

R198 Aghadegnan to Clonbalt Footpath Improvement Scheme

**Public Consultation Report
In Accordance with
Section 38 Road Traffic Act 1994 and
“Guidelines on Traffic Works Procedures”
Issued by the Department of Transport
In October 2023**



Longford County Council

September 2025

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To: Barbara Heslin, Director of Services for Roads and Transportation

Following on from an earlier determination that Section 38 Road Traffic Act 1994 (as amended) is the appropriate process for the assessment and implementation of the proposed works titled *“R198 Aghadegnan to Clonbalt Footpath Improvement Scheme”*, a non-statutory public consultation process was undertaken to determine local attitudes and responses to the proposed works. This report outlines this consultation process and the decisions and actions that arise from it.

As mentioned, an earlier determination process was carried out to determine if Section 38 Road Traffic Act 1994 was the appropriate process for the assessment and implementation of the proposed works *“R198 Aghadegnan to Clonbalt Footpath Improvement Scheme”*. A copy of this determination report is attached.

Being satisfied that the requirements of the Section 38 Guidelines (issued by the Department of Transport in Oct 2023, see attached) have been fully complied with in relation to the above proposed development, I have prepared the following report in accordance with the requirements of Section 8 of the above Guidelines and formally submit same to you for a Traffic Works Order to be signed off.

This report concludes by requesting a *“Traffic Works Order”* to be formally signed off in the form of a Chief Executive’s Order approving the proposed works outlined hereafter.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Peter Bonney', written over a horizontal line.

**Senior Executive Engineer,
Roads Department**

1 INTRODUCTION

The proposed scheme will consist of a new 3m wide Shared footpath aimed at enhancing safety for vulnerable road users. This will reduce the width of the existing carriageway. The works will include:

- Provision of improved pedestrian Footpath from McGraths Service Station to Clonbalt Housing Estate
- Improvements to existing drainage networks where necessary
- All associated site works

2 IS SECTION 38 OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1994 APPROPRIATE

2.1 Determining the Applicability of Section 38

The Guidelines on Traffic Works Procedures, issued by the Department of Transport in October 2023 requires that a separate determination exercise is undertaken to determine the works described herein, which are proposed to be carried out by the Roads Section, are appropriate for assessment and implementation in accordance with Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994.

Based on the proposed project, the following works qualify as traffic calming under Section 38(9) of the Road Traffic Act 1994:

1. Carriageway Narrowing (R198) - Reduces vehicle speeds and enhances pedestrian safety.

This determination was carried out in July 2025 and the conclusion was that this is indeed the correct procedure. A copy of this Determination Document is attached.

2.2 Planning Considerations

There are a number of exemptions from the Part 8 Procedure, with one of those exemptions relating to certain proposals under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994.

“works, other than works involving road widening, to enhance public bus services or improve facilities for cyclists provided under section 95 (as amended by section 37 of the Road Traffic Act 1994) of the Road Traffic Act 1961 or under section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994”. Accordingly, any works “to enhance public bus services or improve facilities for cyclists” which

are delivered under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994, are exempted from the normal local authority Part VIII planning process.”

Safe Routes to School promotes improvements to cycling facilities, the scheme is therefore exempt under the legislation, a Part 8 planning process was not required.

3 NON-STATUTORY PUBLIC CONSULTATION, SUBMISSIONS, ETC.

Once it was decided that Section 38 was the appropriate process, Section 8 of the Guidelines Document provided for a Non-Statutory Public Consultation process to be undertaken to get local feedback from the Residents of Longford regarding the proposed works.

A notice of consultation was published in the Longford Leader. Plans and particulars of the proposed scheme were made available for inspection at the Planning Counter, Longford County Council, Aras An Chontae, and on Longford County web page,

<https://www.longfordcoco.ie/your-council/public-consultations/>

Submissions and observations in relation to the proposed works could be emailed to **roadssubmissions@longfordcoco.ie**, up to 5pm on 5th September 2025, and also could be made in writing and posted using the following addressed “Submissions, Roads Department, Great Water St, Longford County Council, Longford N39 NH56” and must also be received on or before 5pm on the 5th April 2025.

One submission was received concerning various aspects of the proposals. Below is a brief description of the submissions and the Roads Section proposed response to the submissions.

3.1 Submission 1: Paul Grealy, Melview, Co Longford

Paul Grealy emailed roadssubmissions@longfordcoco.ie on behalf of his mother who resides in Aghadegnan who advised that they have serious safety concerns with e-scooters and bicycles travelling on the footpath.

I wanted to share an observation regarding the above scheme, which I think is a very welcome project. My mother lives in Aghadegnan, and we have noticed some serious safety concerns with e-scooters and bicycles travelling on the footpath.

The main safety issue arises where cars pull out of driveways with limited visibility. In these cases, there is a real risk of a scooter or bicycle being struck and propelled onto the road, which could cause serious injury.

Could you advise if any measures are planned to address this? For example, will the wider footpath include a clear separation between cyclists and pedestrians? This could help reduce the risk by keeping scooters/bikes closer to the road.

Response:

In relation to your concerns raised, it is acknowledged that e-scooters should not be used on footpaths as new laws were introduced in May 2024 under the Road Traffic (Electric Scooters) Regulations 2024.

It is noted that the new wider footpath will be a shared surface used by both cyclists and pedestrians with no separation provided. The use of a shared surface at this location is deemed appropriate based on current guidelines.

4 CONCLUSIONS

Having regard to the above-mentioned public submissions and observations received, it is considered that the proposed development would provide a significant improvement to the safety of all road users and particularly children walking and cycling. It is therefore proposed that the development should proceed.

5 RECOMMENDATION

In accordance with Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act (1994) and the associated guidelines issued by the Department of Transport in Oct 2023, a decision to proceed with the proposed works is an Executive decision, to be recorded by way of a Chief Executive's Order (Traffic Works Order).

I therefore recommend that the proposals should proceed and that the decision to proceed be formally recorded as a Chief Executive's Order (Traffic Works Order) and should be published on the local authority's website.

Signed: A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Brady', is written over a horizontal line.

Peter Brady,
Senior Executive Engineer
Roads Section,
Longford County Council.
17 September 2025