

LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL
ROADS DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT
IN ACCORDANCE WITH
SECTION 38 ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1994 AND
“GUIDELINES ON TRAFFIC WORKS PROCEDURES”
ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
IN OCTOBER 2023

R396 ABBEYLARA, Co. LONGFORD
PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC CALMING
MEASURES TO IMPROVE ROAD AND PEDESTRIAN
SAFETY AND IMPROVED BUS STOP FACILITIES IN
ABBEYLARA VILLAGE.

To: Richard Smith, Acting Director of Services for Physical Development.

Following on from an earlier determination that Section 38 Road Traffic Act 1994 is the appropriate process for the assessment and implementation of the proposed works titled “R396 at Abbeylara Village, Abbeylara, Co. Longford, September 2026”, a non-statutory public consultation process was undertaken to determine local attitudes and responses to the proposed works. This report outlines this consultation process and the decisions and actions that arise from it.

As mentioned, an earlier determination process was carried out to determine if Section 38 Road Traffic Act 1994 is the appropriate process for the assessment and implementation of the proposed works. A copy of this determination report is included in Appendix 1 of this report.

Being satisfied that the requirements of the Section 38 Guidelines (issued by the Department of Transport in Oct 2023, Appendix 2) have been fully complied with in relation to the above proposed development, I have prepared the following report in accordance with the requirements of Section 8 of the above Guidelines and formally submit same to you for a Traffic Works Order to be signed off.

This report concludes by requesting a “Traffic Works Order” to be formally signed off in the form of a Chief Executive’s Order approving the proposed works outlined hereafter.

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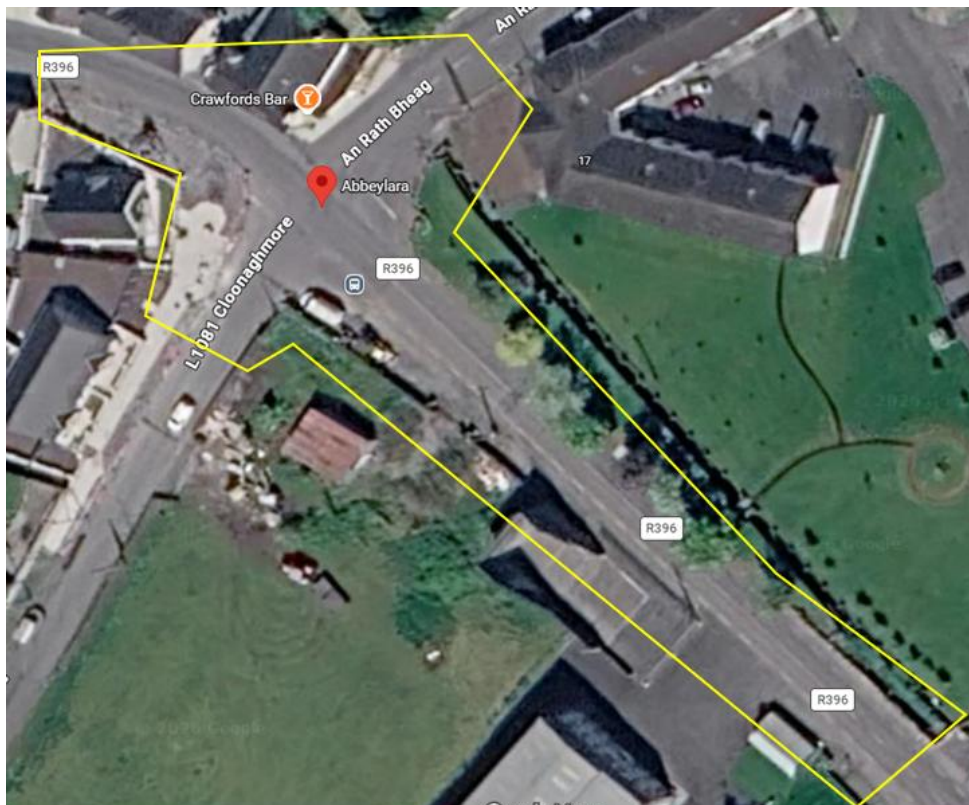
Senior Executive Engineer Granard Municipal District.

Dated 9th Oct 2026.

