



**Eastern Region**

**Waterways Ireland & IWAI Meeting**

**Mullingar Park Hotel**

**5<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

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## ***Agenda***

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <i>19.00</i> | <i>Arrival tea &amp; coffee</i>                             |
| <i>19:15</i> | <i>Waterways Ireland briefing – powerpoint presentation</i> |
| <i>19:45</i> | <i>Barrow branch</i>  |
| <i>20:10</i> | <i>Royal Canal branch</i>                                   |
| <i>20:35</i> | <i>Offaly branch</i>  |
| <i>21:00</i> | <i>Dublin branch</i>  |
| <i>20:25</i> | <i>Kildare Canal</i>  |
| <i>21:35</i> | <i>AOB. Date of next meeting.</i>                           |
| <i>21:40</i> | <i>End</i>  |



## **Bye-Laws Update**

**Canals – SI 247 / 1988**

**Shannon Navigation – SI 79 & 80 of 1992**

## Bye-Laws Ongoing

Attended 3<sup>rd</sup> Joint Oireachtas Committee meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Department has asked WI to review fees and charges – ongoing at present – affordability is a consideration – WI proposal is 25% reduction in all fees / free to over 70 year olds.

Houseboat investment strategy submitted to Department

18<sup>th</sup> September – Meeting with IWA Executive and Branch chairpersons.

27<sup>th</sup> September 2024 – Draft Shannon and Canals Bye-Laws submitted to Department





# Projects and Developments Update

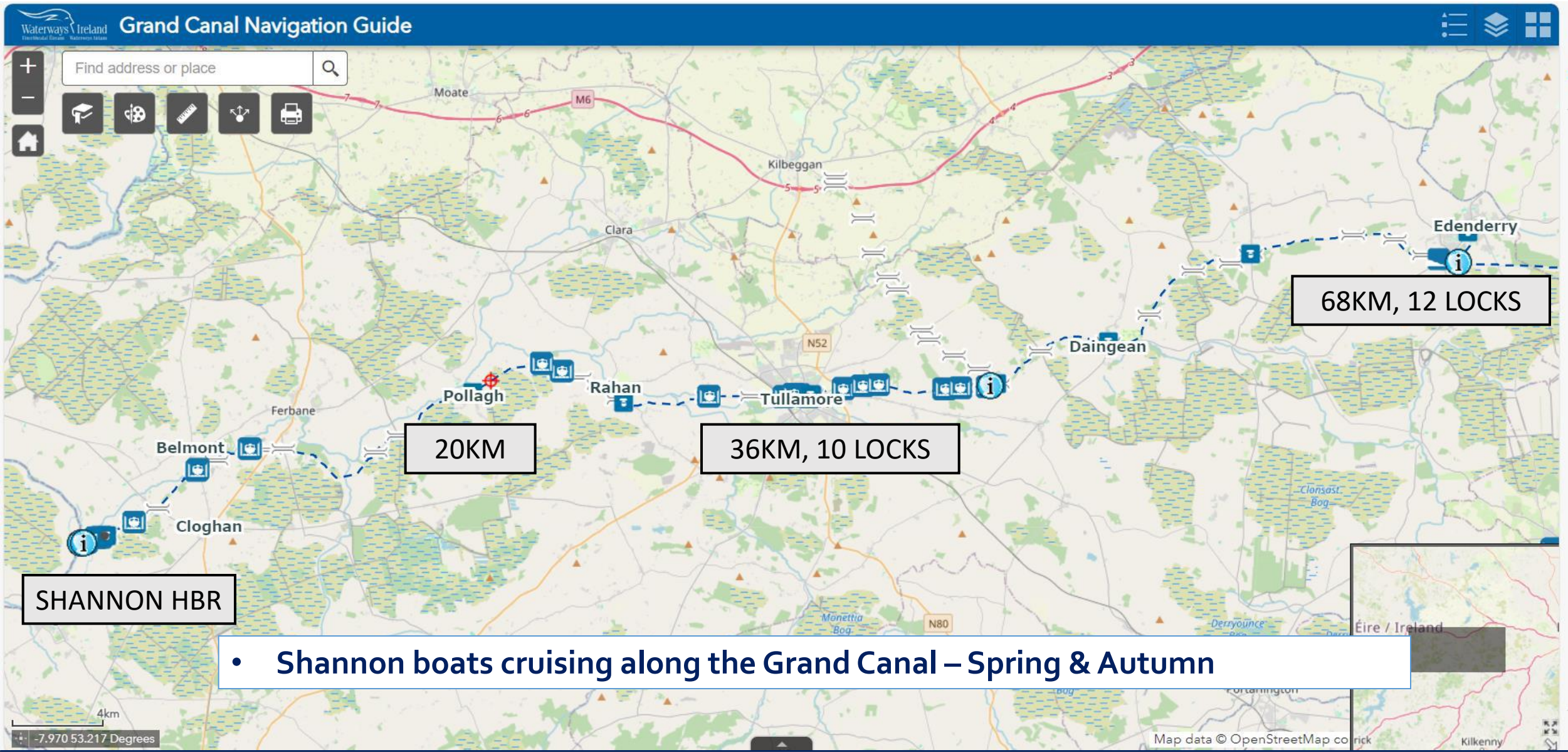
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# Rural Region - Projects & Developments

