

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 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.

It has been proposed that some streets in the city centre may benefit from the introduction of temporary one-way pedestrian movement. Cork City Council is now bringing forward two proposals for temporary one-way pedestrian movement, one of these proposals (Cook Street & Marlboro Street) is outlined below.

Consultation:

Submissions are invited from the public, stakeholders and interested parties on the proposed temporary one-way pedestrian movement. Submissions on the proposal may be made in writing via this online consultation portal <https://consult.corkcity.ie/> before 5pm on Monday 8th June 2020.

One-way Pedestrian Movement: Cook Street (North) & Marlboro Street (North)

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 one-way pedestrian movement system on high footfall streets around the City Centre Island Area.

The sections of Cook Street and Marlboro Street between Oliver Plunkett St & St. Patrick's are pedestrianised and have high numbers of businesses on the street. As the streets are already pedestrianised, there is no defined footpath and the streets can support the 2m social distancing requirement for pedestrians. It is proposed to make Cook Street (North) a designated southbound route for pedestrians and to twin this street with a northbound route on Marlboro Street (North).

Cork City Council propose to implement one-way pedestrian movement on these streets, from Friday 12th of June 2020 until the 31st of August 2020.

Signage will be provided at each end of the streets to advise pedestrians on the movement direction.

Considerations to be taken into account before finalising the pedestrian movement:

- Access to business's and other properties
- Address concerns about refuse collection
- Upcoming construction works in any of the premises will disrupt the movement strategy.

Benefits of the proposed temporary closure include:

- Improved space to allow for easier social distancing for people walking during the current Covid-19 pandemic

- Promotion of a designated/ safe pedestrian circulation route which will service businesses while maintaining normal traffic flow in the area.
- Promoting safe business activity in the region again once implemented.

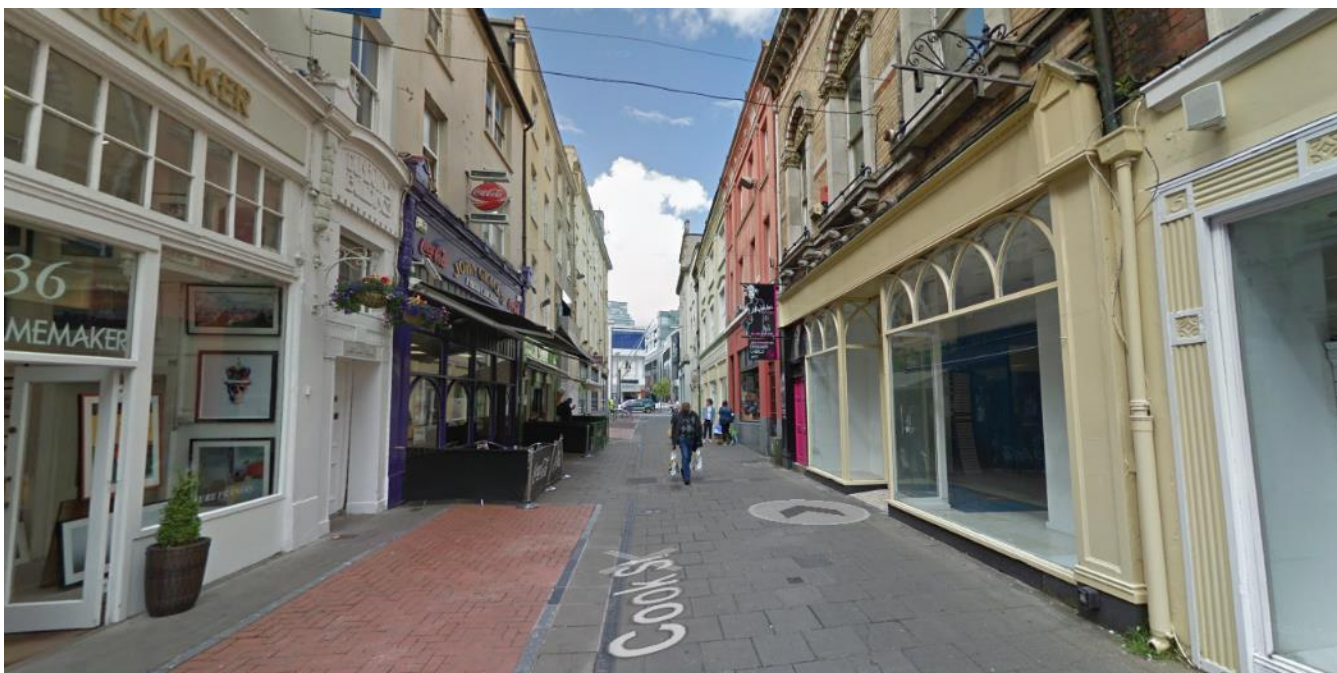


Fig 1: Cook Street from its junction with Oliver Plunkett Street to its Junction with St Patrick's Street
(Image source: Google Maps)

