



## **CORK COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **R572 Castletownbere Gateway, Pedestrian Enhancement and Traffic Management Proposal**

#### **PART 8 APPLICATION REPORT**

Part 8 Application Report Development under Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)

**JULY 2019**

**Castletownbere Area Office  
Foildarrig,  
Castletownbere,  
Co. Cork**

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## **Introduction**

Cork County Council proposes to construct a 'gateway', shared use footpaths and cycleways and traffic management measures on the R-572 approach road to Castletownbere. This Part 8 application is for the following works:

- Three metre wide shared use footpaths and cycleways
- Right hand turning lane at Dinish Bridge
- Two metre wide footpath
- Traffic calming measures
- Pedestrian crossing
- 'Gateway' on eastern approach.
- Upgrade existing public lighting
- Surface water drainage system.
- Narrowing the existing carriageway
- Related accommodation works

## **Part 8 Planning**

The proposals require Part 8 planning including public consultation and pursuant to the requirements of Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, notice is hereby given that Cork County Council proposes to carry out improvement works to the R-572 approach road to Castletownbere, Co Cork.

Developments by a local authority are subject to Part 8 Planning process which consists of a public consultation process as set out in the Planning and Development Regulations. The procedure consists of a site notice to be erected and notice given in the press. The notice will set out where the plans and details of the proposal are available for inspection by the public and the dates for inspection and receiving submissions.

Any submissions or observations received by the Council are considered in the Part 8 Managers Report which is prepared and presented to the Councillors for adoption. The Managers Report lists those who made a submission together with summary of their points made in the respective submission. The Report addresses each point and forms the local authority's response.

Arising from consideration of the representations, the Manager's Report sets out whether or not it is proposed to proceed as originally planned or to proceed with a modified proposal. It is then a matter for the members of the Council (i.e. the Councillors) to grant planning or not.

The location for inspecting the Part 8 Planning documentation, the relevant dates and necessary information relating to making submissions and observations to the Local Authority is set out in the Part 8 Planning site and newspaper notices. A copy of the Part 8 planning public notice is included with the Part 8 Planning documents.

This application supersedes the Part 8 Planning proposal sent for public consultation on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

## Principle Features of the Scheme

### Project Objectives

The proposed project objectives include:

- To provide safe pedestrian and cyclist facilities on approximately two kilometres of the R-572 Castletownbere approach road by means of three metre wide shared use footpaths and cycleways and two metre footpaths.
- To provide safe traffic movements at Dinish Bridge by means of a right hand turning lane onto Dinish Island.
- To control vehicular speeds on approaches to Castletownbere by narrowing the carriageway.

### Project Context

The R-572 approach road into Castletownbere is wide and long, with minimum footpaths leading to high vehicle speeds. Provision for pedestrians and cyclists is at a minimum and where present is below standard. This scheme is designed to address these issues and is supported by National, Regional and Local planning and policy objectives e.g. objectives in the County Development Plan are:

- Encourage and facilitate a safe walking route network and a culture of walking where possible and practical.
- Ensure that all development should be accessible and permeable on foot and that the walking experience should be as safe and pleasant as possible and set within an overall coherent network.
- Encourage and facilitate a safe walking and cycling route network and a culture of walking and particularly cycling in the county, as a viable alternative travel choice. Local Area Plans will set out Active Travel Strategies (cycling and walking) for individual towns and their hinterland.
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An objective for Castletownbere in the West Cork Local Area Plan is:

(CR U 06) Proposed road realignment to improve entrance to town.

Furthermore Cork County Council has imposed Specific Planning Contributions on three separate developments in Castletownbere adjacent to the R-572 i.e.

**17/494** Primary Health Care Centre. €61,035 towards the cost of providing a footpath from Brandy Hall Bridge

**17/637** Pier extension and associated works. €576,863 towards the cost of realigning the junction at Dinish Bridge.

**18/65** Extension to Community Hospital. €55,000 towards the cost of footpath, cycle lane and road works on R-572.

## **Project Specific Proposals**

The following lists the principle features of the proposed scheme:

- Three metre wide shared use footpaths and cycleways
- Right hand turning lane at Dinish Bridge
- Two metre wide footpath
- Traffic calming measures
- Pedestrian crossing
- Gateway' on eastern approach
- Upgrade existing public lighting
- Surface water drainage system.
- Narrowing the existing carriageway
- Related accommodation works

## **Habitats Directive Screening Report**

As per Article 81 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening determination has been made and concludes that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development once standard industry environmental management systems are in place.

A determination has been made that an EIA Report is not required. The EIA Screening Assessment Report can be found in the accompanying documents of this Part 8 Planning application and concludes that having considered the potential impacts and sensitivity of the Beara Peninsula SPA, Kenmare River SAC, the Glanmore Bog SAC, the Sheep's Head to Toe Head SPA and the Sheep's Head SAC it is considered that the proposed works alone or in combination with other works will not significantly impact any of the above or the environment. An Appropriate Assessment Screening report has also been carried out and reached the same conclusions.

In accordance with Article 120 (3), as amended by S.I. No. 296 of 2018, a person may, within 4 weeks from the date of the site notice (15th July 2019), apply to An Bord Pleanála for a screening determination as to whether the development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Such a submission should be addressed to the Secretary, An Bord Pleanála, 64, Marlborough Street, Dublin, 1

## **Conclusion**

The proposed works are consistent with proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which it relates. Cork County Council proposes to carry out works to improve the R-572 approach road to Castletownbere.

The scheme will have the following benefits:

- Improved pedestrian connectivity on that section of the R-572
- Traffic Calming
- Provision of cyclist facilities
- Junction improvements
- Improvements to the public realm making Castletownbere a more attractive town to live, work, visit and invest in.
- Improve public health.

## **Part 8 Planning Documents**

Part 8 Planning Report (this document)

Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

Appropriate Assessment Determination

Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report

Environmental Impact Assessment Determination

Scheme Drawings

Public Notice