



**COMHAIRLE CONTAE  
CHEATHARLACH**  

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**CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

# **Noise Action Plan Progress Report for 2025 Calendar Year**

**Submitted: 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**Roads & Sustainable Travel Department**

**Carlow County Council**

## Reporting Template for Noise Action Plan Progress Reports for 2025

This reporting template should be used by local authorities for reporting to the EPA on progress with actions taken under noise action plans during 2025. It should be submitted to the EPA by the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

This reporting requirement stems from the European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations 2018, S.I. No. 549 of 2018, (the Regulations), as amended<sup>1</sup>, where under Regulation 12(10) there is a requirement for Action Planning Authorities (APA) to submit an annual report to the EPA.

*Action Plans - Regulation 12. (10) From 18 July 2019 Action planning authorities shall report to the Agency on all actions taken under each action plan or revised action plan in the previous 12 months.*

The updates provided in this reporting template will also be used by the EPA for work on Local Authority Performance Framework (LAPF) for Environmental Enforcement. This framework includes the Environmental Noise Directive Activities (ENDs).


Further details and background information that should be read in conjunction with completing this reporting template are provided in the Appendix below.

Name of Action Planning Authority	Carlow County Council
Name	[REDACTED]
Position	[REDACTED]
Telephone Number	[REDACTED]
Email Address	[REDACTED]
Date of submission to EPA	27 <sup>th</sup> February 2026

### Confirmation of annual report

This annual report provides details of all actions taken under the local authority noise action plan in the preceding calendar year, specifically during 2025.

Signed:



<sup>1</sup> The European Communities (Environmental Noise) (Amendment) Regulations 2021, S.I. No. 663/2021.  
<https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2021/si/663/made/en/print>

1. Provide link(s) to access the Round 3, and where completed the Round 4 noise action plan, published by the Action Planning Authority (i.e. local authority)<sup>2</sup>.

The Noise Action Plan and associated documents including a link to the Round 4 mapping is available to view on the Council Website [Noise Action Plan | Carlow Co Co.](#)

2. Provide summary list of actions set out within the noise action plan, and indicate any progress made during the previous calendar year. Where relevant, further details of progress on implementing actions can be provided in answer to subsequent questions.

Action #	Summary of action	Summary of progress on action during previous calendar year
CWC_M1	Support the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC), Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and Department of Transport (DoT), and other government departments and bodies, in the development of national policy and guidance related to environmental noise, planning and noise, and transportation noise, and assist in their implementation once in place	Carlow County Council fully support the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC), Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and Department of Transport (DoT), and other government departments and bodies, in the development of national policy and guidance related to environmental noise, planning and noise, and transportation noise, and commit to assist in their implementation once in place subject to available resources.

<sup>2</sup> For some Local authorities (LAs), their Round 4 (R4) NAPs may not have been finalised until late 2024 or early 2025. These LAs should therefore be reporting annual progress on their Round 3 (R3) NAP. These LAs may not be reporting progress on their identified PIAs until 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

For some other LAs who finalised their R4 NAP in Q3 2024, then they may be reporting annual progress that straddles across two plans (R3, & R4) in 2024. For Q1-2 they should be reporting progress on their R3 NAP, while for Q3-4 they may be reporting progress on their R4 NAP.

CWC_M2	Support the establishment of and participate in relevant Noise Working Groups established to deliver the Noise Action Plan	<p>Carlow County Council have a designated member of staff on the Noise Action Working Group and participates in Noise Action Workshops with the EPA. Carlow County Council participates and works closely with the EPA, TII and stakeholders for Round 5 strategic noise mapping.</p> <p>Carlow County Council has established a Cross Functional Noise Working Group with members from the Planning Department, Environment Section and Roads &amp; Sustainable Transportation Office who meet quarterly. This group will work together to implement and deliver the Carlow Noise Action Plan. The group met on 7 occasions in 2025.</p> <p>Progress: Ongoing, significant progress in 2025.</p>
CWC_M3	Prepare an annual progress report regarding the implementation of the Noise Action Plan and submit it to the EPA	<p>Report submitted to the EPA on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026.</p> <p>Progress: Complete for 2025.</p>
CWC_M4	Review and investigate all noise complaints received in a timely manner and in accordance with national and international best practice	<p>Carlow County Council investigates all noise complaints in accordance with its Noise Complaints Procedure as updated on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024. A copy of the procedure is appended herewith.</p> <p>No noise complaints were received in 2025.</p> <p>Progress: Complete for 2025</p>
CWC_M5	Continue liaison and collaboration with a range of key stakeholders to address noise-related issues and complaints to ensure the effective management of noise from related industry and infrastructure sites.	<p>All National updates and information emanating from the National Noise Steering Group and EPA Workshops are shared with the Carlow Cross Functional Noise Working Group consisting of members from the Planning Department, Environment Section and Roads &amp; Sustainable Transportation Office who meet quarterly. Resourcing and training for this group and staff managing noise complaints and working on the implementation of the Noise Action Plan is being developed for completion subject to resources. The priority work of the group for 2025 was the progress of actions in the Action Plan and the review of the strategic noise mapping for Round 5. The group met on 7 occasions in 2025.</p> <p>Progress: Ongoing, significant progress in 2025.</p>
CWC_M6	Publish the final Noise Action Plan and provide updates on the progress made	<p>The Noise Action Plan was made on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024. The published final Noise Action Plan and associated documents including a link to the Round 4 mapping is available to view on the Council Website <a href="#">Noise Action Plan   Carlow Co Co.</a></p>

