

14 June 2021

Donegal County Council on schedule to submit Buncrana greenway planning application in 2021

Donegal County Council has confirmed that the planning application for the greenway linking Buncrana to Bridgend – as part of the overall Derry City to Buncrana route – will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála this year. The route will complete the INTERREG-funded sections, as construction in Lifford is virtually completed and Muff will commence during the summer months.

The Buncrana route was selected after an extensive consultation process began in February 2018, culminating with the preferred corridor being published in July 2019. While the project suffered delays because of the restrictions imposed as a result of Covid-19, from July 2020 to May 2021 landowners along the route corridor were engaged by the Council, discussing the alignment and accommodation works required.

Funding for the route has been provided through the EU's INTERREG VA programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). Match-funding has been provided by the Department for Infrastructure in Northern Ireland and the Department for Transport in Ireland.

The greenway corridor selected in 2019 links Bridgend to Burnfoot before carrying on to Inch Nature Reserve, where one alignment spurs for Newtowncunningham, and a second alignment continues on to Fahan marina and ends at the shore front in Buncrana.

In June 2020, Derry City and Strabane District Council submitted the planning application which will link into this portion of the greenway at Bridgend, bringing it through Templemore Sports Complex and terminating in the grounds of St Columb's College. Plans for the A2 Buncrana Road will subsequently link the greenway into a new dedicated shared lane bringing cyclists and pedestrians safely to the Culmore Road Roundabout, allowing users to link into the Bay Road Park (and ultimately to continue on to Muff) and the dedicated cycle route that takes users into the city centre along the River Foyle.

Rónán Gallagher, Communications Manager for the greenway project

said: ‘This cross-border infrastructure project is vital for the development of the North West City Region and of Inishowen in particular. Subject to planning approval, it will play a significant role in encouraging active travel whilst benefitting the health and wellbeing of everyone who will use it. With construction also imminent in Muff and additional sections being considered linking Bunrana to Carndonagh and Muff to Quigley’s Point, the greenway network in Inishowen is now taking shape, and will ultimately feed into a wider county network being planned across all the municipal districts.’

Further details on the project and the selected route corridor can be found at www.nwgreenway.com.

Ends

NOTES for EDITORS: Funding has been provided to construct 46.5kms of greenway and cycling/pedestrian infrastructure. Route 3 (Lifford to Strabane) will deliver 7.2kms; Route 2 (Muff to Derry) will add a further 10kms; and Route 1 (Derry to Bunrana with a spur to Newtowncunningham) will add the remaining kms to the programme. Construction on Route 2 commenced in 2020 in Culmore – on lands under the auspices of the Department for Infrastructure – and a contractor for the Muff section of route 2 will be appointed in June. Route 3 will be completed in June 2021.

All media enquiries ONLY to pressenquiries@donegalcoco.ie. The Project’s Communications Officer is available for interview.

14 Meitheamh 2021

Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall ar sprioc leis an iarratas pleanála le haghaidh ghlasbhealach Bhun Cranncha a chur isteach in 2021

Tá deimhnithe ag Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall go bhfuiltear leis an iarratas pleanála don ghlasbhealach a nascfaidh Bun Cranncha le Ceann an Droichid – mar chuid den bhealach níos mó ó Chathair Dhoire go Bun Cranncha – a chur isteach chui An Bhord Pleanála i mbliana. Tabharfaidh an bealach seo na codanna sin a bhí maoinithe ag INTERREG chun críche, mar go bhfuiltear a bheag nó a mhór críochnaithe leis an tógáil i Leifear agus cuirfear tús leis an Mhagh le linn an tsamhraidh.

Roghnaíodh bealach Bhun Cranncha i ndiaidh gur cuireadh tús le próiseas cuimsitheach comhairliúcháin i mí Feabhra 2018, agus fógraíodh an chonair chéad rogha i mí Iúil 2019. Cé gur tharla moilleanna ar an tionscadal mar gheall ar shrianta Covid, chuaigh an Chomhairle i dteagmháil le húinéirí talún ar feadh na conaire idir mí Iúil 2020 agus mí na Bealtaine 2021, ag déanamh plé faoi na hoibreacha ailínithe agus oibreacha garaíochta is gá a dhéanamh.

