



Response to Dublin City Council Consultation on options for public realm improvements to Dame Street as part of the College Green project

15 Jan 2021

Background

Trinity is the largest trip attractor in Dublin City Centre. The majority of our 16,000 students and 4,000 staff, study or work on our College Green Campus. Whilst the central work of the university is education and research, Trinity also has 661 on campus student beds on College Green/Pearse Street, approximately 1 million visitors per year to the Book of Kells exhibition and multiple cafes and gift shops open to the public. Our conference, private dining and banqueting services are busy year-round and from mid-May to mid-August we operate as the largest accommodation provider in Dublin with over 1,500 beds a night across our College Green and Trinity Hall campuses¹.

Trinity is a global leader in sustainable transport use with only 1% of our students and staff commuting by private car². In 2019, Trinity, PPI Ignite (a research project in Trinity) and BYCS Amsterdam (a Dutch not for profit organisation that promotes cycling) worked with the support of Dublin City Council to facilitate a city-wide debate on how Dublin can become more liveable. During the LiveableDublin events, participants defined and explored the question, “How can we speed up change in Dublin to make it more liveable?”³. Trinity made a submission to Dublin City Council on travel during COVID-19 restriction calling for wider footpaths and safer cycling⁴. Trinity believes this work demonstrates that we are committed to working for and with the city to make Dublin more sustainable and liveable.

Response to Consultation

Trinity strongly supports [Dublin City Council’s application to rediscover and reinvent the historic College Green as the major public space at the heart of the city](#).

1. Which option 3 or 4 would work best for you and for this area of the city?

Trinity prefers option 4.

2. Do you see any positives or negatives in Option 3?

Trinity thinks option 3 is good but could be enhanced by restricting delivery hours, as proposed in option 4. Trinity believes it is a good idea to segregate cycling.

¹ <https://www.tcd.ie/corporate-services/assets/pdf/annual-report-2018-2019.pdf>

² <https://www.tcd.ie/healthytrinity/travel/Stats.php>

³ <https://www.tcd.ie/healthytrinity/liveabledublin/>

⁴ <https://www.tcd.ie/healthytrinity/assets/documents/Covid-19/TCD%20DCC%20Covid%2019%20Submission%20Final.pdf>

3. Do you see any positives or negatives in Option 4?

Trinity prefers option 4 because it restricts delivery hours. Trinity believes it is a good idea to segregate cycling. The plaza plan would yield significant benefits for Trinity and the city. The plaza plan is in line with many efforts globally whereby city authorities are looking to open up civic spaces for citizens. Research on similar initiatives in other cities have seen improvements in the built environment, air quality and pedestrian footfall.

4. If you are a business-owner, which option would better support you and the area?

Trinity is the largest trip attractor in the city, is the second biggest tourist attraction in Ireland and has many business interests. We support option 4.

5. Do you have any suggestions for how these options could be enhanced?

Trinity strongly supports the College Green plaza plan and believe that if realised, it could be transformative for the city. A revitalised College Green would act as a magnet for activity and as a natural stage for the city and country during civic events and celebrations.

Trinity would like to see the development of the College Green area in a way that compliments the efforts the university is making to support biodiversity in the city. In 2020, Trinity removed the monocrop lawn at its iconic entrance as well as at the rear and in many locations within the campus, and replaced it with a biodiverse wildflower meadow.

We are aware that Dublin City Council has installed many wildflower meadows in the city. Wildflower meadows are soon to be installed in the grounds of the Dáil and in other public spaces in Dublin. It is suggested that this approach be adopted into the plans for College Green as well, especially the incorporation of pollinator-friendly species a list of which is available in Trinity's initiative – All Island Pollinator Plan. Naturally, the specific design needs to accommodate all users, but Trinity is available to advise if that is helpful.

Contact Details

For questions/comments on this submission please contact:

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