

Proposed Bus Gate - Bun a Chnoic / Cnoc an Óir

Public Consultation Report

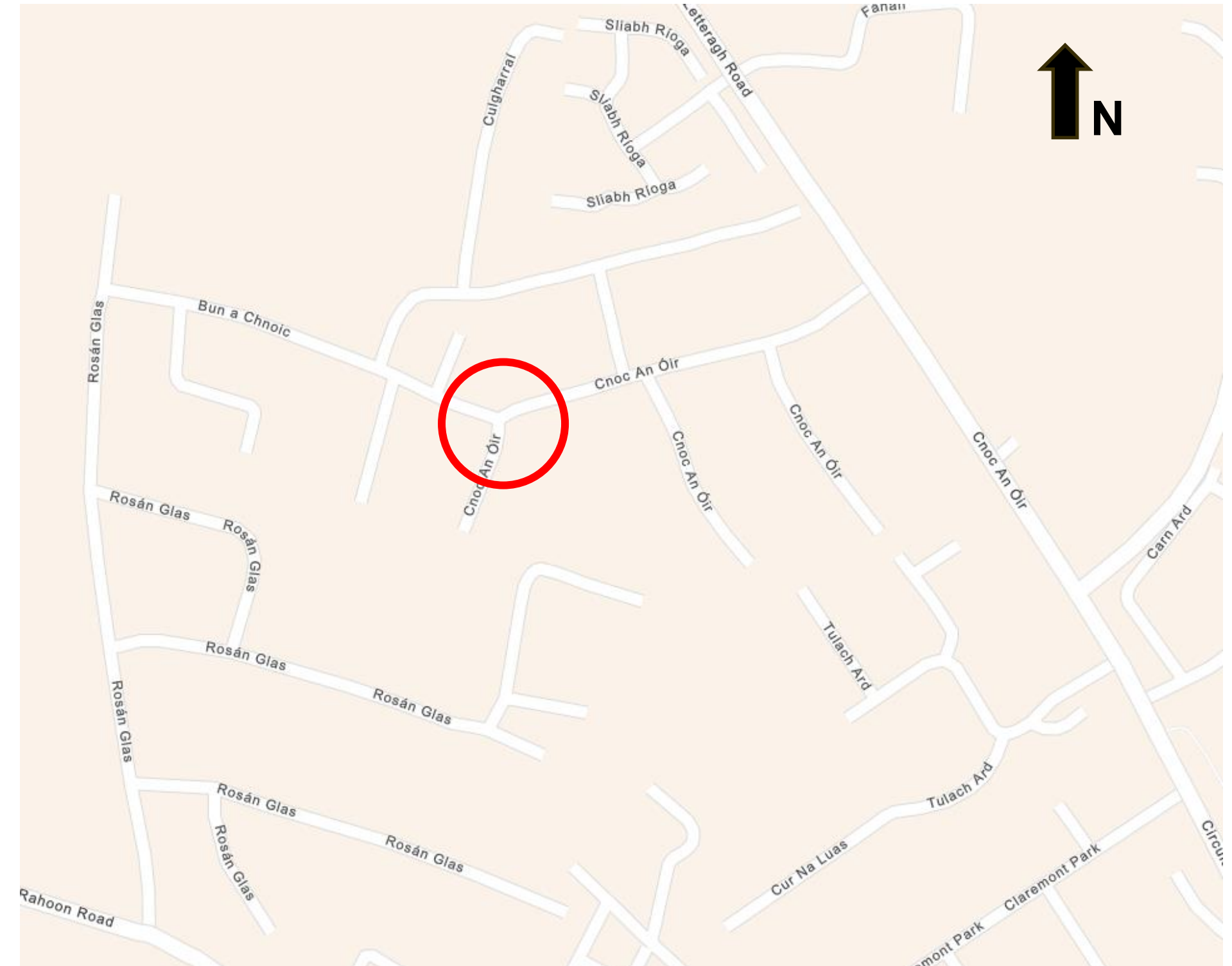
January 2026



Public Consultation – A Recap

As part of the rollout of the redesigned Galway City Bus Network, Galway City Council and the National Transport Authority had proposed the construction of a **bus gate** to facilitate connections for buses **between Bun a Chnoic and Cnoc an Óir**.

Galway City Council conducted a non-statutory public consultation exercise in November and December 2025, when this project was at an early stage – no design works have been conducted.



