



**Public Consultation Report  
for  
Gorey Municipal District**

**Disability Strategy  
Implementation Plan**

**2015-2016**

**Report to the Members of the  
Gorey Municipal District**

**Prepared September 2015**

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# **Section 1 Introduction**

## **1.1 Introduction**

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 saw the abolition of the Town Councils and their structures and, as a result, the Town Access Focus Groups' functions ceased. A new consultation process was introduced to cover each of the Municipal Districts consisting of drop in/open meetings to be held each year in each Municipal District; these meetings are in addition to the new Public Participation Network for Wexford County Council.

The aim of the public consultation event held on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2015 at The Court Services Building, Civic Square, Gorey was to help identify the key issues regarding accessibility, access and disability-related access issues and universal design for the plan area.

This report, which summarises the issues raised at the public consultation event, is presented in four sections:

Section 1 provides an overview of the public consultation process undertaken.

Section 2 outlines the key objectives.

Section 3 concludes the report and outlines the next stage in the plan preparation process.

Section 4 lists the persons and bodies, their submissions and observations and provides Wexford County Council's responses to those issues.

## **1.2 Consultation**

The pre-consultation stage consisted of the following activities:

1. Invitations (seventy-two in total) were sent to local community groups, stakeholders, and relevant government departments informing of the intention to review the Disability Strategy Implementation Plan, and inviting these parties to a public consultation event on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2015.
2. A notice was published in the local newspapers covering the period from 7<sup>th</sup> July to 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 informing the public of the intention to review the Disability Strategy Implementation Plan and inviting their attendance at the public consultation event.
3. As a result of the extensive area under the remit of the Gorey Municipal District Area, it was decided to advertise the public consultation event via as many avenues and in as many formats as possible. In this regard, notices were included in Parish Newsletters during the weekends of 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> July and 18<sup>st</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 and were read out to congregations in many parishes.
4. A radio campaign was arranged and ran from 16<sup>th</sup> July to 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2015 to inform of the public consultation event.
5. Notice of the public consultation event issued via Wexford County Council's MapAlert System to persons within the Gorey Municipal District Area.
6. Notice of the public consultation event was displayed on Wexford County Council's website and staff intranet.
7. Additional supports available at the public consultation event to facilitate access for all included the provision of a sign language interpreter and visual presentations.
8. The public consultation event was well attended with 30 people signing the attendance sheet.

## **1.3 Submissions and Observations**

Written submissions and observations could be made in the period from 6<sup>th</sup> July to 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2015. A total of 13 submissions/observations were received – 11 at the public consultation event on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2015, one via email and one via the post prior to the event.

The submissions/observations received covered a wide range of issues from a lack of or access issues with footpaths; policing of disabled parking bays; provision of sign language interpreters for public events/festivals; and access to Gorey Hospital and Gorey Garda Station.

Completed Submissions/Comments Sheets could be submitted to the Access Section staff at the public consultation event on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2015, or any time prior to the deadline for receipt of same i.e. 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2015.

## **Section 2 Disability Strategy Key Objectives**

### **1. Access issues re footpaths in the Ballycanew area**

- Wexford County Council proposes to carry out an assessment of the footpaths in the area.
- Funding has been sought to install a footpath from the IWA Training Centre to the Village Centre, subject to receipt of same works to be carried out.
- To seek funding for immediate works subject to assessment with regard footpath outside local business, Tina's Hair Salon.
- (Additional item). Subject to funding, an upgrade of the current belusha beacon crossing point to be considered.

### **2. Enforcement of Blue Badge parking**

- The parking app pilot initiative which assists to identify disabled parking locations within Gorey Town Centre to be rolled out by first quarter of 2016.
- Community Wardens will continue to have abuse of disabled parking bays as a top priority.
- Roll out the Text Alert pilot initiative for disabled parking spaces by end of 2015.
- The Gorey District will refer this matter to the Joint Policing Committee as an agenda item.

### **3. Obstacle created by a step at the following locations:**

- (i) on route to Tesco, near pedestrian crossing in front of central school; and**
- (i) on route from train station to Ambers Springs Hotel.**

Both these areas to be assessed regarding accessibility issues by end of 2015.

### **4. Obstacle created by a telephone pole with wire on the ground on route from train station to Dominic Smith's**

To be assessed regarding accessibility issues by end of 2015.

### **5. Route to Ramstown Business Park**

This area to be assessed regarding accessibility issues for consideration in the 2016-2017 Footpath Programme.

## **Section 3 Conclusion**

### **3.1 Conclusion**

The Access Section would like to thank the local community for taking the time to make written submissions and observations and attend the public consultation event held on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2015. The consultation process has been an extremely valuable information gathering exercise. The submissions and observations received were detailed, informative and provide an enhanced understanding of the key access issues of the area. There are many reoccurring issues throughout the submissions and it can be concluded that the local community consider these to be priority issues to be addressed.

