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REPORT ON SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED “SUMMER STREETS”: DESTINATION DÚN LAOGHAIRE

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Description **Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council has introduced its "Summer Streets" initiative which aims to provide safe, welcoming and people-friendly public spaces in our towns & villages and bring life, food and energy to the County's streets this summer.**

The initiative involves the reallocation of existing public realm spaces through the pedestrianisation of George's St. Lower and the use of additional outdoor space at Myrtle Square. This will provide attractive, safe spaces for cafés, restaurants, pubs and other businesses to operate outdoors throughout the summer and beyond.

Summer Streets: Dún Laoghaire is the most ambitious of these plans and it is proposed that Lower George's Street would be closed to vehicular traffic and pedestrianised from 11am daily from the junction with Patrick St as far as Myrtle Square opposite St Michael's Hospital. This intervention will support the reopening of our businesses, facilitate outdoor dining and queueing and create a safer, more welcoming environment for residents and visitors alike.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council is keen to work in partnership with businesses and communities and invited suggestions to help ensure the success of the proposed scheme which would commence on 5th July and run until 30th September.

The Council undertook non-statutory public consultation from Friday 21st May to Friday 11th June 2021. A total of 1103 representations were received via the council's Citizen Space questionnaire, alongside email responses, COVID secure on-site meetings and online presentations.

This document provides the categorisation and summary of issues raised; provides the responses to issues raised and lists the persons or bodies who were directly engaged alongside the online questionnaire.

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PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT RESPONSES

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

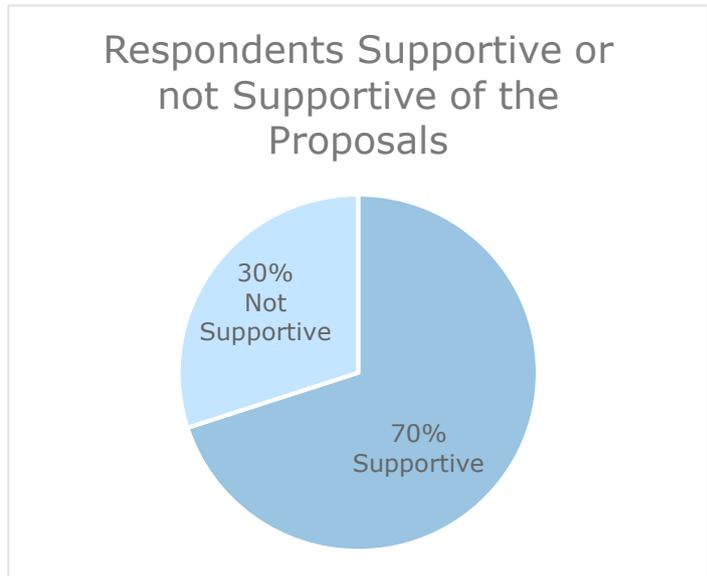
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (DLRCC) has undertaken an extensive public engagement process on proposed measures in Dún Laoghaire as part of its Summer Streets initiative. The initiative involves the reallocation of existing public realm spaces through the pedestrianisation of George’s St. Lower and the use of additional outdoor space at Myrtle Square. The proposed scheme planned start date is 5th July and continuing until 30th September.

The Council undertook non-statutory public consultation from Friday 21st May to Friday 11th June 2021. A total of 1103 representations were received via the council’s Citizen Space questionnaire, alongside email responses, Covid-secure on-site meetings and online presentations.

Working in partnership with businesses and communities in our towns and villages, Summer Streets will allow people to move around in safety and comfort and allow diners to enjoy the outdoor dining experience, help businesses re-establish in, what we hope will be, improving times and deliver an enhanced vibrancy to our streets. Actively enticing people back into the heart of our villages and towns will bring additional benefit to all retail businesses as well as hospitality.

Over three-week period a wide range of stakeholders were consulted including businesses, residents’ associations, residents, disability user groups and community liaison groups, these meetings included presentations and the provision of substantive consultation material on the proposed scheme. This direct engagement supplemented the online consultation process. Greater detail of that engagement is detailed in section 3 of the report. In view of that engagement, it is proposed to proceed with the Dún Laoghaire Summer Streets initiative, with a number of key mitigation measures being proposed to meaningfully adjust the proposals in response to feedback received from stakeholders, in particular, local residents and businesses.

Of the 1103 submissions 773 or 70% of responses were in favour of pedestrianising George’s St. Lower during the summer months; 330 or 30% of responses were not in favour of pedestrianising George’s St. Lower during the summer months as initially presented in the public consultation. It is noted that a number of issues raised by concerned respondents were addressed during the consultation period. As part of the consultation process each public engagement response was read and categorised against 16 categories, as set out in later sections of this report. Some responses addressed multiple topics and so have been addressed multiple times. The vast majority of representations were supportive of the proposal.



In view of the suggestions and comments made by the public a range of mitigation and enhancement measures will be integrated into the project, including enhanced street cleansing and maintenance, detailed measures to manage traffic and optimise traffic flow, improved access for all users, ongoing engagement with An Garda Síochána on traffic and community policing matters and a focus on animating and enlivening the streetscape, whereby street activities will be planned, managed and activated in collaboration with stakeholders.

The public engagement on the proposed public realm interventions in Dún Laoghaire showed significant support for the proposals. However, it is acknowledged that concerns were raised, and the report addresses those concerns to the greatest extent possible. It is recommended that the proposed scheme, including the integration of mitigation measures detailed within this report, should proceed, commencing on 5th July and running until 30th September.



2. INTRODUCTION

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (DLRCC) has undertaken extensive public engagement on proposed measures in Dún Laoghaire as part of its Summer Streets initiative. The initiative involves the reallocation of existing public realm spaces through the pedestrianisation of George's St. Lower and the use of additional outdoor space at Myrtle Square. The proposed scheme would commence on 5th July and run until 30th September.

The Council undertook non-statutory public consultation from Friday 21st May to Friday 11th June 2021. A total of **1103** representations were received via the council's Citizen Space questionnaire, alongside email responses, Covid-secure on-site meetings and online presentations.

2.1 Purpose and Overview of the Summer Streets Initiative

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council launched its "Summer Streets" initiative on the 17th May 2021 which aims to provide safe, welcoming and people-friendly public spaces in towns & villages across the county, and bring life, food and energy to the County's streets this summer. This initiative will involve, among other things, the reallocation of existing car parking spaces, and this will help the Council provide attractive, safe spaces for cafés, restaurants and pubs, allowing diners to enjoy the food offerings of our hospitality businesses in comfortable surroundings throughout the summer and beyond.

Working in partnership with businesses and communities in our towns and villages, Summer Streets will allow people to move around in safety and comfort and allow diners to enjoy the outdoor dining experience, help hospitality businesses re-establish in, what we hope will be, improving times and deliver an enhanced vibrancy to our streets. Actively enticing people back into the heart of our villages and towns will bring additional benefit to all retail businesses as well as hospitality.

Building on previous interventions in Blackrock, Dundrum, Sandycove, Glasthule, and Dalkey, the proposed works in Dún Laoghaire are part of a series of proposals being put forward under this initiative including Summer Streets: Cabinteely. Further similar works to provide people-friendly public spaces and support outdoor dining have been carried out in Stepside and Monkstown, amongst other locations. The Council is continuing to receive requests through our dedicated online portal ([Reallocation of Outdoor Space](#)) for various locations throughout the County. The council is also reviewing and updating outdoor space plans for Blackrock, Dundrum, Glasthule, Sandycove, and Dalkey, in association with hospitality businesses at these locations.

dlr Summer Streets is a cross-departmental initiative of the Council, with a specific Outdoor Dining Group established to engage and collaborate with hospitality businesses and deal with requests and queries related to outdoor dining.

It should be note that these works are to be discharged as temporary works under the statutory authority of Section 13(b) of the Roads Act, 1993. In accordance with those provisions DLRCC have consulted and engaged with all the relevant statutory consultees including but not limited to An Garda Síochána and DLRCC Traffic section to establish and define any restrictions and/or conditions necessary to satisfy the needs of DLRCC as a roads authority.

