

## REPORT UNDER SECTION 38 OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT (1994)

Safe Routes to School Scheme for **Gaelscoil De hide**, Oranmore, Co Galway.

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#### 1. Introduction

Galway County Council proposes to implement a Safe Routes to School Scheme (SRTS) for Gaelscoil De híde located within Oranmore village on Ard Na Mara Road L-41034. The Safe Routes to School Programme was launched in 2021 and developed in response to ongoing concerns for the safety for students walking and cycling to school. The programme is funded by the Department of Transport (DoT) through the National Transport Authority (NTA) Active Travel Investment Team

Measures proposed for this scheme include:

- Junction tightening and a ramped zebra crossing to CDM has been provided at the junction between Ard na Mara and Main Street along with appropriate connections and tie-ins to existing infrastructure.
- Red Surfacing has been applied to existing cycle lanes and SRTS pencil bollards have been added to separate the cycle lanes from the carriageway.
- SRTS branding has been added at the junction of Ard na Mara and Main Street and elsewhere.
- The width of the set down area outside Scoil Mhuire has been reduced and a cycle track has been
  placed to the back of it to facilitate the provision of a continuous cycle facility. A shared use facility
  has been provided on the southern quadrant of the adjacent roundabout, between existing ramped
  zebra crossings for the same purpose.
- A bike stand has been added outside Scoil Mhuire.
- 3 No. existing zebra crossings have been retained

In order to comply with statutory requirements associated with Phase 4, Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 has been conducted for this scheme.

#### 2. Advertisement

The scheme was advertised through the Connaught Tribune newspaper issue Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2025 (See Appendix A for copy). The contents of the advert highlighted a summary of the proposed measures, and directed the reader to detailed information which was made available electronically through Consult.Galway.ie, and also in hard copy which was available for inspection at Galway County Council, Aras an Chontae, Prospect Hill.

Submissions were invited and were available to be made through the following options:

- 1. Electronically via <a href="https://consult.galway.ie/">https://consult.galway.ie/</a>, or
- 2. In writing to Active Travel Team, Galway County Council, Aras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway H91H6KX

The consultation period remained open for 2 weeks from 08<sup>th</sup> Aug 2025 at 12:00pm to 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug 2025 at 12:00pm.

### 3. Summary of Submissions Received

The following public submissions were received within the consultation period noted in Item 2 above:

- 5nr were received through the online portal consult.galway.ie.
- 1nr received via post.

There is a summarised version of each submission including Galway County Council's response noted below. Refer to Appendix B for full submission details.

Submission Reference Number	Summary of issues raised	Galway County Council Response
GLW-C185-GDH-1	<ol> <li>Use of bollards are not suitable along cycle lane</li> <li>Segregation of cycle track behind set-down.</li> <li>Cyclists pinch point at roundabout.</li> <li>Pedestrian crossings across carpark entrance/ exit.</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Delineators will be implemented for most of the cycle lane.</li> <li>This section of cycle track will be formed by use of a 60mm high kerb</li> <li>The design proposals provide a shared use facility and crossings that allow cyclists avoid traversing the roundabout.</li> <li>The design will facilitate raised uncontrolled crossing points at these locations.</li> </ol>
GLW-C185-GDH-2	Proposals are supported so long as they are maintained accordingly.	1. Noted
GLW-C185-GDH-3	<ol> <li>Request for Pedestrian crossings across carpark entrance/ exit.</li> <li>Request for additional pedestrian crossing across from Scoil losa gate exit.</li> <li>Request for removable bollards to deter illegal parking across the yellow box junction.</li> <li>Grass area adjacent to school gate exit- request to pave over</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>The design will facilitate raised uncontrolled crossing points at these locations.</li> <li>There is currently a zebra crossing less than 60m away in the direction of the proposed route being taken. Item 1 above will ensure there is a safe passage to access same.</li> <li>While removable bollards appear to be a good suggestion, they are extremely impractical. The action of temporarily removing and reinstating same on a ad hoc basis raises liability issues for the end user.</li> <li>This suggestion, or similar will be included in the measures proposed.</li> </ol>
GLW-C185-GDH-4	<ol> <li>Relocating crossing on Ard         Na mara from roundabout         towards Gaelscoil.</li> <li>Request parking restricted         during school hours signs         adjacent to set-down.</li> </ol>	1. The crossing is deemed to be in the most appropriate location. It facilitates desire lines, while maximising retention of existing facilitates and minimising length over which active travel facilities are shared between cyclists and pedestrians.

