

Knockharley Landfill

PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT DECEMBER 2025

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1. Introduction

Beuparc, the operators of the Knockharley landfill are seeking to extend the footprint of their facility in order to meet Ireland's continued and increasing demand for waste management. Knockharley's capacity is expected to be full by 2029, three years earlier than previously projected at the time of the last planning application. Expanded capacity is therefore required to be permitted and ready for usage by this time. It is not proposed to increase the annual tonnage allowance of 440kt/yr., so this is very much a continuance of the existing operation.

Knockharley landfill is located in one of the most geologically suitable sites in Ireland for landfill and has the space to expand westwards to accommodate a capacity for 3.14 million tonnes of waste. At current max waste acceptance rates, the proposed additional landfill void would extend the life of this critical facility until 2043.

Keating & Associates are a communications agency specialising in stakeholder and community engagement. They have been retained by Beuparc team to assist with this project. The company has undertaken a number of sensitive public information briefs and stakeholder consultations around major infrastructure and industrial projects as well as assisting firms with their ongoing CSR and community engagement programmes.

They have extensive experience in planning and delivering stakeholder engagement and community relations around specific projects ranging from large scale manufacturing, through the infrastructure, energy, residential, agriculture and industrial sectors.

This report has been prepared to provide a comprehensive record of the engagement process that has been and will be delivered. It sets out the overarching approach, the stakeholders that will be consulted with and the method of engagement.

2. Approach to Consultation

The key objectives of consultation for this scheme are to:

- Develop and maintain good relationships with neighbours and local community
- Ensure that the project is presented correctly to key local stakeholders in clear, non-technical language so it can be readily understood
- Anticipate local concerns and be resourced to positively respond through ongoing consultation inputs
- Engage and invite key community/stakeholder groups into dialogue and consultation
- Be committed from the outset to ensure that there is provision for timely and suitable resources to initiate, establish, develop and sustain good relationships with neighbours and the local community
- To work with local community stakeholders to determine how we can best support local initiatives and local community groups.

3. Community and Stakeholder Mapping

Detailed research has been undertaken to develop a comprehensive understanding of the key audiences that should be engaged with as part of the consultation including:

- Political stakeholders
- Civic / Community groups
- Near neighbours

This research has included detailed desktop research on local groups via media and social media, site visit and visual assessment and review of previous environmental / planning discourse in the area.

4. Stakeholder Engagement

4.1 Elected Representatives

There has been early engagement between Beauparc representatives and a number of local elected representatives including;

- Email to local TDs Thomas Byrne, Helen McEntee, Darren 'O Rourke and Gillian Toole with a copy of the project newsletter and an invite to a face-to-face project briefing, 2 weeks prior to planning submission on 21/11/25
- Email to all Ashbourne area Councillors with a copy of the project newsletter and an invite to a face-to-face project briefing, 2 weeks prior to planning submission on 21/11/25
 - Cllr Joe Bonner
 - Cllr Amanda Smith
 - Cllr Alan Tobin
 - Cllr Suzanna Jamal
 - Cllr Conor Tormey
 - Cllr Helen Meyer
- Email to all neighbouring Laytown/Bettystown area Councillors with a copy of the project newsletter and an invite to a face-to-face project briefing, 2 weeks prior to planning submission on 21/11/25
 - Cllr Sharon Tolan
 - Cllr Paddy Meade
 - Cllr Geraldine Keogan
 - Cllr Stephen McKee
 - Cllr Wayne Harding
 - Cllr Maria White
 - Cllr Carol Lennon

One local Councillor and one local TD took up the offer of a face-to-face meeting and both were met individually at the on-site project information centre and given a walk-through of the proposals.

4.2 Civic / Community Groups

Beauparc has engaged with the key local community groups including the Knockharley and District Residents Association. This has included direct email engagement with project newsletter and an invite to a face-to-face project briefing, 2 weeks prior to planning submission on 21/11/25. The Chair and Secretary of Kentstown football club were met individually at the on-site project information centre and given a walk-through of the proposals.