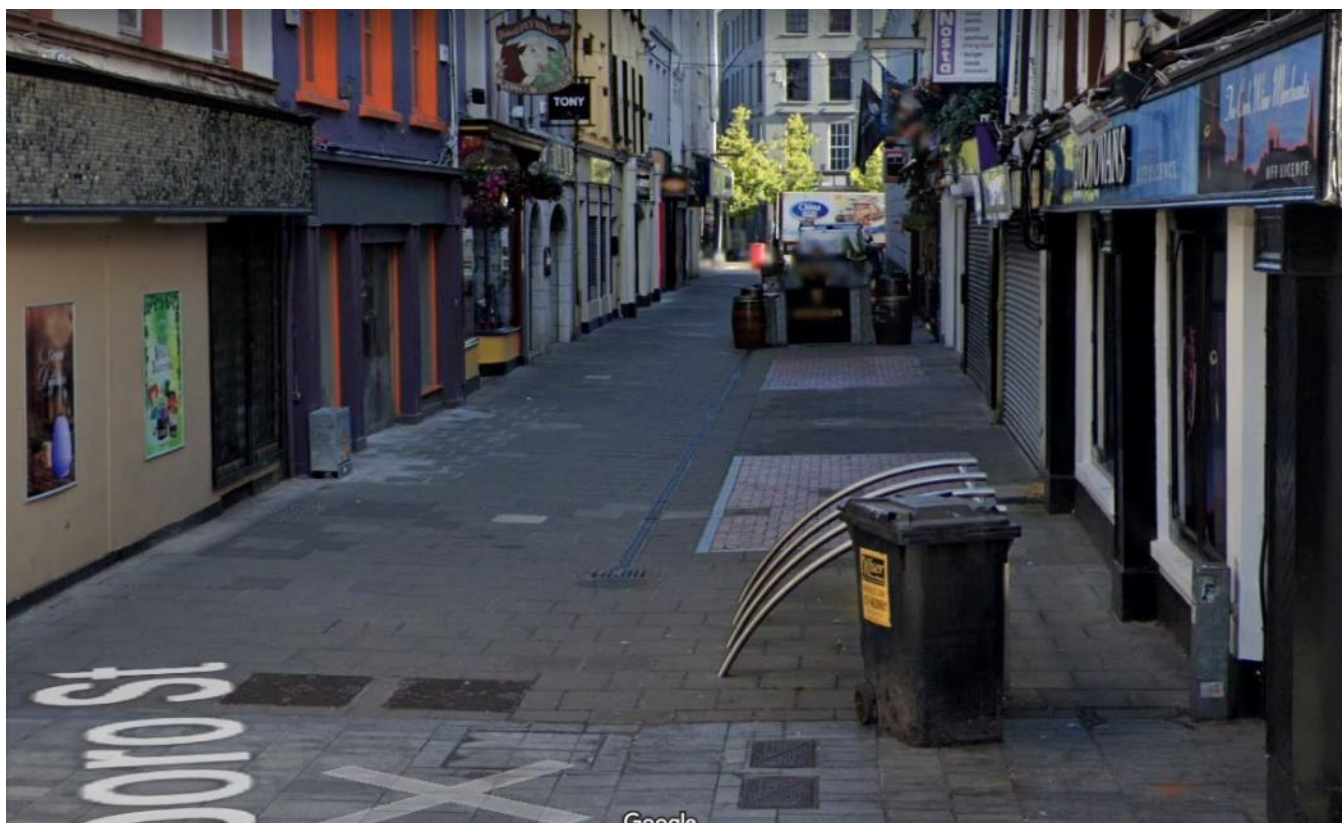


Fig 2: Marlboro Street from its junction with Oliver Plunkett Street to its Junction with St Patrick's Street
(Image source: Google Maps)

