



Cork Chamber  
Fitzgerald House  
Summerhill North  
Cork  
T23 TD90

Tim Lucey  
Chief Executive  
Cork County Council  
County Hall  
Carrigrohane Rd  
Sunday's Well  
Cork

**17 April 2020**

**Re: Enhanced public realm for pedestrians and cyclists**

Dear Mr Lucey

Firstly, I write to communicate the sincere gratitude of Cork Chamber for the exceptional speed and responsiveness of Cork County Council to the COVID-19 pandemic, in what are extraordinarily challenging times.

Now more than ever we are in a situation that is testing the resilience and robustness of our urban and community spaces. To aid the societal response to COVID-19, we believe it timely to review our shared public realm and the space allocated to pedestrians and cyclists, and where possible and appropriate adapt our urban and community recreation spaces to meet this challenge going forward. While we are seeing a reduction in vehicular traffic throughout urban areas, we are at the same time seeing the reclaiming of road space by walkers and cyclists doing their best to adhere to the 2 metre social distancing guidelines. To avoid the current situation where pedestrians and cyclists are obliged to enter road space to ensure sufficient distancing, which in itself is a safety issue for all road users, we suggest where possible that community groups are enticed to identify such pinch points and work with the team in the County Council to safely allocate this road space. In doing so, giving increased certainty to all road users. Otherwise the risk is run of exacerbating road user safety issues for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists alike.

The availability of urban amenity space, be it green park space or car free amenity space is recognised by all as a necessity for urban residents to thrive and enjoy their community and locality. While acknowledging the work and dedication ongoing of Cork County Council to amplify and accelerate the provision of these spaces, we highlight their ever-heightening importance now



for all age groups, family sizes and mobility abilities. We believe this heightened requirement will be a lasting outcome of the pandemic with urban residents requiring an enhanced allocation of amenity space. To this end, we encourage the continued commitment to the provision of green and amenity spaces, the investment in greenway cycle and walking routes such the Midleton to Youghal greenway project, and the overall emphasis on the quality of life for residents. Cork Chamber as a representative voice of the Cork business community greatly supports all efforts to invest and designate public amenity spaces, recognising their intrinsic value to overall wellbeing for a community and the value of these to increasing the overall attractiveness and liveability of urban centres.

I thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Kelly", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

CEO  
Cork Chamber

M: + 353 (0)87 947 1858