

Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway

Project Update

June 2023

The Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway is a key objective of Wicklow County Council that will provide local amenity, attract tourism and support economic growth.

Where We Are Now

Under the new guidelines and standards set out by TII, we are pleased to confirm significant progress has been made towards development of the Greenway. In this regard here are some key outputs:

- Consultations with potentially affected landowners and key stakeholders are at an advance stage towards selection of the preferred route. The aim is to ensure the delivery of a high-quality Greenway facility.
- During the consultation process, additional localised route options have been explored and additional environmental and other surveys are largely complete.
- Wicklow County Council is currently in the process of preparing and finalising the Options Selection Report, which will identify the preferred route for the Greenway.
- The launch of the greenway project website, originally planned for Q1 of 2023, has been delayed until July 2023 due to development-related issues. The website will function as a platform for accessing project information and updates. Additionally, it will serve as a repository for relevant project documentation and drawings as they become available.
- We are developing a public consultation strategy. This will outline the details of when, where, and how consultation on the emerging preferred route and the preferred route will take place.

Overall, the Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway project is currently in Phase 2. Completion of Phase 2 will involve finalising the preferred route and ensuring all necessary evaluations and designs are in place to facilitate moving on to Phase 3.

Project Development Phases: <i>TII Project Manager's Manual for Greenway Projects</i>			
Planning & Development	Phase 0	Scope and Pre-Appraisal	←
	Phase 1	Concept and Feasibility	
	Phase 2	Options Selection	
	Phase 3	Design and Environmental Evaluation	
	Phase 4	Statutory Processes	
Construction/ Implementation	Phase 5	Enabling and Procurement	
	Phase 6	Construction and Implementation	
	Phase 7	Close out and Review	

Next Immediate Steps

The next steps in the delivery of the Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway are as follows:

- The project website is scheduled to launch next month in July. Once live, it will serve as a platform for regular updates, offering information, documents, and drawings as they become available. This website will be a valuable resource for stakeholders to stay informed about the project's progress.
- Ongoing engagement with potentially affected landowners will continue, with the objective of establishing Voluntary Land Acquisition Agreements (VLAAs) to facilitate the development of the Greenway.
- Once the Options Selection process reaches an advanced stage and the initial assessment of the options is completed, a public consultation will be conducted to gather input on the emerging preferred route. This consultation is expected to take place in Q3 of 2023, allowing stakeholders to provide feedback before the final decision on the preferred route is made.
- Following conclusion of the public consultation process, the Options Selection Report, appraisal document, and all other relevant reports will be finalized in accordance with the TII 'Project Manager's Manual for Greenway Projects'.
- The final preferred route will be put on display and a further public consultation process will be undertaken before proceeding to Phase 3. This consultation will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to provide any additional feedback on the preferred route before detailed design and environmental evaluation commence.

Longer Term Steps

Based on the information provided in the January 2023 update, the project will only advance to Phase 3 after meeting two key criteria:

- selection of the preferred route and
- fulfilment of all TII project management requirements.

These requirements ensure that the project is on track and compliant with the necessary guidelines and standards set by the TII.

Thank you for your engagement and support to date. If you have any queries in the meantime, please feel free to email wicklowgreenway@wicklowcoco.ie and we will reply to you accordingly.