

Proposed Draft Variation (No. 28)

of the

**Dublin City Development Plan
2016-2022**

**PROPOSED DRAFT VARIATION (NO. 28) OF THE DUBLIN CITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
2016 – 2022**

RE: 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).

PROPOSAL

It is proposed to vary the Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022, Written Statement, Volume 1, by amending objective MT031 (from Chapter 8: Movement and Transport) to include an objective for a pedestrian/cycle bridge across the River Liffey, from the Irish National War Memorial Gardens (INWMG)/Islandbridge to the Chapelizod Road (the R109).

From:

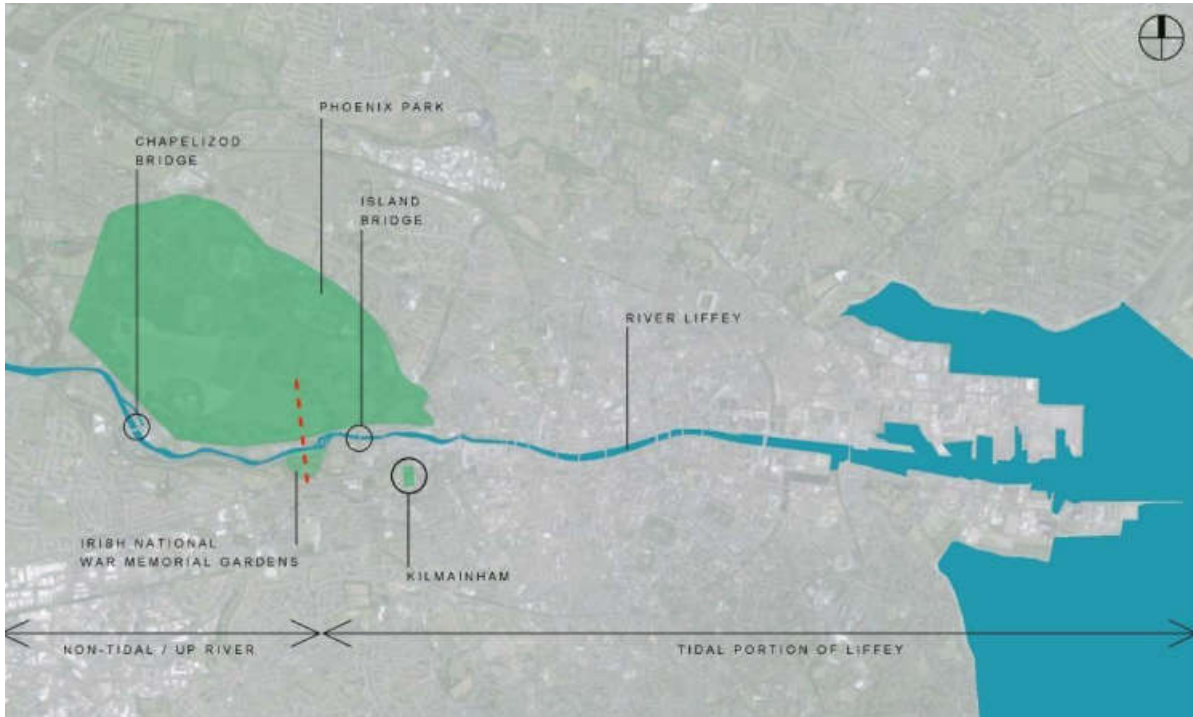
To:

<p>MT031: To initiate and/or implement the following road improvement schemes and bridges within the six year period of the development plan, subject to the availability of funding and environmental requirements and compliance with the 'Principles of Road Development' set out in the NTA Transport Strategy.</p> <p>Roads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River Road • Richmond Road • Malahide Road/R107 (including North Fringe Improvements) • Blackhorse Avenue (commenced) • Clonsaugh Road Industrial Estate • Ballymun (improved town centre linkage) • Kilmainham/South Circular Road • Link from Military Road to Conyngham Road • East Wall Road/Sheriff Street to North Quays • Cappagh Road. <p>Bridges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dodder Bridge • Liffey Valley Park pedestrian/cycle bridge • Cycle/pedestrian bridges that emerge as part of the evolving Strategic • Cycle Network and Strategic Green Infrastructure Network • Three new bridges proposed as part of the North Lotts and Grand Canal Dock SDZ. 	<p>MT031: To initiate and/or implement the following road improvement schemes and bridges within the six year period of the development plan, subject to the availability of funding and environmental requirements and compliance with the 'Principles of Road Development' set out in the NTA Transport Strategy.</p> <p>Roads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River Road • Richmond Road • Malahide Road/R107 (including North Fringe Improvements) • Blackhorse Avenue (commenced) • Clonsaugh Road Industrial Estate • Ballymun (improved town centre linkage) • Kilmainham/South Circular Road • Link from Military Road to Conyngham Road • East Wall Road/Sheriff Street to North Quays • Cappagh Road. <p>Bridges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dodder Bridge • Liffey Valley Park pedestrian/cycle bridge • <u>Irish National War Memorial Gardens /Islandbridge pedestrian/cycle bridge</u> • Cycle/pedestrian bridges that emerge as part of the evolving Strategic • Cycle Network and Strategic Green Infrastructure Network • Three new bridges proposed as part of the North Lotts and Grand Canal Dock SDZ.
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This proposed draft variation is depicted on the attached map, an extract from Map E, Volume 3 of the Dublin City Development Plan 2016 – 2022, with three dots bridging the River Liffey from Office Public Works (OPW) lands at the Irish War Memorial Gardens (south of the River Liffey) to OPW lands located to the north of the River Liffey along the Chapelizod Road (the R109) at Islandbridge.

SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Irish National War Memorial Gardens (INWMG) are located on the south bank of the River Liffey at Islandbridge, which is situated approximately 6km west of Dublin city centre. The INWMG are located at a point where the River Liffey is calmed by the Islandbridge Weir, in the general vicinity of where the River Liffey becomes non-tidal.



Tidal/ Non Tidal sections of the River Liffey

Source: OPW

The Phoenix Park runs along the opposing, north bank of the river. The Chapelizod Road (R 109) separates the north bank of the River Liffey from the Phoenix Park. This two-laned road is relatively straight and flat with pedestrian pavements on both sides and with cycle lanes in part.

A palisade type metal fence currently forms the boundary between the OPW site on the north side of the River Liffey and the public pavement on Chapelizod Road. It is a strip of land that has been retained by the OPW for the purposes of bridging the River Liffey to connect, as far as is practicable, two significant OPW parkland sites, namely the Phoenix Park and the Irish National War Memorial Gardens.

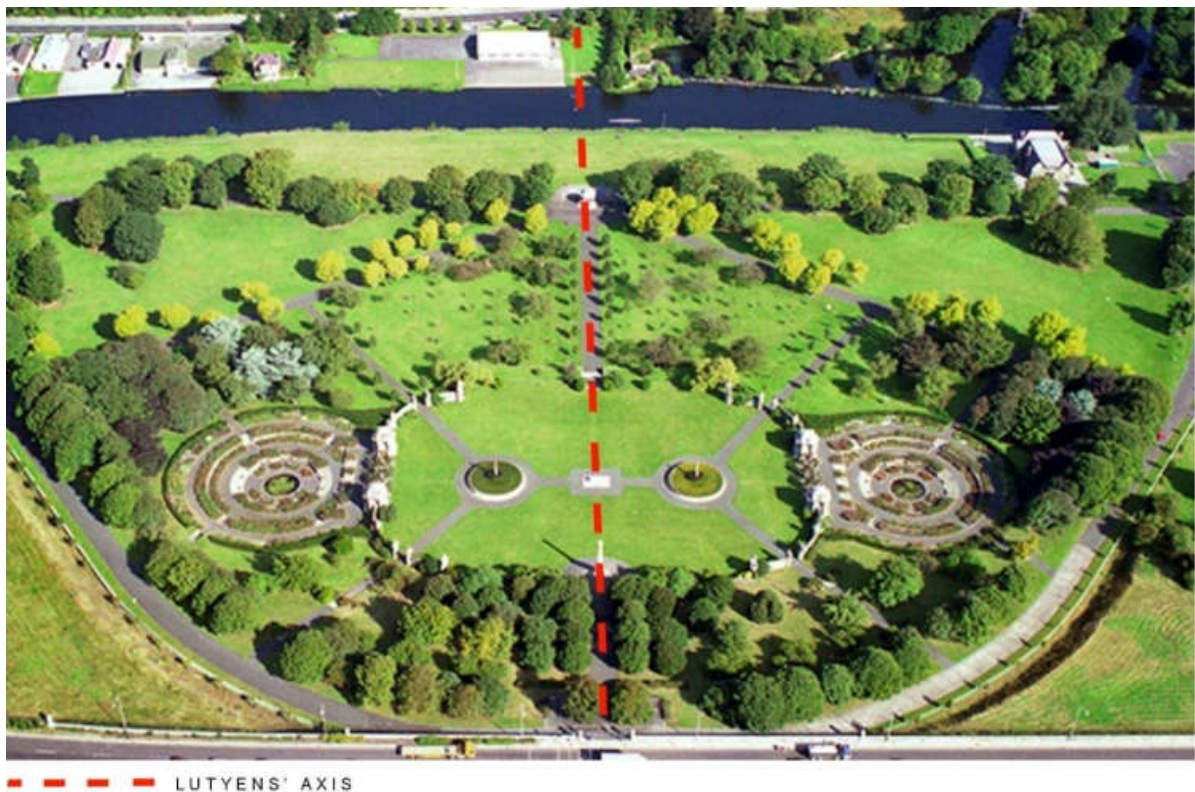
Several rowing clubs including Trinity College Boat Club (on the south side) and the University College Dublin (UCD) Boat Club (on the northside) are located within the vicinity of the INWMMG.

