



To/Chuig: Tom Daly, Sec. Killarney Cycling Club, C/O Fern Hallow, Ballydowney, Killarney, Co. Kerry

From/Ó: John Ahern, S.E.E., Killarney M.D.

Date/Dáta: 3rd December 2021

Re/Abhár: Killarney Cycling Club

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the Killarney Cycling Club's input into the recent Part 8 – Killarney Cycleways, it is great to get the perspective of a Cyclist.

I have reviewed your submission and I note that these are a sample of the issues been raised by the Killarney Cycle Club.

Active Travel National Approach

Over the last few years there has now been an increased emphasis on a greener environment and with the onset of the Covid-19 Pandemic there has been an increase in the Active Travel pursuits. As a result, the National Transport Authority has announced the Active Travel Fund. Some of the aims of this fund are:-

1. Provision of new / widened footpaths or segregated cycle tracks.
2. Reconstruction / renewal of defective footpaths or cycle tracks.
3. Improved crossing facilities for pedestrians/cyclists including raised surfaces, zebra crossings, provision of lighting and signalised crossings.
4. Provision of cycle parking.

A requirement of NTA prior to the drawdown of funds from the Active Trave Fund is the development of Active Travel Mobility Plans for large towns. Kerry County Council has applied for and received a Grant Allocation to the value of €500,000 to develop Active Travel Mobility Plans for the Towns of Tralee, Killarney & Listowel. We are in the process of appointing the necessary staff and design teams to develop these Plans, which once developed and approved by the NTA, will allow for the funding of individual Active Travels Schemes.

The Killarney M.D. would contribute into these Design Teams, whose aim is to develop a network of Cycleways and Active Travel Routes in a co-ordinated approach rather than previously been an addition to a Road Scheme. In short, the emphases will be the Active Travel Route and not the road.

Projects in Development

Prior to the NTA announcement Kerry County Council in conjunction with the TII have been working on various Safety Schemes within Killarney Town and its approach roads which also incorporate Active Travel. The following is a snapshot of the various projects

- N22\Lewis Road – Provision of active travel route with associated underpass has been identified in consultation with the HSE.
- N22 Ballycasheen and Coolcaslough - proposals are also being developed to introduce Active Travel measures over this section. These measures would provide improved facilities for pedestrian and cyclists along this section and will integrate with other Active Travel proposals on the east side of the town.
- N22 Cleeny to Madam's Hill - Proposals are being developed to introduce Active Travel measures from Cleeny Roundabout to north of Aghadoe Junction. These measures will provide improved facilities for pedestrian and cyclists along this section and will integrate with other Active Travel proposals south of Cleeny.
- N72 Ballydowney to Gortroe - A Safety Scheme and Active Travel Project. Environmental Surveys are now complete. Designs are being progressed for planning.
- N72 Golden Nugget to Gap Cross Cycleway – Kerry County Council has received formal approval from the TII to progress to the statutory process. Kerry County Council expect to advertise the Part 8 early in the New Year. The public can submit submissions and observations to this Planning Process
- N72 Killalee – Kerry County Council are investigating the feasibility of providing a Pedestrian\Cycling Facility at this location, which would be an extension of the N72 Golden Nugget to Gap Cross Cycleway
- N71 Muckross Road (Woodlawn Cross – Haha) – A Safety Scheme and Active Travel Project. Feasibility Report has received approval in principle from the TII. The project has progressed through the preliminary design stage and subject to approval will then proceed to the Statutory Process.

Projects that have received Planning Approval and are awaiting Funding

- Upper Lewis Road – Walk\Cycleway
- Park Road – Walk\Cycleway

Projects that have received Planning Approval and that have received Funding Support

- Upper Rock Road – Walk\Cycleway
- Arbutus & Chestnut Drive. – Walk\Cycleway

Projects Constructed in 2021

- Muckross - Ross Road Walk\Cycleway – Phase 1 completed (Muckross Road to Rear of the Racecourse) in 2021. Phase 2 – Castlefall Estate to Ross Road to be completed in 2022.
- In conjunction with the NPWS, Kerry County Council upgraded an Off-Road Cycle Route at Cardiac Steps Carpark
- Provision of Cycle Stands within the Town

Projects Planned for Construction in 2022

- Muckross - Ross Road Walk\Cycleway – Phase 2 – Castlefall Estate to Ross Road to be completed in 2022

In specifically addressing the issues raised in your submission,

Regarding Point A: Interruptions to Cycle lanes and priority given to vehicles

New Cycleways are designed to current standards and would under normal circumstances give priority to the Cyclist. However, some areas which are now used by cyclists, such as along the Muckross Road (Example No.1) and other areas such as the Dr. Hans Liebheer Road (Example No.2), which was constructed in the late 90's/Early 00's, now need to be redesigned and upgraded to current standards. The announcement of the NTA Active Travel Mobility Fund now provides a mechanism to progress with these upgrades.

Regarding Point B: “Appearing” and “Disappearing” Cycleway Paths

As part of previous Roads Projects developed in the late 90's/Early 00's, cycleways such as those on Mission Road and Dr. Hans Liebheer Road were also constructed as part of these road schemes. They were constructed with the view that they would interconnect with future cycleways. Unfortunately, in the past the progress of these additional cycleways has been slow, however with the announcement of the Mobility Fund there is now a mechanism to progress these additional Cycleways- the first step of which is to develop an Active Travel Mobility Plan for the Town

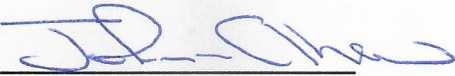
Regarding Point C: Maintenance & Design Issues

Maintenance Issues - Can be addressed By Killarney Municipal District. Design Issues – The location and the design requirement of issues would determine whether it can be resolved directly by the M.D. Office or via the new Active Travel Design Teams. I would welcome engagement with the Cycling Club to highlight any other additional locations. Regarding Example No.1 N72 East, the proposal for N72 Golden Nugget to Gap Cross Cycleway will address this issue.

Regarding Point D: Random Issue from one sample cycle path – N72.

The N72 Ballydowney to Gortroe - A Safety Scheme and Active Travel Project will address a lot of the issues raised here. The Killarney M.D. Office will investigate if any issue can be resolved in the short term.

In short there is an emphasis by Kerry County Council for the provision of Cycle Infrastructure in and around Killarney Town, with various projects in the Planning and Development Stage and more to start construction. Kerry County Council welcomes further engagement with the Killarney Cycling Club and to receive the point of view of the Killarney Cyclist which will only be a benefit for the future development of the Cycling Infrastructure.

Signed: 

*John Ahern, S.E.E.
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