1. INTRODUCTION/ SITE LOCATION

The proposed project involves the permanent reconfiguration of the existing crossroads in the centre of the village of Abbeylara. This will require the alteration of the junction kerb lines, roadways and footpaths in order to improve safety and reduce speed.

The proposed works involve junction tightening and reconfiguration of the roadway at the crossroads in the centre of the village to encourage a reduction in speed of vehicular traffic through the village whilst improving safety for pedestrians and vulnerable road users. The narrowing of the road at the crossroads and on both approaches will serve to reduce vehicular approach speeds which will improve safety. This will also improve the pedestrian experience crossing the road at or near the crossroads. It will also provide an opportunity to improve the bus stop facilities for the local link bus service at this location. The subject area is outlined by the yellow shape on the satellite photo below:



Aerial View of the subject area.

2. NATURE AND EXTENT OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The proposed development will consist of the following:

- Alterations to the existing kerb lines at the junction
- Increasing the size and area of the existing pavements to create larger “Build Outs”.
- Narrowing of all four roads to reduce the risk to pedestrians crossing the roads.
- Provision of Raised Pedestrian Crossings across the R396 (to be provided under a separate funded scheme in 2027)
- Provision of new planted areas to improve the visual amenity of the junction.
- Improved bus stop facilities in the village core.

3. IS SECTION 38 OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1994 APPROPRIATE

The Guidelines on Traffic Works Procedures, issued by the Department of Transport in October 2023 requires that a separate determination exercise is undertaken to determine the works described herein, which are proposed to be carried out by Longford County Council Roads Section, are appropriate for assessment and implementation in accordance with Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994.

This determination was carried out in Sept 2026, and the conclusion was that this is indeed the correct procedure. A copy of this Determination Document is included in **Appendix 1**.

4. NON-STATUTORY PUBLIC CONSULTATION, SUBMISSIONS, ETC.

Once it was decided that Section 38 was the appropriate process, Section 8 of the Guidelines Document provided for a Non-Statutory Public Consultation process to be undertaken to get local feedback from the Residents of Abbeylara regarding the proposed works.

A notice of consultation was published on Longford County Council's website under the roads section notifying the public of the Public Consultation. In addition, Longford County Council's Social Media Platforms were used to spread the word regarding the process and the deadline dates. And finally, paper copies of the consultation documents were placed on display in Abbeylara Village at Information Boards adjacent to the crossroad.

The consultation process went live on Longford County Council's website on Monday 21st September 2026 and an advertisement was placed in the Longford Leader which was published on Wednesday 23rd September 2026. All documents remained on display until 5pm on 7 October 2026.

The public were invited to make submissions in writing or via a dedicated email address and the deadline for receipt of submissions was set as 5pm on 7 October 2026

Only one submissions was received, and this was a query as to why they were no dimensions on the drawings. Longford County Council proposed to respond to this submission as follows,

Submission from Vincent Quinn.: I refer to proposed traffic calming plan for Abbeylara Village. I am enquiring why measurements of the proposed carriage ways have not been included in the maps made available for public consultation?

Proposed Response: The drawings provided were marked as being indicative only and are not for construction purposes, so dimensions were not needed. In addition to the drawings the proposed works were marked out on the road surface to indicate the impacts of the works.

An Garda Siochana was notified of the proposed works in accordance with the Road Traffic Act 1994, but they had no comment or observation to make.

5. CONCLUSIONS.

Having regard to the above-mentioned public submission, and the fact that no objections or observations were submitted it is considered that the proposed development is generally acceptable. It will provide a significant improvement to the safety of all road users in the village.

It is therefore proposed that the development should proceed without alteration.

6. RECOMMENDATION

In accordance with Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act (1994) and the associated guidelines issued by the Department of Transport in Oct 2023, a decision to proceed with the proposed works is an Executive decision, to be recorded by way of a Chief Executive's Order (Traffic Works Order).

I therefore recommend that the proposals should proceed, as outlined in Section 5 above and that the decision to proceed be formally recorded as a Chief Executive's Order (Traffic Works Order) and should be published on the local authority's website.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Giffinger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'D' and 'G'.

Senior Executive Engineer Granard Municipal District.

APPENDIX 1 **Determination Report Sept 2026, attached separately.**

APPENDIX 2 **Section 38 Guidelines (issued by the Department of Transport in Oct 2023, attached separately.**

APPENDIX 3 **Indicative Drawing of the proposed works attached separately.**