

## **N56 Coolboy to Kilmacrennan Road Scheme** **Public Art Project**



### **Permanent Artwork with Engagement**

**Stage 1: Briefing Document & Application**  
**Deadline: 4pm on Monday, July 13, 2020.**

## **1. Commission / Nature of the Work**

This public art commission is funded by the TII as part of the N56 Coolboy to Kilmacrennan Road Scheme. As detailed in the Further Information, appended to the end of this brief, Kilmacrennan and its environs have a strong connection with St. Colmcille. The commissioners request that the central theme of this Art Project is focussed on St. Colmcille, in order to commemorate the 1,500th anniversary of his birth in 2021. The work might link the various narratives linking St. Colmcille to the area and its environs and his relevance today, both locally and beyond.

The brief asks the artist/s to note the following:

- The artwork should be sculptural and permanent in nature. The constituent materials of the artwork will need to be of a robust nature and capable of withstanding the prevalent weather conditions which characterise the site's exposed location. It should be relatively maintenance free.
- The commissioners would like for there to be some engagement with local National School pupils (Scoil Naomh Choilmcille in Kilmacrennan and Scoil Naomh Fiachra in Illistrin) during the process. The commissioners would like to consider suggestions from the artist on what form this student engagement will take, but examples might include;
  - an artist talk or presentation;
  - a remote studio visit/tour;
  - a student workshop which may or may not have an input into the creative process;
  - students attending or being involved in the official opening ceremony; or
  - another suitable suggestion from the artist.
- A commitment to Health and Safety policy is essential.

The following information is appended to the end of this Stage 1 Brief to assist the artist:

1. Application Form
2. Site Location Map
3. Proposed Locations for Arts Installations (1 location is to be selected)
4. Further Information Relating to the Brief and the N56 Road Scheme

## **2. Site Location**

The N56 Coolboy to Kilmacrennan Road Scheme is located 6km north of Letterkenny, a site location map is attached (drawing ref. 0067-DS-101-001). Three potential sites along the scheme have been identified as being suitable and are highlighted on the attached 'Proposed Locations for Art Project' map (drawing ref. 0067-DS-101-002). Photos of these proposed locations are appended below. The commissioners request that the artist consider and advise of their preferred location for the Art installation. The locations identified are suggestions; the commissioners will consider alternative locations should the artist so wish.

## **3. The Commissioning Process:**

The Commissioners will employ a Two-Stage Open Competition Process to select a suitable practitioner(s) to deliver the Commission. It is open to all interested professional artists at any stage of their career or experience. Selection will be based on the information supplied and how that establishes the competence of the artists to carry out this commission.

**i. Stage 1**

Artists are invited to express their interest in being considered for this project at the first stage of this commission.

Interested practitioners are invited to submit the following to the Commissioners:

- A. Completed application form
- B. Curriculum Vitae
- C. A brief Artist's Statement, including:
  - An outline (1 page) of the initial ideas and concepts of the how the artist proposes to engage with the commission. Drawings may be included but are not a requirement. No designs or detailed proposals are required at Stage 1.
  - Images / details of recent relevant works / projects.
  - Nominated location for the art installation.
- D. A sample selection of recently completed Public Art Commissions.

***Stage 1 - Selection Criteria***

Previous Works	50%
Outline Concept	40%
Suitability to this brief	10%

***Site Visit:***

There will be no formal site visit during Stage 1, however, should they wish to do so, all applicants are free to view the site when completing their Stage 1 application; any queries can be directed to Cian Friel, Donegal National Roads Office, T: 074 97 24500 E: [cian.friel@dnrdo.ie](mailto:cian.friel@dnrdo.ie).

Completed Stage 1 Submissions should be lodged by Email to: [cian.friel@dnrdo.ie](mailto:cian.friel@dnrdo.ie), or by Post to the below address by **4pm on Monday, July 13, 2020**.