	T	
	<ol> <li>Relocate ped crossing from near roundabout closer to scoil iosa entrance.</li> <li>Use of bollards along cycle lane- request for Orca-type.</li> <li>Consider moving footpath and cycle lane on South side of Ard Na Mara along verge close to fence.</li> <li>Request to relocate bottle banks to alternative location such as Aldi or Oran Point</li> <li>Consider additional pedestrian crossing on Main St near Ard Na Mara junction.</li> <li>Additional signage is not deemed to b warranted in this instance. GCC's understanding is that parking along he is prevalent outside of school hours without a sign currently in place.</li> <li>Design proposals include for low-level orca style (or similar) delineator.</li> <li>The existing crossing, which will be retained is directly outside the entranto to the church and GAA ground and care for desire lines, while minimising the requirement for new infrastructure.</li> <li>The design proposals provide a shared use facility and crossings that allow cyclists avoid traversing the roundabo scope of this scheme, GCC staff will continue to liaise with locals in relatio such matters.</li> <li>This suggestion is outside of the scope this scheme.</li> </ol>	ce ters d ut. the n to
GLW-C185-GDH-5	<ol> <li>Suggest that raising crossing points across entrance and exit to car park would be an advantage.</li> <li>Request for additional pedestrian crossing opposite the entrance/ exit gate to Scoil losa.</li> <li>The design will facilitate raising uncontrolled crossing points at to locations.</li> <li>The existing crossing, which will retained is directly outside the entrance desire lines, while minimising requirement for new infrastructure at one of three crossings proposed for road. An additional crossing is not deed to be warranted. Item 1 above will ensafe passage and pedestrian priority order to access this existing zebra crossing.</li> </ol>	be ce to s for the nd is the med sure

#### 4. Decision to Proceed Under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994

Galway County Council has decided to proceed with this project under the provisions of a Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act. The decision was determined on the basis that:

• This project includes traffic calming measures. Section 38 relates to the provision or removal of traffic calming measures by a local authority, where traffic calming measures are defined in subsection (9) of section 38 as meaning:

"measures which -

- 1. enhance the provision of public bus services, including measures which restrict or control access to all or part of a public road by mechanically propelled vehicles (whether generally or of a particular class) for the purpose of enhancing public bus services, or
- 2. restrict or control the speed or movement of, or which prevent, restrict or control access to a public road or roads by, mechanically propelled vehicles (whether generally or of a particular class) and measures which facilitate the safe use of public roads by different classes of traffic (including pedestrians and cyclists),

and includes for the purposes of the above the provision of traffic signs, road markings, bollards, posts, poles, chicanes, rumble areas, raised, lowered or modified road surfaces, ramps, speed cushions, speed tables or other similar works or devices, islands or central reservations, roundabouts, modified Guidelines on Traffic Works Procedures junctions, works to reduce or modify the width of the roadway and landscaping, planting or other similar works."

- The proposed works will be undertaken within the boundaries of the public road,
- The facilities provide for cyclists

#### 5. Conclusion

Following the procedure followed in accordance with Section 38 processes noted above and having considered all submissions received and subsequently adjusting the scheme design in cognisance of same where applicable, Galway County Council now recommends that this scheme is implemented in accordance with the plans and particulars provided in Appendix C of this report.

This decision will be implented by way of CE Order and will be notified to all Councillors in the Monthly Management Report.

Tom Coleman

Executive Engineer

**Galway County Council** 

Date: 03/09/2025

Jnsinn Mnn

Director of Services
Galway County Council

Date:

## Appendix A

## **Advertisement**



#### FÓGRA - ALT 38

Tá an fógra seo ann chun fógra a thabhairt faoi thrí chomhairliúchán poiblí ar leith a bhaineann leis na nithe seo a leanas::

#### SCÉIMEANNA BEALAÍ SÁBHÁILTE CHUN NA SCOILE IN ÓRÁN MÓR DO THRÍ SCOIL AR LEITH:

- Gaelscoil De hÍde
- Scoil Íosaif Naofa (Scoil Íosa Campas 2 mar ab fhearr aithne uirthi)
- Coláiste Calasanctius

Faoi Alt 38 den Acht um Thrácht ar Bhóithre 1994, féadfaidh Údarás Bóthair, ar mhaithe le sábháilteacht agus le héascaíocht úsáideoirí bóthair, bearta moillithe tráchta is inmhianaithe leo a sholáthar i leith bóithre poiblí faoina gcúram.

