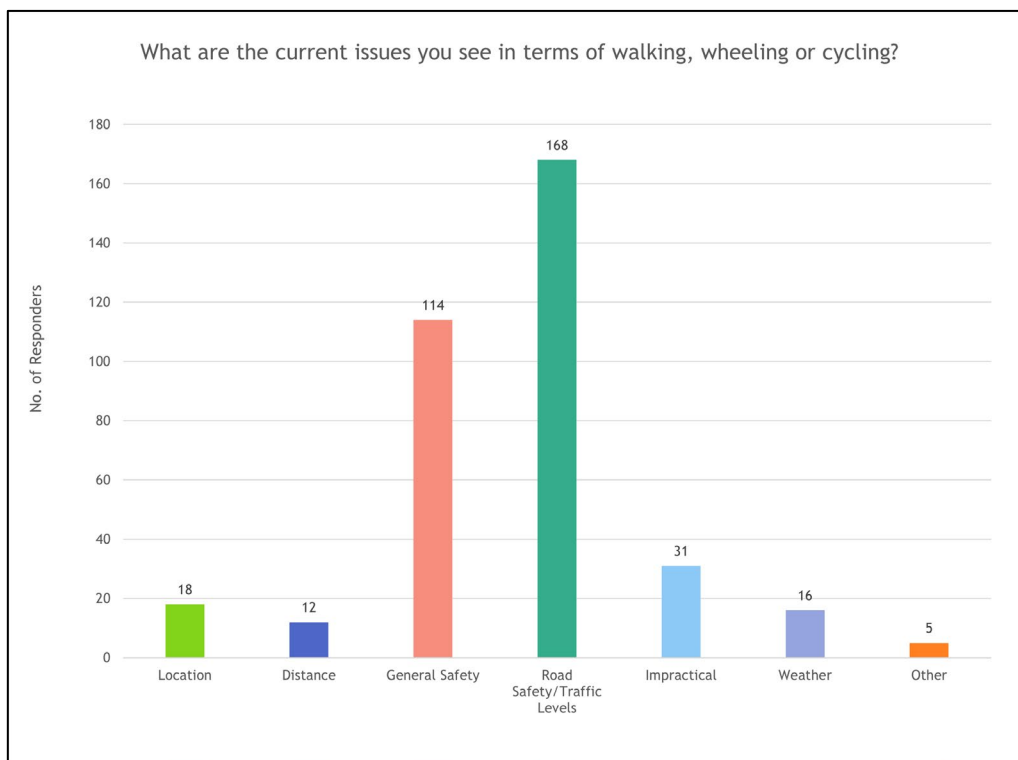


Figure 10 - Current issues stakeholders see with walking, wheeling or cycling

Safety issues were a reoccurring feature in many submissions. Stakeholders gave specific references to local roads and areas that they deemed were currently unsuitable for walking or cycling and suggested that the greenway enables people to move from these roads and use the greenway.

A number of submissions gave suggestion to the project to improve safety for walking/cycling, including the installation of lights along the greenway, segregated cycle and walking paths and the installation of speed bumps and traffic calming measures.

Several respondents expressed concern that the current roads are dangerous, especially for children walking or cycling to school. They mentioned that a dedicated Greenway would reduce the risk of accidents by providing a safe path and ensuring pedestrians use the correct side of the road.

Respondents with young children stressed the importance of safe walking and cycling routes for family activities with one stakeholder remarking “Also now my little girl is growing up there are very few places to take her for a safe walk or to go on a family cycle”.

A few submissions were also concerned about anti-social behaviour on the greenway and called for the project to consider methods to discourage this in its planning of the greenway.

There were a few calls in several submissions for the improvement of cycle lanes and footpaths in Crossbarry, Shannonvale, Innishannon and Clonakilty to keep pedestrians and cyclists safe while connecting local amenities.

The road to Inchydoney from Clonakilty, which submissions cited as a highly used road, was mentioned by several respondents as in need of safety improvements.

A few respondents highlighted the importance of safe access to the Greenway from nearby towns, as having to cycle on busy roads to reach the Greenway could be discouraging.

The figure below, taken from the public consultation questionnaire forms demonstrates that the majority of people who responded, saw safety as the key current issue with walking, wheeling and cycling. This can be seen with 168 citing Road Safety/Traffic Levels and 114 citing General Safety.

3.3.3 Locations to be Served by the Greenway

In submissions to the consultation, the following locations were suggested by respondents to connect to the proposed greenway:

Locations	
Ballinascarthy	Ballincarriga Castle
Ballineen	Chetwynd Viaduct
Clogheen	Clonakilty
Courtmacsherry	Dunmanway
Enniskeane	Gaggin
Inchydoney	Innishannon
Kilpatrick tunnel	Lis-na-con Iron Age fort in Darrara
MSD Brinny	Murragh
Ring	Seven Heads Peninsula
Timoleague	Shannonvale
West Cork Technology Park	Other West Cork Greenway Projects

Table 3 - Locations suggested to be served by the Greenway

The figure below, taken from the public consultation questionnaire, shows the responses to the question 'What location and place of interest would you like the greenway to go?' Although a large number of people, 175 would like the greenway to go to Beaches & Coastline Walkways, Towns/Village Centres was second with 136. Local school (both primary and secondary) was favoured by 115 people.

