



DUBLIN CHAMBER

AN BORD PLEANÁLA
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AN BORD PLEANÁLA
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Receipt No: **Submission to An Bord Pleanála**
Re further information provided by Dublin City Council
on the proposed Civic Plaza at College Green

B14/148

Dublin Chamber welcomes the opportunity to provide information regarding the proposed development of a new civic plaza at College Green by the Chamber in relation to the Council's proposals

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regarding the additional information provided by Dublin City Council on the impact of the proposed plaza. Below, we offer our responses to a number of points made by Dublin City Council.

Dublin Chamber's view remains that the proposed development of a civic plaza at College Green would be a positive development for Dublin, with the potential to rival some of Europe's most scenic and attractive public plazas. However, it is vital for Dublin that College Green continues to function as a transport artery.

Dublin Chamber welcomed the decision by An Bord Pleanála to require information from Dublin City Council on the impact of the proposed plaza. Below, we offer our responses to a number of points made by Dublin City Council.

Improved Walkability / Increased Cyclist & Pedestrian Safety

Dublin Chamber believes that pedestrians should be prioritised at College Green. The Chamber remains concerned about the absence of properly segregated cycle lanes within the proposed plaza. Proper cycling infrastructure will be needed to maximise the attractiveness of any College Green plaza for pedestrians, and to ensure a high level of safety for all users.

The Council's contention is that the design of the plaza will lead to pedestrians and cyclists mingling safely in College Green, with the environment encouraging slow cycle speeds, particularly through the use of certain paving materials. However, the behaviour of cyclists remains a notable issue in Dublin city centre, particularly in pedestrianised areas.

Dublin Chamber expects the number of cyclists in the city to increase significantly over the coming years. In this context, a failure to provide clearly defined cycling infrastructure has the potential to undermine the success of the project. Dublin Chamber believes that a fully segregated two-way cycle-path should be included in any final proposal for College Green.

particularly in light of the way the impact of the Bachelor's Walk changes has been measured. The Chamber is not persuaded that any reduced journey times will be delivered in the short-term.

Dublin Chamber strongly supports the aim of encouraging greater use of public transport usage and reducing private car usage where possible. In this context, the Chamber is very concerned the proposed changes to bus routes around College Green will weaken the attractiveness of the bus in the eyes of the commuter.

Dublin Chamber suggests that Dublin City Council should explore the potential for maintaining the movement of buses on a west-to-east direction between Dame Street and Westmoreland Street via a single bus lane. This bus lane could be positioned to the north side of an adjoining but segregated two-way cycle lane, which would branch off to allow cyclists travel north towards Westmoreland Street or south towards Grafton Street, preserving the rest of College Green for exclusive pedestrian use.

Conclusion

Having reviewed the additional information provided by Dublin City Council, and consulted with our 1,300 members, Dublin Chamber remains unconvinced that the proposed plan for a civic plaza on College Green will work as currently designed.

Dublin Chamber accepts that change is required to Dublin's transport network, and supports a modal hierarchy that prioritises pedestrians, cyclists, and public transport over private vehicles. However, important questions remain unanswered about the impact of the proposed College Green plaza. The effect on traffic and public transport usage in the wider city – out to the M50 – remains unclear and is of great concern.

Dublin Chamber contends that the support of Dublin's main public transport providers will be critical to the success of any civic plaza on College Green. The advice of public transport providers should be closely heeded as Dublin City Council makes the necessary adaptations to its design.

