

Elected Members Briefing

Shannon Greenway Limerick to Tuamgraney/Scarriff



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council



COMHAIRLE CONTAE AN CHLÁIR
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Briefing Outline

Introduction and Welcome

Strategic Context of Shannon Greenway – Éanna Rowe

Limerick City and County Council – Brian Kennedy

Clare County Council – Leonard Cleary

Project Objectives – Éanna Rowe

Process and Route Options – Seán Fitzsimons

Next Steps – Seán Fitzsimons

Questions

Strategic Context

- National Greenway Strategy



- Tourism Context



SHANNON TOURISM MASTER PLAN

One single plan for the Shannon

Utilizing and bringing together a myriad of strategies

Undertaking a destination and product audit

Broad consultation

Supported by an SEA

Masterplan published in March 2021

The Vision

*“The mighty Shannon will become **Ireland's surprising heart**. It will be highly valued for its **special environmental qualities and biodiversity** by locals and visitors alike. It will be a haven for **on-water experiences** offering the visitor a wide range of ways to get **active in nature** in a sustainable manner. The Shannon will invite the visitor to **slow down, stay longer** and to **engage with its heritage and communities** providing a sense of the real Ireland and creating an unforgettable holiday experience.”*



Thematic and Experiential Framework

- ✓ Themes form the basis for all experiences
- ✓ Can be applied to a range of contexts and geographies



Signature Initiatives

The Tourism Masterplan defines strategic initiatives that will position the Shannon as a distinctive and sustainable tourist destination.

1: Enhancing On-Water Visitor Experience

2: Enhancing the Waterside Visitor Experience

3: The Shannon's Towns and Villages

4: Protecting & Enhancing the Shannon Environment

5: Improving Connectivity

6: Building Enterprise & Community Networks

7: Communicating a Clear & Consistent Message

Greenway Jigsaw

Royal Canal

- Maynooth to Longford – 120km
- Linking into the existing Dublin Galway Route to Athlone
- 640,000 individual visits with €16m spend

Grand Canal

- Shannon Harbour to Robertstown
- Linking in to Barrow Blueway to Carlow
- Both currently under construction

Limerick Greenway

- Newcastle West to Abbeyfeale
- Further linkages to North Kerry

Dublin – Galway

- Red Route 5 - Preferred Route
- Linking Athlone, Portumna, Woodford, Loughrea, Galway
- Going to detailed design

