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Rev. 1.3

Part 8 Planning Report

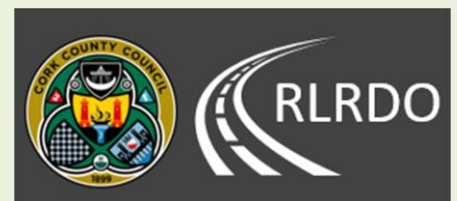


Project Title:

Fountainstown Looped Walking Trail

Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) - Part XI
Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) - Part 8

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Design Office**

Document Info Sheet

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Rev 1.3	21/07/2023	MD	FR	MM	Final Document

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¹ Contents in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000 Part XI S.179(3)b

1. Introduction

Cork County Council proposes to construct a new 3.5km loop walk, along R612 regional road and L6512, L6513, L6515 local roads which includes a new 730m footpath along R612 at Fountainstown village, signage on the local roads, a new pedestrian crossing at the public car park and some landscaping and biodiversity features. The R612 is a ring road running from Carrigaline to Crosshaven, Myrtleville, Fountainstown and back to Carrigaline. Traffic on the R612 and L6512, L6513, L6515 roads comprises of the local commuters travelling between Fountainstown and Carrigaline as well as seasonal tourist traffic accessing Fountainstown Beach. Subject section of R612 road is also designated EuroVelo 1 trans-European cycle network route, aimed at cycling tourists and running along the Western and Southern Coast from Donegal to Rosslare.

1.1 Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is to outline the proposals associated with the new looped walking trail project Fountainstown Looped Walking Trail

1.2 Study Area

The study area is situated along western edge of R612 road heading for Fountainstown, approx. 20km south of Cork City, 5km south-east of Carrigaline. The study area is approximately 3.5km long, with circa 730 m of a proposed footpath to the village running along the R612 approaching the village from the north. There are no junctions nor private entrances on the western side of the road. At the southern end of the study area there is a Bus Stop for Bus Eireann route 220X, public car park and Angela’s Coffee Dock located opposite of the bus stop. (See Figure 1)



Figure 1 Study Area

1.3 Land requirements

Land acquisition is not necessary for the scheme.

2. Part 8 Planning Process

Section 179 of Part XI of the Planning and Development Act 2000, (as amended); and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, (as amended) set out the requirements in respect of certain classes of development by or on behalf of local authorities. Part 8 of the Regulations comprises 7 Articles – 79 to 85. Article 80(1) lists the type of Developments to which Part 8 is required. The proposed road development is covered under the above article.

2.1 Site Notices

In accordance with the Article 81 the Local Authority shall:

- (a) give notice of proposed development in a newspaper;
- (b) erect site notices on the land on which the proposed development would be situated.

Cork County Council Published a notice of the proposals in the **Irish Examiner** on **Friday 11 August 2023**.

Four site notices were erected at various locations across the study area and will be maintained for the duration of the submission period. A copy of the Advertisement/Site Notice is attached (see 7.1 Appendix A).

2.2 Planning Consultations

Article 82(3) prescribes Statutory and Non-Statutory bodies to which a local authority should send notice of proposed development. These are summarised in the 7.2 Appendix B: Notification of Statutory Consultees.

2.3 Part 8 Planning Documents

The following is the list of Part 8 Planning documents contained in this application:

- Part 8 Planning Report (this document);
- Senior Planners Report;
- Report for the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and Determination (see 7.3 Appendix C); and
- Preliminary Design Drawings (as listed below, and see 7.4 Appendix D);

Drawing Number	Drawing Title	Revision
R612F-LM-01	Location Map	D1
R612F-SA-01	Proposed Scheme Extents/Study Area	D1
R612F-LA-01	Proposed Layout Plan – Sheet 1 of 9	D1
R612F-LA-02	Proposed Layout Plan – Sheet 2 of 9	D0
R612F-LA-03	Proposed Layout Plan – Sheet 3 of 9	D0
R612F-LA-04	Proposed Layout Plan – Sheet 4 of 9	D0
R612F-LA-05	Proposed Layout Plan – Sheet 5 of 9	D0
R612F-LA-06	Proposed Layout Plan – Sheet 6 of 9	D1
R612F-LA-07	Proposed Layout Plan – Sheet 7 of 9	D1
R612F-LA-08	Proposed Layout Plan – Sheet 8 of 9	D1
R612F-LA-09	Proposed Layout Plan – Sheet 9 of 9	D1

2.4 Submission Process

Cork County Council is required to make **full plans and particulars** of the proposed development available for inspection. These will be available from **Friday, 11th August 2023** until **Friday, 8th September 2023** online **at the Planning section** on Cork County Council website (www.corkcoco.ie) and also at the following locations:

- County Hall, Carrigrohane Road, Cork, T12 R2NC;
- Carrigaline Municipal District Office, Church Road, Carrigaline, Co Cork, P43 E281.