Fuair an chonair maoiniú trí chlár INTERREG VA an Aontais Eorpaigh, atá á bhainistiú ag Foras Chláir Speisialta an AE (FCSAE). Fuarthas comh-mhaoiniú ón Roinn Bonneagair i dTuaisceart Éireann agus ón Roinn Iompair ó dheas.

Déanann an chonair ghlasbhealaigh a roghnaíodh in 2019 nasc idir Ceann an Droichead go Bun na hAbhann, agus ar aghaidh go dtí Tearmann Dúlra Inse, áit a bhfuil sporbhealach amháin ag ailíniú go dtí An Baile Nua, agus leanann an dara hailíniú ar aghaidh go muiríne Fhathna agus tagann chun deiridh os comhair an chladaigh i mBun Cranncha.

I mí Mheithimh 2020, chuir Comhairle Chathair Dhoire agus Cheantar an tSraitha Báin isteach an t-iarratas pleanála a nascfaidh isteach sa chuid seo den ghlasbhealach ag Ceann an Droichid, á thabhairt fríd Ionad Spóirt an Teampaill Mhóir agus chun deiridh i dtailte Choláiste Cholm Cille. Ina dhiaidh sin déanfaidh na pleananna do Bhóthar A2 Bhun Cranncha an ghlasbhealach a

nascadh le lána úr comhroinnte a thabharfaidh rothaithe agus coisithe go sábháilte chuig Timpeallán na Cúile Móire, rud a ligfidh d'úsáideoirí nascadh isteach go Páirc Bhóthar an Chuain (agus ar aghaidh go Magh) agus chuig an raon rothar ar leith a thugann úsáideoirí isteach go lár na cathrach ar feadh an Fheabhail.

Dúirt Rónán Gallagher, Bainisteoir Cumarsáide don tionscadal glasbhealaigh: 'Tá an bonneagar trasteorann seo ríthábhachtach d'fhorbairt Réigiún Cathrach an Iarthuaiscirt agus d'fhorbairt Inis Eoghain ach go háirithe. Faoi réir cead pleanála a fháil, beidh ról suntasach aige seo i dtaca le taisteal gníomhach a spreagadh agus san am céanna ag cur le sláinte agus folláine gach duine a úsáidfidh é. Agus an tógáil ar tí toiseacht i Magh, agus plé á dhéanamh faoi chodanna breise a chur chun Bun Cranncha a nascadh le Carn Domhnach agus Magh le Rinn Uí Choigligh, tá cuma agus cruth ag teacht ar an ghréasán in Inis Eoghain. Agus nascfaidh sé le gréasán níos leithne contae atá beartaithe ar fud na gceantracha bardais ar fad.'

Is féidir tuilleadh sonraí faoin tionscadal agus faoin chonair roghnaithe ag www.nwgreenway.com.

Críoch

NÓTAÍ d'EAGARTHÓIRÍ: Tá maoiniú curtha ar fáil le 46.5km de bhealach glas agus bonneagar rothaíochta/coisithe a thógáil. Soláthrófar 7.2km ar Cuid 3 (Leifear go dtí an Srath Bán); cuirfear 10km eile ar fáil ar Chuid 2 (Magh go Doire) 10km; agus cuirfear an chuid eile den chlár oibre ar fáil ar Chuid 1 (Doire go Bun Cranncha, chomh maith le spor go dtí An Baile Nua. Cuireadh tús leis an obair thógála ar Chonair 2 in 2020 ar an Chúil Mhór – ar thailte faoi choimirce na Roinne Iompair – agus ceapfar conraitheoir don chuid den chonair do Mhagh i mí Mheithimh. Cuirfear Conair 3 i gcrích i mí Mheithimh 2021.

Gach fiosrúcháin ó na meáin chuig pressenquiries@donegalcoco.ie. **AMHÁIN.** Tá Oifigeach Cumarsáide an Tionscadail ar fáil le haghaidh agallaimh.

Is féidir tuilleadh mionsonraí faoin tionscadal a fháil ar www.nwgreenway.com.

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