



**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE SHLIGIGH**  
**SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL**



# **BALLYGAWLEY VILLAGE TO CASTLEDARGAN FOOTPATH SCHEME**

## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

March 2024

**Sligo.**



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## Overview

Sligo County Council, in conjunction with the NTA, aims to improve the current facilities for both pedestrians and cyclists under Active Travel Interventions Sligo. The proposed project to implement a new footpath from Ballygawley Village to Castledargan.

## What is Active Travel?

Active Travel involves travelling with a purpose, using your own energy via sustainable means. It includes walking, wheeling, and cycling or the use of self-powered, non-motorised scooters as part of a purposeful journey. For example, walking to school and cycling to work are both considered forms of Active Travel.

## Why are we implementing this?

Government investment in Active Travel has increased significantly in recent years. This reflects the commitments made in the National Sustainable Mobility Policy, the Climate Action Plan, and other Government policies to encourage modal shift, where possible, away from private car use and towards more sustainable transport modes.

Active travel is cemented in these policies which seeks to deliver at least 500,000 additional daily active travel and public transport journeys by 2030. Active travel is an intrinsic part of a sustainable transport system, one that prioritises low carbon transport choices and comprises multiple modes, including walking, cycling, public transport, and bike, wheeling, and car sharing.

### Scheme objectives:

- Provide a vision for the achievement of a reduction in car dependency and shift to sustainable modes of transport.
- Create a pedestrian link is accessible.
- Ensure integrated development of all transport modes.
- Improve road safety and public health.
- Reduce air and noise pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption.
- Ensure economic viability, social equity, and environmental quality.

## Project Information

### Ballygawley to Castledargan

Ballygawley is located approximately 10 km south of Sligo, at the junction of regional roads R-284 and R-290, in a designated Rural Area under Urban Influence. The County settlement hierarchy identifies Ballygawley as a village supporting the rural community.

Recent residential developments are suburban-type estates, except for some of the houses and apartments constructed on Castledargan Estate as part of a scheme involving refurbishment of Castledargan House and the provision of a hotel, golf course and associated clubhouse.

Community facilities are limited to a sports ground to the north of the village.

The proposed scheme is located on the regional Road R290 from the village of Ballygawley to Castledargan Resort. The route is mainly agricultural land with a number of individual houses outside the 50kph zone.