1. Tullamore Depot
2. Tullamore Masterplan
3. Shannon Harbour Visitor Berths
4. Tullamore Spur Line
5. Grand Canal Greenway – Phase 1
6. Grand Canal Greenway – Phase 2
7. Animations
8. Pump Outs
9. Mullingar Recreation Hub
10. Barrow Blueway
11. Bell Harbour refurbishment 2023 / 2024
12. Monasterevin water sports hub
13. Barrow Maintenance Plan
14. Opportunities

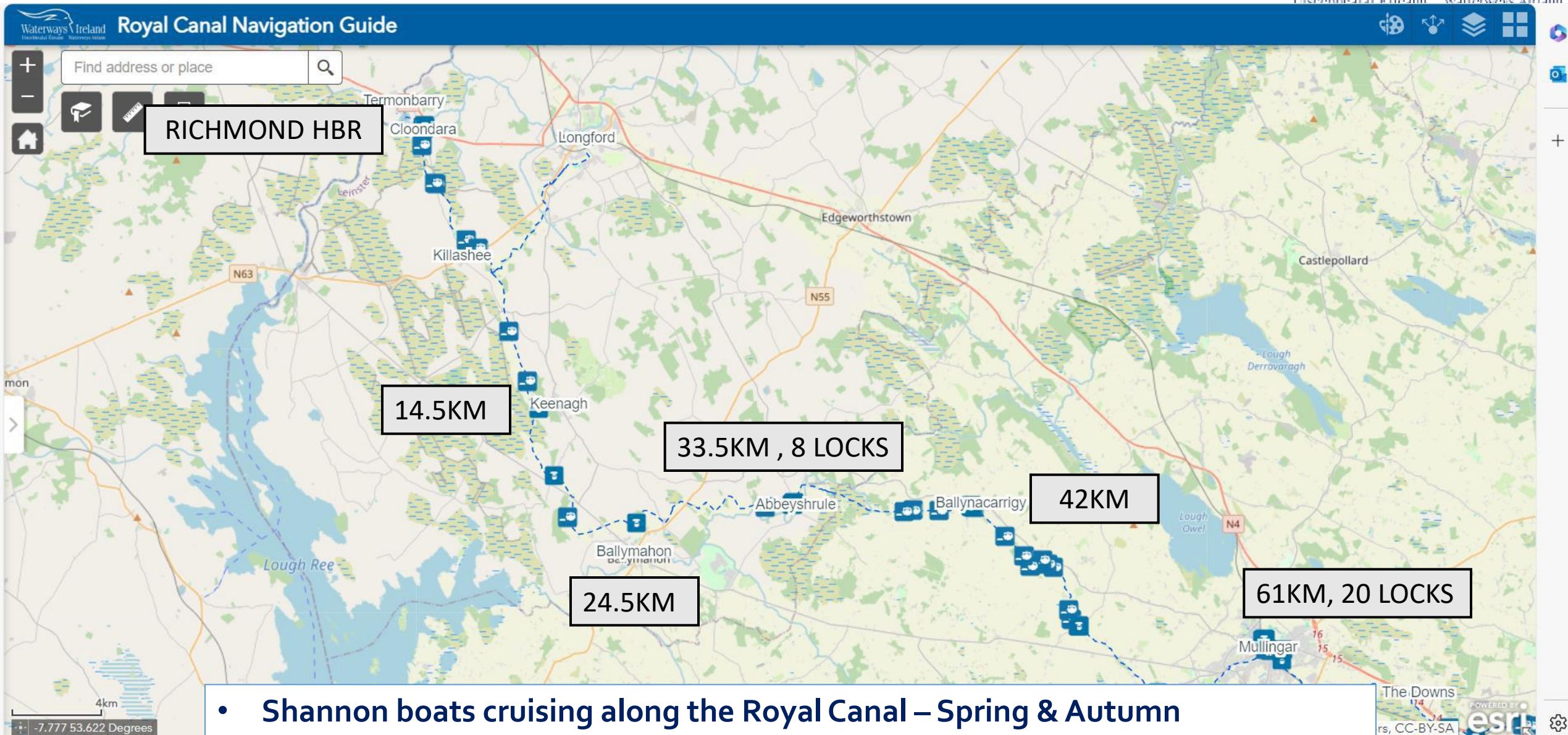


# CONCEPT - GRAND CANAL BOATING HUB AND DESTINATIONS





# CONCEPT - ROYAL CANAL BOATING HUB AND DESTINATIONS





# 1. Tullamore Depot

- Contract for construction of 2 workshops and 1 office block. Sign in early Dec 2024.
- Expected completion in Q2 of 2026
- Waterways Ireland will then vacate Tullamore Harbour site.