	with its implementation.	<p>Annual Reports on implementation have been provided to Council, the EPA and made available on the Council's webpage.</p> <p>Progress: Complete for 2025.</p>
CWC_M7	Review relevant planning applications for noise related issues in the context of existing strategic noise maps, this Noise Action Plan and existing or Candidate Quiet Areas in open country and condition developments as appropriate to manage impacts on ambient noise levels.	<p>Carlow Planning Department have a planning file referral procedure in place which includes the referral of files for comment to various departments based on a set criterion, including the nature and size of development proposed and documentation received (EIAR, AA, Traffic Assessments, etc). The Environment Section and Transportation Section review, assess, and recommend conditions where appropriate on files to the planning authority. In 2024 413 planning files were reviewed by the Environment Department, 5 of which were specifically examined around noise. The Transportation Department reports on all planning files received by the Local Authority.</p> <p>When granting planning permission for a development, the Planning Authority may attach conditions, as appropriate, requiring the management and regulation of noise, including noise prevention and/or reduction. These conditions may apply to the construction phase of a development and/or to the operational phase, as well as to the use of land and/or buildings. Planning conditions may also require, as appropriate, that noise monitoring is undertaken during the construction and operational phases of a development, and that specific noise limits are adhered to.</p> <p>On 3rd December, 2024 Carlow County Council formally submitted the Section 177AE Planning Application and Compulsory Purchase Order Application to An Bord Pleanála for consideration in respect of a 3km realignment of the N80 at Leagh Bends. Noise was considered in the preparation of the application and was reviewed by the Environment Department in preparation for the submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála.</p> <p>On the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025, An Coimisiún Pleanála issued its decision under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, in accordance with plans and particulars, including a Natura Impact Statement, lodged on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of December 2024, approving the application, subject to conditions.</p> <p>AECOM ROD Technical Consultants were appointed in January 2025 to lead the development and design of the Carlow Southern Relief Road (CSSR) through Phases 1 -4 as set out in the TII Project Management Guidelines, in collaboration with the Department of Transport and Laois County Council. The CSRR remains a key long-term strategic transport proposal for the town of Carlow.</p> <p>Throughout 2025, substantial progress was achieved with the successful completion of Phase 1- Concept and Feasibility. The Department of Transport subsequently granted approval to advance to Phase 2 – Options</p>

Selection, which will identify the emerging preferred corridor for the project. The Route selection includes environmental considerations such as noise.

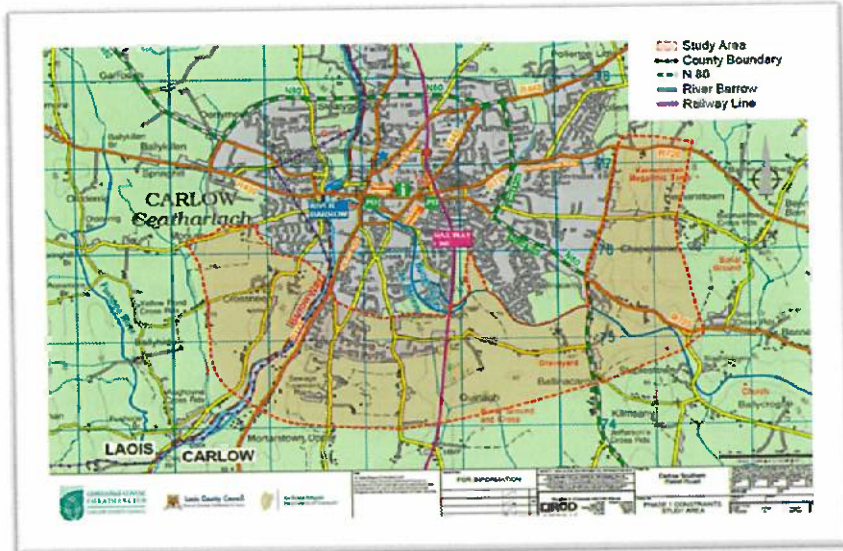


Figure 1. Route selection corridor CSRR

Progress: Complete for 2025, significant progress.

CWC\_M8

Collaborate with relevant Carlow County Council sections and 3rd Party organisations to support the implementation relevant plans, projects and strategies

Carlow County Council advised its members at the September 2024 Council meeting, item 2.6 that the Roads Section was commencing the review and development of the Noise Action Plan, detailing the purpose of the plan and the steps involved in preparing a plan. Carlow County Council Management Team and Cross Functional team were also so advised and invited to get involved.

Following preparation of the Draft noise Action Plan 2024-2028, SEA Environmental Report and Appropriate Assessment Screening Report members of the public and other interested parties were invited to make submissions through either the Council's Public Consultation Portal, via email or in writing. Copies of the Draft Noise Plan, SEA and AA were available for viewing on the online platform and in three public buildings, one in each of the Municipal Districts across the County (Carlow, Tullow and Bagenalstown).

