



TOURNORE PARK RESIDENTS GROUP

Mr. Michael Walsh
Chief Executive
Waterford City & County Council
Menapia Building
The Mall
Waterford City
11th April 2022

Dear Mr. Walsh,

Re: Proposed Tournore Marsh Nature Park

We, the residents of Tournore Park, Abbeyside, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford are writing to Waterford City & County Council, to propose that the 5.4ha of land known to our local community as 'Tournore Marsh' be managed as a nature park which would complement the existing zoning of these lands as "Open space" and the zoning of the adjacent lands as "High amenity" under the unitary Draft Waterford City & County Development Plan for the period 2022–2028.

Active Travel Schemes

As you are aware Tournore Park Residents Group recently made a number of submissions in January 2022, as part of the public consultation stage for two Active Travel Schemes proposed by Waterford City & County Council (WCCC) under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 as follows:

- Active Travel Scheme - Junction & Road Realignment at Cluain Garbhán and Pedestrian Crossing at Tournore Park
- Active Travel Scheme - Sallybrook, Clonea Road - Junction Realignment

The objectives of these schemes in terms of "permeability" and "connectivity" include the provision of safe, accessible, user friendly and attractive routes for residents, in particular children, to and from our local schools namely Scoil Garbhán, Scoil Mhuire Abbeyside and St.

Augustine's College, and amenities in the Duckspool Area including the lands at Duckspool which provide a supporting habitat for international and nationally important populations of waterbirds, the estuarine environment of Dungarvan Harbour and the Waterford Greenway.

We would again like to reiterate our support and gratitude in respect of the proposals brought forward by the Active Travel Team in WCCC to improve permeability and connectivity within our local community. We would also like to thank our elected members for voting in favour of both Active Travel Schemes at the Council Meeting on the 14th February 2022.

In this regard, we also note and welcome the fact that your Chief Executive's Report on the Draft Plan, published in November 2021, made further recommendations in respect of Active Travel infrastructure for the Duckspool Area as follows:

"Dungarvan: Promote and facilitate enhanced active travel infrastructure across and within the Duckspool area from the Clonea Road to Scoil Garabhain, St. Augustine's College and the GAA grounds in addition to new vehicular access from Friary College Road to the GAA grounds".

And that the Material Alterations Report for the Draft Plan, published in March 2022, has included an additional Specific Development Objective for Dungarvan/Ballinroad in this regard:

"DGDO18: ● DO18: Promote and facilitate enhanced active travel infrastructure across and within the Duckspool area from the Clonea Road to Scoil Garabhain, St. Augustine's College and the GAA grounds in addition to new vehicular access from Friary College Road to the GAA grounds".

With respect to the provision of new community sporting facilities we appreciate that the Draft Plan has allowed for the future expansion of the existing GAA pitch in Abbeyside as follows:

"DGDO21: ● DO21 – Duckspool – The land to the east of the Abbeyside GAA pitch shall be reserved for future expansion of the existing facilities".

Tournore Park Residents Group also made a submission in early April 2022 under Stage 3 Public Consultation (Amendments) stage of the unitary Draft Waterford City & County Development Plan, for the period 2022–2028, to express our support in favour of the zoning of the lands with Material Alteration Codes: 228 (90), 222 (3653), 211 (3669) & 219 (3670) in the Duckspool Area for residential use.

Our submission highlighted that the proposed zoning, together with the Active Travel Schemes, will facilitate the development of a sustainable local community.

