

Arklow to Shillelagh Recreational Trail Feasibility Study

Public Information Event/Workshop

Lawless's Hotel, Aughrim

19th October 2017

Background to the Project (1 of 2)

- Wicklow County Council issued a public tender to examine the **feasibility** of developing an off road walking and cycling route/Wicklow Greenway
- Where possible the trail could utilise sections of the former railway line from Shillelagh to Arklow

Background to the Project (2 of 2)

- Following this public tender – the contract to undertake this feasibility study was awarded to:
 - Roughan & O'Donovan Engineers
 - Brady Shipman Martin – Landscape Architects
 - Tourism Development International – Tourism and Leisure Planners

Purpose of today's Event/Workshop

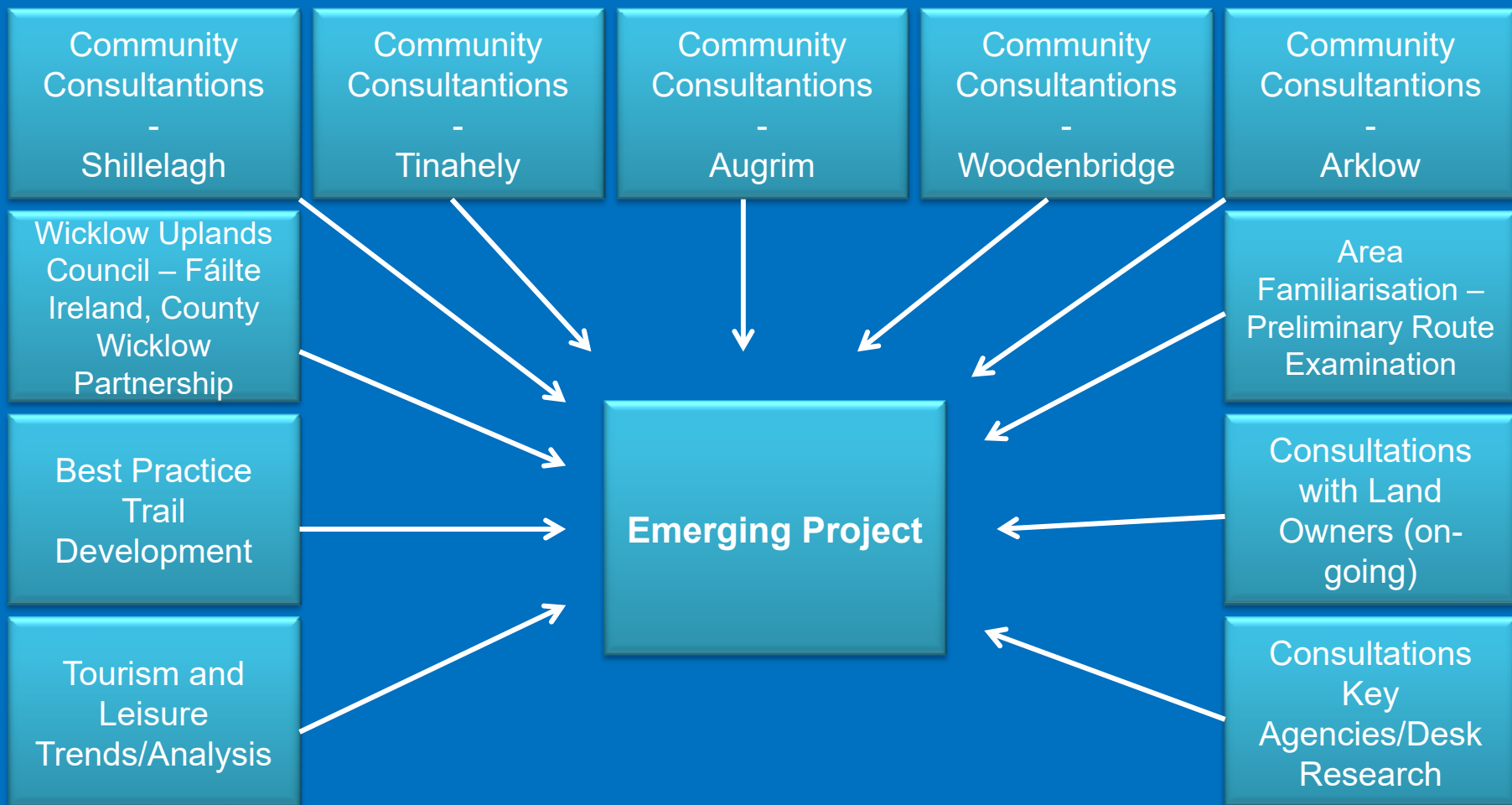
- To give you an update on the feasibility study process that we have been following
- To give you the members of the public/community an opportunity to “have your say”