County Context

City and County Development Plan

Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area
Transport Strategy

Active Travel

Existing and Planned Greenway
Developments

Tourism Strategy-Gateway City to the Wild
Atlantic Way

Limerick 2030-Placemaking



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County Context

County Development Plan

Tourism Strategy

Ballina – Killaloe Mobility Plan

Inis Cealtra Visitor Development

Existing and Planned Greenway
Developments



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Project Objectives

Create Connectivity to existing trails and routes

Link and Improve accessibility to tourist attractions

Route should be along the Shannon Navigation

Stimulate and grow Economic Activity

Increase the recreational and tourist potential

Sustainability

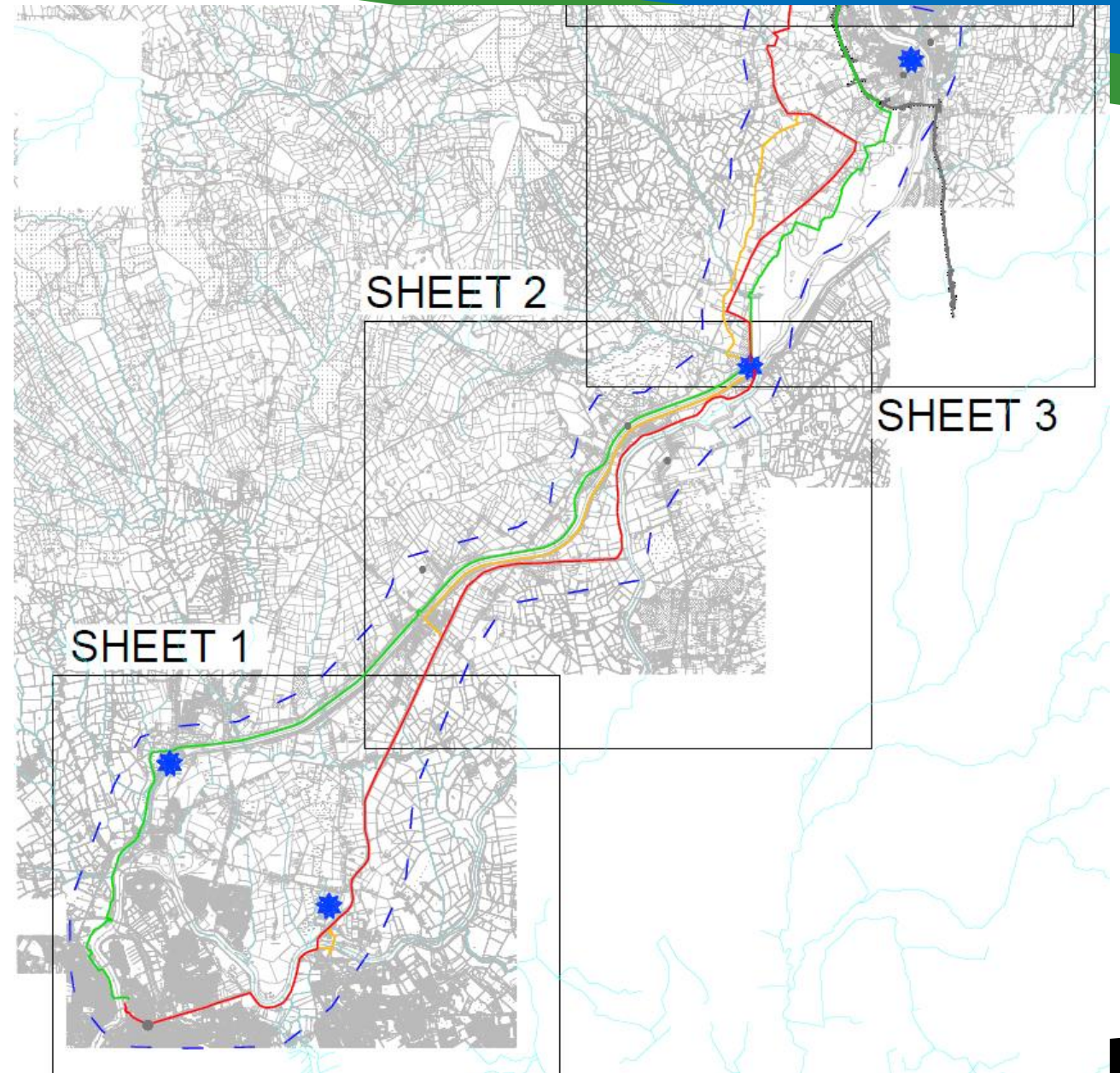
Concept and Feasibility Study

- Clandillon Civil Consulting (CCC) appointed to carry out Feasibility and Constraints Study and Options Selection.
- Phase 1 is Concept and Feasibility
 - Develop Study Area
 - Establish Planning Context
 - Investigate Constraints
 - Establish Viability



