

**ENNISKERRY
FORUM
Traffic Management
Plan**

Prepared December 2010

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SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared following a long and comprehensive community review of traffic management and related issues in Enniskerry village and the immediate surrounding areas. The Enniskerry Forum has coordinated the collection of the information, data and content and has put together this report on behalf of the wider Enniskerry community. At the outset there are a number of comments that the Forum wish to record –

- The Forum is non political and the views represented are those of individual residents and traders provided in a non political context.
- The views presented are not those of the Forum who are merely coordinating and presenting the views of the wider community.
- The audience for this report is the Enniskerry community, local sports and other organisations, Enniskerry business community, the local political representatives and Wicklow County Council.

The key objectives of the community survey that was undertaken and of this report are -

- Identify the key traffic management issues that exist in our community.
- Prioritise those issues based on safety, accessibility, parking and traffic management.
- Construct appropriate recommendations that are community driven and that can be audited independently.
- Create an agenda for dialogue with Wicklow County Council with a view to addressing immediate safety issues and agreeing a plan for the implementation of other recommendations as required.

As part of this process the community recognises that some objectives may not be realisable in the short term and that an ongoing and constructive dialogue with Wicklow County Council will be required. We have approached this report in a way that prioritises action with the initial prime focus on safety. The community's traffic management suggestions and proposals (see section 5) have been independently audited to give greater validity and urgency to the key recommendations.

The Forum wishes to express its thanks and appreciation for all the comments and feedback provided as part of this process. The extent of the response means that the Forum can legitimately put this report forward as representing the community. This gives the process greater credibility in any subsequent discussions with Wicklow County Council and in ensuring that the identified key objectives are met.

SECTION 2 – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This report is the culmination of a comprehensive Enniskerry community dialogue and feed back process that has been underway since 2007.
- The Enniskerry Forum has agreed to coordinate the production of a traffic management plan based on the wider community input.
- The traffic management plan as set out in section 5 is based on a survey carried out in early 2009 and feedback received during a number of public meetings.
- The traffic plan prioritises the proposed actions based on immediate safety issues, access to the village, and parking and overall traffic flow around the village.
- The plan addresses and proposes a number of potentially contentious solutions to some issues that have been identified in the process i.e. parking restrictions and enforcement, disc parking and a one way traffic flow around the village.
- Speed is a major issue and apart from residents taking personal responsibility recommendations are made to install speed bumps and other restrictive measures.
- The plan does not address any aesthetic issues and / or general maintenance issues unless specifically related to safety. These are matters for separate discussions with Wicklow County Council.
- The plan has been audited independently to ensure that the suggested proposals are technically possible, comply with legislation, and accurately reflects the relative prioritisation given.
- The plan together with the results of the audit will be presented to the community by way of a public meeting for formal adoption.
- If the plan is adopted, in whole or in part, a process of dialogue will commence with Wicklow County Council based on the identified actions that have been endorsed by the community.
- The plan identifies the initial “next steps” that have to be taken to commence a productive dialogue with Wicklow County Council and to ensure that the urgent safety issues are implemented immediately.
- The Forum will ensure that the wider community receive progress reports on the implementation of the plan.

SECTION 3 – BACKGROUND TO SURVEY

The necessity to complete a detailed traffic survey and develop a traffic management plan for Enniskerry has been a requirement for some time. There are significant traffic management issues in the village and the surrounding areas that fall under the following broad headings –

- Safety – pedestrians , cyclists and motorists
- Access to parking in village environs
- Access for visitors to the village
- General traffic / directional signage

There was initial contact and interaction with Wicklow County Council from 2007 and several public meetings were facilitated and held. Wicklow County Council in a letter to a local resident in June 2008 set out some high level actions that had been suggested –

- A one way system around the village was proposed in 2003 / 2004
- Pay and Display parking was suggested in 2007.

Both these suggestions, which have the potential to address some of the key issues, were rejected by the Bray area councillors based on public opposition.

In April 2009 a further public meeting discussed the same issues but on a broader basis which included local planning issues and development , the maintenance and aesthetics of roads and pathways as well as parking , speed and signage. There has been ongoing dialogue within the community , both formally and informally , over recent years and as a result the Forum have agreed to bring forward a traffic management plan that has been independently audited and submitted to a public vote for acceptance or otherwise.

In completing this traffic management plan the Forum is conscious of the following –

- The content and suggestions will be those of the community and not of the Forum. The Forum is simply facilitating the process.
- There will be no political content or agenda although our local public representatives will be asked to support and endorse the final plan agreed by the community and to facilitate the dialogue with Wicklow County Council.
- The community survey already completed has been democratic and everyone's views and opinions have been sought and recorded in this document.

- There has been a comprehensive response from the community, both formal and informal, and the Forum now has the raw data and content to prepare the plan based on the community input.
- The response has included comments on many issues including safety, traffic flow, accessibility, maintenance, aesthetics, speed, environment etc.