*Donegal County Council  
C/O: Cian Friel  
Donegal National Roads Office,  
Drumlonaghar,  
Donegal Town,  
Co. Donegal.*

***Please take note of the following:***

- Submissions by fax will not be accepted.
- All materials submitted should be clearly labelled with the applicants name and contact details.
- Late submissions will not be accepted

**The closing date for receipt of Stage 1 completed application form together with supporting documentation and material is 4pm on Monday, July 13, 2020.**

## ii. Stage 2

From the completed Stage 1 applications; a shortlist of artists will be selected by panel jury. This panel, whose decision is final, has the right to clarify any issue which may arise in the course of selection.

Those successfully selected for Stage 2 will be invited to submit a more detailed submission. This will involve the provision of a Visual Representation of the proposed Artwork, a Statement by the Artist outlining their Artistic Vision behind the work, a detailed Description of the proposed work including Materials to be used, Maintenance Schedule and a detailed Project Budget and programme. The Visual Representation may be in the form of drawings, a model or maquette, computer generated images or photographs.

As part of the evaluation of Stage Two proposals, applicants may be invited to outline their proposals in the form of a presentation to the Selection Board.

For Stage Two Submissions, the Commissioners will pay the Artist a premium of €500, upon delivery of their proposal by the date and time suggested.

### ***Stage 2 - Selection Criteria***

Artistic Merit
Quality and innovation of concept
Integration of project into the Road Scheme and surroundings
Relevance to the subject of St. Colmcille as well as the historical, geographical and cultural context of the region
Demonstration of the ability to carry out the project
Time-frame and delivery terms
Value for money
Clarity and practicality of the proposal
Durability and implications for future maintenance

### ***Site Visit:***

A site visit may be arranged during the Stage 2 selection process.

## **2. Budget**

The total funding from TII for this Public Art Project is €64,000. A portion of this budget will be allocated to advertising, administration of the commission and the selection process. It is anticipated that the total budget the artist will have to manage will be approximately €60,000. The artist will be responsible for meeting all associated costs out of the total allocated budget, including but not limited to artist fees, materials, installation, and any other costs related to the artwork inclusive of VAT.

If required, Donegal County Council will assist with preparatory groundworks and / or design and construction of any foundations or plinths that may be required. However, any costs associated with such work must be covered by the allocated project budget.

### **3. Selection Panel**

The Selection Panel will consist of a senior member of Donegal National Road Design Office, the Arts Officer for Donegal County Council, at least one elected member of the Letterkenny – Milford Municipal District and an independent professional artist; and will be chaired by a senior member of Donegal County Council.

### **4. Project Delivery Timeline**

In 2018 Donegal County Council, Derry City & Strabane District Council, Foras na Gaeilge and The Heritage Council commissioned an Audit of Columban Heritage (see attached) as part of the implementation of the County Donegal Heritage Plan. This audit proposed that the Colmcille 1500 commemoration programme begin on the 7th December 2020 and end on the 7th December 2021. His feast day of 9th June 2021 represents the date of his death. As such, it is anticipated that, depending on the format of the project, it should be completed and the artwork installed during this period of commemoration, i.e. at a point to be agreed, in advance of the conclusion of the Columban celebrations in December 2021. The final timeline will be agreed and confirmed with the commissioned artist at contract stage. The artist should demonstrate their ability to fulfil this timeframe to the best of their ability.

### **5. Queries**

Applicants can make enquiries regarding the commission to Cian Friel by telephone **074 97 24500** or by email [cian.friel@dnrdo.ie](mailto:cian.friel@dnrdo.ie).

# **APPLICATION FORM**

## **N56 Coolboy to Kilmacrennan Road Scheme**

### **Public Art Project**

#### **Stage 1 – Application Form**

**Artist Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** (please note all correspondence will be sent to this address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1) Artists are asked to submit the following:**

- a. Detailed Curriculum Vitae
- b. Artist Statement including;
  - An outline (1 page) of the initial ideas and concepts of the how the artist proposes to engage with the commission. Drawings may be included, but are not a requirement. No designs or detailed proposals are required at Stage 1;
  - Details of previous relevant projects or commissions, including visuals, date, cost, time scale to deliver,
- c. Names of 2 referees and their contact details;
- d. A nominated location for the art installation.