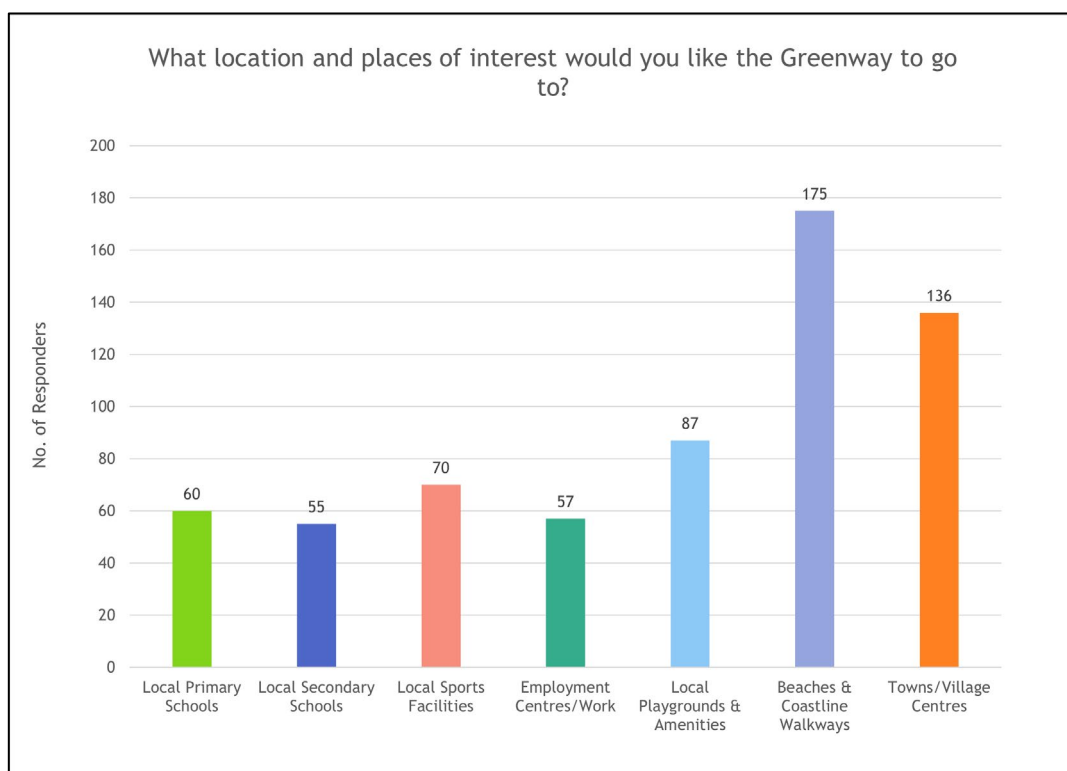


Figure 11 - Locations stakeholders said they would like the Greenway to go

Beaches and Coastline Walkways (175) and Towns/Village centres (136) were the two largest locations that people would most travel to in the study area.

Several respondents suggested extending the Bandon Greenway to include the proposed 'Bandon Valley Trail'. Another proposed a route between Bandon, Dunmanway, Innishannon, Clonakilty and Ballinascarthy. Respondents suggested incorporating local historic sites and existing infrastructure like the Clare O'Leary Walkway and the former railway line. A few respondents called on the proposed Greenway to focus on commuting in the local area instead of focusing on tourism purposes.

Some respondents from Enniskeane and Ballineen suggested expanding the study area to include Enniskeane/Ballineen which they said would improve access to local amenities like schools and playgrounds, local historical sites and address safety concerns. They supported extending the greenway to these villages and nearby areas. A greenway near the MSD plant was also proposed to ease rush hour traffic and to provide a link to the nearby scout campsite and sports facilities.

Submissions from Timoleague emphasised the importance to them of improving “the green transport link” between Clonakilty and Timoleague. They explained that the current road infrastructure is “extremely narrow” for cyclists and tourists, making it “extremely dangerous”.

Respondents made suggestions about the inclusion of Courtmacsherry in the scheme, with the Courtmacsherry Community Shop Cooperative Society Limited submitting that they are concerned that the project will exclude Courtmacsherry. Several respondents submitted that the Seven Heads walk should be included as part of the Greenway.

A few respondents mentioned the need for a continuous walkway/cycleway from Clonakilty to Ring, Courtmacsherry, Timoleague and Lisavaird. A submission on behalf of Clonakilty Women's Shed commended the proposed Greenway. Submissions suggested local facilities that could be improved to attract locals and tourists alike.

Respondents from Shannonvale put forward that connections to the West Cork Technology Park and the existing Joe Walsh walkway would provide safe pedestrian access to various areas of the community such as parks, sports clubs and local amenities.

Many submissions suggested that a safe, pedestrian and cycling friendly walkway to Inchydoney from Clonakilty should be provided. It was said by several respondents that this link should enable residents and tourists to visit local beaches, amenities and attractions.

Several respondents suggested creating a route from the Whale's Tail Roundabout to Inchydoney Strand, highlighting its potential as a tourist attraction and “local green-travel corridor”. They proposed using Waldaschaff Park as an access point and adding a pedestrian bridge for better accessibility. The Inchydoney Walkway Committee also suggested improving active travel between Inchydoney and Clonakilty. One respondent explained that a “short cut” used by locals for “hundreds of years” to access Inchydoney from Clonakilty should be preserved during this project. Another respondent proposed that if the greenway cannot be extended to Inchydoney that a bus route should be provided.

3.3.4 Existing Walking and Cycleways

Many respondents suggested that the use of existing infrastructure would enable the project to incorporate many local amenities, historic sites and be completed in a timely manner.

Several respondents suggested considering the re-instatement of the old tunnel at Kilbeg, with a potential bridge across the N71 to link with the existing Clare O'Leary Walk. They also recommended examining the viaduct at Ballinhassig for connecting the Bandon Greenway with the Cork to Kinsale Greenway route.

One respondent highlighted an exceptional walk along an old, unused mill race between Innishannon and the Council Pump Station north of the Bandon River. This route according to the submission passes local historical sites which could be of interest to greenway users.

One respondent said that the use of existing walkways can “deliver results quickly”. The use of the former railway line, the Joe Walsh walkway, the Clare O'Leary walkway and the Courtmacsherry Estuary walk were suggested for inclusion in the greenway project. Respondents also proposed routes and local sites that could be included in the greenway to attract and interest users.

In reference to Courtmacsherry, a few submissions said that the Courtmacsherry Estuary walk should be enhanced to a Greenway standard, as they said, “this is already a very popular walk, between Courtmacsherry and Timoleague”.

The extension of the Joe Walsh walkway was a recurring theme among submissions, with calls made for its expansion to Clonakilty, Ballinascarthy, and Bandon to improve its connectivity and access to local sites and amenities.

Several respondents suggested including the Seven Heads Peninsula in the development the greenway project. Submissions from the Seven Heads Walks Committee and the Barryroe Walking Club said that they would be interested in further discussions with the project.

3.3.5 Commuting

Many respondents submitted that the greenway would encourage a modal shift by enabling them to change their travelling method to walking or cycling, especially if the greenway serves a variety of locations like places of work, schools, sporting grounds, shops, local amenities, and public transport hubs. Respondents submitted that a modal shift to walking or cycling would be beneficial for physical and mental health and reduce their need to drive.

A few respondents said that the greenway could enable commuting to Cork city, with one respondent explaining that “most important aspect of any Greenway in this area” should be that it provides a safe traffic free connection to Cork city. The provision of abundant bicycle parking was also called for in a few submissions.

Respondents proposed utilising existing walkways/greenways and disused railway lines to establish a Greenway connecting villages, town centre, countryside, and coastal areas.

Many respondents expressed the need for safe travel routes for children and teenagers to get to school, outlining the current dangers of the roads in the study area.

A few respondents recommended creating spurs to other sites and locations of interest, such as the West Cork Technology Park which would enable them to access their place of work. Another respondent said improved cycling links would “provide everyone working here with healthy and safe access to a world class beach recreation area on their lunch breaks and after work”.

Respondents called for the project to consider appropriate infrastructure for both walking and cycling to be included in the greenway.

Figure 11 below demonstrates that a large number of respondents work within the project study area. In figure 12 below, it shows that a large amount of people said that they walk, wheel or cycle for Recreational purposes, with 98 others taking day-to-day short trips. Notably 35 people said they commuted to work via walking, wheeling or cycling.

