



Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí
Cork City Council

Reimagining Cork: Creating People and Business Friendly Places

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Context

- **Cork City Development Plan:**
 - Long-term Strategic Vision for the City
- **Strategic Transport Plans:**
 - Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (CMATS)
 - City Centre Movement Strategy (CCMS)
- **COVID 19 Pandemic:**
 - Accelerated Implementation of Measures
 - Brand - “Reimagine Cork City”
- **Regional Driver:**
 - Cork City is the key economic driver for the region



**Cork City
Development
Plan 2022–2028**

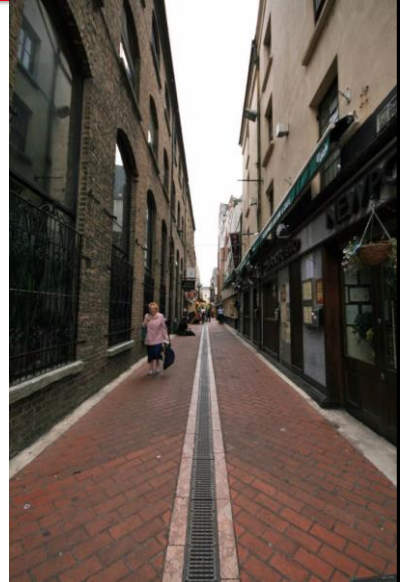


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Key Principles & Challenges

Key Principles:

- **Safety:** must meet minimum standards & allow social distancing
- **Accessibility:** universal design for all
- **Amenity:** safe, welcoming and comfortable environment
- **Consultation:** engagement with communities and businesses through our web portal – consult.corkcity.ie
- **Key Challenges**
 - **Narrow Historic Streets:** limited amount of space available for various interventions
 - **Conflicting Demands:** COVID, pedestrians, cyclists, vehicles, residents, communities, businesses & environmental
 - **Communication:** in the context of a complex constantly changing situation



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Reimagination Interventions

Suite of interdependent reimagination measures designed to support the enhanced and extended pedestrian priority in the City Centre:

- **Pedestrianisation** interventions on 17 streets
- New **bike parking** facilities at 50 locations (city wide)
- Extended **Street Furniture Licenses** including winter proofing
- Enhanced **cycling infrastructure** (bollards, new cycle lanes etc.)
- CityTrees **moss walls** (with sensors/IoT) to improve air quality
- **Urban parklets** – new community interaction spaces
- “**Greening**” the City – attractive spaces to visit
- Temporary **footpath extensions** to facilitate reimagination
- City Centre **branding initiative** – friendly & welcoming signage



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Pedestrianisation of Streets

Permanent Pedestrianisation Zone

On-street Alfresco Dining

New Recreational Pedestrianised Areas

The image features an aerial map of a city area with several streets highlighted in red, green, and blue. A red line also runs along the River Lee. An inset photograph shows a busy street with many people sitting at outdoor cafe tables. A purple oval highlights a specific area on the map near the river.

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Accessibility - Bike Parking

On-Street Car Parking Area converted into Bike Parking

Repurposing of Unused Space

Need Identified at a Specific Location were Met

The image shows three different street scenes. On the left, a car parking space has been converted into a bike parking area with a small metal rack. In the center, a raised concrete curb is being replaced with a metal bike rack. On the right, a red bicycle is parked in a repurposed space next to a sidewalk. A grey oval highlights a specific location on the sidewalk.

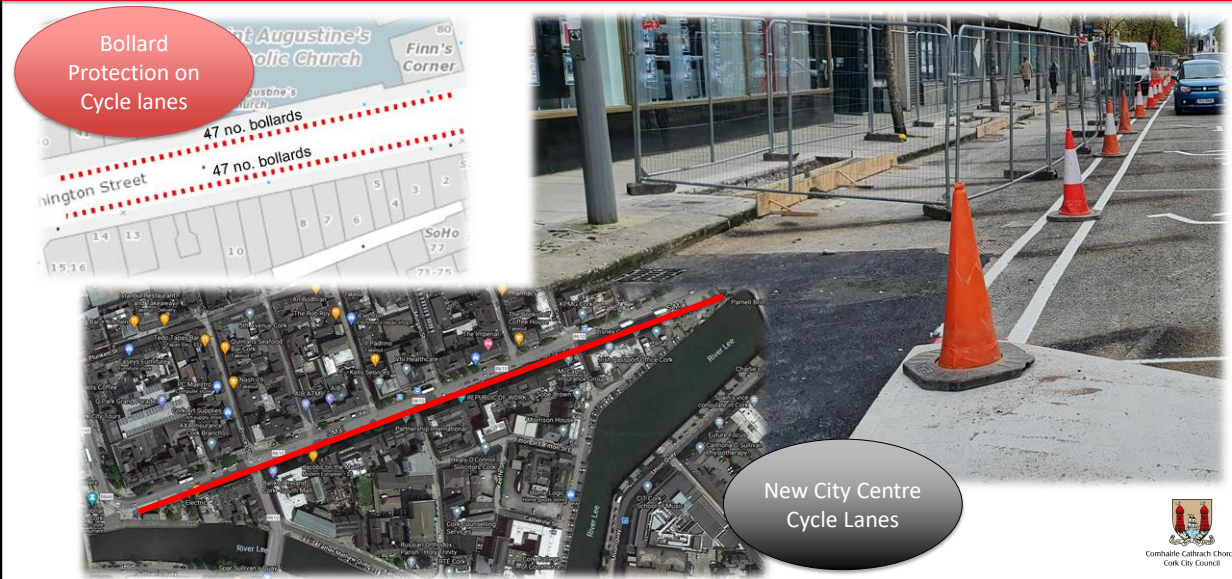
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Reuse of "Streets"



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Cycling Infrastructure



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Greening the City Centre



Air Quality
CityTree Moss
Walls

Decorative Floral
Planters



Urban Parklets

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Temporary Modular Footpath

Modular Paving
Under
Construction



Buildout Section
Completed



Outdoor Dining
Facilitated

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Reimagination Branding Initiative



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Supports

Various business and social supports were put in place, many of which are being mainstreamed and will remain in place permanently:

- **Business supports** (funded by National Government & Local Authority sources) including:
 - Rates wavers
 - Restart Grants
 - Outdoor Infrastructure Grants
 - Local Enterprise Office (LEO) trading online and continuity vouchers
- **Parking Incentives** including 2 hours free parking in City Council owned multi storey car parks
- **Playful Paradigm** and on street family activities
- **Community Response Forum** supported by 16 dedicated area based multi agency teams (Local Authority, HSE & Gardaí)



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The Future?

Is the impact of COVID on cities permanent or fleeting? Will everything go back to the “old” normal or has a “new” normal been formed that will outlive COVID?

- **Uncertainty** – When/will we ever be free from COVID?
- **Paradigm Shift** – balance tipped between liveable vs functional City?
- **Reimagine Cork City** legacy:
 - A vibrant liveable 15 minute City?
 - New Green public urban spaces?
 - The “City Experience” as a destination?
 - Creativity and placemaking initiatives?
 - Public engagement, empowerment and participation?



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Thank You

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