



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

Meath County Council
Athboy Town Centre Project
Public Consultation Information Brochure



St. James' Catholic Church Athboy (Photo courtesy of Athboy Parish Website, www.athboyparish.ie)

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

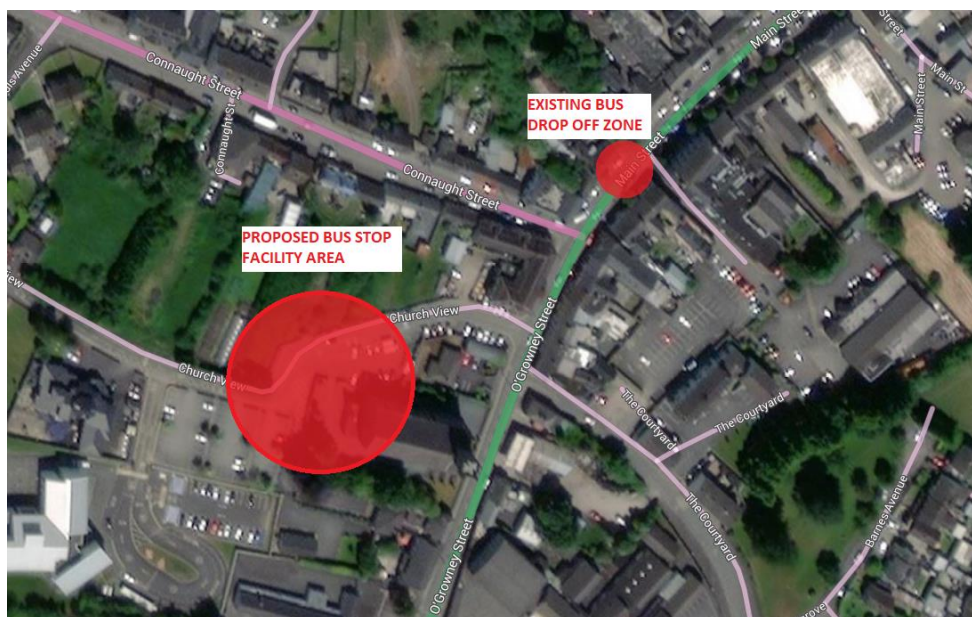
The Athboy Town Centre Project has been identified as an objective by Meath County Council and the Athboy community for the past number of years.

The relocation of the existing bus stops on Main St, located to the NE of the intersection of Main street (N51) and Connaught St has been identified as a key part of this project. The existing bus stops have been criticized for causing traffic backups on the main street. They also require passengers to make their way through parked cars in order to embark/disembark the service which raises safety concerns.

The introduction of a defined bus stop would help mitigate these issues. It would create a designated area for all passengers to access the bus services in a safe and comfortable manner, which should encourage use of the service. It will also alleviate traffic congestion due to bus traffic, and therefore create improved traffic flow through the town.

THE SCHEME

The proposed scheme gives the town of Athboy a designated bus stop in an area just off the Main road which is easily accessible to both pedestrians and buses. The bus stop proposes to have the capacity to park two buses at any one time and provide a safer and more accessible space for service users.



Existing bus drop off zone and proposed designated bus stop facility - Athboy (Michelin maps 2021)

In addition to the provision of a designated bus stop facility the scheme aims to enhance the public space adjacent to St. James Catholic Church, through the development of new pedestrian facilities and an upgraded urban realm space. The church is a town attraction with historical significance and a place of social gatherings. The scheme is pedestrian focused to improve the sense of community and provision of public transport usage but also introduces much needed structured layout for public transport, traffic, and parking.

The below sections outline the Current Phase of the Project, What Happens Next, and the Proposed Preliminary options developed as part of the Public Consultation Process. Please refer to the Options Brochure on the Consult.Meath.ie webpage for the accompanying indicative drawing layouts.

Where We Currently Are?

The Non-Statutory Public Consultation process will be open from the 18th May to the 18th June 2021 to gather and consider comments from members of the public and other interested stakeholders to aid in the process of identifying an emerging "Preferred Design Option".

What Happens Next?

Following the Public Consultation and Submissions received, the Project Team, will carry out a Design and Environmental Evaluation of the emerging "Preferred Option". It is hoped to proceed to and successfully complete statutory approval(s) by end of 2021. Subject to Statutory Approval and funding approval, construction of the Scheme is hopeful to commence in the latter part of 2022.

Preliminary Design Options Information (please refer to drawings)

Option 0 -Do Nothing (Within Study Area)

No Changes to be implemented on Public Transport Improvement. On-Road Bus stops to be retained on the N51 in both Northbound and Southbound locations. No provision for designated stop facility (Shelter & Real Time Information) given space constraints.

Option 1

Provision of Designated Bus Facility on the South Side of Church View Street within the environs of the Undesignated Public Parking Area. Introduction of new footpath facilities, green areas, bicycle parking facilities & pedestrian access to Church. Potential for relocation of existing Recycling/Bring Bank facilities.

Option 2

Provision of Designated Bus Facility on the North Side of Church View Street partly within Private Land and existing Bring Bank/Recycle Facilities. Introduction of new footpath facilities and bicycle parking facilities. Improved alignment of Church View Street. Removal of multiple accesses to Public Car Park and introduction of 'Shared Facility' to Undertaker's laneway. Structured Car Parking arrangement to be provided to small Church Car Park. Relocation of existing Recycling/Bring Bank facilities required.

Option 3

Provision of Designated Bus Facility on the South Side of Church View Street within the environs of Undesignated Car Park Area. Improved alignment of Church View Street partly within Private Land and Introduction of new footpath facilities, green areas, and bicycle parking

facilities. Entrance to St. James' Church to be relocated within 'Shared Facility'. Relocation of existing Recycling/Bring Bank facilities required.

Option 4

Maximises Provision for Designated Bus Facilities with provision on both the North and South sides of Church View Street partly within Private Land and Public Space. Improved alignment of Church View Street. Introduction of new footpath facilities, green areas, and bicycle parking facilities. Entrance to St. James' Church to be relocated. Relocation of existing Recycling/Bring Bank facilities required.

Option 5

Provision of Designated Bus Facility on the South Side of Church View Street within the environs of the existing public car park to form 'park and ride' style facility & formalised car parking at undesignated Church Car Park area. Introduction of new footpath facilities, green areas, and bicycle parking facilities. Potential for Recycling / Bring Bank facilities to stay at existing location or be relocated.

Option 5A

Provision of Designated Bus Facility on the South Side of Church View Street within the environs of the existing public car park to form 'park and ride' style facility & formalised car parking at undesignated Church Car Park area. Existing access point for Church grounds to be re-sited on 'Shared Facility' adjacent to Undertaker's laneway. Introduction of new footpath facilities, green areas, and bicycle parking facilities. Potential for Recycling / Bring Bank facilities to stay at existing location or be relocated.

Option 6

Provision of Designated Bus Facility on the North Side of Church View Street partly within Private Land and existing Bring Bank/Recycle Facilities. Formalises undesignated car park area. Improved alignment of Church View Street. Existing access point for Church grounds to be re-sited on 'Shared Facility' adjacent to Undertaker's laneway. Introduction of new footpath facilities, green areas, and bicycle parking facilities. Relocation of existing Recycling/Bring Bank facilities required.