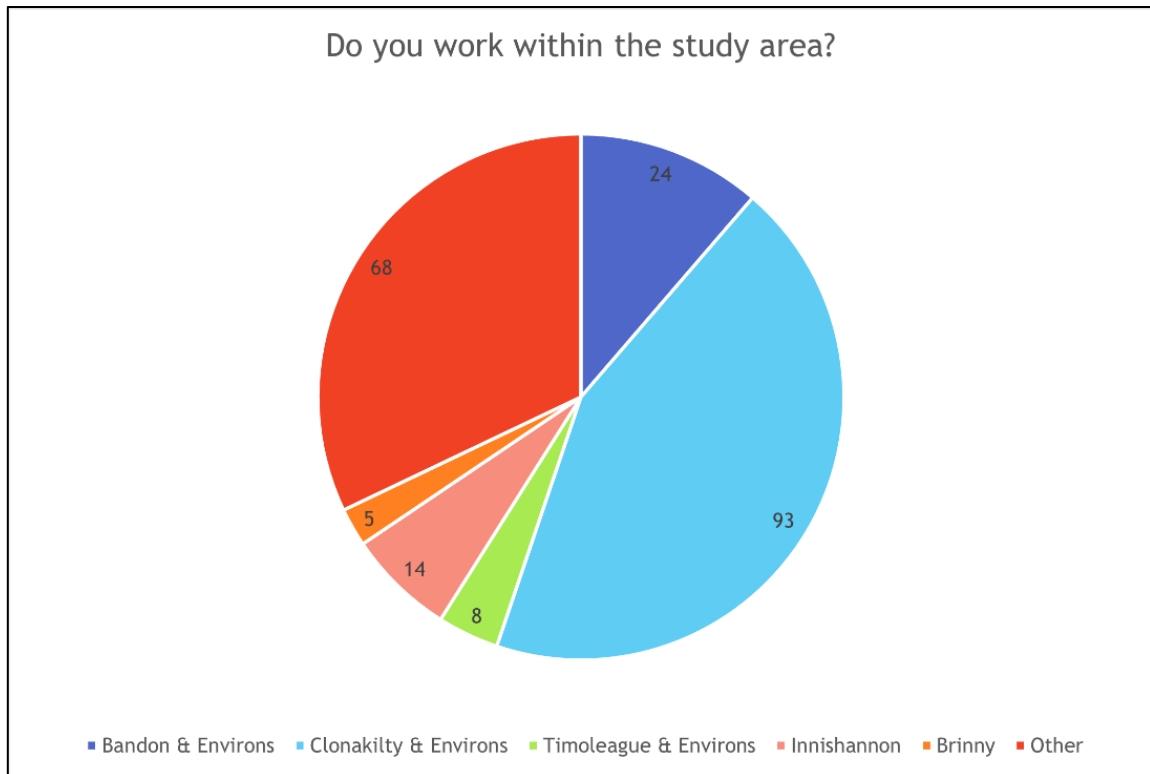


Figure 12 - Locations in the study area that stakeholders work

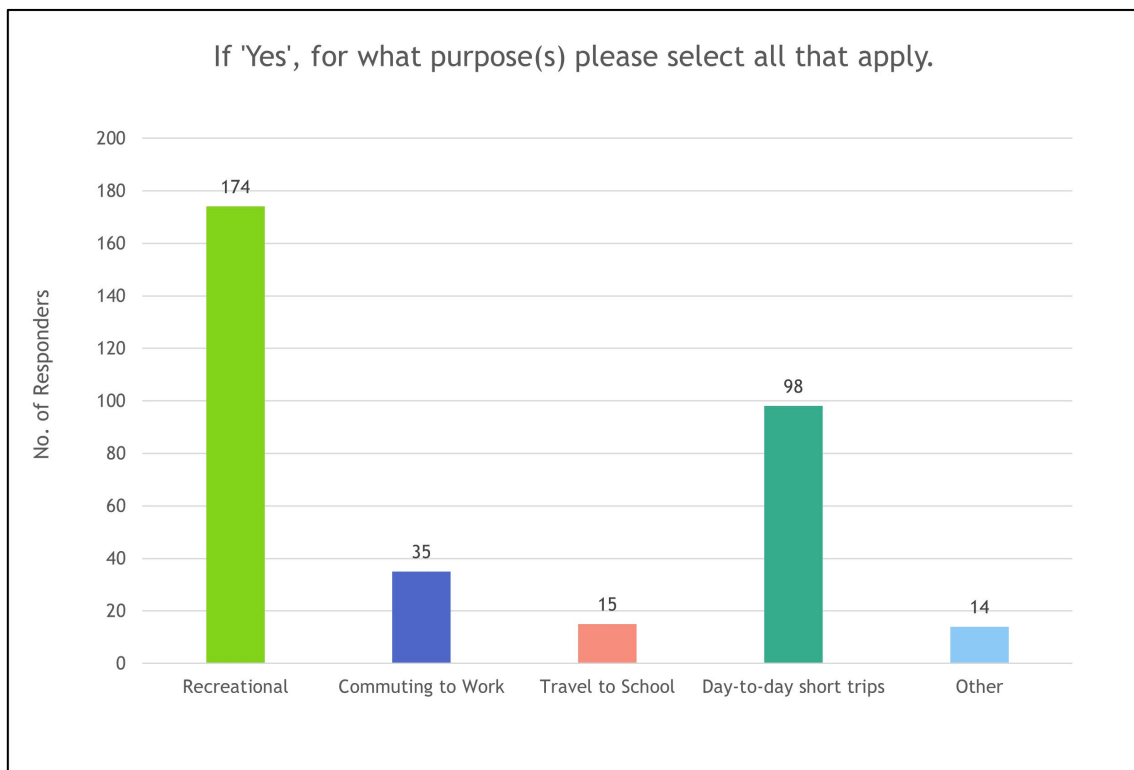


Figure 13 - Stakeholders reasons for walking, wheeling or cycling

3.3.6 Issues and Concerns

A majority of respondents expressed support for the greenway.

The figure below shows the concerns some respondents had in relation to the greenway development.