### **3.2 The Next Stage**

The Access Section will continue with the preparation of the Gorey Municipal District Disability Strategy Implementation Plan 2015-2016 based on the outcome of the submissions, findings and responses of the public consultation. Once the Draft Plan is approved, it will be published on the Council's website on the Access for All page:

<http://www.wexford.ie/wex/Departments/AccessForAll/>.

Copies of the report on the public consultation for the Gorey Municipal District Area will be forwarded to all those who participated in the process by submitting their items of concern.

## Section 4 Persons and Bodies who made Written Submissions and Observations and a Summary of the Main Issues Raised and Responses

No.	Name	Main Issue Topics	Response
01	Aislinn Dunne, Ballycanew Ballyoughter Community Development Association (via email)	<p><b>Access issues re footpaths in the Ballycanew area:</b></p> <p>a) Lack of public footpaths which hinder access to essential services in the area;</p> <p>b) Dips in the footpath at Ballycanew School forces you to cross the road at the pedestrian crossing and cross again further on;</p> <p>c) Lack of dished kerbing prevents wheelchair users from continuing straight on;</p> <p>d) Footpath outside Tina's Hair Salon requires repair – is rising up.</p>	<p>Points noted.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wexford County Council proposes to carry out an assessment of the footpaths in the area.</li> <li>• Funding has been sought to install a footpath from the IWA Training Centre to the Village Centre, subject to receipt of same works to be carried out.</li> <li>• To seek funding for immediate works subject to assessment with regard point (d)</li> <li>• (Additional item noted). Subject to funding, an upgrade of the current belusha beacon crossing point to be considered.</li> </ul>
02	Margarita Leahy	<p><b>General access issues:</b></p> <p>a) Lack of enforcement re Blue Badge parking;</p>	<p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The parking app pilot initiative which assists to identify disabled parking locations within Gorey Town Centre to be rolled out by first quarter of 2016.</li> <li>• Community Wardens will continue to have all abuses of disabled parking bays and permits as a top priority.</li> <li>• Roll out the Text Alert pilot initiative for disabled parking spaces by end of 2015.</li> <li>• The Gorey District will refer this matter to the Joint Policing Committee as an agenda item.</li> </ul>

No.	Name	Main Issue Topics	Response
		b) Accessibility around obtaining grant information & form filling.	Points noted.
03	Kevin Doyle, Friends of Local People with MS	<p><b>Access issues in Gorey:</b></p> <p>a) Abuse of Blue Badge parking in general, and lack of enforcement by An Garda Siobhána re illegal parking in disabled parking spaces after 6pm;</p> <p>b) Sat Nav – app;</p> <p>c) Disabled parking space outside Joanne’s not suitable for person with back ramp;</p>	<p>Point noted; however, the alleged lack of enforcement by An Garda Siochána lies outside the remit of Wexford County Council.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The parking app pilot initiative which assists to identify disabled parking locations within Gorey Town Centre to be rolled out by first quarter of 2016.</li> <li>• Community Wardens will continue to have all abuses of disabled parking bays and permits as a top priority.</li> <li>• Roll out the Text Alert pilot initiative for disabled parking spaces by end of 2015.</li> <li>• The Gorey District will refer this matter to the Joint Policing Committee as an agenda item.</li> </ul> <p>Wexford County Council’s website details the location of its accessible parking facilities. The addition of the Sat Nav app, as informed on the night, develops statistical information and allows it to inform individual needs and choices.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access Officer will follow up with Frank Burke regarding successful usage of same.</li> </ul> <p>Due to the varying degrees, levels and abilities associated with disabilities, not all disabled spaces provided will suit all users. Longer and wider disabled parking spaces are more inclined to be feasible within a car park facility. Disabled parking at Michael Street and outside Frenchs provides for disabled parking with back ramp access. The parking app pilot initiative will further inform on additional spaces.</p>