Historic Context

The Irish National War Memorial Gardens have national and international significance both as a First World War memorial and as a Sir Edwin Lutyens (1869 – 1944) designed monument. The INWMMG is one of four gardens in Ireland designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens (1869-1944). The others are at Heywood Gardens, Lambay Island and Howth Castle. Lutyens is an internationally renowned architect known for both his building and landscape design.

The INWMMG were constructed between 1933 and 1939 under the supervision of T.J. Byrne (1876-1939) of the Office of Public Works. The gardens regularly host a number of significant historic commemorative ceremonies.

It is envisaged that the proposed new pedestrian/cycle bridge will be aligned with the primary axis of the gardens, extending from the Temple on the INWVG side (south bank) to a strip of land on the north bank, positioned between the Islandbridge weir and the UCD Boat Club.



Lutyen's alignment

Source: OPW

Lutyens' original design for the INWVG 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 at the time; however, detailed drawings remain of the proposal. It has been the OPW's intention to complete the 'last remaining element' of the INWVG with a 'Commemorative Bridge' linking the north and south banks of the River Liffey. It is intended that the proposed new bridge at the INWVG will be sympathetic to Lutyens' original design vision and will retain the same alignment and orientation.

Contemporary Context

Within the cityscape of Dublin, the INWVG are considered a "hidden gem", largely due to the fact that they have no defined formal entrance. Therefore, a principle objective of the proposed bridge will be to improve awareness of the INWVG. The project proposes a new formal entrance at the Chapelizod Road will serve to act as a distinct access and egress point to the site. The proposed bridge will also facilitate the establishment of a new and necessary link within the historic trails of Dublin (see Fig. 17 'Dublin City: Historic Core' and Fig. 18 'Main Cultural Attractions' of the current Dublin City Development Plan). The addition to the City Development Plan of a new objective to provide for a new bridge for pedestrians and cyclists will link two significant (historic) parklands within the city and support other existing policies and objectives contained in the Dublin City Development Plan.

The proposed pedestrian/cycle bridge connection will allow for:

- A new pedestrian and cycle bridge which will span the River Liffey and connect to an existing cycleway;
- A new entrance at Chapelizod Road;
- An open plaza linking the entrance and bridge,

to be located at the INWVG and at lands to north of River Liffey, Chapelizod Road, Islandbridge, Dublin 8.

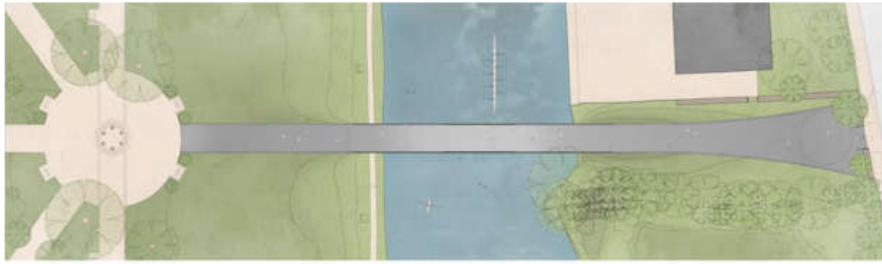
In order to ensure the safe passage of pedestrians and cyclists across the Chapelizod Road to and from the proposed open plaza, a new pedestrian crossing will be required, which will be addressed as part of a future planning application.

Bridge Competition

Following a recent competition for the pedestrian/cyclist bridge hosted by Royal Institute Architects Ireland (RIAI) the winning scheme was 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. It should be noted that the bridge will be subject to a separate planning application process at which stage the design and detailed impact will be fully addressed.



Ian Ritchie Architects



The Office of Public Works

Ian Ritchie Architects



The Office of Public Works

Planning Context

Under the *Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022*, the subject site (both north and south of the River Liffey) is zoned *Zone 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 does not conflict with this policy. The project will, at Development Management stage, be requested to fully address how it complies with the conservation area designation.

PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED DRAFT VARIATION

The Planning Authority considers that it is appropriate to amend objective MTO31 (Chapter 8: Movement and Transport) to include a pedestrian/cycle bridge at the Irish National War Memorial Gardens/Islandbridge 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 INWVG as one of the city's key cultural attractions. It considers that the proposed

bridge will contribute positively to the INWVG'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 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.