This traffic management plan and the subsequent audit is the formal output of significant community discussion and dialogue and, once formally adopted by the community, will be provided to the local representatives and to Wicklow County Council for ongoing implementation.

SECTION 4 – DETAILED SURVEY FINDINGS

This section of our report sets out the detail of the community survey findings as presented by the respondents to the Forum. These responses have not been edited or amended and will be converted into a draft traffic management plan to be audited. The detailed plan is set out in Section 5 of this report.

The relevant details of how the survey was conducted are as follows –

- The survey was community based and was directed to both local residents and traders.
- It was carried out during early 2009 and was coordinated by the Enniskerry Forum.
- The survey asked 3 specific questions.
 - (1) list top 5 road safety concerns.
 - (2) list top 5 traffic management concerns.
 - (3) list any concerns relating to parking.
- As part of the response to these questions respondents were asked to identify the exact location, describe the issue and put forward any ideas for a solution.
- In most cases the respondent was identified and provided contact details.
- In addition to the completed questionnaires there were a number of informal responses by way of e mail and these have also been incorporated.

In the following tables the responses to the survey are summarised under each specific question asked. The order in which the issues appear in the tables is based on the number of respondents that identified and prioritised such issues. This gives some guidance as to the relative importance of each issue as perceived by the community.

As part of the independent audit process the auditor has been given access to the individual questionnaires to ensure a better understanding of the issues.

The following is the detail of the responses received –

Question 1 – List top 5 road safety concerns

Issue	Locations	Solutions
Speed generally	All village environs + R117	Enforcement , rumble strips/ramps ,traffic calming and reduced speed limits
Traffic lights	Village centre	Removal
Parking on pavement	All village environs	Enforcement , better parking facilities
Crossroads	Kilgarron Hill / Forge Road	Zebra crossing , speed control + parking controls
Poor pedestrian crossings	All village environs	Installation of additional crossings + wheelchair access
Insufficient loading space	Village centre	Improve loading bays
Traffic management at schools	St Mary's and Powerscourt NS's	Provide specific parking and better signage
Pathways not wheelchair accessible	Village environs	Pathways upgrade
Cyclist behaviour	Village environs and access roads	Cyclists to travel in single file.
Parking of horse trailers	Kilgarron Hill	Restrict parking for horse trailers.
Unclear junction markings	Village environs	Put in clear markings / bollards
Large trucks in village	Church Hill	Restricted routes for trucks and buses
General parking violations	Village environs	Garda cones Church Hill + general enforcement. Restrictions at main junctions.
Pot holes/road surfaces / footpaths	Village environs + R117	Resurfacing and better maintenance. Quick note to council re problems.
Turn at Church Hill / Forge Road	Church Hill / Forge Road	Non slip road surface + removal of island
Crossing from Monument to Spar	Village Centre	Pedestrian crossing
Water flow on Kilgarron Hill	Kilgarron Hill	Improved drainage
Signage at clock tower not visible	Village Centre	Upgrade all signage
Drop off at Powerscourt NS	Village Centre	Dedicated parking
General road signage	Village environs	Tourist sign, N11/R117

Question 2 - List top 5 traffic management concerns

Issue	Location	Solution
No coherent traffic management system and congestion	Village environs	One way system around village + use village monument as a roundabout
Bus stop impeding traffic flow	Outside Spar in village centre	Relocate the various bus stops to reduce congestion
Poor signage – directional and parking	Village environs and access roads	New signposting around village + tourist map in village centre
Pedestrian contact with vehicles at traffic lights	Village centre	Improve pedestrian crossings
Knocksink congestion at weekends	Knocksink	Use Bog Meadow for bus parking + open Knocksink car park
Speeding in village	Village environs	See 1 question above
Stones falling off trucks on hills	Church Hill and Kilgarron Hill	

Question 3 – List any concerns relating to parking

Issue	Location	Solution
Insufficient parking spaces	Village centre + environs	Increase parking facility at Bog Meadow + green space behind Spar + improved parking signage
Long term parking in village centre	Village centre	2 hour parking in village centre , warden/gardai + parking meters/discs + improved parking signage
Insufficient parking on Church Hill at weekend	Church Hill	Restrict parking on Church Hill + encourage parking on Forge Road + dedicated resident parking
Inadequate wheelchair accessible parking	Village centre	Increase wheelchair accessible spaces
Parking on Kilgarron Hill	Kilgarron Hill	Restrict parking on Kilgarran Hill
Illegal parking at bus stops	Village centre	Enforcement

Other issues identified - restoration of Victorian footpaths, need for a new ATM, dangers of Monastery Road, overall village environs not special needs friendly or wheelchair friendly.