2.2 Proposed Interventions in Dún Laoghaire

The initiative involves the reallocation of existing public realm spaces through the pedestrianisation of George’s St. Lower and the use of additional outdoor space at Myrtle Square. This would provide attractive, safe spaces for cafés, restaurants, pubs and other businesses to operate outdoors throughout the summer and beyond. Summer Streets: Destination Dún Laoghaire is the most ambitious of the council’s Summer Streets plans and it is proposed that George's Street Lower would be closed to vehicular traffic and pedestrianised from 11am daily from the junction with Patrick St. as far as Myrtle Square opposite St Michael's Hospital. This intervention would support the reopening of businesses, facilitate outdoor dining and queueing and create a safer, more welcoming environment for residents and visitors alike. This proposal is to create a more people-friendly environment with programmed events and activities for families, children and older people in particular. Additional age-friendly seating is proposed, along with an area of natural play at Myrtle Square.

This placemaking approach aims to support the reopening of businesses, facilitate outdoor dining and queueing and create a safer, more welcoming environment for residents and visitors alike. It is proposed that businesses would be able to trade outdoors on the pedestrianised areas of street, including outdoor dining for cafes, restaurants and pubs, but also providing for other retailers in the town to use the additional public space to help them trade. Our aim is to entice people back into the heart of Dún Laoghaire which will bring additional benefit to all retail businesses as well as hospitality.

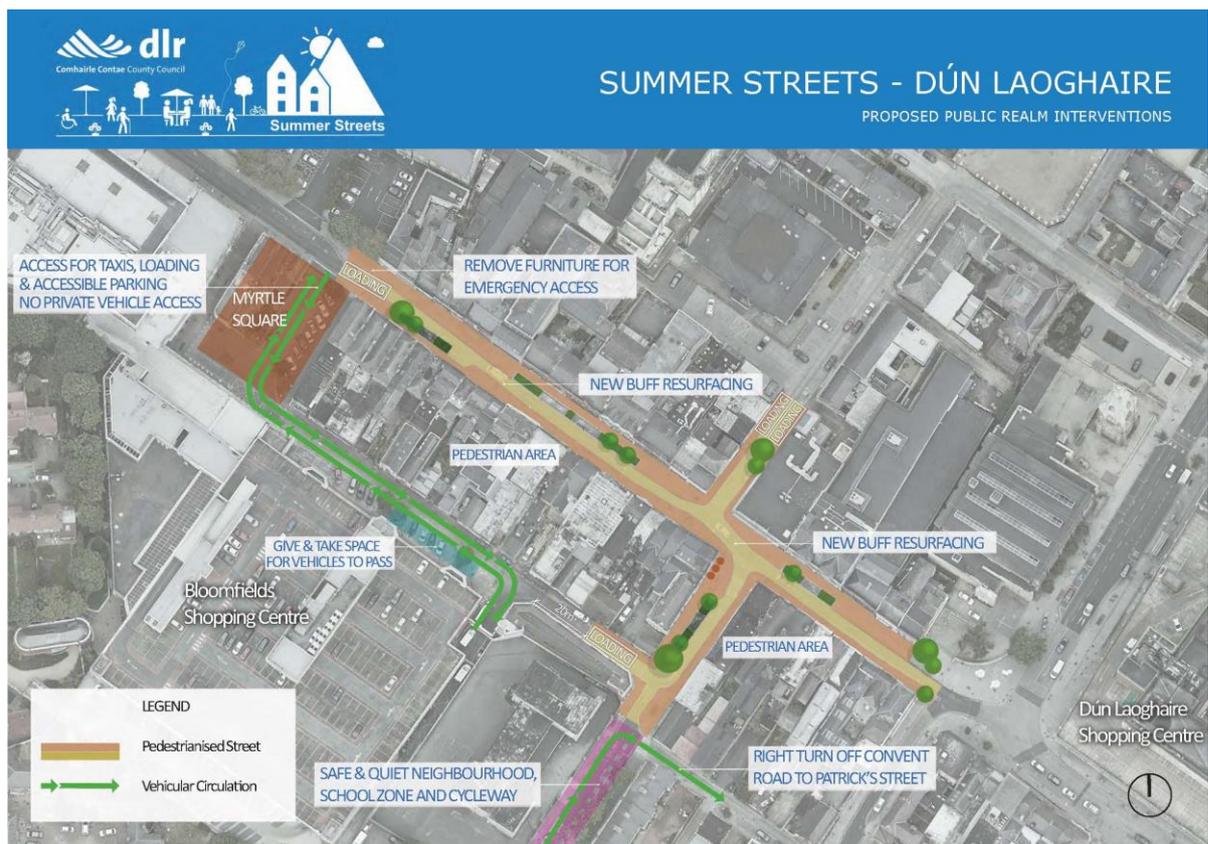


Figure 1 – Proposed Public Realm Interventions Summer Streets: Dún Laoghaire

3. DETAILS OF THE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

The Council undertook non-statutory public consultation from Friday 21st May to Friday 11th June 2021. A total of 1103 representations were received via the council's Citizen Space questionnaire, alongside email responses, Covid-secure on-site meetings and online presentations.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council is keen to work in partnership with businesses and communities and invited suggestions to help ensure the success of the proposed scheme which would commence on 5th July and run until 30th September.

During the online consultation period, there was also engagement with residents, businesses and community groups that are likely to be impacted by the proposed changes. It is important to note that the public engagement and Citizen Space process ran in parallel with the online public consultation, as a result some concerns raised by respondents were directly addressed during community liaison; particularly businesses.

As part of this process dlr was also be looking for input and ideas from the community in Dún Laoghaire on how to best animate the streetscape and add to the vibrancy of the pedestrianised space and Dún Laoghaire town centre.

3.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

The objectives of the public engagement process were to:

- Increase awareness of the Summer Streets: Destination Dún Laoghaire for the general public, elected members, various stakeholders and other bodies / agencies etc;
- Seek the views of the public in relation to the proposed public realm interventions;
- Encourage constructive feedback on how proposals could be improved before any potential implementation;
- Provide opportunities for input and suggestions for programming the space with a variety of interested parties, including younger citizens, older citizens, businesses and locally based community and residents' groups; and
- Establish engagement and to facilitate a process to obtain longer term feedback after the initiative.

3.2 OUTLINE OF THE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Due to current Covid-19 restrictions, the Council has used a variety of online engagement methods, to consult and engage with the citizens of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, and a range of other stakeholders and interested parties including the following:

- Where possible and in compliance with Covid-19 restrictions, on-site face to face meetings took place with local residents, business owners etc.;
- A Media Release issued from the Communications Unit on Friday 21st May 2021;
- Public engagement information and drawings were made available and updated regularly on the dedicated Summer Streets project webpage available at: <https://www.dlrcoco.ie/en/road-schemes/summer-streets>;
- Leaflets including scheme drawing dropped to all businesses and residences on George's St. Lower, Convent Lane and Convent Road;
- The Council launched a social media campaign on Friday 21st May that highlighted key features of the project and the engagement process throughout the three-week period;
- The proposal was covered in an Irish Times article on Saturday, 22nd May;
- The engagement material was also emailed to a range of stakeholders; All Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Elected Members; Dún Laoghaire Town Team; Dún Laoghaire Business

- Association; Dún Laoghaire Tidy Towns; Dún Laoghaire Residents Associations; An Garda Síochána; Emergency Services; Disability Consultation Forum; and NTA;
- The Council invited and responded to a range of questions received from the public throughout the public engagement period. Responses were provided by telephone and email throughout the three-week engagement period, with engagement with stakeholders taking place after 11th June, where necessary.
 - The Council received emails outside of the online questionnaire, which have been categorised and responded to in this report
 - Staff from the project team held meetings with local residents and business groups from the area, a full list is provided below:
 - Tuesday 25th May meeting with the principal of Dominican Primary School
 - Wednesday 26th May Dún Laoghaire Business Association (DLBA) Briefing
 - Thursday 27th May online meeting facilitated by Cllr. Lorraine Hall, with c. 10 residents from Tivoli Road and nearby streets and a follow-up on-site meeting with the group on 9th June
 - Friday 28th May Dun Laoghaire Central Residents Association Briefing
 - Monday 31st May Dún Laoghaire Tidy Towns briefing
 - Thursday 3rd June meeting with representative from Tesco, Convent Lane
 - Thursday 3rd June meeting with the proprietor, Hicks Butchers, George's Street Lower;
 - Wednesday 9th June 2nd meeting with DLBA
 - Wednesday 9th June meeting with MHF Architects and Carpet & Flooring Concepts
 - Thursday 10th June multiple visits to businesses on George's Street Lower including the proprietors of Gourmet Pantry, Hicks, Carpet & Flooring Concepts and Book Deals.

