

Mr. Colin Brandsma,
Connecting Ireland Programme Lead,
National Transport Authority,
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December 01st 2021.

Re: Connecting Ireland Plan – Kildare.

Dear Mr. Brandsma,

I do hope this correspondence finds you well.

Firstly, on behalf of the Board of Directors of Kildare Local Transport Link CLG t/a Local Link Kildare South Dublin, we wish to acknowledge and commend the proposed outputs of the Connecting Ireland plan, both locally for County Kildare, and nationally.

We wish to take this opportunity to provide a detailed response to the proposed enhanced and new routes for Kildare, while providing proposals that are currently not represented within the plan. We wish to identify our preferred priority of roll out;

1. Connecting Ireland Plan - Proposed Enhancement – Route 880 Carlow to Naas

The Board of Directors wish to offer their full support for this proposal, and acknowledge the benefits to be attained by the route amendment, frequency and scheduling increases proposed. We would greatly appreciate the speedy roll out of this improved service.

2. Connecting Ireland Plan - New Service – Route A33 Newbridge to Naas via Caragh.

Again, the Board wish to provide their full support for this service and acknowledge the improved mobility and access this service will provide along this route.

3. Current Service – RN02 Rathangan to Naas.

The Board would now respectfully request that consideration be given to a re-route, and enhancement of this current service, to meet minimum frequency and scheduling criteria as set out under the CI Plan. We believe that greater utilisation and relevance may be achieved if this service was re-established as an Athy to Allenwood Service. This proposal would then create connectivity between the settlements of Athy¹, Monasterevan², Rathangan³, and Allenwood⁴.

Along with the increased connectivity for the settlements as identified above, this proposed route would align to the Barrow Blue Way⁵. The Blue Way is currently on schedule to be completed and fully open to the public in 2022.

¹ 2016 Census Population 9677

² 2016 Census Population 4246

³ 2016 Census Population 2611

⁴ 2016 Census Population 981

⁵ [Barrow Blueway Economic Plan - County Kildare LEADER Partnership \(countykildarelp.ie\)](http://barrowbluewayeconomicplan.com)

In announcing the Barrow Blue Way Economic Plan, the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys T.D., stated the following *“The aim of the plan is to inform, guide and encourage community and business economic development initiatives, that will maximise the opportunity the Blueway presents for Kildare while bringing the experience of the Blueway to life for local people and visitors to the area”*.

We now believe that aligning to the Barrow Blueway will provide a dual benefit scenario of providing much enhanced connectivity for local residents while allowing a public transit option to visitors to the attraction.

Also on this route, an additional trip attractor exists in the Lullymore Heritage and Discovery Park⁶, a Failte Ireland approved tourist attraction, located between Rathangan and Allenwood. Finally, as illustrated below in Figure 1, a networking opportunity exists with the commercially operated Route 726 Portlaoise – Dublin Airport.



⁶ Lullymore | Lullymoreheritagepark.com

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4. Celbridge to Naas.

Lack of connectivity from the North Western town of Celbridge to the County town of Naas has been highlighted as transport deficit since 2018 by the Board of Local Link Kildare South Dublin. Representations have been made based on the population of 19,537 (CSO2016), having no connection for access to employment, retail, administrative, social or health needs. Again, the Board would respectfully request that consideration be given through the CI Plan for the establishment of such a route.

