



Proposed Road Closure: Emmett Place

Introduction

Cork City Council is implementing a programme of measures 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 various phases of dealing with COVID-19. 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 has and continues to bring forward proposals for temporary road closures. One of these closures is outlined below.

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 midday on 24th June 2020.

Road Closure: Emmett Place

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 Emmett Place. Emmett Place is a highly popular area for passing pedestrian traffic. It has a large number of businesses, food outlets, Crawford Art Gallery and Cork Opera house.

The Street starts at its junction with Half Moon Street connecting to Lavitts Quay. There is access to Drawbridge Street, Little William Street and Perry from Half Moon Street. Currently it is a one-way street for traffic travelling from Half Moon Street onto Lavitts Quay. There are two frequently used loading bays/parking spaces on the street.

Cork City Council proposes to close the section of Emmett Place from its junction with Drawbridge Street to Lavitts Quay, to vehicular traffic 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, from Monday 29th of June 2020 until the 31st of August 2020. The closure will create a large temporary pedestrian zone right in the heart of the city centre island and allow for additional street furniture. Traffic will still be able to enter the area and exit via Drawbridge Street - Perry St back onto Lavitts Quay.

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 Lavitts Quay and Half Moon Lane. 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 two frequently used loading bays/parking spaces will be unavailable for use while the road closure is in place. The loading bay at the junction of Half Moon Street is to be maintained.

Benefits of the proposed temporary closure include:

- This section has a high number of businesses on the street and a large pedestrian area that could be utilized further. The proposed closure would allow for a designated set down area for cyclists/ bikes if additional bike racks are added to the plaza area.
- Better connectivity for pedestrians travelling east/west on Lavitts Quay/ Emmett Place Junction would be achieved by the closure.

