



Councillor
BRENDAN WYSE

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10th December 2021

RE: Connecting Ireland proposal for Kildare

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please find below my feedback on the proposed improvements for the public transport network and services in Kildare. I am a councillor based in the West Kildare region and my comments relate to those areas where I would have local knowledge.

I would be grateful if you could take this submission into consideration when making your final proposals.

Thank you,

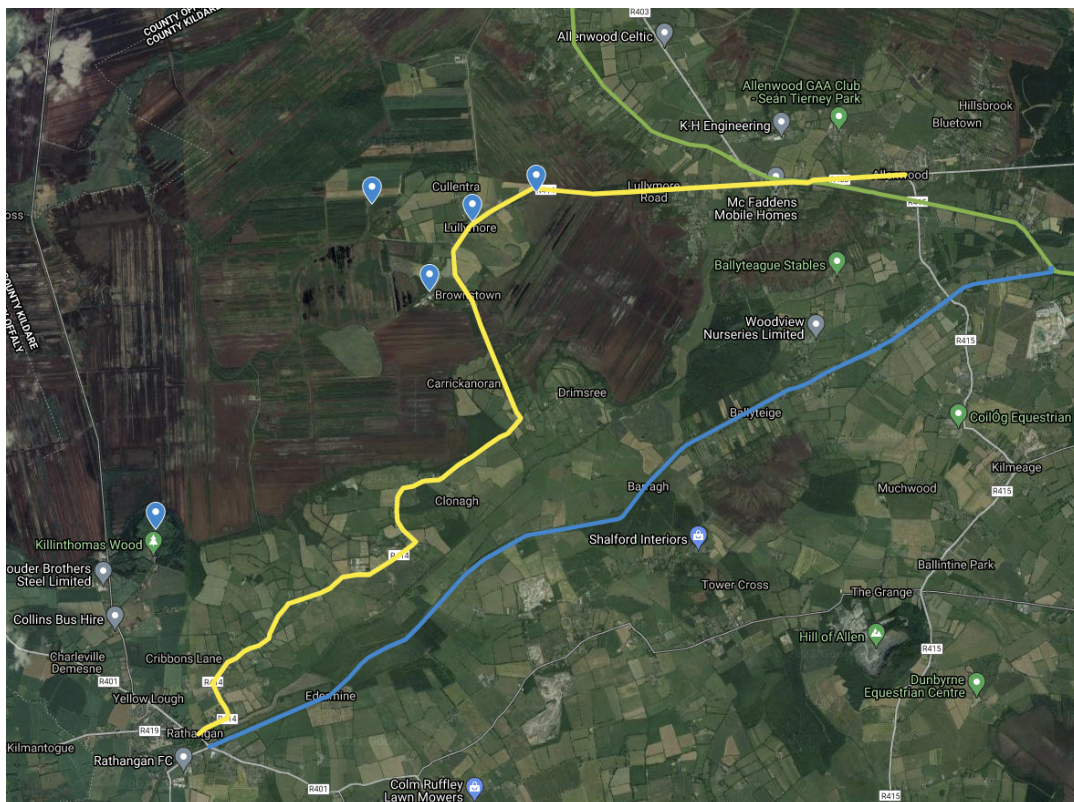
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brendan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

1. Proposed Route - Allenwood to Rathangan

It is submitted that a new regular bus service would be justified between the villages of Allenwood and Rathangan and possibly onwards to Monasterevin and Athy.

Such a route, scheduled appropriately, would allow second level students living in the townlands along the way to travel by bus to school. The majority of secondary school students from Lullymore would attend school in Rathangan. Students from the Allenwood South townland would typically attend Prosperous or Clane schools, to the east.

A Local Link service runs to Maynooth University once each morning from Rathangan and returns each evening. University students would be more likely to use a regular bus service, which fits in with the scheduling of their classes, which do not always run for the whole day. I know that many students prefer to travel by car at present, for this reason.



The map shows the completed Barrow Blueway marked in blue, running from Lowtown to Rathangan. A bus route from Allenwood to Rathangan would run almost parallel to the Blueway and complement this amenity, for which tourism and marketing plans are already being developed. The Blueway continues to Monasterevin and Athy also.

Also on the proposed route is the townland of Lullymore, where we have some successful tourist attractions such as the Bog of Allen Nature Centre, and the most visited attraction in West Kildare, Lullymore Heritage and Discovery Park.