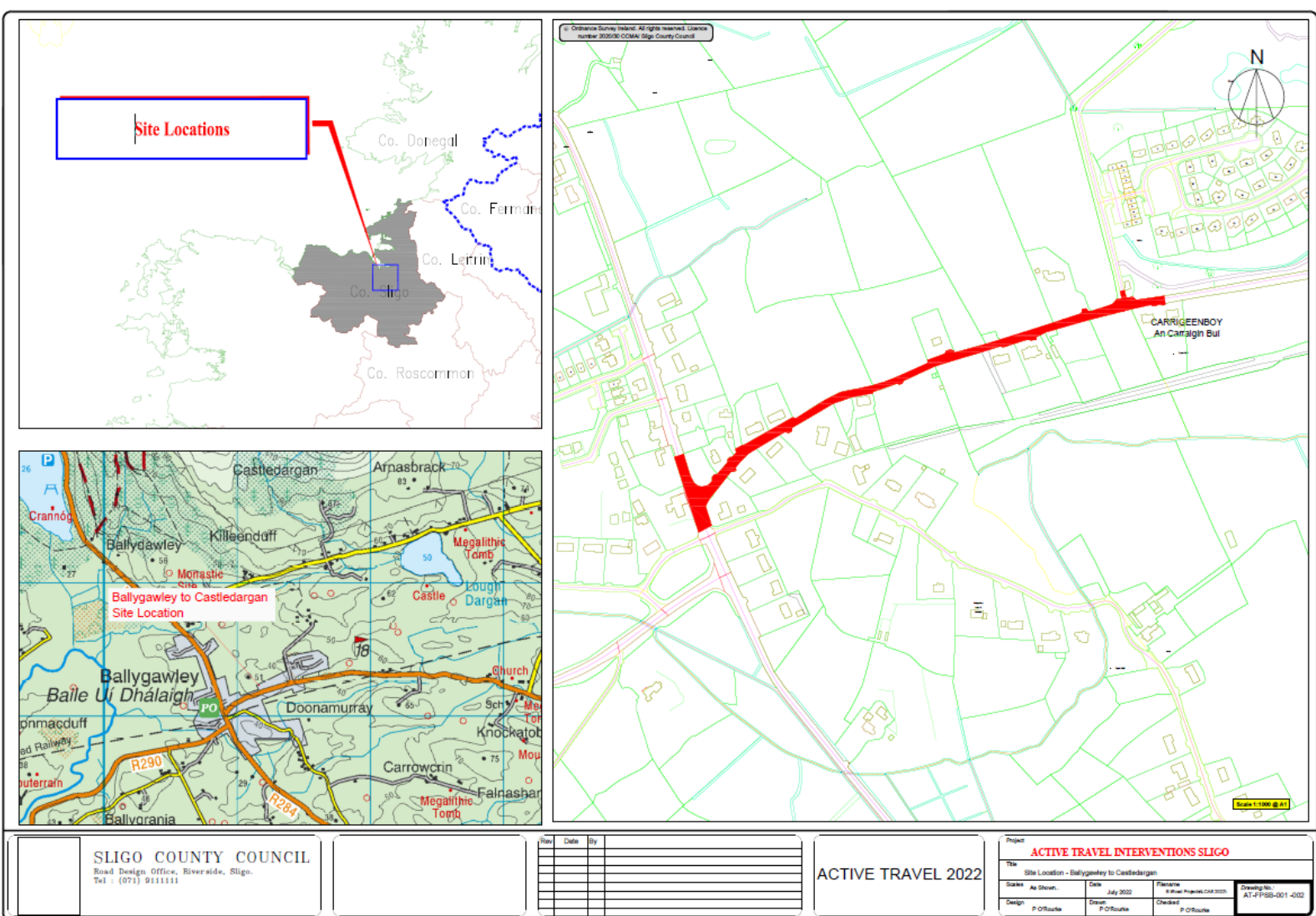


Figure 1 – Site location – Ballygawley

## Proposed Scheme

The scheme is located along the R290 from Ballygawley to Castledargan Resort. The objective of the scheme is to create a pedestrian link connecting the Ballygawley village to Castledargan. The works involved are as follows:

- Remove the existing road boundary along the 700-metre stretch of the local road
- Remove the existing utility poles and overhead wires
- Provide and construct underground utility network
- Extend the existing drainage network
- Provide and construct a 2-metre-wide concrete footpath – subject to detailed design