The submission period was from Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024 until Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024. During this period a single submission was received from the public. In addition to

		<p>the public consultation and consultation with the Elected members, Management Team and Cross Functional Team, 11 external stakeholders were consulted for which two submissions were received. These submissions were addressed in Section 11 of the Noise Action Plan. No submissions were received in relation to the SEA and AA.</p> <p>The Carlow County Council Noise Action Plan 2024 – 2028, supported by Noise Consultants Limited, for sections of major roads in County Carlow, was made on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024, and a copy of the Noise Action Plan and associated documents including a link to the Round 4 mapping is available to view on the Council Website <a href="#">Noise Action Plan   Carlow Co Co.</a></p> <p>EPA Return Carlow CC DF7_10 as required was completed and returned to the EPA for European compliance.</p> <p>Following the making of the Noise Action Plan a Cross Functional working team was put in place, who meet quarterly to support and implement the plan, projects and strategies, consisting of staff from the Environment, Planning, and Roads &amp; Sustainable Travel Office (Roads, Active Travel and) Municipal Districts. The Cross Functional team met 7 times in 2025 (quarterly meetings plus additional meetings with regards to RMCEI preparation/returns and speed limit review).</p> <p>The annual Noise Action reports submitted to the EPA are hosted on the Council’s website to inform the public.</p> <p>Updates on the progress of the Noise Action Plan have been included in the monthly Chief Executive Reports issued to the members of Carlow County Council at their monthly meeting throughout 2025, items on the Noise Action Plan appeared for the following months January, February, April, May, June, July/August, September and October.</p> <p>Progress: Complete for 2025, Significant progress.</p>
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Note: (1) Use additional rows if relevant, (2) use additional table is there were two NAPs covering the relevant year

*Please note that while there were to NAPs covering the year 2024 the position of the resource responsible for the noise action plan in roads was vacated in Q1 and is yet to be replaced (competitions have been held but no suitable candidate found, the position has been re-advertised, and candidates are being shortlisted). The Senior Engineer told ownership of the Noise Action Plan and concentrated efforts on developing the new NAP and progressing the action under this plan. This report will speak to the actions of the 2024-2028 Action Plan.*

3. Provide details of any Priority Important Areas (PIAs) which have been addressed (or costed for consideration) under the noise action plan in the preceding year<sup>3,4</sup>

#### PIA 4 & PIA 8 – N80 Carlow Town

Road surfacing works on the N80 in Carlow Town including the use of thin layer SMA, additional line marking for traffic calming were carried out at the locus of PIA 4 and PIA 8 on the N80. The volume of traffic on this busy National Secondary Route being the principal noise generating factor.

In the short-term work to progress both the national secondary speed limit and urban speed limit review in Carlow were progressed. The reduction of speeds on the N80 on approach to the town have been reduced from 100km/hr to 80km/hr, with special speed limits having been implemented on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025. The preparation of Urban speed limit draft special byelaws are anticipated for 2026 and include this section of road. This busy commuter road was looked at in detail in preparation of the draft bye laws. Lower speed limits will likely reduce the impact of noise in this area.

Other options for the reduction of traffic are being considered by Carlow County Council but are of a long term nature.

Long term solutions to traffic volumes and noise at this location will result from the development of the Carlow Southern Relief Road and additionally the provision of an alternative access point for the significant residential houses on the Tullow Road which currently join the N80 at one location between PIA 4 and PIA 8.

In 2025 AECOM ROD Technical Consultants were appointed to lead the development and design of the Carlow Southern Relief Road (CSSR) through Phases 1 -4 as set out in the TII Project Management Guidelines, in collaboration with the Department of Transport and Laois County Council. The CSRR remains a key long-term strategic transport proposal for the town of Carlow.

Throughout 2025, substantial progress was achieved with the successful completion of Phase 1- Concept and Feasibility. The Department of Transport subsequently granted approval to advance to Phase 2 – Options Selection, which will identify the emerging preferred corridor for the project. The Route selection includes environmental considerations. Development of the scheme would result in a reduction of traffic volumes in this residential area removing a significant volume of the through traffic from the area.

A specific Improvement Grant application for the Tullow Road residential housing to provide an alternative access/egress point was discussed in 2025 and it is intended to progress the proposal on completion of the CSSR Phase 2. This would further assist in reducing noise at this location providing an alternative to residents to access/egress the number of developments which would likely reduce noise levels on foot of reduced traffic volumes.

#### PIA 5 – Royal Oak Road, Muinebheag

Hedge planting was carried out along the roadside boundary of the industrial estate on the Royal Oak Road to buffer noise.

#### PIA 6 – Church Street/Kilree Stree, Muinebheag

Improvement works including pavement enhancements, junction tightening, drainage works and planting in Muinebheag at Kilreee street/Stationhouse road/Church street have helped provide greater separation of traffic lanes from neighbouring buildings and residents.



**Figure 2. Junction improvement at PIA 5 – Church Street Kilree Moving traffic flow further away from neighbouring properties.**

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<sup>3</sup> For background on PIA information refer to the draft Round 4 Noise Action Plan guidance note that was sent via email to the LAs on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024 - [Noise Mapping and Action Planning - Topic Home Template](#).

