



New Street Pedestrian Zone Public Consultation Report



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1 INTRODUCTION

As part of COVID-19 emergency measures to promote social distancing, last summer Fingal County Council (FCC) pedestrianised New Street in Malahide.

During the autumn / winter of 2020/21, this scheme was replaced by a one-way layout which provided traffic access along New Street running northbound, with a partially segregated contraflow cycle lane.

Following the Summer 2020 pedestrian trial of New Street and the one-way traffic arrangements currently in operation, the proposal is to reinstate the pedestrian zone in the centre of the village from June 2021 in order to provide:

- A safe environment for the community to enjoy and go about their daily business
- An opportunity for local businesses to operate under COVID-19 conditions, including permitting the safe use of outdoor space for outdoor dining
- A Pedestrian Friendly, Age Friendly and Family Friendly Zone.

FCC are returning the road to a pedestrianised layout in order to support businesses and provide outdoor dining space.

2 CONSULTATION OVERVIEW

2.1 PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTATION

To obtain community feedback (from a range of stakeholders including local residents, business owners, employees and visitors to the area), FCC undertook a non-statutory consultation regarding the pedestrianisation.

The purpose of the exercise was to better understand what respondents to the consultation like and dislike about specific aspects of the pedestrianisation and obtain any further comments or suggestions they might have regarding the scheme.

2.2 CONSULTATION PERIOD

The non-statutory consultation was 'live' between Tuesday 11th May – Friday 21st May 2021.

2.3 FORMAT OF SURVEY

The survey consisted of 8 questions in total, as follows:

- Questions 1 to 3 obtained personal data from the respondent (name, Eircode, email address) to ensure authenticity of the response.
- Question 4 collected data on respondent type (their interest in the pedestrianisation of New Street).
- Questions 5 and 6 were the main closed questions, in which respondents indicated their likes and dislikes of the proposed pedestrianisation.
- Questions 7 and 8 were the main open-ended questions, in which respondents had a maximum of 250 words to outline any additional measures they would like FCC to consider in order to improve their experience on New Street; and a maximum of 250 words to capture 'other comments'.

The survey was drafted by FCC, and SYSTRA provided feedback on the question wording and answer options. FCC then considered this feedback before finalising the survey.

2.4 RESPONSE CHANNELS

The consultation survey was hosted online, accessible via FCCs website at the following link: <https://consult.fingal.ie/en/content/new-street-consultation-survey>.

In addition to the webform responses, paper responses were also received, to enable those without internet access to respond to the consultation.

A total of 1,083 responses were received to the consultation survey. Of these:

- 1,017 responses were received to the online version of the survey;
 - 61 paper responses to the survey were submitted; and
- 5 full letter responses, submitted by key stakeholders were received

3 RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS TO THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Fingal County Council’s consultants, Systra, prepared a report entitled “Malahide New Street – Pedestrianisation - Task 5 Technical Note – Consultation Survey” which outlined the response to the non-statutory public consultation. Following up on this the responses were categorized into themes.

All of the issues were considered by Fingal County Council. An array of issues was raised, some relating to the respondents’ experiences of last year’s pedestrianisation and some relating to more current matters. Other responses related to more general Active Travel initiatives in the county.

The Table below summarises the key themes from the comments section of the Survey and identifies the range of initiatives and actions being undertaken by Fingal County Council to address these comments.

Table 3.1 Fingal County Council Response to Survey Findings

THEME	FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL RESPONSE
ADDITIONAL MEASURES	
Measures to prevent Antisocial Behaviour	
Increased security – more Security Staff/Gardai	FCC has engaged with AGS about access to additional CCTV information and other security issues. This is currently underway.
Address outdoor alcohol consumption / concerns over alcohol being served outside	The licences issued under Section 254 of the Planning & Development Act condition the use of designated public space for outdoor dining. The law on drinking outdoors was recently changed to clarify that pub and restaurants can serve alcohol to customers who are seated in designated areas outside the premises. There is no change in the position outside the ‘designated areas’ which are covered by local authority bye-laws.
Increased security – CCTV	As above