Through the three weeks process a wide range of stakeholders were consulted including businesses, residents, NTA, Dublin Bus, Go Ahead, St Michaels Hospital, Gardai, Dublin Fire Brigade and community groups. In view of that engagement, a number of key mitigation measures are being proposed to meaningfully adjust the proposals enabling greater stakeholder support of the measures. This direct consultation occurred during the time that the online questionnaire was available, therefore some of those consulted may have submitted duplicate responses. Issues raised in these meetings may have also been resolved via this process, but also may have been captured in an earlier submission to the online questionnaire.

4. DETAILS OF THE SUBMISSIONS

A total of **1103** representations were received via the Council's Citizen Space questionnaire, alongside email responses, Covid-secure on-site meetings and online presentations.

All submissions were read, analysed and summarised. This section will summarise the responses to the questions on the online questionnaire contained in the Appendices. The categorisation, summary and responses to issues raised is contained in Section 4.2 onwards, in line with the responses to the questions in the online questionnaire that invited written responses, rather than a selection from a drop-down menu.

4.1 OVERVIEW OF RESPONSES RECEIVED VIA ONLINE PORTAL

The Citizen's Space questionnaire asked respondents 10 questions, some of which gave options and some of which asked respondents to give their feedback. This section summarises all the questions and how many people responded to them.

Question 1: What is your name, Question 2: What is your email address, Question 4: Eircode (The exact details of these questions will not be included for GDPR reasons)

All 1103 responses answered question 1, there was some duplication, however this seems to have been because people submitted halfway through sumitting their responses, rather than on an extensive scale and so these have not been discounted in this process. There also maybe duplication across responses provided by email or in person, but these duplications have not been removed from the count, all responses (instead of respondents) are counted in this document.

1053 responses answered the question asking to provide an email address. 940 responses provided an Eircode.

Question 3: What is your organisation/interest?

All of the responses to the online questionnaire provided an answer to this question which provided 4 options to choose from: Resident, Business, Visitor or Other.

	#Submissions
Resident	832
Business	62
Visitor	152
Other	57
Total	1103

Question 5: Are you in favour of pedestrianising Georges St Lower during the summer months?

All of the responses provided on the online questionnaire have an answer to this question, the breakdown is provided below:

	#Submissions	Yes	Y%	No	N%
Resident	832	593	71%	239	29%
Business	62	26	42%	36	58%
Visitor	152	128	84%	24	16%
Other	57	26	46%	31	54%
Total	1103	773	70%	330	30%

Question 6: What would you like to see on Georges St Lower this summer?

This Question had 8 options, all or none could be selected: Outdoor Dining, Casual Seating, Planting, Market Stalls, Play Area, Entertainment, Cultural Activities, Other

	#Submissions
<i>Casual Seating</i>	682
<i>Planting</i>	632
<i>Market Stalls</i>	578
<i>Play Area</i>	353
<i>Entertainment</i>	447
<i>Cultural Activities</i>	532
<i>Other</i>	37

Question 7: Any other suggestions for enlivening the street and making the scheme a success?

There were 755 responses to this question, the responses have been categorised and summarised in the following section of the report. Any queries of issues raised have been responded to in section 4.

Question 8: Any further comments

There were 329 responses to this question, the responses have been categorised and summarised in the following section of the report. Any queries of issues raised have been responded to in section 4.

Question 9: What are the reasons you do not support the proposed pedestrianisation of Georges Street?

This Question had 5 options, all or none could be selected: Litter Management, Access for delivery vehicles, Possible traffic issues, Impact on bus routes, Other. The question was only available to respondents who answered no to question 5.

	#Submissions
<i>Litter Management</i>	682
<i>Access for Delivery Vehicles</i>	632
<i>Possible Traffic Issues</i>	578
<i>Impact on Bus Routes</i>	353
<i>Other</i>	447

Question 10: Any other issues, concerns or comments?

There were 294 responses to this question, the responses have been categorised and summarised in the following section of this report. Any queries of issues raised have been responded to in section 4.

4.2 CATEGORISED COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED VIA ALL MEANS

This section corresponds to Questions 7, 8 and 10 of the Citizen Space questionnaire. Where engagement was received outside of this format, we have aligned it to the questionnaire format where possible. Even though each of these three questions asked for slightly different responses, participants broadly gave feedback across all three questions. The feedback given has been categorised into 15 topics.

All emails received on this subject and notes taken at consultation meetings have been categorised and responded to in this report. It is also important to note that there may be duplication between these forms of engagement and the online questionnaire, however no responses have been removed so as to maintain objective data integrity.

The following section summarises the key opportunities, concerns and issues raised with respect to the proposed pedestrianisation scheme. Each public engagement response was read and categorised against 16 categories that were found in the responses. Some responses addressed multiple topics and so have been addressed multiple times. It is important to note that although this section of the report discusses comments received, in the vast majority of representations, respondents were supportive of the proposal.



4.2.1 Supportive and Unsupportive Representations

This category summarises those who expressed direct support or opposed the proposals whether that was in the survey and the comments received in the online questionnaire, via email or in consultation meetings.

Supportive representations

Of the 1103 Citizen Space responses received, 773 were in favour of pedestrianising George’s St. Lower during the summer months.

Below are some of the responses received in the 3 questions that asked for additional comments for those that expressed support for the proposals. General support for the scheme was expressed 196 times in comments via the online questionnaire and emails.

<p><i>"Great idea and a great vision for Dún Laoghaire. This will reinvigorate the town."</i></p>	<p><i>"Well done DLR. You are leading the pack in terms of bring life to our urban villages. Delighted to see. I will be visiting this summer, recommending to others."</i></p>
<p><i>"Great idea, well done, I believe this move will increase visitors to Dún Laoghaire and will thus increase footfall in local retailers /restaurants."</i></p>	<p><i>'I think it's a brilliant idea. As a resident of Library Road I am aware it may mean more through traffic for us, but it's absolutely worth it.'</i></p>

Key reasons for support from respondent’s included:

- Environmental benefits
- Increased visitors to boost the economy
- Creating a better atmosphere
- Suitability for an outdoor summer during Covid

Unsupportive Representations

Of the 1103 Citizen Space responses received, 330 were not in favour of pedestrianising George’s St. Lower during the summer months.

Below are some of the responses received in the 3 questions that asked for additional comments from those that did not support the proposals. A lack of support for the scheme was expressed 105 times in comments via the online questionnaire, emails and in consultation meetings.

<p><i>"The pedestrian plan is a nice idea, it's not going to work."</i></p>	<p><i>"The main issue I have is that when George's Street was closed to traffic by the Council as part of a permanent pedestrianisation policy a number of years ago, a lot of businesses on the Street were badly affected, to the extent that the policy had to be reversed and a one way system put in place. Has the Council reviewed the negative affects from that time and why do they think this will work now?"</i></p>
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"It will put myself and a lot of people off going to Dún Laoghaire for shopping and for a town that has a lot of shut down shops etc it will not help."

"It will not attract any more visitors to the town as parking is near impossible to get as it is expensive and you can't get near where you want to go at times."

Key reasons for lack of support from respondent's included:

- Costs
- Implications on traffic
- Concern for local businesses and attractiveness to visit
- Previous iteration of pedestrianisation having been reversed
- Concerns around the consultation process
- Concerns that scheme would change the character of the town
- Didn't see the necessity of pedestrianisation

4.2.2 Scheme Extension, Reduction or Implementation in Different Location

83 responses were in this category. 64 responses expressed support for extension or permanent implementation of the pedestrianisation scheme, all from the online questionnaire. 17 responses from the online questionnaire and 2 from consultation meetings expressed suggestions to change the timing of the scheme, for the proposed interventions to be minimised, or for the interventions to be focused elsewhere in Dún Laoghaire.

<p><i>"Please consider making this a permanent change. Would be great also to create a report on the viability/profitability of shops on the street and nearby as I've heard lots of negative feedback on what this could do which I suspect is unwarranted."</i></p>	<p><i>"Have any other locations been considered? E.G.unused ferry terminal?"</i></p>
<p><i>"The general idea is good but not from 11am. Perhaps this pedestrian option could be in place from 15.00 during the week and 11.00 on Saturday and Sunday."</i></p>	<p><i>"I am a frequent visitor to Dún Laoghaire and, as far as I can see, the volume of through traffic on George's Street Lower does not justify keeping it open to through traffic. As a motorist, I think the street would be much better employed in service to pedestrians and cyclists, and I think this arrangement should be made permanent."</i></p>

4.2.3 Roadworks and Traffic Management

214 responses related to the topic of roads and traffic, 185 from the online questionnaire, 5 were from emails and 24 were raised in consultation meetings.