SECTION 5 – ENNISKERRY FORUM PROPOSED TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

This section of our report sets out the details of the Enniskerry Traffic Management Plan the contents of which have been subject to independent audit. Every suggestion in this plan has come from the community other than any suggestions / alterations put forward by the auditor on the basis of legislative compliance and/or technical implementation. The following points should be noted –

- The plan cannot meet the requirements or objectives of the entire community. There will always be divergent views and opinions all of which are equally valid. As a community we have to respect this and ensure that the final document that goes forward to Wicklow County Council is broadly representative of the community and has been arrived at in a democratic and transparent manner.
- The independent audit has been used to validate the community's proposals and to ensure that these proposals comply with current legislation, are technically possible and will provide improvement.
- The presentation of the plan together with the independent audit to the community is the culmination of a long and comprehensive process that the Forum believes adequately reflects the views of the wider Enniskerry community.

In asking the community to accept/reject the individual elements of the plan the Forum have prioritised the proposed actions as follows –

- **Priority 1** - immediate safety issues i.e. where there is a clear safety issue and/or the current situation is in breach of relevant legislation.
- **Priority 2** – any other safety issues that do not fall under 1 above.
- **Priority 3** – General Traffic Flow
- **Priority 4** – Parking

Clearly there will be issues that overlap e.g. where parking behaviour creates a safety issue. Where this occurs the safety aspect takes priority.

As part of the adoption process the Forum have decided that each element will be voted on separately starting with Priority 1 recommendations. This process will allow for the maximum community input in that individuals will not have to vote to accept or reject the entire plan based on strong views they may hold on an individual aspect of the plan. This is a more transparent and democratic approach and will ensure that the content of the final plan truly reflects all the views of the community.

Priority 1 – Immediate Safety Issues

- **Speed into and out of village and on approach roads.**

Action – speed ramps and other traffic calming measures to be sought from Wicklow County Council and a request to reduce speed limits. This specifically relates to the R117, Kilgarron Hill and Church Hill.

- **Traffic Lights in Village Centre creating an unsafe environment for pedestrians and motorists.**

Action – the immediate removal and replacement with a pedestrian crossing and the installation of relevant warning signs to traffic on the approach roads.

- **Illegal Parking on Pavements creating hazards for wheelchair users, buggies and prams and pedestrians.**

Action – increased enforcement and provision of improved parking facilities in and adjacent to the village (see comments under priority 3 below)

- **Crossroads at Kilgarron Hill / Forge Road**

Action – install a pedestrian crossing and speed restriction measures. In addition restrict parking within 10 metres of the crossroads to improve sight lines for pedestrians and motorists.

- **Poor / Non existent pedestrian crossings creating a dangerous environment for pedestrians around the village.**

Action – Install additional pedestrian crossings that also are wheelchair accessible. These are specifically required between the monument and Spar store and at other key crossroads in and around the village.

- **Traffic management in and around the village schools**

Action – Provide dedicated parking and much improved signage.

- **Unclear junction markings**

Action – Request Wicklow County Council to upgrade / re paint all the junction markings so they are clearly visible to motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.

- **Water flow on Kilgarron Hill creating dangerous driving conditions**

Action – Request Wicklow County Council to improve maintenance on drainage and to monitor water flow in bad weather.

Priority 2 – Other Safety Issues

- **Insufficient loading / unloading facilities in village creating an unsafe environment for pedestrians and motorists**

Action – improve and expand the loading bays and enforce parking regulations.

- **Cyclist behaviour in and around village and on access roads resulting in motorists taking unnecessary risks to overtake.**

Action – cyclists to travel in single file and better enforcement of road regulations.

- **Dangerous parking of horse trailers on Kilgarron Hill resulting in poor motorist visibility and creating the necessity to drive on the wrong side of the road.**

Action – restrict parking in this area and / or on pavement parking

- **Large trucks transiting through the village creating a danger to pedestrians and causing traffic congestion.**

Action – request Wicklow County Council to impose weight restrictions on trucks other than for local delivery purposes.

- **Poor condition of road surfaces and footpaths in the village centre and on the approach roads.**

Action – request Wicklow County Council to commence a programme of repair and maintenance work to correct the unsafe areas around the village on a prioritised basis.

- **Dangerous turn for motorists at Church Hill / Forge Road**

Action – Request Wicklow County Council to install a non slip road surface and to remove the traffic island which creates an unnecessary danger.

Priority 3 – General Traffic Flow

- **There is no coherent traffic flow management plan around the village thereby causing unnecessary congestion and in turn creating dangerous situations that are avoidable.**

Action – request Wicklow County Council to undertake an urgent technical review of implementing a one way system around the village that would significantly reduce congestion, improve traffic flow for residents and visitors alike and eliminate a number of dangerous situations that arise as a consequence.