**2) Supporting Information:**

To assist in the assessment of your application, supporting documentation should be included and should be clearly labelled on submission. Please confirm the supporting documentation and Number of Items Enclosed in the table below:

Item	Enclosed	No. of Items
CV		
CDs/DVDs / USB		
Other, please specify <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>		

**3) Please indicate your acceptance or confirmation of the following by ticking the box**

**Tax Clearance:**

Confirmation that, if successful, the artist is ready to submit a current Tax Clearance Certificate / Access Number, or an Artist Exemption Certificate and to provide required insurances.

**Freedom of information:**

Applicants completing this form should note that information provided is for a public works project and may be disclosed in response to a request made under the Freedom of Information Act (1997 and 2003).

**Garda Vetting:**

As the Commission Brief specifies a degree of engagement with children from local primary schools on the part of the commissioned artist, the successful artist will be subject to Garda vetting procedures.

**Declaration**

I have read the award conditions, agree to be bound by them, and certify that the information in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge.

**4) Declaration**

I, the applicant, in submitting this application, hereby declare all the foregoing particulars to be true. I also authorise Donegal County Council to conduct reference checks and qualification checks, as required.

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

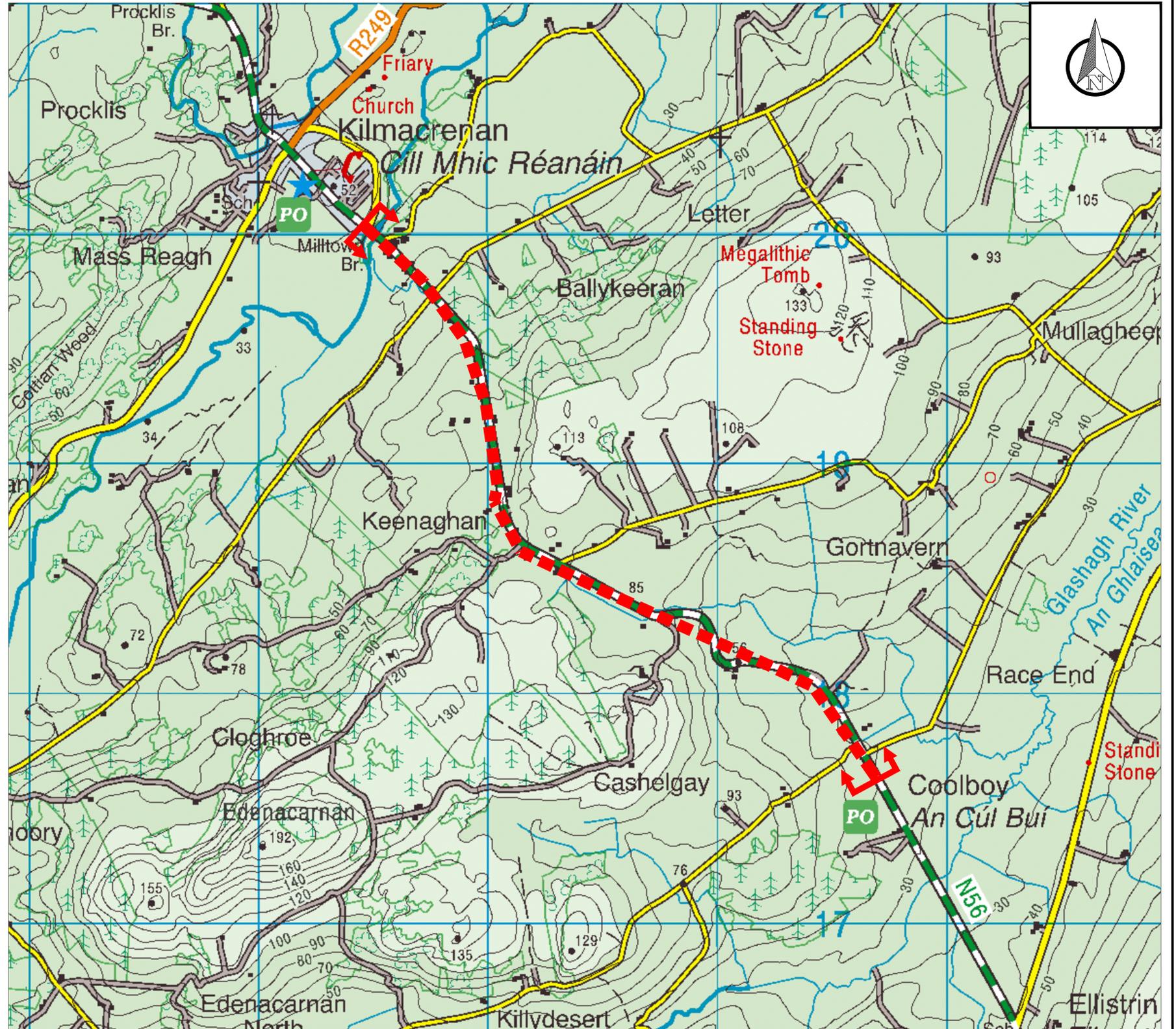
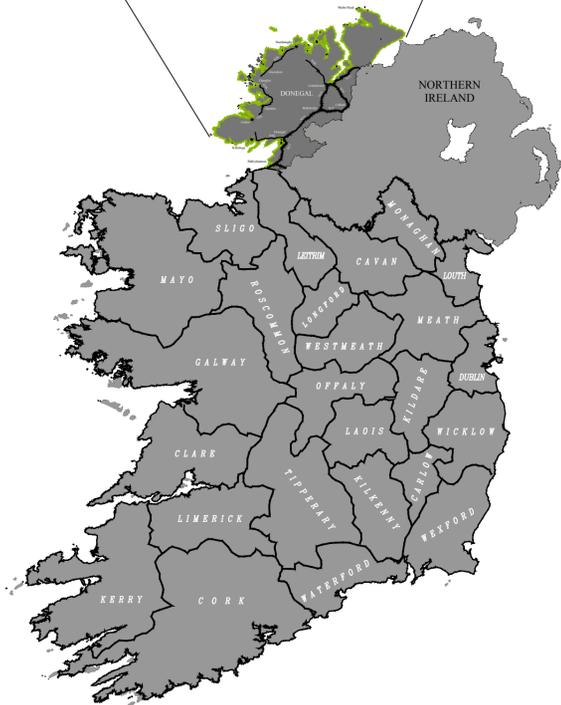
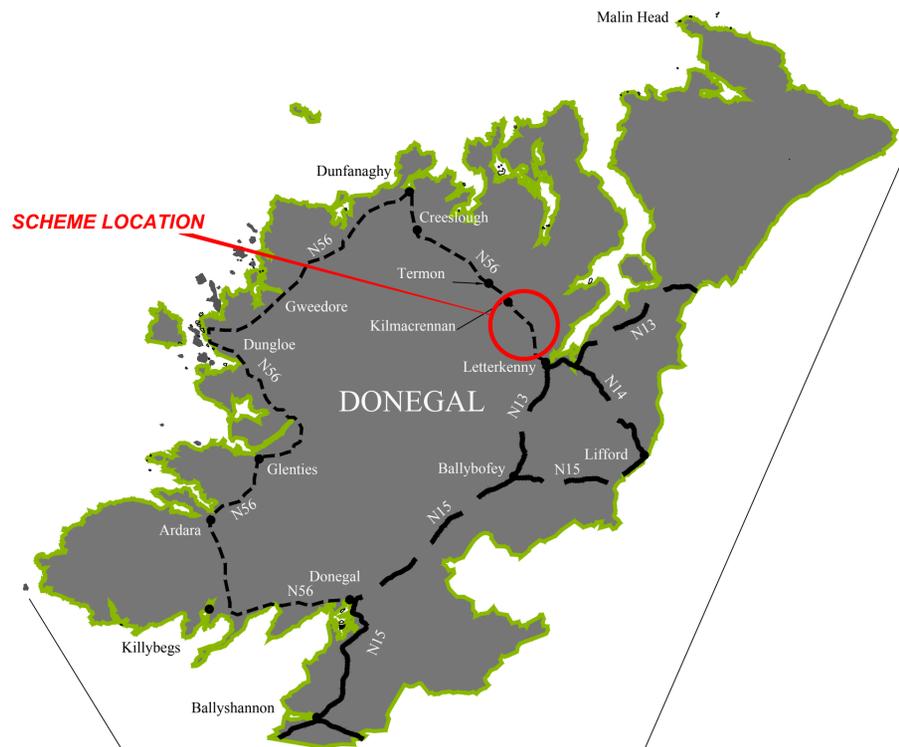
Completed Stage 1 Submissions should be lodged by Email to: [cian.friel@dnrdo.ie](mailto:cian.friel@dnrdo.ie), or by Post to the below address by **4pm on Monday 13 July, 2020**.