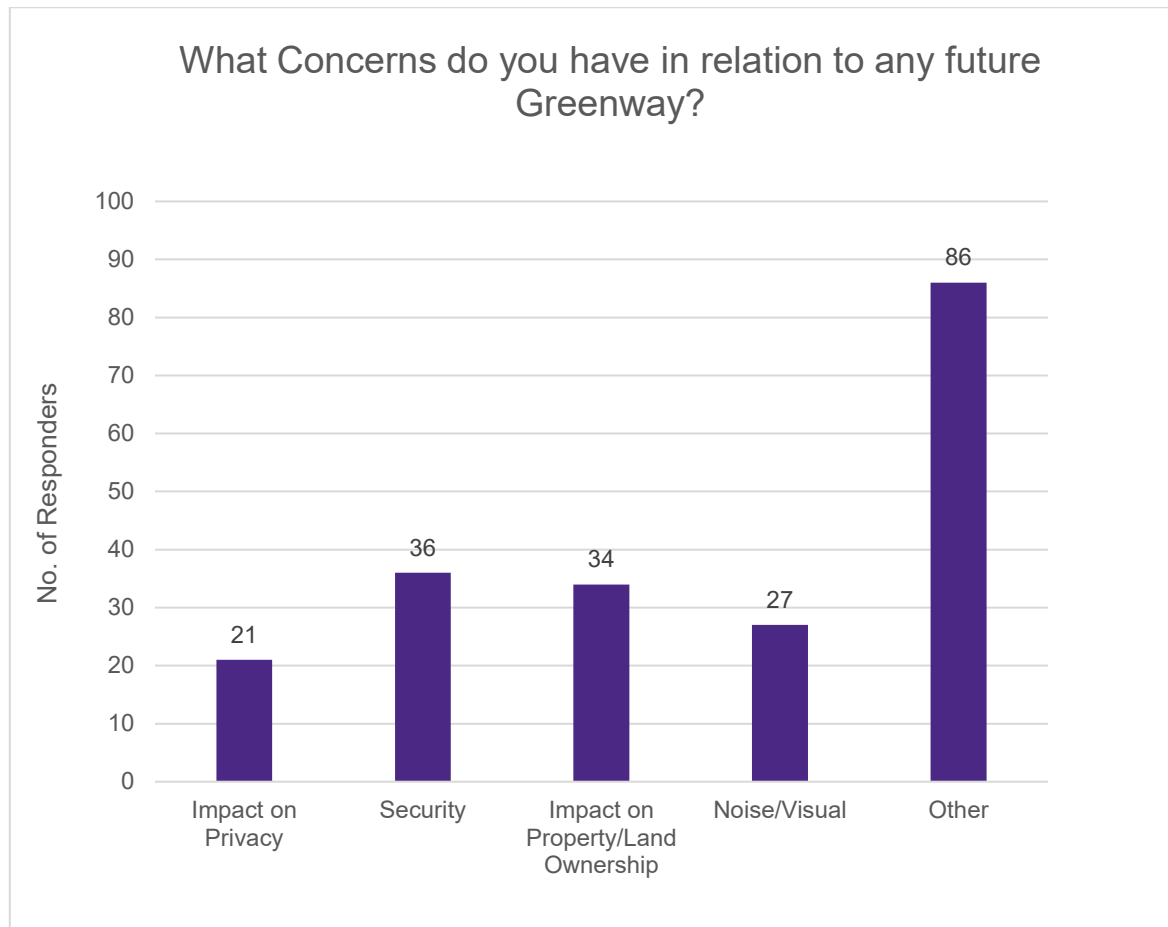


Figure 14 - Concerns stakeholders have in relation to the development of a future Greenway

The list below represents examples of 'Other' concerns mentioned by stakeholders in their submissions;

- Route selection;
- Exclusion of local amenities;
- Anti-social behaviour;
- Environmental concerns;
- Lighting on the greenway;
- Segregation between walking and cycling;
- Amenities along the greenway i.e. toilets, rest stops;
- Placing tourism above local needs;
- Long development timelines.

Several landowners within the proposed study area voiced concerns about security and privacy and requested to be involved in route selection as early as possible.

A respondent expressed concerns about the greenway's impact on their farming livelihood, family home, privacy and safety.

One landowner expressed their strong concern that that the greenway will have an adverse effect on the livelihood of their farm. The submission said that there would be "major health and safety concerns" as there

would be people coming close to livestock such as cattle, horses and machinery. They suggested that there should be a safer way of developing a greenway than going through Upton.

Another respondent living on Inchydoney Island highlighted the potential environmental impact and negative effects on local residents' wellbeing if a greenway was built on the island.

3.3.7 Environment and Biodiversity

Many respondents expressed concerns regarding the potential impact on animals, biodiversity, and the inclusion of SPA/SACs in the route.

It was suggested that the project minimise environmental impact during the greenway development and opts for a design that promotes natural surroundings over “manicured grass verges and tarmac pathways”. Respondents supported greenway access but highlighted the importance of not radically altering the natural environment. A few submissions expressed concern that the greenway would draw extra people to the area, increasing traffic and pollution.

A few stakeholders requested the use of animal-friendly fencing and expressed concern about the removal of existing trees and vegetation. Several respondents expressed concern if Umnera Woods is to be impacted by the proposed development. Several respondents submitted that the development of a greenway should not interfere with biodiversity and should be built to coexist with nature, with the construction phase being as minimally intrusive as possible on biodiversity. These respondents said that greenways should be given adequate resources for development and to promote biodiversity so “that cars can be taken off the road”. One respondent suggested that the greenway should be “connecting cycle paths to already existing road networks rather than impacting nature reserves and protected bird nesting areas”.

Another submission in a similar response to the above stated that building a greenway, would be “completely contrary to the Council’s stated vision of protecting the unique natural heritage, ecology and landscape of Inchydoney”. They said that parts of the island are designated as an SPA and that large amounts of the area have been designated for biodiversity protection in recent years.

A few submissions said that the greenway has an opportunity to use more environmentally-friendly planting during its development and construction. Submissions requested that the greenway replace any existing hedging that is removed and to consider the use of “other road surfacing materials” which were said to be more permeable to rain and better for the environment.

The Inchydoney Walkway Committee submitted that their proposed walkway solution aims to minimise negative impacts on local fauna and landscape. They claimed to have avoided SAC and SPA areas while providing a unique botanical experience for pedestrians. They also mentioned that schools in the area use the route for physical education and to achieve their Green Flag certification.

One respondent highlighted that Bandon Valley hosts a flock of Whooper swans. They said that these swans are highly sensitive to disturbance, “especially by pedestrians”. It was said that adequate green cover would ensure that pedestrians and cyclists are not visible to the swans.

A respondent commented that traffic in the area is very heavy and a route running adjacent to the road “would be quite polluting for cyclists and walkers”. The submission said that the ideal route would not be immediately beside the roadway. A respondent expressed concerns about locating the greenway an area that was said to be part of SAC 001230. It was submitted that introducing a greenway “would significantly alter the ecosystem here in a negative way” and should be avoided.

3.3.8 Tourism

Many respondents viewed the greenway as an opportunity to attract tourism and make the area a tourist destination that could serve as a gateway to West Cork.

It was acknowledged by respondents that the development of a greenway in the area would lead to economic benefits for local businesses, such as restaurants, hotels, bars, and bike rentals in Bandon, Clonakilty, and Inchydoney.

Several respondents emphasised the importance of sticking to the old West Cork railway routes to leverage the unique historical elements like tunnels, bridges, and viaducts, which can connect visitors to the area's history. Respondents said that using the old railway route would add a historical and cultural element to the greenway.

A few stakeholders made recommendations of towns, villages and sites that would attract tourists and made recommendations that these be considered in the greenway project.

