

Good Afternoon & Welcome

Presentation
on proposed variation (no. 28) for
Islandbridge, Dublin 8

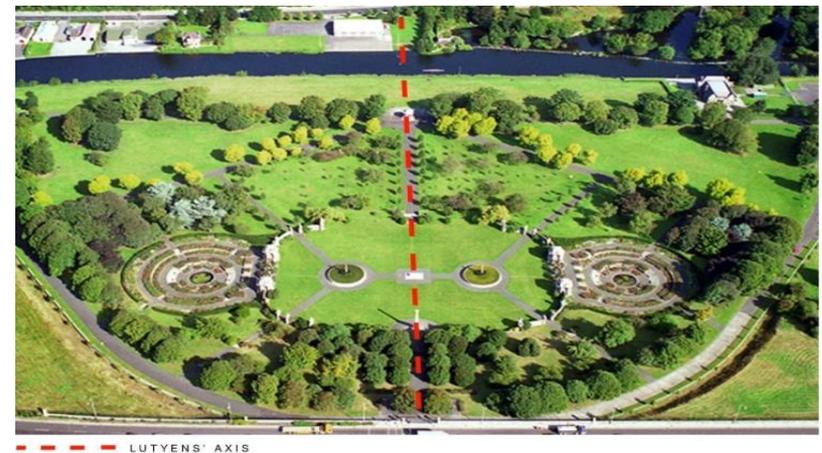
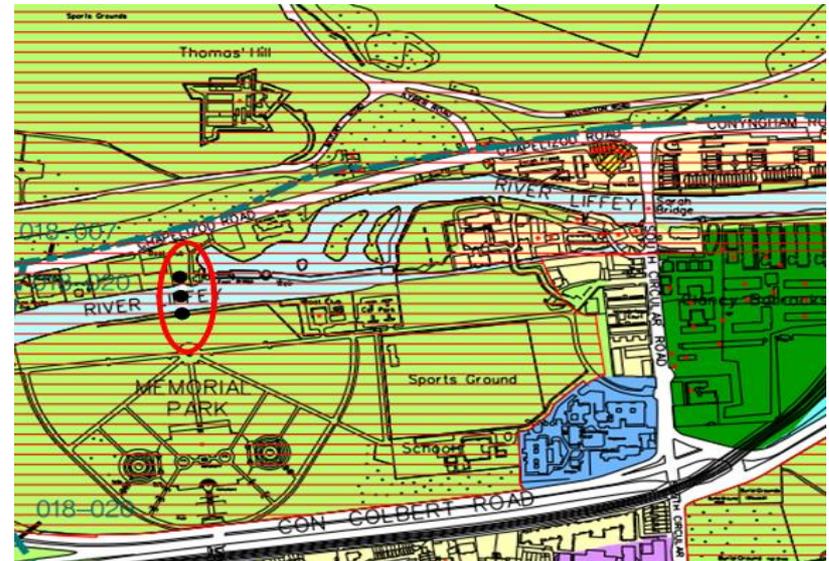
Wednesday 18 March 2020



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

Proposed Variation no. 28

- **The What:** - To amend objective MT031 (from Chapter 8: Movement and Transport) to include for a pedestrian/cycle bridge across the River Liffey, from the Irish National War Memorial Gardens (INWMG) /Islandbridge to the Chapelizod Road (R109).
- **The Where:** - This is represented with 3 dots, outlined in red, at the location of the proposed OPW pedestrian/cycle bridge, identified on Map E of the Dublin City Development Plan joining the (OPW) Irish War Memorial Gardens on the south-side of the River Liffey with the Chapelizod Road on the north-side that adjoins the (OPW) Phoenix Park.
- **The Why:** - Lutyens' original design for the INWMG included a three-arch bridge spanning the River Liffey. The bridge was to be aligned with the central axis of the gardens, linking them to Chapelizod Road and further on to the Phoenix Park. It was postponed due to lack of funding; however, detailed drawings remain of the proposal. It has been the OPW's intention to complete the 'last remaining element' of the INWMG with a 'Commemorative Bridge' linking the north and south banks of the River Liffey. It is intended that the proposed new bridge at the INWMG will be sympathetic to Lutyens' original design vision and will retain the same alignment and orientation.



