



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council



Scoil Chroi Naofa

Section 38

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

March 2026

Contents

Overview	3
Background	3
Scheme Location	3
Project Objectives	4
Summary of Proposed Measures	4
What Has Been Done so far?	5
What Happens Next?	5

Overview

Galway County Council in conjunction with The National Transport Authority and An Taisce Green Schools aims to provide a Safe Routes to School Scheme (SRTS) for Scoil Chroi Naofa, Athenry. This school was successful with their application in 2021 for inclusion in the SRTS programme. The project aims to provide a range of measures designed at providing safer access to the school by enhancing local infrastructure, providing safer crossing points, and highlighting the school zone.

Background

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programme is a programme devised by the National Transport Authority (NTA) in partnership with Green Schools, An Taisce. The programme was developed in 2020 to satisfy demand for support for schools to increase walking and cycling to school. The aims of the programme are to improve safety at the school gate by providing 'front of school' treatments to alleviate congestion and improve access, improve access routes to school by improving walking and cycling infrastructure, and increase the number of students who cycle to school by expanding the amount of cycle parking. The works are categorised into two groups: front of school measures and routes to school measures and can include visibility improvements in the School Zone and Gateway Areas, new/upgraded walking and cycling infrastructure, safer pedestrian crossing points, junction treatments, upgrades to existing school entrances, and improvements to permeability links

Scheme Location

This scheme is located near the centre of Athenry as illustrated in Figure 1 below.

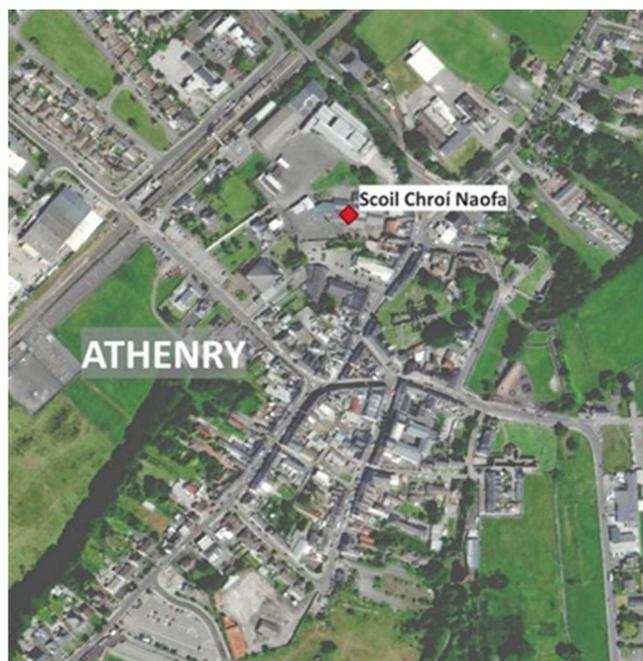


Fig 1- School Location

Project Objectives

The primary objectives for this Project are as follows:

- To encourage more students to walk and cycle to school
- To increase road safety and driver awareness in the vicinity of the school
- To reduce traffic congestion at front of schools
- To provide for better and safer access to public transport
- To provide for better permeability linkages between schools and other trip generators
- To reduce reliance on car trips and increase modal shift by providing sustainable alternatives
- To ensure accessibility for all
- To contribute to Galway County Council Climate Action goals
- To facilitate the future and continued sustainable growth and success of Athenry

Summary of Proposed Measures

Design proposals at **Scoil Chroi Naofa** can be summarised as follows:

- Junction tightening has been provided at the junction between the R347 Tuam Rd and the Caheroyn Rd, while footpaths around the junction have been widened.
- A new raised zebra crossing has been provided on the northern arm of the junction between the R347 Tuam Road and the Caheroyn Rd, while the existing crossing on the western arm of the junction is to be widened and improved. The existing crossing on the southern arm of the junction is to be maintained with minor amendments to tactiles and footpaths. A raised uncontrolled crossing is to be provided at the entrance to the car-park east of this junction.
- SRTS branding has been added north of the school along the Tuam Rd and on Court Lane and the Caheroyn Rd either side of the junction referred to above. Road markings have been provided that designate the intervening area as a School Zone
- A raised zebra crossing is proposed directly in front of the north gate pillars along with works to footpaths and the provision of tactile paving and signage.
- Pencil bollards have been added around the two junctions which are being altered, referred to above, and outside the existing entrance to the car park adjacent to the school and at the back of the existing set-down area which is along the Tuam Rd.

Design proposals for Scoil Chroi Naofa are illustrated in the drawing attached to this consultation.

What has been done so far?

The current Preliminary drawings having been derived from some recommendations noted in An Taisce's Outline Delivery Plan for this school and subsequently workshopped with NTA. A Road Safety Audit was conducted on the scheme and any issues highlighted have been amended accordingly.

The scheme has progressed through Gateway 3 approval. The next phase is Phase 4 i.e. planning. A summary of the 7 stages of the NTA project approval process can be seen below.

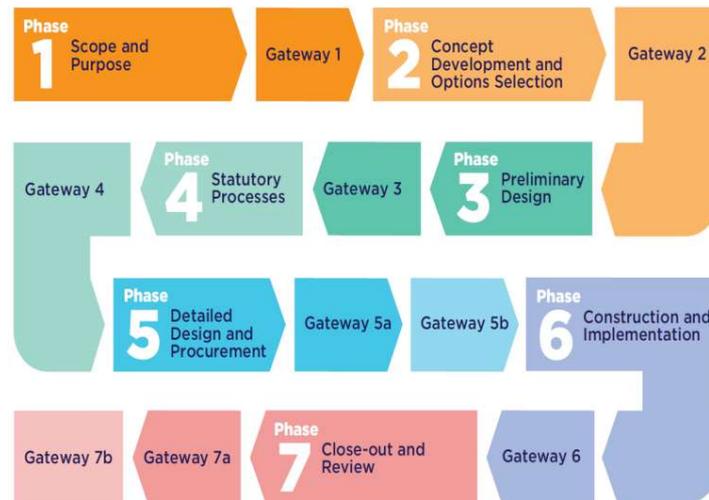


Fig 2- NTA's Project Approval Process

What happens next?

Phase 4

The public are invited to view the online material. Any representations in relation to the proposed scheme may be made in writing to the Active Travel Section through the following two options only:

- In writing to the Active Travel Team, Galway County Council, Aras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway, H91 H6KX or,
- Electronically via <https://consult.galway.ie/>.

The deadline for submissions is Friday 20th March 2026 at 12:00pm.

Please Note:

Galway County Council will review in detail all the comments and observations received and consider where appropriate, changes to the design.

All measures noted are subject to funding.