



Proposed Road Closure: Tuckey 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 that commenced on the 18th 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: Tuckey 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 Tuckey Street. Tuckey Street has a number of businesses, food outlets and bars located on the street, along with being a key alternative route for vehicles and footfall travelling from Grand Parade onto South Main Street.

The Street starts at its junction with Grand Parade and runs parallel along by Bishop Lucey Park terminating at its junction with South Main Street. Currently the street is one-way traffic only travelling from Grand Parade onto South Main Street. There is parking on one side of the street, including four number disabled spaces. Footpath widths in this location are narrow and cannot support the 2m social distancing requirement for pedestrians.

Cork City Council proposes to close Tuckey Street to vehicular traffic 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, from Friday 5th of June 2020 until the 31st of August 2020. This will allow for the required 2m social distancing to be adhered to in a heavy footfall street, as well as improving the social distancing around a key amenity in Bishop Lucey Park.

The proposed road closure barriers will be the standard type used in the City for a static closure. The barriers will be unmanned. The barriers can be easily moved to the side in the event that the emergency services require access to Tuckey Street. Advance warning signs will be provided on the Grand Parade. 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:

1. Access to business's and other properties
2. Address concerns about refuse collection
3. Parking to be removed on the Freemasons Side of the Street
4. Removal of four disabled spaces and provide temporary alternative disabled spaces on South Main Street as per Figures 6 & 7 below.

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

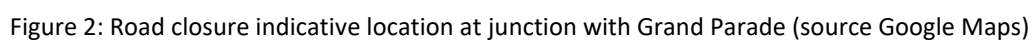




Figure 3: Road closure indicative location at junction of South Main Street (source Google Maps)



Figure 4: Four number disabled spaces to be temporarily re-accommodated



Figure 5: Rubbish collection will have to be facilitated



Figure 6: First set of relocated disabled spaces on South Main Street



Figure 7: Second set of relocated disabled spaces on South Main Street

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 Friday 29th May of May 2020.