



**Cork City Council Development Plan
2022-2028**

Nano Nagle Place response



Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028

Nano Nagle Place response

To Whom it May Concern,

What follows is the formal Nano Nagle Place (NNP) response to the Cork City Development Plan 2022-2028.

NNP is a heritage and education centre in Cork City. The museum was officially opened in December 2017 by ex-President of Ireland, Dr Mary McAleese. This followed a 4-year conservation, restoration and regeneration project of what was, until the 1990s, a landscape across 3.75 acres of school and convent buildings and landscaped gardens known locally as 'South Pres'.

The project includes the following elements:

- Museum dedicated to Nano Nagle
- Conservation of building dating from the late 18th, through 19th to early 20th centuries
- Gardens and grounds open free of charge to the public
- Apartments for short term let
- Conference facilities
- The award winning Good Day Deli café
- An award winning design and book shop
- The Print Room partnership gallery with Cork Printmakers
- Landlords to the UCC / MTU School of Architecture
- Landlords to the UCC Masters Programme in Physiotherapy
- A resident Sisters convent
- A professional archive

To date NNP has been in receipt of national and local awards across the café, retail, urban design and business sections. The architectural integrity of the site is such that it secured the RIAI Urban Design and Master Planning Award 2020. In 2019, prior to Covid, NNP welcome circa 120,000 visitors (10,000 buying tickets to the museum). NNP is current the #1 Thing-TO-Do-In-Cork on Trip Advisor.

NNP is hence a significant and growing tourist attraction in Cork City. We are currently applicants to the European Museum of the Year Award and are confident that the restoration and regeneration carried on here will be recognised as of European importance. We expect our visitor numbers to grow significantly post Covid. Further we are also an important educational facility in the heart of the city, home to both UCC and to MTU. Finally, NNP is a very significant hub of community development centred on South Parish, home to our Lantern and Cork Migrants projects.

We are proud members of the Douglas Street Traders Association, Cork Business Association, Cork Chamber, Retail Excellence Ireland and Museums Association Ireland. We ask that Cork City support the submissions from these organisations in the further improvement of the development plan.

Please see the priority issues for NNP on pages 4-6.

Please note that NNP would welcome the opportunity to work with Cork City Council, the Douglas Street Traders Association and all relevant civic and residential groups to host discussions, presentations and debates on the future of planning and development concerning Nano Nagle Place, Douglas Street and South Parish and the wider city.

Kind regards, Shane



Shane Clarke
Chief Executive
083 1577 112



Douglas Street, T12 X70A, Cork
[Nano Nagle Place](#) – [Conference / Room rental](#)

Nano Nagle Place: Development Plan 2022-2028 Priorities:**1) Traffic calming required on Douglas Street and in the South Parish area.**

Traffic calming of Abbey Street / Douglas Street outside of NNP is a priority. The street is currently noisy and dangerous, particularly so for the elderly and children. This is not fit for purpose as an approach to one of the primary visitor attractions in Cork City. A public realm and disability access scheme for the junction of Douglas Street and Mary Street was designed by Cork City Council some years ago and should be revisited (in the context of the wider Douglas Street plans).

2) Change of Use

NNP will most likely apply for a small number of change of use planning permissions in the coming years. These changes are likely to be from short term let apartments to office space given that the former is proving unworkable and financially onerous. Any such changes will support the charitable aims of NNP. NNP would welcome the support and cooperation of Cork City Council in facilitating these required changes.

It is also likely that NNP will apply for a change of use for the storage pavilion on our front plaza and fronting onto Douglas Street and facing down Mary Street. We are likely to bring forward a change of use planning application for a small café space here. This would further improve the status of the front plaza as a genuine public space.

3) Improved disabled parking required on Douglas Street and in the South Parish area.

There are currently two disabled parking spaces on our Douglas Street plaza. Accessing these requires driving across a pedestrian plaza. Exiting these spaces requires reversing into that same space. We understand this to have been a poorly judged planning condition imposition and we would like the City Council to remove this requirement as it is unsafe and ruins the quality of public realm fronting onto our main façade. These disabled spaces (and more) should be provided within a short distance on Douglas Street.

