



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council



# Gort Community College

Section 38

# PUBLIC CONSULTATION

March 2026

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## 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 Gort Community College, Gort, Co. Galway. 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 Gort, adjacent to the N18 as illustrated in Figure 1 below.

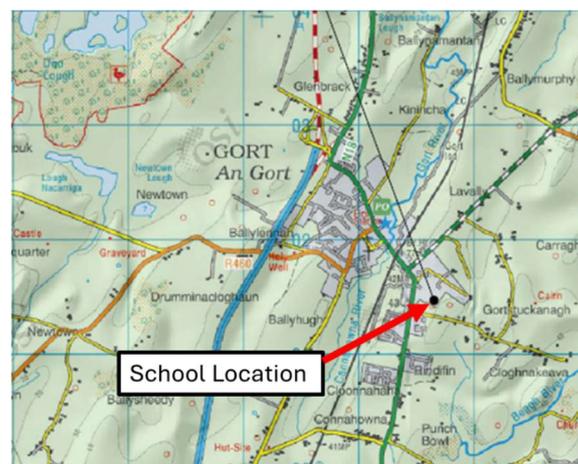


Fig 1- School Location

## 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

## Summary of Proposed Measures

Design proposals at Gort Community College can be summarised as follows:

- SRTS branded signage and School Zone road markings have been added on the R458 north and south of the junction with Bothar na Hinse, which leads to the school.
- A ramped zebra crossings of the R458 has been provided south of the junction with Bothar na Hinse, along with associated road markings and signage.
- Uncontrolled ramped crossings have been provided on the junction of the R458 and Bothar na Hinse and the junction directly north of this junction. Footpaths and pedestrian areas adjacent the crossings have been widened.
- A footpath has been provided along Bothar na Hinse along with an uncontrolled ramped pedestrian crossing on the junction that leads onto the road. Pencil bollards have been provided along the edge of the footpath.

Design proposals for Gort Community College 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.