Responses expressed both concern and support relating to roads and traffic, for example:

<p><i>"I support this initiative but not at the expense of additional traffic up Patrick St where I live. We already have a significant problem with HGV traffic which is against your own DLR active travel and climate change strategy. If you want to pedestrianise George's St you need a proper traffic management solution along with it. Our street is not suitable for heavy goods vehicles, buses and additional car traffic."</i></p>	<p><i>'As a local resident we have made the decision to not drive because of the access to train and great public transport in Dún Laoghaire. Now there are great bikes too!</i></p> <p><i>"I think if traffic is difficult hopefully it will make people think about public transport to Dún Laoghaire.</i></p> <p><i>As a local I would be ok to endure traffic for the reward of having a vibrant pedestrian street."</i></p>
<p><i>"I live off Tivoli road and realise that this will make Tivoli road busier. So be it. If it makes a small % of those affected realise they should get out of their car to avoid the traffic jam then that is a success also."</i></p>	<p><i>"As a resident of Kelly's Avenue we are concerned that the area will become a rat run out of Dún Laoghaire. There are no proposals for traffic calming in the area of Dún Laoghaire which is necessary"</i></p>

Respondents' concerns

- Traffic along Patrick St.
- Traffic Management along Corrig Road due to current road works
- Displacement of traffic on to other roads causing congestion
- Concern that people won't visit the area due to bad traffic
- Concern about traffic management on Tivoli Road
- Concerns around access to schools

Respondents' suggestions

- Pedestrian Crossings instead of pedestrianisation
- Timed pedestrianisation instead of full pedestrianisation (for example Thursday to Sunday)
- A traffic plan for the whole of Dún Laoghaire

4.2.4 Cycle Lanes and Bike Storage

Of the responses received, 167 raised the topic of cycle lanes and bike storage. Of these, 160 were from the online questionnaire, 1 was an email and 6 were raised in consultation meetings.

<p><i>"I would favour keeping the pedestrianised street open to cyclists and pedestrians Link up the Coastal Mobility Route with a safe segregated cycle route to George's Street and watch businesses absolutely fly. And link it with segregated cycling routes from places like Deansgrange, Glenageary, Mounttown and Sallynoggin and further afield and it will take off even more"</i></p>	<p><i>"This is a great idea. Please make sure that there is a way for bicycles to get around without a massive detour. This could be by making convent land 2 way for bicycles only. Cyclists don't like to go up and down a steep hill so please don't make them go down to the seafront and come back up again. Please also make sure there is bicycle parking."</i></p>
<p><i>"Make sure to have free movement of wheelchairs and limit bike access. I am hugely supportive of your bike lane strategy, however from experience of living in Copenhagen, pedestrians shouldn't mix with bikes in pedestrianised areas. If possible can they route through convent lane along to Bloomfields and down the Sq to George's St at Argos."</i></p>	<p><i>"Give the roads back to the cars and rip up the Bicycle lanes. Ban the Electric scooters, or at least make sure they have full insurance and tax paid to use the roads"</i></p>

Many of the responses referred to the coastal mobility route and the effect that it was having on car traffic management in Dún Laoghaire. This category captures both supportive and unsupportive responses to the implementation of cycle lanes across the county.

There was mixed views in this category about not allowing cyclists to use the entire length of George's Street Lower, some felt that cyclists should be able to use it, others agreed with the proposals and that they were supportive of a parallel route that did not provide too much of a detour.

4.2.5 Public Transport

80 responses mentioned public transport, 77 of which were from the online questionnaire, 1 was an email and 2 were from consultation meetings.

Many responses for this category related to the topic of Disabled Access and Inclusive Design, so it should be noted that there is a large overlap between these two topics.

Some quotes from the Citizen Space consultation are summarised below:

<p><i>"I have a concern over the loss of the bus stop outside Argos as this happens to be the one my elderly Mum uses. She would struggle to walk to the proposed replacement stop. Otherwise, am in favour of proposal."</i></p>	<p><i>"Provisional bus stops are too far away from Dún Laoghaire shopping centre. A number of elderly people use the stop outside the shopping centre to get home. The new bus stops are too far away for elderly and people with walking difficulties. This should be looked at and reconsidered, to allow buses continue down the main street."</i></p>
<p><i>"I have a concern about not having a closer bus stop for patients attending St Michael's hospital."</i></p>	<p><i>"Find alternatives to people driving to the town. Park and ride on both sides of the town and maybe a free bus to town"</i></p>

Respondents' concerns

- Loss of bus stops
- Access for the elderly to public transport
- Impacts on bus routes to the hospital

Respondents' suggestions

- Looped shuttle bus
- Park & Ride system
- Free public transport to incentivise usage

4.2.6 Public Facilities

Suggestions or concerns relating to public facilities appeared 140 times; 1 was from a consultation meeting and the rest were from the online questionnaire. The majority of responses on this topic were a request for more public toilets, publicly available seating and covers/canopies to provide weather protection.

<p><i>"Make sure there are enough accessible toilets"</i></p>	<p><i>"Really in favour of prioritising pedestrians, more toilets, bins and outdoor seating too please!"</i></p>
<p><i>"Some sort of canopy over parts of the street would be good so that we can enjoy it even in our lovely showery Irish summer."</i></p>	<p><i>"Public seating (not just seating for businesses) must be in place. So far DL has some great seating along George's Street and it is such an asset to people with particular needs, who need to rest."</i></p>

Respondents' suggestions

- Provide more public toilets
- Provide plenty of public seating
- Canopies to shelter outdoor seating
- Install water fountains for drinking

4.2.7 Litter, Waste Management and Cleaning

Litter, waste management and cleaning of the street was a key concern raised 165 times, raised 156 times in the online questionnaire and 9 times in consultation meetings. The responses below provide an idea of the general feelings and concerns on this subject.

<p><i>"Need to make sure that litter is dealt with if there's greater footfall and outdoor dining."</i></p>	<p><i>"Who will maintain/clean the area and how often?"</i></p>
<p><i>"Pedestrianisation would require enhanced street cleaning (including weekends), provision of extra and emptying of bins (including weekends)"</i></p>	<p><i>"Need to be cleared of glass and rubbish more often as do all areas"</i></p>

Respondents' concerns

- An increase in litter as a result of the scheme
- Litter produced from organised events
- Dog waste
- Health hazards as a result of these issues

Respondents' suggestions

- Provide more bins
- Ensure regular cleaning of street and public facilities
- Regular emptying of bins
- Solution for management of cigarette butt waste

4.2.8 Parking

The topic of parking was raised 110 times during the consultation; 108 times in the online questionnaire and twice in consultation meetings. Responses on this topic varies, ranging from highly concerned to suggesting opportunities and solutions, for example:

<p><i>"The population of the area has grown to a point where it is unrealistic to expect full access by car to every street. Highlight the availability of parking at DLR shopping centre, bloomfields, imc, rear of St Michael's."</i></p>	<p><i>"Parking is a real issue so needs to be considered"</i></p>
<p><i>"Dún Laoghaire has all the ingredients. But it's a slave to traffic and parking. Stopping traffic on George St Lr is a start. Next, close all parking spaces in from if the Royal Yacht Club to the East Pier and let restaurants and cafes open there."</i></p>	<p><i>"A large car park within close walking distance that is affordable is key"</i></p>

Respondents' concerns:

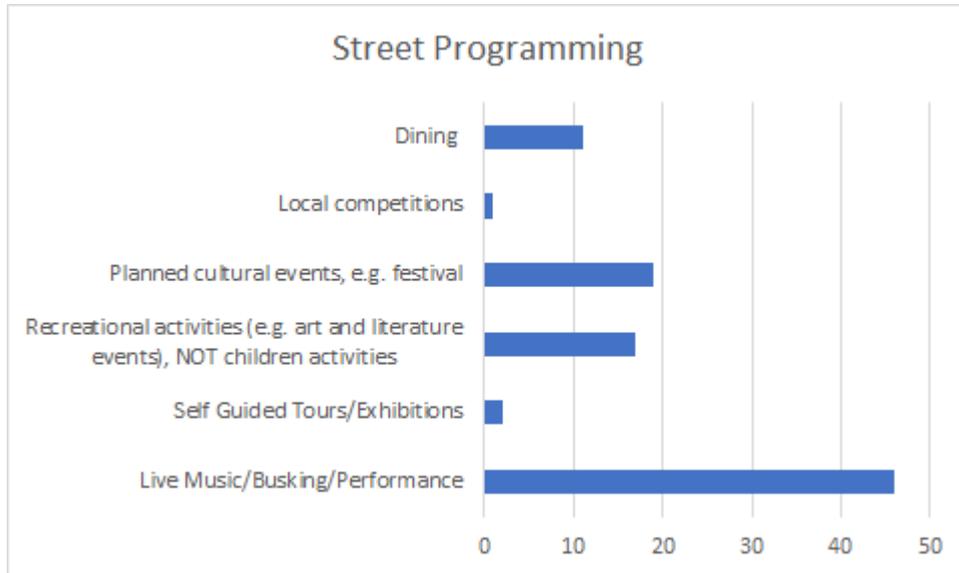
- Impacts on parking for residents
- Lack of affordable parking
- Increased pressure on the Tesco car park, limiting access for shoppers
- Pressure on parking will limit those visiting the space

