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### **Part 8 Consultation: Grand Canal Greenway - Hazelhatch to 12th Lock**

Celbridge Community Council wishes to express its support to South Dublin County Council for the development of the Grand Canal Greenway linking the 12<sup>th</sup> Lock to the bridge at Hazelhatch. The Lucan Road (R403) from Celbridge is widely accepted as completely unsafe for cyclists so those in our community who would like to be able to cycle to and from parts of Dublin welcome this extension of the Grand Canal Greenway.

Celbridge Community Council wishes to compliment the pragmatic decision taken by South Dublin County Council and Kildare County Council to enter into a Section 85 agreement for completion of the small stretch through the Stacammy Cottage and Balscott townlands in Co. Kildare. This decision will see both County Councils be able to follow through on objectives in their respective County Development Plans.

#### **Gates on Greenway**

It is unclear from the Part 8 documentation what format gates will take but we wish to request that any gates used be disability and family friendly therefore easily traversed by wheelchairs, side-by-side double buggies and by cargo bikes.

#### **Surface Treatment**

We feel that an Asphalt surface will be most suited to all types of users and will require the least maintenance.

#### **Commuter Benefit**

We expect this development to have significant impact for the people of Celbridge due to the possibilities it opens up for commuters from Celbridge who currently travel to parts of Dublin that can be easily reached from the Greenway and for people who will now be able to consider job opportunities along the route of the Greenway. The option of a safe, scenic and very direct cycling route for commuters will hopefully attract many to choose a healthier mode of commuting to South Lucan, Grange Castle, Clondalkin and beyond.



## **Lighting**

Given the anticipated commuter benefit from this Greenway, it should have lighting during the dark winter months between 07:00-09:00 and 16:00-19:00. The section from Dublin which ends at the 12th Lock is well lit, so this should continue to Hazelhatch.

## **Tourism Benefit**

This Greenway will undoubtedly have much potential for tourism and we hope that completion of this stretch of the Greenway will attract many additional visitors to Celbridge. The Hazelhatch Road forms the middle section of the Arthur's Way heritage trail so the cycling infrastructure should be prioritised in order to maximise the benefits that can be gained from this tourism investment.

## **Deficits in Walking & Cycling Infrastructure on the Hazelhatch Road**

Both pedestrians & cyclists need to get to the Greenway safely and members of the community regularly raise concerns about the inadequacy of the infrastructure on the Hazelhatch Road (R405). While we accept that this Part 8 consultation relates only to the Greenway along the canal, Celbridge Community Council wishes to highlight the gravity of the deficits in infrastructure leading to the Greenway and implore that this be given serious and immediate consideration. There appears to be adequate land alongside the South Dublin County Council stretch of the Hazelhatch Road (R405) between the canal and the railway bridge to provide for pedestrians & cyclists and we would urge that an upgrade of this segment of road to incorporate cycle lanes be progressed without delay.

## **Future Part 8 for Proposed Pedestrian & Cyclist Bridge at Hazelhatch**

We note the separate Part 8 that is proposed for a pedestrian & cyclist bridge at Hazelhatch and we would be very supportive of this. Since the greenway will switch from the northern bank of the canal to the southern bank of the canal at Hazelhatch, there is likely to be a notable increase in the number of vulnerable road users crossing the narrow bridge over the canal here; this will both pose a danger to vulnerable road users and have notable implications on traffic congestion. We feel that the proposed pedestrian & cyclist bridge would go some way towards mitigating these undesirable effects. Perhaps an upgrade of the Hazelhatch Road to include cycle lanes could be included in the Part 8 for the proposed new pedestrian & cyclist bridge at Hazelhatch as one would like with the other.

Kind regards

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Celbridge Community Council