Tá sé beartaithe ag Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe trí Scéim Bealaí Sábháilte chun na Scoile ar leith a chur i bhfeidhm sna háiteanna seo a leanas:

- L-41034 Bóthar Ard Na Mara, Órán Mór (le haghaidh Gaelscoil De hÍde).
- L-4101 Bóthar Maree, Órán Mór (le haghaidh Scoil Íosaif Naofa, Scoil Íosa Campas 2 mar ab fhearr aithne uirthi).
- L-81033 Bóthar an Chaisleáin, Órán Mór (le haghaidh Coláiste Calasanctius).

Seo a leanas achoimre ar na bearta atá beartaithe do gach suíomh (faoi réir maoinithe):

#### Gaelscoil De hÍde, L-41034 Bóthar Ard Na Mara

- Teannadh acomhail le Trasrian Peileacánach ardaithe agus nasc leis an áis rothaíochta atá ann cheana féin ar an bPríomhshráid.
- Feabhsú an rothairbhealaigh atá ann cheana féin ar an dá thaobh de Bhóthar Ard na Mara.
- Athchóiriú ar an staid tuirlingthe (in aice le Scoil Íosa, Campas 1).
- Marcanna bóthair.
- Mullaird phionsail.
- Comharthaíocht Bealaí Sábháilte chun na Scoile.

#### Scoil Íosaif Naofa (Scoil Íosa, Campas 2), L-4101 Bóthar Maree

- Trasnú coisithe rialaithe ar Bhóthar Maree le nasc leis an áis rothaíochta atá ann cheana féin ar Bhóthar Maree.
- Teannadh acomhail ag trí shuíomh amach ó Bhóthar Maree (Cúirt an Choill, Páirc na Feá agus Garrán na Feá).
- Trasrianta coisithe neamhrialaithe ardaithe thar na trí acomhal thuasluaite.
- Marcanna bóthair.
- Mullaird phionsail.
- Comharthaíocht Bealaí Sábháilte chun na Scoile.

#### Coláiste Calasanctius, Bóthar an Chaisleáin

- Athchóiriú agus feabhsú ar bhá bus agus ar ionad fágála in aice le spás glas amach ó Bhóthar an Chaisleáin.
- Trasrian coisithe rialaithe ardaithe ag Bóthar an Chaisleáin, Acomhal leis an bPríomhshráid.
- Trasrianta neamhrialaithe ardaithe feadh Bhóthar an Chaisleáin.
- Áiseanna feabhsaithe cosáin.
- Marcanna bóthair.
- Mullaird phionsail.
- Comharthaíocht Bealaí Sábháilte chun na Scoile.
- Rochtain thuaidh ar charrchlós poiblí atá teoranta d'úsáid choisithe/rothaithe amháin.

Tá na tuarascálacha dearaidh, lena n-áirítear líníochtaí, lena léirítear na hoibreacha atá beartaithe do gach ceann de na trí scéim, ar fáil ar líne ag <a href="https://consult.galway.ie/">https://consult.galway.ie/</a> áit a mbeidh tairseacha ar leithligh ar fáil do gach scéim ó Dé hAoine an 8 Lúnasa 2025 go dtí Dé hAoine an 22 Lúnasa 2025. Ina theannta sin, féadfar iad a iniúchadh freisin, le linn ghnáthuaireanta oibre, ag: Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe, Áras an Chontae, Cnoc na Radharc, Gaillimh, H91 H6KX le linn na tréimhse céanna a luadh thuas.

Féadfar aighneachtaí maidir leis na scéimeanna thuasluaite i scríbhinn a chur chuig an bhFoireann Taistil Ghníomhaigh, Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe, Áras an Chontae, Cnoc na Radharc, Gaillimh, H91 H6KX nó go leictreonach ag <a href="https://consult.galway.ie/">https://consult.galway.ie/</a>. Tabhair faoi deara go mbeidh tairseacha ar leithligh ar fáil ar Consult.ie do gach ceann de na trí scéim. Tá sé tábhachtach an scéim lena mbaineann d'aighneacht a roghnú i gceart. Tabhair faoi deara freisin go bhfoilseofar gach aighneacht a fhaightear, bíodh sé i bpearsa nó i scríbhinn tar éis dhúnadh an chomhairliúcháin seo.

