**Proposal**

We propose the installation of mooring posts for boats along the canal, the creation of a new safe cycleway/walkway from the canal to the attractions offered within the neighbouring Bogs and suitable signage telling tourists who arrive by this route, what is on offer nearby.

**Nearby**

There are tourist attractions close by that can be reached by walking or cycling. They include the Boardwalk through Lodge Bog, the Bog of Allen Nature Centre, the Lullymore Heritage and Discovery Park, and the Lullymore Biodiversity Trail.

**Benefits**

The two main benefits of this proposal are:

* Introducing new tourists to the bog attractions in West Kildare
* Creating a safe route to the bog amenities on offer

**Notes**

We do not have the knowledge to recommend the best route for this walkway/cycleway, as the conservation of the Bogs will need to be considered.

Currently, the only way to visit the Bogs in this area is along the R414, an unsafe route for people of all ages who are walkers, cyclists, wheelchair users or in buggies.

**Some of the tourist attractions within a short distance from the Grand Canal in West Kildare:**

*Lodge Bog: A raised bog habitat, part of the great Lullymore Bog. The site is a breeding habitat for Curlew in Spring and for the Large Heath butterfly in mid-summer. A 100m boardwalk, seat and interpretive sign are located on site for visitors. The bog is owned and managed by the Irish Peatland Conservation Council.*

*Lullymore Heritage and Discovery Park is set on 60 acres of breath-taking landscape and explores Irish heritage, culture and environment with woodland/peat land trails, gardens and exhibitions*

*Lullymore Biodiversity Trail: 2.5km walking trail between three biodiversity hot spots in the Bog of Allen. These are located in Lullymore and include Lodge Bog, the Bog of Allen Nature Centre and LullymoreWest.*

*Lullymore Graveyard: This graveyard was also the location of a monastery, established in the 5th century by St. Erc. The ground surface is undulating with a low mound in the middle and bumps. A modern rubble stone wall enclosure houses upright headstones which date from the 19th to the 21stcentury. There is a cross and altar in the middle of the back eastern wall. There is one unlocked gate in the western wall. A stone in the field outside the enclosure reputedly bears the footprint of St Patrick.*

*Lullymore: is a community area located on an island in the midst ofthe extensive Lullymore Bog complex. The name Lullymore comes from Loilgheach Mor meaning 'Good place for a cow to calve'. Nearby the Lullymore Briquette factory opened in 1936. but closed in 1992. On the island are the remains of a 5th century monastery and graveyard and an old water pump.*

(source: IPCC Inventory Catalogue)