

Monkstown Village Improvement Scheme

Background:

In 2012 a traffic management scheme was prepared for Monkstown Village to improve safety for all users. In summary, this scheme included:

- Raised signalised and uncontrolled crossing points
- Increased area in the centre of the village around the planting
- Two way section in front of the church
- One way (and left only) in front of Goggins
- One way on Clifton Avenue (towards the sea)
- Build outs to slow vehicle turning movements
- Narrowing of the carriageway through the village
- Additional parking on Clifton Avenue

Monkstown Village is an architectural conservation area and has a significant number of attractive (and protected) structures. The development of a traffic management scheme presented an opportunity to develop and enhance the public realm of the village while still achieving the road safety improvements.

In addition to the traffic management elements the scheme now includes for:

- The pedestrian surfacing around the village will be granite paving (rather than concrete)
- Parking bays will be indented and surfaced with cobble sets (similar to those on Marine Road, Dun Laoghaire)
- The grass area around the central planting area is being replaced with more hard standing area (paved in granite). This will allow for increased seating as well as opportunities for mini markets, Christmas tree etc. There will be raised flower beds and tree planting which will be more attractive than a grassed area
- The existing carriageway on Monkstown Crescent is being narrowed to 6m (allowing 3m traffic lanes in both directions). This allows for an additional 1.5m to be allocated to the path adjacent to the restaurants
- The parking bays are being indented allowing for an increased cross fall (reducing the level difference between the path and road)
- Raised flower beds are being provided to provide separation from the road and to provide planting in the area (which is currently all hard materials)
- The existing path adjacent to the restaurants is being widened significantly
- A crossing point is being added at Avoca which will incorporate seating and planting
- The existing overhead cables will be removed and the poles relocated
- Street furniture will be rationalised
- Decorative lighting will be added
- Loading bays will be reduced in size resulting in no loss of parking as a result of the new scheme

Conservation Elements:

Cartographic evidence suggests that the roundabout area, known locally as the Ring, was built in the 1860s.



Monkstown C1890

Prior to its construction there was a large open intersection in front of the St Mary's Church of Ireland church which was remodelled by George Semple in 1831.



Undated mid 19th century engraving by Hare shows Semple's Church of Ireland church before the roundabout was constructed.

The addition of the ring complemented the church and grounds which are built of the same materials and greatly contributed to the character of the centre of the village. The trough on the ring was probably added after and originally sat outside the ring. The trough was also topped with an iron cherub leaning on a staff. Identical cherubs can be found on the fountains in the People's Park in Dun Laoghaire. They were designed by the Sun foundry in Glasgow and erected in 1895. In addition to the ironwork, there were stone bollards on either side of the trough, which were of the same height as the trough, which prevented damage from vehicles.



Detail of the c1890s photograph from the Lawrence Collection showing the bollards and cherub at the trough

A number of capping stones around the central ring were reversed so that the trough could be set back into the ring (which is its current position). This was likely to facilitate the tuning of vehicles around the ring from Carrickbrennan Road direction.



Undated early 20th century photograph from the Lawrence collection showing the altered lamp post, fire alarm, hydrant and altered area around the trough.

It is proposed as part of the scheme to reinstate the trough to its original location and to replace the stone bollards and cherub. Repair works will also be carried out to the stone works and the bollards and chains around the ring.

Proposed scheme:



Artists impression of the proposed scheme showing the increased paved areas and the addition of planting and seating adjacent to Goggins

The carriageway is being narrowed along Monkstown Crescent which will allow for additional area to be allocated to pedestrians. It will also encourage slower vehicles speeds through the village.