Is é an dáta is déanaí chun na haighneachtaí sin a fháil ná 12pm Dé hAoine an 22 Lúnasa 2025.

#### **NOTICE - SECTION 38**

## This advertisement is to notify of three separate public consultations pertaining to:

## SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL SCHEMES IN ORANMORE FOR THREE SEPARATE SCHOOLS:

- Gaelscoil De hÍde
- Scoil Íosaif Naofa (more recently Scoil Íosa Campus 2)
- Calasanctius College

Under Section 38 of the 1994 Road Traffic Act, a Road Authority may in the interest of the safety and convenience of road users provide such traffic calming works as it considers desirable in respect of a public road in its charge.

Galway County Council proposes to implement three seperate Safe Routes to School Schemes at the following locations:

- L-41034 Ard Na Mara Road, Oranmore (for Gaelscoil De hÍde)
- L-4101 Maree Road, Oranmore (for Scoil Íosaif Naofa, more recently Scoil Íosa Campus 2)
- L-81033 Castle Road, Oranmore (for Calasanctius College)

A summary of the proposed measures for each location include the following (Subject to funding):

#### Gaelscoil De hÍde, L-41034 Ard Na Mara Road

- Junction tightening with a raised Toucan Crossing and connection to the existing cycle facility on Main St.
- Enhancement of the existing cycle way both sides of Ard Na Mara Road.
- Rearrangement of set-down (adjacent to Scoil losa, Campus 1).
- · Road markings.
- Pencil bollards.
- Safe Routes to School signage.

#### Scoil Íosaif Naofa (Scoil Íosa, Campus 2), L-4101 Maree Road

- Controlled pedestrian crossing on Maree Road with connection to existing cycle facility on Maree Road.
- Junction tightening at three locations off Maree Road (Hazel Court, Beech Park & Beech Grove).
- Raised uncontrolled pedestrian crossings across three junctions noted above.
- Road markings.
- Pencil bollards.
- Safe Routes to School signage.

#### Calasanctius College, Castle Road

- Reinstatement & enhancement of bus bay and drop off facility adjacent to green space off Castle Road.
- Controlled raised pedestrian crossing at Castle Road, Junction with Main St.
- Raised uncontrolled crossings along castle Rd.
- Enhanced footpath facilities.
- Road markings.
- Pencil bollards.
- Safe Routes to School signage.
- North access to public carpark delimited to pedestrian/ cyclist use only.

The design reports including drawings, which illustrate the proposed works for each of the three schemes, are available online on <a href="https://consult.galway.ie/">https://consult.galway.ie/</a> where seperate portals will be available for each scheme from Friday 8th August 2025 to Friday 22nd August 2025. Additionally, they may also be inspected, during normal working hours, at: Galway County Council, Aras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway, H91 H6KX during the same time period noted above.

Representations relating to the above-mentioned schemes may be made in writing to the Active Travel Team, Galway County Council, Aras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway, H91 H6KX or electronically via <a href="https://consult.galway.ie/">https://consult.galway.ie/</a>. Please note that there will be seperate portals available on Consult.ie for each of the three schemes. It is important to correctly chose the scheme to which your submission relates to. Please also note that all submissions recieved, whether in person or in writing will be published after this consultation closes.

The latest date for receipt of such representations is 12pm on Friday 22nd August 2025.

Tá míle fáilte roimh chomhfhreagras agus ghnó i nGaeilge: gaeilge@cocogaillimh.ie www.gaillimh.ie

customerservices@galwaycoco.ie www.galway.ie

J. Brann, Runai Contae

Connacht Tribune 27x6 (255)

## **Appendix B**

## **Submissions Report**

# Appendix B Section 38 Submissions Report

Safe Routes to School Scheme for Gaelscoil De hide, Oranmore, Co Galway

Quantity of Submissions- 6nr received in total

(5nr Via Consult.ie)

(1nr Via Post)

URN	Author	Location	Map Attached
GLW-C185-GDH-1	MÓR Action	Gaelscoil de hIde,	No
		Oranmore	

Title: MÓR Action submission on Safe Routes to School Scheme – Gaelscoil De hÍde, Oranmore

Theme: active travel

Submission on Safe Routes to School Scheme - Gaelscoil De hÍde, Oranmore

MÓR Action is a group of local residents who want to improve the Maree–Oranmore area for everyone, young and old, abled and disabled. We believe the heart of a village is its people, not the number of cars passing through it. We want our community to be a place where people of all ages can safely walk, cycle, shop, sit, and spend time. We want our local businesses to thrive, not just survive.