THEME	FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL RESPONSE
Concerns safety/gangs/violence	over As above
Improve Amenities	
Improvements – street furniture / benches / outdoor seating	FCC’s Active Travel Unit has worked with FCC’s Operations Dept, Economic Enterprise, Culture & Tourism Dept and FCC’s Architect’s Dept to ensure a more aesthetic and uniform approach to street furniture this year. Parklets have been removed. The current layout of outdoor dining is managed via Outdoor Dining Licences issued under Section 254 of the Planning & Development Act. This comprises consistent café barriers (with Malahide logo) to delineate licenced space and planters along the street aligned to allow pedestrian space and emergency access if necessary.
More/improved public toilets	Public toilets are available on the Mall/James’ Terrace in addition, the toilets in the library are open to the public.
More bins	Fingal County Council’s Operations department has provided extra bins in this area.
Improve Street Environment	
Keep pavements / streets clean	FCC’s Operations Department have extra crews working Saturday and Sunday emptying bins and cleaning the street.
Remove obstacles / planters / bollards for accessibility	Planters and bollards have been designed to ensure full accessibility for pedestrians and those with limited mobility. Café barriers (with Malahide logo) to delineate licenced space and planters along the street aligned to allow pedestrian space and emergency access if necessary
Retractable canopy over part or all	FCC have considered this option. Given the

THEME	FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL RESPONSE
New Street	delineation of outdoor dining space through Section 254 of the Planning & Development Act, individual furniture/umbrellas are considered the most appropriate option.
Visual appearance – seating	As above
Improve Walking Infrastructure	
Widen pavements	FCC plan to undertake a detailed public realm design for New Street which will be subject to public consultation. This item will be considered as part of that design process.
Fix broken pavements	All critical issues are brought to the attention of our Operations Dept on an ongoing basis.
Improved walking infrastructure / connectivity	There are several strategic cycling/walking infrastructures projects for this area either in the planning or design phase. FCC's Active Travel dept are actively engaging with the design teams to enhance connectivity and improve overall access for cyclists and pedestrians. This work is ongoing.
Improve Cycle Infrastructure	
Improved cycle infrastructure/connectivity	There are several strategic cycling/walking infrastructures projects for this area either in the planning or design phase. FCC's Active Travel team are actively engaging with the design teams to enhance connectivity and improve overall access for cyclists and pedestrians. This work is ongoing.
Segregated cycle lane – general	This is a general comment and beyond the scope of this consultation. However, it is worth noting that FCC's Active Travel Unit is working on a programme of delivery of segregated cycle lanes

THEME	FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL RESPONSE
	throughout the county.
More cycle parking	FCC's Active Travel Unit has installed additional cycle parking as part of the New Street pedestrianisation this year.
NEGATIVE COMMENTS	
Traffic concerns	
Increased congestion	<p>While it is accepted that traffic volumes since March 2020 have reduced, it is always important to capture and analyse the data. Traffic data was captured before and during the 2020 pedestrianisation. That data showed improvement in the capacity of the Diamond junction following the pedestrianisation. Traffic data is currently being captured as part of this project and will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>Our main objective in the Active Travel unit is to encourage the use of active travel modes of transport, such as walking and cycling, and to enhance the built environment to facilitate this.</p>
Diversion of traffic – residential streets	As above
Road safety	
Negative impact on road safety – Malahide Sea Scouts	FCC's Active Travel Unit has engaged with Malahide Sea Scouts and are aware of concerns raised regarding road safety in this area. A review of options is currently underway for additional measures in this area.
Negative impact on road safety – unspecified	While it is accepted that traffic volumes since March 2020 have reduced, it is always important to capture and analyse the data. Traffic data was captured before and during the 2020

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	pedestrianisation. That data showed improvement in the capacity of the Diamond junction following the pedestrianisation. Traffic data is currently being captured as part of this project and will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.
One-way street is unsafe	As above
Cyclists using pedestrianised street	Data from studies show that as numbers of pedestrians increases, cyclists tend to dismount. As such this is designed to be self-regulating in this regard.
Impact on residents	
Residents not prioritised	FCC's Active Travel Unit engaged with residents last year and this year. An example of the results of this engagement is the reconfiguration of the former Pay & Display parking spaces in Ross's Cottages, to provide dedicated parking for the residents of Ross Cottages and New St. The configuration of which is more efficient in terms of parking and regularises the parking situation in this area, alleviating pre-existing problems experienced by residents of these streets. Age Friendly parking spaces were also provided in the vicinity to facilitate residents of Malahide.
Residents are unhappy with the changes	As above
Negative impact on village – too commercialised	FCC's Active Travel Unit has worked with FCC's Operations Dept, Economic Enterprise, Culture & Tourism Dept and FCC's Architect's Dept to help facilitate the re-opening of outdoor dining as Government restrictions have eased. This is in line with Government policy. Outdoor dining licences have been issued under Section 254 of the Planning & Development Act which conditions such use to minimise negative impacts and