Respondents' suggestions:

- Reducing parking costs
- Implementing free parking on surrounding streets
- Utilising parking available in nearby shopping centre
- Create car parks on brownfield land

4.2.9 Street Programming

Suggestions and ideas relating to street programming appeared 105 times: 103 times in the online questionnaire, once in an email and once in consultation meetings. The range of suggestions from the 'ideas' question of the survey are summarised in the chart below:



<p><i>"Put on midsummer weekend festival, later, also an end of Summer festival. Lift the mood of this fine town. So far, some great improvements are evident. Finally, place an emphasis on Heritage. CREATE THE DUN LAOGHAIRE EXPERIENCE"</i></p>	<p><i>"Live music during the weekend would be great or even encourage buskers in the area."</i></p>
<p><i>"George's Street is much longer than New Street in Malahide, it already has a bit of casual seating and has so much potential for improvement and becoming a great buzzing street. Having market stalls on a plaza - street food on dedicated days will bring more foot traffic to the street - people will know that they can lunch out on a specific day (like Sandyford estate market, Merrion Square on Thursdays, Temple Bar Saturdays, Niamh Olaf GAA on Fridays etc.)"</i></p>	<p><i>"The People's Park market is back this coming Sunday, so there could be regular mini-market just off George's Street on Saturdays to bring people in throughout the weekend, not just Sundays. Although it may make sense to have a version of the market on Saturdays too as it's wildly successful, brings lots of people from everywhere for the day, so why not keep the visitors coming to town on both days instead of one?"</i></p>

As this was a large but varied category, 'Street Programming' has been divided into several sub-sections below.

Live Music

Respondents' concerns:

- Loudness of live or recorded music:
 - o Disruption during working hours
 - o Spoiling the experience of dining
- Concerns over increased anti-social behaviour
- Buskers require evidence of musical ability

Respondents' suggestions

- For busking, a booking system and a fixed position for buskers to play, e.g. the new square by Tesco.
- Types of buskers could include Jazz, Braze pipes music
- Live theatre as well as music
- Encourage performances by local groups, e.g. school and community orchestras and choirs
- Live music on the bandstand in East pier, Myrtle square, live music performances on a floating pontoon or jetty (or the end of Carlisle Pier)
- Cultural music events, e.g. for traditional music, word music.

Markets and popup shop

Respondents' concerns

- Lack of public seating for this type of dining
- Lack of space on the street

Respondents' suggestions

- Food stalls that sell multi-cultural cuisine, coffee trucks
- Could just be present on weekends
- Integrate the market / encourage the "people's market" to set up shop here.
- Popup shops could replace the empty store fronts.

Other Installations

Respondents' concerns

- Affordability of events
- Smoking and alcohol consumption within play / leisure areas

Respondents' suggestions

- Games and activities, including table tennis tables, outdoor chess, giant Jenga
- Outdoor cinema that is run by the local cinema.
- Yoga, Zumba classes, community walking and cycling on the weekends
- Outdoor hairdressing, outdoor beauticians, outdoor nails technicians
- Street markings that encourage play
- Activities could take place on the new square

4.2.10 Design of the Street

Ideas relating to aesthetic features appeared 71 times in the consultation; 67 times in the online consultation and four times in consultation meetings. Aesthetic features included any greening, decoration, or street design. Some examples of requests are included below:

<p><i>"Can we ensure there are Myrtle trees in Myrtle Square?"</i></p>	<p><i>"Plants, grass areas and trees make a big difference to the aesthetic."</i></p>
<p><i>"More tree planting on summer streets. As a local resident I notice how much concrete Dún Laoghaire has. Sometimes I can go for months at a time without walking on grass. There is a lot of scientific evidence about the wellness people feel from being in nature around trees. Long term I suggest planting more trees and greenery to add to this."</i></p>	<p><i>"High quality and aesthetically pleasing installations. The visually pleasant additions make all the difference."</i></p>

In this category we have also included comments made regarding the works at Myrtle Square. Many of the submissions who did not support the proposals did support the works going on at Myrtle Square and wanted to see a focus of activities in that area.

Decorations

Respondents' concerns

- Concerns that some original buildings that are aesthetically pleasing may be removed

Respondents' suggestions

- Use aesthetic features to enhance the character of the area
- Bring different types of art to the area: outdoor art, wall art, kinetic art, Yarnbombing
- Bright decorations in shop windows
- Bunting or ambient coloured lighting across the street.
- Graffiti art to bring in an urban twist
- A display exhibit on the history of the town
- Integration of the local community with art competitions

Greening/ Green infrastructure

Respondents' suggestions

- More planting for wellbeing benefits
- Increasing the biodiversity of the flora in the area, to encourage the presence of bees and butterflies, e.g. installing bug hotels
- Flowers to enhance old buildings
- Planting of vegetation in certain patterns, e.g. alternate trees and bushes
- Greening and decoration in proximity to Bloomfields and Argos

4.2.11 Crime and Anti-social Behaviour

Concerns around crime and anti-social behaviour were raised 125 times in the consultation, of which 115 times in the online consultation, once in an email and 9 times in consultation meetings. Many respondents felt that an increased Garda presence would be necessary alongside the proposed changes. Some concerns are highlighted below.

<p><i>"I think the other more pressing concern will be that the area doesn't become a hub for anti-social behaviour so some visible security measures would be very welcome in order to make it an attractive destination."</i></p>	<p><i>"In the early days, a prominent Garda presence will be necessary to counteract incipient anti social misbehaviour. This will settle down as people make more use of the street and eventually as is the case with most successful public areas, it will police itself."</i></p>
<p><i>"I believe this will only work and be a nice place to spend time if it can be prevented from turning into a space for people drinking cans throughout the day and night."</i></p>	<p><i>"I am very much looking forward to a pedestrianised zone but I think proper policing needs to be in place, as well as crowd control"</i></p>

Respondents' concerns

- A number of those consulted mentioned that the area is a hotspot for antisocial behaviour, and that it is an issue that would need to be dealt with if the scheme was to be a success
- It is mentioned that bike theft is also an issue, and that alcohol/ drug misuse is currently a problem there
- There are concerns that gangs gathering may danger the public may danger and intimidate the public
- There are concerns that a small minority of the community will use the scheme for solely alcohol purposes

Respondents' suggestions

- Presence of the Garda, either as patrols or acting more discreetly
- Could also include stewards
- Strict curfew to prevent activity late at night
- Priority of family events and dining, rather than a focus on alcohol/ drinking
- Ensure fines are issued to those that break the rules/code of conduct
- Ensure that the Gardaí are engaged with the proposal
- Important that CCTV is implemented

4.2.12 Building Changes and Upgrades

Changes and upgrades to existing buildings were proposed 34 times: 32 times in the online questionnaire and twice in consultation meetings. Several respondents identified the shopping centre as an eyesore. Some proposed changes are included below:

<p><i>"The Victorian character of the street should be drawn out, more sympathetic vintage signage for shops should be encouraged (better still enforced) to give the street a 'heritage' look. Visitors to the street could be encouraged to 'look up' at the architectural detail and red brick shops (though a lot of the buildings need to be cleaned up first in order for this to work) Older images of George's Street as it used to look could be used to decorate derelict shop fronts (like it has been done for What's in a Name?) and bring the past into the present."</i></p>	<p><i>"Ensure all shop fronts and premises along the street are painted and in good repair."</i></p>
<p><i>"Need to do something with the shopping centre long term. A massive car park would be more useful. Or a nice glass structure, maybe a museum or similar. At the moment it's old and nobody goes there, taking up a load of prime real estate, needs a creative solution."</i></p>	<p><i>"This is great. Now please sort out/facelift the shopping centre as it's dragging the main street down"</i></p>

Respondents' suggestions

- Pop up shops to replace underutilised units
- Remove/improve the old shopping centre
- A competition for the best-looking shop
- New signage for local businesses, namely Argos and Tesco

4.2.13 Local Businesses and Economy

167 comments, suggestions or responses were classed as relating to local business and economy. Of these, 147 were via the online questionnaire, 5 were from emails and 15 from consultation meetings.