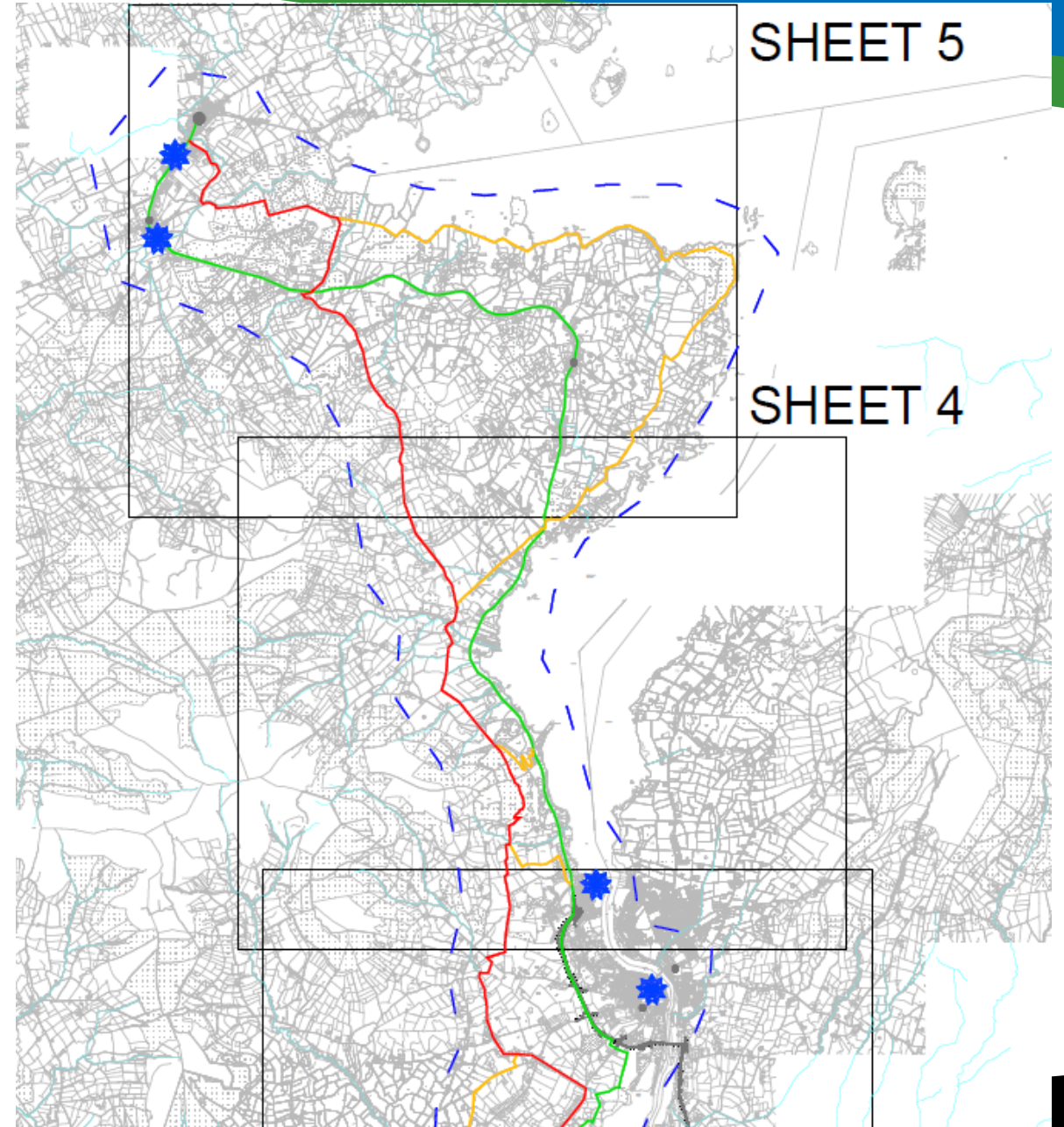
Study Area

- Study Area Developed using Preliminary Route Options (PROs) shown. (Subject to change following constraints assessment)
- Southern Half – Limerick to Killaloe
 - Green PRO followed The River Shannon from Limerick to meet the Shannon Tail Race/Head Race. Proceeded along Parteen Basin to meet the Killaloe Bypass
 - Red PRO followed the Park Canal/River Shannon from Limerick to UL. Then follows the Plassey Canal/River Shannon to Parteen Weir. Follows R463 and Goes 'Cross Country' from Parteen Weir towards Killaloe.



Study Area

- Study Area Developed using Preliminary Route Options (PROs) shown. (Subject to change following constraints assessment)
- Northern Half – Killaloe to Scarriff
 - Green PRO follows R463 from Killaloe to Scarriff
 - Red PRO is ‘cross-country’ following local roads and field boundaries
 - Orange PRO follows Lough Derg shoreline



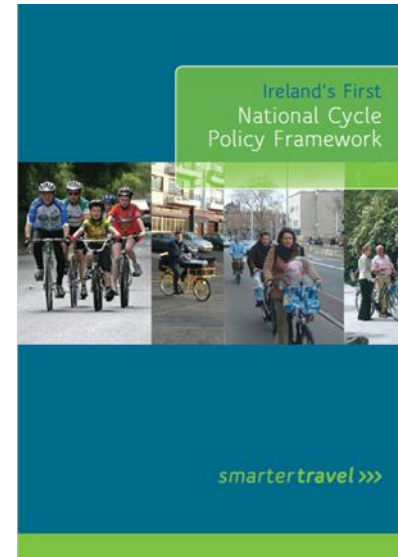
Planning Context - National



National Planning Framework Objective 21: *Facilitate tourism development and in particular a National Greenways, Blueways and Peatways Strategy, which prioritises projects on the basis of achieving maximum impact and connectivity at national and regional level.*



Rural Development Policy 2021-2025 Policy Measure 36: Invest in greenways, blueways, walking trails and other outdoor recreation infrastructure to support the growth in outdoor recreational tourism.