4 3D View Admin Front Entrance



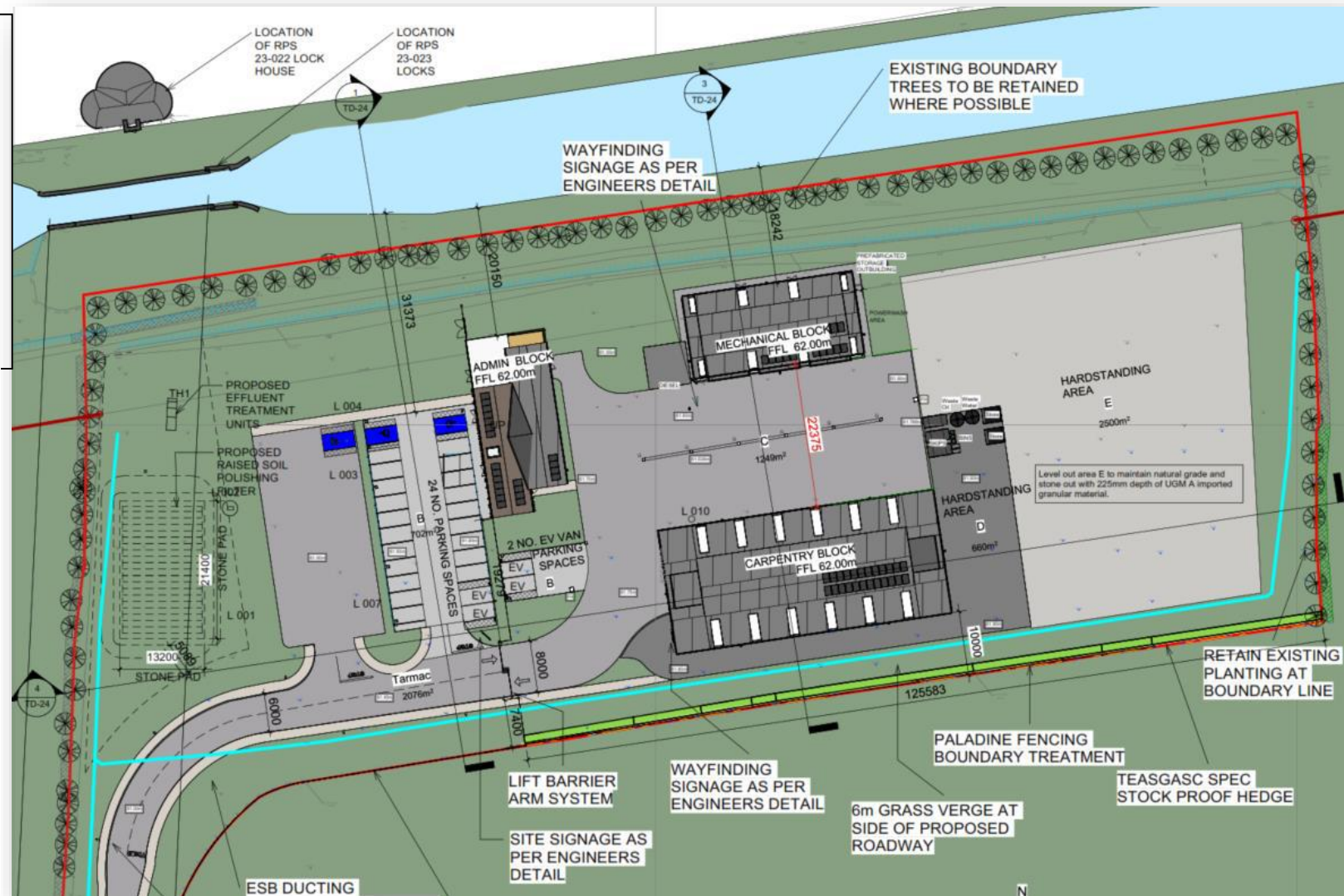
5 3D View- Admin Building



6 3D View Carpentry Workshop



7 3D View- Mechanical Workshop







**TULLAMORE DEPOT**







## 2. Tullamore Masterplan

Masterplan Partnership with Offaly Co Co (URDF)

