



## Proposed Road Closure: Pembroke St

### Introduction

Cork City Council is preparing a programme of measures to be undertaken to facilitate the awakening of the local economy and to support both residents and the public in safely returning to work and commercial life in the city centre and town centres while we all learn to live with this Pandemic and as Government direction allows in response to the next phase of dealing with COVID-19. The Taoiseach has announced the triggers and framework for a phased reduction of restrictions in five stages commenced on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020. The contagious virus is a constant which means that while public health recommendations such as social distancing, respiratory hygiene and hand washing will be more important than ever, action in the city will need to be undertaken by the Council to facilitate these changes. These measures will involve temporary changes to the layout of streets in order to maintain adequate separation space for public health social distancing requirements. In cities across Europe there is emerging evidence of the reallocation of additional road space to walking and cycling in the response to the Covid-19 pandemic is increasingly being pursued as the best available option to safely facilitate the movement of a considerable volume of people to work, education and amenities. While this approach protects health and well - being, all interventions will need to be fully considered across all stakeholder interest groups.

Cork City Council is now bringing forward three proposals for temporary road closures. One of these closures is outlined below:

### Road Closure: Pembroke Street

In order to facilitate improved pedestrian movement and to enhance social distancing during the Covid-19 pandemic, Cork City Council proposes to introduce a temporary road closure on Pembroke Street. Pembroke Street is a high footfall corridor for members of the public accessing Oliver Plunkett Street from South Mall. It has a large number of businesses, food outlets, bars and the GPO located on the street.

The Street starts at its junction with South Mall and runs perpendicular to South Mall connecting to Oliver Plunkett Street. There is access to Crane Lane, Phoenix Street and Smith Street from Pembroke Street. Currently it is a one-way street for traffic travelling from South Mall onto Oliver Plunkett Street. There are five frequently used disabled spaces on the street. Footpath widths on this street vary, but overall are narrow and cannot support the 2m social distancing requirement for pedestrians.

Cork City Council proposes to close Pembroke Street to vehicular traffic 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, from Friday 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2020 until the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2020. This will also effectively close Crane Lane to vehicular traffic. The closure will allow for the required 2m social distancing to be adhered to on a heavy pedestrian corridor.

The proposed road closure barrier will be the standard type used in the City for a static closure. The barrier will be unmanned. The barrier can be easily moved to the side in the event that the emergency services require access to the closed section. Advance warning signs will be provided on the South Mall. The closure will be advertised by the City Council widely through social media, press releases etc.

### **Considerations to be taken into account before finalising the closure:**

- Access to business's and other properties
- Address concerns about refuse collection
- The five frequently used disabled spaces will be unavailable for use while the road closure is in place. It is proposed to temporarily relocate these disabled spaces to South Mall. Three parallel spaces will be provided

on the north side of South Mall to the east of Pembroke Street. Two perpendicular spaces will be provided across from Pembroke Street on the south side of South Mall Figure 6 below highlights where the proposed temporary disabled spaces will be located.

- The automatic bollards that close the northern portion of the street between 1100-1700hrs each day will remain in place.
- Removable bollards on the Eastern Side of the footpath will be taken out for the duration of the closure.

**Benefits of the proposed temporary closure include:**

- Improved space to allow for easier social distancing for people walking and cycling during the current Covid-19 pandemic
- Enhancement of a key City pedestrian corridor to meet the needs of users
- Promotion of sustainable modes of transport including walking and cycling.