Public Consultation – A Recap

Following an information event for Councillors in the Central Ward, held on November 6, 2025, the consultation was launched, and feedback was sought from the public.

The proposal was promoted via:

- www.GalwayCity.ie
- GCC Social Media
- Leaflet drop to homes in the local area
- Posters erected in the locality
- Galway City Council's Active Travel and Sustainable Transport Newsletter.

Proposed Bus Gate – Bun a Chnoic / Cnoc an Óir

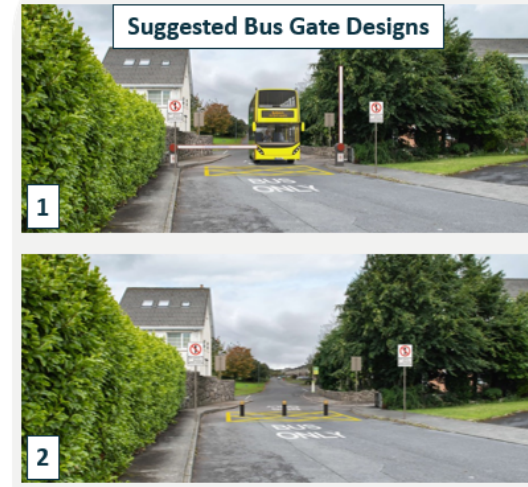
Dear Resident

Galway City Council is seeking to carry out works in Bun a Chnoic and Cnoc an Óir in order to facilitate the expansion of the Galway City Bus Network to this area. This would entail the removal of an existing planter, and replacing it with a bus gate which would allow buses to travel between both estates. The new bus gate would not allow cars to pass through, but could be designed to allow access for walkers, wheelers and cyclists and emergency services. This proposed project will be funded by the National Transport Authority, and will allow for the expansion of the city's Bus Network, which is due from 2027. We want to hear your views on this proposal before progressing the project.

Important points to note

- Constructing this bus gate would connect hundreds more people to the new bus network, offering a convenient service to the apx. 1,200 people living near here.
- These plans are in their early stages. No design works have been carried out.
- The bus gate will prevent cars from travelling directly between both estates. Walkers, wheelers and cyclists may be accommodated, along with emergency services.
- If the bus gate is not built, the proposed new bus route will bypass this area and hundreds of people would have to travel further to get to their nearest stop.
- **We want to hear your views** on this proposal, in order to inform the next steps of this proposal.

Suggested Bus Gate Designs



No design works have been carried out on the proposed bus gate. Proposals could include:

1. A barrier which would lift to allow bus access only; or
2. Retractable bollards, which would descend when buses approach.

Other options may be considered. The final design will be informed by public feedback from this exercise, and would be subject to a future planning application.

Galway City Council's post


Galway City Council
26 November at 07:00 · 🌐



A Drop-In Public Information Event concerning the proposal for a Bus Gate to connect Bun a Chnoic and Cnoc an Óir takes place at The Clybaun Hotel tonight, Wednesday 26 November from 4pm – 7pm.

The works would entail the removal of an existing planter and replacing it with a bus gate, which would allow buses to travel between both estates. The new bus gate would not allow cars to pass through, but could be designed to allow access for walkers, wheelers and cyclists. The proposed would facilitate the redesign of the Galway City Bus Network, which is due to be implemented from 2027, and bring bus services closer to hundreds of people living near Bun a Chnoic and Cnoc an Óir, including those living along Letteragh Road.

We want to hear your views on this proposal. Further information is available, and you can have your say, by logging onto <https://consult.galwaycity.ie/en/browse> or by emailing ActiveTravel@GalwayCity.ie

The deadline for responses is Friday 5 December.

