

3 Consultation

3.1 Introduction

The Design and EIA/ team have carried out extensive consultation in relation to the Proposed Project with members of the public, including residents, businesses, institutions, representative individuals and organisations and statutory bodies. The purpose of consultation was to inform consultees of the Proposed Project and provide them with an opportunity to offer feedback. It also enabled the project team to take account of issues raised and consider them as part of the design and EIA/ processes.

This chapter outlines the consultation activities undertaken in advance of the lodgement of the planning application for the Proposed Project. It also summarises the main issues identified during this process and identifies the main modifications to the Proposed Project arising from the consultation process.

3.2 Public Consultation

3.2.1 Proposed Project– Public Consultation, April 2016 (Non-Statutory)

Dublin City Council launched a non- statutory public consultation on the Proposed Project on 12th April 2016.

Members of the public were invited to review the Proposed Project with the intention of obtaining views of the public and interested parties on two aspects of the Proposed Project:

1. The proposal to remove east-west traffic from College Green allowing a civic space to be created, and;
2. The bus diversion routes which were proposed following consultation with the NTA and Dublin Bus.

Members of the public were asked to submit their suggestions and feedback, either using the on-line submission facility or by email or post before 24th May 2016.

Some 2,756 submissions were received during the six-week consultation period. The consultation indicated that while there is widespread support for the proposals there is some opposition from the taxi industry, car park owners and also some retail interests.

The issue however of the bus diversion routes is one that is the most contentious, with both residents and businesses on Parliament Street objecting to the proposed re-routing of buses on Parliament Street and requesting that an EIA/ be carried out prior to any changes in bus services on Parliament Street.

3.2.2 ‘Imagine College Green Public Consultation Workshop’

As part of the brief development process for the Civic Plaza at College Green, Dublin City Council, in association with the National Transport Authority, hosted a Public Discussion Workshop. The Workshop was held in the Round Room of the Mansion House, Dublin 2, on 16th November 2016.

The Workshop was designed, organised and publicised by Dublin City Council in conjunction with event managers, Happenings, and workshop designers Connect the Dots. In an effort to ensure that the experience was engaging and meaningful for all involved, the approach was focused on co-creation with stakeholder insights and interests in mind.

Invitations to the Workshop were sent out directly by Dublin City Council to diverse interest groups and stakeholders, along with an open public invitation which was shared publicly via social media and on the Dublin City Council website.

Over 200 people attended the public Workshop, representing a cross-section of residents, businesses and interested parties present in the city. Attendees included members of the public, policy makers, and public representatives – interested citizens, researchers, planners, students, grassroots initiatives, business owners, lobby groups, transport experts, and many more.

The primary objectives of the Workshop were:

- To provide a platform for members of the public to express their ambitions, interests, ideas for the space as well as their hopes and concerns surrounding the upcoming process.
- To create an inclusive and open environment encouraging collaboration between diverse stakeholders with divergent perspectives.
- To help develop a holistic mission, vision, and design for College Green by engaging with interested members of the public from diverse perspectives.
- To spark and inspire all manner of ideas - from the very creative to the very practical – and to explore ‘how’ the mission and vision developed can become a reality.
- To inform the Design Brief for the development of College Green.

As part of their application to partake in the workshop, attendees were asked to fill out a brief survey. The survey questions asked about the attendee’s background, what they hoped to get out of the event, and what topics relating to the design of College Green they were most interested in discussing. Based on the survey data provided by the attendees, and taking account of the ambitions of Dublin City Council and National Transport Authority, the format of the workshop was developed. The data from the survey was used to inform the seating arrangements of the attendees at the event – the aim was to spread people with similar interests across different tables in order to ensure a diverse mix of perspectives across the 25 tables.

In order to capture the ideas at each table, there were worksheets for each activity. The style of worksheets for each activity varied, with some to be filled out individually, while others were group exercises to be filled out by the group as a whole. For these group exercises there was a dedicated note-taker at each table, the note-takers role was to fill in the group worksheets and also to capture insights throughout the evening. Each table also had a dedicated facilitator who assisted participants in completing activities throughout the process. There were also five other facilitators who were tasked with the role of ‘Butterfly’.