Alternatively, a hard copy of the documents will be posted on request by emailing part8.rlrdo@corkcoco.ie or by writing to: Senior Engineer, Cork County Council, Regional & Local Roads Design Office, Floor 3, County Library Building, Carrigrohane Road, Cork, T12 K335.

Submissions or Observations can be made:

1. Using an **online submission form** at www.yourcouncil.ie; or
2. By sending an email to part8.rlrdo@corkcoco.ie; or
3. By sending a letter to **Senior Engineer, Cork County Council, Regional & Local Roads Design Office, Floor 3, County Library Building, Carrigrohane Road, Cork, T12 K335.**

All emails and letters must reach the Senior Engineer **on or before 4pm on Friday, 22nd September 2023.**

All submissions must include a contact name and address. Submissions made as part of the process are to be accessible at the request.

Any submissions or observations received by the Council are considered in the Part 8 Chief Executive's Report which is prepared and presented to the Councillors for adoption. The Chief Executive's Report lists those who made a submission together with the 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 Chief Executive'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 or refuse planning.

3. Nature and Extent of Proposed Development

3.1 Project Context and Existing Conditions

The study area is situated in the Fountainstown village, approx. 20km south-east of Cork City, 5km south-east of Carrigaline and along the regional road R612 and local roads L6512, L6513, L6515. The study area is approximately 3.5km long, with circa 730 m of a new footpath proposed along the R612 on the approach to the village from the north of which approx. 430m is falling within 80 km/h speed limit zone and the reminding 260 m nearest to the village falling within 50 km/h speed limit zone.

Traffic on the R612 and L6512, L6513, L6515 roads comprises of the local commuters travelling between Fountainstown, Myrtleville and Carrigaline as well as visitors and cycling tourists travelling along the EuroVelo 1 designated trans-European cycle route.

There are no pedestrian crossings on the main R612 within the study area. This increases the risk of accidents involving pedestrians due to the location of the beach, bar on the opposite side of the main road in relation to the public car park and bus stop.

There is only one single accident recorded in the area involving single vehicle.



Figure 2 View from west road edge of R612 looking south towards the Fountainstown Beach



Figure 3 View from east edge of R612 looking south towards the Fountainstown Beach



Figure 4 View from R612/L6215 Junction looking north at the entrance to the Public Car Park and the Bus Stop



Figure 5 View from the northern end of the scheme (junction R612/L6512) looking south

3.2 Project Objectives

The purpose of this project is to create walking loops & improvements to Fountainstown Blue Flag Beach and enhance experience of local community and visitors by the provision of safer infrastructure. Ancillary improvements to the area such as resting areas, linear benches, contemporary seating areas will make to route more enjoyable. Landscaping and Planting will improve the Islands Biodiversity.

The main objectives of this scheme are:

- Facilitating the residents & visitors of Fountainstown through enhanced accessibility.
- Creation of walking loops & improvements to Fountainstown Blue Flag Beach area amenity and rest areas.
- To improve pedestrian safety.
- To balance the needs of all road users.
- Building upon the objectives of the Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030.

3.3 Project Specific Proposals

The proposal to provide information signage along the walking trail route on L6512, L6513 and L6515 local roads and to construct a new footpath for approximately 730 meters on the west side of the R612 at Fountainstown which involves the following works:

- Excavating 2m width of the existing verge.
- Placing and compacting circa 75mm depth of clean washed stone.
- Shutter the back of the footpath with timber.
- Constructing the 100mm depth concrete footpath at the road edge.
- Installing tactile paving at the proposed pedestrian crossings.
- Installing signage and lining along the proposed footpath.
- Provisions for biodiversity and landscaping.
- All ancillary works required to deliver the proposed upgrade works.

The works will be carried out on the land owned by Cork County Council.