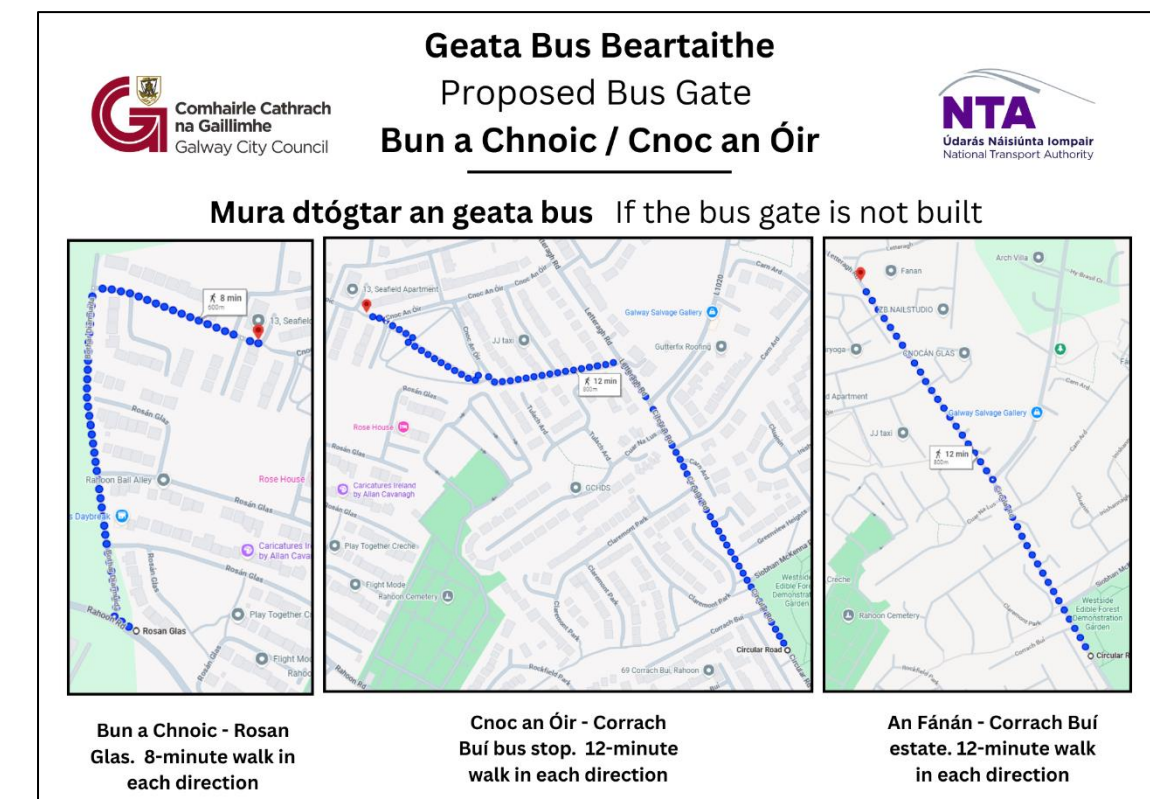
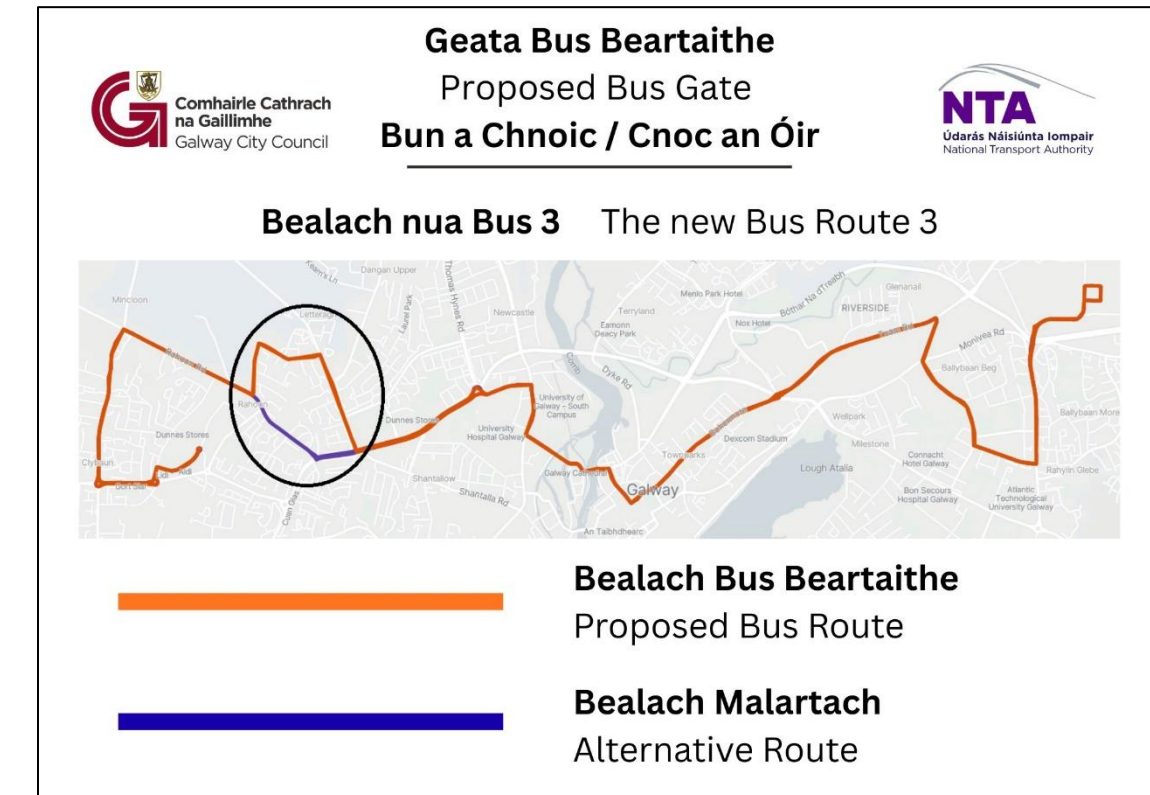


