

Proposed Part 8 Development

Redcross Village - Main Street Improvement Works



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1.0 Introduction

Over the last year or so Arklow Municipal District has been discussing and assessing different options associated with the renovation of Redcross Village. There is a requirement to improve pedestrian and parking facilities in Redcross Village from a road safety perspective and to maintain the existing historic cobble drainage channels.

We see these potential upgrade works as a way of improving road safety, improving the aesthetic and stimulating new growth within the village. If the works are completed they will improve traffic flow, create defined parking areas and make the village more appealing. There is a significant population increase in the summer period and influx of visitors at the weekend, which results in car parking in an irregular fashion. The proposed works will create defined parking areas on the Main Street which will address many of these issues. The upgrade works will provide an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing point on the Main Street allowing pedestrians to cross safely. The provision of this pedestrian crossing will offer continuous pedestrian facilities from Millbrook Court housing development to the other side of the village and the school.

2.0 Planned Works Overview

The planned development of the area will consist of the following key elements of work (as per drawing 20-13-01 P0):

1. Construction of New Concrete Paving Kerb Edge and Footpaths

- The current footpath provision in the village is intermittent on both sides of the street. The proposed works will provide a continuous footpath on both sides of the street, increasing safety for members of the public and greatly enhancing the attractiveness of the village. Dropped down sections level with road will also be provided to maintain existing vehicular entrances. The existing roadway through the village is excessively wide which encourages vehicles to speed. This project aims to address this issue by narrowing of the carriageway to 5.5m as per DMURS for local roads. (See Figure 1 below).



Figure 1

2. Construction of Pedestrian Ramp and Give-Way System

- Due to the pinch point located as per Figure 2 below, a build-out will be required to provide a footpath and with the narrowing of the carriageway two way traffic will not be maintained.

- Building out the footpath at the proposed uncontrolled pedestrian ramp will make the roadway narrower at this location requiring a Give Way system to be introduced. This will incorporate a mandatory yield sign for traffic on both approaches to the pedestrian ramp. Narrowing the carriageway will have the advantages of calming the speed of traffic travelling through the village and improve pedestrian safety in the village. (See Figure 2 below).