DETERMINATION ON STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA) SCREENING

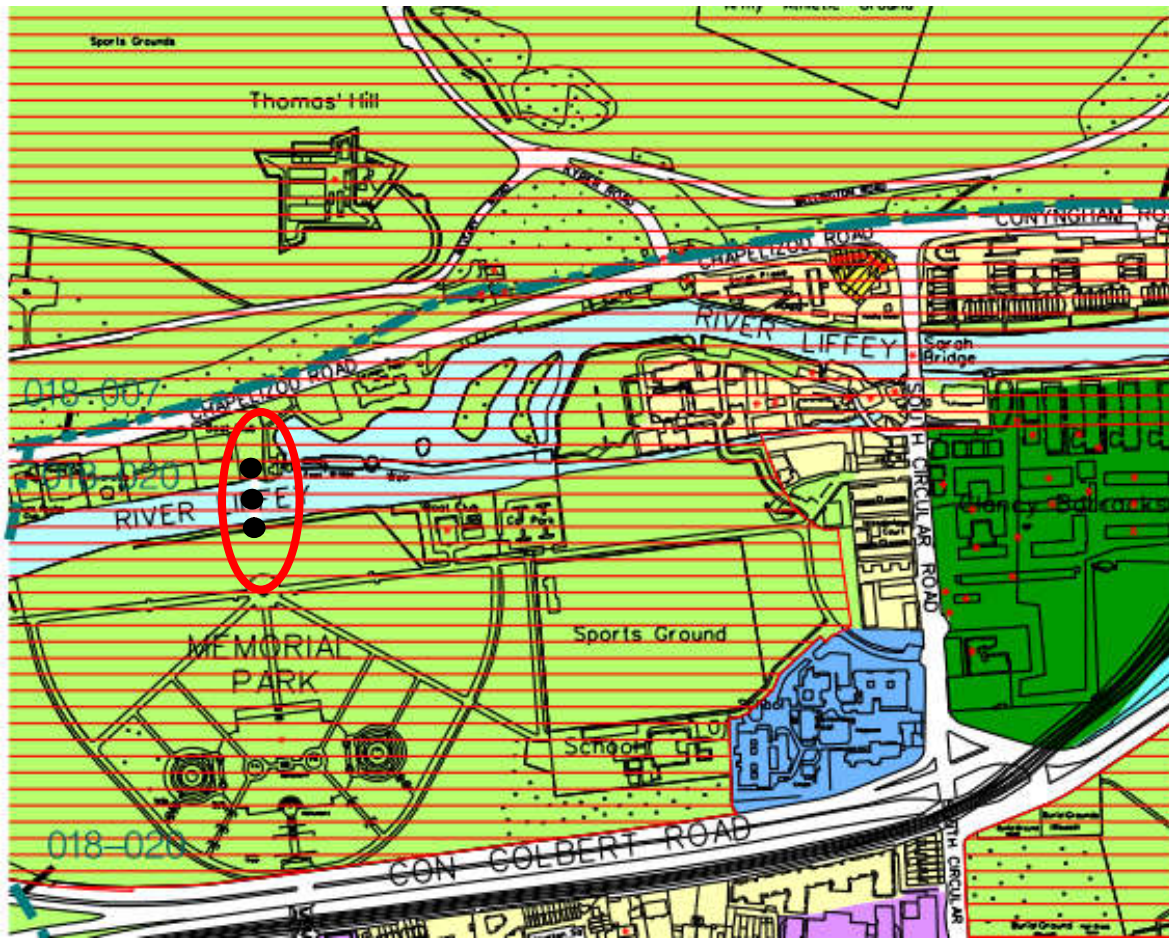
The Planning Authority has determined that the proposed draft Variation would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment, using the screening criteria set out in Schedule 2A Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, the DoEHLG SEA Guidelines and Annex 2 of Directive 2001/42/EC, and therefore a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required for the Proposed Draft Variation to the Dublin City Development 2016-2022.

DETERMINATION ON APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT (AA) SCREENING

An Appropriate Assessment Screening was undertaken of the Proposed draft Variation of the Dublin City Development Plan 2016 - 2022, in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).). The Stage 1 Screening determines that Appropriate Assessment of the proposed Variation (the draft Land use plan) is not required as the proposal, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is not likely to have a significant effect on a European Site. On this basis, Dublin City Council as Competent Authority (in compliance with Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended), has determined that an Appropriate Assessment of the proposed Variation is not required.

NOTE

Note to the Area Committee that due to the current Covid restrictions and the Government's Roadmap for Reopening and the need for public consultation for this Variation, that the Planning Department may not commence public display of this Variation immediately and will keep this under review.



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

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Area outlined in red with 3 no. dots indicating location of pedestrian/cycle bridge:

To amend objective MT031 (from Chapter 8: Movement and Transport) to include a pedestrian/cycle bridge across the River Liffey, from the Irish National War Memorial Gardens (INWVG) /Islandbridge to the Chapelizod Road (R109).