Public Consultation – Drop-in Public Event

A drop-in public engagement event was held regarding this project on November 26. In advance, this event was publicised via a local leaflet drop, on posters erected in the area, via local media and via GCC's website and social media channels.

The event took place at The Clybaun Hotel from 4pm to 7pm and was attended by approximately 40 people. A wide range of issues and questions were raised by attendees, largely mirroring the responses received through public submissions.



*Some of the information materials
 prepared for the event*

Feedback Received

Respondents were invited to give feedback via post, email, or via an online consultation portal which was established at consult.galwaycity.ie

67 responses were received prior to the deadline of December 5, 2025 – 62 of these came via the portal.

Those responding via the portal were invited to give responses on three themes:

- The proposal for the bus gate
- Bus services generally
- Any other comments.

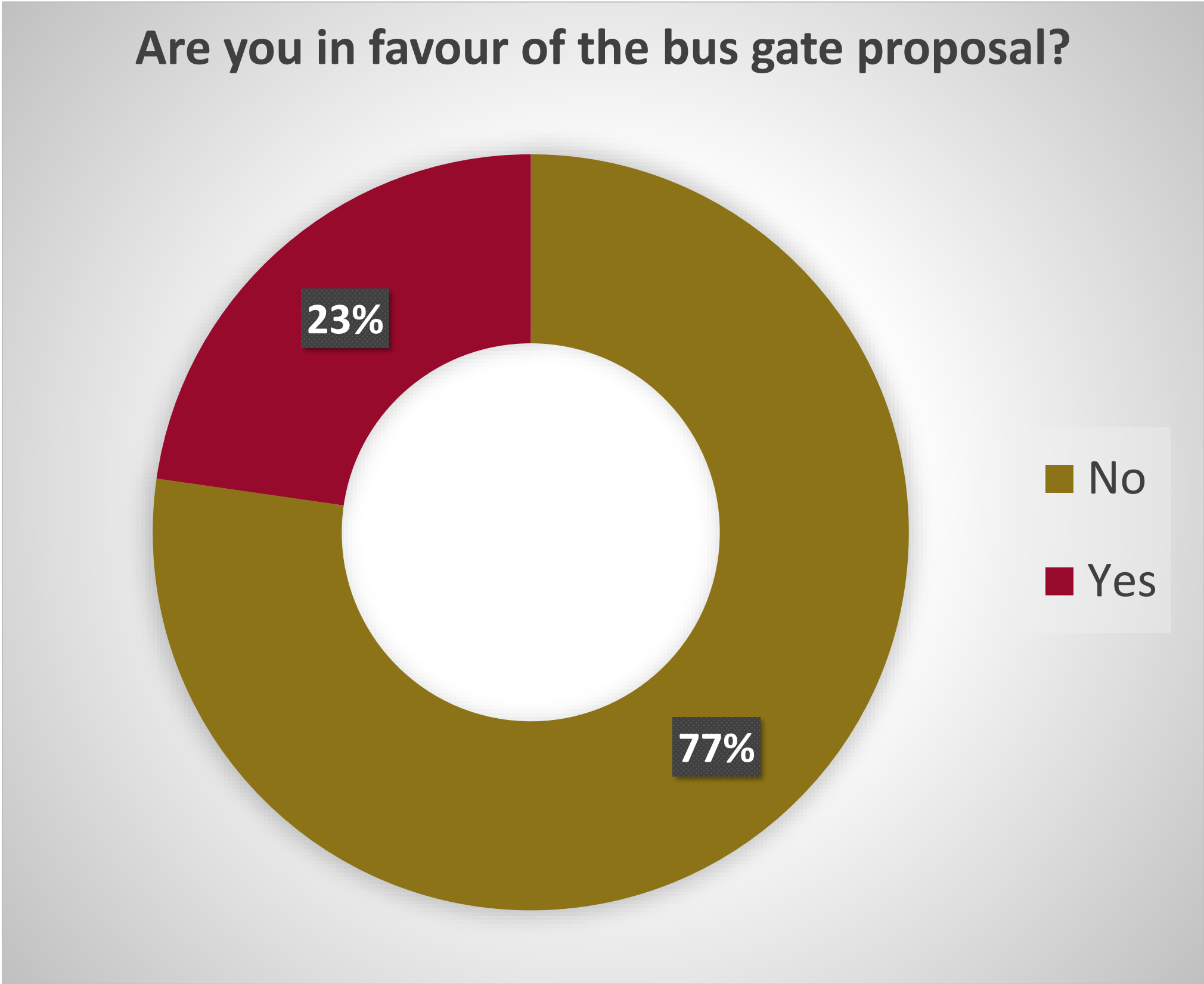


The Bus Gate – Feedback Received

The majority of responses received **opposed** the proposal to construct a bus gate.

Many of those who rejected this proposal indicated that they are living in Bun a Chnoic / Cnoc an Óir.

66 of the 67 responses received addressed this question. 51 of those opposed the suggested development.



The Proposed Bus Gate – Negative Feedback

Arguments **against** the Bus Gate proposal include:

- Safety concerns for residents, especially children
- The roadway is too narrow. How would a bus and e.g. a bin truck pass? Cars also currently park on the road.
- The buses will create noise and vibrations and will impinge upon privacy.
- This will give rise to anti-social behaviour and open the estates up to scrambler bikes
- The proposal will negatively impact on the current atmosphere of the estates, and on property values
- Residents have not been adequately consulted, and/or residents were consulted previously (2023) and this was rejected at that time.
- The bus services would be too frequent, and run too early in the morning
- The bollards / barrier would make noise. If/when they fail, who will maintain them? If there is a long-term problem with the bus gate, this will make the estates into a rat run for cars.
- The entrances/exits of the estates are too tight to accommodate large buses / there are visibility issues here.
- The bus should take a different route, via an extended Bóthar Diarmuida (***note - more to follow***)

The Proposed Bus Gate – Positive Feedback

Those who **advocated for** the bus gate proposal stated:

- Running buses through estates is common elsewhere in Galway and Ireland.
- The proposal will help people who currently have to navigate the hill on Letteragh/Circular Road.
- Allowing access for walkers, wheelers and cyclists would create a safer, more pleasant environment.
- Some support the bus gate as an interim measure, until Bothar Diarmuida is extended.