<sup>4</sup> If reporting annual progress on the R3 NAP, then you should provide details of priority areas which have been addressed under the R3 noise action plan

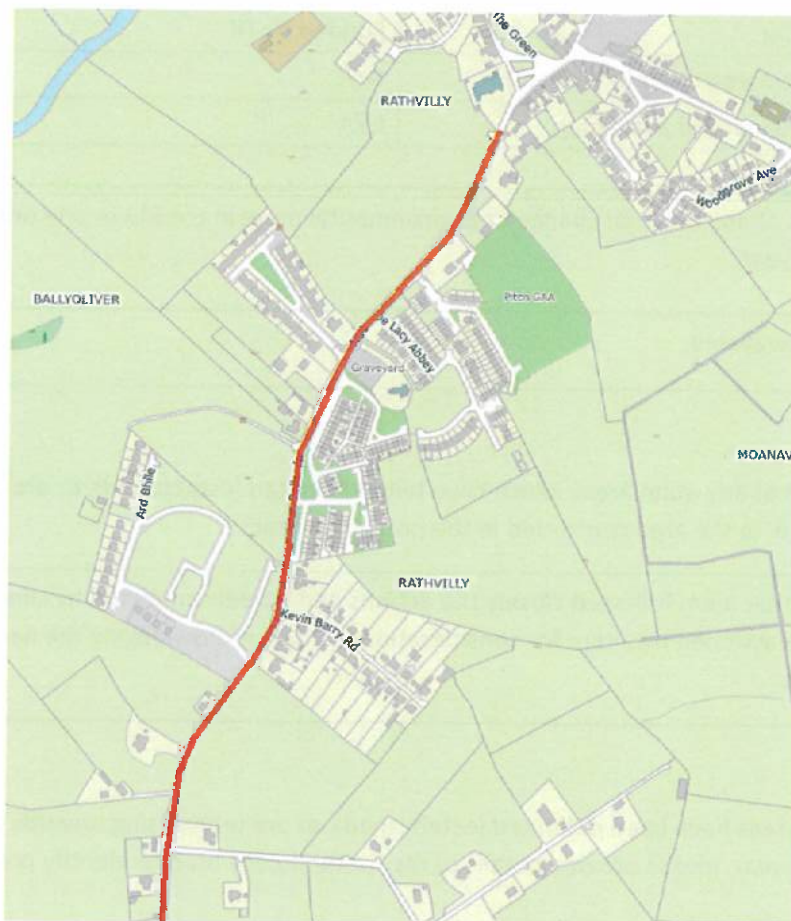
4. Where Priority Important Areas have been addressed (or costed for consideration) under the noise action plan in the preceding year, provide the following details, for each priority area addressed (or costed)<sup>5</sup>:

Priority or PIA addressed	PIA 4 7 PIA 8
Noise reduction measures introduced	Surfacing change from HRA to SMA
Estimate of the no. of people benefiting from noise reduction	726
Estimate of reduction in people annoyed due to noise	
Estimate of reduction in people sleep disturbed due to noise	
Estimate of reduction in noise levels	5dB
Budget (if available)	Road Surfacing Project Funded by TII
Cost-effectiveness assessment (if available)	
Cost-benefit assessment (if available)	
Priority or PIA addressed	PIA 5
Noise reduction measures introduced	Native species hedge planting along boundary of industrial estate
Estimate of the no. of people benefiting from noise reduction	356
Estimate of reduction in people annoyed due to noise	
Estimate of reduction in people sleep disturbed due to noise	
Estimate of reduction in noise levels	1dB
Budget (if available)	Council Own Resources €2,500
Cost-effectiveness assessment (if available)	
Cost-benefit assessment (if available)	
Priority or PIA addressed	PIA 6
Noise reduction measures introduced	Junction improvement, tightening of the junction to move vehicles further from buildings, addition of landscaping on both sides of the junction which will aid in noise absorption.
Estimate of the no. of people benefiting from noise reduction	332
Estimate of reduction in people annoyed due to noise	
Estimate of reduction in people sleep disturbed due to noise	
Estimate of reduction in noise levels	1dB
Budget (if available)	Council Own Resources
Cost-effectiveness assessment (if available)	
Cost-benefit assessment (if available)	

<sup>5</sup> As above, can provide details of priority areas if reporting annual progress on the R3 NAP.

5. Provide details of any other areas, which have been addressed (or costed for consideration) under the noise action plan in the preceding year, where relevant.

Following on from the SMA works completed on 3 km of the N81 on approach to Rathvilly village from the north a new section consisting of 1.6 km of SMA surface (typically considered to be noise reducing) was completed in Rathvilly village itself to Ballyoliver on the southern side of the village on the main arterial route of the N81. A pedestrian footpath was also provided over a distance of 200 metres and a double row of natural species hedging was planted along the length of the footpath to provide noise buffering. The area along the works has a high density of housing including Michael Collins Park, Father Cullen Terrace, Kevin Barry Road, Ard Bhile. Testing completed on this surfacing in 2024 was proven to have had a noise reducing impact on the surrounding area and it is intended to continue with these works in 2026 to complete further sections of the village supporting noise reduction in this rural village through which the busy N81 national secondary passes through.



**Figure 3.** Extents of resurfacing works through Rathvilly village in 2025 showing the residential areas which would have benefitted from the noise reducing surfacing provided and the additional 200m of natural species hedging for noise absorption.

6. Where any other areas have been addressed (or costed for consideration) under the noise action plan in the preceding year, provide the following details, for each area addressed (or costed):

Important area, MIA or IA addressed	No
Noise reduction measures introduced	SMA to replace Surface HRA Road, Rathvilly Village to Ballyoliver 1.6km
Estimate of the number of people benefiting from noise reduction	300
Estimate of reduction in people annoyed due to noise	
Estimate of reduction in people sleep disturbed due to noise	
Estimate of reduction in noise levels	5dB
Budget (if available)	Funded by TII
Cost-effectiveness assessment (if available)	N/A
Cost-benefit assessment (if available)	N/A

7. Provide details of any material change in environmental noise in the PIA or any other area concerned in the preceding year.

Information not available.

8. Provide details of any quiet areas which have been delimited (established), or are progressing towards being delimited, in the area concerned in the preceding year<sup>6</sup>.

