

**Submission to
Carlow County Council
Temporary Closure Of Roads
Notice Of Intention**

Hacketstown Road, Carlow. Regional Road R726

By

Carlow Public Participation Network

26th October 2023



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Introduction

Carlow PPN was notified by Carlow County Council of the following on 16th October 2023:

SECTION 75 ROADS ACT, 1993 S.I. NO. 119 ROADS REGULATIONS, 1994

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ROADS NOTICE OF INTENTION

HACKETSTOWN ROAD, CARLOW. REGIONAL ROAD R726

Carlow County Council wishes to give notice of its intention to temporarily close Hacketstown Road, Carlow (R726) from its junction with Bennekerry L-1009-0 to the junction with the R418 (Killerig Road) to facilitate Uisce Éireann in the carrying out of essential maintenance works.

Dates of Closure:

- **17th November 2023 to the 29th of March 2024**

Diversion routes will be sign posted and local access will be maintained.

Submissions regarding this temporary road closure may be made in writing to Ray Wickham, A/Senior Engineer, Roads & Transportation Department, Carlow County Council, County Buildings, Athy Road, Carlow, R93 E7R7 and/or via e-mail to seniorengineer@carlowcoco.ie to be received **no later than 17:00 hrs on Friday, 27th October 2023**.

**Pádraig O’Gorman,
Director of Services**

Consultation Process:

In response to the notice, Carlow PPN organised an online open consultation via Zoom on Tuesday 24th October for members of the public and PPN member groups. Groups were informed of the open consultation by email, and via social media platforms.

Basis for Submission

During 2019, Carlow PPN brought community groups together to develop *a shared vision for community wellbeing* for the County of Carlow. Through these meetings and online consultations, community groups were asked what their aspirations were for their community for generations to come. These contributions have formed the ‘**Vision for Community Wellbeing for the County**’. This guiding Vision informs the work of Carlow PPN Representatives on county policy and decision-making bodies.

What is this Vision for Community Wellbeing?

Although we often think about wellbeing in terms of good physical and mental health, it is also a combination of social, economic, environmental, cultural, and political conditions identified by individuals and their communities as essential for them to flourish and fulfil their potential. It can describe the wider conditions needed by individuals and communities to have a better quality of life, a healthier environment and increased prosperity.

Considering all the aspects of community wellbeing together helped identify actions that can be undertaken by communities alongside local and national governments.

It was developed through an open, participative, transparent process which involved all member groups.

The following two themes were drawn on for this submission.

1. Work, Economy and Resources: Vision:

In the County of Carlow we have creative models and supports for enterprise and workers. We have sustainable infrastructure that meets the needs of businesses, workers and the community. Flexible, future-focused training is available for all. Our businesses adopt the highest ethical standards and best practice in all aspects of operation.

- Innovative planning delivers sustainable development; supporting a wide variety of commercial enterprises to include indigenous and social enterprises.
- Our transport and communication infrastructure meets the needs of all.
- Comprehensive business supports are available and fully utilised to energise our economy. Businesses operate in a secure and healthy environment.
- We embrace training from a diverse range of skill sources and institutions which is available to all.

2. Participation, Democracy and Good Governance: Vision:

In the County of Carlow there is meaningful participation in civic society across all age ranges where transparency and accountability are held in high regard. Citizens are properly informed and understand the structures and processes of government and actively engage in these. Proactive local government communicates and engages with communities and demonstrates that it prioritises their wishes and wellbeing. Resources and supports are available for the effective operation and administration of community groups.

- There are mechanisms in place to ensure the voices of all groups in our community are included in decision making that affects them.
- Relevant best practice is adopted in all agencies, organisations and voluntary groups.
- Sustainable both public and private are available and accessible transport options



This submission is based on what Carlow PPN heard from groups based in County Carlow

The closure of a road means the closure of a public right-of-way and is therefore taken seriously in the legislation given the impacts it might have on the amenity of the general public. Specifically, the closure of roads has to take into account impacts on local residents, commercial enterprises as well as implications for the emergency services ¹.

Particulars of any alternative route which will be available while the road is closed have not been made available in the notice of intention.

A proposed 24-hour closure of the road for a full working week for a 4 month period is not acceptable to the members who submitted to this consultation, a range of seven alternative options have been proposed below.

Carlow PPN Submission

Alternative suggestions to 4 month road closure	Advantages	Disadvantages
1. Road works to be carried out at night time Carlow PPN has been made aware that there are 2 national schools and a day centre for adults with learning disabilities on this route who will be adversely affected if the road is to close for 4 months	Keeps road open, causes little or no disruption to road users. Accommodates school going children, service providers, local businesses, people travelling to and from to work. Causes little or no issues for emergency services	Noise at night time to local residents. Major disruption to pupils who travel by bus and car to attend the Grange National School Autistic Spectrum Disorder to and from the wider Carlow town area. Major disruption to service users travelling to and from the Cairdeas centre in Tullow. Cairdeas is a Day Centre for Adults with Learning Disabilities.
2. Stop and go traffic light system	Keeps road open for users	Causes major disruption to road users
3. Close road but leave road open during peak times – for example: mornings 8am to	Keeps road open during peak times	Inconvenient for road users at alternative times

¹ AILG, *The temporary closing of roads – processes and notices*

9.30am; and evenings 3pm to 5.30pm		
4. Do road works at the weekends only	Keeps road open for users during weekdays	Road works will take longer
5. Close the road during roadworks but open the road during the evenings, weekends, during Christmas and New year and Bank Holidays such as St. Brigid's Day, St. Patrick's Day etc when there are no road works being carried out	Keeps road open for all users at holiday times	Inconvenience to Irish Water workers
6. Carry out the work during the summer months	Less traffic on the road as schools are closed. Longer brighter days means work can be carried out over a longer period during the day	Delay to works commencing
7. Reduce the road working hours to 9.30am to 4pm	Allows road to stay open for all users Reduces traffic delays	Inconvenient to Irish Water

For further information Patricia Duffe, Coordinator of Carlow PPN can be contacted at carlowppn@carlowcoco.ie or mobile: 087 195 1444

End of submission

26.10.2023