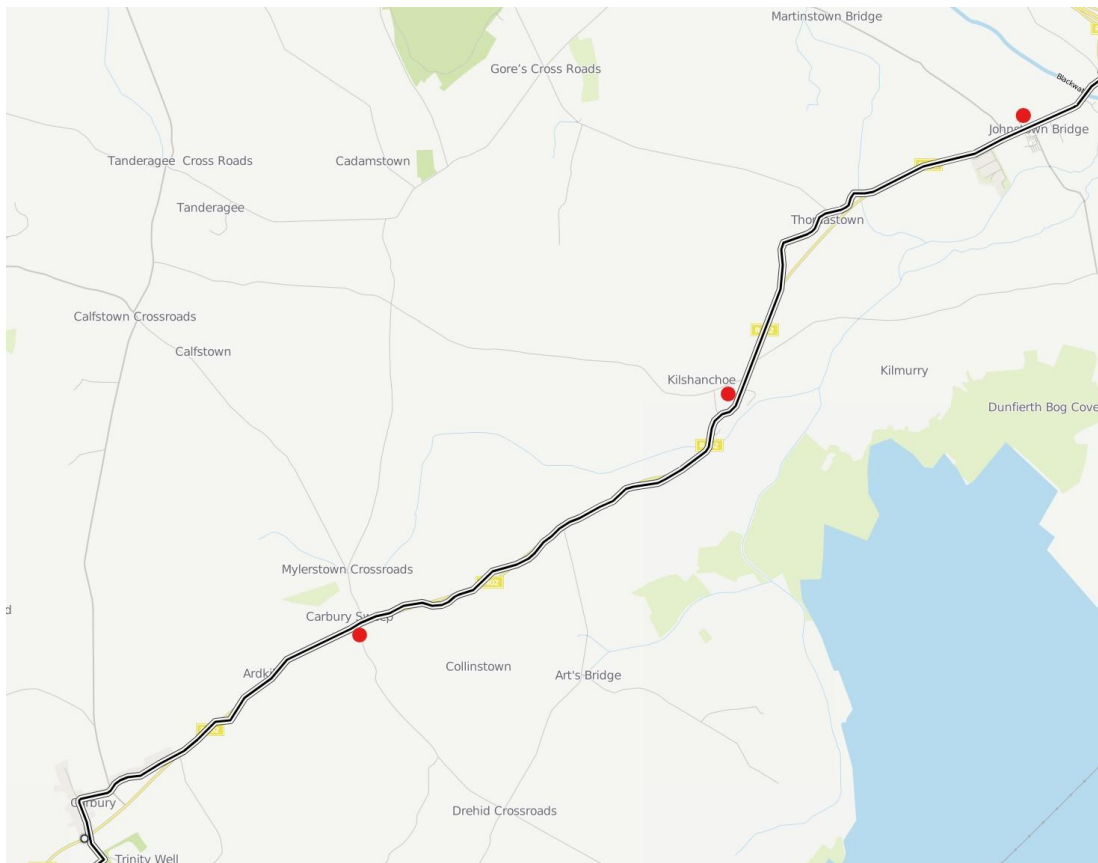
The Heritage Park is currently not serviced by public transport and most of its current visitors would arrive by car or private bus. A regular public bus service which stopped at the park, would allow visitors to travel here in a more sustainable manner, and opens it up to people that don't have cars. There are many potential visitors in nearby Dublin that would be able to reach the park if such a service was available.

The Heritage Park has also been a major employer and training facility for people in our area. It operates a Community Employment scheme, but we find that many participants of CE schemes are restricted in terms of their travel options, which limits the availability of the Park to many potential CE employees. A public transport system from Rathangan and Allenwood to and from the Park would open up the CE scheme to more people in need of training.

2. Additional Bus Stops - Edenderry to Enfield (120C & 820)

Regarding the 120C and 820 bus routes that serve the parishes of Carbury and Balyna by running from Edenderry to Enfield, it would be very beneficial if those routes could have three additional stops added.

Both of these bus routes pass through Carbury Sweep, Kilshanroe and Johnstownbridge, but currently there are no official bus stops in place. The red dots on the map below represent these places.



Private buses already serve some school children in the area by stopping at Carbury Sweep. There are primary schools in both Kilshanroe and the village of Johnstownbridge which the current public bus services pass directly by, without stopping.

The secondary schools that serve most of the children from the Carbury area are in Edenderry. Parents must either use the private bus service if appropriate or alternatively they must make regular car journeys to Edenderry.

There would be a reduction in car usage for school related journeys if the current bus service was altered to include these additional stops and scheduled appropriately, and I would ask that this is strongly considered, particularly as there are two primary schools directly on the existing route.

The new stops would also increase the potential passenger numbers of the existing routes by making it easier for rural residents to reach the bus stop by walking or cycling.