As a group, we welcome the Safe Routes to School Scheme for Gaelscoil De hĺde. The ambition of the project in walking and cycling is great to see and is greatly appreciated. We would like to praise the designers, engineers, and staff involved in the project and wish them every success.

#### 1. Proposed Delineators

The proposed tall orange bollards are not suitable for this location:

- They are a hazard to cyclists, as they can clip handlebars.
- They are easily damaged by vehicles.

Recommendation: Use the same low-profile delineators currently in place on Main Street, which are safer for cyclists and more durable. The delineators with the 40cm poles are idea – they are safe for cyclists and prevent vehicles from encroaching and are also more durable than the current solution.



Fig- Extracted from Attachments Document on Submission for Ease of Reference

#### 2. Set-Down Area

The new set-down area shown in pink on the plan should be physically segregated with a delineator. Without this, vehicles are likely to continue parking here, reducing safety and blocking intended traffic flow. Signage is also required to let motorists know no parking is allowed.

#### 3. Cyclist Pinch Point

The current design creates a narrow pinch point for cyclists as shown in the image below.

Recommendation: Provide an alternative, safer access route to the cycle lane to avoid conflict between cyclists and vehicles. One such option has been highlighted in red in the image.

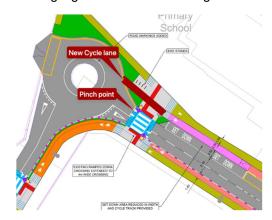


Fig- Extracted from Attachments Document on Submission for Ease of Reference

#### 4. Additional Pedestrian Crossings

Two extra pedestrian crossings are needed to connect the two campuses of Scoil Íosa. Without them, children and staff must cross the busy car park entrance/exit, which poses a significant safety risk.

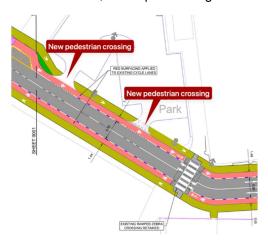


Fig- Extracted from Attachments Document on Submission for Ease of Reference

#### Attachments (1)

Submission\_Gaelscoil\_De\_Hide.docx

GLW-C185-GDH-2 Tom Sampson No

**Title: General Submission** 

**Theme: General Submission** 

I support the proposals for improved safety through design for school children.

please ensure that the constructed schemes are maintained properly.

GLW-C185-GDH-3

Daniel Kielty

Scoil Iosa Campus 1 exit/ carpark

No

Title: Scoil Iosa Exit / car park

Theme: road safety

Would it be possible to also add a raised pedestrian crossing at the entrance and exit from the small carpark beside Scoil Iosa Campus 1. This see's a lot of pedestrian and car activity at pick up and drop off. Also could you do a raised pedestrian crossing from the exit of Scoil losa across to the pitches - (Again an area with heavy traffic).

The Yellow box outside Scoil Iosa Campus 1 respond road could removable bollards be put in here to prevent parking - A lot of people park right into this area for pick up making it dangerous at drop off/ pick up The small grassed area at the exit of Scoil losa will be become a bare muddy patch with parents standing there for pick up – It would probably be best to pave it over or else make a raised / walled flower bed.

GLW-C185-GDH-4

Oranmore Community
Development Association

Safe routes to school plans

No

Title: Observations from the OCDA

**Theme: General Submission** 

Please find attached observations for consideration.

