



DRAFT CORK CITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028

SUBMISSION AND FEEDBACK

On behalf of St Fin Barre's Quarter Development Group I want to congratulate Cork City Council on the comprehensive Draft Cork City Development plan and the pro-active approach taken to consultation.

Having considered the plan in detail we note that there is a high level of consistency between our own approach and that of Cork City Council. We are focused on embracing diversity and inclusiveness, promoting sustainability and providing opportunity for placemaking and community.

We feel that a number of our key projects are particularly harmonious with four of the nine key strategic principles that you have identified;

- A city of neighbourhoods and communities
- Enhanced built and natural heritage
- A healthy, inclusive and diverse city
- A city of learning and culture

We would ask that consideration be given to including these projects in the Cork City Development Plan and in addition that the community of St Fin Barre's be considered as a discreet "neighbourhood" within the plan allowing us to really focus on a sense of place and pride. All of our projects are intended to be as beneficial to those who have physical or behavioural impairments as those without and the "The Inclusive Cathedral" is an excellent example of our inclusive thinking.

We want to acknowledge the engagement we have had with Cork City Council, Greenspaces for Health, Siobhán Keogh Design, Cork Chamber of Commerce, Cork Business Association, An Garda Síochána, University College Cork, Munster Technological University and Students Union, National Council for the Blind Ireland, Elizabeth Fort, local schools and numerous business owners and residents in our neighbourhood.

St Fin Barre's Quarter Development Group are happy to work with Cork City Council to support the realisation of the nine specific recommendations in this submission. In addition we welcome any suggestions to enhance the sense of inclusion and neighbourhood in this important historical area of Cork City.

Objective	<p>(2.8) The 15-Minute City (2.9) Low carbon City (2.10) Mix of Uses (2.11) Design-Led City (2.12) Walkable Neighbourhoods (2.14) Neighbourhood Mix (2.15) Neighbourhood Design (2.23) Quality of Life (3.1) Planning for Sustainable Neighbourhoods (3.14) Community Infrastructure and Services (3.17) Community Hubs (3.18) Adaptable Community Facilities (3.20) Cork City as a Child-Friendly City (3.28) Neighbourhood Recreation and Amenity (6.17) Open Space Strategy (6.18) Public Open Space (7.24) Sustainable Tourism (7.3) Neighbourhood and Local Centres (8.9) Preservation of Architecture within Open Space in Development (10.1) Strategic City Centre Objectives (10.8) City Centre Tourism (10.12) City Centre Public Realm (10.16) City Centre Heritage and Biodiversity</p>
Comments	<p>There is an opportunity to create a lively and flexible market square between Barrack Street and Elizabeth Fort</p>
Recommended update	<p>Re-imagining of “Elizabeth Fort Market Square” to create an outdoor community hub between Barrack Street and Elizabeth Fort/Keyser's Hill. The development would include considerable greening of the space, enhancing bio-diversity and the multi-function space would provide a great location for week-end markets, cultural events and community activities as well as enhancing the experience of visiting Elizabeth Fort. It would also encourage visitors to "linger" with associated opportunities for retailers in the area. The removal of vehicles would encourage pedestrians and cyclists to use Keyser's Hill which will be significantly improved through the Beamish and Crawford Public Realm works.</p>
Objective	<p>(2.8) The 15-Minute City (2.9) Low carbon City (2.10) Mix of Uses (2.11) Design-Led City (2.12) Walkable Neighbourhoods (2.14) Neighbourhood Mix (2.15) Neighbourhood Design (2.23) Quality of Life (3.1) Planning for Sustainable Neighbourhoods (3.2) A Diverse, Inclusive and Equal City</p>

