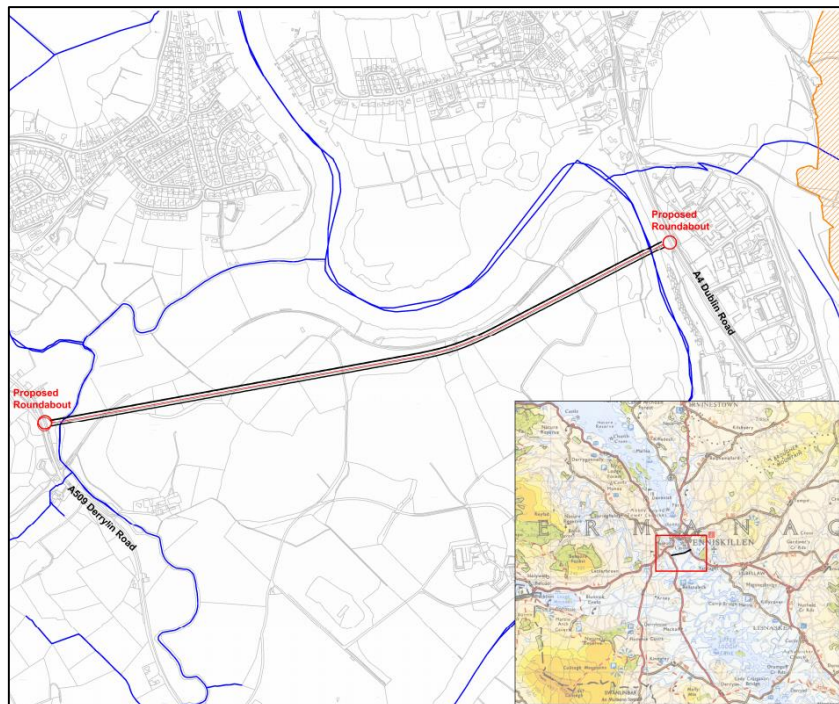


**A4 Enniskillen Southern Bypass
Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Consultation**

[Atkins (commissioned by Transport NI)]

Consultation Response from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council (Council) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the A4 Enniskillen Southern Bypass Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Consultation which specifically looks at the area contained within the below map:



(Map supplied by Atkins, as part of this Consultation).

Brief Background for Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

The District Council area is home to 114,992 people (as of 30 June 2014). The District Council area is Northern Ireland's largest region in terms of land mass - approximately 3,000km², or 20% of NI - and the smallest in terms of population. As a result, the population density of approximately 41 people per km² is the sparsest in NI. This is a feature of the region which also provides challenges to service delivery.

Consultation Feedback

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council's Environmental Health service previously responded to a request from Atkins in early April 2016, regarding the potential air quality impacts presented by the proposed new roadway. It is understood that the baseline monitoring is to be undertaken for a period of approximately six months with the results used to inform the air quality modelling process. The Council would appreciate this being the confirmed approach.

The Council's Environmental Health service also believes there is a need for Atkins Consultancy to consider the potential noise impact to receptors during construction of the roadway, as well as when the roadway is opened and operational. Such a review should make reference to appropriate assessment criteria and outline, where deemed necessary, any mitigation measures to be incorporated into the design or work practices.

The Council's Planning Department would advise Atkins that the proposed development area falls within the Fermanagh Area Plan 2007 and the 'access point', on the Dublin Road, is located within Enniskillen Development Limits as designated under the Fermanagh Area Plan 2007 whilst the rest of the site is located outside the development limits.

The Proposal runs through 3 Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPA) L5, L7, L8 which are discussed on page 112 and 113 of the Fermanagh Area Plan 2007.