The implementation team followed closely the actions and model completed by Limerick County Council and have actioned this item for consideration in 2026 acknowledging the need for additional in house training.

9. Where quiet areas have been delimited (established), or are progressing towards being delimited, during the preceding year, please provide details of the methodology used to identify potential quiet areas<sup>7</sup>.

Not applicable.

<sup>6</sup> See DECC Circular Circular EP2/4 re: Re: European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations 2018 S.I. No. 549 of 2018 (as amended), and the Draft Round 4 Noise Action Plan guidance note.

<sup>7</sup> See Draft Round 4 Noise Action Plan guidance note - Section 7: Quiet Areas.

10. For each action which the action planning authority intended to take, as set out within the NAP, provide details of progress which has been made during the preceding year, and compare with the implementation plan timetable in the action plan with the progress made. Indicate where proposed outcomes have been achieved.

**Table 18: Noise Action Plan Implementation**

Measure	Responsible Aim (RA)	Measure Description	Timescale	Implementation Period
<b>General – Noise Management Measures</b>				
CWC_M1	1 & 5	Support the Development of National Noise and Other Related Policy and Guidance	Short- Long-term	2024-2028
CWC_M2	2, 3, 4 & 5	Noise Action Plan Working Group(s)	Bi-annual	2024-2028
CWC_M3	8	Annual Report to Environment Protection Agency (EPA)	Annual	2024-2028
CWC_M4	5 & 7	Continued Investigation and Management of Noise Complaints	On-going	2024-
CWC_M5	3, 4 & 5	Stakeholder Collaboration	On-going	2024-
CWC_M6	3, 4, 5 & 6	Ongoing Community Engagement	As required	2024-2028
<b>Prevention – Noise Management Measures</b>				
CWC_M7	5	Planning Application Advice, Conditioning and Enforcement	On-going	2024-
<b>Mitigation – Noise Management Measures</b>				
<b>Existing Plans, Projects and Strategies</b>				
CWC_M8	3 & 5	Support Implementation of Other Relevant Plans, Projects & Strategies	On-going	2024-

Reporting on page 2 under No. 2 provided a summary list of actions set out within the noise action plan, and indicated progress made during the previous calendar year. All 8 actions are progressing in accordance with the timelines indicated in the implementation timetable of the Carlow Noise Action Plan 2024-28. Continued achievement of outcomes will be dependent on available resources, including staffing, training and funding.

11. Provide details of any additional actions which the authority has taken during the preceding calendar to address environmental noise which have not been reported above<sup>8</sup>. See considerations listed below in the Appendix.

Carlow County Council completed several Active Travel Projects and Safer Routes to schools projects in Carlow Town, Tullow and Bagenalstown which will encourage the use of cycling and walking reducing the number of vehicle movements. A Carlow Town electric bike scheme is in operation to support the switch to more sustainable transport options.

Carlow County Council has been formally seeking a review of the very successful Town Bus Scheme with a view to possibly further expanding the routes to reduce the volume of single occupancy vehicles on busy roads by providing alternatives.

The Environment Department has run its annual anti-idling campaign to reduce the instance of vehicles parked with engines running. While predominantly intended as a campaign to improve air quality and reduce carbon the reduction in idling will also reduce the impacts of noise from vehicles.

The members of Carlow County Council at their July 2024 meeting agreed to implement the new rural default speed limit of 60km/h on all local rural roads in Carlow (a reduction of 20km/h). This speed limit came into effect on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025. While not the primary purpose, reduction of speed limits has a positive impact on the noise environment, and the members were so advised in the presentation given at the meeting on speed limit reductions. Carlow County Council is satisfied that there will be a positive impact countywide on implementation of the new rural default speed limits including areas outside the Priority Impact Areas (PIAs) identified in the Noise Action Plan 2024-2028.

A Special Speed Limit on Carlow National Secondary Roads came into effect on the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025, introducing a speed limit of 80kph in the rural areas for mechanically propelled vehicles on the public roads the N80 and N81 within the jurisdiction of Carlow County Council (55 km approximately).

Following public consultation, liaison with An Garda Siocahana and the approval of Transport Infrastructure Ireland the draft byelaws were brought before Council in November 2025. The Bye Laws were passed by resolution of the Council at their Meeting of 10th November 2025 to come into effect on Thursday 18th December 2025. The reduction by 20km on these high speed networks and given the volume of traffic on them is anticipated to have a significant impact on noise reduction and will benefit 1,000's of residents along these routes. Reductions in noise levels by reducing speed limits from 100km/hr to 80km/hr have been found to be 1.7dB.

Carlow County Council is in the process of a speed limit review including examination of the urban speed limits. The 9 no. (PIA's) identified will be examined during the speed limit review and positive noise reduction in a PIA will be considered in assessing the adoption of lower speed limits.

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<sup>8</sup> Local authorities to report any other actions that are relevant to the NAP, and which may not directly address a priority (PIA) or other area.

