

**Laura Behan**  
**Principal Officer – Sustainable Transport Division**

04 April 2013

**Head Office**  
**44 Kildare Street**  
**Dublin 2**  
**Ireland**

Dear Laura,

I am writing to you in response to your letter regarding the proposed seed finance in relation to the funding programme that is being administered by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in respect of the National Cycle Network.

It is the intention of Westmeath County Council to develop a high quality cycle and pedestrian Greenway from Mullingar town to the shores of Loughs Ennell and Owel extending from the National Dublin – Galway Greenway.

The proposed project will be largely off road and will follow the feeder Canal from Lough Owel to the north of the town, to the Royal Canal in Mullingar where it will connect onto the National Dublin to Galway Greenway which runs along the Royal Canal. A cycleway will also be provided through the town to allow connection to a Greenway running along Lacey's Canal to the shores of Lough Ennell to the south, and on to Belvedere House and Gardens.

The overall aim of this project is to develop the Mullingar Greenway to a standard on par with the National Greenway and to showcase the existing tourist attractions of the area by providing a sustainable and attractive walking and cycleway that interconnects with the National Greenway.

The objective of the proposal is to enhance the tourism experience for visitors with the aim of attracting users as well as providing high quality recreational facilities for the people of Mullingar and the wider community. It is anticipated, that by delivering a high quality greenway that connects the National Greenway to the existing natural tourist resources of Mullingar, that a substantial percentage of the estimated 30,000 international tourists per annum to the Dublin-Galway cycle route, would consider Mullingar as an attractive and viable tourist destination including stop over along the national route. With an estimated potential spend of €500 per trip; it is therefore envisaged that the local economy would benefit greatly in attracting a percentage of these visitors into Mullingar and its environs to the benefit of local hotels, restaurants, guesthouses and local businesses.

The Mullingar Greenway is therefore intended not only to act as a tourist attraction in its own right, but to provide a significant amenity resource that compliments and integrates with the National Greenway. The provision of this tourist infrastructure will greatly increase the areas ability to attract visitors for longer periods and in turn retain revenue for local businesses and services.

The preliminary survey and design process for the proposed Mullingar Greenway has commenced. It is respectfully requested that funding to the order of €30,000 be provided to progress the design proposals in order to advance this project.

Yours Sincerely

Signed  
Barry Kehoe  
*Director of Services*  
*Transportation, Planning, Community and Enterprise*

\* If you have any further queries, please contact Lorraine Middleton (Executive Planner) on 044-9332093 or by email: [lorraine.middleton@westmeathcoco.ie](mailto:lorraine.middleton@westmeathcoco.ie).

Also, please find attached Map indicating route of the proposed Greenway relative to the Dublin – Galway Greenway and the tourist destinations associated with Mullingar together with an aerial overview of Belevedere House and Gardens with Lough Ennell, Lough Owel and Mullingar town in the background.