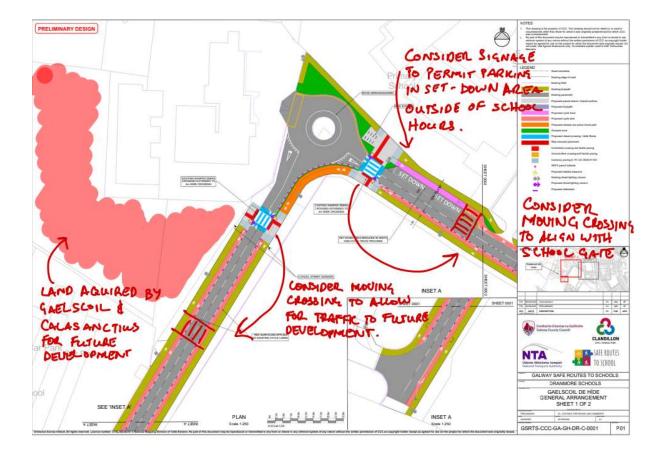
Attachments (1)

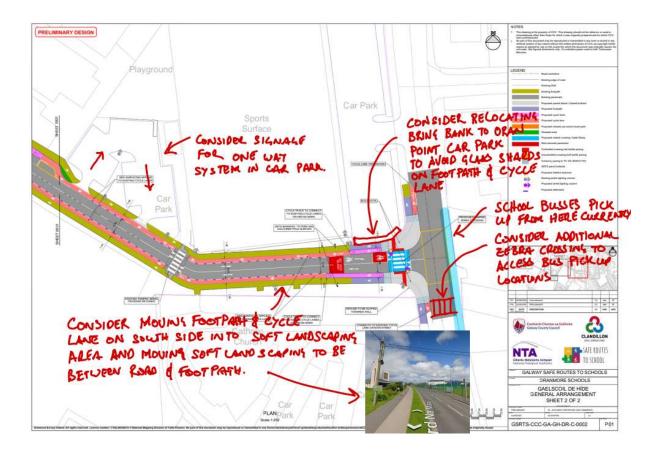
OCDA Observations on SRTS for Gaelscoil de hlde.pdf

#### GCC Added Comment- Below material extracted from Attachments link for ease of reference

No.	Observation	Reason
1	Relocate crossing on Ard na Mara from the roundabout at the Respond Centre moving it towards Gaelscoil de hIde entrance.	Calasanctius and Gaelscoil de hide are in negotiations with Galway County Council to acquire the land between the two schools for future development. Access for vehicles from Ard na Mara may be required in future. Adjusting the location of the road crossing would future proof the Safe Routes to School work.
2	Set down area outside Scoil Iosa Campus 1	This set down area should be adequately sign posted that it is acceptable to use as parking outside of school hours. These parking spacings are currently used by patrons of the playing pitches in the evenings and at weekends, especially during tournaments.
3	Relocate crossing on Ard na Mara from the roundabout at the Respond Centre moving it towards Scoil Iosa Campus 1 entrance.	The current pedestrian crossing at the bottom of Ard na Mara between the church and 3G astro pitches primarily serves Scoil losa Campus 1. However, this means children must then cross the exit and entrance of the car park in front of the playground. The top pedestrian crossing is then only used by those students attending Calasanctius. Adjusting the location of the top pedestrian crossing will alleviate the risk from Scoil losa children crossing the car park entrance/exits while still facilitating the Calasanctius students.
4	Ensure the bollards segregating the cycle lane from the road are low profile, such as Orca Bollards used on the existing cycle lane along the Maree Road.	To allow children on bikes more space for their handle bars as they cycle along the cycle lane.
5	Consider moving the footpath and cycle lane on the south side of Ard na Mara closer to the fence line of the playing fields. The grass strip could then be planted between with offset footpath and cycle lanes to	This would allow safer segregation of cyclists and pedestrians from the road way without requiring a widening of the road.

	separate them from the road way.	
6	Relocate Bring Bank for bottles to another overground car park in Oranmore such as Aldi or Oran Point.	The Bring Bank is currently emptied from the Ard na Mara road by reaching over the footpath and cycle lane. Broken shards of glass remain on the ground after each collection. The shards are small but present a risk of injury and cause punctures to cyclists tyres.
7	Consider an additional pedestrian crossing on the Main Street near the Ard na Mara junction.	Students cross the street to get on the buses home. This is a very uncontrolled spot and ideally the bus layby should be moved to a more suitable location, but if the buses are going to park up here to collect students, then a proper safe crossing should be considered.





GLW-C185-GDH-5

Noreen Armstrong

Entrance and exit to the car park, gate to Scoil Iosa campus 1

No

Title: Pedestrian safety - crossings

Theme: active travel

A very welcome improvement to the safety of pedestrian in this area.

Two suggestions.