The role of each Butterfly was to circulate around a group of five tables throughout the night, picking up on key themes and ideas. Towards the end of the evening, each of the five Butterflies reviewed the completed activity worksheets for their five tables. Each Butterfly then presented a brief summary of their observations back to the room. The intention of this exercise was to give all participants an understanding of the general themes and ideas evolving at the other tables. Following this presentation, participants were given a final worksheet which allowed them to note any further comments which they felt essential for consideration as part of the process.

In the weeks following the Workshop a report was produced. This report contains a direct transcription of all of the contributions made by each individual and group on the night and is a direct record of the activities and outcomes arising from the workshop. The report was issued to the Design Team following their appointment and was used to inform the College Green Plaza Design Brief. The report was also issued directly to all attendees and was posted online on the Dublin City Council website where it is publically accessible.

3.2.3 ‘Imagine College Green’ on-street survey

In January 2017 DCC commissioned Delve Research to undertake an ‘*Imagine College Green*’ on-street survey with members of the public as part of the consultation strategy of the Proposed Project. The purpose of the survey was to gain an understanding of the public’s views and ideas on the proposed new Civic Plaza. The survey was carried out through a series of face-to-face interviews over four days: the 12th, 13th, 14th and 17th January 2017. The interviews took place at College Green.

A total of 434 respondents took part in the on-street survey over the four days. Survey responses are summarised below.

Of the 434 survey respondents, some 43% either ‘disagreed’ or ‘strongly disagreed’ with the statement ‘College Green is a good public space and does not need to be redeveloped. Furthermore, some 56% either ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ with the statement ‘College Green should be redeveloped as a major new civic space for the city.’

When asked what aspect or aspects of College Green the respondents like at the moment, responses indicated that the architecture, buildings (in particular Trinity College and Bank of Ireland) and the history/culture were among the most favoured aspects.

‘No traffic/less traffic/pedestrianisation’, ‘public seating’ and ‘more greenery’ were the most common responses when asked ‘what is the one thing you would like to see in a newly laid out College Green’.

When considering the most important function of College Green, respondents noted ‘linking/central/transit point for city’, ‘social/meeting focal point’, ‘transport hub/access to transport’ and ‘tourism’ as being among their most valued functions.

Some 73% of respondents believe there should be more greenery at College Green, and some 56% are strongly in favour of the provision of public seating.

3.2.4 ‘Imagine College Green’ on-line public consultation

Delve Research were also commissioned by DCC to undertake an ‘Imagine College Green’ online survey as part of the consultation strategy of the Proposed Project. The purpose of the online survey was to gain an understanding of the wider public’s views and ideas on the proposed new Civic Plaza. The online consultation was carried out through DCC’s Consultation Hub, with offline contributions facilitated.

A total of 1,029 respondents took part in the online survey which was open to the public from the 12th-26th January 2017. 1,001 of the respondents were individuals with a further 28 identifying as representing a group or organisation. Survey responses are summarised below.

Of the 1,029 respondents, some 86% either ‘disagreed’ or ‘strongly disagreed’ with the statement ‘College Green is a good public space and does not need to be redeveloped’. Furthermore, some 86% of respondents either ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ with the statement ‘College Green should be redeveloped as a major new civic space for the city’.

When asked what makes a public space great, and what they would like to see in the newly laid out College Green, ‘traffic free/pedestrianized’, ‘greenery’, ‘seating’ and ‘cycling access’ were among the most common responses.

The online survey outlined DCC’s vision for College Green:

“to design a civic space that is a safe, flexible and an even friendly meeting space of world class standard. Our aim is to create a primary destination in a vibrant city which is universally accessible by all.”

When asked what they would like to change or add to this vision, or what should be the most important function of College Green, some 15% of respondents stated they were happy with the vision, as proposed. ‘Meeting place,’ (11% respondents) ‘Safe place,’ (10% respondents) ‘Space for all,’ (10% respondents) ‘Cycle friendly’ (9% respondents) and ‘traffic free’ (9% respondents) were other common suggestions.

