

Line survey update: May 18th 2011/ updated 14th March 2014.

www.Sligomayogreenway.com

Line survey of proposed Greenway from Collooney to Claremorris

Sligo mayo greenway campaign is in the process of recording blockages on the abandoned rail which may cause issue for the instalment of the proposed Greenway on the route.

Sligo mayo greenway campaign is bringing each of these encroachments to the attention of the Minister of Transport tourism and Sport – Mr. Leo Varadkar and to the attention of Irish Rail.

Under Transport 21 – policy states
The line from from Claremorris to Collooney is to be preserved.
This policy is not been adhered to.

The link to the policy as published is here: http://www.transport21.ie/Projects/Heavy_Rail/Western_Rail_Corridor.html

Sligomayo greeway are concerned about the encroachments for the development of the Greenway. The Greenway solution will protect the alignment for any future use as a railway.

Pictures of encroachments are updated on facebook at the sligomayogreenwaycampaign profile there are many more examples to be seen on our facebook pages.

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/profile.php?id=100001773703036>

Sligo mayo Greenway campaign is asking for an explanation of why encroachment is being allowed on this line:



This photo about two miles from Collooney is of a fence that actually cuts across the line.

The next photo below is the fence taken from the other side – the old railway and the proposed greenway are under the drive of this house!



If you look closely at this photo you can see the old rail lines protruding through the driveway – a train on this line would have to smash through the fence – but more importantly it creates issues for the proposed greenway

Reminder: Under Transport 21 – policy states The line from from Claremorris to Collooney is to be preserved
The photo below is of another fence across the line:



Some previous shots taken on the line at Charlestown:



The “Grassy knoll” in the shot above taken opposite the old Charlestown railway station actually covers up the old rail track, in the distance you can see a horse grazing on the old rail line – if a train came along here now it would plough straight into the cars for sale! More importantly this could impede the greenway.

The shot below is just outside Charlestown (This one is within county Sligo as it is to the north of Charlestown) it shows how the rail line has been “merged” into the front garden of a house on the line, the Sligo county development plan (previous one and the new one) makes a big issue of the council supporting the re-opening of the rail line as of strategic importance – but in practical terms by not taking measures to address issues like this the council nor Irish Rail over the years have actually taken no action to protect the alignment. The strategic importance was clearly not that critical! This is now a matter of concern for a matter of far greater importance –the planning for the Sligo Mayo Greenway, which actually is of strategic importance for the future of Sligo and Mayo tourism.



This next shot we call the “enclosed coral” it is taken near collooney and shows how the adjacent owners have fenced off the railway within their garden. The line has been closed over 30 years now, but the campaigning group West on Track are so opposed to a greenway to protect the route they are losing site of the fact the route is being lost bit by bit by squatters.

Three MEPs apparently think the route is in safe hands as long as West on Track keep campaigning for the railway to be opened.



Marian Harkin, Pat the Cope Gallagher and Jim Higgins have done nothing to stop this encroachment on the line but will not support a greenway to protect the route! They believe a railway is coming back soon!!