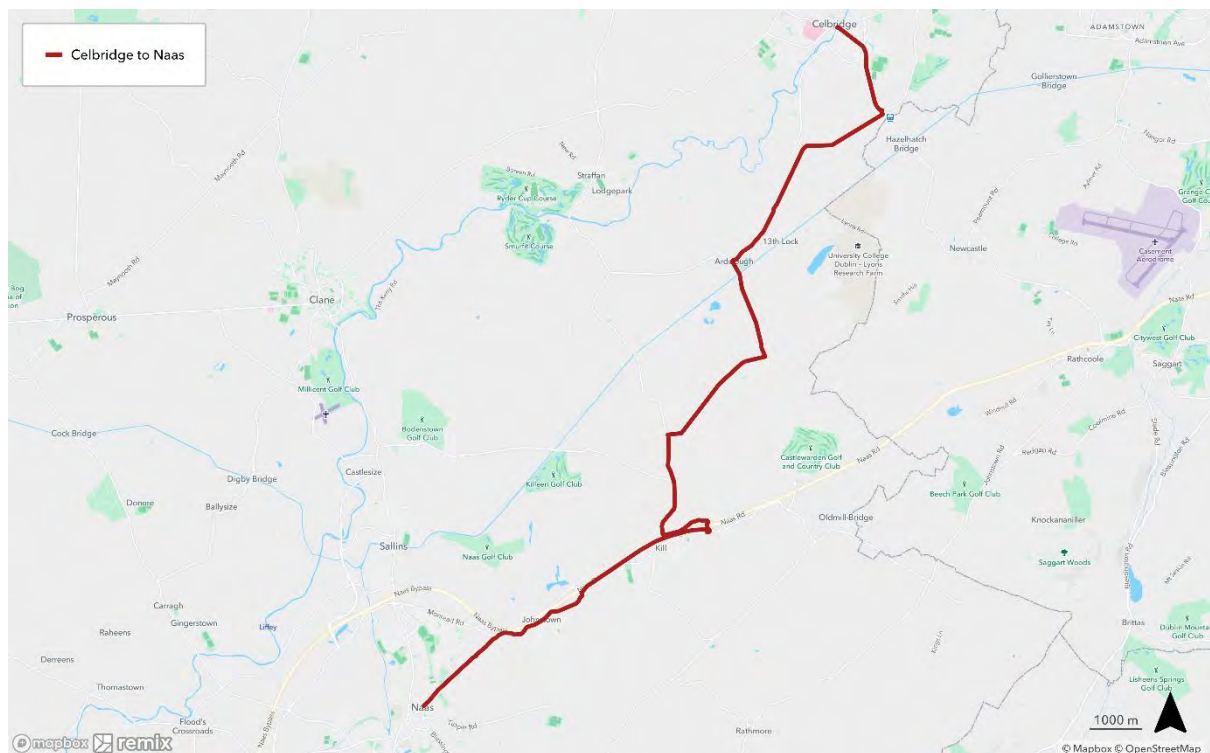


Figure 2. Possible Route Celbridge to Naas (Source Remix).

5. Enhancement of Current Route 883 Athy to Newbridge

The Board now believes the opportunity exists to enhance this service in line with the scheduling criteria as set out within the CI plan and would request that consideration be given to enhancing this service to a 7 day per week operation.

6. Northwest Kildare – Johnstownbridge – Kilcock – Maynooth- Prosperous – Allenwood

Figure 3 below identifies an area of 175.6 sq.kms with a population of just over 9,000 people. From a transport perspective this area lacks population density, or any substantial settlements within the area, and as such, the Board would have reservations in relation to proposing the establishment of an RRS type service.

However, it is within a reasonable proximity of Enfield⁷, Kilcock⁸, Maynooth⁹, Prosperous¹⁰, and Allenwood¹¹ and from this perspective we would wish to propose enhanced DRT type services such as DRT Minibus or Local Area Hackneys (LAH). So as to provide connectivity to the larger settlements, and where possible provide connectivity to onward public transit options.

Figure 3 also illustrates the current public transport options operating on the periphery of the identified area.