Draft Masterplan Agreed March 2024

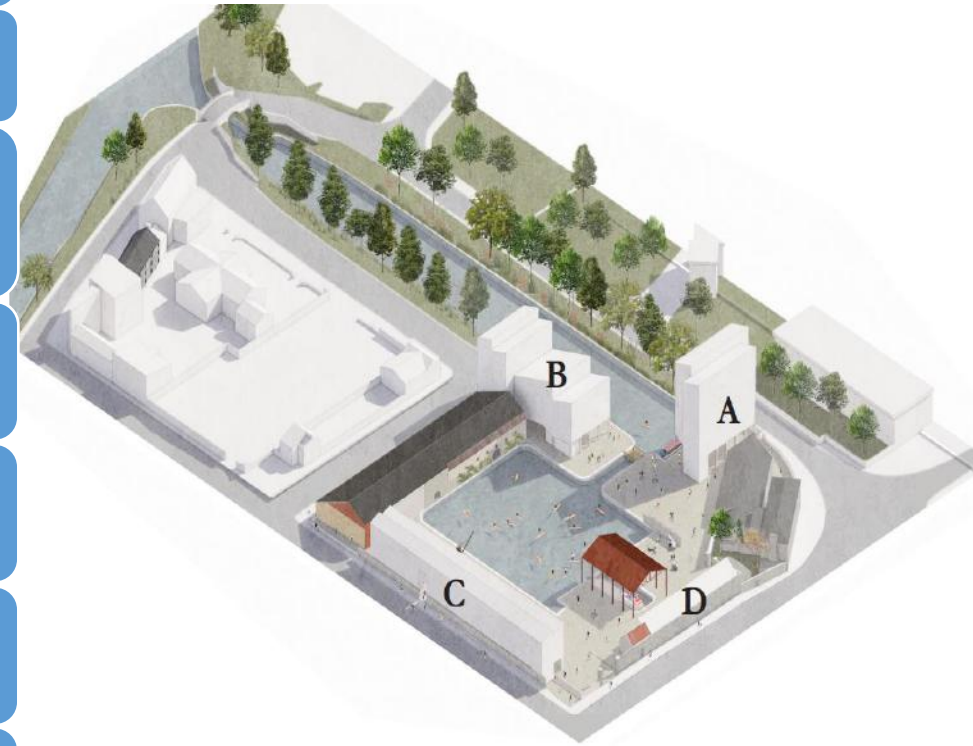
6 Week Public Consultation closed 26 July 2024

SEA Screening & AA – Contract awarded in late August

13 Sept 2024 – OCC & WI meeting to agree responses to Public Consultation submissions

10 Oct 2024 – WI and OCC meet Tullamore MD. Masterplan accepted.

2026 – Waterways Ireland will vacate the site. Development commences.







