

Can anybody fix Westport's traffic lights nightmare?

Urgent review of situation demanded

fic backup?
"People deserve better than this kind of stupidity masquerading as traffic management and road safety. Time to wake up."

His views drew a great deal of support.

IT is a well-known fact that when the traffic lights are turned off in Westport town on the busiest day of the year - Reek Sunday - there is never a problem with traffic flow.

The same situation applied when Mayo County Council switched off the lights for a trial period a number of weeks ago.

Now chaos has returned since they were put back on - most notably at Castlebar Road and Newport Road due to the problematic lights at the old courthouse and the library, respectively.

Well-known local personality Liamy McNally opened a full scale social media debate on the issue when he posted the following comment on his Facebook page which was accompanied by a photograph of a traffic jam on Castlebar Road.

It stated: "Is there a politician, council official or garda who can use common sense or even take a hike out the Castlebar Road to see the traf-

fic backup?
"People deserve better than this kind of stupidity masquerading as traffic management and road safety. Time to wake up."

His views drew a great deal of support.
One respondent stated: "This is crazy! Traffic was moving so well while the lights were out, so what is the point of putting them back on?"

Another said: "Traffic lights in Westport never worked, so why can't they just switch them off and let the traffic flow. Just does not make sense."

The point was also made in regard to what will happen in the middle of summer rush hour if this is going on in the middle of May.

When contacted by The Connaught Telegraph, Liamy said it's a very hot topic locally and a decision needs to be taken to resolve it.

He explained the decision to move the light for the Distillery Road filter lane from the courthouse to the Castlebar Hotel side of Castlebar Street is compounding the problem.

"It is disappointing that nothing was learned from the trial period when the traffic

lights were switched off," he added.

Councillor Brendan Mul-

roy is seeking a meeting with the management of Westport all Municipal District to come up

with a solution once and for all. "In my view, proper traf-

fic management, not traffic lights, would address the problem," he added.



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Council



Notice of Application to An Bord Pleanála for Approval Claremorris Closed Landfill Remediation Project at Clare, Claremorris, County Mayo

Pursuant to Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the requirements of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), notice is hereby given that Mayo County Council proposes to seek the approval of An Bord Pleanála for the completion of Closed Landfill Remediation Works at a Closed Landfill site in Clare, Claremorris, County Mayo.

The application site, as defined by the red line boundary in the accompanying drawings, is 5.6ha in size. The extent of the waste body with the site is 3.2ha. The proposed capping area within the application site is 3.8ha in size.

The proposed development will consist of the following:

- The development of a site access road
- The development of a temporary site compound and office area
- Site clearance, including the removal of an existing gate, existing timber post and wire fencing and clearance of existing vegetation
- Grading/profiling of the existing site area
- Installation of an engineered landfill capping system covering an area of 3.8 hectares
- The installation of stock proof fencing, and a new access gate on-site
- Landscaping of the final formation of the capping area using a high value native grass cover

The proposed development will ensure compliance with conditions of a Closed Landfill Certificate of Authorization pertaining to the site granted by the Environmental Protection Agency (CoA Ref: H0319-01).

A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been prepared in respect of the proposed development.

The Board may give approval to the application for development with or without conditions or may refuse the application for development.

Plans and particulars of the proposed development, including Natura Impact Statement, will be available for inspection free of charge, or for purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the following offices of Mayo County Council:

- Claremorris Area Office, Kilcolman Road, Claremorris, Co. Mayo F12 P383
- Planning Office, Aras an Chontae, The Mall, Castlebar F23 WF90

between the hours of 9:00am to 1:00pm and 2:00pm to 5:00pm each day during which said Offices are open for the transaction of business, for a period from Wednesday the 1st of June 2022 to Wednesday the 20th of July 2022 (inclusive of both dates).

Plans and particulars of the proposed development, including the Natura Impact Statement, are also available for viewing on Mayo County Council's online consultation portal (at www.consult.mayo.ie) from Wednesday the 1st of June 2022 to Wednesday the 20th of July 2022 (inclusive of both dates).

Plans and particulars of the proposed development, including Natura Impact Statement, will also be available for inspection free of charge, or for purchase at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the following offices of An Bord Pleanála:

- An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough St, Rotunda, Dublin 1, D01 V902

between the hours of 9:00am to 5:30pm each day during which said Offices are open from the transaction of business, for a period from Wednesday the 1st of June 2022 to Wednesday the 20th of July 2022 (inclusive of both dates).

Submissions or observations regarding the proposed development may be made in writing to An Bord Pleanála (with an address of 64 Marlborough St, Rotunda, Dublin 1, D01 V902) during the period from Wednesday the 1st of June 2022 to Wednesday the 20th of July 2022 (inclusive of both dates) in relation to:

- i. the likely effects on the environment of the proposed development;
- ii. the implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development in the area in which it is proposed to situate the proposed development; and
- iii. the likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European Site, if carried out.

Submissions or observations are to be received no later than 5.30pm on **Wednesday the 20th of July 2022.**

A person may question the validity of any such decision by An Bord Pleanála by way of an application for judicial review under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts as provided for in Section 50 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2021. Further information can be obtained from An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902 in respect of the judicial review procedure.

Further information in respect of the Judicial Review process can also be found on www.citizensinformation.ie Contact Lo Call 1890 777 121 or +353 21 452 1600 for details of the locations and operating hours of your local Citizens Information Centre.

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Report for the proposed development has been carried out and has determined that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development and has determined that an EIA is not required.



The picture by Liamy McNally of the traffic jam on the approach road into Westport from Castlebar last Thursday - caused by issues with the town's traffic lights.