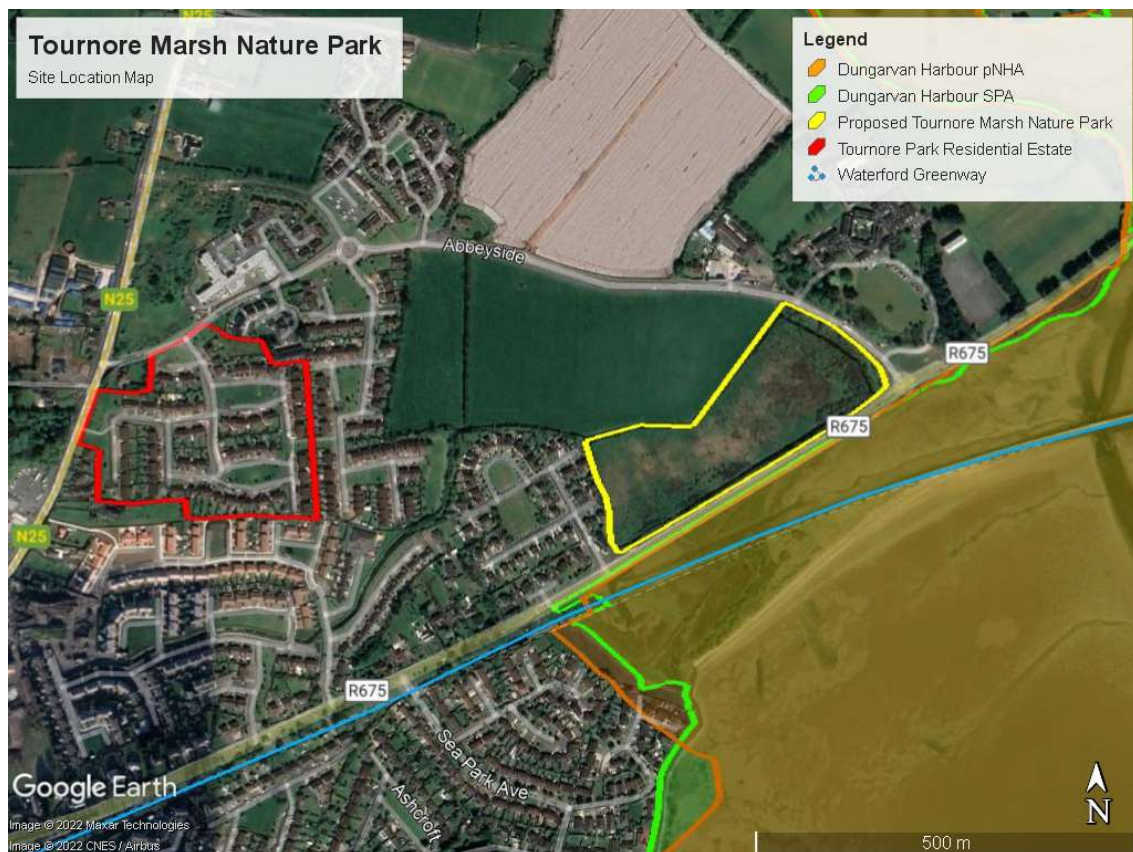
Dungarvan Stormwater Flood Relief Scheme

Given the risk of flooding, we understand that WCCC are currently designing and planning (with funding from the OPW) to construct a new higher flood defence wall along the R675 Clonea Road to address coastal flooding, and to provide flood attenuation structures in terms of a Detention Pond in Tournore Marsh, to deal with flooding under 'Dungarvan Flood Relief Scheme'.

Based on the information contained within the report prepared by Mott MacDonald Petitt Ltd. (2007) *Dungarvan Stormwater Flood Relief Scheme Tournore Detention Pond Stormwater Outfall Application for Foreshore Licence* (see attached), we note that a 32,000m³ detention pond is proposed within the 5.4ha site at Tournore Marsh.

It is understood that the proposed Detention Pond has been designed to address flood risk issues in the Duckspool Area. The Detention Pond when constructed will temporarily store stormwater runoff from the surrounding area, where a 1 in 2 year storm event is followed within 24 hours by a 1 in 50 year storm event coinciding with a surge from a high spring tide.

We understand that current design proposals may require an increase in the storage capacity and hence dimensions of the pond.