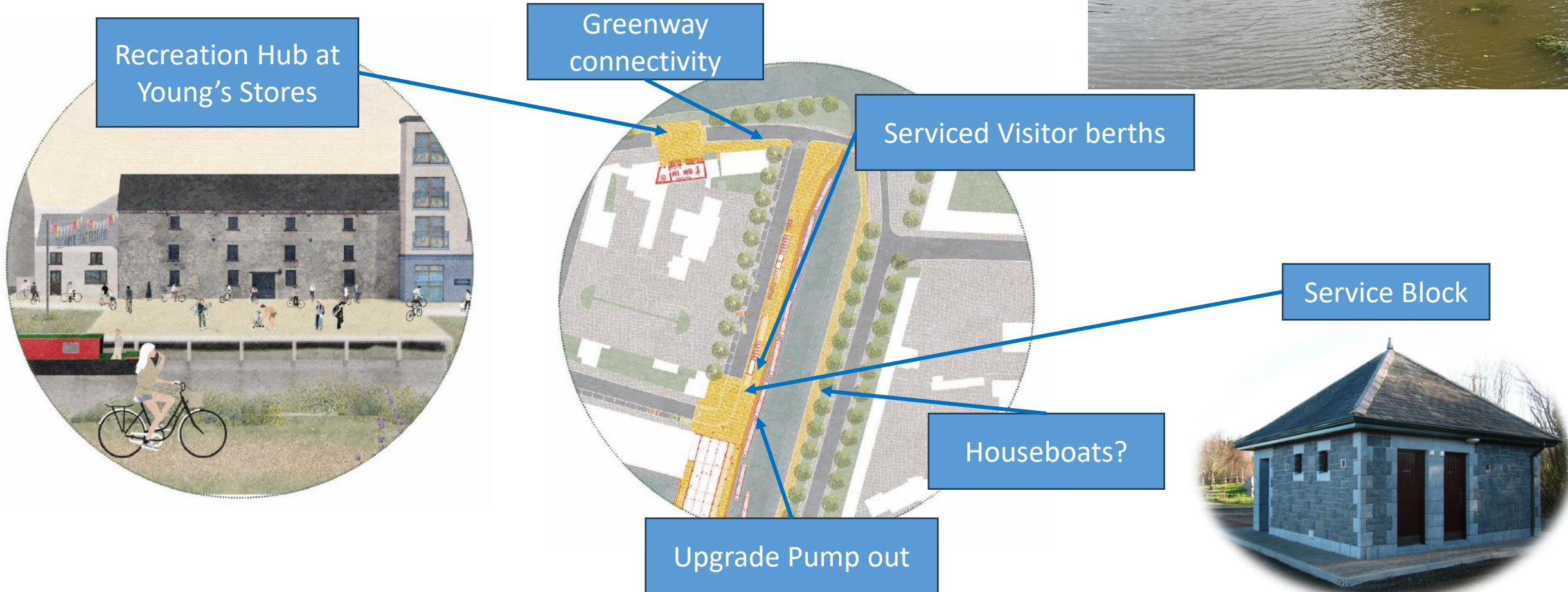






## 4. Tullamore Spur Line

- Proposed development of spur line – aim for Just Transition. FI Partnership application. At tender stage for consultancy to prepare submission including planning permission
- Existing spur under-utilised – Tullamore masterplan envisages redevelopment





## 4. Tullamore Spur Line





## 5. Grand Canal Greenway – Phase 1 - completed works

**KILDARE: Minister opens 11km section of new Grand Canal Greenway in Sallins**



**Opening of 70km Grand Canal Greenway in Offaly heralds a 'new era of outdoor recreation'**

### GRAND CANAL GREENWAY OFFALY OFFICIAL OPENING BY MINISTER JAMES LAWLESS TD



## 6. Grand Canal Greenway – Phase 2 - ongoing works

#	Section	Schedule
1	<b>Edenderry Branch - Border (boglands)</b>	<b>Q2 2025</b>
2	<b>Border - Clonkeen (boglands)</b>	<b>Q3 2025</b>
3	Clonkeen - Lock 20 (Ticknevin)	Q4 2024 - Q1 2025
4	Lock 20 - Hartley Bridge	
5	Hartley Bridge - Bord na Móna Bridge	2025
6	Bord na Móna Bridge - Shee bridge road	2025
7	Shee Bridge Boardwalk section	2025
8	Shee Bridge - Bond Bridge	2025
9	Bond Bridge - Lowtown	Q1 2025
10	Lowtown - Sallins	2025

1. Grand Canal Greenway from Dublin to Shannon harbour – Section from Edenderry to Ticknevin – High risk embankment – WI delivering it



## 7. Animations

### Royal Canal Animation

- €487k of JTF awarded, €650k is total project cost
- Contract awarded - Sept 2024
- Will be delivered in 2025
- WI Ops to construct initial site works

### Barrow Blueway Animation

- Barrow Blueway Placemaking Plan 2023
- JTF application will be submitted in 2025
- VEDP costings & other info being developed

### Grand Canal Animation

- VEDP being drawn up
- Scope to be defined for JTF application to mirror Royal Canal application
- BnM Trail interactions in Offaly and elsewhere – awaiting consultation

### Note

- JTF funding must be fully drawn down by Aug 2026



## 8. Pump-outs

### Pumpouts

- Significant deficiencies across region
- Regional strategy being developed
- Agree prioritisation
- Develop delivery plans for civils works – Ops Engs
- Agree pump install plans with M&E
- Athy pump-out recently repaired
- Graiguenamanagh, Tullamore, Carlow, Edenderry are priorities