	<p>(3.14) Community Infrastructure and Services (3.20) Cork City as a Child-Friendly City (3.28) Neighbourhood Recreation and Amenity (5.1) A Climate Resilient City (6.17) Open Space Strategy (6.18) Public Open Space (6.19) City parks and Open Space Provision (6.20) Active Recreational Infrastructure (7.3) Neighbourhood and Local Centres (7.6) Social Enterprise (10.1) Strategic City Centre Objectives (10.16) City Centre Heritage and Biodiversity</p>
Comments	<p>The areas of Dean Street/Fort Street and Noonan Road lack good quality, biodiverse social space and there are open spaces that are suitable and would be greatly improved if they were transformed. There are a large number of families living in this area that would benefit greatly from additional recreation space.</p>
Recommended update	<p>Creation of biodiverse, social environments at the junction of Noonan Road/St Finnbar's Road and on Dean Street/Fort Street - in front of existing City Council accommodation.</p>
Objective	<p>(3.20) Cork City as a Child-Friendly City (3.22) Cork Learning City (3.28) Neighbourhood Recreation and Amenity (3.31) Inclusive Design (3.32) Cork City Age Friendly Strategy (6.17) Open Space Strategy (6.18) Public Open Space (6.19) City parks and Open Space Provision (7.24) Sustainable Tourism (10.1) Strategic City Centre Objectives (10.8) City Centre Tourism (10.16) City Centre Heritage and Biodiversity</p>
Comments	<p>St Fin Barre's Cathedral attracts 60,000 visitors per annum making it one of the most significant visitor attractions in Cork City in addition to its role as a place of worship. There is a significant opportunity to enhance the visitor experience by making it as inclusive as possible and this approach will enable the cathedral to attract more visitors to the benefit of St Fin Barre's Quarter and the city as a whole. In addition it will help the Cathedral to enhance its educational role and enable a full spectrum of student visitors to appreciate the architectural and cultural merit of this building. All learnings can be shared with other public attractions.</p>
Recommended update	<p>Inclusion of a project to develop "The Inclusive Cathedral" ensuring that those with impairments whether physical or behavioural can have a fully immersive experience when visiting St Fin Barre's Cathedral utilising research and expertise from organisations such as the National Council for the Blind Ireland and Cork Deaf Association as well as special needs</p>

	experts. This project should include “Carols for Cork City 2021” where Cork City Residents in nursing homes, hospitals and the hospice can participate in the city's Christmas Glow campaign through the use of mobile AV technology to present carols recorded live by the choir at St Fin Barre's Cathedral.
Objective	(3.2) A Diverse, Inclusive and Equal City (3.22) Cork Learning City (3.33) Cultural Diversity (6.21) River Use and Management Plan (7.24) Sustainable Tourism (8.11) Strategic Arts and Culture Objective (8.12) Cork as a City of Culture (8.15) Creative Cork Strategy (10.1) Strategic City Centre Objectives (10.8) City Centre Tourism (10.15) City Centre Culture and Arts (10.16) City Centre Heritage and Biodiversity
Comments	St Fin Barre/Finnbarr/Fionnbharra is Cork's patron saint and his celebration day falls on the 25th of September. As Bishop of Cork and abbot of the monastery that is Cork's foundation there is an opportunity to celebrate the founding of the city almost 1500 years ago and the vibrant history of the city and its diversity through an inclusive festival.
Recommended update	Develop St Fin Barre's Festival 2022 celebrating Cork's patron saint and the amazing history of the city. The festival can combine elements of the heritage, culture, arts and use the green and blue infrastructure as a backdrop - in particular incorporating a river festival promoting the River Lee as a leisure amenity for all. The festival would take place during school term thus opening up the opportunity to engage students in an imaginative way and create pride in their city.
Objective	(2.9) Low carbon City (2.12) Walkable Neighbourhoods (7.24) Sustainable Tourism (10.1) Strategic City Centre Objectives (10.8) City Centre Tourism (10.16) City Centre Heritage and Biodiversity
Comments	St Fin Barre's Quarter includes physical manifestations of all seven eras of Cork's development - monastic, Viking, Norman, Elizabethan, pre-industrial, industrial and modern. There is an opportunity to create a virtual walking tour that enables visitors to experience all seven phases of history in a meaningful way.
Recommended update	Using the excellent "Wayfinding" concept and signage a “St Fin Barre's Quarter Time Portal” could be developed – providing a virtual tour of the quarter and enabling people to experiencing all seven phases of Cork City's history in a tangible way.