Responses were included in this category where people had expressed, they would be visiting the area and recommending to others as a result of the scheme, as this implied benefits for the local economy. Responses were also included expressing concerns around loading/unloading for businesses. Concerns were also raised that less people would visit the businesses because of vehicular traffic, car parking or other access concerns and this would have an impact on the businesses. Concerns were raised that this could decrease footfall in the area and have a negative impact on businesses. Responses in this category all wanted to see local businesses flourish, but disagree on the approach to take. Some felt that the existing number of cafés and restaurants on the street did not warrant a pedestrianisation. Examples of responses are included below.

<p><i>"Great idea, well done, I believe this move will increase visitors to Dún Laoghaire and will thus increase footfall in local retailers /restaurants."</i></p>	<p><i>"As a retailer myself in this part of the street, I won't hide that I am obviously in favour of the pedestrianisation that will help my tiny café to survive."</i></p>
<p><i>"As we had to survive this Pandemic on delivery service only, this will make it very hard on our business."</i></p>	<p><i>"It is important that small local traders are not adversely affected after this happens as they have endured much over the last 18 months. A monitoring and review process should be put in place to facilitate this."</i></p>

Respondents' concerns

- Impacts on deliveries, both at the front (e.g. for crate deliveries) and the rear of premises
- Restrictions on local business' ability to undertake home deliveries
- As a result to the restriction of deliveries, some local businesses have expressed concerns that they will suffer financially and be forced to close
- Proposed plans appear to restrict access to the shopping centre for delivery purposes after the commencement of the pedestrianisation at 11am daily
- Tesco rollout of the "click and collect" service may be restricted. Tesco are concerned that the 'Argos' loading bay on Myrtle Square could block one of their trucks' arrival and suggested the bay be turned through 90 degrees to run parallel to Bloomfields instead

Key respondents' suggestions

- Increase footfall in the area will increase spending in local businesses, e.g. for local restaurants and cafes
- Allow local businesses to self-promote themselves
- Small deliveries can arrive by bike as opposed to car
- Trial scheme allows impacts to local economy (e.g. increase footfall and subsequent spending in shop) to be observed
- Local businesses can take over empty properties and expand

4.2.14 Disabled Access and Inclusive Design

Suggestions and concerns surrounding disabled access and inclusive design appeared 118 times; 114 times via the online questionnaire, 3 times in emails and once in consultation meetings.

The importance of a holistic approach to including individuals who may have restricted mobility was a common aspect raised during the consultation. For example, those with a disability or who are elderly. It was also specified in several responses the importance of ensuring the design and layout of tables/ chairs were socially distanced, to mitigate transmission of Covid-19. There was also concern about the removal of on street parking disproportionately affecting those with mobility issues. Example responses are included in the table below.

<p><i>"I believe any outdoor dining should be located in the middle of the street with pedestrian footpaths left as they are, similar to how it's done on the continent. This would avoid a situation where pedestrians and especially wheelchair users must meander up the street"</i></p>	<p><i>"Wheelchair access needs to be a top priority so that everyone can enjoy the amenities"</i></p>
<p><i>"Essential that the Disabled Parking Bays outside Bloomfields shopping centre & access to & from them is maintained at all times. These are heavily used by local patrons with additional needs and there are no elevators in the shopping centre. The travelators are not suitable for certain disabilities and so the disabled bays are their only viable way to access the centre"</i></p>	<p><i>"Ensure access is easy for those with mobility issues, including the use of walking aids as well as wheelchair users. For those with sight issues, additional street furniture should be clearly visible and laid out in such a way as to allow someone with poor sight to easily navigate. NCBI may be able to advise on this."</i></p>

Respondents' concerns

- Focus on dining and drinking, which may exclude other members of the community
- All stakeholders (visitors, local residents) need to adhere to the social distancing regulations
- Access for elderly and disabled people
- Safety in public spaces for women
- Concern that programming may exclude certain groups including those from the LGBTQ community

Respondents' suggestions

- Have a dedicated "path" that must be kept free of street furniture, which allows those less mobile to navigate the street
- One-way systems with multiple gaps to allow people to turn around or cross the street.
- Pet friendly, e.g. Dog dropping bins
- Enclosed/ private areas for breastfeeding
- Sufficient seating to allow stopping places for those with limited mobility
- Include a wide range of activities and cultural events that appeal to a broad range of people
- Disabled parking spaces at each end of the closed street.
- Bike tuk tuk runs to transport those with mobility issues from public transport stops, to local businesses. Doing so may also enhance the characteristic of the area

4.2.15 Children and Family Space

Ideas relating to space and design to include children and families appeared 32 times in the consultation; 31 time via the online consultation and once in an email.

<p><i>"Safety with the Dublin Fire Brigade. This could be for primary or secondary age kids. I do a lot of work with the DFB and gardai, both clinical and educational. We could organise a safety day in Myrtle Square, bring all the trucks and vehicles, let the children meet real life firefighters and paramedics and do a session on safety and how to call 999 in an emergency"</i></p>	<p><i>"The 11-16 age category is very often neglected, would be great to have things to cater for them as they are too old for a lot of camps, activities & sports during their long summer off. And anything they can do is often expensive"</i></p>
<p><i>"I'm looking at ways to ensure it's a diverse group brought to the street. The risk is people are turned off if antisocial behaviour becomes the norm. Initiatives to normalize the area to children and families. Ideally in conjunction with local primary schools or the library. I'd like to see art classes, picture exhibits or similar creative events held. Potentially with subsequent drawings posted along the windows of (willing) businesses. This is aimed at cultivating a relationship with resident and business while also ensuring it's an area that everyone can enjoy"</i></p>	<p><i>"Have a playful element to the street art such as hopscotch or tic tac toe. You could also run an art competition for children via the local libraries and have the winning designs painted in the area"</i></p>

Respondents' concerns

- Smoking, anti-social behaviour and drinking in proximity to children
- Risk to children from diverted traffic

Key respondents' opportunities

- Playful element to the street art such as hopscotch or tic tac toe
- Art competition for children via the local libraries and have the winning designs painted in the area
- Children's drawings displayed on the windows of local businesses
- Play area for children
- Street performers that have a specific catering for families, e.g. face painters, stilt walkers, balloons, jugglers
- Events run by the local church, fire brigade and Gardai
- Events run by the local hospital, e.g. medical students educating children about healthcare and alleviates any fears children might have about hospitals, as well as the benefits of a healthy diet and an active lifestyle
- The play area could be in proximity to local restaurants in order for these two spaces to be integrated for families

4.2.16 Emergency Vehicle and Access to Hospital

Concerns surrounding emergency vehicle access and access to the hospital appeared 40 times; 39 times via the online questionnaire and once in an email.

<i>"My husband is visually impaired attend hospital using white cane he needs access to bus and he is familiar with the stop facing the hospital."</i>	<i>"Unfair to take bus stop from hospital for sick and old people"</i>
<i>"It will cause disruption to people who need to access St. Michaels hospital"</i>	<i>"Delaying and limiting access for emergency vehicles to St Michaels Hospital who's emergency department is on that Main Street."</i>