12. Where additional actions have been taken during the preceding year, provide the following details, for each action<sup>6</sup>:

Area addressed	The Extents of the N80 and N81 in County Carlow cica 55 km total
Noise management or reduction measures introduced	Reduction in speed limit from 100km to 80km
Estimate of the number of people benefiting from noise reduction	5,000
Estimate of reduction in people annoyed due to noise	5,000
Estimate of reduction in people sleep disturbed due to noise	100
Estimate of reduction in noise levels	1.7dB
Budget (if available)	Own Resources (30k) & TII installation of new signage
Cost-effectiveness assessment (if available)	
Cost-benefit assessment (if available)	

## Appendix A



COMHAIRLE CONTAE  
C HEATHARLACH  
CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

## CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

### NOISE COMPLAINT PROCEDURE



Signed:

P. O'Gorman

Pádraig O'Gorman

Director of Services

Transportation,

Environment, Water Services,

Building Control & Emergency Services

Date: 6/02/2024



## **Noise Complaint**

**Carlow County Council has developed a Noise Complaint Procedure in line with the National Protocol for dealing with Noise Complaints for Local Authorities.**

**The principal legislation is the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, which defines environmental pollution as including noise that is a nuisance, or that would endanger human health or damage property or damage the environment. The law does not specifically mention an exact level or standard of noise.**

## **Making a Complaint**

**Complaints are received by email to a dedicated email address [environment@carlowcoco.ie](mailto:environment@carlowcoco.ie) which is accessed by members of staff and monitored daily. Phone complaints are made to a dedicated complaints phone line (059-9136231) which is available 24/7 for voice messaging or to any member of staff during working hours. Complaints are logged to the Environment Department's complaint's spreadsheet and given a unique reference number. The nature of the complaint and the contact details of the complainant are recorded. The complaint is referred by email to the appropriate person for investigation. If you plan to complain about excessive noise, it is generally recommended that you keep a detailed diary of the times when it occurred, the duration and, if possible, the levels involved.**

## **What action can a private individual take**

**In general, it is recommended to engage with the person(s) responsible for the source of the noise to reach an acceptable solution. If this does not resolve the situation the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 allows any person to complain to the District Court about a noise that is 'so loud, so continuous, so repeated, of such duration or pitch or occurring at such times as to give reasonable cause for annoyance to a person in any premises in the neighbourhood or to a person lawfully using any public place' and seek an order to deal with the noise nuisance. There is a nominal fee.**

**You will need to consult the Clerk of the local District Court about an appointment for the hearing of your case and refer exactly to the legislation under which you are making the complaint – Section 108 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992.**

**At least 7 days before the date for the hearing of your case, you must serve notice on the person or business you are complaining about, using the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 - Noise Form of Notice. It is important to use this Form of Notice only and to complete it fully and accurately. District Court Noise Form of Notice attached – Appendix A.**



**A person making noise in the course of trade or business may have a defence if it can be shown that all reasonable care was taken to prevent the noise or that the noise is in accordance with a licence issued under the Act.**

**If the court finds in your favour, it can order the person or body making, causing or responsible for the noise to take measures to prevent or limit the noise. Any such orders must be complied with.**

### **Environment Department**

**Carlow County Council investigates noise pollution complaints and takes enforcement action if it is warranted and feasible in cases where there is a threat to health and/or comfort of the public/community as a whole.**

**Carlow County Council can serve a notice under Section 107 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 on the person causing the noise for the purposes of preventing or limiting the noise to the Environmental Protection Agency in relation to premises, processes and works other than those which require licences under the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992.**

**In the Notice it will:**

- (a) specify the measures which appear to Carlow County Council to be necessary in order to prevent or limit the noise,**
- (b) direct the person on whom it is served to take such measures as may be specified in the notice to prevent or limit the noise, and**
- (c) specify a period, which Carlow County Council considers reasonable in all the circumstances of the case, within which such measures are to be taken.**

**Failure to comply with a notice is an offence and allows Carlow County Council to take steps to ensure compliance.**



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## **Planning Department**

When granting planning permission for a development, the Planning Authority may attach conditions, as appropriate, requiring the management and regulation of noise, including noise prevention and/or reduction. These conditions may apply to the construction phase of a development and/or to the operational phase, as well as to the use of land and/or buildings. Planning conditions may also require, as appropriate, that noise monitoring is undertaken during the construction and operational phases of a development, and that specific noise limits are adhered to.

Where applicable, noise complaints relating to a development/planning permission may be referred to the Planning Enforcement Section to investigate potential breaches of planning conditions pertaining to noise management, monitoring requirements, and/or noise levels. Any development that requires planning permission or a development which is in breach of the conditions of its planning permission may be subject to planning enforcement proceedings.

Noise complaints relating to an authorised commercial/industrial activity will be referred to Planning Department for compliance/to check compliance.

## **Types of Noise Complaints**

The types of Noise Complaints address by Carlow County Council are outlined in Table 1 below.



Table 1. Types of Noise Complaints

Category	Complaint Type	Investigating/Authorising Body	Possible Relevant Legislation/Standards
Entertainment	Bars & Nightclubs	Local Authority: noise issues arising from within the premises (e.g., loud music, loud conversation etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning &amp; Development Acts 2000, as amended [e.g., noise-related planning conditions];</li> <li>EPA Act 1992* [Section 107, 108].</li> </ul>
		An Garda Síochána: Noise issues arising outside of the premises (e.g., anti-social behaviour)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Courts (No. 2) Act 1986 [Licence Renewal];</li> <li>Intoxicating Liquor Act 2003 [Special Exemption];</li> <li>Criminal Justice (Public Order) 2003 Act [anti-social behaviour].</li> </ul>
	Concerts/Out-Door Events (including fun-fairs)	Local Authority: noise issues arising from within the venue (e.g., loud music etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning &amp; Development Acts 2000, as amended [including event planning for audiences &gt; 5000];</li> <li>EPA Act 1992* [Section 107, 108]</li> </ul>
		An Garda Síochána: Noise issues arising outside of the premises (e.g., anti-social behaviour)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intoxicating Liquor Act 2003</li> <li>Criminal Justice Act 2003 (Public Order)</li> </ul>
Transport	Road/Rail Traffic	Local Authority/Irish Rail/Transport Infrastructure Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations 2018, as amended</li> </ul>
	Roads Construction National Roads	Transport Infrastructure Ireland (formerly the National Roads Authority)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning &amp; Development Acts 2000, as amended [e.g., noise mitigation measures as per project Environmental Impact Statement].</li> </ul>
	Non-national roads	Local Authority	



