



Proposed Road Closure: Liberty Street East

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 5th August 2020.

Road Closure: Liberty Street East

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 the eastern section of Liberty Street between it's junction with Cross Street and it's junction with South Main Street and North Main Street. Liberty Street is a high footfall corridor for members of the public accessing North/South Main Street. It has a large number of businesses, bars and a church.

Currently this section of the street is a two-way street. There are two frequently used parking bays and one disabled parking space on the street.

Cork City Council proposes to close the eastern section of Liberty Street from its junction with Cross Street and South Main Street/North Main Street to vehicular traffic 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, from Friday the 7th August until the 31st of August 2020. 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 Washington Street and North Main Street. 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 frequently used parking bays and disabled space will be unavailable for use while the road closure is in place. It is proposed to relocate the disabled space to the western end of Liberty Street. Figure 4 below highlights the proposed temporary disabled space location.

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.
- Better connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists travelling from UCC/Mardyke/Fitzgerald's Park direction into the City Centre.

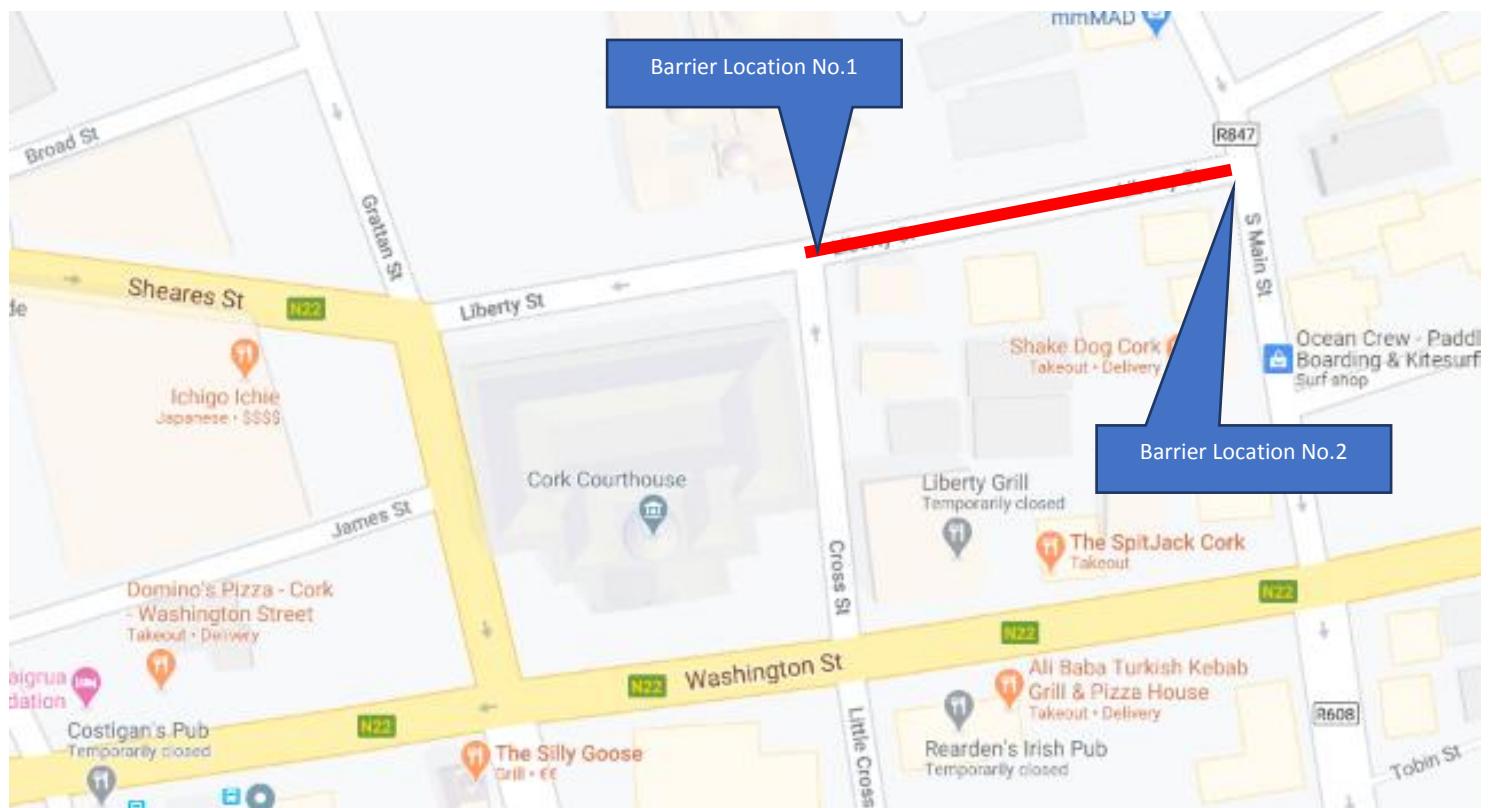


Figure 1: Overview of Liberty Street East Closure (source Google Maps)



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



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



Figure 4: Proposed temporary disabled bay location on Liberty Street West (source Google Maps).

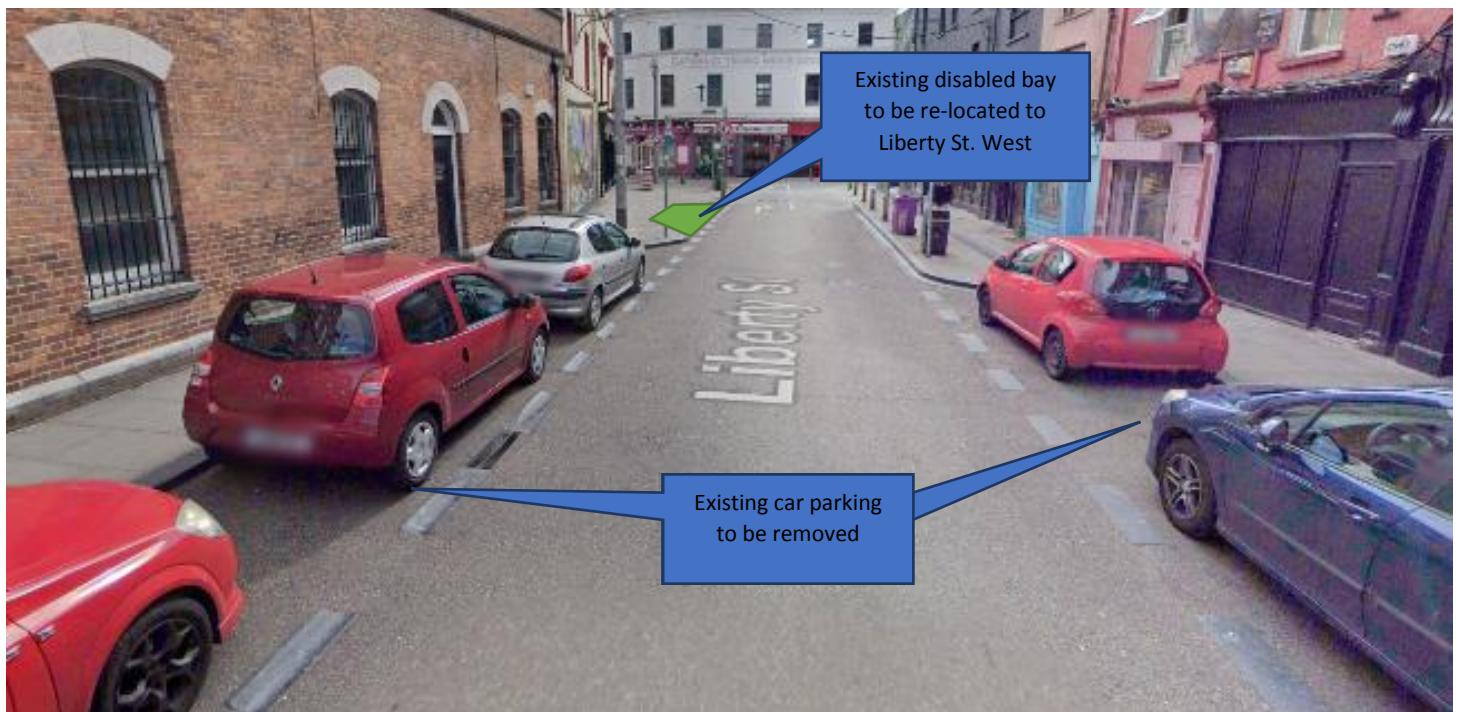


Figure 5: Existing car parking spaces on Liberty Street East to be removed (source Google Maps).