

# DODDER VALLEY GREENWAY HITS THE ROAD

South Dublin County Council's Dodder Greenway is being developed to be one of international renown and on a par with the best greenways in the world. Although developed as a combination of off-road and on-road it will utilise existing facilities within the Dodder Valley as much as possible to connect the linear parkland along the 14km route.

**R**epresenting a major new transport and recreational facility for Dublin, catering for both commuter and social cyclists, the provision by South Dublin County Council of the new Dodder Greenway will include the local townlands of Kiltipper, Tallaght, Old Bawn, Firhouse, Templeogue, Terenure and Rathfarnham.

The 14km route will pass along the Dodder Valley from Orwell/Terenure through the outer suburbs of Tallaght to rural and upland Dublin to the entrance to the Bohernabreena reservoirs at Glensmole.

South Dublin County Council is building three new pedestrian and cycle bridges, 750m of new path and 2.6km of upgraded paths, as part of the bridges phase of the project.

It will cost approximately €5.6m, with funding provided by the National Transport Authority (€4.1m) and the European Regional Development Fund's S&E Regional Programme (€1.5m). The council will tender and commence construction for the remaining phases of the project in South Dublin throughout 2020 and into 2021.

Co-funding by the National Transport Authority has been described by the NTA's Chief Executive Officer Anne Graham as "an example of how NTA can work closely with local authorities

to deliver on great infrastructure" to make walking and cycling safer, more sustainable and more attractive for more people.

"The Dodder Greenway will form an attractive, traffic-free environment, linking large populations to employment and educational opportunities and these are precisely the kind of projects that we need to focus on as part of the effort to tackle climate change," she added.

Cllr Ed O'Brien, Mayor of South Dublin County, said: "These Greenways will be vital to the county in the coming years as we aim to provide an alternative to car transport whilst at the same time providing scenic routes to cycle through for residents."

"The route will be a great addition to the growing number of cycling paths and freeways, which South Dublin County Council is currently undertaking."

## MAIN ELEMENTS OF DODDER GREENWAY

- It will provide for improved connectivity to communities, facilities and local business along the Dodder Valley corridor with a dedicated signage strategy.
- Where commuting currently exists and demand is anticipated to continue, the scheme either ensures it is facilitated in a pedestrian-priority environment with additional capacity for safe use at junctions or provide an alternative route for commuting cyclists where required.
- The Greenway will generally consist of a shared 3-4m wide bound surface on the off road sections, tying into suitable bound surfacing for the on-road sections. It is proposed to utilise enhanced variations to reflect local context.
- Works will include widening and upgrade to existing paths, construction of new paths and a number of new bridges, upgrade of existing bridges and underpasses, junction upgrades, etc.
- The upgrade and creation of new entrances to the Greenway.
- Improved landscape treatment to provide a coherent and legible Greenway along the route.
- Ecological enhancements including species rich grassland management, the planting of native trees and the provision of bat boxes.
- CCTV will be provided at a number of locations, including each of the bridges.
- Drainage measures including swales, signage, markings and ancillary works.



South Dublin County Council's Mayor Cllr Ed O'Brien (centre) pictured with (l-r): Siobhán Rudden (Southern Regional Assembly's ERDF Programme), SDCC's Director of Services Mick Mulhearn, Chief Executive Danny McLoughlin, and Anne Graham, CEO of the National Transport Authority, at the sod turning ceremony for Dodder Greenway Bridges (part of the overall Dodder Greenway, linking the city centre to the Dublin Mountains via Ballsbridge, Miltown, Rathfarnham, Firhouse and Tallaght).