



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



**Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)
Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) - Part 8**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

SPECIFIED DEVELOPMENT BY A LOCAL AUTHORITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 179 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED) AND ARTICLE 81 OF PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (AS AMENDED).

SPECIFIED DEVELOPMENT: R-363 Claremount (Ballyforan) Active Travel Safety Measures

Specified Development:

The proposed project seeks to improve pedestrian infrastructure on the western approaches to Ballyforan village, enhancing both safety and accessibility. The works will include:

- Site clearance works
- Construction of a new Zebra crossing
- Construction of new footpaths
- Reconstruction of existing boundary wall
- Junction tightening to improve pedestrian safety
- Construction of a raised table pedestrian priority crossing at road junction
- Completion of road markings to define a School Zone and improve visibility at Ballyforan National School
- Installation of new road signage to alert motorists and enhance overall safety in the area
- Other ancillary works including the provision of drainage, landscaping, road markings, street furniture and high friction surfacing

These measures will encourage active travel, create an environment which will accommodate all age groups and individuals with impaired mobility, and ensure safer, active travel infrastructure.

Statutory Procedures:

This Chief Executive report forms part of the statutory procedure for the preparation of the local authority own development proposals and is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 179(3)(b) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, and Article 81 of Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (As Amended). The purpose of this Chief Executive Report is primarily to provide an account of the submissions/observations that have been received as part of the public consultation process on the proposed R363 Claremount (Ballyforan) Active Travel Scheme.

In accordance with the requirements of Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) the following procedures were followed:

- Notice of the proposed development was published in the Roscommon People on Friday 6th February 2026
- The notice was circulated to the Elected Members for their information
- A public site notice was erected at the location of the proposed development
- Plans and particulars of the proposed development were on public display for a period of four weeks from the 6th February 2026
- Submissions or observations were accepted up to and including the 20th March 2026

Referrals:**Internal Departments**

- Municipal District Engineer
- Planning Department
- Regeneration
- Water Services Department
- Environment Department
- Heritage Officer
- Housing Department
- Corporate Services
- Community and Enterprise
- National Road Design Office

Prescribed Bodies:

- National Transport Authority
- National Parks and Wildlife Service
- Heritage Council
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Supporting Documents attached

- Appendix A: Submissions
- Appendix B: Planning Report
- Appendix C: Notices of Proposed Development
- Appendix D: Drawings

Submissions Summary

Five submissions were received, full details at Appendix A.

The main points and concerns were as follows;

No.	Name and Address	Main Points of Concern
1	Cait Kenny, Enda Hoey, Stephen Burke and Noel Dunning (on behalf of Ballyforan Area Transition Team).	The submission raises concerns (not specified) regarding some of the aspects of the scheme and request a meeting to discuss same.
2	Emer Kelly, Creeher, Ballyforan	The submission supports the road safety improvements while highlighting ongoing speeding issues and calling for additional warning signage and road markings at the eastern approach from the start of the speed limit zone.
3	Emer Kelly, Creeher, Ballyforan	While supporting the proposed road safety improvements the submission highlights persistent speeding issues and requests that the pedestrian crossing is relocated eastwards between the community centre and the eastern school gate, where pedestrian demand, visibility, and safety would be greatest. It also notes the need to minimise parking loss for key facilities such as the GAA club and community pre-school and to include additional signage and visual measures to slow traffic along the 50 km/h section and approach roads.
4	Kerry Browne, Hopes and Dreams Preschool, Ballyforan	Concerns were raised that the proposed raised footpaths will reduce parking and create additional road crossing risks for parents and young children attending both the preschool and the national school. While the submission supports traffic calming measures such as ramps and a zebra crossing due to high vehicle speeds, they believe the current plan may unintentionally increase safety risks for families using the educational facilities.
5	Maureen Kenny, Ballyforan Tidy Towns, Ballyforan	Concerns were raised regarding the location of the pedestrian crossing, removal of an existing footpath, landscaping and maintenance arrangements, restricted school access, and reduced parking at St. Aidan's GAA Club. The committee notes that earlier community supported streetscape works had provided for a crossing opposite the Community Hall.