One respondent suggested that the greenway could incorporate horse riding trails within or along the route. They gave examples of other jurisdictions that attract tourists for “trail riding holidays” and said that these features should be included in the greenway to enable this type of tourism.

One respondent cited the examples of the Waterford and Wexford Greenways “which have boosted tourism in those areas”. It was said that the greenway in Waterford “has led to increased tourism domestic and foreign with its unique selling point being it's old railway infrastructure making it one of if not the most iconic green ways in Ireland currently”. This submission acknowledged that tourism could revive tourist numbers to the area.

One stakeholder submitted that building a greenway on Inchydoney island would exacerbate unsustainable tourism levels.

Another respondent suggested that the greenway, if it connects attractions and several towns/villages could encourage eco-tourism, which they said is particularly appealing to cycling tourists who prioritise environmentally friendly travel options.

4 NEXT STEPS

The project team thanks everyone that has engaged in the process and provided feedback during this round of public consultation. The publication of this report marks the conclusion of the introductory phase of public consultation for the project. All feedback provided has been fully considered by the project team and will inform the project development process.

This is the first of at least three non-statutory public consultations during route development.

Following the undertaking of engineering and environmental studies, the next consultation will outline emerging route corridor options for the proposed project.

A third consultation will publish details of a refined proposal for the proposed project in advance of the planning stage.

There will be a further opportunity to submit views on the project during these non-statutory public consultations and again during a statutory consultation when a planning application is submitted.

The projects indicative timeline can be seen in Figure 15.

The project team is available to discuss the project with stakeholders during the intervening periods of consultation. Please email info@wcgbandon.ie and a member of the project team will be happy to assist with your query.

4.1 Indicative Project Timeline

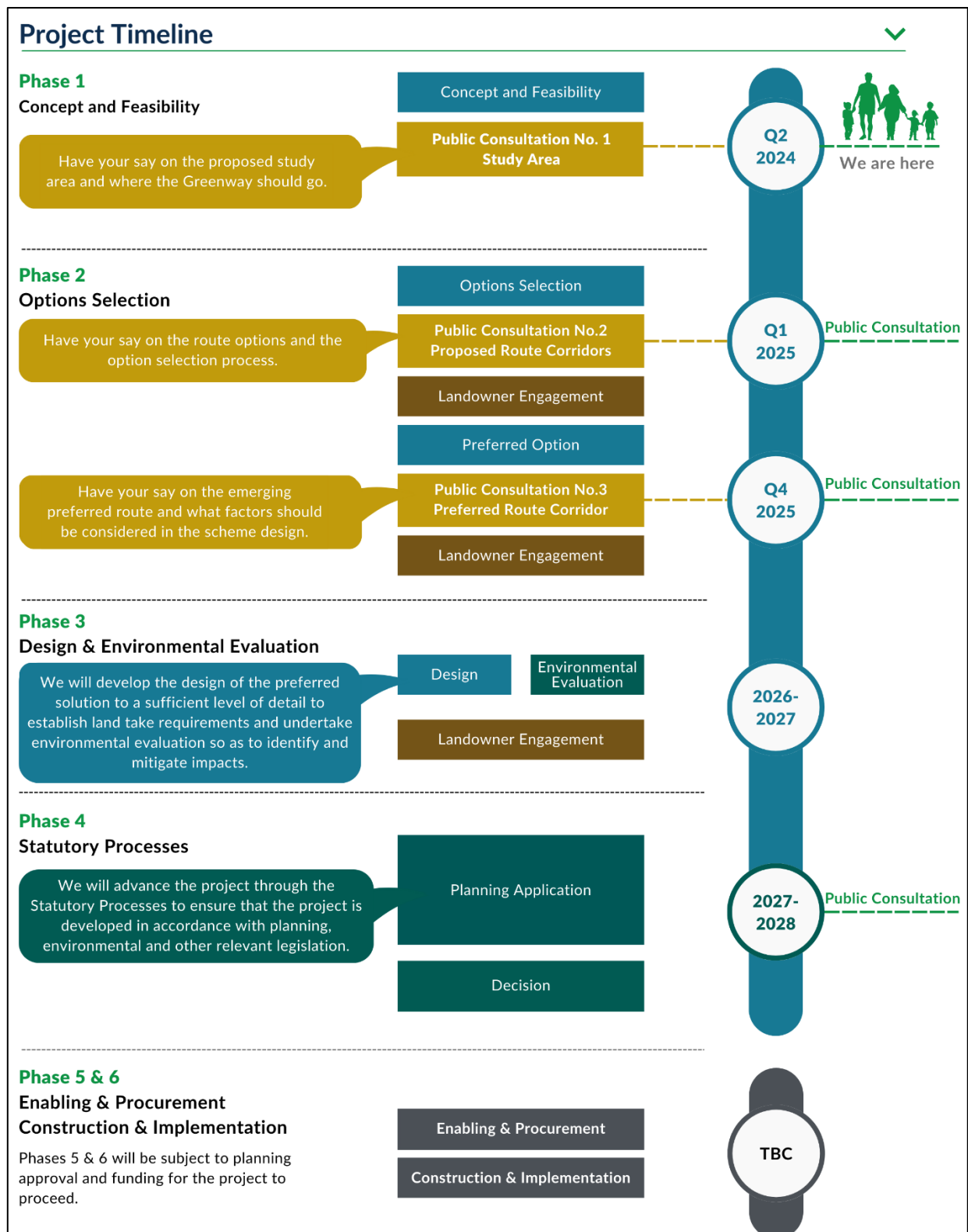



Figure 15 - Indicative Project Timeline

Appendix A

A.1 Newspaper Advertisement



**West Cork Greenway
Bandon Sections**

Public Consultation No. 1 Concept & Feasibility


**YOUR OPINIONS ARE VITAL TO THE
PROJECT SO PLEASE COME MEET US:**

Tuesday 21st May 2024 - Bandon
2:00pm - 8:00pm
Bandon Town Hall, North
Main Street, Bandon, Co Cork,
P72 E448




Wednesday 22nd May 2024 - Clonakilty
2:00pm - 8:00pm
O'Donovans Hotel, Pearse
Street, Clonakilty, Co Cork,
P85 V205


**Please submit your views and feedback
online or send by post or email on or
before 14th June 2024:**

Website: wcgbandon.ie
Email: info@wcgbandon.ie
Post: Cork National Roads Office
Cork County Council
Richmond
Glanmire
Cork
T45 WA44