*Donegal County Council  
C/O Cian Friel  
Donegal National Roads Office,  
Drumlonaghar,  
Donegal Town,  
Co. Dhún na nGall.*

**Closing date** for the receipt of completed applications is **4pm on Monday 13 July, 2020**.

**Please note** that applications received after the closing date and time will not be accepted.

## **SITE LOCATION MAP**



**Scheme Extents**

Rev	By	Date	Description
DMS.LD		0067-153-A	

Filepath:	F:\N56 C-K\ARTS\N56C-K7_6_ASI\Figures
Project:	N56 Coolboy To Kilmacrennan Road Scheme
Component:	Public Art Project - Artist Brief
Title:	Project Location & Scheme Extents
Drawn:	CF
Checked:	CF
Approved:	FT
Scales:	NTS
File Name:	101 - Location Map
Date:	March 2020
Drawing No.	0067-DS-101-001
Revision:	A



## **PROPOSED LOCATIONS FOR ART INSTALLATION**

## LOCATION NO. 01





## LOCATION NO. 02



# LOCATION NO. 03



**FURTHER INFORMATION RELATING TO THE BRIEF**  
**AND THE N56 ROAD SCHEME**

## **1. Background**

The N56 Coolboy to Kilmacrennan Road Scheme is located 6 km north of Letterkenny on the N56, the key transport corridor to the North West of the County, an area which includes Glenveagh National Park, Donegal Airport and the Gaeltacht. It is the third phase of this important section of road to be completed in the last 10 years starting from the outskirts of Letterkenny (Mountaintop) and finishing in Kilmacrennan.

The project was fully opened to the public in May 2019, with the official opening ceremony taking place in October 2019.

The new scheme is a 3.1km realignment and upgrade of the existing N56 to a Type 2 Single Carriageway, a 7.0m carriageway with hard strips and verges. Included in the works is a 2.0m wide shared footway/cycle track on both sides of the new road which caters for all vulnerable road users, cyclists and pedestrians. This shared footway/cycle track has been extended southwards as far as Illistrin as part of this scheme with a further extension as far as the Mountaintop in Letterkenny under consideration.

The project also included significant and important water infrastructure improvement works which required a collaborative approach with Irish Water in order to complete these works on their behalf as part of the road scheme.

Pre-scheme, this section of the N56 was sub-standard and was characterised by a poor vertical and horizontal alignment; a narrow carriageway cross section without verges; a number of poorly aligned junctions; and multiple accesses and entrances. The completed scheme is a significant enhancement of this section of the N56 and is a major improvement to the free and safe flow of traffic.