Conclusions

The existing streetscape is characterised by deficiencies in pedestrian infrastructure and safety, particularly for vulnerable road users accessing the school and adjoining community facilities. Conflicts between pedestrian and vehicular movements, excessive vehicle speeds and limited pedestrian priority have been identified as key issues.

The proposed Active Travel scheme seeks to address these issues in accordance with the principles of the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) by prioritising pedestrian safety, improving connectivity along key desire lines, and creating a safer, lower speed environment. The provision of the pedestrian crossing, continuous footpaths with clear segregation, and introduction of traffic calming and School Zone measures reinforce pedestrian priority and improve overall street legibility. The inclusion of the nature-based drainage solution with low maintenance planting further enhances street quality and sustainability.

It is considered that the proposed scheme will deliver a safer, more inclusive, streetscape for all users of this area of Ballyforan village.

Recommendation

The proposed development accords well with the policies and objectives as well as the development management guidelines and standards of the Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028 and thus accords with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. I recommend that the development hereby presented in this report be proceeded with.



Shane Tiernan
Chief Executive

Date: 13th May 2026

Appendix A: Submissions

No.	Date Received	Name and Address	Details of Submission	Roscommon County Council Response
1	16 th March 2026	Cait Kenny, Enda Hoey, Stephen Burke and Noel Dunning (on behalf of Ballyforan Area Transition Team).	Ballyforan Area Transition Team have reviewed your drawing pack for the proposed Active Travel Safety Measures on the R363 Claremont (Ballyforan). We are concerned regarding some of the aspects of the scheme and respectfully request a meeting with yourselves to discuss same. We are available at your earliest convenience.	The amended design proposal takes into consideration the issues raised by the Ballyforan Area Transition Team. The pedestrian crossing has been relocated to a position adjacent to the eastern school gate to better align with pedestrian desire lines linking key attractors within the area, including projects currently being progressed by the Transition Team. It is confirmed that the proposed scheme does not result in the removal of any existing footpath infrastructure. Vehicular access to the Community Hall and St Aidan's GAA grounds is retained, while the proposed footpath will provide clear segregation between pedestrians and vehicles along this section of road frontage, thereby enhancing safety for all users. The planting proposed as part of the nature-based drainage solutions will consist of low maintenance species, ensuring long term sustainability and manageable maintenance requirements.
2	11 th March 2026	Emer Kelly, Creeher, Ballyforan	I welcome this development to improve road safety and pedestrian safety within the village. I would like to emphasise the need for additional warning signage and markings approaching from the east of the village, from the beginning of the speed limit zone. Traffic speed is an ongoing persistent issue in the village.	The proposed scheme includes junction tightening, raised table pedestrian crossings, high friction surfacing, and clearly defined School Zone road markings. These DMURS compliant measures will help reduce vehicle speeds by reducing the visual width of the road, increasing driver awareness, and reinforcing pedestrian priority.
3	20 th March 2026	Emer Kelly, Creeher, Ballyforan	Submission 2. The proposed development is welcome to improve road safety for pedestrian and other road users. There are recurrent issues with	The pedestrian crossing has been relocated to a position adjacent to the eastern school gate to better align with pedestrian desire lines linking