National Cycle Policy Framework (2009) Objective 3: Provide designated rural cycle networks especially for visitors and recreational cycling.



National Physical Activity Plan for Ireland Objective 36: Prioritise the planning and development of walking and cycling and general recreational /physical activity infrastructure.

Constraints

Engineering and Environmental Constraints Investigated

- Geometry, Road Interfaces and Connectivity
- Hydrology and Hydrogeology
- Soil and Geology
- Structures
- Ecology
- Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage
- Land Use and Planning
- Land Ownership
- Material Assets
- Landscape and Visual
- Noise and Vibration
- Human Beings and Human Health



Primary Constraints

Constraints which rule out Preliminary Route Options developed:

1. Ecological Constraints along River Shannon, Parteen Basin and Lough Derg rule out use of riverbanks and shorelines.
2. ESB concerns in respect of operation and maintenance of ESB owned facilities rule out use of Shannon Head Race/Tail Race

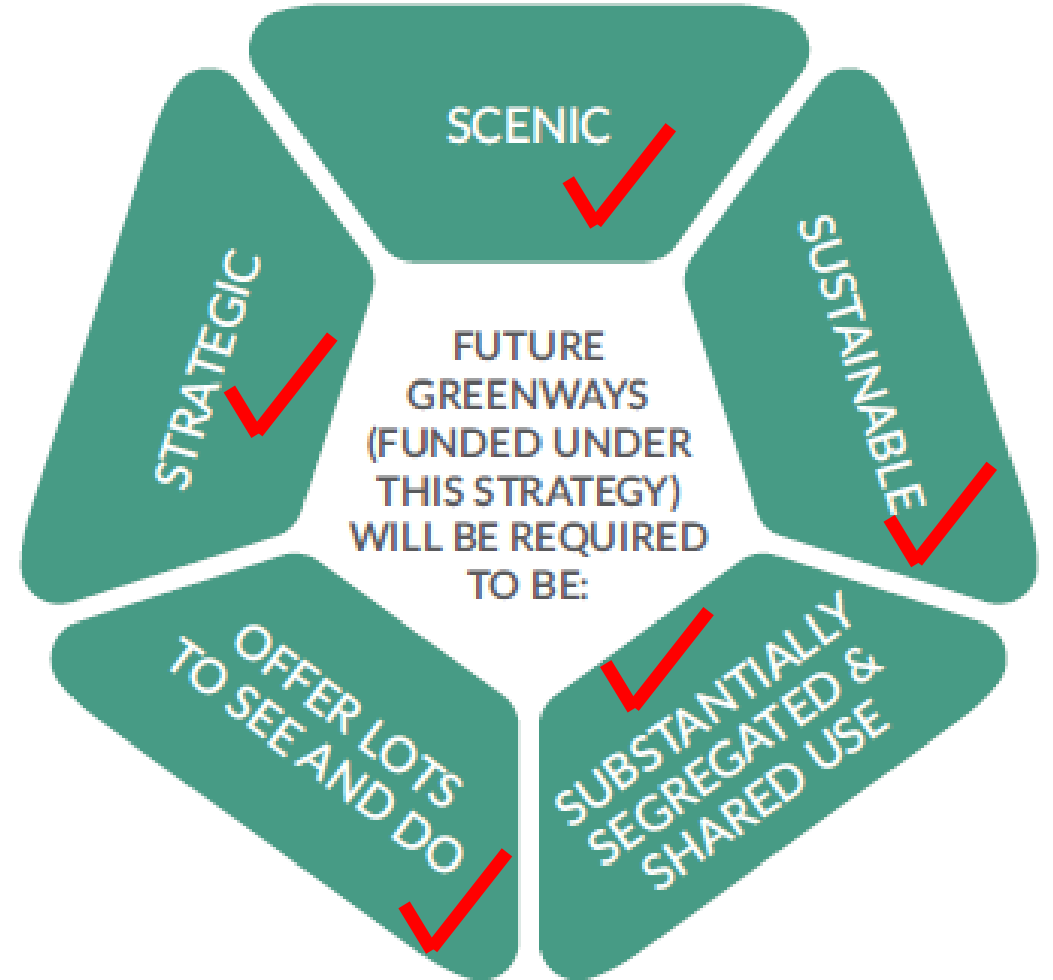
Key Constraints Requiring Further Consideration