4. Planning and Policy Context

4.1 Planning Context

4.1.1 Planning for the footpath

The strategic priorities of Project Ireland 2040 include enhanced regional accessibility, strengthened rural economies and communities, and investing in the national roads network. Creation of walking routes enhances regional accessibility, strengthen rural economies and communities, and invests in the national roads network, in accordance with the objectives of Project Ireland 2040.

The Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030, under Vision Zero 2050, seeks to reduce the number of fatalities and injuries on roads through education, safe speeds and importance of safe and healthy modes of travel. Proposed footpath will improve vulnerable users safety on the R612 through engineering intervention, in accordance with the “safe speeds” and “importance of safe and healthy modes of travel” objectives of the current Road Safety Strategy.

Extensive consultation taken place with local community groups who expressed their full backing and support for the proposed scheme. *“Community Association promotes and supports any amenities that make the experience of locals and beach visitors safer and more enjoyable”.*

The County Development Plan strategic aims for the bay areas of Fountainstown, Church bay, Graball Bay, Fennell’s Bay and Myrtleville is to acknowledge their important tourism function.

4.1.2 Project Funding

The funding for that project has been secured by Cork County Council from the Department of Rural and Community Development under Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2022.

4.2 Planning Policy Compliance

The study area is situated just north of Fountainstown Blue Flag Beach village, approx. 20km south of Cork City, 5km south-east of Carrigaline.

4.2.1 Cork County Council Development Plan (CDP)

Cork County Council's Cork County Development Plan (2022 – 2028) identified R612 Regional Road between Crosshaven and Fountainstown as a scenic route S59 because its attractive coastal views of the Harbour, Atlantic Ocean and scenic coastal landscape.

Cork County Development Plan promotes active travel, sustainable transport infrastructure that strengthens the connections between rural and urban areas, supports demand management measures to reduce car travel and promote best practice mobility management and travel planning via sustainable transport modes and promotes road safety measures including traffic calming, road signage and parking.

In particular, objective TM 12-2 Active Travel in Section 12-2-1 sets out that:

- *“Development should incorporate the retention of existing routes and linkages which contribute to permeability of an area, particularly those providing access to key services, facilities and public transport infrastructure. Loss of existing links shall not occur if their loss results in more circuitous trips.*
- *Walkability and accessibility by walking mode will be a central objective in the planning and design of all new transport infrastructure and public transport services.*
- *Public realm upgrades will be promoted to enhance walking and cycling provision in settlements.*
- *Deliver settlements that offer a broad range of services as well as diverse and higher density residential development to support walking and cycling.”.*

Also, objective TM 12-5 Bus Transport in Section 12-5-3 supports and prioritise *“secure safe, attractive and convenient walking routes from all new development to the local bus network”* whereas objective TM 12-8 Traffic/Mobility Management and Road Safety sets out to *“promote road safety measures throughout the County, including traffic calming, road signage and parking”*.

4.2.2 Detailed objectives of the County Development Plan for Fountainstown Village

Development Boundary Objectives for Fountainstown include an objective CS-GO-03 which *“Recognises the unique opportunity that Crosshaven has as a tourism destination for water related sport and recreation and supports improved public access to the water.”*

Specific Development Objectives for the village include an objective CS-U-09 to *“Develop and maintain amenity walk.”*

5. Environmental Assessment of the Scheme

5.1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment (Habitats Directive)

The Screening exercise was completed by Capital Projects Implementation Unit (CPIU) at Cork County Council in compliance with the relevant European Commission and national guidelines. The potential impacts during the construction and operation of the proposed road works in Fountainstown have been considered in the context of the European Sites potentially affected, their qualifying interests, Special Conservation Interests and Conservation Objectives.

A new looped walking trail is proposed to follow local roads L6512, L6513 & L6515 with a section of the proposed new footpath located on the west side of the R612 from the Minane Bridge junction to the existing footpath at the Bus Stop just north of Fountainstown Beach. The route is adjacent to Fountainstown Swamp proposed Natural Heritage Area and is approximately 100 meters the

Ringabella Creek section of Cork Harbour Special Protection Area (SPA). The roadside is currently used as a walkway by the public and the absence of a footpath constitutes a safety issue for pedestrians.

Report for the Appropriate Assessment Screening & Determination can be found in 7.3 Appendix C of this report.

In accordance with Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and on the basis of the objective information provided in AA Screening Report, it is concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that the proposed road improvement works, individually or in combination with other plans/projects are not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (Natura 2000 site). It is therefore considered that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment under Section 177V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), is not required.