			speeding through the village due to the linear road and wide visual layout and sightlines. The location of the proposed pedestrian crossing is not optimal in context of the outlined area, and knowledge of site characteristics. From local knowledge, a pedestrian crossing would be preferred and better utilised should it be located between the community centre and eastern school gate. This is the current natural crossing point people use as it generates the largest amount of pedestrian usage. The housing estates, shop, local amenities and GAA club are all located to the east of the school. Additionally, as the crossing is a raised crossing, visibility is essential. Moving the crossing easterly will enhance its visibility for all road users, encouraging speed reduction and enhancing overall safety. Moving the crossing easterly would also align with proposed plans and project proposals for the area in the future, such as the development of local amenities in the area. The introduction of the proposed measures will ultimately reduce a certain amount of parking spaces in the area. The location of safety measures should seek to ensure that spaces are maximised in a manner that accounts for access to the GAA facilities and access to the Community Pre-school which is located within the community centre. The speed of vehicles on the 50km/hr section of road is another concern for the community. While it is understood that enforcement is a matter for An Garda Síochána, it would be beneficial to include adequate signage and visual features to promote road safety and encourage drivers to reduce their speed in this area and along the approach road areas.	the key attractors in the area. Currently, there are no dedicated pedestrian facilities along the road frontage serving the Community Hall and St Aidan's GAA grounds. This presents a safety risk to vulnerable road users, who must navigate through vehicular traffic associated with parking access to these facilities. The proposed footpath will provide clear segregation between pedestrians and vehicles, significantly improving safety and accessibility for vulnerable road users. The footpath layout has been designed to maximise parking provision while incorporating clearly defined access points to the front of the Community Hall and the entrance to the GAA grounds. The introduction of junction tightening, raised table pedestrian crossings, high friction surfacing, new road signage and clearly defined School Zone road markings will contribute to reduced vehicle speeds by narrowing the apparent carriageway width, increasing driver awareness, and reinforcing pedestrian priority.
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4	11 th March 2026	Kerry Browne, Hopes and Dreams Preschool, Ballyforan	As the chairperson of Hopes and Dreams preschool located in Ballyforan community hall I am concerned that the raised footpaths will limit the amount of parking for the parents of children in the preschool. I appreciate that there is parking across the road but there is still a higher risk crossing with children under three. Also, I am a parent of children in the national school and by the proposed plan parent will no longer be able to drop their children at the school on the correct side of the road, yet again meaning parent will have to park opposite and walk their children across the road to ensure their safety. I believe the proposed works will actually cause more safety concern to the patrons of both educational facilities. I do agree with traffic calming measures in the form of ramps and also a zebra crossing as traffic does come through the village at high speeds.	The relocation of the pedestrian crossing has facilitated an increase in the drop-off and pick-up area directly in front of the national school. Vehicular access to the frontage of the Community Hall and St Aidan's GAA grounds is maintained and will continue to accommodate parents and guardians accessing the pre-school for drop off and collection. The proposed footpath will provide effective segregation between pedestrians and vehicular traffic at this location, significantly reducing the risk to pedestrians and improving overall safety within the area.
5	19 th March 2026	Maureen Kenny, Ballyforan Tidy Towns, Ballyforan	Ballyforan Tidy Towns Committee has reviewed the proposed Active Travel scheme for Ballyforan and would like to raise a number of concerns regarding the current design, specifically: Location of the proposed pedestrian crossing Removal of the existing footpath Proposed landscaping and arrangements for its long-term maintenance blocking vehicle access to the side gate of the school Reduced parking capacity outside St. Aidan's. In 2019, Ballyforan Tidy Towns, in partnership with Athlone MD, secured Community Involvement Scheme funding to upgrade the village streetscape. This included constructing the footpath linking the village to the stone bridge, providing additional parking, drainage improvements, landscaping, and tarmac works. At that time, provision—including electrical ducting—was made for	The pedestrian crossing has been relocated to a position adjacent to the eastern school gate to better align with pedestrian desire lines linking the key attractors in the area. Vehicular access to the side gate of the school will be retained. Access to the side gate can continue to be made via the existing dropped kerb entrance at St Aidan's GAA grounds. The proposed scheme does not result in the removal of any existing footpath infrastructure. All current pedestrian routes are maintained, with additional measures introduced to improve pedestrian safety and comfort. There is no reduction in the usable parking provision outside the frontage of St Aidan's GAA grounds. The layout has been carefully designed to maximise parking capacity while accommodating the Active

