

FAQs: Newtown Bridge, Balheary Road, Swords

Why is this needed?

To make Balheary Road safer for everyone, particularly those walking and cycling, we are proposing the introduction of new traffic calming and road layout improvements on Newtown Bridge and on the approach to the bridge.

How long will it take?

Works are expected to take approximately 3 months and will begin in Q3 2023.

Who will do this work?

Fingal County Council will procure a construction contractor to work on our behalf.

Where can I complain or ask a question?

We're inviting everyone to comment on these proposed plans as part of a Public Consultation. Make a submission online at <https://consult.fingal.ie> or by post. Postal submissions should be sent to: Senior Executive Engineer, Fingal County Council, Department of Environment, Climate Action & Active Travel, Grove Road, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15, D15 W638. When making a postal submission please mark it clearly with 'Newtown Bridge'. State your name, address and where relevant, the body or organisation you represent.

All submissions must be received no later than 23.59hrs on Monday, 24 April 2023.

Can I speak to the team who designed this?

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Will this improve safety?

Active Travel means getting where you need to go using your own energy to walk or wheel. We have a vision for a future where Active Travel is the first choice for all journeys under 5km such as local journeys to the shops, to school or to training. We want to make walking and cycling safer and easier around Newtown Bridge, so that people, particularly children or vulnerable older people, travelling to the park, walking to the shops or going to Swords Celtic FC can choose Active Travel. The move to Active Travel also supports our climate goals by reducing carbon emissions.

Has access to Swords Celtic FC been considered?

Yes, future access point to the public space on Balheary Reservoir lands.

Has the environmental impact been considered?

Yes

Will the work impact my home in the area?

If the proposals are approved, we will ensure minimal disruption to those living in the area during work. No changes will be made to any homes or gardens as part of the work.

Will the work impact my business in the area?

If the proposals are approved, we will ensure minimal disruption to businesses during construction. Traffic and pedestrian management will be in place, but road closures are not expected during this work.

Will any land be bought by the council for this project?

No.

Are there any new structures being built?

No.

Why can't a separate bridge be built alongside the existing one for walking and cycling?

This is a future proposal.

What are the next steps?

A non-statutory public consultation, takes place beginning in March 2023. After this Fingal County Council will finalise a detailed design & tender package, April 2023, and will appoint a contractor in Q3 2023.

Where can I see the plans?

We have published our proposals for changes to Newtown Bridge on <https://consult.fingal.ie> and we are asking everyone affected to read the proposals and tell us what they think before 23.59hrs Monday, 24 April 2023. If you have a question you can contact a member of our project team by emailing, active.travel@fingal.ie. Please include 'Newtown Bridge' in the subject line.

Information Session

We would also like to invite you to attend an upcoming information session at Swords Celtic FC. The session will take place from 7.30pm to 8.30pm on Tuesday, 4 April 2023.

Drop in and meet our team who will have drawings on display and will be available to answer your questions.

Why does the proposed cycle lane stop at the corner of Balheary Road and not continue to Swords Celtic FC main gates?

A future access point to the public space at Balheary Reservoir lands is provided under this project.

Will there be railings on the bridge?

The railing design will be refined at detailed design stage later in the process. Handrails are being considered to address road safety concerns.