

From: Marie Casserly <mariecasserly1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday 23 January 2019 09:41
To: rses
Subject: Sligo Greenway

To whom it concerns,

As a member of Sligo County Council I am deeply concerned that the Sligo Greenway does not appear as an objective to achieve within the new Regional Spatial Economic Strategies (RSES)

I note in particular, with reference to the closed railway from Athenry to Collooney that Objectives 115 (a) and 115 (b) do not mention any alternative uses of the closed railway until such time as the railway may be possible.

As a member of Sligo County Council, I would like to make the NWRA aware that the Executive of Sligo County Council with the full support of the Council members, made a submission to the DTTAS in November 2018 seeking funding for The Sligo Greenway project as part of the National Greenway Strategy call for funding from the DTTAS. The proposed Sligo Greenway will utilise the route of the closed railway from Collooney to Bellaghy/Charlestown under a strict license from Irish Rail that if the route is ever needed for railway in the future then railway will take precedence. This is the fair way to approach this issue.

The Regional Assembly and those drafting the RSES need to be aware of this fact.

As a member of Sligo County Council I therefore request that Objective number 115 (a) and 115(b) be amended to read as follows:

Objective 115 revised: The reopening of the Western Rail Corridor is entirely dependent on the outcome of the current rail review of the closed railway line from Athenry to Claremorris, the route north of Claremorris is not part of the Rail Review and the line is classified as closed. It is critical the railway route needs to be protected in public ownership. In the event the railway review indicates the Western Rail Corridor will not re-open within the timeframe of the RSES, by 2030, then other projects such as a greenway on the closed railway route, which will fulfill the strategic objectives of the National Greenway Strategy should be an objective, in order to protect the route in public ownership until such time as a railway is possible.

I believe this revision to objective 115 will fairly reflect the views of those that support a railway and those that support a greenway and will be far more balanced, The proposed Sligo Greenway is a project which many people in Sligo as well as the Sligo County Council and the RSES need to reflect this fact.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon,

Kind regards,

Cllr Marie Casserly.