

Re: Items raised at North Central Area Committee Meeting held on 21st September, 2020.

At the above meeting, the North Central Area Committee agreed the following:

5. Items for following meetings

Covid Mobility Team – What they are doing in NCA

Response:

The Chief Executive has issued a report on Covid Mobility Measures to all Councillors on a weekly basis since May 18, 2020. All reports are available on our webpage:

<https://www.dublincity.ie/main-menu-services-roads-and-traffic-dublin-city-covid-mobility-programme/covid-mobility-webpage>

The purpose of these weekly reports is to inform all Councillors of Covid Mobility interventions implemented citywide and allow Councillors to pick up on the locations that may be of particular interest. To avoid duplication and maximise the efficiency of the Covid Mobility Team, it is necessary to minimise the reporting requirements to individual Area Committees.

We have extracted details from the reports to form the summary of interventions in the North Central Area outlined below. However, we ask that Councillors refer to the comprehensive weekly Covid Mobility Reports to obtain future local updates.

Protected Cycle Facilities

Griffith Avenue protected Cycle Track



Dublin City Council is seeking to provide a 3.5km protected cycle lane on both sides of Griffith Avenue from Ballygall Road East as far as the Malahide Road. The main aim of this scheme is to provide protected, safe and continuous cycling for all ages and abilities along this route. This is especially important with the numbers of schools in the area as well as the different DCU campus locations. All information and updates on the scheme is available on our Consultation Hub:

<https://consultation.dublincity.ie/traffic-and-transport/griffith-avenue-protected-cycle-track/>

In addition, **protected cycle facilities** have been implemented at the following locations:

- Fairview inbound (Alfie Byrne Road to Railway Bridge, Fairview Strand to Annesley Bridge)
- Fairview outbound (Pedestrian footbridge near Merville Avenue; Malahide Road to Railway Bridge)
- Annesley Bridge

Pedestrian and Cycling facilities, Bull Wall, Clontarf

In response to requests from the NCAC to consider making the north bull wall safer for cyclists and pedestrians, Dublin City Council Parks Department met with An Garda Síochána, Dublin Port Company and National Parks and Wildlife Service to consider options. Preventing access for vehicles is not feasible as the North Bull wall is used by the Royal Dublin Golf Club, Sea Scouts, residents and the Happy Out café. In addition it would not be fair or reasonable to prevent access to this amenity for people from outside the local area who cannot walk or cycle. Indeed many elderly people like to visit this area and would not be able to do so other than by driving.

Plans have been prepared by DCC Covid Mobility Team to install bollards for protecting the footpath for pedestrians, deterring vehicles from speeding (which will make it safer for cyclists), delineating car parking spaces and disabled parking and the provision of bicycle racks. It is proposed to proceed with this work in the next number of weeks.

Increased space for pedestrians

Locations in the NCA:

- Fairview (outside tesco and a further 3 indented parking bays)

School Mobility Measures

Greenlanes National School

A **School Zone** was recently implemented at Greenlanes National School. The School Zone is an initiative designed to give priority to students at the school gate by freeing up footpaths and reducing vehicle drop-offs, pick-ups and idling. The aim is to reduce congestion and increase safety at the front of school, and prioritise active travel (walking and cycling) to and from school.

School Zones aim to:

- Highlight the presence of the school and students to drivers.

- Discourage vehicle drop off / pick up at school gates and areas to reduce congestion and air pollution.
- Prevent parked or stopped cars blocking visibility of pedestrians crossing and increase safety at the front of school.
- Make it easier for school children to cycle to school by keeping the school zones clear.
- Encourage drivers to slow down via specific and eye catching traffic calming measures.
- Prioritise active travel to and from school.

In addition, reducing traffic at school gates significantly improves air quality further improving quality of life for children and all others in the vicinity.

We initially piloted two School Zones in the Dublin City Council administrative area; one in Francis Street School, D8 and one at Central Model School, D1. Following extremely positive feedback for the schools and parents, we contacted all primary schools in DCC inviting all interested schools to complete an application form for a School Zone. Greenlanes NS applied and was deemed a suitable location for a School Zone. It was implemented to improve safety for the children walking and cycling to school including for the children of the recently established cycle bus.



The Covid Mobility Team has also assisted organisers of the Greenlanes National School Cycle Bus by adapting the lights sequence on route to allow additional times for the children to cross and the Walking Bus by facilitating a Park & Stride location at Woodside car park.

Howth Road National School

The Covid Mobility Team liaised with Howth Road National School to facilitate a Park & Stride location adjacent to the school. This initiative allows the parents to park briefly at the DCC car park for free during drop off and pick up times. This gives a parking option to parents whose children are unable to walk or cycle to school without causing obstruction or congestion at the school gate.

Active Travel Promotion

A short video, highlighting the new COVID Mobility Measures and encouraging people to walk and cycle where possible was published online in mid-July. The primary purpose of the video is to

encourage those who can to walk or cycle to their workplace and to save space on public transport and on the road for those who really need it. The video highlights the new COVID Mobility Measures that have been put in place and features pedestrians and cyclists moving around the city.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZqeCqj56DA&feature=youtu.be>

We are continuously utilise Dublin City Council Social Media Channels:

- to highlight COVID-19 mobility measures that have been implemented;
- to encourage the public to walk or cycle, where possible;
- to encourage social distancing as people move around the city and
- to encourage more respect for vulnerable road users

We also continue to evolve our Active Travel Campaign in collaboration with key strategic partners (e.g. NTA Smarter Travel, Healthy Ireland, Green- Schools and third level institutions).

Bike Week

A series of cycling promotion posters were displayed on bus shelters and digi-panels around the city in the week leading up to and during Bike Week.





DCC presented at a number of webinars organised by Dublin Cycling Campaign during Bike week. Topics included:

- Cities for People in a Pandemic
- The Best Years of your Life by Bike
- Active Travel, Public Health and Resilience
- Inclusion & Mobility
- Executive Panel Discussion: The Future of Cycling in Dublin

All Webinars were recorded and can be viewed at

<https://www.dublincycling.com/bikeweek2020>

The Junior Bicycle Mayor, who lives in the NCA, launched our virtual cycles social media campaign with her video on *8 reasons to cycle in Dublin* which was shared on social media platforms.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RSXhIRwm2TMEwL9cY68RGIEvLD_AToJT/view

<https://twitter.com/dubcitycouncil/status/1306991574455382016?s=21>

In addition, we shared video footage of the improvements that have been made to cycling infrastructure throughout the week. We encouraged Councillors and members of the public to share their Bike Week cycles with us on social media by using the #virtualcycles hashtag.



The new **Dublin Cycling Buddy App** was launched during Bike Week. You can download the app at either:

the iOS App store [here](#)

the Android Play store [here](#)

Due to Covid restrictions DCC did not run any open public events this year for Bike Week, however, the Sport & Wellbeing Partnership ran a number of closed activities with groups that they work with locally.

Contact

If Councillors or residents have particular concerns or suggestions regarding any of these proposals we would invite them to send them into us at covidmobility@dublincity.ie (with the specific scheme e.g. Griffith Ave in the subject bar), or by post to Covid Mobility Team, Block 2, Floor 7, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8, Ireland, D08 RF3F.