			a pedestrian crossing directly opposite the Hall, to be delivered in Phase 2. This was delayed due to Covid. In light of the new scheme proposals, we would appreciate the opportunity to meet with the project team to discuss these concerns and ensure alignment with previous community-supported plans. A meeting at your earliest convenience would be greatly appreciated.	Travel and pedestrian safety improvements. With regard to landscaping, all planting proposed as part of the nature-based drainage solutions will consist of low maintenance species. These have been selected to ensure long term sustainability, minimise maintenance requirements, and deliver complementary environmental benefits in keeping with best practice guidance.
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Planning Ref. No.:	PT8RN344
Description of development:	PART 8 – Active Travel Safety Scheme at the R-363 and entrances to Claremount Housing Estate and the junction with the L-75312. Construction of a new zebra crossing, new footpaths and reconstruction of existing boundary wall, junction tightening to improve pedestrian safety, construction of a raised table pedestrian priority crossing, completion of road markings, drainage, signage, street furniture, landscaping, all other ancillary works.
Location:	Ballyforan Village (western approaches), Co. Roscommon.
Applicant(s):	Roscommon County Council
Planning Operational Area:	North Roscommon

Site Description and Development Proposal

Overview of Proposed Works

The proposed works are located in the village of Ballyforan in the south of the county. These works essentially aim to provide an enhanced and safer layout for pedestrians and vehicles at the junction of the R363/L75312. These works aim to provide for safer pedestrian and vehicular mobility in the western environs of Ballyforan Village.

Specifically, the works include:

- Construction of a new zebra crossing
- New footpaths
- Reconstruction of existing boundary wall
- Junction tightening to improve pedestrian safety
- Construction of a raised table pedestrian priority crossing
- Completion of road markings
- Drainage
- Signage
- Street furniture
- Landscaping, all other ancillary works.

Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment

Accompanied by Environmental Impact Assessment Screening: Yes

The EIA screening concluded that there is no requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment to be undertaken.

Accompanied by Appropriate Assessment Screening: Yes

The AA screening concluded that there is no likelihood of significant effects and no adverse impacts to site integrity are predicted, due to the nature of the works proposed.

Planning Policy and Planning Assessment

ROSCOMMON COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (RCDP) 2022 - 2028

In terms of the provision of an improved public infrastructure with a more pedestrian friendly environment, Chapter 7: Infrastructure, Transport and Communications promotes the maintenance and enhancement of the public road network throughout the county, in order to improve movement, access and safety for all road users.

It is considered that the proposed development is designed to improve the public realm and create a safer environment for both pedestrian and vehicular movement in the area.

Having regard to the nature of works set out in this Part 8 application, it is considered that this proposed scheme accords with the principals and associated policy objectives set out in the current Roscommon County Development Plan.

Planning Assessment

The works outlined above are intended to address public safety and improved traffic movements in this area of Ballyforan Village, where existing community and residential developments interact. These improvement works will have a positive impact on how pedestrian and traffic movements take place and will create a more pedestrian friendly environment in this area.

The plan detail lodged as part of this development proposal are considered to sufficiently clarify the detailed schedule of works. The proposed works outlined are considered appropriate in terms of layout and design.

Conclusion

In consideration of the foregoing, it is concluded that the proposed scheme accords well with the current overarching policy objectives, as well as the development management guidelines and standards of the Roscommon County Development Plan 2022–2028 and thus, accords with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Recommendation

In the event this development proceeds, consideration should be given to the following:

- All surface finishes, hardscaping, landscaping proposals etc. should be of high quality which enhance the visual amenity and the integrity of the public infrastructure in this area of Ballyforan Village.



Signed: _____
Brian Farragher
SEP

Date: 18/03/2026



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Working with you, working for you

Making Roscommon an attractive,
inclusive, prosperous and vibrant place to live,
invest, work and visit.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE ROS COMÁIN | ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED) PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (AS AMENDED) - PART 8 NOTICE IN RELATION TO SPECIFIED DEVELOPMENT

Notice is hereby given pursuant to the provisions of Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Article 81 of Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) that Roscommon County Council proposes to carry out the following development:

R-363 Claremount (Ballyforan) Active Travel Safety Measures

The proposed project seeks to improve pedestrian infrastructure on the western approaches to Ballyforan village, enhancing both safety and accessibility. New raised table pedestrian crossings will be installed on the R-363 and at the entrances to Claremount housing estates. New sections of footpath will be constructed north and south of the R-363 between the junctions with the L-75312 and Claremount housing estate.