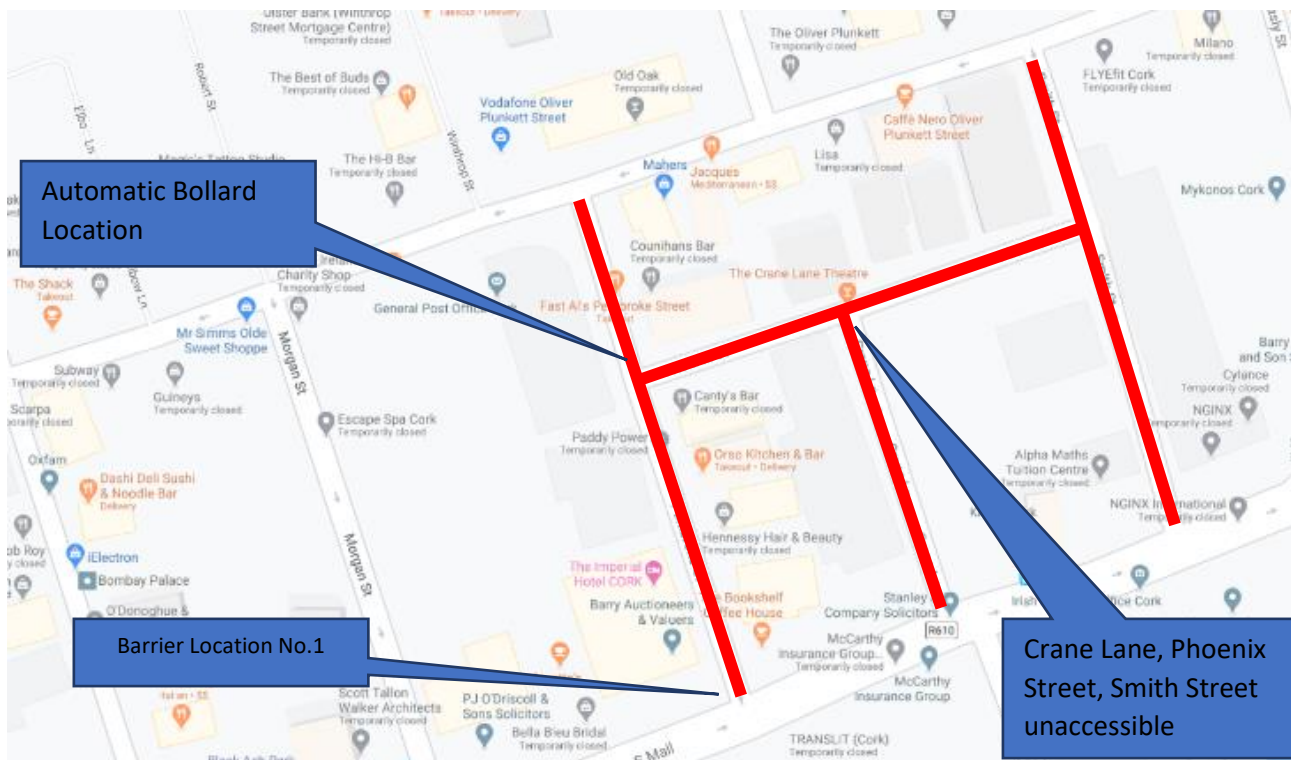


Figure 1: Overview of Pembroke Street Road Closure (source Google Maps)



Figure 2: Road closure indicative location at junction with South Mall (source Google Maps)



Figure 3: Five number disabled spaces to be temporarily re-located & removal of bollards on RHS to facilitate wider footpath (source Google Maps)





Figure 4: Automatic Bollards to remain in place. No vehicular access to Crane Lane for duration of closure.



Figure 5: Cycle Rack facilities on Pembroke Street.

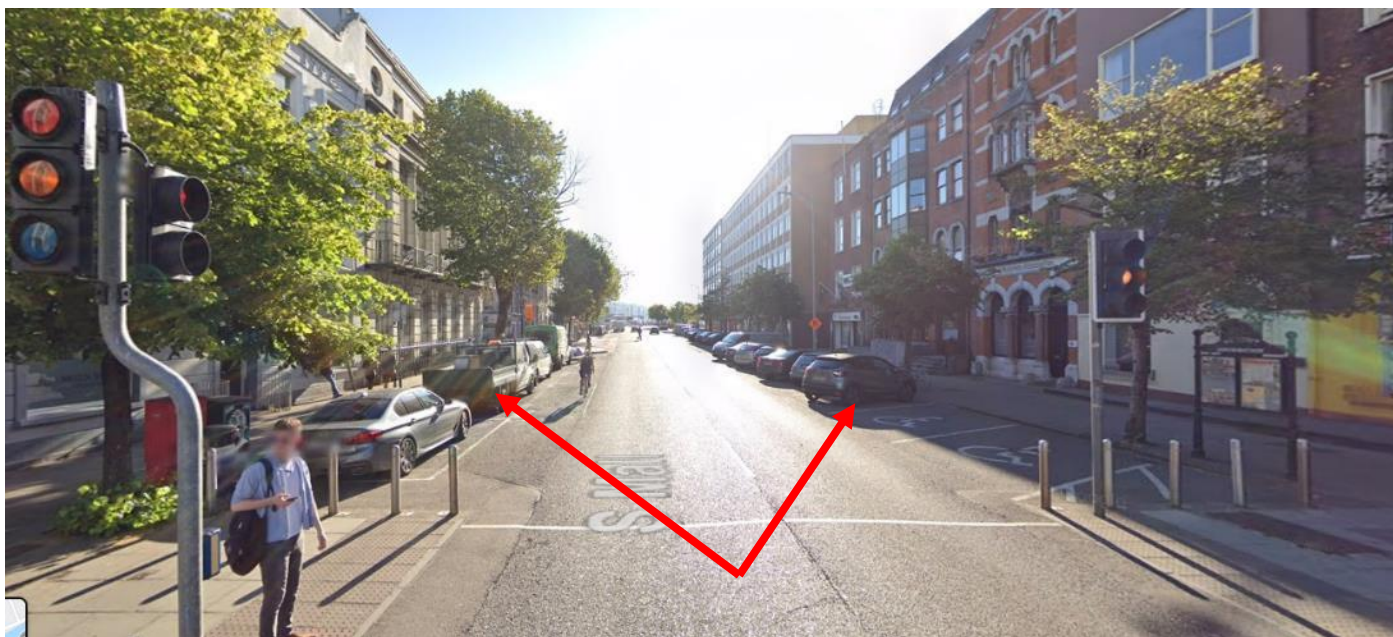


Figure 6: Proposed Temporary Disabled Bay Locations

### Consultation:

Submissions are invited from the public, stakeholders and interested parties on this proposed temporary road closure. Submissions on the proposal may be made in writing via this online consultation portal <https://consult.corkcity.ie/> before 5pm on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020.