

# N22 Baile Bhuirne – Macroom Road Development

Newsletter No.3 November 2020



Newly realigned Coolyhane Road, October 2020



Placing Box Culverts units, October 2020

## Welcome to Newsletter no.3 for the N22 Baile Bhuirne to Macroom Road Development.

Our latest newsletter was issued in June 2020 and significant progress has been made on the project in the interim. Since then, the contractor has worked to make as much progress as possible during the summer months, availing of the dry weather and long day light hours. We would like to express our gratitude to residents for their cooperation and patience with respect to longer working hours. Needless to say, the contractor is following Covid-19 protocols and currently has six Covid-19 compliance officers on site to ensure the highest possible standard of compliance. To date we have not had any confirmed case of Covid-19 on the project and we all hope this situation continues.

### Progress to date:

Section 3 of the project, at the eastern end of the scheme, is the most advanced. Topsoil has been stripped and placed in temporary storage areas, with some of it being reused in the works. Interceptor drainage is mostly complete and we have commenced placing the drainage culverts crossing the main alignment. Bulk excavation has been undertaken at Coolyhane, Kilnagurteen, Gurteenroe, Teerbeg and Clonfadda, with the excavated material being used for the construction of mainline embankments. Rock removal by controlled blasting has commenced with 5 no. blasts have been carried out at Kilnagurteen as this stage. This rock recovered by blasting is processed in a rock crusher for use near structures and on other elements of the works. Significant progress has been made with many of the structures that go to make up this section of the works. Bridges over the Sullane River, the Ummerra Road, the Laney River, and the Foherish River are all progressing well along with the construction of the Coolyhane Overbridge at Coolyhane Upper. The most advanced structure is the Coolyhane Underbridge and the associated realignment of the Coolyhane road with the new alignment of this local road reopening to public traffic on Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020. Substantial works are also ongoing to the new side roads/junctions on the scheme including the major junction at Carrigaphooa in addition to the realignment and new local roads at Ballyveerane. The construction of box culverts (both precast and cast in-situ) at Coolyhane, Ballyveerane and Teerbeg are also progressing well.

Works got underway in earnest on Section 1 of the project, at the western end, after the return to work on 18<sup>th</sup> May following the Covid-19 close-down. The largest structure on the scheme is the Bohill River Bridge at Cappagh West, and significant effort has been put into this structure with the 2 abutments and an intermediate pier progressing well this stage. Mainline works have been concentrated between the contractor's compound at Toonlane and the Bohill River bridge, with topsoil stripped and stored, interceptor drainage in place, bulk excavation well underway and embankment construction also progressing well. There have been two rock blasts at Cappagh West, which will complete the rock blasting in the area for the present. Significant volumes of rock have been excavated at Killeen without the need for rock blasting, due to the nature of the rock at that particular location. Killeen local road and the Ballymakeera local road have both been closed to facilitate the construction of bridges at these locations. The Killeen local access road has now been completed and is in use. This is the first element of the works in Section 1 to be completed. A haul road has also been completed from the Clondrohid Road, all the way to the Bohill River Bridge which will facilitate the transport of the large bridge elements in the near future. The haul road will also facilitate the transport of road construction materials.

Site clearance is well underway in Section 2, the mid-section of the project, with construction works having commenced on the 19<sup>th</sup> October at Toonlane and Coolnacaheragh. Works commenced in Coolavokig on 9<sup>th</sup> November.

### Upcoming Program:

**Section 3:** For the coming weeks, the focus in this section will be to progress the various structures which are underway at present. It is hoped to finish out the Coolyhane Underbridge shortly with the construction of the Reinforced Earth wing walls. The next structure due to be completed is the Coolyhane Overbridge, where bridge beams have recently been installed. Our current program shows the installation of various bridge beams on the run



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Rock Breaking , October 2020, 42m long 100T precast beams for Foherish Riverbridge

in to Christmas and in January 2021 at the following locations: Foherish River bridge, Ummerra Overbridge and the Laney River bridge.

Rock removal by blasting at Kilnagurteen will continue as required to produce stone material for the various structures with rock removal by mechanical breaking continuing at Carrigaphooca. Ongoing construction of various culverts will continue at Ballyveerane and Teerbeg. Works will progress on Carrigaphooca Junction in order to realign this junction along with the improvement works to Ballyveerane.

A road sweeper is on-site full time in Section 3 for ongoing maintenance of the public roads in this area.

**Section 2:** The focus for the coming works will be topsoil stripping and storage, drainage works, bulk excavation and rock removal. This is required for the construction of a haul road from the contractor's depot at Toonlane to the bridge site at the existing N22 at Coolnacaheeragh. There is a single road crossing on this section and this will be kept clean by the use of a road sweeper. Similar works will follow on at Coolavokig to eventually reach the Kilnamartyra Road.

**Section 1:** The coming weeks will see continued progress with the Bohill River Bridge. Rock removal from Cappagh West and Killeen will continue, as will embankment construction at Cappagh East. It is also hoped to make progress with the bridge at Killeen and to commence the pedestrian and cycle bridge on the Ballymakeera local road. The installation of culverts to provide for watercourses crossing the main alignment will continue.

As with Section 3, a road sweeper is available here on a full-time basis to keep the local roads in reasonable condition.

### Upcoming Traffic Management:

- The existing temporary diversion road will continue to operate at Coolyhane Upper;
- The eastbound hard shoulder closure on the N22 at Carrigaphooca will continue to operate;
- Single Lane Closures on various local roads will operate to facilitate service diversion works and side road realignments;
- Plant Crossings with Stop/go operations, on various local roads where they are crossed by the main N22 alignment, will continue to operate;
- There will be a single night road closure on the Carrigadrohid Road to facilitate the installation of the precast beams for the Ummerra Overbridge in Dec 2020/Jan 2021;
- A speed limit reduction, from 100km/hr to 60km/hr, will come into place from the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 for a period of 12 months for both lanes of the N22 in the vicinity of Carrigaphooca Junction;
- Traffic control will be ongoing by flag persons on the Toonlane local road;
- Temporary diversion road will continue to operate on the Killeen Local Road
- Ballymakeera Local Road will remain closed
- Single Lane Closures on various local roads will operate to facilitate service diversion works and side road realignment
- Plant Crossings: On various local roads where they are crossed by the main N22 alignment

All temporary traffic management arrangements will be included on the MapAlerter system which can be accessed at <https://www.mapalerter.com/>

**If you would like to be added to the circulation list for our newsletter please contact us at [info@n22bbm.ie](mailto:info@n22bbm.ie)**

All of the staff involved would like to thank the people of Macroom, Baile Bhuirne and districts for their cooperation while acknowledging that the works may cause some disruption. We appreciate your patience and apologise for any inconvenience. Please be aware that the scheduling of these works may change as works progress – the public will be kept informed of any such changes.