



# Arklow Shillelagh Greenway

Shillelagh - Tinahely - Aughrim - Woodenbridge - Arklow

## Public Consultation Emerging Preferred Route

28th September to  
2nd November 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.**

The popularity of recently opened Greenways throughout Ireland demonstrates the many benefits that they bring to rural areas. Greenways are providing wonderful new experiences of Ireland's beautiful countryside for both visitors and local people alike. They contribute to health and wellbeing, enhance local communities with opportunities for new and existing businesses, and strengthen regional economies.

Wicklow is renowned for its natural beauty, attracting visitors from near and far for recreation activities, and there is a unique opportunity for Wicklow to develop a new premium greenway catering for all ages and abilities. The valley corridors and settlements south of the Wicklow Mountains showcase a wealth of natural, manmade, and cultural heritage - evident in the landscape, woodlands, and rivers; in the built heritage of the villages and towns; the people, their traditions, and folklore; the working agricultural landscape; and remnants of the former railway line that was once the backbone of the local economy.

**The idea of the Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway** is to develop a new walking and cycling amenity, building on the success of the Tinahely Railway Walk and other attractions, and extending that idea to connect the towns, villages, and communities along the way. The Greenway will provide a high quality off-road amenity for walking and recreational cycling that would have immediate local appeal, but with sufficient scale would also attract visitors from afar to bring a wider economic benefit to the area.



# Where We Are Now

**The development of the Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway**, spanning over 35 kilometres, adheres to the 'Code of Best Practice: National and Regional Greenways' and the Transport Infrastructure Ireland 'Project Manager's Manual for Greenway Projects.' These documents serve as our guiding principles to ensure that landowners are treated with respect and fairness throughout all stages, including construction and operation.

Over the last number of years, extensive landowner and stakeholder consultation has taken place; route options, feasibility, and design development were undertaken; and a constraints study has been carried out. Where feasible, the route has been amended to address identified issues whilst ensuring the continuity of the route, end to end. The Project Team will continue to consult with all affected landowners and key stakeholders to seek agreement on a final route and to ensure the ultimate delivery of a high-quality Greenway facility.



Wicklow County Council is currently finalising the Phase 2 Options Selection Stage, which will identify the preferred route for the Greenway before moving on the Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation.

| Project Development Phases:<br>Transport Infrastructure Ireland Project Manager's Manual for Greenway Projects |         |   |                                     |
|--|---------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Planning and Development   | Phase 0 | ▼ | Scope and Pre-Appraisal             |
|  | Phase 1 | ▼ | Concept and Feasibility             |
|  | Phase 2 | ▶ | Options Selection WE ARE HERE       |
|  | 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                |

The **Emerging Preferred Route** has been identified following the completion of a Constraints Study and a Multi-Criteria Analysis using the six Common Appraisal Framework criteria of:

|                                  |  |             |  |                   |  |
|----------------------------------|--|-------------|--|-------------------|--|
| Safety                           |  | Environment |  | Economy           |  |
| Accessibility & Social Inclusion |  | Integration |  | Physical Activity |  |

# Have your say

**This public consultation is being conducted to gather input on the Emerging Preferred Route and to invite stakeholders to provide feedback before the Preferred Route is decided.**

Wicklow County Council will hold three information events, with route maps on display and members of the Project Team in attendance to answer any questions, as follows:

-  **Arklow Library, Y14 PY61 - Thursday 28th September from 4 to 8pm.**
-  **Aughrim Community Sports Complex, Y14 F868 - Wednesday 4th October from 4 to 8pm.**
-  **Shillelagh Courthouse, Y14 V3V9 - Thursday 5th October from 4 to 8pm.**

An online consultation process will commence on Thursday **28th September 2023**, running until Thursday **2nd November 2023**.

The project website: [www.wicklowgreenways.ie/](http://www.wicklowgreenways.ie/) will provide you with the most up to date information on the project, including:

**This Public  
Consultation  
Brochure**

**Maps showing  
the Route  
Options**

**Report  
containing the  
Multi-Criteria  
Analysis of the  
Route Options**

**Maps showing  
the Emerging  
Preferred Route**

This information will also be available on the Wicklow County Council website:  
<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/ConsultationHub>

## Feedback

**The Project Team would like to hear your views on the Emerging Preferred Route. Your comments will assist Wicklow County Council and our Design Team in the selection of a Preferred Route and the Design Development for the Greenway.**

Submissions can be made at the addresses below:



Email : [wicklowgreenway@wicklowcoco.ie](mailto:wicklowgreenway@wicklowcoco.ie)



Website : [www.wicklowgreenways.ie](http://www.wicklowgreenways.ie)



Post : Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway Project  
Transportation, Water and Emergency Services,  
Wicklow County Council  
County Buildings  
Whitegates  
Wicklow Town  
WA67 FW96





## Next Steps

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

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.

Following conclusion of the public consultation process, the Options Selection Report, appraisal document, and all other relevant reports will be finalised in accordance with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland's 'Project Manager's Manual for Greenway Projects'.

The final Preferred Route will be put on display at a further public consultation. This consultation will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to provide any additional feedback on the preferred route before the design and environmental evaluation commence.

Following confirmation of the preferred route option, the project will proceed to Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation which will involve further design development and more precise land acquisitions requirements determined and undertaking additional environmental and technical surveys and assessments.

An application for statutory approval of the project will be prepared, and it is intended to lodge the application with An Bord Pleanála in 2024.

If approved by An Bord Pleanála, the project will then move to Phase 5: Enabling and Procurement of a contractor for the construction phase.

