

**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

**BALBRIGGAN/RUSH-LUSK/SWORDS AREA COMMITTEE MEETING
(Services B – Strategic & General Matters)**

THURSDAY 10th OCTOBER 2024

ITEM NO. 50

ACTIVE TRAVEL IMPROVEMENTS - DONABATE - AI098731

Question: Councillor D. Mulligan

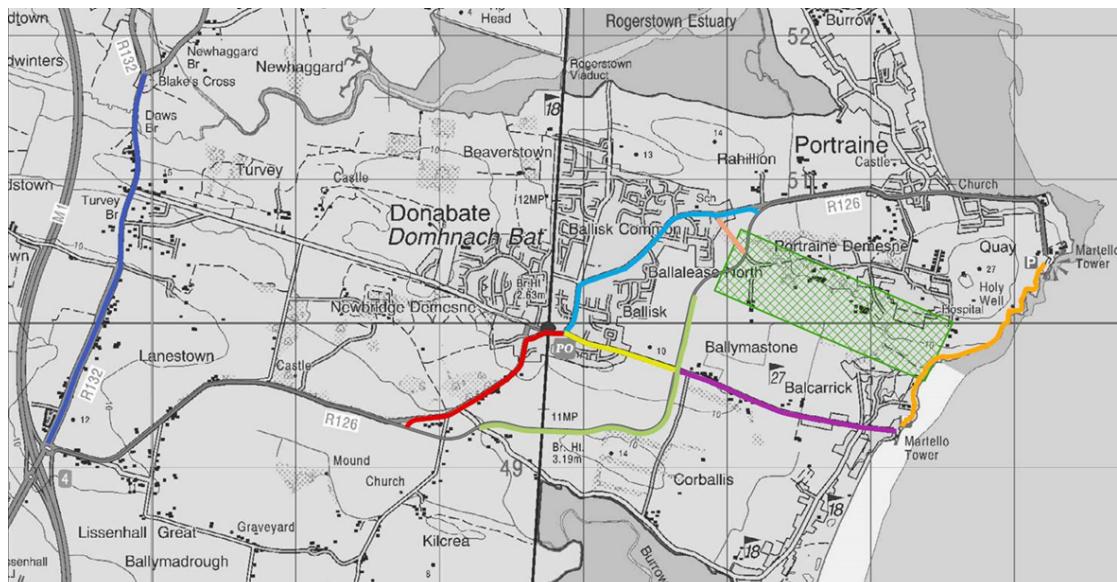
“To ask the Chief Executive to advise if any active travel or cycle infrastructure improvements are scheduled for Donabate or Portrane?”

Reply:

- **Bike Parking:**
The Active Travel unit is continued through 2024 in the installation of bike parking facilities throughout the County including the Donabate /Portrane area. These works will continue throughout the year as we receive and evaluate requests and review where the demand continues to grow.
- **Protected cycle network:**
The Active Travel Unit is currently reviewing the options for a segregated walking and cycleway along the R126 from the end of the Donabate Distributor Road to Seaview Park Portrane. The route is being looked at in the context of re-apportioning of existing road space to allow for safe access for vulnerable road users. The proposal will be presented to the members once it is finalised later in the year.
- **Donabate Active Travel Routes and Donabate Distributor Road Phase 2**
The Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Department has appointed a leading multi-disciplinary consultancy firm, to assist the Council in delivering a number of major projects with the objective of improving transport infrastructure, active travel infrastructure, and road safety on the Donabate-Portrane peninsula.

The projects include Phase 2 of the Donabate Distributor Road, which aims to improve access to Donabate and Portrane for all road users, particularly vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists. A number of potential route options have been identified and these options are currently being assessed to determine the preferred route alignment. Further stages of work, relating to environmental assessment, planning consent, etc. will follow on in 2025 and in subsequent years, as appropriate.

The projects also include various Active Travel Routes, which aim to provide segregated walking and cycling facilities on a number of routes to increase connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists travelling across the Donabate-Portrane peninsula. Some of these routes will be located on existing roads, such as: Hearse Road; New Road/Balcarrick Road and the R132 between the M1-Lissenhall Interchange and Blakes Cross Junction. Other routes will be provided to cater exclusively for pedestrians and cyclists away from existing roads. These include: a new walking and cycling route through Ballymastone to link to the coastal area of Donabate; an upgrade of the existing coastal walking and cycling route between Donabate beach and Portrane, and; a new greenway running close to the existing Donabate Distributor Road. These routes are shown in the below map:



- **Donabate Pedestrian Bridge:**

The Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Department has appointed Jons Civil Engineering Limited (JCEL), a highly experienced bridge construction company, to build the Donabate Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge over the Dublin to Belfast railway line. The new pedestrian and cycle bridge will

facilitate greater connectivity between Newbridge Demesne, Donabate Village and new residential developments on either side of the railway. JCEL has set up its site compound and installation of track monitoring equipment on the railway line in order to collect baseline data prior to commencing piling which is programmed for mid-October in advance of excavation works. Abutment piling is due to commence in November. Bridge beams will be installed in December and the bridge parapet system will be installed in the new year. Construction works are due to be substantially completed next Spring.

- **Fingal Coastal Way:**

The Fingal Coastal Way will run from Newbridge House to Rogerstown Estuary before continuing North. The Emerging Preferred Route was published in October 2022 showing a route through Turvey Housing Development and Ballisk before meeting the Beaverstown Road. A potential alternative route was also published. It runs along the main street of Donabate and is being reviewed in light of the pedestrian bridge over the railway commencing. A multi criteria assessment of the alternative route is due to be completed in Q3 2024.

Source of Reply:

Breen Doris, Senior Executive Engineer, Active Travel

Elbeth Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer, Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Department

Nicola Humphreys, Senior Executive Engineer, Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Department