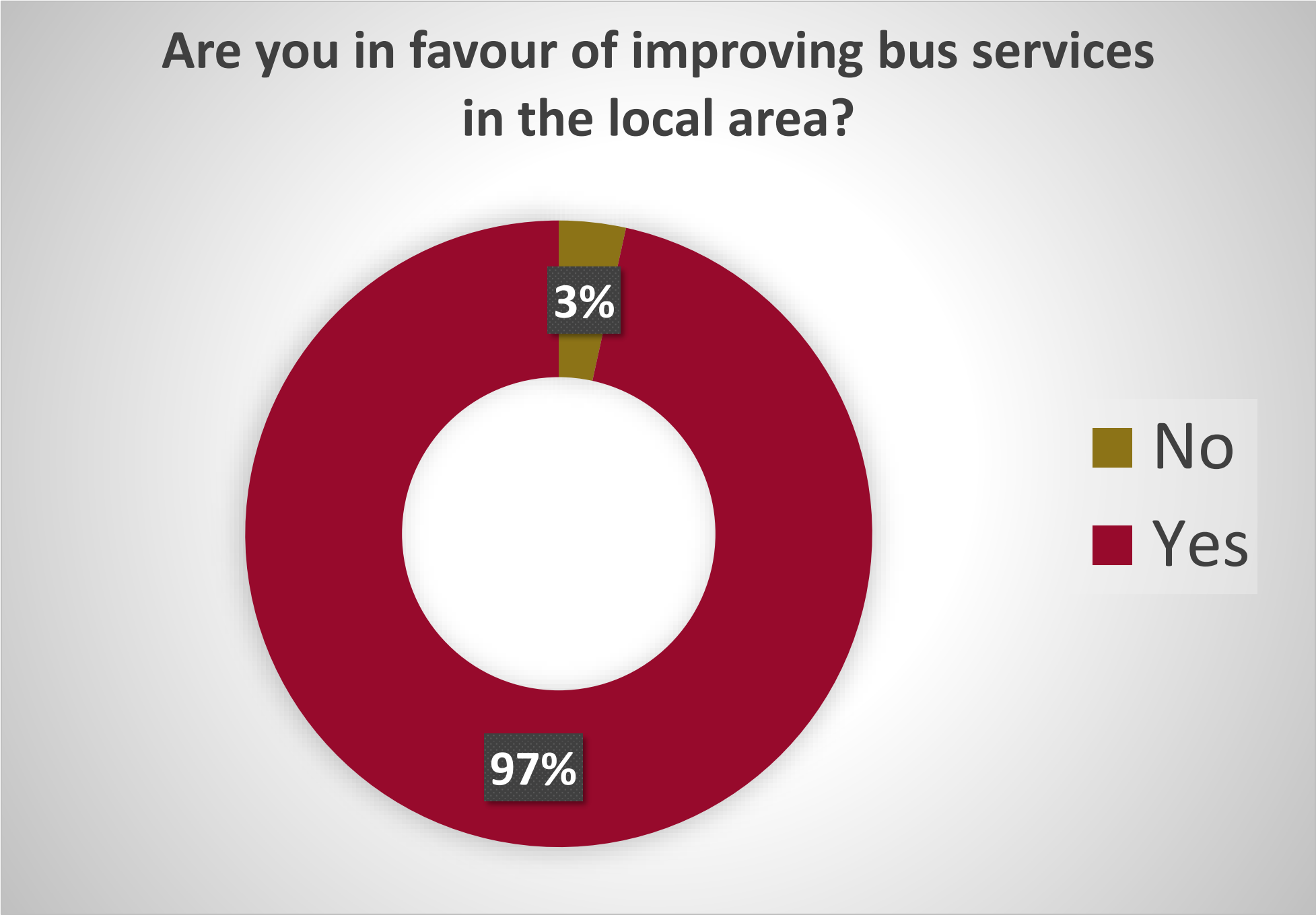
Some respondents called for walking and cycling infrastructure on Letteragh Road to be enhanced. Others sought hedges to act as noise barriers for homes and residential areas along the road.

Respondents who gave opinions on the design of the bus gate unanimously preferred the use of bollards instead of a barrier(s).

Bus Services – Feedback Received

There was overwhelming support for the general idea of expanding bus services in this area, despite the opposition seen against the bus gate proposal.

58 of the 67 total responses received addressed bus services generally. 97% of those (56 responses) indicated some level of support for enhanced bus services in this area, generally, even while (in many cases) opposing the proposed routing of buses through Bun a Chnoic / Cnoc an Óir.



Feedback from Councillors

On December 18, 2025 GCC invited Councillors from the Central Ward to an informal briefing, at which we outlined provisional results from this survey and invited them to contribute their feedback.

Some Councillors present echoed the feedback from the public, and shared the concerns of residents.

Other feedback / questions received, included:

- Would the NTA consider running smaller buses on some routes? This may reduce concerns (e.g. safety) for those living in some residential areas.
- It was also suggested that, if the project does go ahead, that both bollards and a barrier be installed so that one can act as a failsafe for the other.

Alternative Route – Bóthar Diarmuida

A large number of responses included a suggestion that, instead of travelling through Bun a Chnoic and Cnoc an Óir, buses be routed along an extended Bothar Diarmuida (the **blue line** on the image). An extension of Bóthar Diarmuida is included in the planned Galway City Ring Road, which is currently under planning consideration.

They stated that this would serve more homes in this expanding area, while preserving the character of both estates.

An alternative suggestion of routing the buses behind Bun a Chnoic (the **red line**), was also put forward.

Note – While not shown in this image, some construction has been carried out in this area as part of the ongoing An Tobar development.



Bothar Diarmuida – GCRR Project Plans

This image gives a more detailed view of the future plans for Bóthar Diarmuida as part of the N6 Galway City Ring Road (GCRR) project.