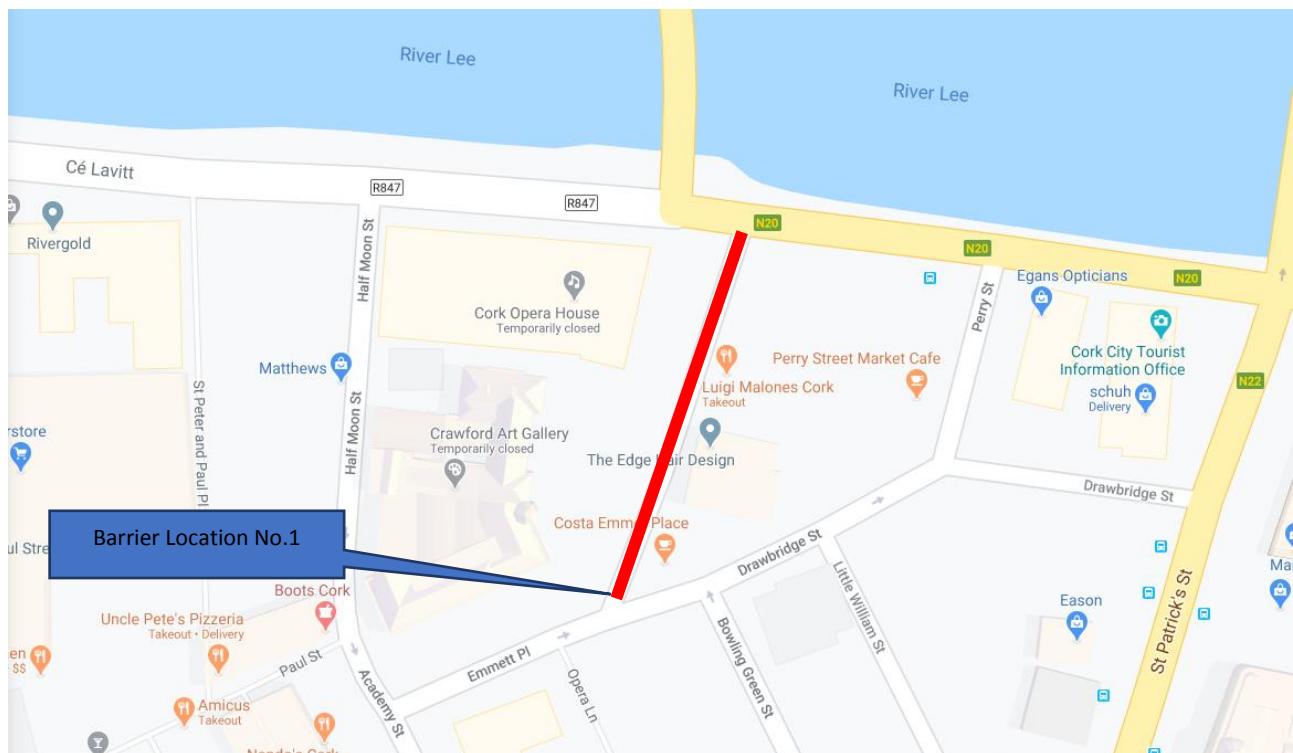


Figure 1: Overview of Emmett Place Road Closure (source Google Maps)

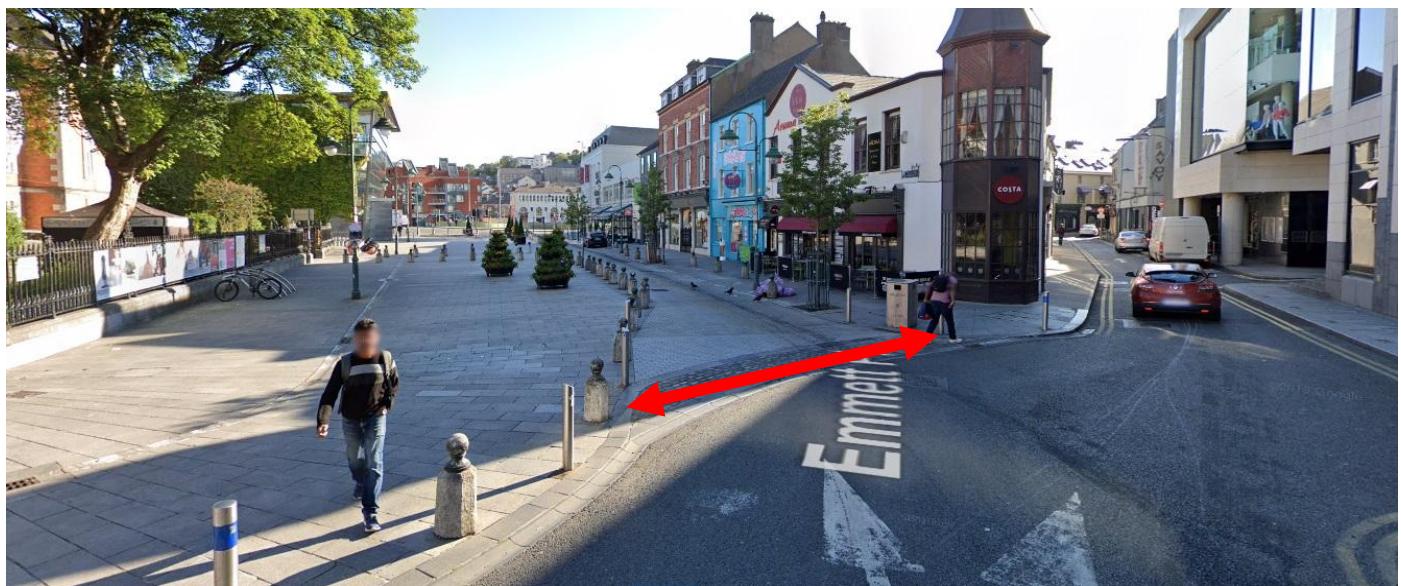


Figure 2: Road closure indicative location at junction with Drawbridge Street (source Google Maps)



Figure 3: Emmett Place large pedestrian area in prime city centre location (source Google Maps)



Figure 4: Emmett Place from its junction with Lavitt's Quay (source Google Maps).



Figure 5: Emmett Place from its junction with Lavitt's Quay (source Google Maps).



Figure 6: Loading Bays/Parking Spaces on Emmett Place (source Google Maps).