

Active Travel Scheme LD/23/0011 Scoil Mhuire
Clondra, Cloondara, Longford, Safe Routes to School programme

**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

June 2025

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To: John Brannigan, Director of Services for Corporate, Regeneration and Active Travel.

Following on from an earlier determination that Section 38 Road Traffic Act 1994 is the appropriate process for the assessment and implementation of the proposed works titled “Active Travel Scheme LD/23/0011 Scoil Mhuire, Clondra, Cloondara, Longford, Safe Routes to School programme”, 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 “Active Travel Scheme LD/23/0011 Scoil Mhuire, Clondra, Cloondara, Longford, Safe Routes to School programme.” 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.



**Senior Executive Engineer,
Active Travel.**

1 INTRODUCTION

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programme aim to improve ongoing issues of safety and congestion at the school gate and on routes to school. The programme supports active travel to school, it is funded by the Department of Transport through the National Transport Authority (NTA).

The proposed project involves the provision of a bus parking area outside of the school, regulation of parking in front of school and narrowing of the carriageway L1170, the provision of a safe walking and wheeling area from the Richmond Harbour Canal Bridge area to Scoil Mhuire Clondra. This involves the construction of a raised table area at the T junction between the L1171 and the L1170, the provision of a Zebra crossing and a footpath on the north side of the bridge and a raised table at junction between the L1171 and the L11711. The creation of a yield right of way system over the bridge. It also involves the provision of a raised crossing at entrance to car park. Other works include surface colour change, road markings, pencil shaped bollards and all other associated site works. The proposed works are detailed on the attached drawing.

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 Active Travel 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 (L1170) – Reduces vehicle speeds and enhances pedestrian safety.
2. Raised Table Areas (Junctions & Car Park Entrance) – Slows traffic and improves pedestrian crossing safety.
3. Zebra Crossings – Enhances pedestrian safety and encourages reduced vehicle speeds.
4. Yield Right-of-Way System (Bridge) – Controls traffic flow and supports speed reduction.
5. Surface Colour Changes & Road Markings – Provides visual cues to alert drivers to pedestrian-priority areas.
6. Pencil-Shaped Bollards – Defines pedestrian spaces and prevents unauthorized parking.

This determination was carried out in March 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 Clondra 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/services/roads/public-consultation->

Submissions and observations in relation to the proposed works could be emailed to activetravel@longfordcoco.ie, up to 5pm on 28th April 2025, and also could be made in writing and posted using the following addressed “Submissions, Active Travel Scheme, LD/23/0011 Scoil Mhuire Clondra, Longford County Council, 2 Church Street, Longford N39 W1X7” and must also be received on or before 5pm on the 28th April 2025.

Two submissions were received concerning various aspects of the proposals. Below is a brief description of the submissions and Active travel proposed response to the submissions.

3.1 Submission 1: Peggy Baxter, Clondra Community Hall and Clondra Community Association

The Old School is an amenity used by local groups from time to time, some of which are listed here:

- 1) Teach Cheoil on the first Monday of each month. The attendees are generally of an older age group.
- 2) Exercise classes for active retirees, financed by the Council are held in this building.
- 3) Exhibitions - Arts and cookery classes are held here from time to time.

Because the roads are so narrow, driving and parking are problems and some changes are being proposed. The parking that is in place at the moment is too far distant from the Old School so the following is requested:

- a) Parking outside Bridie Cox's house to remain as is.
- b) Parking spaces to be left between the New School and the Old School.
- c) It was proposed that the old stone wall outside the Old School should be removed,
- d) This wall to be re-built a few feet back towards the building itself. This would then be a continuation of the existing wall outside the new School and would create extra parking at this point.

Response: *Providing parking outside “Bridie Cox’s” would not help to alleviate congestion in the school area and may encourage increased parking in the area. A bus parking area is provided in front of the school, this parking area then can be used by patrons of the Old School, when not required as a bus parking area. The area is shown as an “Age Friendly Parking” area, see attached drawing*

3.2 Submission 2: Larry & Anne Lynch Glebe, Cloondara, N39N292

We are emailing to express our concerns regarding two of the proposed traffic calming and safety improvement measures at Scoil Mhuire Clondra.

We live at Glebe, Cloondara, N39N292 which is located at the T junction between the L1171 and L1170. Our home is two storey with a cellar running the width of the property.

Our concerns relate to the proposed:

- 1) raised concrete footpath at the corner of the L1171 turning left on to the L1170 towards the school which would be laid directly under our kitchen window and wrap around the side of our house; and
- 2) raised table at the T junction between the L1171 and L1170.

We believe the above measures will impact the quiet enjoyment of our home as pedestrians will be walking immediately outside our kitchen window and there will be considerable amount of noise as vehicles, particularly tractors, trailers and articulated lorries, mount the raised table.

We would appreciate if you would take into account our concerns when considering the proposed works.

Response: *Held meeting with Larry & Anne Lynch and agreed the following program of works outlined below:*

- *Raised footpath to finish in line with Gable end of house.*
- *Concrete Footpath in line with existing road edge, dropped kerbs to be used on footpath, Kerbs at approximate same level of existing road, footpath at similar level to existing levels.*
- *Raise level at house so as to remove need for step at door, use existing step as landing area.*
- *Area around house to be finished in Asphalt.*

See attached drawing.

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 to school. It is therefore proposed that the development should proceed with minor alterations to deal with the issues raised during the non-statutory public consultation phase. The following is a list of the proposed alterations.

4.1 Concerns raised by Peggy Baxter

Bus parking area in front of the school, can be used by patrons of the Old School when not required as a bus parking area. The area is shown as an “Age Friendly Parking” area, see attached drawing.

4.2 Concerns raised by Larry & Anne Lynch

Please see drawing attached showing the proposed changes to area in vicinity to Larry & Anne Lynch’s house.

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, with the minor alterations outlined in Section 4 above 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: 

Brian Kelly Senior Executive Engineer –
Active Travel Section,
Longford County Council.
19 May 2025