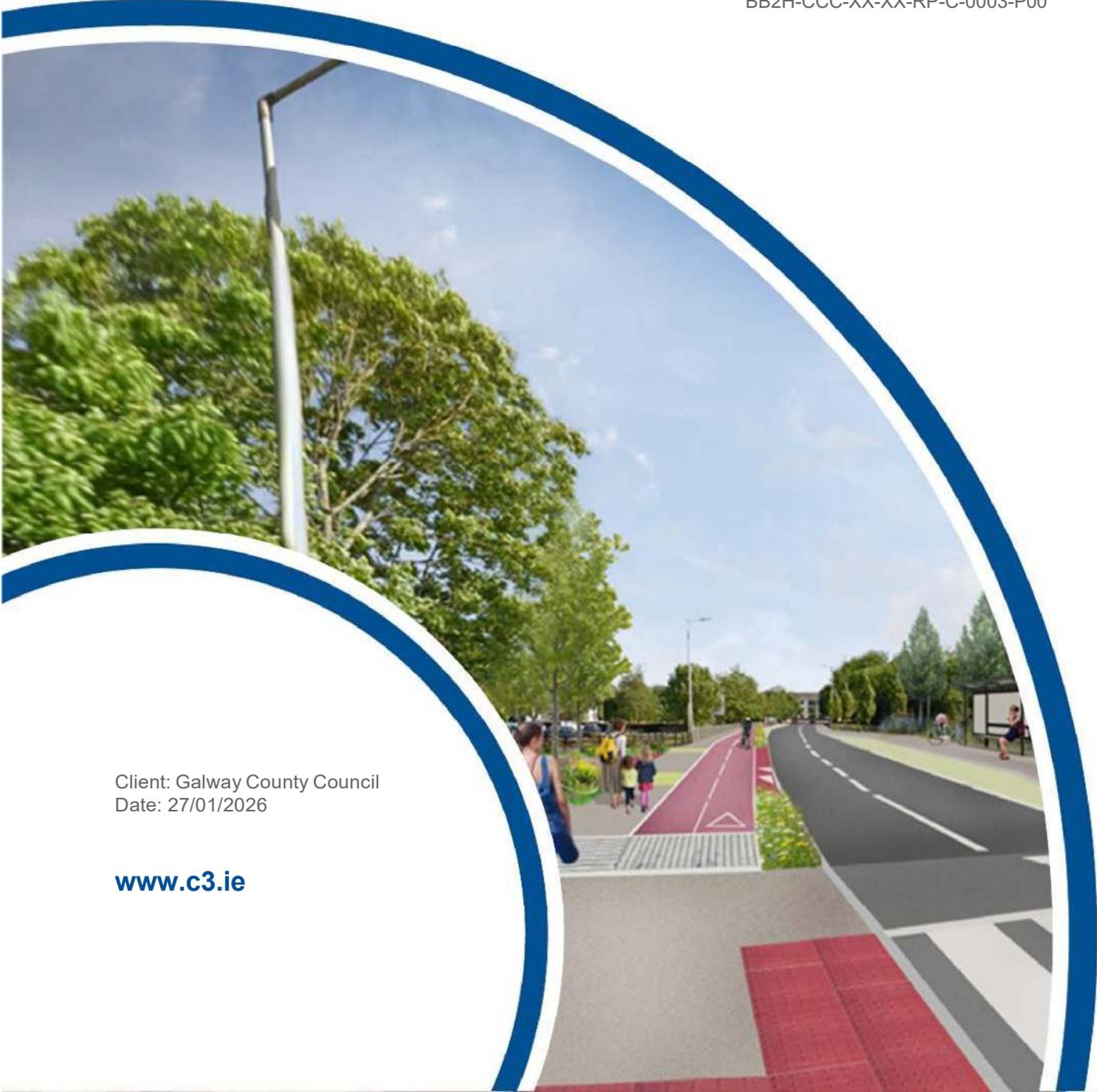


BALLINASLOE R446 BRIDGE STREET TO HARRIS ROAD ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEME

Executive Summary Report

BB2H-CCC-XX-XX-RP-C-0003-P00



Client: Galway County Council
Date: 27/01/2026

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Issue and revision record

Date	Rev	Change Description	Author	Checker	Approver
27/01/2026	P00	For Information	CW	SF	SF

Detailed Change Log

Rev	Change Description
P00	For Information

1. Scheme Overview

Galway County Council & the National Transport Authority (NTA) aims to develop an active travel scheme along the R446 in Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. The proposed project aims to incorporate cycle and pedestrian facilities in Ballinasloe Town, from the Bridge Street junction (R446) to Harris Road junction (L4606). This upgrade intends to connect with existing and proposed active travel provisions in the town centre which will be developed in line with the overall objectives of Ballinasloe Local Transport Plan, to improve connectivity and promoting walking, wheeling and cycling as safe and attractive means to get around the area.