- **Bus stops and the 44 terminus impede traffic flow and take up possible parking bays.**

Action – as part of the traffic flow management plan as described above initiate a discussion with Wicklow County Council and CIE to have the bus stop for the 185 relocated to a less congested area and have the 44 terminus relocated away from the village centre. There would still be a bus stop in the village centre for drop off / collection.

- **Congestion at Knocksink particularly at weekends resulting in dangerous parking and difficult access for visitors to the facility.**

Action - reopen the car park at the facility and / or utilise the Bog Meadow car park facility (see priority 4 below)

- **Lack of clear signage around the village – directional and parking**

Action – seek the agreement of Wicklow County Council to considerably improve the general signage in and around the village that will assist visitors to the village with directions and ensure that parking facilities / restrictions are clearly visible.

Priority 4 - Parking

- **Long term parking in the village creates a shortage of parking for visitors wanting to stop in the village and access to village centre shops, restaurants / pubs and other facilities for residents.**

Option (1) – request that Wicklow County Council erect “maximum 2 hour parking” signs in the nominated areas to discourage long term parking. This is not likely to be enforced in any meaningful way.

Option (2) – request that Wicklow County Council carry out a feasibility study to install “pay and display” meters that would be enforced probably by an independent contractor.

- **Insufficient parking in the village and its environs**

Action (1) - increase the existing Bog Meadow facility to provide for long term parking and facilitating walkers who need to leave their cars in the village for the day.

Action (2) – Request that Wicklow County Council identify in conjunction with the community possible additional sites / areas that would accommodate long term parking.

Special Note

The 2 issues above (long term parking and insufficient parking) are not mutually exclusive. Restricted parking and / or the use of meters could be put in place before any additional parking was completed due to funding / planning considerations.

- **Insufficient parking on Church Hill particularly at weekends**

Action – as part of a wider traffic flow plan and increased parking availability and restrictions ensure that Wicklow County Council incorporates this into any agreed future actions.

- **Illegal parking at bus stops**

Action – enforce the current parking regulations pending the possible relocation of the bus stops to elsewhere in the village.

- **General parking on Kilgarron Hill**

Action – review the options to parking on the footpath at this location and / or creating a traffic blockage at the junction of Kilgarron Hill and Forge Road.

SECTION 6 – NEXT STEPS

These are the actions required to progress matters –

Stage 1 – Independent Audit, Early January

- The Enniskerry Forum report is provided to the independent auditors for review and comment. A tight deadline is set down with a response expected by the end of January weather permitting. The auditors will provide feedback on the Forum's plans and add any other comments that are relevant.

Stage 2 – Final Review and Preparation for Public Meeting, Early February

- The Forum will prepare a presentation to be delivered at a public meeting. This presentation will encompass both the Forum's plan and the auditor's response. The combination of both will be the suggested plan presented at the public meeting.
- This final plan, to be voted on, will be based on the priorities identified in the Forum's report.

Stage 3 – Public Meeting, Mid to late February

- This meeting will be arranged for mid February with invites being sent out once the audit is completed.
- The location is to be agreed but will be based on the likely attendance.
- The attendees at the public meeting will be asked to vote on each item separately by a show of hands. Each recommendation will be adopted/rejected on this basis and finally all agreed items will be incorporated into the final Enniskerry Traffic Management Plan.
- As the individual recommendations are those of the community and have been audited there will be no need for debate on the relative merits or otherwise of each item. The Forum can take any brief questions by way of clarification only.
- This process will ensure that the plan doesn't stand or fall on a small number of contentious issues. They can be accepted or rejected based on their own merits. This is a transparent and democratic approach to getting overall consensus.
- At the end of the public meeting all the recommendations that have been formally adopted will be incorporated into a final document that will then form the basis of discussions with Wicklow County Council

Stage 4 – Interaction with Elected Representatives and Wicklow County Council Early March

- Once the final document, as adopted at the public meeting, is complete a meeting will be arranged with the local elected representatives to get guidance and agree how best to approach Wicklow County Council.
- At this meeting the Forum will outline the process that has been undertaken, explain the community objectives and seek their support.
- At this stage a meeting will be set up with Wicklow County Council to progress matters and agree the priorities that need urgent action.

Stage 5 – Ongoing

- The Forum will set up a process to ensure that the Enniskerry community will be kept updated as to progress on a regular basis, probably by E mail.
- A process will be put in place to maintain a regular dialogue with Wicklow County Council to ensure that progress is maintained and to lobby where necessary for ongoing action.
- There will also be ongoing communication with the elected representatives to maintain their involvement and support.

Conclusion

- The Traffic Management Plan is the community's and has been endorsed accordingly
- There will now be a "blueprint" for ongoing dialogue with Wicklow County Council in a structured and organised way.
- The community can measure progress against the recommendations that have been made.
- Even though some will be not be realisable in the short term the process should result in ongoing improvement in traffic management and safety in and around Enniskerry.