

■ Battery Court,
Longford,
Co. Longford

17th November 2024

Draft Longford Town Local Area Plan,
Administrative Officer,
Forward Planning,
Planning Department,
Longford County Council,
Áras an Chontae,
Great Water Street,
Longford,
N39 NH56

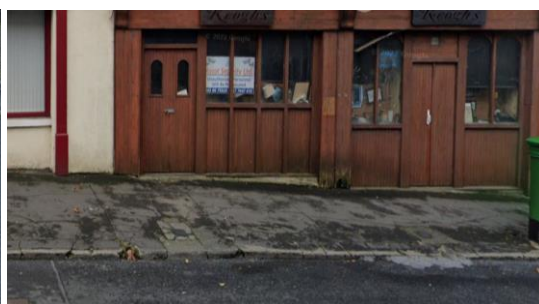
Re: Draft Longford Town Local Area Plan 2025-2031.

Dear Sir/Madame,

I am writing to you in relation to the Draft Longford Town Local Area Plan 2025-2031. While there are many positives to draw from this plan, I believe a number of areas in the town have been left out especially, in relation to the upgrade/renewal of footpaths. These are as follows:

1. Bridge Street and Lower Main Street.

The footpaths on both sides of the road along Bridge Street and Lower Main Street are in a state of extreme disrepair, as can be seen from the images below. I am sure both the public and the businesses owners in these areas would be extremely grateful if these paths were included in the Longford Town Local Area Plan 2025-2031.



2. Lower Glack, Upper Glack and Golf View.

The footpaths in the residential areas of Lower Glack, Upper Glack and Golf View, Glack, are also in major need of upgrade/renewal. There are large portions of these paths that are completely disintegrating and spalling as you can see from the images below. The repairing of these paths, would be of great benefit to all users, both able bodied and residents of poor mobility.

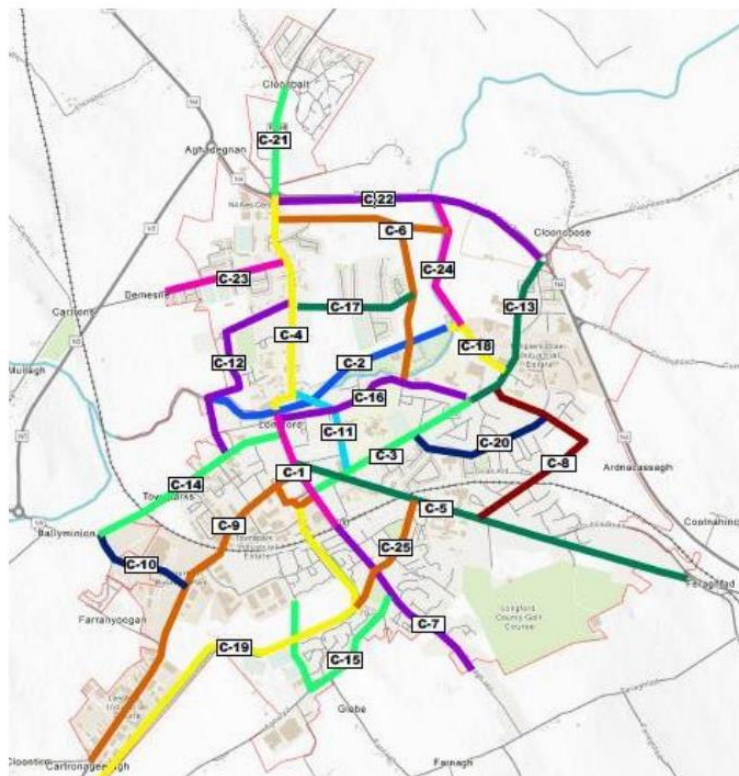


The inclusion of the paths in the areas mentioned above, would have many positive benefits. Firstly, it would greatly improve, the ascetics of these areas. Secondly, it would provide more pleasant and safer infrastructure. Thirdly, it would be a proactive approach by the Local Authority in reducing potential litigation due to injury, thus ultimately reducing costs for the Council in the long term. One of the main aims of this plan is sustainable development e.g. reduce dependency of cars. This will only be achieved if there are safe, usable and adequate alternative modes of transport, like high quality footpaths. Which in the above mentioned areas, there is clearly not and will only force more people into cars, the further these paths deteriorate. The inclusion of these footpaths in the Longford Town Local Area Plan 2025-2031, I feel should be prioritised.

3. N4 Longford-Bypass.

Finally, something I also feel that should be considered in the plan, is the inclusion of upgrades to the footpath on the N4 bypass (Red Cow roundabout to Leo Casey roundabout). While it is noted on page 198 the inclusion of a cycle lane (C22) on the southern side, an improved footpath and adequate public lighting along this stretch, would be a fabulous recreational amenity for the town. It would also link up the upgrades that have occurred on the Ballinalee Road and the ongoing infrastructural works on the Battery Road, very well. This, would also provide a great alternative for people commuting from the Northern side of the town to industrial parks on the Eastern part of the town, without having to navigate the Town Centre.

Cycle Route Schemes Map (Figure 6.3 of LTP)



Thank you for taking the time to consider my submission. If you wish to contact me you can do so, via the postal address above.

Yours sincerely,

Gerard Larkin