

Press Pass Gazette

Anticipated Greenway Coming to Youghal!

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The 46 km Greenway cycle route that was completed in Dungarvan in 2016 has been a massive success and enjoyed by many. Cork County Council has now confirmed that the plans for another popular cycle path are well in development for Cork's own Greenway which will connect Youghal – a coastal town in the east of Cork to Midleton, a larger commuter town nearer to the city.

The path will also connect to Mogeely, Castlemartyr and Killeagh and will be 23 km in length.

This project will help immensely in developing the rural area surrounding all of these towns and promote tourism in these areas. With the Ironman Triathlon taking place in Youghal over the next 3 years it will be a great place for training athletes

To develop a greenway will generate economic, community and environmental benefits for the local community and the wider East Cork area.

There is much concern and debate over whether or not this railway should be implemented. This is due to the fact that people are still campaigning for the railway to open back up and getting chugging along again but Railway Ireland says that this isn't feasible as many of the trains in Ireland are running for a loss so opening the railway line from Youghal is not on their priority list. Cork County Council says even with the development of the line, opening the railway is still one of their long-term goals to achieve in the future. Councillor Mary Linehan Foley, who previously campaigned to get the rail service reopened, said that a greenway for walking and cycling is a good use of the disused track. She has also said 'In a dream world, everyone would love a railway line in Youghal but it is not going to happen'.



The former railway line which had been expanded on in a number of instalments over the last few years is a scenic cycle or walking path that takes you around the town of Dungarvan, with winding paths, steady inclines, tall tunnels and breathtaking views of the sea and hillsides, it is a place that anyone regardless of age can enjoy. The path has been an amazing promoter of exercise in the region. It has helped bring people out of their home and take to their bikes to travel this journey and see what the fuss is about. It has also proven to be a great place to take school students on a school tour. Not only is it a fun route to explore but it also has a lot of history hidden along the way. The planned greenway will be developed on the abandoned railway from Youghal to Midleton.

to get practice in for the cycling part of their journey. With the paths gentle incline it is suitable for riders of all ability. The path will be a key feature in residents getting a sense of pride for their areas and feeling like they need to take better care of the environment they live in. The route will traverse an area known as Ballvergan Marsh where it is proposed to create a boardwalk structure over a distance of approximately 2.58km. This will form a wildlife viewing point over this varied habitat which already contains a number of bird hides. The development of the Greenway should help with the current greenhouse gas problem by taking drivers off the road and them taking the alternative option of instead cycling or walking to their destination.

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