

Brenda Kelly

From: Ministers Office <Minister-Transport@corr.cloud.gov.ie>
Sent: Thursday 11 July 2024 14:23
To: Brenda Kelly
Subject: Ref: TTAS-MO-01787-2024

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Dear Ms. Kelly,

Thank you for your correspondence relating to the remit of the Local Improvement and Community Involvement Schemes.

The improvement and maintenance of regional and local roads is the statutory responsibility of local authorities, in accordance with the provisions of Section 13 of the Roads Act 1993. Works on those roads are funded from Councils' own resources supplemented by State road grants. The initial selection and prioritisation of works to be funded is also a matter for the local authority.

In 2018, the Department introduced ring-fenced funding for Community Involvement Schemes. The purpose of the Community Involvement Scheme is to facilitate local community participation in the repair of local roads. The focus of the programme is on the repair of more lightly trafficked public roads which might not be high on the list of a local authority's annual roadwork programme. Under the scheme a local community can contribute in money or in kind, for example by making labour or machinery available.

In order to allow for sufficient planning and applications for this scheme, local authorities are invited to apply for funding for Community Involvement Scheme projects for a two-year programme with the latest round of applications received in 2023 for the 2024/2025 period. Grant allocations for 2024 have recently been released with €13m being made available to Local Authorities under the CIS grant.

The Community Involvement Scheme is purely voluntary and does not take away from the statutory responsibilities of each road authority. It is intended to be an extra option, where suitable, for local authorities and communities to address issues on tertiary roads where needed.

The Local Government Act 2001 provides the statutory basis for the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS). Under that scheme, funding can be provided to local authorities for the construction and improvement of non-public roads (that is roads not taken in charge by local authorities) which meet the criteria set out in the Act.

It is important to highlight that the maintenance of non-public roads is the responsibility of the relevant landowners; local authorities only have statutory responsibility for the improvement and maintenance of public roads (in accordance with the provisions of Section 13 of the Roads Act 1993). Works on these public roads are funded from local authorities' own resources and are supplemented by State Road Grants.

It is important to reiterate that the annual programme of works is decided by the local authorities, and the Minister has no role in this process. There are currently no proposals to change the scope of either the CIS or the LIS.

With best wishes,

Eamon Ryan

Minister for Transport

The Minister is a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015 (details available on www.lobbying.ie)

An Roinn Iompair

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