

SUBMISSION TO DRAFT KILDARE COUNTY PLAN 2023-2029

Chapter 5 Sustainable Mobility & Transport

GREENWAY ROUTE PROTECTION & NEW GREENWAY LINK



We write to propose that policies are included in the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 to :

- A. To protect all designated Greenway Routes in Kildare .
- B. To create a new Greenway to link the Naas/Corbally Harbour Greenway to the Naas /Baltinglass Greenway..
- C. To develop the first Phase of the designated Greenway between Naas and the Pipers Hill Campus and Schools.

A : GREENWAY ROUTE PROTECTION

The new CDP should clearly state how the local authority will preserve and protect the Greenway routes designated by their Development Plans. Early communication with the landowner and engagement with the landowner will be an important factor when their cooperation is required at a later date.

Any development of buildings on a Greenway route is a significant constraint to the creation of a Greenway. We propose that the local authority planners do not allow development to take place upon the designated Greenway, since this may prevent the delivery of the amenity. Alternative sites should be considered, or if possible the route may be able to move slightly to avoid a building. Provided the Greenway can return to its original route.

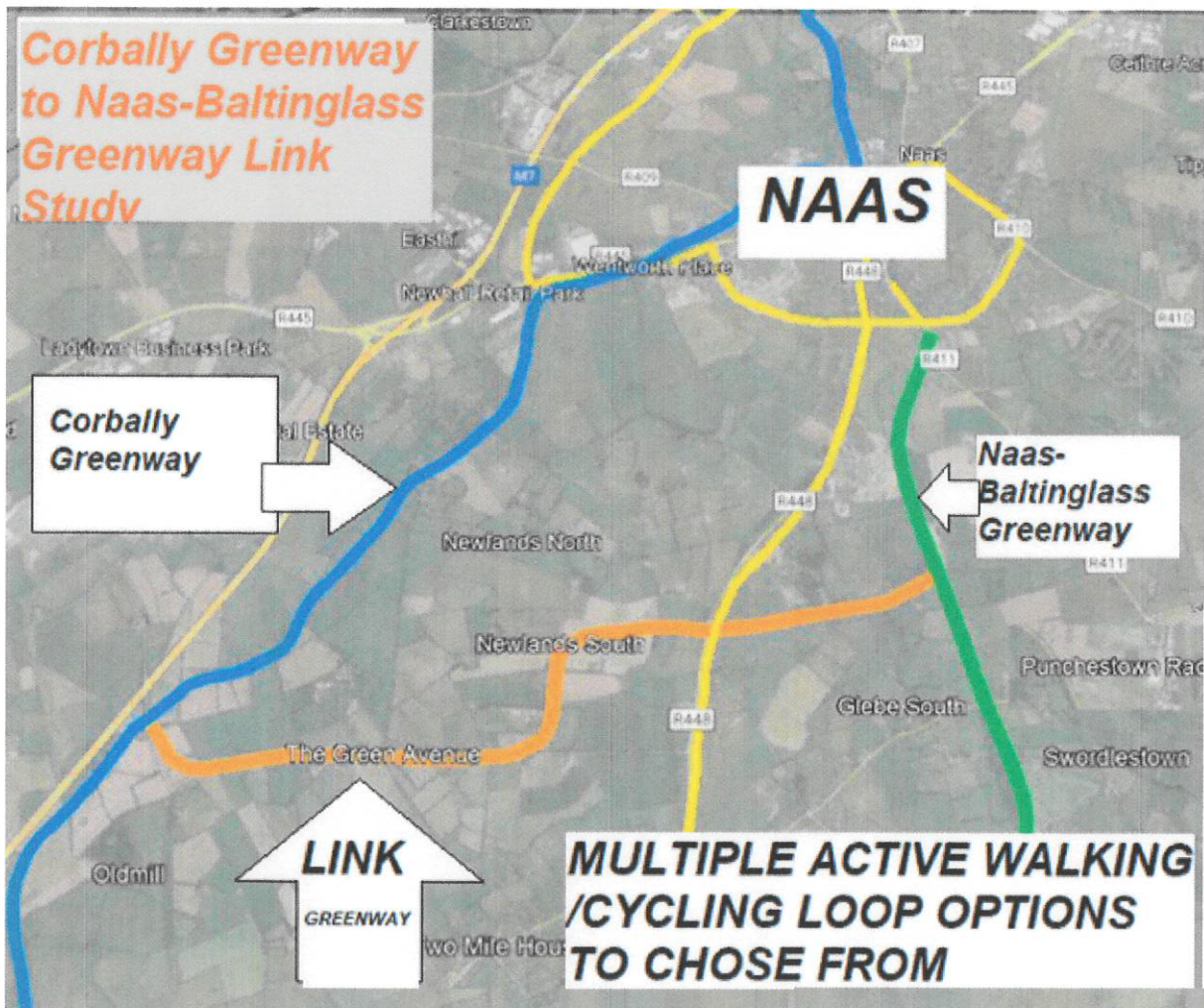
We consider the proposal at Swordlestown to be a clear example of what can go wrong . A developer [Planning Ref 22111] has applied for planning to develop a