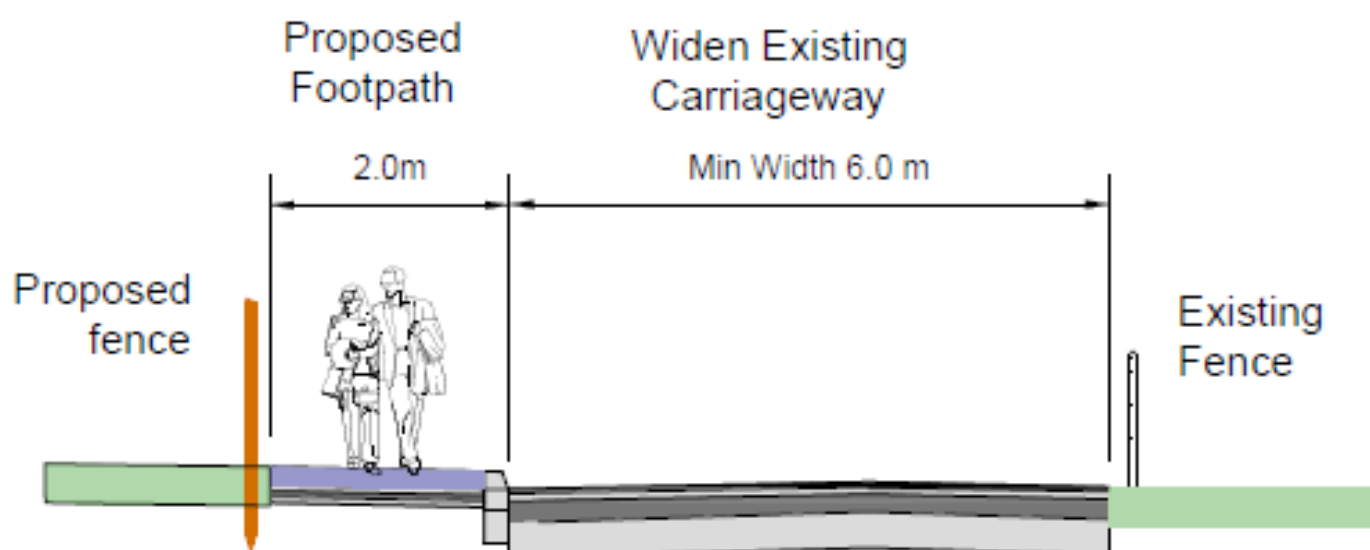


Figure 2 – Section showing footpath

- Provide and construct a new roadside boundary in the form of fencing and new hedge rows
- Provide new public lighting along the new footpath
- Provision of pedestrian crossing facilities in Ballygawley Village.

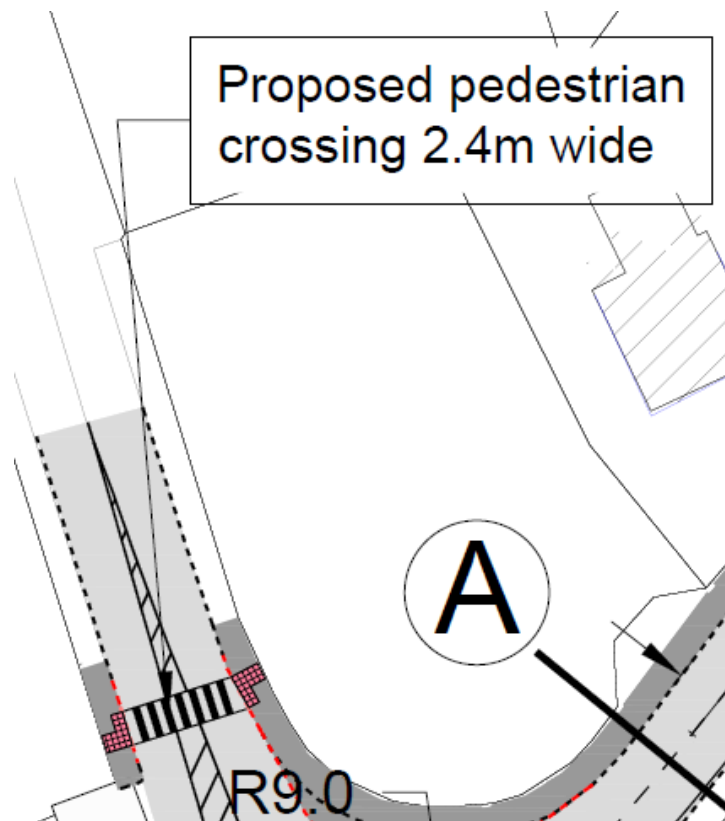


Figure 3 – Plan view showing pedestrian crossing – Ballygawley Village

- Provision of junction tightening measures at the R284 / R290 junction outside the petrol station in Ballygawley.