4.3 Near Neighbours

Beauparc hand-delivered a project newsletter and an invite to a face-to-face project briefing to approximately 200 neighbouring properties, 2 weeks prior to planning submission on 21/11/25. A number of neighbours were subsequently met and engaged with individually.

4.5 Wider Audience

Actions were undertaken to ensure everyone who wants to learn about the proposals but lives outside the immediate area has the opportunity to do so and Beauparc has proactively engaged with the local newspaper Meath Chronicle and the Meath Public Participation Network to advise them of the planning application.

Meath Chronicle



Noelle Finegan

Published: Fri 21 Nov 2025, 1:51 PM



An aerial view of the Knockharley landfill

Plans to extend footprint of Knockharley Landfill

The operator of the Knockharley Landfill near Kentstown is to seek permission to extend the footprint of the landfill with a planning application due to be soon lodged with Meath County Council.

Beauparc, the operators of the Knockharley landfill, has issued a statement outlining that it will shortly lodge a planning application which will seek to

<https://www.meathppn.ie/meathppnnews/>

21 NOV 2025 Knockharley Landfill: Update & Footprint Extension

Posted By : meathppn Comments : 0

Beauparc, the operators of the Knockharley landfill intend to lodge a planning application which will seek to increase the landfill footprint within the existing site. Prior to submission and the formal consultation process, we wish to undertake a non-statutory, informal consultation with our neighbours. As part of this, attached newsletter gives further details on our proposals. Should you wish to discuss any elements of this plan further, we will be happy to meet you on site at our project information centre by appointment prior the 15th December. For more information on the project...

[Read More](#)

5. Project Newsletter

A newsletter was drafted and around 300 copies distributed by hand and email to act as introduction and explainer to the proposed project. This also includes a dedicated email contact.

November 2025

Knockharley seeks footprint extension

No increase in annual limits but additional footprint is required to meet national need

Beauparc, the operators of the Knockharley landfill are seeking to extend the footprint of their facility in order to meet Ireland's continued and increasing demand for waste management.

A number of factors including increased population growth, effects of a growing economy, a reduction in waste exports, unplanned outages at a major Waste to Energy Facility, slower than anticipated Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF) consumption at cement sites, and expected closures of existing landfill facilities means an expansion of permitted landfill is of strategic importance to ensure that a well-managed waste system is in place to accommodate the needs of the country.

Whilst Ireland has made strides, and continues to make strides, in terms of sustainable waste management, landfilling is still a necessary element of Ireland's waste management system for waste streams that cannot be recycled or consumed as fuel in waste to energy facilities. And whilst every effort is made to reduce and reuse, not all waste streams can be.

Knockharley is only one piece of the puzzle when it comes to resolving Ireland's waste disposal capacity deficit and other operators/government have a significant role to play.

Map illustrating the Knockharley site



However, at current rates, Knockharley's capacity is expected to be full by 2026, three years earlier than previously projected at the time of the last planning application. Expanded capacity is therefore required to be permitted and ready for usage by the time.

Knockharley landfill is located in one of the most geologically suitable sites in Ireland for landfill and has the space to expand westwards to accommodate a capacity for 3.6 million tonnes of waste. At current max waste acceptance rates, the proposed additional landfill void would extend the life of this critical facility until 2043.

A planning application will shortly be lodged which will seek to add this additional capacity within the existing Knockharley site. The land to the west of the facility is within the area that is geologically ideal for a landfill. This is the area we seek to expand into.

It is not proposed to increase the annual tonnage allowance of 440k/yr, so this is very much a continuance of the existing operation. In summary, we are seeking a continuance of business as usual within a slightly expanded landfill footprint.

Knockharley Landfill Capacity



Material	Current Annual Permitted Annual Waste Allowance	Planned Annual Permitted Annual Waste Allowance
Municipal solid waste	188,000 tonnes	188,000 tonnes
Construction and demo	60,000 tonnes	60,000 tonnes
Incinerator bottom ash	50,000	50,000
Contingency	44,000 tonnes	44,000 tonnes
Total	440,000 tonnes	440,000 tonnes
Change +/-	Zero	Zero



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Facility Lifetime

Permitted Facility Lifetime	Until capacity reached
Expected Facility Lifetime at time of licencing	2032
Current Expected Facility Lifetime	2029
Planned Facility Lifetime	2043



Why here?