1. Cross-Section constraints – particularly those along the R463 and on existing bridges.
2. Topography/Vertical Gradient – particularly on red route between Killaloe and Tuamgraney
3. Land Ownership
4. Ecology



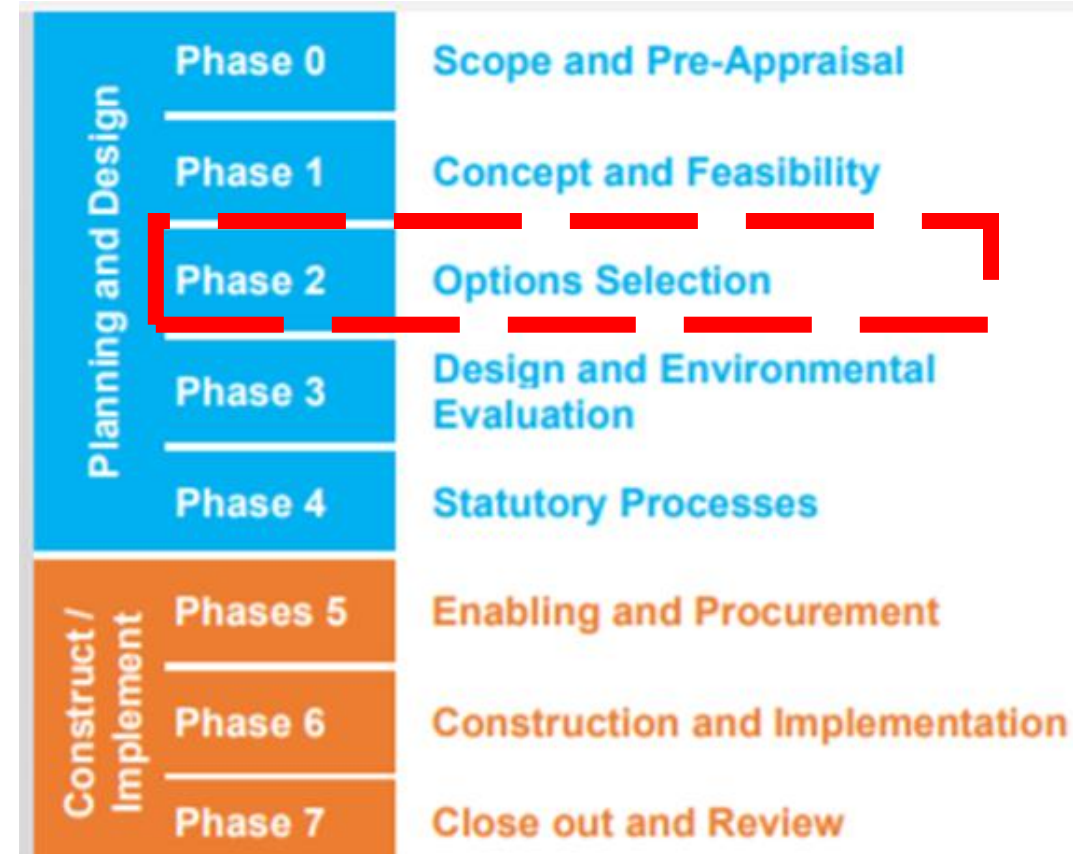
Conclusion of Feasibility Study

1. No Feasible Route Identified between Cloonlara and Parteen Weir. Study Area to be expanded to determine further route options for assessment.
2. Feasibility Confirmed Elsewhere with potential for high-quality, well-connected greenway facility.
3. Project Objectives typically can be met.



Next Steps

1. Close-Out Current Phase (Phase 1) by expanding Study Area and determining feasible route options between Cloonlara and Parteen Weir
2. Develop Formal Route Options for Public Consultation
3. Proceed with Public Consultation on Route Options
4. Carry out Options Selection Process in accordance with TII Standards
5. Establish Preferred Option
6. Public Consultation on Preferred Option



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Questions