The project involves:

- Site clearance works
- Construction of a new Zebra crossing
- Construction of new footpaths
- Reconstruction of existing boundary wall
- Junction tightening to improve pedestrian safety
- Construction of a raised table pedestrian priority crossing at road junction
- Completion of road markings to define a School Zone and improve visibility at Ballyforan National School
- Installation of new road signage to alert motorists and enhance overall safety in the area
- Other ancillary works including the provision of drainage, landscaping, road markings, street furniture and high friction surfacing

An Appropriate Assessment screening report and Environmental Impact Assessment screening report in respect of the development have been carried out and are available for inspection. The reports concluded that a full EIA is not required, and that the development does not need to proceed to Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment. In accordance with Article 120 (3), as amended by S.I. No. 296 of 2018, a person may, within four weeks beginning on the date of the publication of this notice apply to Coimisinín Pleanála for a screening determination as to whether the development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. Such a submission should be addressed to the Secretary, Coimisinín Pleanála, 64, Marlborough Street, Dublin, 1.

Plans and Particulars of the proposed development may be inspected or purchased (at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy) for a period of **four weeks from 6 February 2026** during public opening hours at the offices of Roscommon County Council, Áras an Chontae, Roscommon Town F42 VR96. Plans and particulars may also be viewed via the link <https://planning.localgov.ie/>.

A submission or observation in relation to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated may be made before **20 March 2026**, via <https://planning.localgov.ie/> or alternatively in writing or email marked "R363 Claremount (Ballyforan) Active Travel Safety Measures" and submitted to: Roscommon County Council, Roads and Transportation Department, Áras an Chontae, Roscommon Town F42 VR96 or email roads@roscommoncoco.ie.

Signed: **Mark Keaveney**
Director of Services
Economic, Planning and Physical Development

Date of Notice: 6 February 2026

Roscommon Branch Library
Welcomes You To
'SPOKEN WORD'
A relaxed social gathering in a welcoming space for people living with memory difficulties.
Join us for an easy, enjoyable hour sharing a story or memory together.
No preparation needed and nothing to do afterwards.
Refreshments provided.
Starting Friday 14th February @ 2.00pm
Call to the library to find out more details.
Phone: 090-66 37277
Email: library@roscommoncoco.ie

PERIODIC SPECIAL SPEED LIMIT BYE-LAWS 2025

Roscommon County Council in exercise of the powers conferred on them by Section 9 of the Road Traffic Act 2004 (No. 44 of 2004), as amended, adopted Periodic Speed Limit Bye-Laws 2025 at the Council Meeting held on 15 December 2025. The Bye-Laws will come into effect from 1 February 2026.

The adopted Bye-Laws together with the accompanying maps may be viewed at www.roscommoncoco.ie and will be available for inspection during normal office hours at the offices of Roscommon County Council, Áras an Chontae, Roscommon F42 VR96. They may also be viewed at www.speedlimits.ie

A copy of the Bye-Laws may be obtained on request from the Roads and Transportation Department, Roscommon County Council, Áras an Chontae, Roscommon F42 VR96 or email roads@roscommoncoco.ie

Mark Keaveney
Director of Services
Economic, Planning and Physical Development



OPENING HOURS IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE: MOTOR TAX OFFICE 9.30am to 1.00pm only Monday to Friday.

ALL OTHER SERVICES are open 9.30am to 1.00pm and 2.00pm to 3.30pm Monday to Friday.

PHONE SERVICES AVAILABLE from 9.30am to 3pm and from 2pm to 5pm Monday to Friday.

Phone: (090) 6637100 Email customerservices@roscommoncoco.ie

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Appendix D – Drawings

Appendix D: Drawings: Amended Drawing on Review of Submissions