1. Car park entrance and exit.

This is a very busy car park in the morning and at pick up time. Cars back up at both the entrance and exit, forcing all pedestrians to walk around the front or back of a car which has not fully passed the car park entrance or exit. Placing a raised pedestrian crossing at both the entrance and exit to the car park will improve safety for pedestrians.

2. Scoil Iosa Campus 1, entrance on respond road.

A pedestrian crossing from Scoil losa Campus 1 gate directly across to the footpath beside the pitches is needed. It would create a quick safe crossing point connecting Scoil losa campus 1 and 2, and Scoil losa Campus 1 and with the church.

#### **Submissions Received by Post**

Ref: SRP 001

Active Travel team, Galway Co Council

Re; Notice Section 38, Safe Routes to school Scheme. Oranmore Schools

I am putting forward this submission in relation to the proposal for the "safe route to school" routes and in particular changes to the Maree Rd, Ard Na Mara and Castle Rd and other related traffic changes to the centre of Oranmore.

My views that I wish to express are not in relation to any one change but to the overall set of proposals and how they will affect the centre of the town of Oranmore if implemented in their present format. So, I and looking at this from an overall and strategic point of view.

The central town area of Oranmore is quite small by town centre standard of similar populations. We have a population of 6,000 approx. This is a similar population to towns of Ballinasloe (6,500) or Loughrea (6,400) yet the central area of these towns far exceeds that of Oranmore. Really, we have one main street stretching from the Catholic church to Oranmore Bridge as an inner town area. Even if we were to extend this to an outer town area from Oranhill on the Maree Rd to the Oranmore town centre on the Station Rd and as far as the community centre roundabout on the Dublin Rd. Even with that outer town area is much smaller than either of the town's centres mentioned above.

So, the proposed changes of the above safe route to schools would make a huge difference to the central town area of Oranmore. I am not opposed to any individual one of the changes but to the overall change the total will bring to the town. In my opinion the changes for such a small area will have a huge impact on the town and impact traffic flow avenues through the town

Surveys have shown that we have a real traffic problem in Oranmore. The proposals in respect of the Maree Rd and Ard Na Mara will present changes to the road layout and I am particularly concerned for the aged and physically challenged attending the Catholic church and their ability to access safe route to church. I understand the need for safe routes to schools and the need for same. Indeed, if people were more considerate and took greater care (parking on footpaths etc) we would not need to go to these lengths and spend money installing these measures

We must all try to live harmoniously together for all our mental health and wellness. But many want to use the same small space and often at the same time. I feel that the proposals are weighted towards school term traffic which I know is a good idea but we must be considerate to other users. We need to take account of how theses changes will impact the businesses, the elderly or the physically challenged. Has any surveys been carried out on their impact on either of these groups.

I want then to move on to the proposed changes on the Castle Rd. The major traffic congestion here occurs during school opening and closing times, and mainly on that road behind the Aldi centre. So, I proposed that this road be widened on the Aldi side to allow for flow of traffic and also preserve the road for all users not just school traffic. The proposal to close the exit to car park adjacent the junction between Castle Rd and Main Street will lead to more traffic entering and leaving the car park from Main Street. So, if I were to enter the car park from Main Street but I can't find a space, I must now exit again onto Main St. I feel this will only add to greater traffic congestion on Main St.

So overall I would like consideration to be given to the impact the changes will have on all road users and citizens of the town. Will the construction of bollards and narrowing of roads and car park exit closure lead to safer roads for some or will it cause traffic problems for others? Will these initiatives lead to a more harmonious town for all of us? Will it lead to greater congestion and subsequent frustration and poor behaviour? Restricting behaviour often doesn't work as well as educating people on best practice and good behaviours. Referencing data and research is fine in some instances but this is our town and how we live and work together counts.

I would prefer more traffic warders to be allocated to Oranmore and that these warders take a very active and rigorous and stringent approach to poor road behaviours, whither its walkers, motorists or cyclists. You are more likely as a walker to be injured crossing a pedestrian crossing in Oranmore than you are crossing the road at unauthorised point. So (1) walkers don't use the authorised road crossings and just cross wherever they feel like it (2) motorists and cyclists often don't take care to stop at pedestrian crossings and (3) we need to promote good road behaviours for all. So, I would much prefer a very active promotion campaign of safe and considerate road behaviours and practices.

I think it would cost less, help to build greater and a more harmonious community spirit within the town and educate many to best practices for all.

Annabell Fitzgerald

## **Appendix C**

**Design Drawings** 