Category	Complaint Type	Investigating/ Authorising Body	Possible Relevant Legislation/Standards
<b>Commercial Activities</b>	Construction & Demolition	Local Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning &amp; Development Acts 2000, as amended [e.g., noise-related planning conditions];</li> <li>• EPA Act 1992.*</li> </ul>
	Quarries and Mines	Local Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning &amp; Development Acts 2000, as amended [e.g., noise-related conditions applied under Section 261 or by planning condition];</li> <li>• EPA Act 1992.*</li> </ul>
	Wind Turbines	Local Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning &amp; Development Acts 2000, as amended [e.g., noise-related planning conditions];</li> <li>• EPA Act 1992.*</li> </ul>
	Waste Processing/ Collection	Local Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste Management (Collection Permit) Regulations [authorisation of waste collection activities] 2007;</li> <li>• Waste Management Regulations [authorisation of certain waste facilities] 2004 (Facility Permit &amp; Registration) and subsequent amendments;</li> <li>• EPA Act 1992.*</li> <li>• Planning &amp; Development Acts 2000, as amended [e.g., noise-related planning conditions];</li> </ul>
	Cooling systems, air extraction systems, generators	Local Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste Management (Licencing) Regulations [authorisation of licensable waste facilities].</li> </ul>
	Industrial process noise	Local Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning &amp; Development Acts 2000, as amended [e.g., noise-related planning conditions];</li> <li>• EPA Act 1992* [Section 107, 108]</li> </ul>
	Mobile units (e.g., mobile generators etc.)	Local Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning &amp; Development Acts 2000, as amended [e.g., noise-related planning conditions];</li> <li>• EPA Act 1992* [Section 107, 108].</li> </ul>
	Retail deliveries	Local Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EPA Acts [IPC or IED licenced facilities].</li> <li>• EPA Act 1992* [Section 107, 108];</li> <li>• Casual Trading Licences;</li> <li>• Local Authority Bye-Laws.</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning &amp; Development Acts 2000, as amended [e.g.,</li> </ul>



Category	Complaint Type	Investigating/ Authorising Body	Possible Relevant Legislation/Standards
Domestic*	General domestic noise, house-parties, internal noise in multiple-residence units	Local Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>noise-related planning conditions); EPA Act 1992* [Section 107, 108].</li> <li>EPA Act 1992* [Section 107, 108];</li> <li>Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014 [Local Authority Housing Tenancy Agreement – for issues relating to local authority housing tenants];</li> <li>Building Regulations [Part E : Sound] 1997 to 2007 (for issues relating to sound transmission resulting from sub-standard housing construction)</li> </ul>
Other	Private Residential Tenancies Board (PRTB)	Private Residential Tenancies Board (PRTB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residential Tenancy Acts [3<sup>rd</sup> Party Dispute Application – for issues relating to private rental housing tenants].</li> </ul>
	Anti-social Behaviour	An Garda Síochána: (e.g., anti-social behaviour).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act 2003;</li> <li>Criminal Justice Act [Anti-Social Behaviour Order].</li> </ul>
	Barking Dogs	Local Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Criminal Justice Act [Anti-Social Behaviour Order].</li> <li>Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act 2003 ;</li> <li>Control of Dogs Act 1986.</li> </ul>
	Security Alarms	Local Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPA Act 1992* [Section 107, 108].</li> </ul>
	Crow Bangers	Local Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPA Act 1992* [Section 107, 108].</li> </ul>
	Noise experienced at Work	Health & Safety Authority (HSA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General Applications Regulations 2007 (Chapter 1 of Part 5: Control of Noise at Work).</li> </ul>
	Faulty/modified vehicle exhausts	An Garda Síochána	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Road Traffic (Construction, Equipment &amp; Use of Vehicles) Regulations.</li> </ul>



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*Those statutes above marked with an \* relate to situations where Carlow County Council may decide not to pursue enforcement action in relation to private noise nuisance complaints, however, any person(s) affected may consider taking court action themselves as provided for under this legislation.*

### **Noise Action Plan**

Carlow County Council has developed a Noise Action Plan in accordance with the requirements of EU Directive 2002/49/EC (known as the Environmental Noise Directive, or "END"). The Directive applies to noise from transport, road traffic, rail traffic, air traffic, and from sites of industrial activity and complaints relating to this are referred to the Roads Department.



**Appendix A**

**District Court Noise Form of Notice**



AN CHÚIRT DÚICHE



THE DISTRICT COURT

District Court No 22

District Court Area *Carlow*

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ACT, 1992**

Notice pursuant to section 108(3) of the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992 of intention to make a complaint to the District Court in relation to noise giving reasonable cause for annoyance.