With regards public concerns about the Proposed Project, the most common response was ‘too much traffic/any traffic.’ Other concerns included ‘congestion elsewhere’, ‘cycling access concern’, and ‘poor design/quality/not reach potential’.

Some 71% of respondents believe there should be more greenery at College Green, 61% believe there should be public seating.

Of the 28 respondents who identified as representing a group or organisation, a summary of their responses is provided below:

When asked ‘what does College Green mean to you?’ some 25% of respondents stated ‘Trinity and/or Bank of Ireland’. Other common responses included ‘Traffic’, ‘Heart of Dublin/crossroads/accessibility of city’ and ‘events/festivals.’

Some 68% of respondents either ‘disagreed’ or ‘strongly disagreed’ with the statement ‘College Green is a good public space and does not need to be redeveloped.’ Furthermore, some 72% of respondents either ‘agreed’ or ‘strongly agreed’ with the statement ‘College Green should be redeveloped as a major new civic space for the city’.

‘Traffic free’ and ‘accessible by foot or by public transport’ were among the most common responses when asked ‘what makes a public space great’ and ‘what would you like to see in a newly laid out College Green?’.

The online survey outlined DCC’s vision for College Green:

“to design a civic space that is a safe, flexible and an even friendly meeting space of world class standard. Our aim is to create a primary destination in a vibrant city which is universally accessible by all.”

When asked what they would like to change or add to this vision, or what should be the most important function of College Green, some 21% of respondents stated they were happy with the vision, as proposed.

However, when asked what would be their concerns about the Proposed Project, some 36% of respondents stated that they were concerned about congestion elsewhere, following implementation of the Proposed Project.

Some 54% of respondents believe there should be more greenery at College Green, and some 54% strongly agree that there should be public seating in the newly developed College Green.

3.3 EIA/ Scoping Consultation

An informal EIA/ scoping exercise was undertaken as part of the EIA process. During this process information on the Proposed Project and an outline of the proposed EIA/ was provided to consultees requesting comment/input on the final scope and content of the EIA/.

In December 2016, the EIS Scoping Report (Arup, 2016) was issued to the following bodies:

- Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government;
- Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and the Gaeltacht (including the Development Applications Unit, National Parks and Wildlife Service and the National Monuments Service);
- Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment;

- National Transport Authority;
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland;
- Environmental Protection Agency;
- An Chomhairle Ealaíon (The Arts Council);
- An Taisce;
- Fáilte Ireland;
- The Heritage Council;
- Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly;
- Inland Fisheries Ireland;
- Waterways Ireland;
- Córas Iompair Éireann including Iarnród Éireann and Dublin Bus;
- Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport;
- Health and Safety Executive;
- Irish Water;
- Office of Public Works;
- Eastern River Basin District Authority;
- Bat Conservation Ireland;
- Irish Georgian Society;
- Geological Survey of Ireland;
- Dublin Civic Trust;
- Tiomanai Tacsai Na hEireann;
- Temple Bar residents association;
- The Temple Bar Company;
- Dublin Cycling Campaign;
- Cycling Ireland;
- JCDecaux Ireland;
- Dublin Chamber of Commerce;
- The Centre for Excellence in Universal Design (CEUD) at the National Disability Authority;
- Dublin Town (Dublin City Business Improvement District);
- National Council for the Blind;
- Irish Wheelchair Association;
- Post-polio group;
- Trinity College;
- Bank of Ireland;

- Ulster Bank;
- DCC Public Realm;
- Dublin City Councillors and;
- Local TDs.

