



Our Ref: 1201-2026-L-14860

Your Ref:

05<sup>th</sup> August 2026

An Coimisiún Pleanála (Strategic Infrastructure Division/Local Authority Projects section)  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 V902

FAO Eimear Reilly

**RE: Application under Section 51 of the Roads Act 1993, as amended, for approval of  
the Barnesmore Gap Greenway Project**

Dear Madam,

Donegal County Council (DCC) is submitting the enclosed Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Natura Impact Statement for the Barnesmore Gap Greenway Project to An Coimisiún Pleanála and are hereby applying for approval under section 51 of the Roads Act, 1993, as amended, for the purposes of construction and operation of the Barnesmore Gap Greenway Project.

The proposed development known as the Barnesmore Gap Greenway Project will provide an active travel route between the towns of Donegal Town and Ballybofey/Stranorlar in County Donegal, together with all associated amenities and all ancillary and consequential works associated with and known as the Barnesmore Gap Greenway Project.

The proposed development will provide enhanced access to the wider region, enticing users to explore its surrounding towns and villages and further develop the untapped tourism potential within the region. The project also provides the opportunity to highlight the historical and educational significance of such places, whilst promoting the scenic nature of the surrounding area. At Donegal Town the proposed greenway will connect with the international EuroVelo Route 1 which follows the northern, western and southern coastlines around Ireland, and the route also forms part of the proposed National Cycle Network across Ireland.

The proposed route of the greenway mainline is approximately 30km in length and will be a bi-directional shared walking, wheeling, and cycling route. There is a further 7.5km of connections which provide additional integration to surrounding amenities and active travel routes, which gives a total length of 37.5km for the proposed facility.

Continued/



The proposed road development is routed along the townlands of [Milltown, Drumroosk West, Drumroosk Middle, Drumlaght, Drumlonagher, Drumbarren, Clardrumbarren, Keeldrum, Spierstown, Clarcam, Clardrumnaghan, Clarlougheask, Drumnacarry, Lougheask Demesne, Corveen, Mullanalamphry, Drumninn, Keadew Lower, Keadew Upper, Ardinawark, Croaghonagh, Cashelnavean, Meencrumlin, Goland, Carrickmagrath, Sessiagh (O'Neill), Navenny, Stranorlar], all in the County of Donegal.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Report has been prepared and compiled pursuant to the provisions of the Roads Act, 1993, as amended and in accordance with Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 in respect of the proposed road development.

A Natura Impact Statement has also been prepared in respect of the proposed road development for the purposes of Article 6[3] of the Habitats Directive and Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 [as amended].

Donegal County Council enclose the following:

- The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) (including all Figures and Appendixes) (1 No. hard copy and 1 No. electronic copy on enclosed USB Flash Drive) comprising:
  - Volume 1 – Non-Technical Summary
  - Volume 2 – EIAR Main Report
  - Volume 3 – Book of Drawings, and
  - Volume 4 – EIAR Technical Appendices;
- An Irish language version of the Non-Technical Summary of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (1 no. hard copy and 1 No. electronic copy on enclosed USB Flash Drive)
- The Natura Impact Statement (NIS) (including all Figures and Appendixes) (1 No. hard copy and 1 No. electronic copy on enclosed USB Flash Drive);
- Appropriate Assessment Screening Report (including all Figures and Appendixes) and associated Determination Report (1 No. hard copy and 1 No. electronic copy on enclosed USB Flash Drive).
- Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Report (including all Figures and Appendixes) and associated Determination Report (1 No. hard copy and 1 No. electronic copy on enclosed USB Flash Drive)

Continued/





- Confirmation Notice issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on 04/08/2026 confirming that the required information has been entered onto the EIA Portal, Portal ID Number 2026123
- Chief Executive's Order dated 08<sup>th</sup> July 2026, ordering that the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and the Natura Impact Statement be submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála in accordance with section 51 of the Roads Act, 1993 (as amended) for the approval of the Barnesmore Gap Greenway and that the necessary statutory advertisements and notices be published and served in accordance with section 51 of the Roads Act 1993 (as amended) (1 No. Hard Copy and 1 No. Electronic Copy on enclosed USB flash drive).
- Map of the location of the proposed road development (Location Maps) to a scale of not less than 1:1,000 in relation to built-up areas and 1:2,500 in relation to all other areas (1 No. hard copy and 1 No. electronic copy on enclosed USB Flash Drive),

All of the above documentation can also be accessed on Donegal County Council's stand-alone dedicated website for the Barnesmore Gap Greenway, at [www.barnesmoregapgreenway.ie](http://www.barnesmoregapgreenway.ie).

Donegal County Council will also send to An Coimisiún Pleanála in due course:

- Newspaper Notices to be published pursuant to section 51(3)(a) of the Roads Act 1993 (as amended) in the Donegal Democrat and the Fin n Valley Voice (two local newspapers) (1 No. hard copy and 1 No. electronic copy), and
- All notices to be served on prescribed bodies (1 No. hard copy and 1 No. electronic copy).

Donegal County Council can confirm that the application fee of €60,000 has been paid by Electronic Funds Transfer to the An Coimisiún Pleanála and notification has been sent to [finance@pleanala.ie](mailto:finance@pleanala.ie) and wishes to advise An Coimisiún Pleanála that a related compulsory purchase order namely the Barnesmore Gap Greenway Compulsory Purchase Order 2026 will be lodged in the next number of days and that Donegal County Council will be seeking a fee waiver in relation to that CPO.

Continued/



**Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall**  
**Donegal County Council**

[www.ccdhunnangall.ie](http://www.ccdhunnangall.ie) [www.donegalcoco.ie](http://www.donegalcoco.ie)

---

Should you have any queries in relation to the enclosed documentation, please contact:

Brian Reid  
Donegal County Council  
Donegal Public Service Centre  
Drumlonagher  
Donegal Town  
F94 DK6C  
E-mail: [Design@dnrdo.ie](mailto:Design@dnrdo.ie)  
Tel: 074-9724500

Yours faithfully,

Brian Reid  
Senior Executive Engineer  
For on Behalf of Donegal County Council

Enc