Scan the QR code
to access the
website







TI
Transport Infrastructure



Cornhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council



Óifig na mBóithre Náisiúnta Chorcaí
Cork National Roads Office



RPS
A TETRA TECH COMPANY

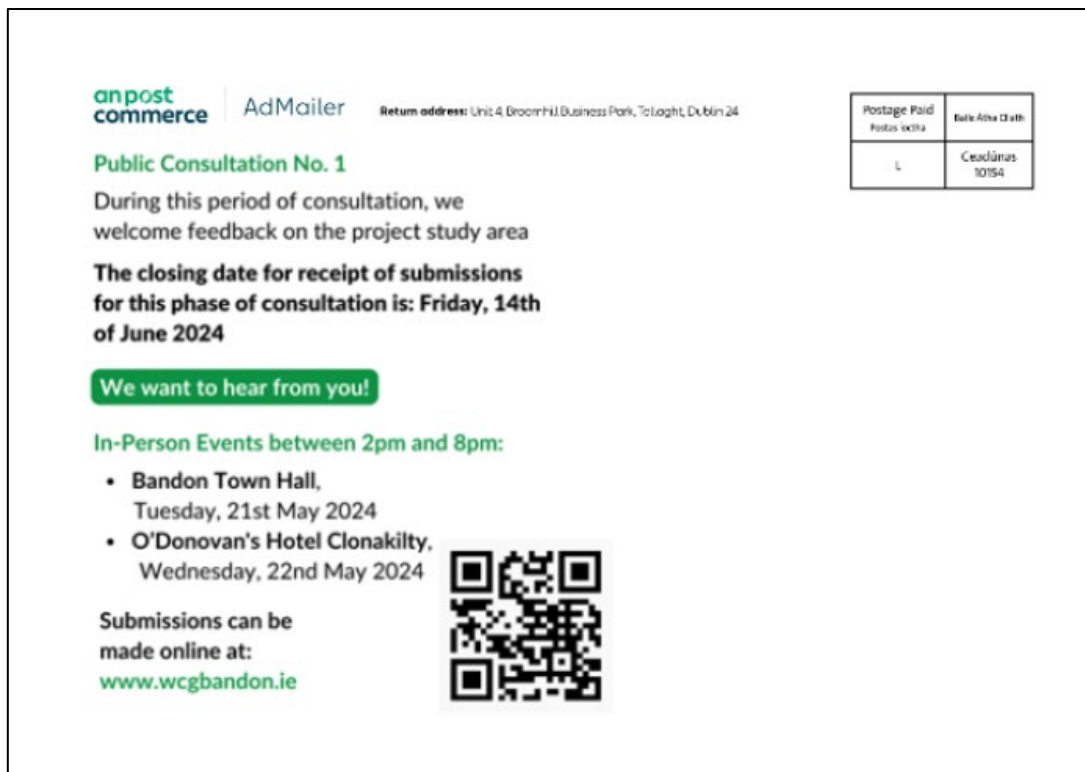
Appendix B

B.1 Public Consultation Postcard

Front



Back



Appendix C

C.1 Public Consultation Printed Leaflet





Glasbheal Iarthar Chorcaí

West Cork Greenway - Bandon Sections

Introduction

Cork County Council are in the early stages of developing a Greenway between Crossbarry, Bandon and Clonakilty with a link to Timoleague. This project, which is funded by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), will provide a Greenway servicing the Bandon, Clonakilty and Timoleague hinterlands. The Greenway is being assessed in three sections:

- Crossbarry to Bandon
- Bandon to Clonakilty
- Ballinascahy to Timoleague

Local Feedback

Local Feedback is vital to the success of the Project so we welcome your views, ideas and concerns on the following:

- Potential routes that could be considered.
- Locations, attractions, or facilities in your locality that could be attractive to, or benefit from a Greenway.
- Scenic and/or heritage features in your area.

Project Overview

The Greenway will provide a safe, sustainable and healthy transport option for local communities. In addition, it will support a modal shift away from car use and encourage visitors to come and explore the local heritage and scenic areas within West Cork.

Project Benefits

This Greenway will facilitate sustainable growth within the local communities in the Bandon and Clonakilty environs, through improved connectivity, increased tourism potential and providing a modal shift away from car trips to active travel usage.



Increased
Tourism



Increase in Active
Travel



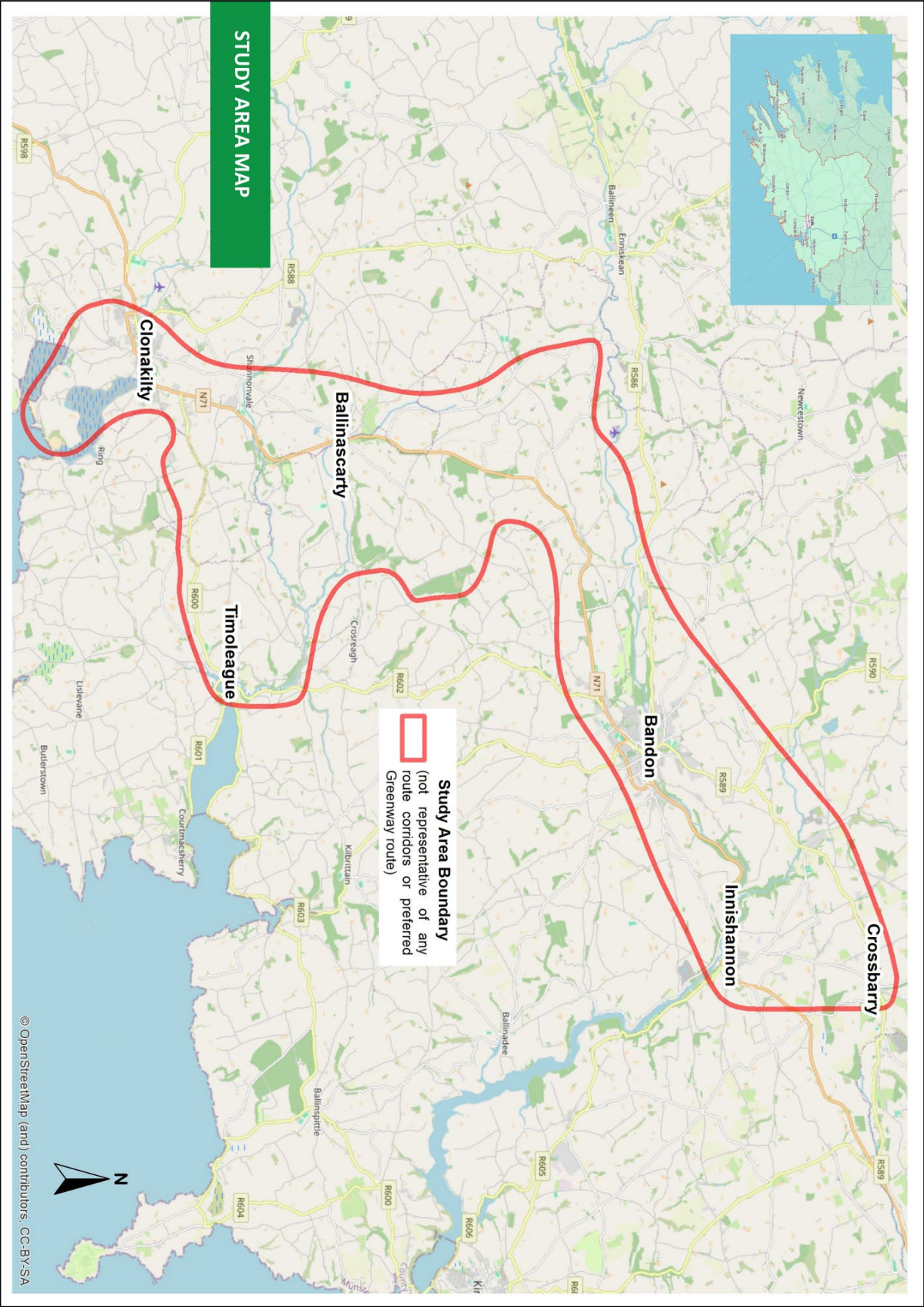
Reduced Carbon
Emissions



Scan the QR code
to access the
website

What is Happening Now?