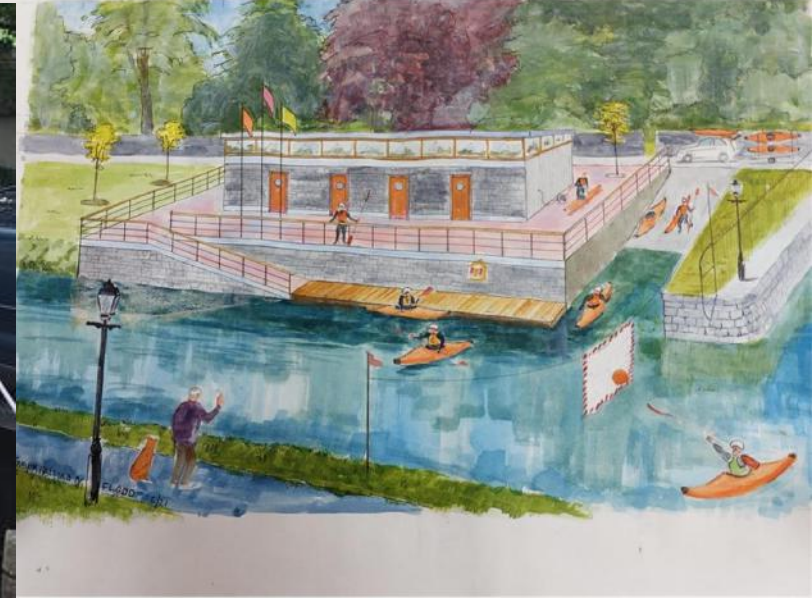




## 9. Mullingar Recreational Hub

### Mullingar Recreational Hub

- Mullingar is a centre for water sports
- A key location on the Royal Canal greenway
- A potential destination for boats off the Shannon in Spring and Autumn
- Opportunity to develop facilities in the harbour area
- Site Visit completed in Oct 2024
- Planning Permission application in 2025
- Possible delivery in 2026