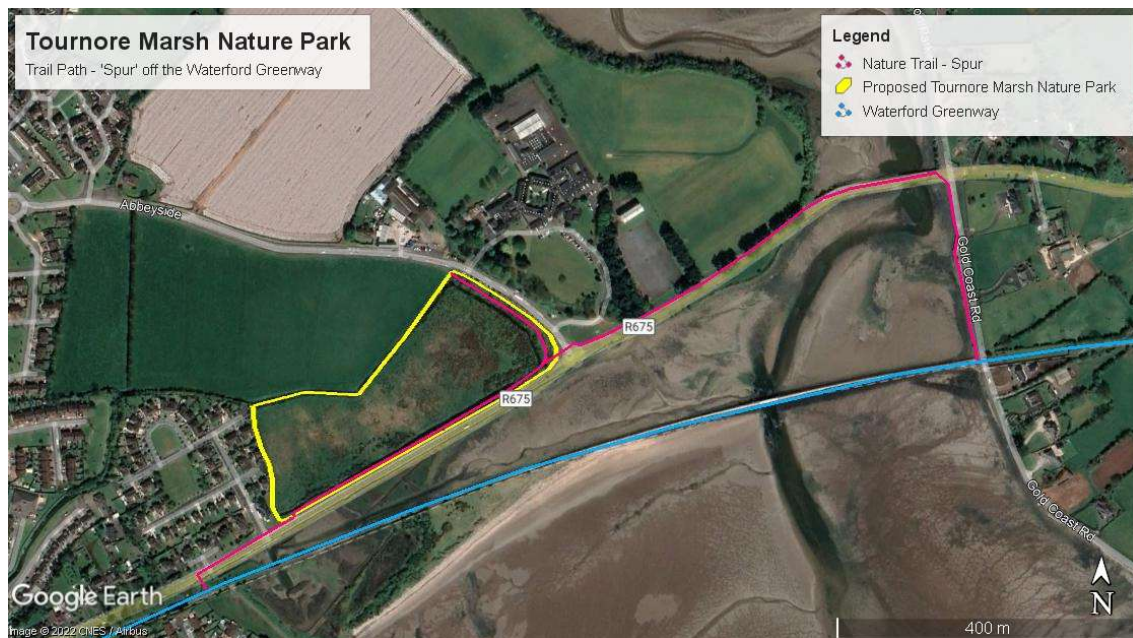


Proposed Tournore Marsh Nature Park

Tournore Marsh Nature Park

The estuarine environment of Dungarvan Harbour regularly supports over 20,000 waterbirds during the overwintering season and has been designated as Dungarvan Harbour Special Protection Area (SPA), a conservation area of European importance under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives.

Tournore Marsh is located 13m and 15m, respectively, from the boundary of Dungarvan Harbour SPA and pNHA. Given its close proximity to the estuarine environment, Tournore Marsh has the potential to provide supporting wetland habitat for grazing and foraging habitat for the waterbirds which inhabit Dungarvan Harbour. Given the absence of any current land management, the site is currently dominated by Gorse and Willow Scrub and rank wet grassland.



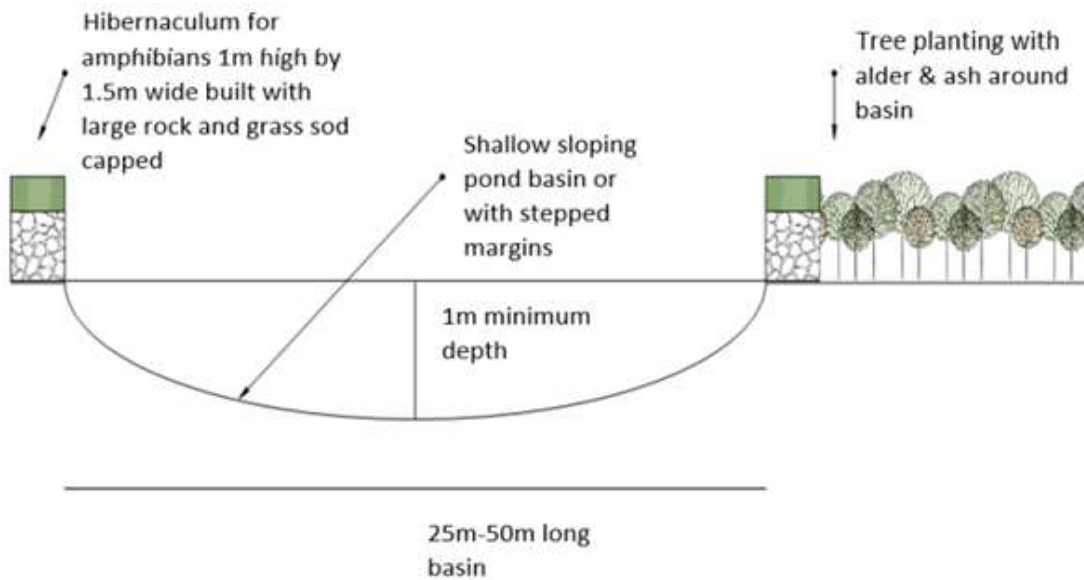
Nature Trail – Tournore Marsh Nature Park

Taking into account the 5.4ha area of the site, and the storage capacity required, we would request that the Detention Pond be designed to hold a sufficient level of water, throughout the entire year, such that it could also provide habitat for waterbirds.