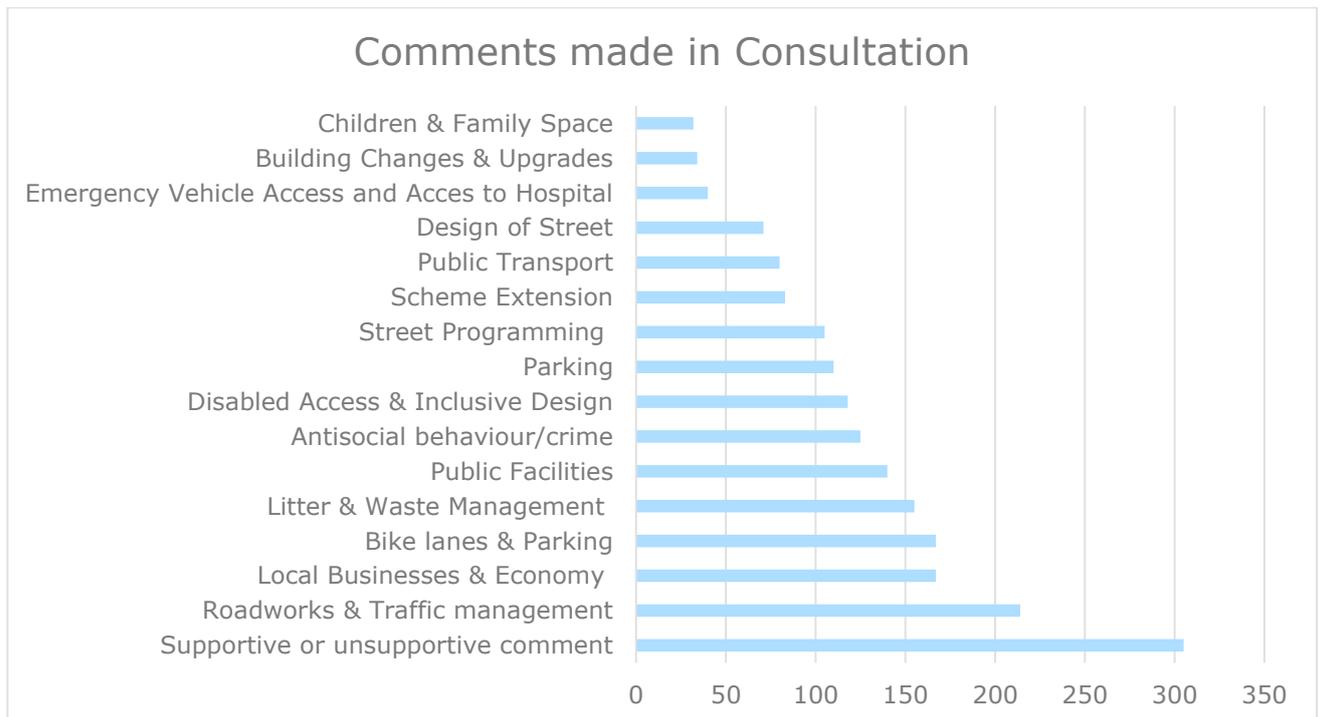
Key respondents' concerns

- Emergency vehicle access along the pedestrianised street
- Access to the hospital for cars
- Access to the hospital for those travelling via public transport

5. RESPONSES, RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE AND NEXT STEPS

Section 3 of this report has analysed the public engagement held on the proposals for the public realm intervention in Dún Laoghaire as part of the Summer Streets Initiative. This analysis and categorisation defined 16 categories of interest from the public engagement. This section will provide a response to queries or requests within each category. A summary of each category has been given below in order of percentage of responses in each category. This section of the report provides responses, recommendations to the executive, following the ratification of these recommendations, the next steps have been suggested.

The chart below shows the amount of comments by category made across all submissions.



5.1 RESPONSES TO COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

This section responds to the opportunities, issues and concerns raised in the public consultation process.

4.2.1 Supportive and unsupportive Representations

Thank you for your comments on the proposals, these will be taken into account in the assessment of whether to go ahead with the Summer Streets programme.

4.2.2 Scheme Extension

Following the proposed summer pedestrianisation, DLRCC intends to seek feedback and assess the effects of the trial scheme and seek feedback for extension or permanent implementation. The scheme will start on 5th July and will end on 30th September.

We have reviewed the other suggestions and locations made as part of this process for the implementation of the Summer Streets Programme.

4.2.3 Roadworks and Traffic management

This topic has been raised as the most frequently mentioned topic in this consultation.

There have been significant road works in the Dún Laoghaire area for a number of months, particularly on Corrig Road, to the south of the town centre. It can be confirmed that Corrig Road will be reopened for two-way vehicle movement by 5th July. The proposed pedestrianisation of George's Street will not to be implemented until 5th July.

As part of the proposed implementation of these measures DLRCC have undertaken a significant engagement and consultation process with the relevant statutory authorities including the development of a comprehensive Temporary Traffic Management Plan in co-ordination with An Garda Síochána and DLRCC's Traffic section. We note that as with any change to the road network there will be a period of adjustment and as such the movement of motorised traffic will be monitored during the trial scheme and this data will help inform an evaluation of the trial.

The council will implement the agreed traffic management plan incorporating the elements below:

- Advance signage provided back in the road network before vehicles reach the core of Dún Laoghaire, including the provision of Variable Message Signs (VMS) at advance locations and junctions
- Directional signage will be provided to optimise access to car parks
- Traffic management specialists will be engaged for the full duration of the trial scheme including people assigned to be present at the Marine Rd. junction and at the junction of Convent Lane / George's St. Lower
- Traffic management plan will be developed further before the trial scheme and reviewed and tweaked as necessary, consulting with the Gardaí as needed
- Corrig Road will be reopened to facilitate two-way movement for vehicles before the trial scheme starts
- Review of traffic signal settings in Dún Laoghaire area will be carried out in advance of the scheme start and will be reviewed and adjusted, as necessary, during the scheme
- Signage and wayfinding from coast to Dún Laoghaire town centre will be provided as part of the trial scheme

Further to the detailed plans DLRCC have also developed a communication and promotion strategy to publicise the scheme and the associated Traffic Management Plan. The strategy will commence on publication of this report in advance of 5th July using online, social media, leaflets, posters, etc. and meetings and briefings, as needed, to help inform the public, businesses and road users of the changes, the alternative bus routes and how the new traffic network will operate.

4.2.4 Cycle Lanes and Bike Storage

Following the consultation, the proposed cycle management plan below will be in place for the Summer Streets Programme:

- No cycling will be permitted along the pedestrianised zone on George's Street Lower.
- Cycling along Convent Lane, Convent Road and down onto Sussex Street will be permitted as a means to access the town
- Cycle parking will be available at entrances to the pedestrianised area
- Measures to provide secure overnight cycle parking are being examined in or near to the town centre

Comments around the Coastal Mobility Route

It should be noted that the Coastal Mobility Route does not form part of this consultation, rather the focus of this engagement is the Summer Streets Proposals. DLRCC will be holding at a later time a dedicated public consultation on the Coastal Mobility Route where users can express their views. In relation to the traffic impacts on the Coastal Route, on average, the journey time through junctions is less than 2 minutes and it is evident that increased cycling and pedestrian movements are reducing the potential for queuing at junctions. It is noted that the Coastal

Mobility Route has recorded more than 20,000 cyclists per week. Users of the Coastal Mobility Route would be either cycling or walking and so would not require car parking, and they are often seeking places to stop and avail of the local offering. Research has shown that active mobility infrastructure benefits local business and the local economy. DLRCC has engaged with local stakeholders, including clubs and the RNLI and a number of changes have been made to the scheme to address their concerns. This is an example of the adaptive and flexible design approach in use by DLRCC.

3.2.5 Public Transport

The proposal for bus management during the Summer Streets scheme is that most bus services will be unchanged. For westbound bus services, the 46A, 63/75 bus stop will be on Crofton Road at the Dún Laoghaire Dart Station. These services will turn and use Crofton Road and York Road with new stops being provided on Crofton Road near Charlemont Terrace and on Clarence Street near its junction with York Road. Number 7 Services will also be diverted via Crofton Road. The 7 bus services will use Marine Road and Crofton Road rather than continuing along George's Street Lower.

We have noted the concerns related to the proposed bus diversions, in particular the potential impacts on the elderly, those with buggies or carry heavy shopping. DLRCC are looking at ways to use adapted cycles such as piloted trishaws to facilitate short trips that link the coast and George's St. These services would be focused on connecting to bus stops, car parks and other key locations around the town.

4.2.6 Public Facilities

Public toilets will be provided at Myrtle Square as part of the ongoing improvements to the area. There are also existing public toilets available at the People's Park, the LexIcon Library and Carlisle Pier in Dún Laoghaire Harbour.