This project is currently at Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility. The Project Team are developing the study area by looking at opportunities to develop potential options for the Greenway. Input from the local community is a vital part of the process so we welcome your feedback and advice.





Public Consultation - Get Involved



Public Consultation No.1 on the study area will take place between 13th May and 14th June 2024. This consultation is being held online through the project website and two in-person public consultation days. An online feedback form is available on the project website, which also includes a map of the study area.

Make a Submission



A feedback form is available on the project website www.wcgbandon.ie and copies will also be available at the in-person Public Consultation events and at Bandon and Clonakilty libraries.

Feedback can be submitted as follows:

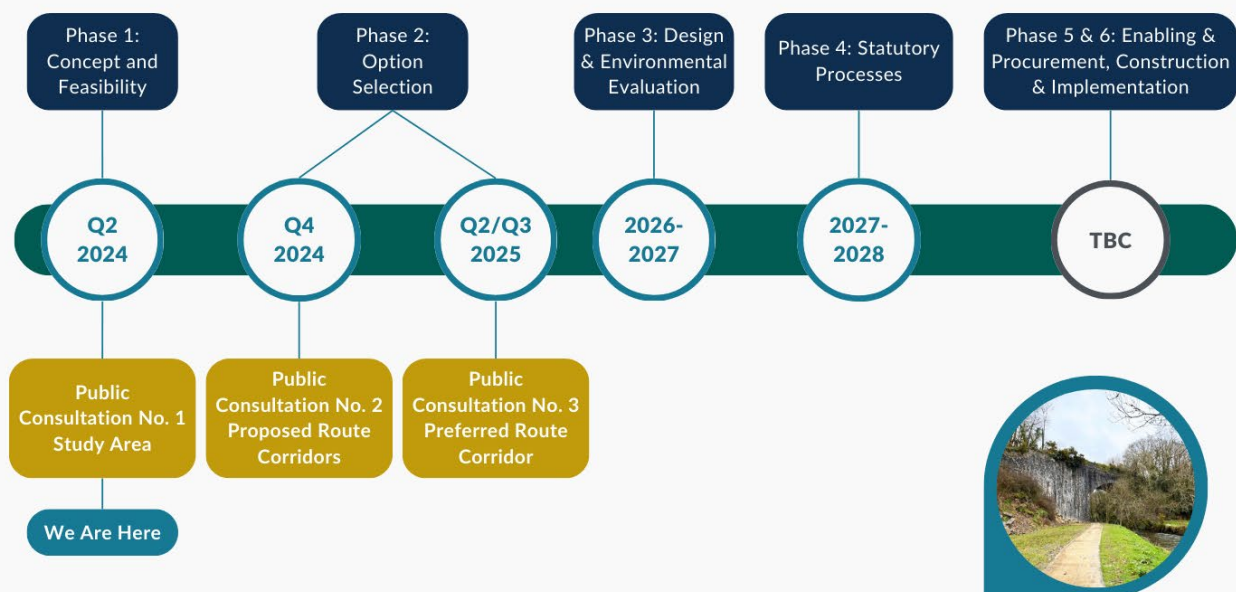
Online: www.wcgbandon.ie

Email: info@wcgbandon.ie

Post: Cork National Roads Office
Cork County Council, Richmond, Glanmire,
Cork. T45 WA44.

**The closing date for submissions to
this phase of consultation is
Friday, 14th June 2024**

Project Timeline



Más mian leat cóip den leabhrán seo a fháil as Gaeilge, déan teagmháil linn.

Appendix D

D.1 Public Consultation Event Displays



Glasbheal Iarthar Chorcaí
West Cork Greenway - Bandon Sections



Tionscatal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

Public Consultation No. 1 Concept and Feasibility

Welcome
Bandon Open Day



Scan the QR code
to access the
website




Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council




Oifig na mBóithre Náisiúnta Chorcaí
Cork National Roads Office






Greenway *Glasbheal Iarthar Chorcaí*
West Cork Greenway - Bandon Sections




Public Consultation No. 1


Concept and Feasibility

Welcome
Clonakilty Open Day







Scan the QR code
to access the
website



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council



Oifig na mBóithre Náisiúnta Chorcaí
Cork National Roads Office

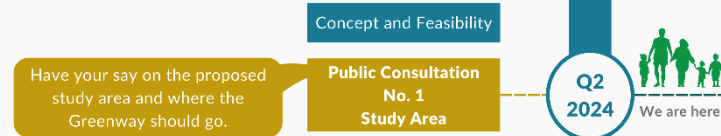


RPS
A TETRA TECH COMPANY

Project Timeline

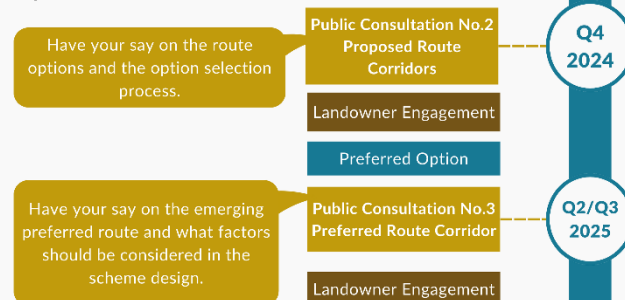
Phase 1

Concept and Feasibility



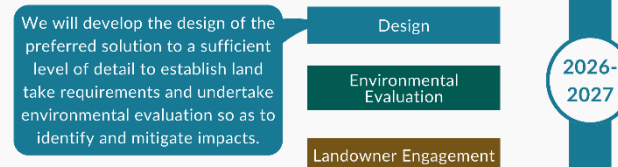
Phase 2

Options Selection



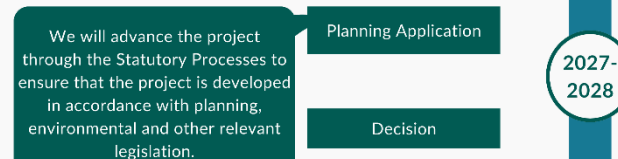
Phase 3

Design & Environmental Evaluation



Phase 4

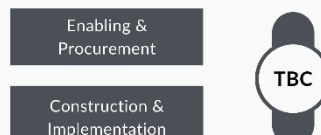
Statutory Processes



Phase 5 & 6

Enabling & Procurement Construction & Implementation

Phases 5 & 6 will be subject to planning approval and funding for the project to proceed.