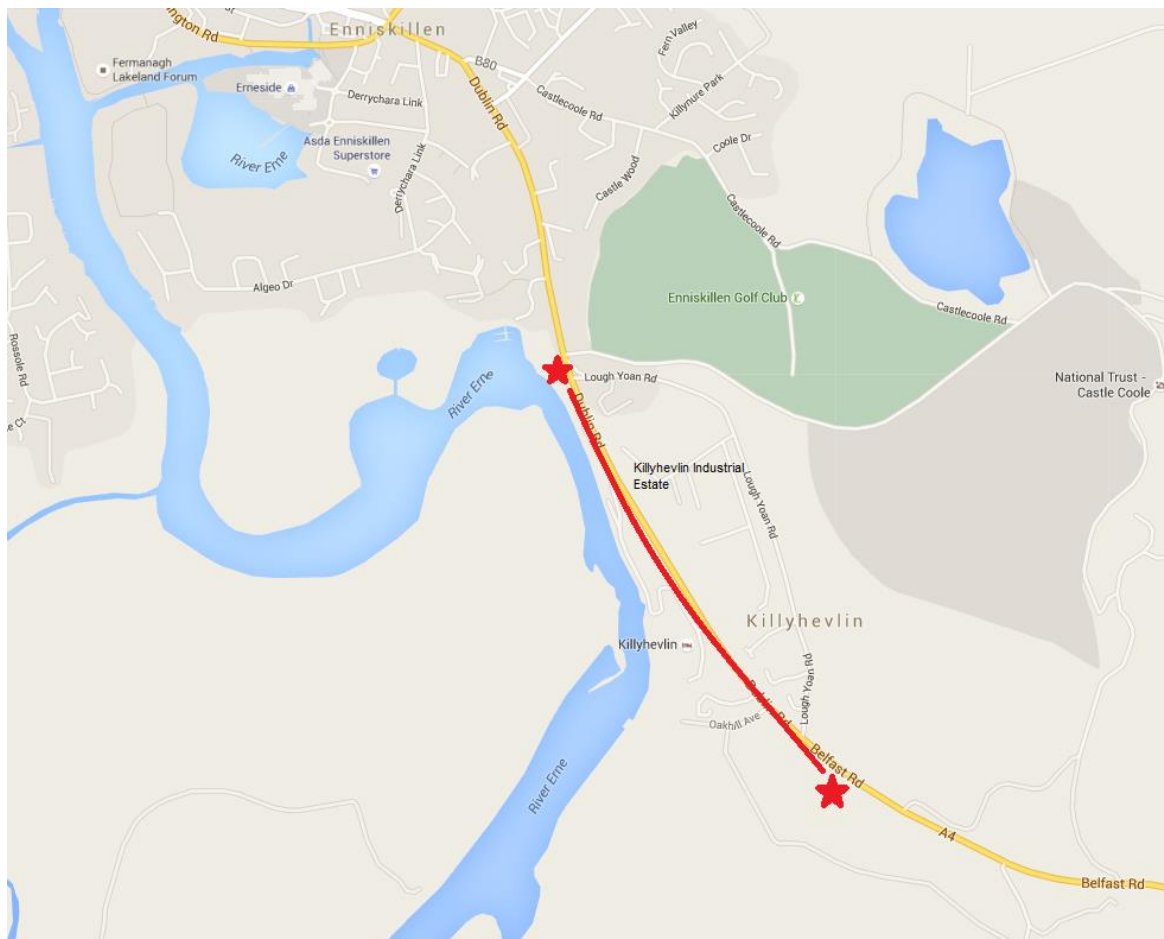
- Under L5 the bank of the Erne between the Killyhelvin and the Ardhowen Theatre is an important setting for the town on the approach from the South with mature gardens and dense woodland. The landscape wedge acts as a buffer for sound between the road and the lough and therefore the shoreline setting with the trees is an important feature.
- The proposal also affects LLPA L7. On the approach from Lough Erne from the south the shoreline area is important to the setting of the town. Any application should consider the visually significant features of this local landscape policy area.
- Under LLPA L8 the proposal falls within Sillees River Flood-Plain where there is a strong presumption against development throughout this area. In this instance a developer is directed to Planning Policy Statement 15 Planning and Flood Risk and advised to consult Rivers Agency for advice.

The Proposal also falls within Fermanagh Tourism Zone 5 (Tamlaght/Bellanaleck) which is discussed on page 32 of the Fermanagh Area Plan 2007. The main policy consideration along this section of the Erne states that the main channel priority must be giving to facilitating the volume of inter-lough cruiser traffic.

The proposed site also runs between two designated monuments Fer211:042 – Church Graveyard and enclosure (Archaeological site and monument) and Fer211:085 – Rath (Archaeological site and monument) and should be considered under Planning Policy Statement 6 Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage. You should consult with NIEA HED Planning Team, Historic Environment Division, Department for Communities, Causeway Exchange, 1-7 Bedford Street, Belfast, BT2 7EG.

In considering the location of the proposal, the Planning Department would suggest that the developer/applicant consider the position of the proposal and the impact this would have on the Killyhelvin Hotel. As a tourist attraction for Enniskillen and Fermanagh the proposal should have regard to vehicle and pedestrian routes. The applicant may wish to consider a location for the proposal to the south of the Hotel.

The Council is worried that any junction onto the new Enniskillen Bypass Road (from the Dublin Road) may cause a traffic backlog on the approach road into Enniskillen, particularly around the Killyhevlin Hotel. It would be extremely worthwhile for Transport NI, and Atkins, to consider the widening of the road (and introduction of extra lanes) on the approach road in both directions i.e. the Dublin Road as outlined on the below map.



On the above map, the area that should be considered for road widening is marked with the red line and between the two 'starred points'.

Planning policy which Atkins, and Transport NI, should also consider in conjunction with those discussed above include

- Planning Policy Statement 2 Natural Heritage due to the habitats associated with the River and Lough Erne
- Planning Policy Statement 3 Access, Movement and Parking
- Planning Policy Statement 13 Transport and Land use
- Planning Policy Statement 21 Sustainable Development within the Countryside
- Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS)

In relation to development which may impact the site, there are also a number of houses located between the Dublin Road and the Shoreline. Details of the site history can be viewed via the 'PublicAccess' point at www.planningni.gov.uk.

Conclusion

To conclude, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation regarding the A4 Enniskillen Southern Bypass (Environmental Impact Assessment). The proposals, and the development of the proposals, will have a huge impact upon the Council District, and as such the Council urges Atkins (and Transport NI) to take note of the comments made within this Consultation Response.