

Affiliated to  
Muintir na Tíre



Community Hall  
Askeaton

ASKEATON HERITAGE & TIDY TOWNS COMMITTEE

AN BORD PLEANÁLA

LDG- 024432-26

ABP-

14 FEB 2020

Fee: € 50 Type: Card

Time: 16.13 By: Hand

Ballyengland,  
Askeaton,  
Co. Limerick.  
12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020

To An Bord Pleanála,  
Strategic Infrastructure Development Section,  
64 Marlborough Street,  
Dublin 1, D01 V90

Re: Foynes to Limerick Road (including Adare Bypass)

Askeaton Junction

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to inform An Bord Pleanála regarding the proposed Askeaton Junction roundabout at the western edge of the town, where the existing N69 Askeaton Bypass joins the R518 through the town; this work being part of the new Foynes to Limerick Road. Our Committee has an interest in this site.

When the N69 was constructed a short stretch of the old roadway became defunct, running west from this junction. The intention at the time was to allow pedestrian access into the town for people living to the west. North of this 'layby', as it became known, was a short triangular stretch of ground stranded between the layby and the new N69 road.

Our Committee was in discussions at the time with Mr. Joe Kennedy, C.E. based in the Rathkeale Area Office of Limerick County Council regarding plans for the piece of ground. It was decided to plant the area with trees and in due course this was carried out and the trees are thriving.

Over time our Committee has used the layby as a storage area for bulky materials such as unused building stone, logs, soil, farmyard manure, compost-made from prunings, grass, etc. It became known as the 'Foynes Road Compound' and proved very useful for our work. We installed a gate at either end of the layby, allowing pedestrian access. The gate and the gate-piers at the town (or eastern) end were subject to repeated damage from vehicles failing to

take the sharp bend; these incidents required repairs carried out by us. In recent years LC&CC have adjusted the slope on the road and erected warning chevron signs which have reduced the incidents of damage considerably.

About nine years ago, with the assistance of the local Community Employment Project, we upgraded the eastern entrance with an attractive stone wall, gateway and opening for pedestrian access. A circular shrub bed had already been installed nearby and planted several years before that. It is an area of naturally occurring wildflowers and has been commended in National Tidy Towns Reports for almost ten years in the Waste Management and Biodiversity categories.

[REDACTED]

I include all this detail to show that, for many years, our committee has used this area with the approval of LC&CC; we have put effort and funding into improving its appearance and that of the Foynes approach road in general. I have Tidy Towns Application Forms & Reports, emails and letters to prove it and LC&CC will also have records on file. See photos attached.

With the proposed new Askeaton Junction Roundabout, we will lose our storage compound, our natural waste management site, our wildflower area, two gates and gateways, two circular beds on the roadside and a standing pipe which is convenient for watering plants. We also have a flower bed in the nearby church carpark which may be damaged with passing machinery, dust, etc.

We understand that the new roadworks will include landscaping and we look forward to the finished project. With the current concerns regarding biodiversity and the richness of the limestone area being removed provision should be made for areas where wild grasses, flowers and undergrowth can grow. Landscaping should not be over-structured or manicured to the exclusion of native vegetation. Native Irish trees should predominate. Native wild vegetation will recolonise fallow ground but if wildflower seed is used it should be native.

In conclusion, we feel that all the effort we have put into this approach road and layby cannot be destroyed without adequate compensation. We do not own the property but we have worked here for many years using our financial and labour resources; we would like to discuss the impact of the roadworks on our activities with the relevant body.

Yours sincerely,

*Teresa Wallace*

Secretary

Askeaton Heritage & Tidy Towns Committee

[twallace@gmail.com](mailto:twallace@gmail.com)

2025-01-21 15:10:10

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June 2019:

circular bed with wildflower area inside the gate of O'Donoghue's Layby



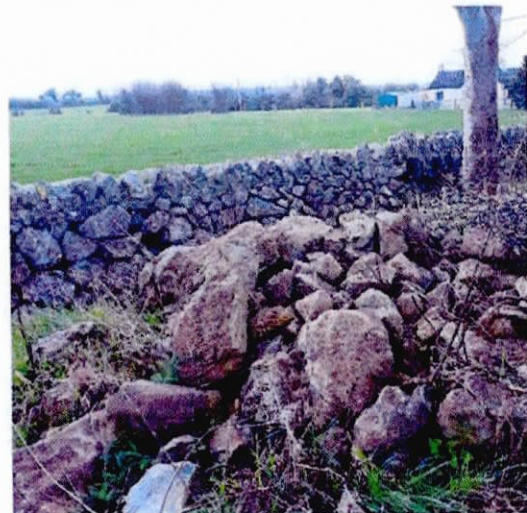
March 2011: during the construction of the stone wall & entrance to the layby



Feb 2020: present day images of the entrance



water-pipe and tap



stockpile of stone for making beds

the gate at the wester



the layby seen from b



Gateway into O'Donoghue's Layby

with posters displaying and identifying the wildflowers to be seen



teasel seed heads inside the gate provide food for the birds all through winter



# WILDFLOWERS

## in O'Donoghue's lay-by

There are hundreds of wildflower species in the natural wildflower patch inside the gate.  
Here are the more obvious ones.

The initials show the months when the plant blooms. J F M A M y J y A S O N D



bird's foot trefoil .. Ju Jy A S  
crobh éin ... low-growing



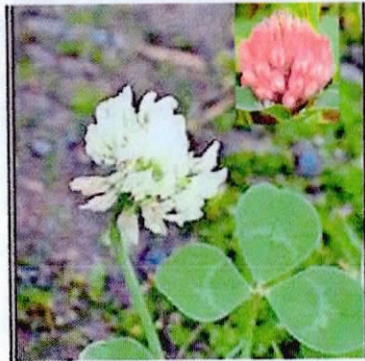
speedwell .. M A M y J y A  
anuallach ... low-growing



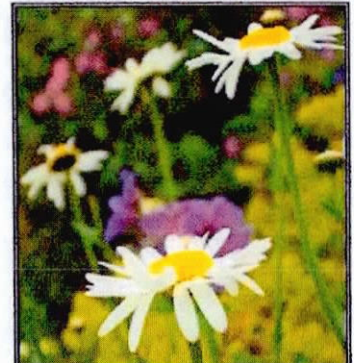
silverweed ... M y J y A  
briosclán ... low-growing



creeping buttercup Ju Jy A S  
fearbán reatha



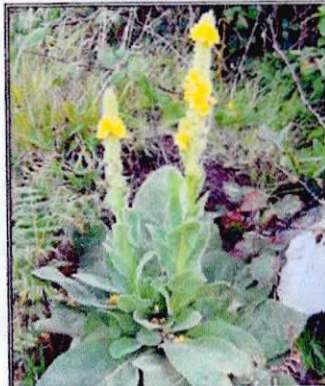
white/red clover Ju Jy A S  
seamair bhán/dhearg



ox eye daisy Ju Jy A S  
nóinín mór



common mallow Ju Jy A S  
lus na meall Muire



great mullein Ju Jy A S  
coinnle Muire



teasel Jy A  
leadán Ucaire up to 6ft tall

The circular bed on the north side of the R518 showing the annual spring display



June 2019:  
The same bed with  
summer bedding plants





Close to the circular bed on the north side of the R518 we allow the natural wildflowers to grow .. with a 'DO NOT SPRAY / DO NOT CUT' policy.



# ASKEATON Junction LAYBY + BEDS