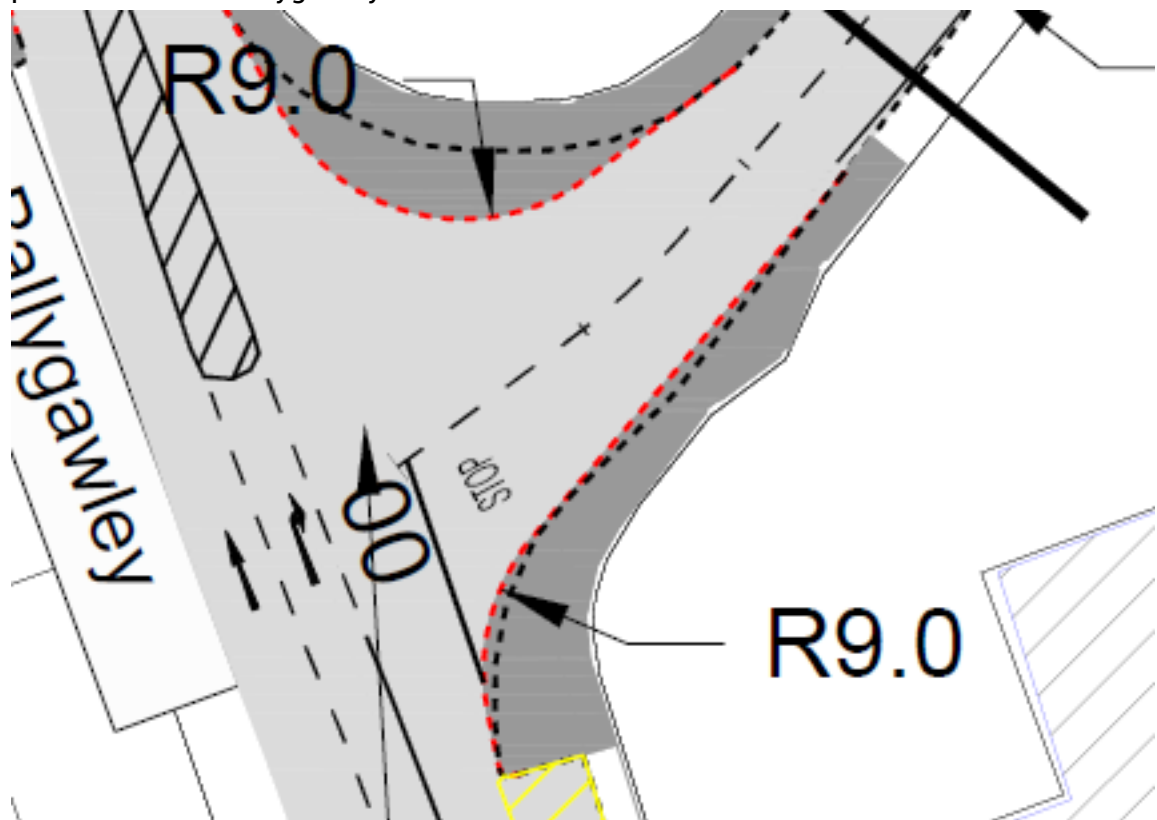


Figure 4 – Plan view showing junction tightening - Ballygawley Village

## Project Benefits

The project will allow a safe route for users from Ballygawley Village to Castledargan. This will promote greater active travel in the area and eliminate the existing risk to vulnerable users and road traffic along the R290 between Ballygawley Village to Castledargan.

The new footpath will allow residents along the R290 and Castledargan to walk into the Village in a safe environment and to utilise the bus stop in Ballygawley to use the local link (572 Sligo to Ballinamore & 566 Sligo to Dowra) or Bus Éireann (Bus Éireann Route 462, Sligo - Dromahair) buses that stop in the village.

Improved drainage works will remove existing water ponding issues on that section of the R290 along the footpath length.

The public lighting scheme will provide adequate lighting levels and ensure safety for walkers at night.

Considering all elements proposed in a global sense, the project will provide a significantly safer environment for all road users.

## Scheme Drawings

The attached drawings outline the design and layout for the scheme. The scheme is at preliminary design and as such these drawings are subject to change and/or modifications.

## Submission of Comments

Please submit any comments that you may have on the proposed scheme by **5pm on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023**.

## What has been done so far?

We are currently at Gateway 3 in the NTA project life cycle. See NTA project cycle below:



### At this stage we have completed below:

- Appointment of Consultant
- Passed NTA Gateway 1 & 2 of Approval
- Initial engagement with landowners
- Options assessment report
- Archaeological assessment
- Environmental assessment
- Project appraisal report

### What happens next?

This is the initial consultation stage of the project. We will review all the comments and observations and consider where appropriate, changes to the design.

- SCC are seeking Gateway approval to proceed to Phase 4 Statutory process
- **In person consultation – Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 between 4pm and 7pm in Ormsby Room in Castledargan Hotel.**
- Part 8
- Further engagement with stakeholders
- Further engagement with landowners