Project Objectives

The key objectives of this project are to provide a Greenway which is sustainable, accessible, safe and attractive for locals and visitors. In achieving these objectives, the project will facilitate:



Transport User and Economic Benefits

Support connectivity and economic growth in Bandon, Clonakilty and local environs.



Accessibility

Promote modal shift and multi-modal connectivity/accessibility to existing amenities, services and facilities.



Social

Enhance social inclusion and promote healthier communities through linking the local communities of Crossbarry, Bandon, Clonakilty and Timoleague.



Land Use

Support and facilitate the implementation of national, regional and local sustainable transport policies.



Safety

Provide safe and accessible infrastructure, which improves the safety and security for vulnerable road users and landowners.



Climate Change

Contributes to the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions through transport modal shifts.



Local Environment

Increase public appreciation of the natural environment and local heritage, while protecting and enhancing natural assets and biodiversity.

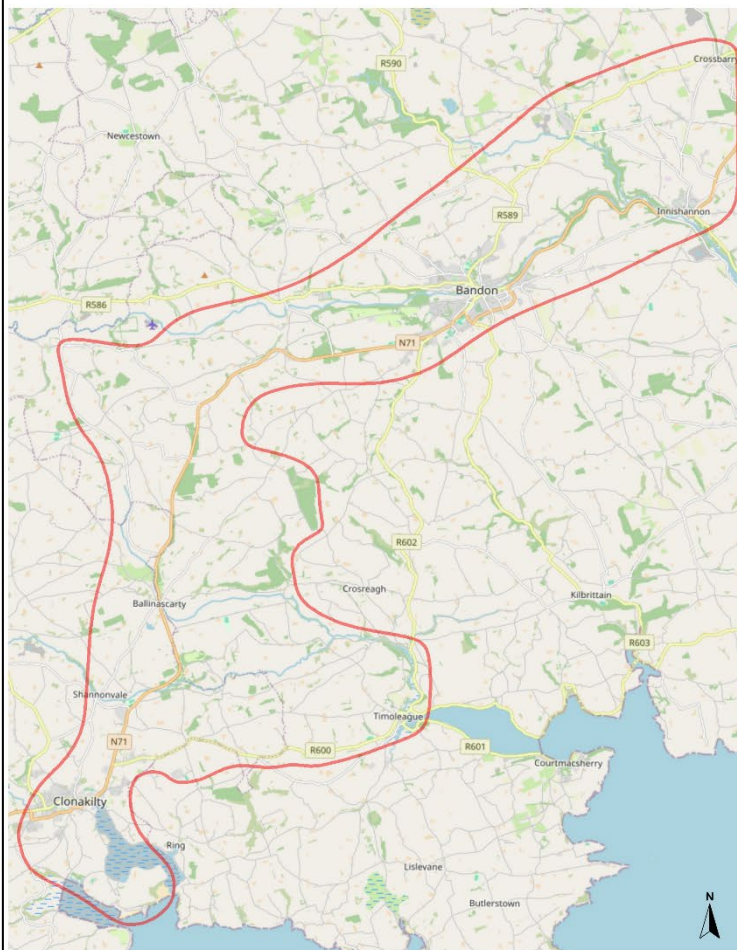


Public Consultation

This project is currently at Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility. The purpose of Phase 1 is to develop and investigate in further detail the feasibility of the project, to identify a suitable study area for the examination of preliminary route options and to implement the project management structure.

Public Consultation No.1 on the study area will take place between 13th May and 14th June 2024.


Cork County Council has identified a broad study area to enable appropriate route options for the Greenway to be developed and assessed.



Appendix E

E.1 Feedback Form

Public Consultation No. 1: May - June 2024



Glasbheal Iarthar Chorcaí
West Cork Greenway - Bandon Sections

Feedback Form

Name

Email (Optional)

Eircode (Optional)

Phone (Optional)

What is your Gender? ☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ Other ☐ Prefer not to say

What is your age group?

☐ Under 18 ☐ 18-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-65 ☐ Above 65

Where did you hear about this Greenway Project and the Public Consultation?

☐ Social Media ☐ Newspaper ☐ Website ☐ Posters ☐ Word of Mouth

Do you live within the Study Area?


☐ Bandon & Environs ☐ Clonakilty & Environs ☐ Timoleague & Environs ☐ Crossbarry ☐ Innishannon ☐ Ballinascarthy ☐ Other

Do you work within the Study Area?


☐ Bandon & Environs ☐ Clonakilty & Environs ☐ Timoleague & Environs ☐ Innishannon ☐ Brinny ☐ Other

Which location in the study area would you travel the most to?


<input type="checkbox"/> Bandon & Environs	<input type="checkbox"/> Timoleague & Environs	<input type="checkbox"/> Ballinascarthy
<input type="checkbox"/> Clonakilty & Environs	<input type="checkbox"/> Innishannon	<input type="checkbox"/> Other




TIU
Transport Infrastructure Unit



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council



Oifig na mBóithre Náisiúnta Chorcaí
Cork National Roads Office



rps
A TETRA TECH COMPANY

Public Consultation No. 1: May - June 2024



Do you currently walk, wheel or cycle? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If 'Yes', for what purpose(s)? Please select all that apply

☐ Recreational ☐ Commuting to Work ☐ Travel to School ☐ Day-to-day short trips (for example, to the shop or to visit friends or family) ☐ Other

What are the current issues you see in terms of walking, wheeling or cycling?

☐ Location ☐ Distance ☐ General Safety ☐ Road safety / Traffic levels ☐ Impractical ☐ Weather ☐ Other

What locations and places of interest would you like the Greenway to go to?

☐ Local Primary Schools ☐ Local Secondary Schools ☐ Local Sports Facilities ☐ Employment Centres / Work within the Study Area ☐ Local Playgrounds and Amenity Areas ☐ Beaches and coastline walkways ☐ Town/Village Centres

What concerns do you have in relation to any future Greenway?

☐ Impact on privacy ☐ Security ☐ Other
☐ Impact on property / Land Ownership ☐ Noise / Visual

Local Feedback is vital to the success of the Project so if you have any information in relation to the study area, any concerns or key opportunities that you want the project team to be aware of, please let us know.

The closing date for returning completed questionnaire is Friday 14th June 2024.

By providing my details in this feedback form, I consent to the use of my personal data in accordance with Cork County Council's Privacy Notice which is available at: <https://www.corkcoco.ie/en/council/data-protection-and-freedom-of-information/data-protection-privacy-statement>

Please return this feedback form by either email to info@wcgbandon.ie or by post to: Cork National Roads Office, Cork County Council, Richmond, Glanmire, Cork. T45 WA44.



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council



Oifig na mBóithre Náisiúnta Chorcaí
Cork National Roads Office