Sustainable development principles dictate that consolidation at existing facilities should be the first port of call when exploring suitable options. Consolidation of waste infrastructure significantly reduces vehicular trips, air quality emissions, and general visual impact compared to a larger network of smaller dispersed landfills.

It also increases efficiencies in terms of skilled operational management, on-site infrastructure and effective tracking, which ultimately can help reduce the amount of waste landfilled.

Knockharley landfill has the space to expand westwards, and this land is geologically ideal for a landfill.

What is landfilled?

With the successful roll-out of brown bin collection and advanced processing of waste, the material arriving in landfill is all pre-sorted and is now largely comprised of ash, soils, construction and demolition waste (C&D) and stabilised materials meaning much less odour and much less emissions than might have historically been expected.

The demand for C&D waste to landfill has increased at a quicker rate than previously anticipated as a result of Ireland's growing economy and development works being undertaken leading to a need to accommodate waste that can't be reused, recycled or otherwise returned to the circular economy.

Some 100,000 tonnes of Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA) is left behind as a by-product of the conversion of waste into energy in Ireland's two waste to energy facilities. Knockharley have become a leader in the processing of this material into re-usable raw materials.

Currently in Knockharley we are processing ash within a dedicated building where we extract ferrous and non-ferrous materials for recycling. We are also preparing the residual material for re-use as a raw material in the cement industry.

Municipal waste trends nationwide

	Incinerated	Recycled	Landfilled	Total
2020-2025 waste by volume	14m Tonnes	13m Tonnes	400,000 Tonnes	33m Tonnes
2020-2025 waste by %	47%	40%	13%	100%
2025-2030 projected waste by volume	15m	2.5m	45,000 Tonnes	4.5m
2025-2030 projected waste by %	35%	55%	10%	100%

Landscaping and Biodiversity

As part of the proposal, a comprehensive landscaping plan will be implemented to visually integrate the site and contribute to the long-term restoration and ecological enhancement of the land.

Reuse of excavated soils arising from the construction of landfill cells will provide new and extended berms located along the site boundaries to provide screening of operational areas and reduce any transmission of noise and dust beyond the site boundary.

Following construction, berms will be covered with a layer of topsoil and seeded with appropriate grass and wildflower mixes to encourage vegetation establishment, soil stabilisation, and habitat development.

Native trees and hedgerows will be planted to further enhance biodiversity and contribute to the site's long-term restoration objectives. The wider landscaping plan will also include enhancement of existing vegetation, planting of native species, and the creation of habitat corridors to support local wildlife.

Community Gain

The existing operation currently provides €10,000 per month to local community projects. In the past 5 years we have already contributed over €1m to the community gain fund. The fund has so far contributed to:

- The new sportsground in Kerkstown
- Renovations to the local school
- New footpaths and lighting in Kerkstown and support has been given to Ballynahinch football club and Greenstar park

In addition to the community gain fund, we also provide additional local benefits including:

- Provision of a sports field and other local services
- A €4 million spend with local contractors in the past 12 months
- A source of local employment, with most of our employees living locally
- The proposed extension would include an increase in community funding that could exceed €1m over its lifespan



Contact us

For more information on the project please contact our project email address: knockharley@beauparc.ie

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6. Project Information Office

A number of project information display boards were designed and utilised to create a project information office, which is accessible by appointment, and utilised for all face-to-face stakeholder meetings.



7. Further Stakeholder Engagement

Further engagement is planned, and a face-to-face meetings will continue throughout the statutory consultation period with any interested stakeholders.

On an ongoing basis from this point forward we also anticipate:

- Issue-specific one to one engagement and ongoing dialogue with key groups and individuals
- Continued proactive communication to local elected representatives
- Continued learning into potential additional stakeholders through engagement with those already identified

8. Feedback

Any queries raised in relation to the project will be responded to in consultation with the appropriate technical team members.

All of the responses received from the engagement will be logged and considered by the project team to ensure that where possible, any issues raised can be addressed as the project moves forward.