As per Article 81 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening determination has been made and a determination has been made that an EIA Report is not required. 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 this notice (on or before **Friday, 8th September 2023**), 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.

6. Conclusion

The proposals which are the subject of this Part 8 Planning process provide a unique opportunity to deliver a project that will create of walking loops & improvements to Fountainstown Blue Flag Beach area amenity, rest areas, Beach access & landscaping works, aiming at the improvement to the safety and balancing the needs of all road users.

It is expected that the scheme has the potential to give residents in the area an alternative to using their cars and choose a more sustainable healthier mode of transport. The new footpath will encourage more visitors to walk & explore surrounding areas.


Land acquisition is not required to complete this scheme.

The proposed works are consistent with proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

7. Appendices

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7.1 Appendix A: Site Notice



SITE NOTICE

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (as amended) - Part XI
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (as amended) - Part 8

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of Part XI, Section 179 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and in accordance with the requirements of Part 8, Article 81 and Article 83 of the Planning & Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) that Cork County Council proposes to carry out the following development:

Project Title: Fountainstown Looped Walking Trail

LOCATION	NATURE & EXTENT OF DEVELOPMENT	LOCATIONS and OFFICES AT WHICH PLANS AND PARTICULARS MAY BE INSPECTED
<p>Location: Fountainstown, Co. Cork</p> <p>Project Area - Townlands: Fountainstown, Kilmichael West</p>	<p>The proposal to construct a new 3.5km looped walking trail, following regional road R612 and local roads L6512, L6513 and L6515 and including a new footpath for approximately 730 meters on the west side of the R612 at Fountainstown involves the following works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constructing the 100mm depth concrete footpath. Installing tactile paving at the proposed pedestrian crossings. Installing signage and lining along the proposed footpath. Installing signage along the walking trail route. Provisions for biodiversity and landscaping. <p>Works will be carried out within existing roads extents owned by Cork County Council.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposed scheme plans and particulars are available to view on the Cork County Council website by going to the planning section at www.corkcoco.ie. Documents are also available on public display at: 2. County Hall foyer, Carrigrohane Road, Cork, T12 R2NC. 3. Carrigaline Municipal District Office, Church Road, Carrigaline, Co Cork, P43 E281.


Plans and Particulars of the proposed development may be inspected online or at the locations detailed above, from **Friday, 11th August 2023** until **Friday, 8th September 2023**.

Submissions or Observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development will be situated, may be made using the **online submission form** on www.yourcouncil.ie or, in writing to **Senior Engineer, Cork County Council, Regional & Local Roads Design Office, Floor 3, County Library Building, Carrigrohane Road, Cork, T12 K335** or emailed to part8.rlrdo@corkcoco.ie and must reach the Senior Engineer **on or before 4pm on Friday, 22nd September 2023**.

As per Article 81 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening determination has been made and a determination has been made that an **EIA Report is not required**. 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 this notice (on or before **Friday, 8th September 2023**), 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.

All submissions or observations should be clearly marked:

Project Title: "Fountainstown Looped Walking Trail".


 PP John Slattery, Senior Engineer

Friday 11 August 2023

7.2 Appendix B: Notification of Statutory Consultees

Prescribed Bodies	Non-Prescribed Bodies	Consultees at the Design Stage
Arts Council	National Roads Design Office (NRDO)	Bord Gáis
Fáilte Ireland	Garda Síochána	BT Ireland
An Taisce	Bus Éireann	Chorus NTL
The Heritage Council	Office of Public Works (OPW)	Eir
South Western Regional Fisheries Board		ESB
Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)		Aurora Telecom
National Transport Authority (NTA)		Smart Telecom
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)		E-net
Health Services Executive - Southern Area		EuNetworks
Irish Water		Sky
		Virgin

7.3 Appendix C: Report for the Screening of Appropriate Assessment

Proposed New Fountainstown Looped Walking Trail

Proposed New Fountainstown Looped Walking Trail

Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and Determination



Cork County Council
Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

Cover page here for
information only
(Full document attached)

Completed by Tony Nagle
Capital Projects Implementation Unit
Cork County Council

Date: 03/08/2023

7.4 Appendix D: Part 8 Planning Drawings

Drawing Number	Drawing Title	Revision
R612F-LM-01	Location Map	D1
R612F-SA-01	Proposed Scheme Extents/Study Area	D1
R612F-LA-01	Proposed Layout Plan – Sheet 1 of 9	D1
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