THEME	FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL RESPONSE
	optimise positive impacts for the area.
Impact on local business – unfair advantage for pubs / high turnover businesses	FCC’s Active Travel Unit has worked with FCC’s Operations Dept, Economic Enterprise, Culture & Tourism Dept and FCC’s Architect’s Dept to help facilitate the re-opening of outdoor dining as Government restrictions have eased. The footfall on the street is currently being monitored. FCC is engaging with business and hope to gather data that will allow analysis of economic activity, as has been done in other towns/counties.
ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTIONS	
Implement public realm strategy	The Malahide Public Realm Strategy produced in 2012 commits to reviewing proposals outlined in that document. All of the proposals must be considered in the context of national, regional and local planning policy and statutory plans and in line with current Government policies.
Part-time closure -certain times of days only	FCC has progressed with the pedestrianisation of New Street, Malahide, in line with the Programme for Government which mandates each local authority to immediately carry out an assessment of their road network, to see where space can be reallocated for pedestrians and cyclists. In addition to this, FCC have implemented this project to facilitate outdoor dining and to provide a safer space to enjoy the village atmosphere while allowing social distancing. FCC has engaged with businesses and the street is open for deliveries 6am to 11am.
Part-time closure – Summer/Spring only	FCC plan to undertake a detailed public realm design for New Street which will be subject to public consultation. This will cover a broad range of issues relating to the pedestrianisation of New Street.
Widen footpaths, have two-way traffic	Our main objective in the Active Travel unit is to encourage the use of active travel modes of

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	transport, such as walking and cycling, and to enhance the built environment to facilitate this.
Consider alternative outdoor dining locations	FCC's EETD dept have engaged with businesses beyond New Street and throughout the county in this regard.
COMMENTS ON CONSULTATION	
More consultation needed with residents	Non-statutory consultation took place in advance of the works, by way of public consultation survey and multiple stakeholder meetings and a leaflet drop to 7000 premises in/around Malahide. The consultation survey aimed to get inputs from respondents on the elements of the project that they liked, disliked or where improvements could be made. While many of the comments were based on last year's understanding of the scheme and as such these issues had been addressed by way of the design. However, there were some new comments which further revised our design, details outlined in responses above.
More consultation needed with businesses	Non statutory consultation took place in advance of the works, by way of public consultation survey and multiple stakeholder meetings and a leaflet drop to 7000 premises in/around Malahide. Meetings took place with Malahide Chamber of Commerce, Shop Malahide and with individual businesses on the street. Issues raised both last year and this year by businesses were incorporated into this year's design.
Current consultation is insufficient	Non-statutory consultation took place in advance of the works, by way of public consultation survey and multiple stakeholder meetings and a leaflet drop to 7000 premises in/around Malahide. The consultation survey aimed to get inputs from respondents on the elements of the project that they liked, disliked or where improvements could be made. While many of the comments were based on last year's understanding of the scheme and as such these issues had been addressed by

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	<p>way of the design. However, there were some new comments which further revised our design, details outlined in responses above.</p>
<p>Consultation not conducted prior to the project commencing</p>	<p>Non-statutory consultation took place in advance of the works, by way of public consultation survey and multiple stakeholder meetings. While the timelines have been tight, FCC had reviewed the comments on the consultation and our response to same in advance of the works. We continue to be in a position to address any comments/issues that arise on the operation of this project.</p>
<p>COMMENTS ON FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL</p>	
<p>Not listening to residents</p>	<p>Non-statutory consultation took place in advance of the works, by way of public consultation survey and multiple stakeholder meetings and a leaflet drop to 7000 premises in/around Malahide. The consultation survey aimed to get inputs from respondents on the elements of the project that they liked, disliked or where improvements could be made. While many of the comments were based on last year's understanding of the scheme and as such these issues had been addressed by way of the design. However, there were some new comments which further revised our design, details outlined in responses above.</p>
<p>General dissatisfaction towards the council</p>	<p>While this is a general comment beyond the scope of this public consultation, it is worth noting that FCC is working continuously for the citizens of Fingal to further our mission of making Fingal a great place to live, work and do business.</p>
<p>UNRELATED COMMENTS</p>	
<p>Fix potholes</p>	<p>While this is a general comment beyond the scope of this public consultation, all relevant comments have been directed to our Operations Department.</p>

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Malahide is becoming too busy/populous	FCC has progressed with the pedestrianisation of New Street, Malahide, in line with the Programme for Government which mandates each local authority to immediately carry out an assessment of their road network, to see where space can be reallocated for pedestrians and cyclists. The objective is to provide priority for pedestrians and cyclists and as such lower the reliance on the motor vehicle, reducing traffic congestion.
PPE for surf/kayak school	Beyond the scope of this public consultation
Clean the river estuary	Beyond the scope of this public consultation