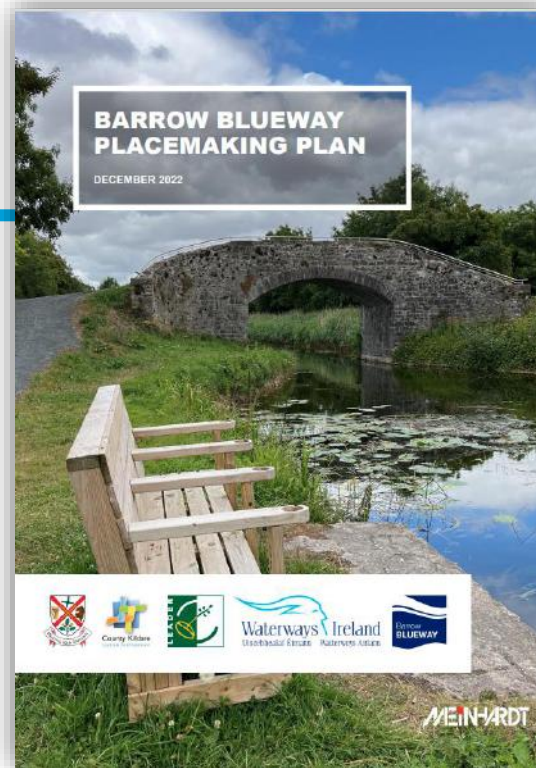


## 10. Barrow Blueway

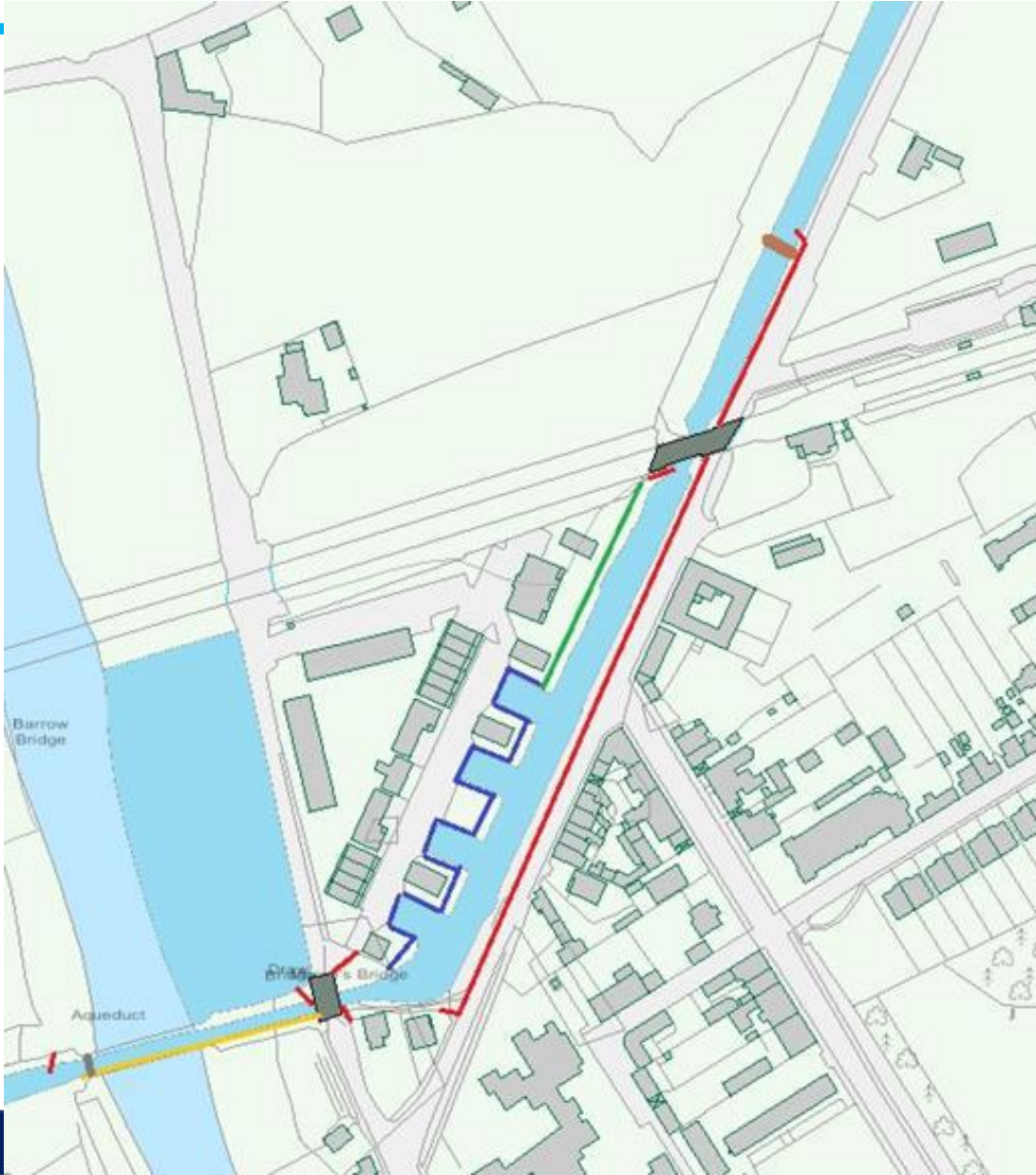
# Barrow Blueway

- 46km Unbound surface complete
- Road crossings almost complete
- Placemaking Plan to be delivered
- 12,000 users per month

Supporting new & emerging service providers



## 11. Bell Harbour Refurbishment



### Bell Harbour refurbishment

- Bell Harbour Refurbishment
- 190m wall rebuilding
- 250m of wall repointing
- 2600m<sup>3</sup> of Dredge material
- Development of Crowes bridge feature
- Installation of Public lighting & water taps
- Landscaping upgrades