Objective	(6.22) Natural Heritage and Biodiversity (6.23) Designated Sites and Protected Species (7.24) Sustainable Tourism (10.1) Strategic City Centre Objectives (10.8) City Centre Tourism (10.16) City Centre Heritage and Biodiversity
Comments	St Fin Barre's Cathedral has provided an attractive nesting location for Peregrine Falcon's for a number of years. We do not know enough about their behaviour or breeding success and therefore it is difficult to ensure that the correct protections are in place for these magnificent raptors. In addition Peregrine Falcons in an urban setting are a tourist attraction and an educational opportunity for school children, elements which are well developed in the UK.
Recommended update	Develop the St Fin Barre's Cathedral Peregrine Falcon project in partnership with UCC, National Parks and Wildlife Service and The Hawk and Owl Trust Norfolk to enable a better understanding of behavioural and breeding habits. Included in the project should be a sustainable tourism and education outreach plan.
Objective	(2.8) The 15-Minute City (2.9) Low carbon City (2.10) Mix of Uses (2.11) Design-Led City (2.12) Walkable Neighbourhoods (3.20) Cork City as a Child-Friendly City (7.24) Sustainable Tourism (10.1) Strategic City Centre Objectives (10.8) City Centre Tourism (10.12) City Centre Public Realm
Comments	High quality public realm improvements have the potential to improve the experience of St Fin Barre's Quarter for all those who live, learn, work, commute and visit the neighbourhood.
Recommended update	Liaising with Cork City Council on the exciting Beamish and Crawford Quarter Public Realm developments and working to ensure that this quality of public realm improvement is extended throughout the St Fin Barre's neighbourhood in future projects.
Objective	(4.4) Active Travel (4.6) Corridor and Route Selection Process (5.8) Cork City Decarbonising Zone (5.24) Green and Blue Infrastructure (6.1) Cork City Green & Blue Infrastructure Study and Strategy (6.2) Accessibility to the Green and Blue Infrastructure Network (6.5) Trees & Urban Woodland (6.10) City landscape Strategy (6.19) City parks and Open Space Provision (6.21) River Use and Management Plan

	<p>(6.22) Natural Heritage and Biodiversity (10.1) Strategic City Centre Objectives (10.8) City Centre Tourism (10.12) City Centre Public Realm (10.16) City Centre Heritage and Biodiversity</p>
Comments	Both College Road and Western Road are heavily congested. Creating a greenway along the existing mill race from MTU Crawford to UCC would open up an exciting additional route into the city and encourage more commuters and students to cycle and walk as well as providing a welcome and much needed additional accessible greenspace for residents.
Recommended update	Enhance green and blue infrastructure with a greenway from UCC to MTU Crawford along the mill race from MTU Crawford to O'Donovan Rossa Road creating a safer route for pedestrian and cyclists, avoiding College Road and Western Road. This route would be particularly useful for UCC/MTU students. This proposal is supported in principle by UCC, MTU, the Students Union and Cork Chamber.
Objective	<p>(8.1) Strategic Archaeology Objective (8.2) Protection of Archaeological Resources (8.3) The Value of Archaeological Knowledge (8.4) Protection of Medieval Historic Core (8.6) Protection of Burial Grounds (8.10) Archaeological Management Strategy for the City (8.17) Conservation of the City's Built Heritage (8.19) Record of Protected Structures (8.20) Historic Landscapes (8.22) National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) (8.25) Recording of Structures in Architectural Conservation Areas (8.26) Historic Street Character Areas (10.1) Strategic City Centre Objectives (10.8) City Centre Tourism (10.12) City Centre Public Realm (10.16) City Centre Heritage and Biodiversity</p>
Comments	Recording our heritage architecture is an important aspect of ensuring its preservation.
Recommended update	Create a comprehensive photographic record of St Fin Barre's Cathedral and other built heritage in St Fin Barre's Quarter to ensure a detailed record of architectural details and current condition for age, climate and environmental related degradation. Selected images can be made available for promotional campaigns, education projects and academic research.