Solar Farm to be constructed directly on top of (500m length) the **Naas to Baltinglass designated Regional Greenway**. If permitted the entire 34km Greenway would not be viable. If Kildare County Council do not reject the planning application the Greenway amenity will be lost now and for future generations. This could be prevented by the inclusion of appropriate policy to protect future Greenway routes.

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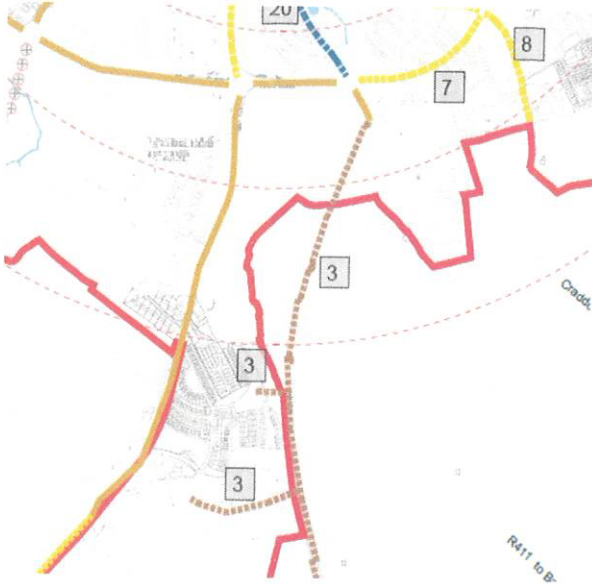
B : NEW GREENWAY LINK

We suggest that the new CDP includes policy to undertake a feasibility study with the view to constructing a New Greenway Link between Naas /Corbally Canal and the Naas/Dunlavin as suggested by Cllr. S.Moore.



C: TO DEVELOP THE FIRST PHASE OF THE GREENWAY BETWEEN NAAS AND THE PIPERSHILL CAMPUS.

Red arrows show the route of Phase 1 on the aerial photo below.



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Map extract

Aerial photo

"The map extract above is from the adopted Naas Local Area Plan. The Greenway route is marked as number 3 on this map. The aerial photo shows Phase 1 of the Greenway route with red arrows. The yellow arrows show the proposed connections between the proposed Greenway and the Pipers Hill housing estate and the school campus. The proposed greenway will open up a wonderful amenity to so many people in this beautiful part of South Naas.

The new Greenway will provide a wonderful new safe walking and cycling route between the Piper's Hill area and Naas town. Phase 2 and future phases of the greenway will provide a beautiful greenway from Naas all the way to Baltinglass in Wicklow. In total the Greenway will be 32km long and will open up a beautiful part of the countryside from Naas through Swordlestown/Punchestown, Harristown, Dunlavin, Grangecon, ultimately arriving in Baltinglass.

Phase 1 is the first part of the Greenway project which will provide a safe secure and entirely segregated cycling and walking route of 1.5km in length through scenic countryside. It will open up direct access from Naas town centre into a large education campus which has 1800 students in attendance daily. The existing school campus (known locally as the Piper's Hill complex) includes 4 local schools as follows: Pipers Hill College, Gaelscoil Nas Na Riogh, Killashee School and Kilashee Multi Denominational National School and St David's Primary School.

CONCLUSION

The suggested inclusion of appropriate policies to protect future Greenways and develop a new Greenway network will play a significant role in achieving many of the County's policies on Sustainable movement and are entirely positive from an environmental viewpoint. We suggest that Kildare County Council include them in the new County Development Plan.

Yours Sincerely



Shane Martin

