

Item No. 5

Report to the Chairperson and Members of the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee

Current Situation of Coach Parking in Dublin City

The City Council Traffic Management and Control Section and the Parking Enforcement Section met with An Garda Síochána on the 6th June, 2017, to discuss issues regarding enforcement of coach parking offences with a special emphasis on Nassau Street and the issues of coaches overstaying. The Council and An Garda Síochána are arranging a major enforcement initiative which will take place shortly. The Council will also hold meetings with the Coach Tourism and Transport Council of Ireland (CTTC) in an effort to encourage them to educate their own members on coach parking locations and parking restrictions. Despite the difficulties in carrying out enforcement with drivers on board, Nassau Street is patrolled on a regular basis. Generally all coaches with a driver on board leave once approached by enforcement operatives. Notwithstanding this, 37 enforcement actions were carried out on Nassau Street over the past 6 months.

Coach parking in Marlborough Street

- Marlborough Street coach parking was removed as a requirement of the LUAS cross city construction works. The removal was offset by the immediate introduction of c. 48.7m long coach parking on Cumberland Street North. This relocation was carried out after engagement with CTTC and other affected coach operators.

Coach parking in Merrion Square

- The permanent coach parking provisions on Merrion Square South have not been removed and remain in place today, c. 40m long coach parking.

In consultation with the CTTC, Dublin City Council provided a temporary coach parking facility outside of core hours within the bus and cycle lane on Merrion Square North in 2015. To offset the removal of this temporary coach parking location, additional permanent coach parking facilities were provided at Victoria Quay, Cook Street and Western Way. This intervention was developed working closely with the representatives of the CTTC and other stakeholders, (local businesses, NTA, etc).

Coach parking in Mountjoy Square

- After considerable engagement with the communities in this area, in 2013, it was incumbent on the Council to be more effective in managing the traffic at this location to address residents issues. There were substantial safety concerns raised by residents due to the particularly high number of coaches accessing this location on an almost 24/7 basis. In particular noise and air pollution, in addition the exceptionally high and continuous volumes of coaches accessing and egressing the area, were unsustainable, particularly as this square provides an internal community amenity attracting many vulnerable road users, both young and old. Also there was minimal provision of on-street parking for residents.

As a result of this developing situation, Dublin City Council undertook a review of re-allocation of road space to more effectively manage the street space.

Coach parking along the canal

- Wilton Terrace = c. 36.4m long coach parking.
- Mespil Road = c. 63.9m long coach parking.
- Burlington Road = c. 12.7m long coach parking.
- Grand Canal View = c. 14.9m long coach parking.

Coach parking at Guinness

- Bellevue = c. 21.8m long coach parking.
- Crane Street = c. 46.1m long coach parking.
- Grand Canal Place = c. 15m long coach parking.
- Pim Street = c. 30m long coach parking.
- Bellevue (Jnct School St) = c. 27m long coach parking.

Coach parking around the Aishling hotel and the courts

- Victoria Quay = c. 180.0m long coach parking.
- Liffey Street West = c. 44m long coach parking.
- Benburb Street = c. 26m long coach parking.

Coach parking near Harcourt Street

- Hatch Street Upper = c. 21.5m long coach parking.
- Mespil Road = c. 63.9m long coach parking.
- Burlington Road = c. 12.7m long coach parking.

Coach parking near Dublin Castle

- Cook Street = c. 33.4m long coach parking and c. 93.5m long coach parking.
- Francis Street = c. 15.1m long coach parking.
- Bull Alley Street = c. 81.1m long coach parking.
- Clarendon Street = c. 18.4m long coach parking.

Coach parking near Topaz at Dublin port

- New Wapping Street = c. 49m long coach parking and c. 15.5m long coach parking.

Dublin City Council provide approximately 1,473m of coach parking in its administrative area primarily between the 2 No. Canals. There are 32 No. designated coach parking areas which can facilitate approximately 98 coaches.

To offset the removal of any coach parking locations, Dublin City Council endeavours to provide suitable alternative coach parking locations. Also with the introduction of the LUAS Cross City some coach parking facilities inevitably were affected.

Road space for public transport, loading, pedestrians and cyclists is at a premium in the core city centre area. Dublin City Council manages this limited space in as safe and efficient manner as possible. Dublin City Council recognises the value that public transport and coaches provide to our city in terms of high capacity mobility of commuters, tourists and regional journeys.

It should be noted that the number of parking spaces in Dublin city has reduced from 35,000 to 29,000 over the last few years as a result of the increasing demand for on-street spaces for alternative uses. The Council has however endeavoured to provide as many coach parking locations within the City despite the competing demands for on-street space.

Dublin City Council recognises the value that public transport and coaches provide to our city in terms of high capacity mobility of commuters, tourists and regional journeys.

Ensuring that passengers have the most efficient access to key locations in the core city centre is integral to our city centre transport planning. Recognising the need for a more comprehensive coach parking facility is in line with the City Development Plan and Dublin City Council supports and has facilitated requests from both the CTTC, business groups and others. We continue to work proactively with the CTTC and coach drivers' representatives to deliver feasible and safe infrastructure.

The delivery of the coach park is within the gift of the NTA. According to the NTA, works are due to be completed in September 2017.

The Council has worked, and will continue to work, proactively with the CTTC and coach drivers' representatives to deliver feasible and safe infrastructure.

A more comprehensive report on coach parking will be provided for the September SPC; this will include the NTA Coach Park and plans for the next year for the existing coach parking in the Dublin City Area.

Adrian Nevin, BEng (Hons) Nat Dip Eng MIEI, Assistant Engineer, | Transportation (Policy & Innovation) T. 222 2569; E: adrian.nevin@dublincity.ie

Kevin Meade, Senior Executive Officer, Environment and Transportation Department T. 222 2109 E. Kevin.meade@dublincity.ie

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