A proportion of the site could also be maintained to provide an optimum low sward height for grazing and foraging Light-bellied brent geese and other waterbirds. In addition, a series of smaller ponding water bodies with islands for nesting waterbirds, could be established to provide habitat for other wildlife and amphibians e.g. spawning and overwintering habitat (hibernacula) for Smooth newt and Common frog; duck nest tubes etc.



Examples of habitats within the Tournore Marsh



Schematic presentation of a small amphibian pond
(Source: Trituris Environmental Ltd.)



Recently constructed Smooth newt pond (Source: Trituris Environmental Ltd.)



Hibernaculum construction adjacent to a Smooth Newt pond
(Source: Trituris Environmental Ltd.)



Duck Nest Tubes (www.mhmc.mb.ca/hen-houses-provide-a-haven-for-nesting-mallards/)



Duck Nest Tube (Source: Pinterest)

With regards to recreational and visual amenities, the establishment of Tournore Marsh Nature Park would also complement the picturesque ‘gateway’ entrance to Waterford Greenway and the panoramic views of the scenic estuarine environment of Dungarvan Harbour along the R675 Clonea Road.

In this regard, a trail path is proposed along the perimeter of the Nature Park inside the existing roadside boundary fence, facilitating a new walking amenity, which would form a ‘spur’ off the Waterford Greenway. This trail path would be similar in nature to the existing trail path along the R675 Old Tramore Road through Kilbarry Bog Nature Park in Waterford

City. The Active Travel Scheme proposals will also link Tournore Park and Tournore Court Residential Estates to the trail path at Tournore Marsh Nature Park.



Waterford (Kilbarry) Nature Park



Waterford (Kilbarry) Nature Park



Ponding waterbody for waterbirds



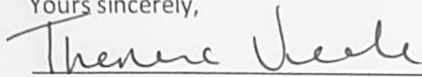
Active Travel Link Paths – Tournore Marsh Nature Park

As a community, we envisage that the proposals for the establishment of Tournore Marsh Nature Park, the rezoning of lands south of the south of Duckspool (Friary College) Road (L-3168) in conjunction with the zoning of the lands north of the L-3168 under the Draft Plan, together with the existing and proposed Active Travel Schemes will have the following positive impacts and benefits for the local community of the Duckspool Area and the wider Dungarvan community:

- Provide the community of Dungarvan with its first 'Nature Park'
- Complement the scenic estuarine environment of Dungarvan Harbour, and the picturesque 'gateway' entrance to Waterford Greenway
- Provide a Nature Trail – 'spur' off the Waterford Greenway
- Provide an educational resource for local schools
- Provide supporting wetland habitat for waterbirds
- Provide a cohesive blueprint for the future, and the plan-led development of a sustainable local community in the Duckspool Area
- Provide sustainable residential development in light of the current housing need
- Provide "connectivity" and "permeability" including the provision of safe, accessible, user friendly and attractive routes for residents, in particular children, to and from our local schools namely Scoil Garbhán, Scoil Mhuire Abbeyside and St. Augustine's College, and amenities in the Duckspool Area including the lands at Duckspool which provide a supporting habitat for international and nationally important populations of waterbirds, the estuarine environment of Dungarvan Harbour and the Waterford Greenway.
- Protect and retain lands of "High Amenity" value in the Duckspool Area south of Duckspool (Friary College) Road (L-3168) within the scenic estuarine environment of Dungarvan Harbour, and the picturesque 'gateway' entrance to Waterford Greenway
- Retain a natural flood plain which provides attenuation of flood waters south of the L-3168
- Protect the local community and their homes from flooding
- Protect and retains lands of educational value for local schools
- Protect and provide supporting wetland habitat for 1% of the international population of Light-bellied brent Geese

- Protect and provide supporting wetland habitat for 1% of the national population of Black-tailed godwits
- Protect and provide supporting wetland habitat for regionally and local important numbers of waterbirds, Otter and other wildlife
- Protect the lands at Duckspool south of the L-3168 for the enjoyment of future generations.

Yours sincerely,





On behalf of Tournore Park Residents Group

Cc:

Fergus Galvin, Director of Services

Kieran Kehone, Director of Services

Gabriel Hynes, Senior Engineer

Bernadette Guest, Heritage Officer