

Update on Public Realm Plans for Santry

Following several representations from elected representatives, the North Central Area Office agreed to investigate the feasibility of carrying out public realm improvements in the Santry area, which could help to make it a more vibrant, liveable, accessible and age friendly village. A sum of €200,000 was made available through the Area Office and by the councillors through the Area Discretionary Fund.

The North Central Area Office put in place a plan to begin consultation with elected members, residents and businesses with regard to possible improvements that could be agreed upon.

On the 17th January 2020, the Area Office facilitated a walkabout for the elected members from Santry Resource Centre through the village to the far end at the motorway bridge at Shanrath Road. A list of possible improvements in the public realm was drawn up including footpaths, buildings, green spaces, planting, street furniture, poles and overhead wires.

On the 19th February 2020 the Area Office met with the Whitehall/Santry Residents Forum and made a presentation to them on the possible works that the elected members and area staff had considered during the walkabout. The Forum also made a presentation to us on the developments that were being considered for the area. We explained that we were putting funding aside to carry out public realm works similar to those we had presented but also welcomed their input into the process. It was agreed that the Forum would meet the following week and come back to us with their input and ideas.

On the 21st February 2020 the Area Office presented the findings from the walkabout to the Santry Business Association. They welcomed our proposals and we had a useful discussion with them on their issues and ideas. We spoke about the possibility of hanging baskets on poles, bicycle racks and the need for a pedestrian crossing between The Comet shops and the units across the road. We spoke about the possibility of match funding for some of the proposals.

On 3rd March 2020 the Area Office met with Omni management. We discussed our proposals for the public realm on the main street. They informed us that they keep the site from Omni down to the Queensway site cut back and clean. They stated that they keep the footpath outside their entrance clean along with the area around the pedestrian crossing. I spoke to them about some planting inside their railings and the possible painting of the railings. They informed us that they were planting trees inside the railings and would be painting the railings when the weather improved. They were also putting some planters in their car park areas.

The Area Offices are pulling together all the information gathered and will come back to the Area Committee and the different groups next month with 5-7 key tasks or projects that we might progress with our designated funding and possibly with some matched funding from line departments and businesses.