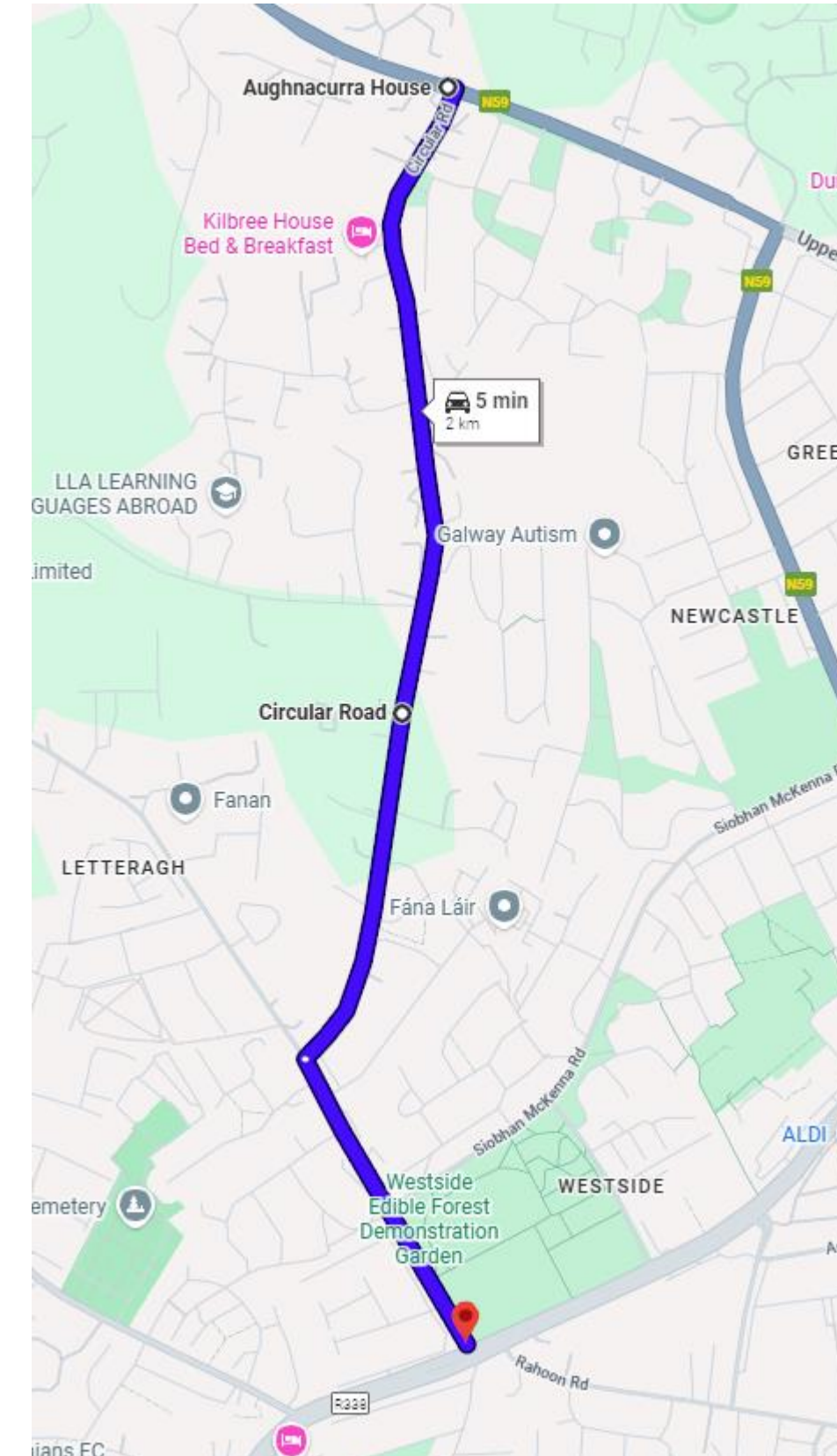
Alternative Routes – Circular Road

During the consultation with Councillors, a suggestion was also made to utilise Circular Road in the new bus network, notwithstanding challenges that exist with the width of the existing road.

In a forthcoming variation of the Galway City Development Plan, it is intended to zone sufficient land for **800+ homes** accessing onto Circular Road. GCC anticipates that planning applications on these lands will be lodged in 2026, and expect construction to commence on site in 2027.

This is in addition to the recently commenced apx. 200 units in this area.

This will include development-led footpath enhancements and servicing. GCC's Roads Department has also identified both Letteragh and Circular Roads as future multi-modal corridor routes.