2. Scheme Location

The proposed Active Travel scheme is located between its start point at Bridge Street, to its End Point at Brackernagh, as outline below in **Figure 1**.



Figure 1 Outline of the Proposed Ballinasloe Active Travel Route

3. Background

Prior to the construction of the M6 between Athlone and Galway, the R446 was once the primary route between east and west across Ireland. To accommodate this, the road was designed to carry a large volume of traffic at peak hours, with wide traffic lanes, large roundabouts, and limited interruptions. Since the construction of the M6, the traffic through Ballinasloe has reduced significantly, however the road conditions have remained largely the same. As a result, wide carriageway facilitates high traffic speeds and this creates an environment which is inaccessible and not attractive to those who wish to walk, wheel and cycle in the area.

The aim of this project is to improve the facilities for Pedestrians, cyclists, and other vulnerable road users by providing active travel facilities, which have the added benefit of traffic calming to reduce vehicle speeds in the area and create a safe environment for all road users.

The proposed scheme includes a primary bus stops at Marina, and secondary bust stops at Dunlo Hill. The bus stops at Marina have been previously granted planning permission and will be delivered as part of this proposed Active Travel scheme.

4. Objectives of the Scheme

The key objectives of the scheme are to:

- Provide for a safe cycling and walking route in the town centre.
- Provide for traffic calming along the R446
- Provide for improved road safety for all road users in the area
- Provide improved accessibility for all along the scheme.
- Provide for better access to Public Transport

5. Community and Environmental Impacts

The proposed scheme sets out to achieve the following Community and Environmental benefits:

- Improved accessibility for those living along the R446, with enhanced walking, wheeling and cycling facilities to provide safe passage in the area.
- Improved safety, with reduced traffic speeds due to traffic calming measures and fully signalised crossings provided to enable safe crossing of the R448 and Grand Canal Roundabout.
- Improved accessibility to public transport, by providing 2 bus stops at Dunlo Hill and 2 bus stops at the Marina.
- Public realm improvements, with landscaping and planting provided to improve the local biodiversity and visual appeal along the R446.
- Upgraded street lighting to improve safety for those walking, wheeling and cycling at night time.

6. Summary of Proposed Measures

The primary works associated with this project are:

- The provision of 2-way cycle track along one side of R446 with footpath upgrades along the scheme. Shared use paths are proposed at roundabouts and at tie-ins either end of the scheme
- The construction of new & upgrades to existing pedestrian crossings along R446. All proposed crossing are ramped, 4.0m wide zebra crossing with belisha beacons, with exception of Bridge Street crossing controlled with push button signal controls.
- Upgrades to side road junctions including raised pedestrian and cyclist crossings.
- Upgrades to the Grand Canal Roundabout including construction of shared use paths and upgrades to all pedestrian crossings to be raised zebra crossings with belisha beacons.
- The construction of a new roundabout at the R446 – L4604 Harris Road junction, with shared use paths and raised zebra crossings with belisha beacons on all arms.
- The construction of two new Bus Stops with Shelters at the Marina, and new Bus stops at Dunlo Hill.

- Provision of new drop-off area along Creche
- Formalising parallel parking in suitable locations along R446.
- Public Realm improvements with verge planting, rain gardens, and other visual improvements.

Drawings detailing the proposed scheme design, as well as Visualisations developed for this scheme are included in this consultation pack

7. What has been done so far?

We have progressed the Ballinasloe Active Travel scheme through Phase 3 (Gateway 3 Approval) of the 7 phase NTA Project Approval Process. The current phase is Phase 4: Statutory Processes. Figure 2 below outlines the 7 Phases associated with the NTA Project Approval Process.



Figure 2 Outline of the NTA Phases and Gateways, from the NTA Project Approval Guidelines

8. What Happens Next?

This project is currently in Phase 4, and a Statutory Consultation is being held in respect of this scheme. The project is being progressed through Planning in line with Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994.

We invite the public to view the project materials available online and in hard copy at Roads Office, Active Travel in Aras an Chontae. Representations in relation to this project can be made in writing to the Active Travel Section of Galway County Council through the following contact points:

- Online Submissions can be made at <https://consult.galway.ie/>
- In writing to the Active Travel Team, Galway County Council, Aras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Co. Galway, H91 H6KX

The deadline for submissions is **Friday 27th March 2026 at 12:00pm**

Privacy Notice:

All comments, including the names of those making comments, submitted to the Council in regard to this scheme will form part of the report to be presented to the Executive of the Council. Accordingly, the report will list the persons or bodies who made submissions or observations with respect to the proposed Active Travel Scheme in accordance with the regulations of the Road Traffic Act 1994.

The submissions will also be included in the report being published on Consult.ie with the scheme determination. By making a submission it is accepted that the name of individuals or bodies will appear on the statutory report. Galway County Council will review all the comments and observations and consider where appropriate, changes to the design.