## **2. Donegal County Development Plan**

The strategic importance of this scheme is reflected in the County Donegal Development Plan 2018-2024. The Core Strategy of which is to set the coordinated framework within the County to deliver a connected place, enable economic growth, facilitate measures to deliver on high quality of life, guide population growth within an appropriate settlement structure and to cooperate effectively within the regional context.

A high quality and sustainable transport network is a crucial element in driving growth and development across all areas of social, environmental and economic development. The transportation network is particularly fundamental in attracting investment, developing the tourism industry, addressing climate change and in creating sustainable places and communities. The Donegal County Development Plan sets out a Transportation Strategy which is inextricably linked to, and derived from, the Core Strategy of the Plan. The implementation of the Core Strategy is in part dependant on the key transportation links around the County, at a strategic level.

The development of road schemes such as this assist in achieving a large number of the strategic objectives as set out in the Development Plan, particularly in:

- Providing high quality connectivity within and throughout the County for the local population to live, socialise and work as well as for economic, commercial and tourism development;
- Delivering optimum accessibility and ease of movement;
- Safeguarding the carrying capacity and safety of National Roads;
- Supporting access to and appropriate development of ports and airports (Donegal International Airport); and
- Supporting the development of new walkways, walking routes, trails, greenways and cycleways that maximise the potential for local, regional and all-island walking and cycling networks.

In terms of Tourism, the N56 aligns significantly with the Wild Atlantic Way tourism corridor. Furthermore, the County Development Plan has highlighted Illistrin to Kilmacrennan as a potential greenway development. This scheme has developed a 2.0m wide shared footway/cycle track between Kilmacrennan and Illistrin, with an extension as far as the Mountaintop currently under consideration.

To this end, improvement works such as this, to Donegal's national road network are of significant benefit and value to all those directly impacted and to the local communities through which they run. They are also of significant importance to the county, with benefits including improving safety, connectivity, access to, and within the north west, and social inclusion as well as providing clear economic and environmental benefits.

### **3. Saint Colmcille**

St. Colmcille (also known as Columba) was born in Gartan, County Donegal in 520 (or 521). By the time of his death on Iona on the 9th June 593 AD, St. Colmcille had become a key figure in the Christianisation of Ireland and Northern Britain, and had founded Monasteries across Ireland and Scotland, including on Iona. The Feast day of St. Colmcille is June 9th.

St. Colmcille is one of Ireland's three patron saints along with St. Patrick and St. Brigid. Few figures in Irish history have had such a lasting legacy and his memory has been kept alive for nearly 1500 years. The diverse ways in which he has been celebrated are testament to his polymathic nature – he was renowned not only for his spirituality and piety, but also for his love of music and poetry, literature and nature. Today he is still celebrated through a panoply of creative events, from storytelling, tours, pilgrimages, musical recitals, poetry and sculpture and historical and theological debate. There are numerous heritage sites in County Donegal associated with his life and many more that are dedicated to him.

In 2018, Donegal County Council and Derry City & Strabane District Council in partnership with Foras na Gaeilge and The Heritage Council commissioned an Audit of Columban Cultural Heritage as part of the implementation of the County Donegal Heritage Plan. The audit, undertaken by Abarta Heritage, sets out key heritage sites, places, objects and archives associated with St. Colmcille and provides suggestions for the 1,500<sup>th</sup> commemoration of his birth in 2021 based on consultations with a variety of stakeholders. The Audit of Columban Cultural Heritage can be consulted on-line at:

[www.donegalcoco.ie/media/donegalcountyc/heritage/pdfs/AUDIT%20OF%20COLUMBAN%20HERITAGE%20Mid%20res.pdf](http://www.donegalcoco.ie/media/donegalcountyc/heritage/pdfs/AUDIT%20OF%20COLUMBAN%20HERITAGE%20Mid%20res.pdf)

St. Colmcille's influence and legacy is still apparent today both locally, nationally and internationally. In these days where unfortunate divisions are beginning to reappear, St. Colmcille can be viewed as a talismanic figure that unites communities and faiths. He connects Ireland to Scotland and Northern Britain. St. Colmcille's legacy covers spirituality and devotion, arts and literature, music and storytelling. He is an internationally renowned figure that appeals across communities and that is deserving of celebration and commemoration. It is intended that this arts project will commemorate of the 1,500th anniversary of the birth of St. Colmcille which will take place in 2021 and will contribute to the cross-border commemoration programme planned by Donegal County Council and Derry City & Strabane District Council. The Colmcille 1500th commemorations will run from December 7, 2020 to December 7, 2021.