Format for this Evening

- Research process update (David)
- Mayo Greenway (Padraig)
- Have your say (3 Hand-outs)
- Summary Wicklow trade feedback – on-going (David)
- Summary of emerging project (John)
- Brief overview of your feedback today (John)
- Village tables (Magaret)

Feasibility Study - On-going Research

Process



Mayo Greenway – An Overview

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Padraig Philbin

Wicklow Recreational Trail/Greenway

Have Your Say

3 Hand-outs

- Overall reaction to concept
- Benefits
- Concerns

Summary Wicklow Tourism Trade Feedback (on-going)

Very positive feedback to the concept of a
Recreational Trail/Greenway for County Wicklow

Overall Reaction to the Concept of Trail/ Greenway

Verbatim Comments

“ Wicklow has many community groups made up of very dynamic people”

“Tinahely is already a centre of excellence for walking”

“It would be good for locals and tourists”

“The biggest reason for lack of cycling is danger – narrow roads/farm machinery etc.”

“This would be a game changer”

Aspects of Trail/ Greenway with greatest Appeal

- **Walking**
- **Cycling**

“Can tie in with Wicklow Way”

“Cycling cannot be just about the Lycra Brigade”

“Greenway is great because it appeals to a broad spectrum of people”

“Safe cycling is so important”

“Walkers love good views”

“Greenway will encourage walkers to walk and have lunch/tea”

“Will allow Wicklow to complete with Westport and Mayo”

“Wicklow has a lot of mountains so a railway is perfect – it is level for the average Joe Soap”

“At present, no real easy walks on our doorstep”

“This new Greenway could be used for social responsibility programmes”

“Bikes should be allowed”

“The Wicklow Way is for masochists”

“A resource for use in social responsibility programmes”

Outdoor Recreational Activity in Wicklow – Growth or Decline

“Wicklow becoming very popular for walking during the week”

“People want to touch the towns when walking”

“Cycling and hill walking is very popular”

“Huge growth in recreational/activity users – walkers, cycling, European visitors and the Sunday lunch trade”

“Huge growth”

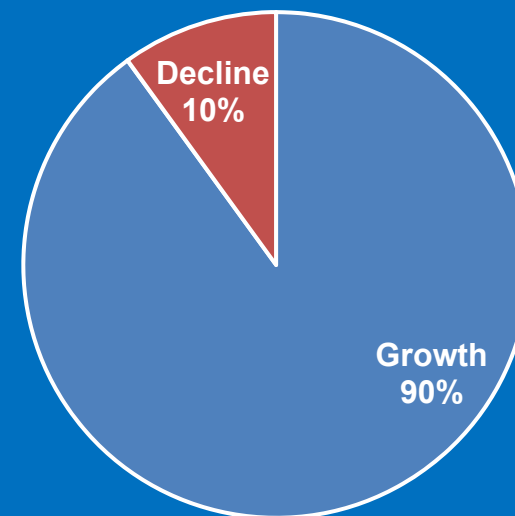
“People now arrive in the door of the hotel in their walking gear”

“We now have 10 sets of wellies in the lobby”

“Walking is so popular”

“Farming is morphing into rural activity”

“Too much emphasis on staying overnight in Dublin”



Would you consider promoting Trail/Greenway together with your own Business

Verbatim Comments

“ This will be a most welcome initiative for Shillelagh”

“Look at Tinahely – it now has 5 different places to get something to eat”