4) Improved cycling infrastructure required on Douglas Street and in the South Parish area.

NNP explicitly supports the [Cork Cycling Campaign objectives](#).

5) Improved coach parking infrastructure in Cork City Centre

A significant percentage of our visitors arrive by dedicated day trip coach. Facilities need to be made available for coach parking and coach drop off and collection points in the city centre. Our plaza isn't safe for such traffic movements.

6) Markets

NNP plans to develop a market offer on our front plaza. This would be a significant draw to NNP and to the Douglas Street and South Parish areas more generally. We would appreciate planning, operational and licensing support from Cork City Council to make this a success. Such a market could also expand to Red Abbey Square and NNP would be open to working with Cork City Council to manage such events.

7) World class walking environment from NNP to Princes Street.

The English Market / Princes Street / Parliament Street / Mary Street / NNP axis is key for NNP (and for Cork City and Douglas Street). Public realm projects should include:

- World class public realm investment throughout.
- Gold standard conservation repair of Parliament Street Bridge.
- Improved crossing from Princess Street to Parliament Bridge.
- Public realm review of and plan for George's Quay.
- Public realm review of and plan for Mary Street.
- Tree planning on Mary Street.
- Consideration of Red Abbey Square warehouse development.
- A new Mary Street / Douglas Street crossing to NNP. See above.

8) Link to Barrack Street, Elizabeth Fort and South Main Street Bridge.

As (7) above in this different context.

9) Douglas Street Traders public realm ambitions.

NNP supports the Douglas Street Traders Association ambition to significantly improve the walking and cycling environment on Douglas Street, and to reduce and to calm traffic. We support the village in the city concept. Notes:

- The highest standards in urban design and disability access are required for all public realm implementation projects. Consistent high quality materials and furniture throughout.

- Douglas Street must be set within the context of South Parish. We recommend that the South Parish Area Plan be revisited with Douglas Street at the forefront.
- Pedestrians and walking should be very clearly at the head of any public realm strategy. Currently the pavements and roads and crossing are dangerous and intimidating.
- We are 100% behind reducing through traffic, significantly slowing traffic, reviewing parking with a view to reducing parking spaces (with a priority for residents, disabled and deliveries in that order).
- One-way is the only possibility in certain stretches and we support that. But other options should be considered e.g. 50M plaza outside Cork Flower Studio / Coughlan's.
- Traffic calming, greening etc. needs to extend to Dunbar Street, White Street and Rutland Street. Part pedestrianisation might be considered.
- Permeability. Reinstating the link to Parkowen should be considered.
- Permeability. Instating a link to the Quaker Graveyard should be considered.
- There are a number of development sites (inc. the yards) at the Summerhill end. It would be good to get the Council to agree to community planning and codesign for these sites.
- Tactical urbanism = evidenced based / community engagement pop-up research trials. Douglas Street could mark itself out at the forefront of community planning and design by partnership with the Council on this.
- The following noted Green & Blue Infrastructure Study priority projects provide opportunities which should be combined into a Douglas Street / South Parish Green Infrastructure Plan. A detailed baseline green infrastructure study / area analysis / mapping is the starting point.
 - Neighbourhood Parks. South Parish is specifically mentioned. Investment in and linkages between Parkowen and Quakers (and NNP).
 - City centre greening. South Parish / Douglas Street are the perfect vehicle to deliver, given work to date and partnerships.
 - Cultivation Plan. Parkowen could be an exemplar project.
 - Biodiversity Data Plan. Building on the Green Spaces for Health work South Parish should be the first to be audited to provide a baseline to establish an action plan.
 - Tree planting. We should build / plant on the Green Spaces for Health trees audit and develop a public realm and private tree planting plan.



Shane Clarke
Chief Executive
083 1577 112

shane@nanonagleplace.ie



www.nanonagleplace.ie