

# Submission Details

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## Submitter

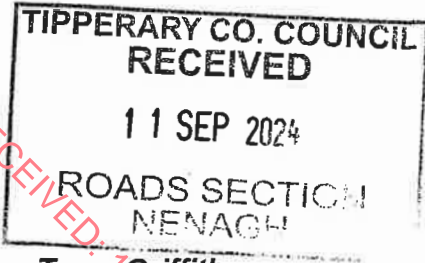
Name	Birdhill Tidy Village C/o Denis Floyd
Address	Birdhill Co. Tipperary
Note	Submission Document from Birdhill Tidy Village in relation to PT8TT134

## In relation to application

Application Number	PT8TT134
Applicant Name	Tipperary County Council
Development Address	R445 Carraigeway birdhill Gortybrigane and Birdhill

# BIRDHILL TIDY VILLAGE

"Ag obair ar son áite níos fearr"



Chairperson: - Siobhan Larkin

Secretary: - Terry Griffith

Mr. Liam Brett,  
Director of Services,  
Roads, Transportation, Active Travel & Health and Safety,  
Tipperary County Council,  
Nenagh.

9<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Ref: Part 8 Proposed Birdhill Active Travel Scheme.

Liam, a chara,

Birdhill Tidy Village Committee wishes to make some observations re the above proposed scheme. At the outset, we wish to state that we welcome the provision of footpaths and cycle lanes, the creation of pedestrian crossings and traffic-calming measures and the installation of a bus shelter.

However, we have concerns over some elements of the proposed works:

1. We believe that the removal of the centre island, which facilitates right-turning at road junctions, at entrances to business premises and to private houses, is a retrograde step and if implemented will lead to traffic back-up, uncertainty among drivers and possible accidents.
2. Discontinuing the 'slip-roads' which facilitate left-turning onto the Newport and O'Briensbridge roads will remove an important safety measure. Currently, there is also confusion for drivers emerging from the R504 and R466 onto the R445, particularly when crossing the road. This confusion will be exacerbated when narrower carriageways, footpaths and cycle lanes are added to the mix. The creation of a traffic island at the exit from the R466 will create very sharp corners, particularly for traffic exiting from the R445. It will further create a serious hazard for vehicles crossing from the R504. In effect the junction will become "more staggered" than it is currently, requiring vehicles to emerge from the R504, take the centre of the road for a short distance and exit onto the R466. We believe that a roundabout at this staggered crossroads would be a safer option.

9/9/2024  
Please refer to details  
Crowley SE. Nelson  
Shane  
Katie

3. We are totally opposed to the proposed location of the Bus Shelter in front of the Fountain. It should be possible to put it in a place which will not obscure an attractive feature which has stood for almost two decades.
4. We are not convinced of the wisdom of having the bus stopping-point on the outside of the cycle-lane and footpath, requiring passengers to disembark and cross in front of oncoming cyclists.
5. It appears that the existing footpath from Section E to Coopers on the plan will be retained. We wish to advise that the surface of parts of this path have ravelled and that some of the bays have sunk causing considerable 'lips' and edges which have been the cause of a number of trips and falls in recent years. The entire surface needs to be replaced. We also wish to point out that the trees along the edge of this path are completely obscuring the light from the adjacent poles.
6. The proposed plan will eliminate any parking of vehicles on the side of the road. Where do people park when posting a letter, when waiting to collect someone off a bus, when depositing litter in the bins (or indeed emptying the bins), when calling to the Information Kiosk, when there is an overflow from the local businesses, when attending community events, etc? There is currently no public parking in Birdhill, despite considerable volumes of people calling to the local hostelrys and visiting the local attractions and amenities. An ideal piece of ground has just gone up for sale adjacent to the Coopers. We suggest that Tipperary County Council might consider purchasing this for use as a public car park.
7. This is an opportune time to enhance connectivity and safety around the village by expanding the scope of the Active Travel Scheme and extending the footpaths as follows:
- (a). Continue footpath on the R445 to take in the Soccer Field and the Church.
  - (b). The plan shows the footpath from the western side of the R445 on to the R504 for a short distance, with no provision, where sightlines are seriously limited, for pedestrians to cross or to continue walking on the Newport Road. It would be a safer option to continue the path at least to the main entrance of the adjoining house or indeed create a narrow walkway as far as the Community Park. A Pedestrian Crossing at the Park entrance would also be a welcome safety measure for visitors to a widely-used amenity.
  - (c). Extend the recently installed footpath to the Railway Station on the R466 as far as the entrance to the Pollagh Trail. Currently there are serious hazards and safety risks for pedestrians crossing the railway bridge.
  - (d). Extend the current footpaths at Birdhill Roundabout to bring pedestrians onto the hard shoulder on the R494 Link Road to the M7. At present pedestrians must walk on the busy carriageway, for a distance of approximately 50m on one side and 20m on the other, before reaching the hard shoulders.
8. In conjunction with the extension of footpaths, it is desirable to extend the speed limits on the Newport Road to the bottom of Twiss's Hill and on the O'Briensbridge Road below the entrance to the Pollagh Trail.

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9. Water Connections: Before work on the Active Travel Scheme commences, we want to see the business premises and private residences, currently served from a pipe at the rear of the Village, connected to the new water main on the R445.
10. Measures need to be taken to control and prevent
- (a). The accumulation of surface water on the road in front of the Bus Stop;
  - (b). The flow of surface water across the R445 on the eastern side of the village;
  - (c). Ponding near the footpath at the Roundabout.
- Indeed, a major overhaul of existing gullies and drainage needs to be carried out.
11. We would like to discuss how the proposals will impact/reduce/remove the shrubbery at the junction of the R445 and R504, the flower beds at the bus stop at the Fountain, the shrubbery at the bus stop on the opposite side
12. We are also concerned at how the proposals will impact on some features which we have installed over the years, e.g. the Fountain, Tank & surrounding paved area, the Information Kiosk, the Pump & surrounding paved area on the edge of the Village Green at the Newport Road corner, etc. We have no issue with the removal of our Decade of Centenaries Memorial (currently 1921 – 2024) which stands close to the field gates between Cross Sections C and D.
13. It is our hope that the entire road will be resurfaced when the footpaths/cycle lanes are completed.
14. We hope that the entire project will not be dragged out over a lengthy period and will be completed without too much disturbance for residents, businesses and visitors.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss any of the above views with Council representatives and to hear from officials the rationale behind some of the proposals.

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Denis Floyd