OPW Bridge Competition

Following a recent competition for the pedestrian/cyclist bridge hosted by Royal Institute Architects Ireland (RIAI) the winning scheme has been announced. The following images, provided by the OPW with respect to the winning entry, give a visualisation of the proposed project that would follow this proposed variation.

The proposed pedestrian/cycle bridge comprises:

1. A new pedestrian and cycle bridge which will span the River Liffey and connect to an existing cycleway;
 2. A formal entrance at Chapelizod Road;
 3. An open plaza linking the entrance and bridge, to be located at the INWMMG and at lands to north of River Liffey, Chapelizod Road, Islandbridge, Dublin 8.
- In order to ensure the safe passage of pedestrians and cyclists across the Chapelizod Road to and from the proposed open plaza, a new pedestrian crossing will be required.



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Planning Context

Under the *Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022*, the subject site (both north and south of the River Liffey) is zoned **Z9 - Amenity/Open Space Lands/Green Network**: *'To preserve, provide and improve recreational amenity and open space and green networks'*. The Phoenix Park is also zoned Z9 and is separated from the northern section of the Z9 subject site by the Chapelizod Road only. The River Liffey, across which the bridge will traverse is zoned **Z11, Waterways Protection**: *'To protect and improve canal, coastal and river amenities'*.

This section of the River Liffey, its river banks and both the Memorial Gardens and the Phoenix Park all lie within the **Conservation Area** (red hatch) specific objective. Policy CHC4 states:

'To protect the special interest and character of all Dublin's Conservation Areas. Development within or affecting a conservation area must contribute positively to its character and distinctiveness, and take opportunities to protect and enhance the character and appearance of the area and its setting, wherever possible.'

Two of the enhancements opportunities identified with Policy **CHC4** include;

'Improvement of open spaces and the wider public realm....' and

'Contemporary architecture of exceptional design quality, which is in harmony with the Conservation Area.'

This proposed variation will satisfy the above.

The proposed project that requires this variation, the pedestrian/cycle bridge, will be a minor piece of infrastructure joining two pieces of significant Z9 zoned lands together that will facilitate access from the Irish National War Memorial Gardens to the Phoenix Park.



PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED DRAFT VARIATION

The Planning Authority considers that it is appropriate to amend objective for the following reasons:

The current Dublin City Development Plan promotes walking and cycling as healthy and sustainable forms of transport that can lead to improved levels of health in the community. In this regard, it is an Objective of Dublin City Council to:

'GIO4 in Chapter 10: Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation

Improve pedestrian and cycle access routes to strategic level amenities while ensuring that ecosystem functions and existing amenity uses are not compromised and existing biodiversity and heritage is protected and enhanced.'

The Planning Authority recognises that investing in open spaces and recreational areas in urban areas creates a greater sense of community and helps combat social exclusion and isolation. Green infrastructure creates opportunities to connect urban areas and to provide appealing places to live and work. In this regard, it is an Objective of Dublin City Council to:

'GIO14 (ii) in Chapter 10: Green Infrastructure, Open Space & Recreation

Protect and conserve the historic landscape of the Phoenix Park and its archaeological, architectural and natural heritage whilst facilitating visitor access, education and interpretation, facilitating the sustainable use of the park's resources for recreation and other appropriate activities, encouraging research and maintaining its sense of peace and tranquillity.'

Fig. 18 'Main Cultural Attractions' of the current Dublin City Development Plan identifies the INWMG as one of the city's key cultural attractions. It considers that the proposed bridge will contribute positively to the INWMG's tourism / cultural attraction status. The Bridge will act as pivot point with the potential to link recognised walking, cycling and military trails, connecting Kilmainham across the River Liffey, on to the Phoenix Park and beyond.

Since the adoption of the Dublin City Development Plan in 2016, the OPW's ***The Irish National War Memorial Gardens Conservation Management Plan, 2018*** has been published. The Planning Authority has given consideration to the issue of access, as raised in the Management Plan for the Gardens. This proposed variation supports a more visible and high profile pedestrian and cyclist access point to the Gardens.



Thank you

(This proposed variation will be accompanied with an AA screening, SEA screening, SFRA)

We look forward to your support



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