

COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL DARA

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Record of Executive Business and Chief Executive's Orders

**Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) – Part XI**

**Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) – Part 8**

**Grand Canal Greenway (Phase 2) – 2 No. Additional Pedestrian/Cyclist Bridges.  
Bridge 1 is proposed to be located in Lowtown, and Bridge 2 is proposed to be sited  
to east of the existing Healy's Bridge (Bonyng Bridge) at Downings South, Co.  
Kildare**

**Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Determination**

Pursuant to the requirements of the above, Kildare County Council is proposing as part of the Grand Canal Greenway (Phase 2) – 2 no. additional pedestrian/cyclist bridges at Lowtown and to the east the existing Healy's Bridge (Bonyng Bridge) at Downings South, Co. Kildare, respectively.

The proposed development comprises of the following:

The provision of two additional prefabricated pedestrian bridges with approach ramp access on Phase 2 of the Grand Canal Greenway. The additional bridges will improve existing cycling and pedestrian infrastructure deficiencies and safety concerns, providing increased segregation between Greenway users and thereby allowing for safer access for users of the Greenway by avoiding the crossing of and travelling along dangerous sections of the public road. Bridge 1 is located just west of the existing Lowtown Bridge and Bridge 2 is located circa. 175m east of the existing Healy's Bridge (Bonyng Bridge).

The proposed works at Bridge 1 (located just west of Lowtown Bridge) involve the erection of a steel bridge over the Grand Canal and the construction of green reinforced earth bank approach ramps either side (circa. 130 meters in total length and 3 meters in width) with associated railings. In addition, the proposed works include an extension of the Greenway (circa. 1km) along the southern bank of the Grand Canal from the proposed pedestrian bridge in an eastern direction toward the village of Robertstown.

The proposed works at Bridge 2 (located circa. 175m to the east of Healy's Bridge /Bonyng Bridge) involves the erection of a steel bridge over the Grand Canal and the construction of green reinforced earth bank approach ramps either side (circa. 150 in total length and 3 meters in length) with associated railings. In addition, the proposed works include an additional pathway from the new pedestrian bridge to the original intended Greenway route (circa. 100 meters in length) and facilitating works within the curtilage of a protected structure – Healys / Bonyng Bridge (RPS No. B13-16).

The development also includes the installation of signage, road markings, bollards and associated site works at the above locations.

Having regard to EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU (the EIA Directive), the guidance contained in: “*Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-Threshold Development*” (published by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in 2003); “*Environmental Impact - Assessment of Projects - Guidance on Screening*” (published by the European Commission in 2017); “*Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment*” (published by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in 2018); and on the basis of an examination of the Part 8 drawings and documents and EIA Screening report prepared by Fehily Timoney and Company, on behalf of Kildare County Council, as the Competent Authority, determines that the proposed provision of 2 No. Additional Pedestrian/Cyclist Bridges and the associated works along the Grand Canal Greenway at Lowtown and Downings South, Co. Kildare, individually, and in combination with other plans and projects, does not require an Environmental Impact Assessment.

Full consideration is given to the EIA Directive and in particular to Annex I, II and III of that Directive, which set out requirements for mandatory and sub-threshold EIA.

As the proposed development is sub-threshold, it has, therefore, been assessed on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the criteria for determining whether or not a development would or would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment as outlined within Annex III of the EIA Directive.

Having regard to the foregoing and in particular:

- The size and design of the whole project,
- Cumulation with other existing and/or proposed projects,
- The use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity,
- The production of waste,
- Pollution and nuisance,
- The risk of major accidents and/or disasters which are relevant to the project concerned, including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge; and
- The risk to human health (for example due to water contamination or air pollution).

It is considered that the environmental effects arising from the proposed project will generally be localised and minor in nature. It is considered that the proposed development is not likely to give rise to significant environmental impacts and does not require an Environmental Impact Assessment Report to be prepared or an Environmental Impact Assessment to be conducted.

*Carroll Melia*

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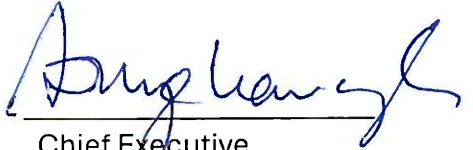
Carroll Melia

Senior Executive Planner

20<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**ORDER:** That Kildare County Council as the Competent Authority, having considered the EIA Screening Report prepared by Fehily Timoney and Company, on behalf of Kildare County Council, makes a determination that the proposed provision of 2 No. Additional Pedestrian/Cyclist Bridges and the associated works along the Grand Canal Greenway at Lowtown and Downings South, Co. Kildare, would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment and that the proposed project does not require an Environmental Impact Assessment.

Date: 21/5/2025

  
Chief Executive