Submissions on the basis of the scoping report were received from a number of consultees. Key points raised in the responses received are summarised in **Table 3.1** below:

Table 3.1: Summary of Submissions Received

Consultee	Key Issue Raised
Dublin Bus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Access • Journey times and reliability of Dublin Bus • Cumulative Impact • Congestion on periphery of city
Irish Georgian Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further consultation
Temple Bar Company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfied EIAR will address concerns
Dublin Cycling Campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfied with proposed approach • Need further clarification on underground aspect
Heritage Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic significance of College Green • Landscape and streetscape • Detailed method statement on cataloguing, storing and re-use of historic features and materials should be prepared • Consideration of roof-level biodiversity, birds, and trees • Consideration of character of area, socio-economic vitality and condition of protected structures and ACA'S
Tiomanaí Tacsai Na hEireann	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taxi access through College Green (East-West) • Maintenance of the taxi rank at Foster Place
Faílte Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of Guidelines on the treatment of tourism in an Environmental Impact Statement
TII	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luas Cross City traffic interactions and modelling • Luas Cross City urban design requirements • Luas Cross City construction and operational phase issues
Ulster Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrictions to cash transit vans delivery schedule
National Council for the Blind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact upon people with impaired vision and people with other disabilities should be considered in the design.

3.4 Further Consultation with Key Stakeholders

3.4.1 Dublin City Council

A series of consultations with various departments within DCC were held during the design development process. This included meetings with the Parks department, Public Lighting Services and the Dublin City Heritage Office.

A presentation was made to officials and elected members in Dublin City Council in relation to the Environmental Impact Assessment Report on 8 May 2017.

3.4.2 Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

Consultation with the following sections of the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs was undertaken throughout the EIA preparation:

- The Development Applications Unit (DAU) of the Department of Arts, Heritage & Gaeltacht (DAHG) was sent a scoping email with a description of the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project was assigned a case number G Pre00379/2016 and a response to consultation received on the 19/12/16 to say that in the event of observations, a co-ordinated heritage-related response will be issued from Development Applications Unit (DAU) on behalf of the Department.
- The Archaeology and National Monuments Division was contacted in order to discuss the potential for impacts to archaeological heritage along the route of the Proposed Project.

Further information is available in Chapter 9 ‘*Biodiversity*’ and Chapter 10 ‘*Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage*’ as well as in the accompanying Report for the purposes of AA Screening (**Appendix 9.1**).

3.4.3 Business Organisations

In addition, sessions were held with business groups in the College Green area to inform them of the Proposed Project and to discuss potential business/economic impacts as well as accessibility impacts. Details of the consultations are outlined in **Table 3.2**.

Table 3.2: Business Group Consultations

Business Group	Form of Consultation	Issues raised
Dublin Town IBEC Dublin Chamber	Presentation to members on 28 March, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase of number of buses on Parliament Street • Cycling on plaza • Impact on city centre footfall • Access retention

Temple Bar Company	Presentation to members on 13 April, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts on businesses on Parliament Street. • Waiting times for buses on Dame Street. • Increase of number of buses on Parliament Street. • Consideration of alternatives.
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Concerns and issues were considered and incorporated into the design where applicable and considered in this EIA.

3.4.4 Other meetings/consultations

During the design development process, the design team undertook a number of consultations with various interested parties, these included the National Council for the Blind, Bank of Ireland, Office of Public Works, Fáilte Ireland and the Taxi Regulator.

3.5 EIS Statutory Consultation

The statutory public consultation for the Proposed Project was carried out for the May 2017 EIS in conformity with the applicable legislation including Section 175 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended, Part 10 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended and any other applicable legislation.

DCC forwarded copies of the consent application documents including the EIS to An Bord Pleanála. Copies were also circulated to the relevant prescribed bodies, as follows:

- An Chomhaile Ealaíon
- Fáilte Ireland
- An Taisce
- CIE
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- National Transport Authority
- Heritage Council

3.6 References

Delve Research (2017) *“Imagine College Green” On-Street Survey & Online Public Consultation January 2017 Draft Report- Not for Circulation* Dublin, Ireland

Arup (2016) *College Green Civic Plaza and Traffic Management Measures EIS Scoping Report*, Dublin, Ireland

Government of Ireland. Planning and Development Act. (2000) Dublin, Ireland.

Government of Ireland. Planning and Dev Regulations. (2001) Dublin, Ireland.