
Opposition to Emerging Preferred Route

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Opposition to Emerging Preferred Route

Since the publication of the emerging preferred route for the Greystones to Wicklow Greenway, I have attended both public information presentations held in Greystones and Wicklow. Spoken to members of the council and their consultants. In addition, we have met with a number of local landowners who would be directly affected by the proposed route and have also spoken with friends and neighbours who, while not directly impacted, have a strong interest in the project.

From these engagements, it is clear that the concept of a Greenway running along or near the coast is broadly welcomed and would be appreciated by many people. There is general support for improved walking and cycling infrastructure in the area. However, there is very little support for the current Emerging Preferred Route, which faces significant practical, environmental, and deliverability challenges.

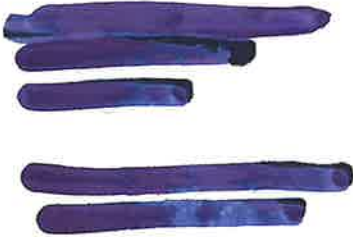
The proposed route has generated considerable concern among affected landowners and local residents. It presents numerous obstacles, including land acquisition issues, environmental constraints, coastal protection requirements, and long-term viability concerns. Despite a considerable amount of public money already having been spent attempting to establish a Preferred Route, it is increasingly apparent that delivering a viable compliant Greenway between Wicklow and Greystones may not be possible.

Given these realities, it would be prudent for the Council to reconsider its approach. Rather than continuing to pursue a Greenway route that encounters so many difficulties and uncertainties, an alternative solution should be examined.

A more practical and cost-effective option would be to focus on upgrading the existing road R761 by providing dedicated cycle lanes and pedestrian facilities (some of which already exist for part of the route). While this may not meet the strict definition of a "Greenway," it would nonetheless

achieve many of the core objectives of the Greenway project. It would deliver safer walking and cycling access along the country road, provide meaningful connectivity between villages such as Newcastle and Kilcoole, and significantly improve safety for all road users.

This approach would represent a more efficient use of public funds, avoid many of the environmental and land-use conflicts associated with the current Emerging Preferred Route, and deliver tangible benefits to local communities in a realistic and timely manner.



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