Pedestrian Movement System: Cook Street & Marlboro Street

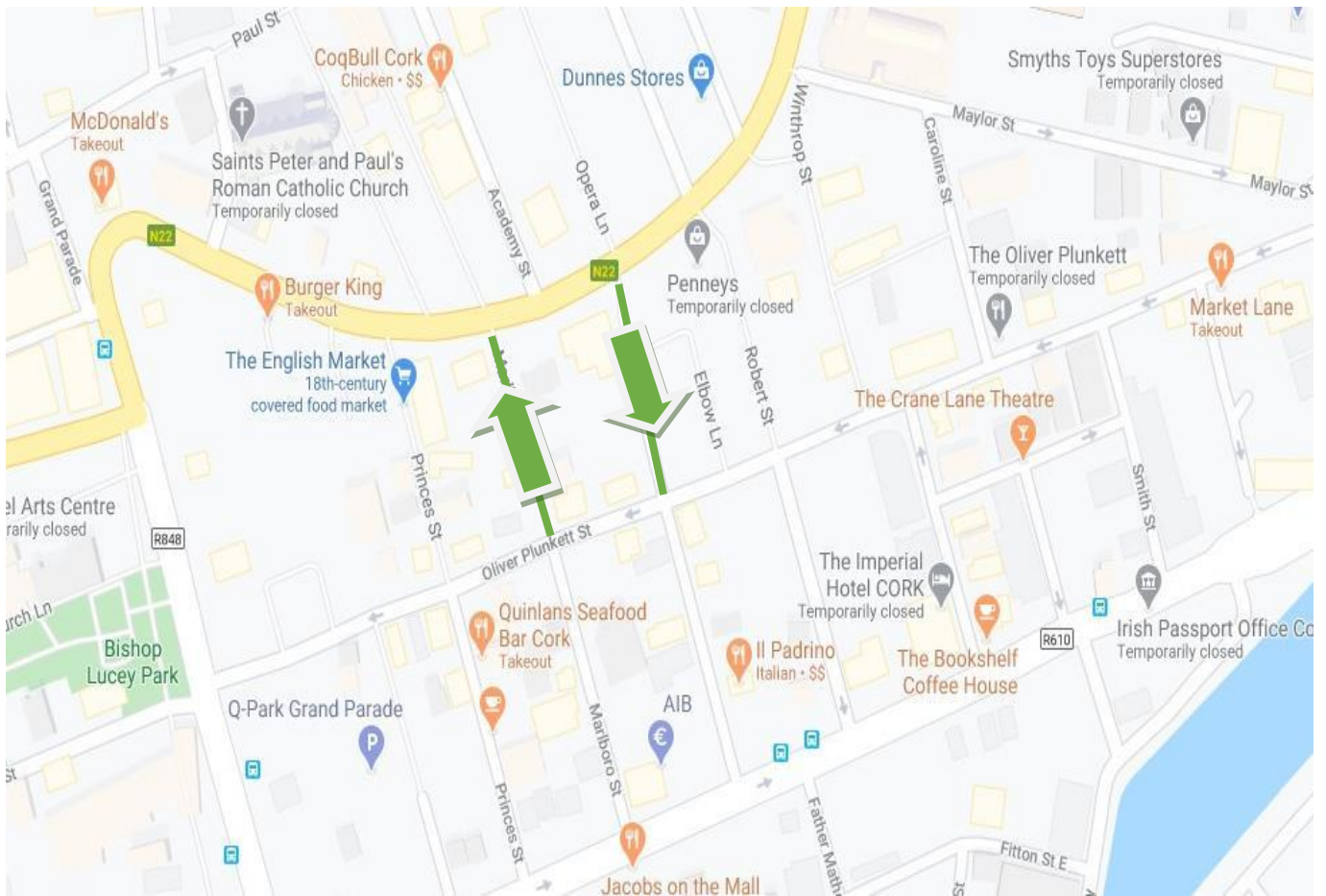


Fig 3: Pedestrian Movement Proposal: Cook Street (North) & Marlboro Street (North)
(Image source: Google Maps)

— Green: Areas where pedestrian Movement is to be directional as per arrows highlighted.