4.2.7 Litter, Waste Management and Cleaning

The Council has already provided more street bins and more regular waste collections along George's Street Lower, and this will be enhanced for the duration of the trial. Commercial and residential waste collection will be permitted up to 11am each day along the street. The current cleansing and litter control measures are:

- 3 No. staff currently conduct regular cleaning throughout the day in Dún Laoghaire town centre, involving dust carts and compact mechanical sweepers
- Bins are emptied as needed throughout the day, with staff working up until 10pm at night at weekends, with extra bins in place and a dedicated bin truck covering coastal areas
- Cigarette butt containers have been provided on all bins in the Dún Laoghaire town centre area
- A contractor currently cleans street furniture on a weekly basis

For the duration of the trial pedestrianisation the Council would implement the following additional measures;

- Power washing from c. 21st June up until the trial scheme starts on 5th July, to include:
 - Marine Rd, Metals, Crofton Rd (Harbour Square)
 - George's St. Lower & Upper and side streets
 - A number of other side streets off George's St Lower and Upper
- Bins and street cleaning, as per the current arrangements, plus the provision of at least two extra 1100 litre bins in the George's St. Lower area
- A Contractor will clean the street furniture on a daily basis
- Cleaning of toilets will be carried out daily, with multiple checks throughout the day

4.2.8 Car Parking

It is important to note that at present there are approximately 4,500 publicly accessible car parking spaces in Dún Laoghaire town centre or nearby. Additional to this it is proposed that:

- Our proposed temporary traffic management plan will guide and support vehicular users to access these car parks. The system will operate subject to the direction of access to improve convince and increase proximity so far as reasonably practicable.
- Access for taxis will be permitted to Convent Lane and Myrtle Square.
- Disabled parking bays will be retained at Myrtle Square and blue badge holders can access and use the spaces throughout the day.
- Directional signage to optimise access to car parks will be provided.

4.2.9 Street Programming

Following the suggestions raised during this consultation the Council will implement a programme of activities for each of the 12 weeks of the Summer Streets Programme. The programme will be focused on family and inclusive activities, including outdoor performance and music, natural play and activities involving the local community, including schools.

Programming Ideas:

- Partnering with Library Service or Pavilion Theatre to bring cultural events that would normally be indoors, outdoors
- DLRCC Anseo Street Art, exhibition of art from local artists, IADT students, etc.
- Live musical performance along George's St. Lower & Myrtle Square
- Creating a school zone or play street for Dominican Convent NS and potentially for other schools in DL area in September
- Other ideas received as part of the consultation will be considered in programming of activities

4.2.10 Design of the Street

The council will implement high quality greening and seating as part of this initiative. The initiative involves the reallocation of existing public realm spaces through the pedestrianisation of George's St. Lower and the use of additional outdoor space at Myrtle Square. This will provide attractive, safe spaces for cafés, restaurants, pubs and other businesses to operate outdoors throughout the summer and beyond. The street design will be flexible so that we can work closely with business and the public to enable our programme of events while facilitating opportunity for outdoor commercial space.

4.2.11 Crime and Anti-social Behaviour

DLRCC have regular meetings with Gardai in relation to traffic management and community policing. DLRCC have met with senior Gardaí in DLRCC area as part of this consultation and the Council and the Gardaí have committed to work together to make the pedestrianisation trial scheme a success. Regular meetings will take place with Gardai throughout the duration of the trial scheme.

4.2.12 Building Changes and Upgrades

There is ongoing work at Myrtle square to upgrade this space to a high-quality public square. The council will also work with shop owners and vacant shops to enhance the look and feel of the street.

4.2.13 Local Businesses and Economy

The key concerns raised in this category were around vehicle access for customers, deliveries and home deliveries. In response to the consultation process, it would be proposed that:

Convent Lane & Myrtle Square

- Articulated trucks and HGV deliveries will be permitted between 6am and 11am and from 9pm to 12 midnight
- Articulated trucks and HGVs will not be permitted outside of these times.
- Access and egress will only be permitted via Convent Lane and George's St. Lower, with no through access to Convent Road.
- HGVs not permitted at other times
- Light goods commercial deliveries will be permitted throughout the day to businesses within Bloomfields Shopping Centre or backing onto Convent Lane
- A nose-in delivery bay will be provided on Convent Lane, past the Bloomfields Shopping Centre delivery bay access
- Residents, taxis and disability blue badge owners will be able to access Convent Lane at any time during the day

Pedestrianised areas of George's St. Lower, Convent Road and Sussex St.

- Deliveries and loading will be permitted from 6am to 11am
- No deliveries will be permitted after 11am in the pedestrianised areas

Ongoing engagement with local businesses

- DLRCC will be using its recently installed Vivacity system to monitor footfall and mobility data and will be happy to share this data with businesses and other stakeholders
- DLRCC will meet with businesses and representative business groups on a weekly or fortnightly basis during the trial scheme
- A direct DLRCC Contact Liaison will be established to engage with businesses during the trial scheme

4.2.14 Disabled Access and Inclusive Design

The proposals regarding disability vehicle access are as follows;

- Measures implemented will comply with the relevant inclusive design standards and policies;
- Continued engagement with Disability User groups will continue throughout the trial scheme period to ensure that the measures are accessible and inclusive;
- Access to Convent lane will be facilitated for Residents, Taxis and disability blue badge holders; and
- As part of our continued evaluation of the measures we will seek feedback via qualitative public surveys to understand how inclusive the proposals are.

4.2.15 Children and Family Space

The council has understood the feedback from this consultation placing the emphasis firmly on providing safe spaces and programmes for children and families. This will inform the programme of activities as part of the Summer Streets scheme.

4.2.16 Emergency Vehicle and Hospital Access

The layout of the pedestrianised street and street furniture, planters, etc. will allow emergency vehicle access at all times in the pedestrianised areas. Private vehicle access would be maintained to St Michael's hospital, and those coming from the east of Dún Laoghaire would travel to the hospital via the proposed signed diversion route along Marine Road, Crofton Road and Clarence Street. Patient access via public transport may be supplemented by using the Council-owned Cycling Without Age trishaws to potentially provide a shuttle service to and from the hospital.

5.2 EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

Following an extensive public consultation process, and a significant level of public support, with 70% of the responses supportive, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council plan to proceed with the Dún Laoghaire Summer Streets initiative, including the trial pedestrianisation of George's St. Lower, which will commence on Monday 5th July at 11 am and continue until the 30th September 2021. An extensive public awareness plan is being implemented, including a detailed traffic management plan and diversion routes will be signed.

The Council undertook a non-statutory public consultation from Friday, 21st May to Friday, 11th June 2021. A total of 1103 representations were received via the Council's Citizen Space questionnaire, alongside email responses, Covid-secure on-site meetings and online presentations.

Over three-week consultation period, a wide range of stakeholders were consulted including businesses, residents' associations, residents, disability user groups and community liaison groups, these meetings included presentations and the provision of substantive consultation materials on the proposed scheme. This direct engagement supplemented the online consultation process.

Of the 1103 submissions received, 773 or 70% of responses were in favour of Dún Laoghaire Summer Streets initiative to pedestrianise George's St. Lower and parts of a number of other streets during the summer months, while 330 or 30% of responses were not in favour of initiative, as initially presented in the public consultation.

In view of the feedback and comments provided by the public, a range of mitigation and enhancement measures will be integrated into the project, and this includes enhanced street cleansing and maintenance, detailed measures to manage traffic and optimise traffic flow, improved accessibility for all users, ongoing engagement with An Garda Síochána on traffic and community policing and a focus on animating and enlivening the streetscape, whereby street activities will be planned, managed and activated in collaboration with stakeholders.

The public engagement on the proposed public realm interventions in Dún Laoghaire showed significant support for the proposals, with a large amount of positive suggestions put forward in the consultation to help make the initiative success. However, it is acknowledged that concerns were raised and these concerns have been addressed to the greatest extent possible. It is planned to implement the Dún Laoghaire Summer Streets scheme as proposed with the integration of mitigation measures detailed within the submissions report, with the scheme commencing on 5th July at 11 am and running until 30th September.

There will be an extensive public awareness plan implemented in advance of the 5th July start date to advise residents, businesses and the wider public of the changes that will take place with regard to traffic layout, bus diversions, access and deliveries, enabling street works and events and cultural activities planned under the Dún Laoghaire Summer Streets initiative. The Corrig Road works currently ongoing will be completed in advance of 5th July and Corrig Road and Tivoli will be able to facilitate two-way vehicular traffic before the trial pedestrianisation scheme starts.

The public realm interventions will also be measured in terms of both quantitative and qualitative information including monitored data and surveys to determine the success of the measures, before, during after the trial scheme. This review will be based on an assessment of multiple criteria related to social, economic, physical and environmental impacts. The assessment will measure success against key parameters like mobility, accessibility, impact on retail activity, experience of residents and visitors, as well as environmental improvement impact in terms of noise and air quality and enhancement of amenity in the public space.

APPENDIX A PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT RESPONDENTS

APPENDIX B PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT RESPONSES

APPENDIX C
ON-LINE QUESTIONNAIRE



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