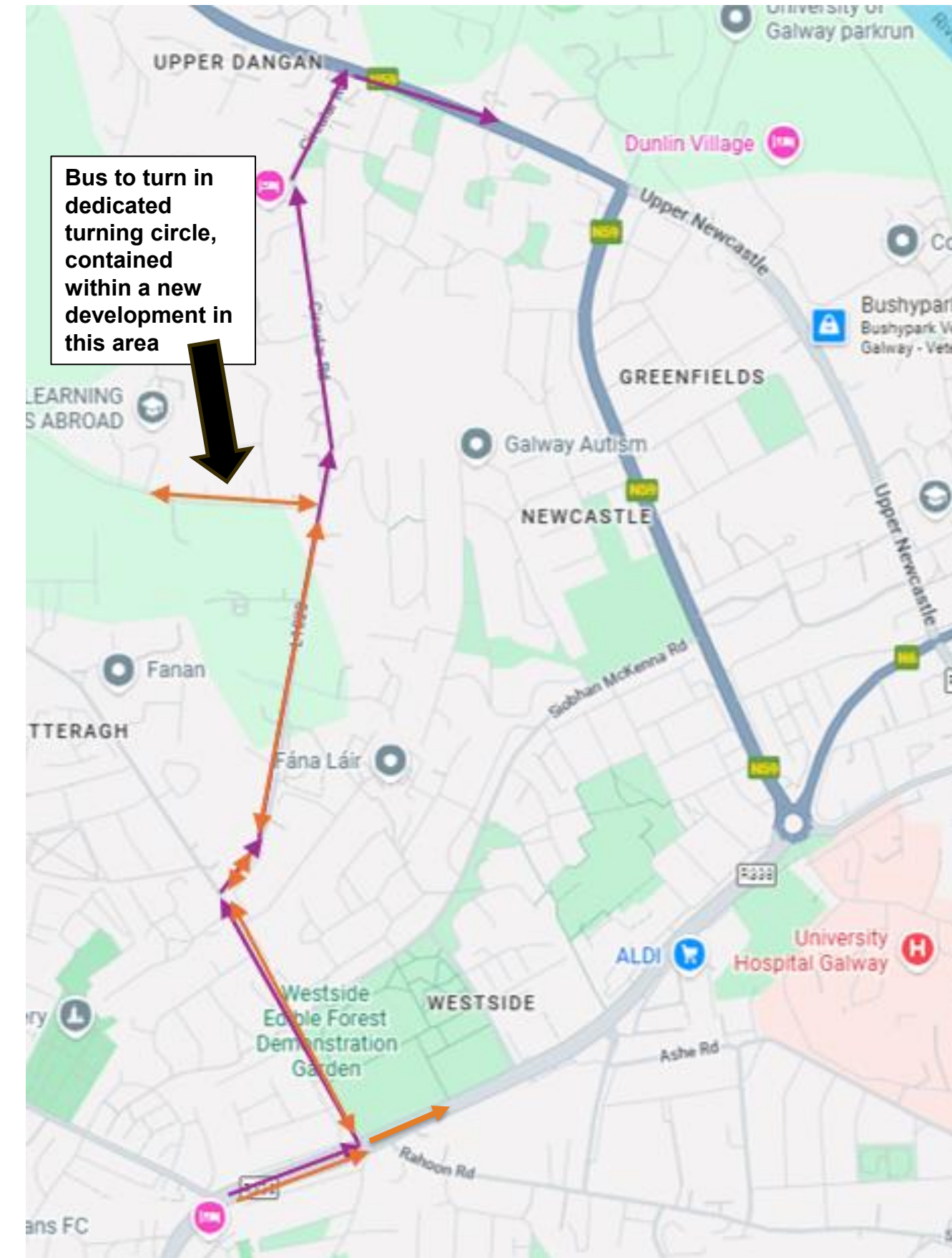
Alternative Routes – Circular Road (cont'd)

It has been suggested that one of two route options be considered. In both, the bus would turn left off of Bishop O'Donnell Road and towards Circular Road.

Following this:

- 1) Per the **purple line** on the map opposite, the bus could travel the length of Circular Road, and then travel along the N59 towards Upper Newcastle Road, Eyre Square etc.
- 2) Per the **orange line**, the bus could travel apx. halfway up Circular Road, turn at a future, dedicated bus turning area which would be contained within a new development, and then return to the remainder of Route 3.

This area could be considered for servicing by the redesigned Galway Bus Network at this stage as it will coincide with the occupation of this large-scale residential developments.



Ends