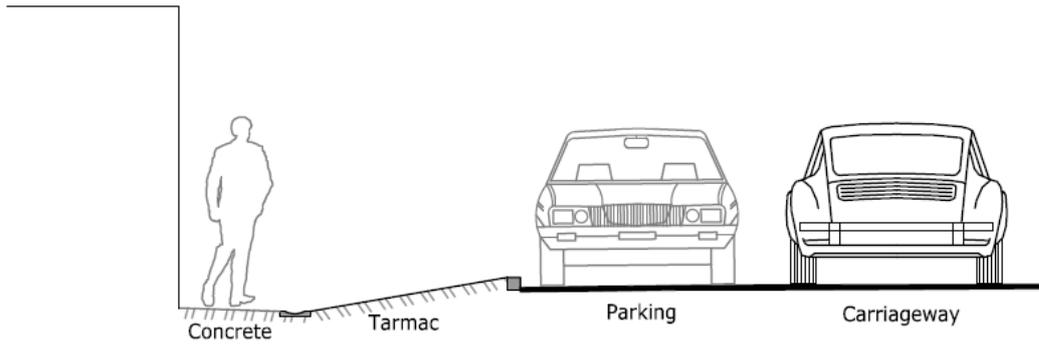


Proposed Layout Monkstown Crescent

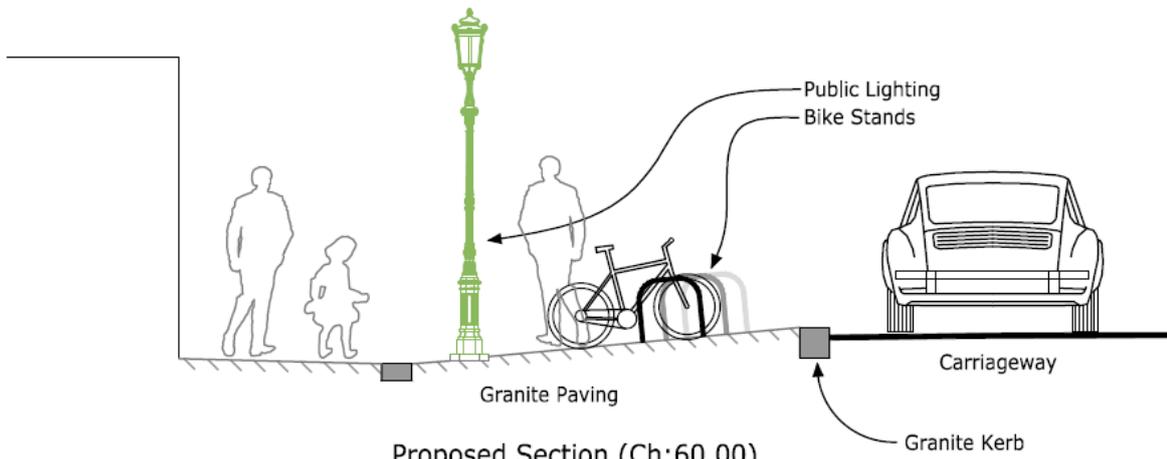
The increased area at Avoca allowing for planting, seating and improved pedestrian facilities.



Existing situation at Ch 60 (Brassiere 8A)



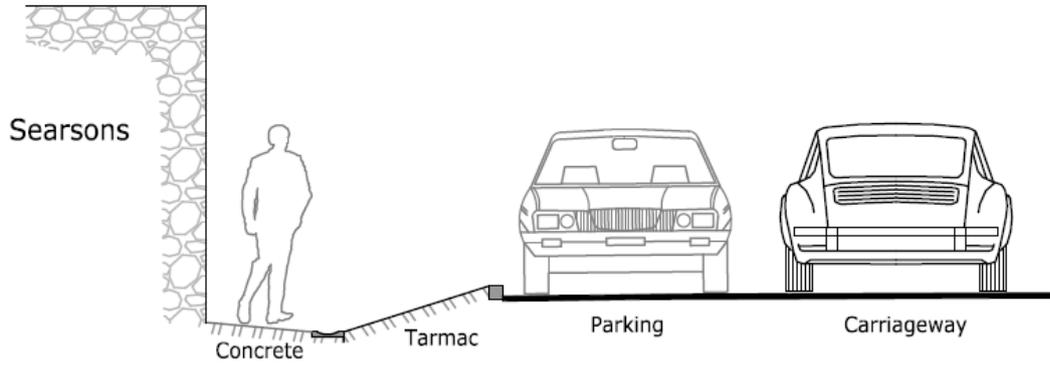
Existing Section (Ch:60.00)



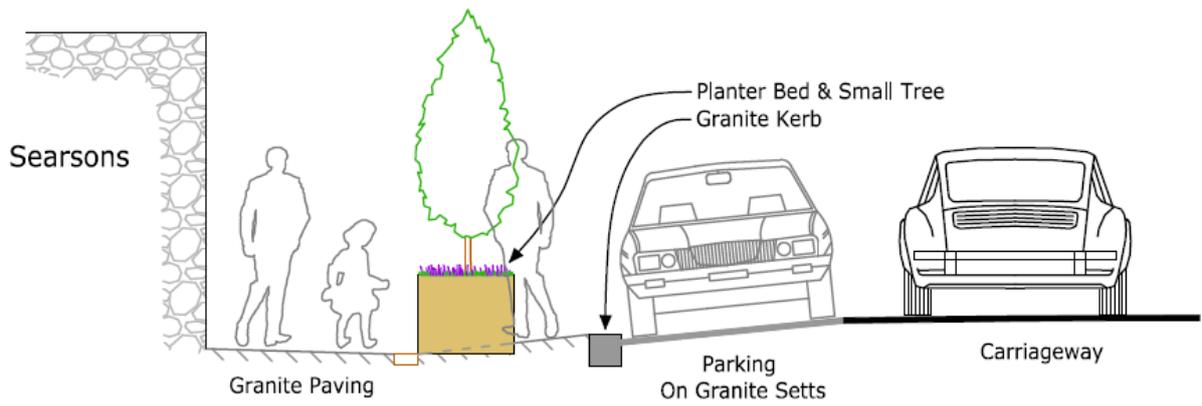
Proposed Section (Ch:60.00)



Red line shows the extent of the proposed path (at Ch 80)



Existing Section (Ch:80.00)



Proposed Section (Ch:80.00)