

3. First Public Consultation

An initial (first) Public Consultation was undertaken at the end of March 2001 and presented the “Initial Study Areas” of interest for the proposed scheme.

The consultation involved the presentation of mapping and information on the scheme through a full-page advertisement in the following local newspapers: -

- The Nationalist and Leinster Times;
- The Leinster Express;
- The Munster Express;
- The Waterford News and Star;
- The Leinster Leader;
- The Carlow People; and
- The Kilkenny People.

Comments from the public on the scheme were invited and facilitated by a ‘cut-out’ comment sheet which could be returned to the National Roads Design Office in Kildare County Council. Responses were requested by 11 April, 2001 if possible.

A total of 46 responses were received by Kildare and Kilkenny County Councils. Over 80% of the responses were relevant to the northern section.

The comments received can be categorised as follows: -

- I. Comments on the extent of the study area
- II. Comments on the choice of route
- III. Information on local constraints
- IV. Requests to be kept informed

Two responses, one representing the parishes of Tullow, Grange and Ardattin and a second representing the Tullow Community Development Initiative suggested that the study area should be extended or moved eastwards to include the Tullow area.

The majority of responses were comments on the choice of route and can be summarised as follows: -

- Route to do to the east of Carlow
- Route to go to the west of Carlow
- The N9/N10 should be upgraded
- Extend the N81 to New Ross and the N25
- New route should serve Athy
- Route to follow N78 corridor
- Route to go from east of Kildare to Waterford
- Route to go from Kilcullen to New Ross (and hence to Waterford and Rosslare)
- Route to serve Carlow and Kilkenny and provide direct access to Athy, Castlecomer, Bagenalstown and possibly Tullow.

A number of responses included local information to be considered during the development of the route corridors. A number of replies requested to be kept informed of the development of the scheme.

The issue of route corridors will be considered during Public Consultation No. 2