There is a strong connection between St. Colmcille and Donegal, particularly Kilmacrennan and its environs. This N56 Coolboy to Kilmacrennan Road Scheme is located in close proximity and/or provides access to a number of important Columban heritage sites that are also designated as archaeological monuments and protected under the National Monuments Acts, namely:

- Gartan (DG044-017----);
- Leac na Cumha / Lacknacoo (DG044-021----);
- Templedouglass (DG052-019----);
- Doon Well (DG044-016----); and
- Tory Island (DG006-001---- & DG006-002----).

### ***Gartan***

It is said that St. Colmcille was born and raised in the environs of Gartan. One important local tradition concerns Gartan Clay which is said to protect anyone who carries it from death by fire or drowning. In more recent years, the St. Colmcille Heritage Centre was established to interpret the story of St. Colmcille to visitors.

### ***Leac na Cumha / Lacknacoo***

The flagstone at Lacknacoo is reputedly one of the places where St. Colmcille's mother Eithne given birth to him although now it is generally accepted that Rath Cnó / Churchtown is the birthplace of St. Colmcille. St. Colmcille's association with the flagstone is further deepened through the legend that St. Colmcille blessed this flagstone, and because of this anyone suffering great sorrow or grief, that if they drank from the stone the sorrow would leave them. In more recent centuries, Leac na Cumha once again was relied upon to assuage sorrow and grief. It became a tradition that emigrants would spend their last night at the flagstone. As St. Colmcille had decided to exile himself to Scotland, they thought that sleeping here would make their sadness easier to bear.

A large stone cross was erected in the nineteenth century by Mrs. Adair of Glenveagh to mark St. Colmcille's birthplace.

### ***Rath Cnó / Churchtown***

Rath Cnó / Churchtown is reputedly the birthplace of St. Colmcille. According to tradition, this site was the ancestral home of the Cenél Connaill, and it was gifted to St. Colmcille who established a monastery here. The site consists of a small stone chapel thought to have been commissioned by Manus O'Donnell in the middle sixteenth century, two poorly preserved stone crosses, the rectangular foundational remains of a building, known as the Abbey, and a holy well.

### ***Tulach Dubhglaise / Templedouglass***

St. Colmcille was believed to have been baptised at Tulach Dubhglaise (Templedouglass). The site currently consists of the ruins of Templedouglass Abbey, a sixteenth century structure within a graveyard, along with the footprint of a structure.

### ***Kilmacrennan***

Kilmacrennan is reputed to be on the site of monastery founded by St. Colmcille before he left Ireland for Scotland, and was also the place where he was educated by his foster father, Cruithneachán. It is believed that the site was once known as Doire Eithne, a reference to St. Colmcille's mother.

### ***Doon Well***

This holy well which is said to have been blessed by St. Colmcille is still a popular place for people who are seeking a cure and who wish to collect holy water. The Rock of Doon is located high on a ridge above the well. The Rock of Doon was also the secular inauguration site of the O'Donnell Chieftains between 1200 and 1603.

### ***Tory Island***

Tory Island is the most remote of Ireland's inhabited islands. Located 14km off the Donegal coast, the Island is home to a community of approximately 120 people, famed for its character, its creativity and love of art and music. It is also the site of where St. Colmcille established a monastery. Tory in itself contains a number of important Columban heritage sites included but not limited to the Tau Cross, and a round tower containing St. Colmcille's Bell. Tory Island is an excellent visitor experience, onward access to which is provided via this new scheme.