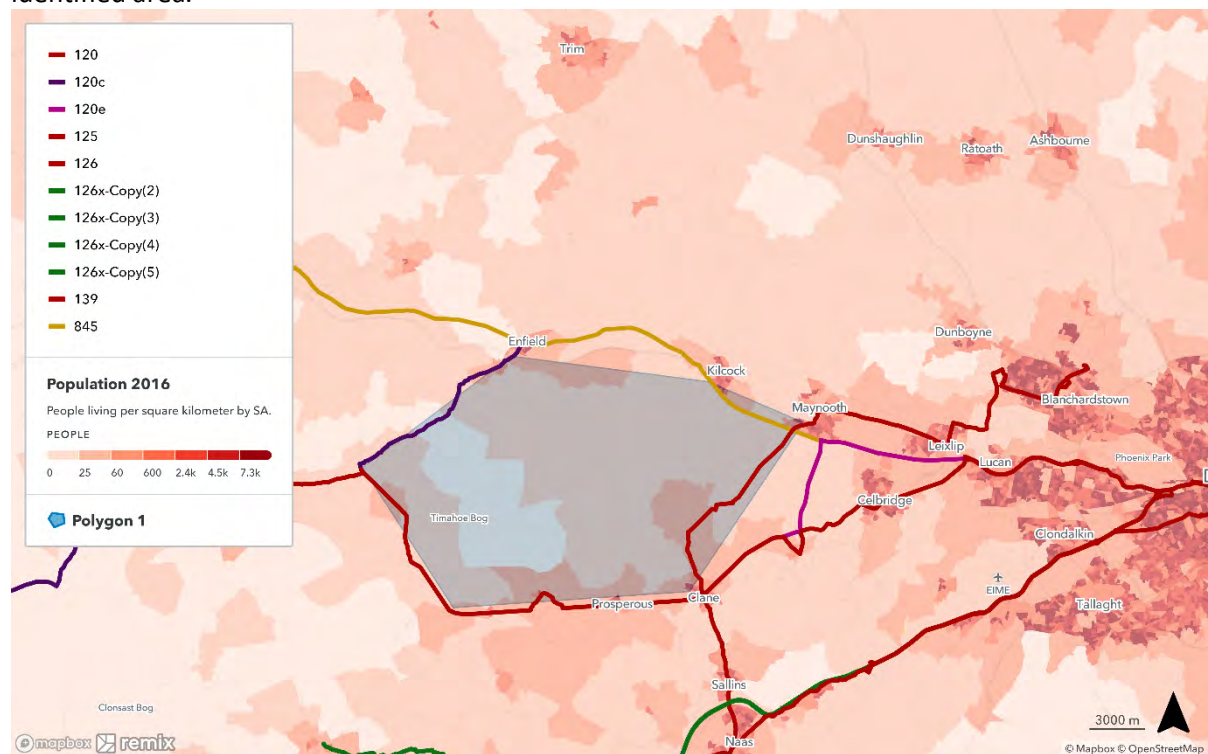


Figure 3. NWK Area - DRT Enhancement (Source Remix)

⁷ Enfield Population 3293

⁸ Kilcock Population 6093

⁹ Maynooth Population 14590

¹⁰ Prosperous Population 2333

¹¹ Allenwood Population 981 (all CSO 2016 stats)

Table A below, illustrates the demographics of the area as illustrated within Figure 3.

Category	Statistics
Population	9000
Households	2900
Families	2400
Workers	2200
Employed	56%
No Vehicle Household	5%
Over 65's	11%
Under 18's	30%
Students	12%
People with Disabilities	13%

Table A. NWK Area 175.6 sq.kms (Source CSO2016)

7. Connecting Ireland Plan – Enhancement Route 884 Sallins to Carlow.

The Board of Directors wish to offer their full support for this proposal, and acknowledge the benefits to be attained by the route amendment, frequency and scheduling increases proposed.

8. Connecting Ireland Plan – Route 183 Sallins to Arklow.

The Board of Directors wish to offer their full support for this proposal, and acknowledge the benefits to be attained by the route amendment, frequency and scheduling increases proposed.

9. Connecting Ireland Plan – Route 12 Portlaoise to Wexford.

The Board of Directors wish to provide their full support for this proposal, and acknowledge the benefits to be attained by the route amendment, frequency and scheduling increases proposed. We would greatly appreciate the speedy roll out of this improved service.

In summary, the Board of Directors look forward to the outcome of the consultation process, and in turn offer any further assistance that may be of benefit in implementing the proposed objectives of Connecting Ireland in providing the population of County Kildare with sustainable alternatives to private car dependency.

Yours sincerely,

Pat Leogue

Pat Leogue, Chairperson.