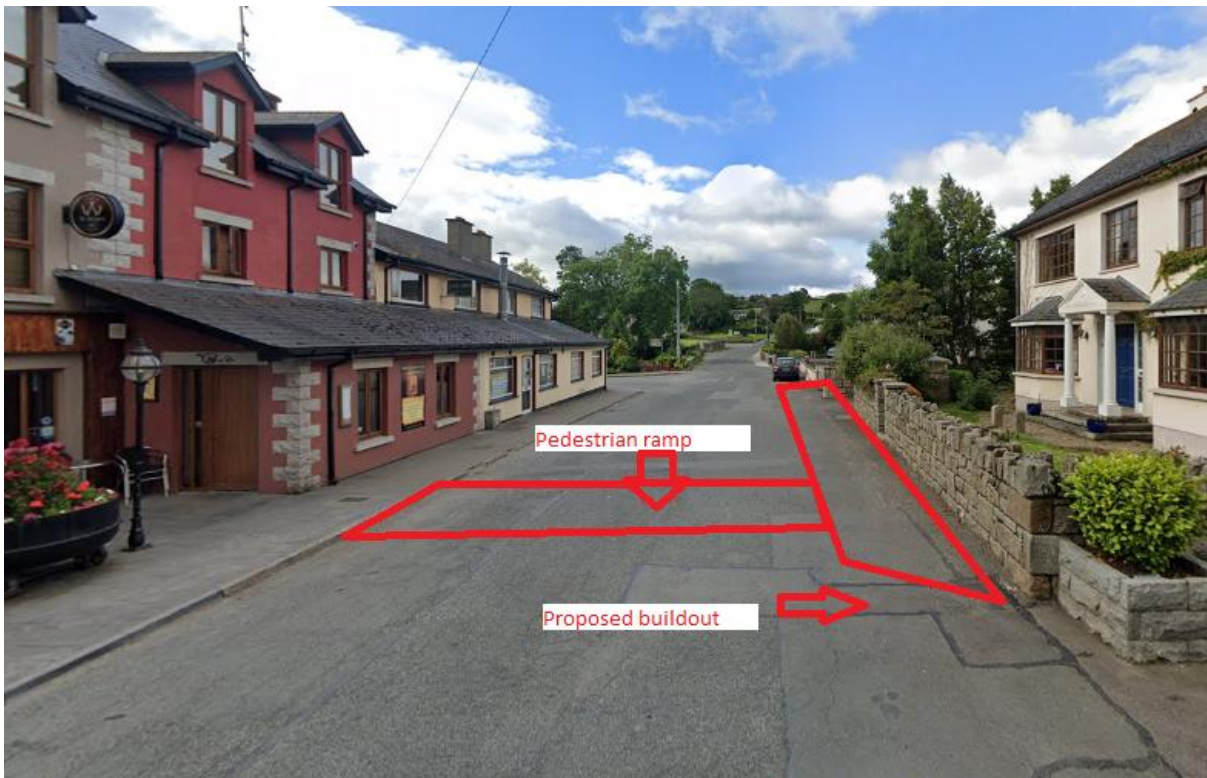


Figure 2

3. Preservation of Existing Cobble Surface Water Channel

- The proposed works intend retaining the remaining sections of the existing historic cobble drainage channel. A conservation engineer is currently engaged to finalise a design which incorporated the cobble drainage channel within the scheme. The existing channels on either side of the main street will be carefully lifted and reinstated as per the TWCE specification document attached (20-13). The existing drainage channels are not fit for purpose for surface water drainage and new road gullies will be installed to provide adequate surface water drainage. (See Figure 3 below).



Figure 3

4. Construction of New 'Matcrete' Concrete Embossed Paving

- 'Matcrete' type concrete embossed paving to be installed to match the existing. This will provide a consistency of paving type in the area and improve the attractiveness of the village. (See Figure 4 below).



Figure 4

5. Construction of New Tactile Paving Areas

- The installation of tactile paving throughout the scheme will make the village more pedestrian friendly for those with special needs who currently have difficulty traversing the village.



Figure 5

6. Installation of Public Lighting Infrastructure

- The installation of ducting will provide the necessary infrastructure to future proof the proposed works for any public lighting upgrades.

7. Installation of Bollards

- The installation of bollards in certain areas where cars may mount the footpath to park, causing obstruction to pedestrians.

In 2021 after the completion of this project, and as part of the roads programme, the entire Main Street of the village will be regraded and resurfaced in accordance with TII specifications.

3.0 Planning Context

The following plans have been reviewed with regards to the consideration of options as part of the feasibility study:

Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022

The Wicklow County Development Plan (WCDP) sets out the overarching vision, policies, strategies and objectives for the County relating a wide range of issues including (as applicable to the proposal):

- Settlement Strategy
- Economic Development
- Town Centre and Retail
- Community Development
- Infrastructure
- Heritage

Settlement Strategy

The Settlement Hierarchy defines Redcross as a Level 7 Large Village.

‘These villages provide a very important function in providing a place for the local community to gather. In order to safeguard their continued existence into the future, it is important that growth is encouraged and facilitated in a sustainable manner.’

Carrying out the upgrade works will greatly improve the overall look of the village area encouraging more people to visit and use the facilities.

Centres & Retail

‘To improve the public realm of centres through the encouragement of high quality civic design, including but not limited to the provision of attractive street paving, lighting and seating etc.’

If this project is completed the village area will become a more pleasurable place to be both for pedestrians and motorists passing through.

Tourism and Recreation

'To promote and facilitate improvements to tourism and recreation infrastructure within the County.'

The proposed works if completed would enhance the village from a tourism and recreation point of view.

Community Development

- *'Requiring the delivery of new community infrastructure as part of development proposals'*

If these proposed works are completed the village area will transform into a more accessible community area for locals and visitors to the area.

Infrastructure

- *'Promote the development of a safe, accessible pedestrian, cycling and traffic routes.'*

The creation of the new pedestrian ramp will allow pedestrians to traverse the public road in a safer manner. The construction of dedicated parking areas will improve public safety; allow traffic to move more freely. The upgrade works would also connect into pedestrian crossing installed in 2018.

Heritage

- *'To ensure that the protection and conservation of the built heritage of Wicklow is an integral part of the sustainable development of the county....'*

The proposed works are to make the historical cobble drainage channels a prominent feature which will enhance the unique character of Redcross and ensure their longevity.