Complainant \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

Defendant \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS the above-named complainant alleges that the above-named defendant is the \*person,  
\*body making, causing or responsible for the following noise namely

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

at \_\_\_\_\_ in District Court District No. 22 and District Court area of *Carlow* which noise is so loud/so continuous/so repeated/of such duration or pitch/occurring at such times as to give reasonable cause for annoyance to

\*the complainant,

\*a person in any premises in the neighbourhood,

\*a person lawfully using a public place,

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the defendant that the complainant intends to make a complaint pursuant to section 108(1) of the above Act to a sitting of the District Court for the said court area and district to be held at {Insert district court no. or location }

On the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m., being a date not earlier than 7 days from the date of this notice, and to seek an order pursuant to that section in relation to the said noise.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Complainant

To \_\_\_\_\_  
of \_\_\_\_\_

\*delete as appropriate





## Appendix – Background Information

The following information can also be considered when preparing the Noise Action Plan (NAP) progress report and where appropriate covered in the LA progress report on action plans

- The NAP assessment and identification of items for reporting in the progress report should be undertaken by the local authority through a collaborative approach that could for example include liaison with teams from across various departments, such as:
  - Transport, Traffic and Road Maintenance for input on completed, existing, proposed and feasible noise mitigation measures.
  - Environment Directorate with knowledge of noise and transport complaints.
  - Climate Action and Air Teams for input on any transport measures that may have synergies with noise abatement.
  - Public Health and the Planning Directorate, particularly about designation of any Quiet Areas.
  - GIS team for working with mapping results and analysis.
  - Contact local authority colleagues who have experience of previous NAPs.
- The Action Planning Authorities (APAs) should liaise and consult with the relevant noise mapping bodies, for example TII & Irish Rail, on collating updates on relevant noise mitigation measures undertaken and areas being considered for detailed noise assessment.
- Where the local authority can demonstrate that a fully costed noise mitigation proposal has been submitted to a noise mapping body (i.e. TII or Irish Rail) for consideration, but that no funding for such a project has been provided to date, then the achievement of this stage in the process will still be considered as making progress towards mitigation measures. This will be considered when assessing the NAP progress report, as it is acknowledged that funding for major roads can be outside the remit of the LA in many cases.
- Provide updates on any actions for your local authority around the most cost-effective noise mitigation measures identified for road traffic noise including for example road resurfacing and low noise road surfaces; speed restriction or speed limit reductions; roadside noise barriers; traffic management or traffic re-routing; car-free zones; HGV-free zones; dwelling façade insulation, either new build or retrofit; and planning new developments with quiet facades.
- Consider and briefly report other synergies within the local authority area that support the Noise Action plan e.g., existing roads projects, active travel, speed limit reductions, climate change initiatives/projects, green and blue spaces.
- Consider previous NAP progress reports prepared by the local authority and the latest EPA report on the annual NAP progress covering 2023, which provides a summary of actions and progress across local authorities<sup>9</sup>.
- Consult other useful background documents that could for example include LA Development Plan, Local Area Plans, Transport Strategies, Climate Action Plans, Air Quality Action Plans etc. Provide updates on any progress in these areas that is relevant to the noise action plan and END.
- Include any actions and measures taken by the local authority to highlight noise as a health issue. Environmental Noise is the second biggest environmental cause of health problems in the EU, after air pollution (fine particulate matter), according to the World Health Organisation.

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<sup>9</sup> [Summary Review of Noise Action Plan Annual Reports for 2023](#)

The **Local Authority Performance Framework (LAPF)** for Environmental Enforcement includes the Environmental Noise Directive Activities (ENDs). Specifically, it includes noise mapping and action plan progress as appropriate.

The main noise related activities for focus in 2024 were:

- Demonstrate progress on the actions identified within Noise Action Plans (for Round 3 NAP early in the year and for Round 4 NAP after July, where appropriate) and include updates in the Noise Action Plan Progress Report to be submitted to the EPA by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025.
- Deliver the Round 5 Noise Action Plan requirements as set out in the European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations of 2018, as amended by the 2021 noise regulations.
- Provide public access via the local authority website to your Round 4 Noise Action Plans, and links to the Round 4 Strategic Noise Maps available on the EPA website.

The overall objective that this work on noise is geared towards the objective and outcome that is outlined in the table below.

National Enforcement Priority (2025-2027)	Objective (2025-2027)	Outcome (2025-2027)
Environmental Noise Directive (ENDs)	Reduce the share of people chronically disturbed by transport noise as well as preserve environmental noise quality where it is good.	Strategic management of environmental noise.

Some further details on National Enforcement Priorities are available on the NIECE website at [RMCEI Event Presentations](#)

#### LAPF Air and Noise National Enforcement Priorities

The Air & Noise thematic area will be assessed under each of its stated National Enforcement Priority (NEP) areas.

The following section illustrates what are considered to be good examples of addressing these priority areas in relation to environmental noise for the 2024 return to the EPA.

#### Environmental Noise Directive Activities (ENDs)

National Enforcement Priority progress in this area should address the two items listed below.

- Compliance with the Noise Regulations shall include providing public access via the local authority website to your Round 4 Noise Action Plans, and links to the Round 4 Strategic Noise Maps available on the EPA website
- Submission of the local authority Noise Action Plan (NAP) Progress Report for 2025.

With regard to reporting on the Annual Noise Action Plan (NAP) Progress Report, local authorities are not required to provide a summary of their plans in the NEP Progress Reports but are requested to confirm that they will be submitting their NAP Progress Report to the **Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring in the EPA** by the required date. The assessment of the progress outlined in the Annual NAP Progress Report submitted to the EPA, as well as its subsequent review, shall then be used by the EPA to input into the performance framework.