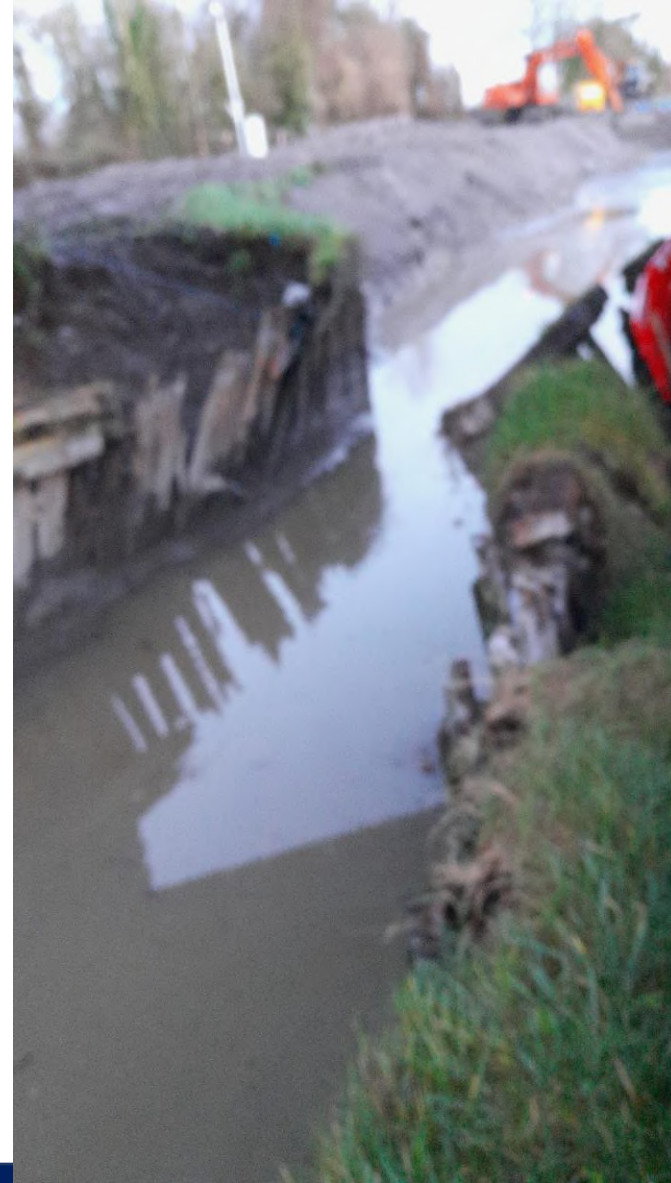








# Viaduct















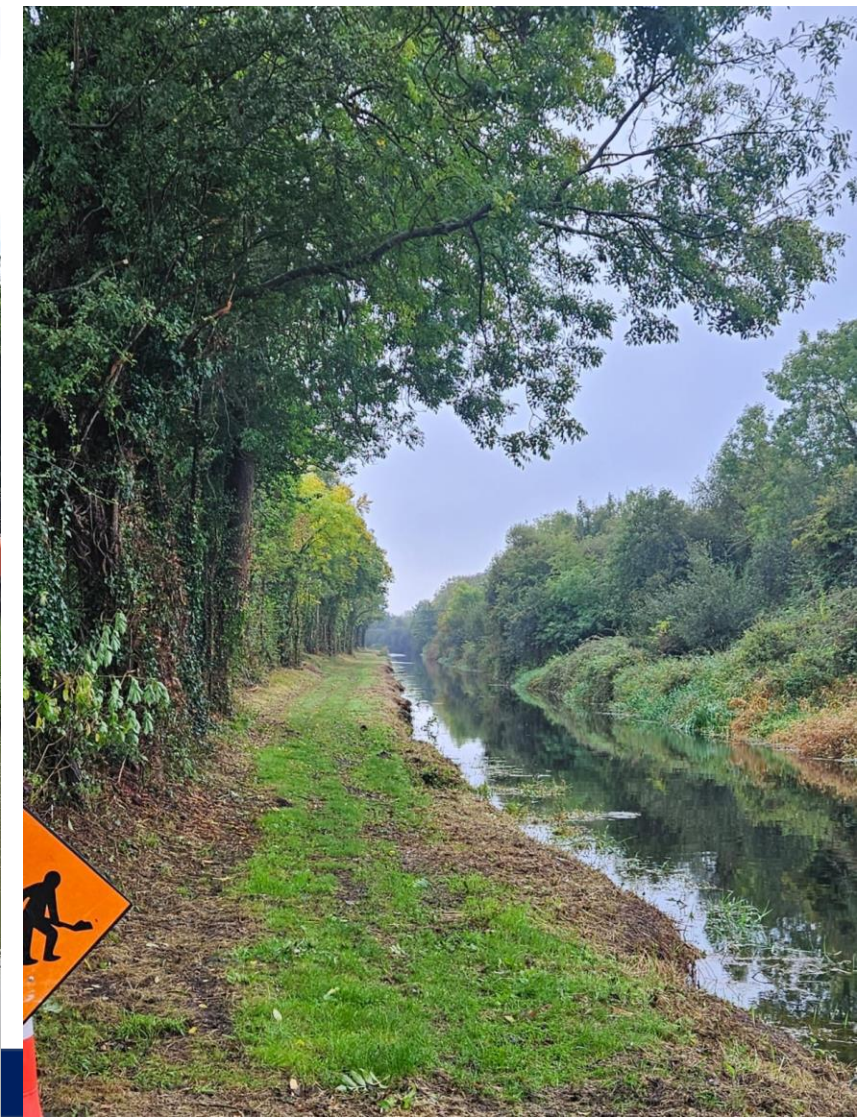


# High quality stone-work and finish





# Barrow Line – New jetties and hedge cutting





## 12. Monasterevin

WI Vacate Monasterevin site and move to Clogheen site.

Project:  
Canoe & Watersports Hub

Location:  
Direct access to River & Canal

Community Group:  
Monasterevin Development Authority



Kildare County Council  
Comhairle Contae Chill Dara



## 13. Barrow Maintenance Plan

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- General discussion

# 14. Opportunities for the canals

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- Barrow Tourism Masterplan
- Barrow Maintenance Plan
- Water Management Strategy
- Tullamore as a destination off the Shannon – Shannon Hbr and Spur Line developments – EU JTF
- Tullamore Masterplan
- Mullingar as a recreational hub on the Royal Canal
- Mullingar as a destination off the Shannon
- Grand Canal Greenway
- Bord na Mona lifting bridges on the Grand Canal to be replaced with fixed structures for bog walking trails – connecting to GC Greenway – EU JTF.
- Green and Silver. CIC on the canals.



## New long reach digger for dredging works





# BALLYMAGLAVY BOG – ROYAL CANAL – 05 NOV 2024



















Questions?