No.	Name	Main Issue Topics	Response
		<p>d) Lack of level access, and gradient too steep, re path opposite Theatre Hall;</p> <p>e) Gorey Hospital not accessible at Main Entrance; &amp;</p> <p>f) Gorey Garda Station not accessible.</p>	<p>The topography of the area sightlines and carriage widths determine the gradients and slopes on many public footpaths. Remedial works have previously been carried out to this footpath.</p> <p>These issues lie outside the remit of Wexford County Council insofar as these premises are not in the ownership of the Council. Wexford County Council enforces the relevant Building Regulations in the instances of new buildings/extensions /material changes of use. Wexford County Council will support appropriate or further development of premises subject to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. Additionally, the Council, if carrying out works to carriageways and footpaths along a thoroughfare will, when practicable and in agreement with the landlords, make provision for level access to premises along the route.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Access Officer to write to the relevant areas identified through the public consultation process to inform them of the issues raised regarding accessibility.</li> </ul>
04	Catherine Stuart	<p><b>Access issues in Ballycanew:</b></p> <p>a) Lack of public transport;</p> <p>b) Provision of a sign language interpreter for all events.</p>	<p>This issue lies outside the remit of Wexford County Council. However, Wexford County Council, on investigating this issue, is informed that Rural Transport Initiative ‘Wexford Local Link’ does carry out services for registered clients in the area.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Access Officer to provide timetable details to relevant parties.</li> </ul> <p>Point noted. As part of the procedures for organising events, this item has been informed to all Wexford County Council staff.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wexford County Council, where appropriate, will inform events organised or funded, in part by Wexford County Council, of the</li> </ul>

No.	Name	Main Issue Topics	Response
			<p>requirement for the provision of access and inclusion for all.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through a process of pre-assessing event licensing applications within the Planning Department, this item will be considered.</li> <li>• The Access Section will issue a reminder of the requirement to all Department/Section Heads to inform.</li> </ul>
05	Annie Murphy, DeafHear.ie	<p><b>Access issues re Gorey Library:</b></p> <p>a) Need for the provision of Basic Sign Language training for library staff to assist in communicating with deaf people;</p> <p>b) Need for the provision of access to ooVoo / Skype / webcam for communication purposes;</p> <p>c) Possibility of organising a meeting for deaf people from the County;</p> <p>d) Need for the provision of more information about grants e.g. how to get a grant for communication and interpreters.</p>	<p>All staff within the Library Service have completed various training programmes including the National Disability Authority's e-learning disability awareness training.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Referred to the Library Services for consideration.</li> </ul> <p>This service is available at present.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An internal promotion of this service to departments and sections of Wexford County Council will be carried out in the first quarter of 2016.</li> </ul> <p>The Access Officer welcomes any submission from the Deaf Community on how Wexford County Council could improve, if practicable, its services.</p> <p>Wexford County Council grants include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability</li> <li>➤ Housing Aid for Older People Grant</li> <li>➤ Mobility Aids Housing Grant</li> <li>➤ Residents Association Grant Scheme</li> <li>➤ Structures at Risk Fund</li> <li>➤ Amenity &amp; Arts Grant Scheme</li> </ul>

No.	Name	Main Issue Topics	Response
			Other areas of grant funding lie outside the remit of Wexford County Council / Wexford County Council's Access Officer.
06	Margaret Cousins	<p><b>Access issues re Gorey Library / Town:</b></p> <p>a) Need for the provision of:</p> <p>(i) reading supports / interpreters to translate books for Deaf community;</p> <p>(ii) computer classes for Deaf community (with interpreter).</p> <p>b) Provision of interpreters for festivals; and events run by Wexford County Council;</p> <p>c) Organisation of a group meeting for the Deaf community in County Wexford to identify, as a group, issues being encountered by them.</p>	<p>Assistive technology currently exists within all libraries. Books are in written format and therefore do not require an interpretive service.</p> <p>Any items (courses, events etc.) organised within the Library Service promote inclusion for all. The Library Service actively encourages people to advise on any special requirements needed to attend events.</p> <p>Point noted. As part of the procedures for organising events, this item has been informed to all Wexford County Council staff.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wexford County Council, where appropriate, will inform events organised or funded, in part by Wexford County Council, of the requirement for the provision of access and inclusion for all.</li> <li>• Through a process of pre-assessing event licensing applications within the Planning Department, this item will be considered.</li> <li>• The Access Section will issue a reminder of the requirement to all Department/Section Heads to inform.</li> </ul> <p>The Access Officer welcomes any submission from the Deaf Community on how we could improve, if practicable, our services.</p>

No.	Name	Main Issue Topics	Response
07	Cora Breen	<p><b>Access issues in Gorey:</b></p> <p>a) Lack of access to Gorey Garda Station;</p> <p>b) Illegal parking by school bus, during term time, on the footpath outside the Fire Station;</p> <p>c) Lack of footpaths to St. Aidan's;</p> <p>d) Maintenance works need to be carried out to public footpaths which are overgrown with brambles at the following locations:  (i) outside of old courthouse;  (ii) on route to town park.</p>	<p>This issue lies outside the remit of Wexford County Council insofar as this premises is not in the ownership of the Council. Wexford County Council enforces the relevant Building Regulations in the instances of new buildings/extensions /material changes of use. Wexford County Council will support appropriate or further development of premises subject to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. Additionally, the Council, if carrying out works to carriageways and footpaths along a thoroughfare will, when practicable and in agreement with the landlords, make provision for level access to premises along the route.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Access Officer to write to the relevant body identified through the public consultation process to inform them of the issues raised regarding accessibility.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issue referred to the Community Wardens for attention.</li> </ul> <p>Point noted. Accessibility works carried out for Milltown in 2010.</p> <p><b>Actions completed:</b>  Maintenance work, removal of brambles and overgrown hedging, carried out as follows by Wexford County Council:  (i) outside of courthouse  (ii) on route to town park the responsibility of which was private individual landowners; however, Wexford County Council carried out the maintenance due to landowners' failure to do so.</p>