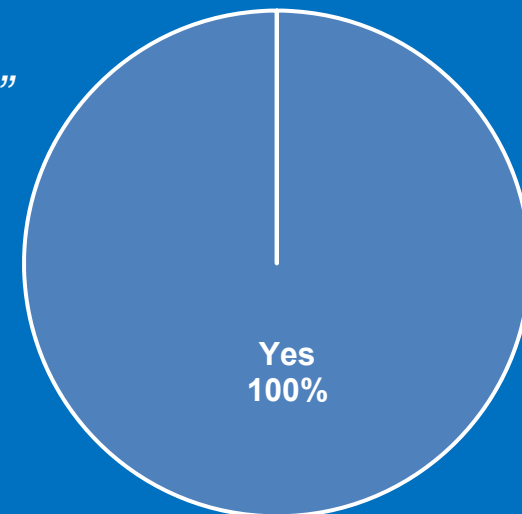
“Greenway should not suburbanise the landscape – needs to be planted using wildflowers etc.”

“We would talk about the holy wells, field names etc.”

“Will help to de-clutter Glendalough”

“Yes, absolutely we are totally behind walking”

“It is all about getting people into the villages”



Likely Types of Users

- Walkers
- Cyclists

“Great for family days out”

“All types of walkers”

“People in their 70 and 80s on bikes”

“Needs to be buggy friendly/safe”

“Type of users will depend on surface”

“Camping and glamping along the way”

“Hikers who stay overnight”

“Leisure and pleasure market – 70% women mid 20s”

“The general vast majority of people need somewhere safe”

“Locals could use the Greenway to cycle to work”

How might the Trail/Greenway be promoted

“No need for a car – use public transport”

“Trade collaboration working together like Kerry!”

“Need a distinct sign/brand”

“Will help to develop Wicklow walking network”

“Will help promote Wicklow as the outdoor capital of Ireland”

“Follow the vision of the Western Greenway”

“Target the Europeans, they like walking and cycling”

“Promote local towns and villages, shops and pubs in association with the Greenway”

Promote the wild landscape”

‘Wicklow Tourism, Fáilte Ireland, Wicklow County Council, LEADER, Wicklow Uplands

Who do you consider to be the key players in this Trail/Greenway Initiative?

- **Towns and villages/Communities themselves**
- Accommodation sector – hotels/B&Bs etc
- Wicklow's rural recreation officer
- Land owners
- Wicklow County Council
- Wicklow tourism and trade/Wicklow Uplands Council

Who do you consider to be the key players in this Trail/Greenway Initiative?

“Speak to land owners first – this is key”

“Can trail link up with the Wicklow Way – it cannot sit in isolation”

“Dealing with land owners is all down to good communication”

Other Comments (1 of 3)

“Aughrim to Woodenbridge road is very dangerous”

“Link into the Croghan Cluster Walks”

“Huge opportunity to get corporate delegates out cutting down briars and bushes”

“This Greenway could target two markets – the sports and leisure market and the Camino market”

“Once this Greenway is launched, it will get around like wildfire”

“Huge potential to develop beautiful walks by the river”

*“This project syncs in well with the **Pure Mile**”*

“This initiative should have its own app – tied into the Wicklow Way”

Other Comments (2 of 3)

“This Greenway and the Wicklow Way and all the other walking trails and loops etc in Wicklow should be colour coded like the tube”

“Dublin’s doorstep is not the way to promote Wicklow”

“Shillelagh is about to brand itself – this Greenway will be an enormous boost to Shillelagh”

“Dogs should be kept on leads”

“The football players will use the Greenway for a run”

*“Too much emphasis in past on day trips to Wicklow –
Visitors need to wake up in Wicklow”*

Other Comments (3 of 3)

“This Greenway will encourage bike hire/rentals etc”

“As a result of this initiative all sorts of routes/trips can be easily planned”

“Wicklow has so much wildlife to be seen and this Greenway can help for example: the pine martins and the grey spotted woodpecker, red kytes etc.”

“The old Avoca mines 500 acre site has potential to link to this Greenway and could be re-zoned for outdoor recreational – lunar landscape”

Final Comments

“We have a great local community group who will support this”

“Hugely enthusiastic about this”

“Shillelagh will blossom as a result of this initiative”

“The village facilities along the Greenway will be key”

“The idea that you can ride into Arklow is fantastic”

“Visitors will love walking from village to village”

“Go for it”

“Great idea”

“Will help to make Wicklow a destination”

“With this Greenway, Wicklow can be an artery of walks”

“Look at linking this Greenway with Avoca”