

Richmond Road

Progress Report April 8th 2021

Context

Richmond Road has presented huge and to date longstanding challenges in terms of traffic and pedestrian movement, with a safety factor predominating and impacting on pedestrians using the path the with severe pinch points at two or more significant locations. There are companion issues for drivers at those narrowing pinch points forcing them onto the path once there is an oncoming vehicle on the far side.

The Road width is a key issue limiting measures which could be undertaken ref modification and to improve on the above. Traffic volume has never shown signs of a decrease with a mix of residential and business use at the Eastern section of road being dominant as a destination point.

The Road running from Drumcondra Rd just ahead of Drumcondra Bridge with a left turn unto Richmond Rd is a conduit leading to East Link and Dublin Port with a branch off towards centre city at the latter end junction and as such the status of the road will not change in this respect. There is no identifiable link road now, and until there is a link road, there is no alternative route.

There is as a consequence the predictable rat- running effect ref the above.

DCC North Central Area in seeking a solution on what has proved to be an insoluble problem to date, and is so doing is taking several approaches with requisite advice in all cases for making those improvements

The North Central Area carried out door to door survey work on 63 houses where possible to gain response and feedback , (**note** * *additional commercial use premises and multiple flat dwelling constitute a total of 73 separate premises ref resident feedback*) at optimum evening time to establish the use of parking spaces ref parking patterns impacting on a daily basis. While this did not yield unexpected results, it v. adequately indicated /illustrated that cars remained parked during the day while not in use by owners /drivers leading to on – road congestion and a key finding was that some dwellings had a multiple of cars parked during the day. The all -day parking pattern uncovered during survey work conducted is crucially considered as having a major impact. Ref Report 3/9/20 - Deirdre Murphy

Land Acquisition

Essentially we examined the feasibility of the acquiring the square shaped piece of ground between 15 and 17 Richmond Rd .The aim of this was to acquire land for use for purposes of parking ,taking cars off the road .

There is interest in parties concerned to transfer this land to DCC. This position has been confirmed in the last week of March '21.

While this can give some scope re solving problems on the road, the challenge of two car movement ref traffic remains a real issue at pinch points and it was thought that at one of these pinch points (Senior Citizens Housing that the wall could be re –aligned to the front of the complex.

The heavy presence of utilities alone indicated by underground services and requiring re-location, at large cost and the space remaining being sufficient to deliver the road widening opportunity

suggests limited success in the pursuit of same .However the above is not entirely ruled out and it is intended to activate this feasibility further in terms of a solution once level 5 restrictions are relaxed.

Traffic management plan

A new Traffic Management plan is being simultaneously brought by E & T Roads & Traffic Department to this meeting (April 19th 2021 North Central Area Committee) by Roads & Traffic Executive Engineer Eoin Corrigan which is the subject of a separate document and also includes the steps ahead in provide a permit parking scheme for residents

Traffic Bollard provision at appropriate locations

The feasibility of the installation of traffic bollards along the road at particular points with the purposes of safe pedestrian movement is actively under consideration.

This may be trialled in the very near future and is contingent on DCC Traffic Engineering advisory information.

This installation type is of a flat top delineator bollard which comes with reflective stripe that faces oncoming traffic, and has been installed successfully elsewhere in the city with success and positive feedback.

This installation if approved, is swift to install and notice can /will be given prior to installation of same with an information leaflet/ flyer for residents and businesses along the stretch of bollard installation.

Local Area Councillors will also be made aware in advance.

At all times we will seek assistance and avail of advice from the Gardai in respect of same.

Ancillary measures

There is a deficit of identifiable markings of parking bays where they could direct improved parking for drivers and for safer driver movement.

Tolka Park frontage is one such example and advantage can be taken at this point in time to refresh road markings along Richmond Rd .Advance notice of this will be given where as it will impact on residents or businesses along the relevant stretch and may need for cars to be temporarily relocated while this work is being undertaken. There may also be boundary lines which can re correctly redefined to give certainty for drivers and users ref safest parking positions.

Any appropriate additional signage which is deemed as required will also be addressed.

Environmental factors within the environs of Richmond Rd

Residents perspective of the road and its potential for improvement along with desired solutions for the key traffic issue, has been conveyed to us both on –site and in correspondence and we are conscious to merge this perspective in carrying out solutions, and in tandem with views and matters

highlighted/brought to use by Public Representatives in North Central Area in connection with Richmond Rd to date.

A derelict property exists just opposite the junction with Grace Park Rd and it is felt the deteriorating condition negatively impacts on the appearance of the road.

The condition of this property has been assessed ref proposed works to same and include the following; removal of debris, cement surface to frontage, window treatment, and overall paint job of exterior.

The timeframe for carrying these works is within the current period and a Contractor has been identified ref delivering these improvements to the property.

Finally, following the implementation of measures outlined above , it is intended to then to examine what other opportunities exist for environmental enhancements on the Road , in cases where the environmental fabric can be improved opportunities will be taken to do so . In conjunction with liaising with Heritage at DCC improvements can link to the appropriate historical context and heritage features of this location. This can serve to complement works / improvement to Drumcondra Road and this linear Village strip, some of which are underway and which also been a focus for improvements and voluntary input by the local residents and businesses alike.

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Senior Executive officer

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