No.	Name	Main Issue Topics	Response
		<p>e) Obstacle created by a step at the following locations:</p> <p>(ii) on route to Tesco, near pedestrian crossing in front of central school; and</p> <p>(iii) on route from train station to Ambers Springs Hotel.</p> <p>f) Obstacle created by a telephone pole with wire on the ground on route from train station to Dominic Smith's.</p>	<p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Both these areas to be assessed regarding accessibility issues by end of 2015.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be assessed regarding accessibility issues by end of 2015.</li> </ul>
08	Helen Tobin, Saoirse, St. Aidan's, Millands	a) Gorey Garda Station not accessible.	<p>This issue lies outside the remit of Wexford County Council insofar as this premises is not in the ownership of the Council. Wexford County Council enforces the relevant Building Regulations in the instances of new buildings/extensions /material changes of use. Wexford County Council will support appropriate or further development of premises subject to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. Additionally, the Council, if carrying out works to carriageways and footpaths along a thoroughfare will, when practicable and in agreement with the landlords, make provision for level access to premises along the route.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Access Officer to write to the relevant body identified through the public consultation process to inform them of the issues raised regarding accessibility.</li> </ul>

No.	Name	Main Issue Topics	Response
09	Helen Tobin, Saoirse, St. Aidan's, Ramstown Business Park	a) No pavement on part of road to Ramstown Business Park which is an issue for service users from training centre as they are unable to access the local community.	<b>Action:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This area to be assessed regarding accessibility issues for consideration in the 2016-2017 Footpaths Programme.</li> </ul>
10	Elizabeth Murphy	<b>Access issues re Old Dublin Road and obtaining WCC grants:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Difficulty in accessing and exiting Ms. Murphy's home due to changes made to road markings / lanes on the Old Dublin Road;</li> <li>Water pouring into Ms. Murphy's garden from the main road;</li> <li>Footpaths needed on either side of Ms. Murphy's gate to prevent lorries parking there;</li> <li>Difficulty encountered in obtaining a grant from WCC.</li> </ol>	<p>Point noted. This lies outside the remit of accessibility – referred to the Area Engineer.</p> <p>Point noted. This lies outside the remit of accessibility – referred to the Area Engineer.</p> <p>Point noted. Yellow lines have been installed to prevent illegal parking.</p> <p>Point noted.</p>
11	Betty Murphy	<b>Difficulty in meeting criteria to obtain grants for wetroom and downstairs bedrooms for older people:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possibility of WCC staff designing lay-out that would meet criteria so that contractors could work to an approved design.</li> </ol>	<p>Point noted. Building Regulations Part M, Part K and Part G outline the necessary minimum standards.</p>

No.	Name	Main Issue Topics	Response
12	Tony Clyne	a) Lack of footpath from Riverchapel to Poulshone - five housing estates and four caravan parks and apartments (approx 500 houses) in the area.	Point noted – for further consideration subject to funding.
13	Tony Clyne (via post)	<p><b>Access issues re Courtown / Riverchapel:</b></p> <p>a) No wheelchair access to footpath from Courtown to Riverchapel (opposite Courtown Amusements / Pirates Cove);</p> <p>b) Footpath needed from Rocket House to harbour via Post Office;</p> <p>c) Illegal parking of cars on footpath on Main Street;</p> <p>d) No ramps for prams or wheelchairs;</p> <p>e) Illegal parking in disabled parking bays.</p>	<p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This area to be assessed regarding accessibility issues.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This area to be assessed regarding accessibility issues.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This area to be assessed regarding accessibility issues.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This area to be assessed regarding accessibility issues.</li> </ul> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The parking app pilot initiative which assists to identify disabled parking locations within Gorey Town Centre to be rolled out by first quarter of 2016.</li> <li>Community Wardens will continue to have abuse of disabled parking bays and permits as a top priority.</li> <li>Roll out the Text Alert pilot initiative for disabled parking spaces by end of 2015.</li> <li>The Gorey District will refer this matter to the Joint Policing Committee as an agenda item.</li> </ul>

