Galway City Council Mobility Team
Progress Report Week Ending 26.06.2020

The Galway City Council Mobility Team (GCCMT) held two meetings again this week. Progress for the week ending 26th June 2020 is summarised below.

Tables and Chairs Licencing

Galway City Council is to temporarily waive fees for Tables and Chairs Licences for the hospitality sector, to facilitate them to operate under current social distancing guidelines, as an initiative under the Galway City Council Mobility Implementation Plan.

For businesses which currently have tables and chairs in place through a Section 254 licence, fees will be waived through extending their current licence for a six month period free of charge. This waiver is to cover the 3 months where businesses were not able to operate and a further three months until the end of September 2020. Normal terms and conditions of the Section 254 licence will continue to apply, including the requirement to demonstrate public liability is in place. Businesses with a Section 254 licence who will not be in a position to reopen before the end of September 2020 can seek a credit towards their licence at the end of that period.

Covid-19 Temporary Licensing is to facilitate premises whose primary use is for the selling and consuming of food/ drink who already provide seating and tables inside the premises, are situated on the ground floor and who do not already hold a Section 254 licence.

Eligible businesses wishing to apply for a licence for tables and chairs outside their premises can now apply for this short-term Covid-19 Licence, with no charge which will remain valid until the end of September. These temporary licences are being granted under Section 71 of the Roads Act. Applicants will be required to demonstrate that valid public liability is in place for the duration, and must comply with the licence conditions. Applications will be reviewed on a case by case and street by street basis, taking account of the impact of the licence on neighbouring properties, the general operation of the street; queuing space for customers; and the safe passage of pedestrians and mobility impaired.

Applications for licences are now open, with application forms available from www.galwaycity.ie

Implementation Plan Phase 1

Interventions continue to progress across the city to support social distancing, as more retailers, businesses and workplaces resume operations. Delays in receiving statutory signage on order from suppliers due to unprecedented delays in the supply chain at a national level is having a knock-on impact on the implementation of measures on the ground, including the commissioning of the new automatic bollards and revised delivery times. GCCMT will keep the Elected Members and stakeholders updated as this progresses.

- Pencil Bollards have been installed on Forster Street (24th June) and are in the process of being installed on Eglinton Street to facilitate additional space for social distancing for pedestrians. Signage in relation to loading bays and parking will be amended as required.
• Restrictions to private cars entering Eglinton Street and Francis St. will be implemented in the coming days, once the necessary statutory signage is received. Only buses, taxies and cyclists will be permitted to turn right at the Court House when approaching from the Salmon Weir Bridge.

• The pedestrianisation of Cross St. is to commence in the coming week once bollards have been installed, and the statutory signage currently on order a dereectd.

• The Transport section continues to progress a design for a temporary cycleway along the promenade in Salthill which is currently undergoing a safety audit and with An Garda Síochána for consideration.

• Locations for Phase 2 interventions are now under review, including Middle Street, the Westend and the Latin Quarter.

GCCMT is proposing to host a virtual meeting with Elected Members to discuss in more detail Phase 1 of the Implementation Plan w/c 29th June 2020..

St. Nicholas’ Market

The St. Nicholas Market will operate this weekend on both Saturday and Sunday, with the measures from the previous weekends remaining in place.

The Environment section met with the Traders Committee on Friday, 19th of June, to discuss future operations of the Market, and facilitating all traders to return to operation.

Woodquay was ruled out on the basis of negative feedback from Traders, and from businesses in the area. An alternative proposal to hold a craft-only market on Friday evenings was positively received by the Traders Committee, who will now engage with their group for feedback.

It was noted that the footfall on the previous two Fridays was higher, than that of the previous two Saturdays. It is hoped that an agreeable solution has been reached, to allow all Traders to resume trading at the St Nicholas Market.
Re-opening of amenity areas

Updates on reopening of public amenities are as follows:

- **Silverstrand**: To re-open, at the request of An Garda Siochana
- **Rusheen Bay**: Open
- **Blackrock Tower**: Open
- **Salthill/Prom**: Open
- **Spanish Arch/Claddagh Basin**: Open
- **Playgrounds**: Open
- **Ballyloughane**: Open

Public Submissions

Over 1,100 responses were received to Phase 1 of online submissions to GCCMT. Initial responses have been published for approx. 30% of submissions, with additional responses to follow as submissions are worked through. Updates on online submissions will be published on an on-going basis, on the online map, see [https://arcg.is/0nSTzn](https://arcg.is/0nSTzn) for current updates.

Email submissions continue to be received, and will be reviewed once the current submissions have been assessed and responded to.

Engaging with Businesses

The Economic Development team, along with Engineers from the Transport Department, have met with the businesses in Woodquay, Latin Quarter and the Westend to review their submissions, and have met with the Eyre Square Association in relation to the bollards on Forster Street. The submissions will now be reviewed by the team for consideration Commitments have been made to meet again over the coming weeks to review impacts on local businesses, as the city opens for business again as it is clearly understood that this is a dynamic and changing situation and therefore difficult to predict. It is therefore important to ensure that all measures are kept under constant review.

Accessibility

Members of the GCCMT met with representatives from the Access for All Group via Zoom this week to review some of the mobility challenges that people with disabilities face in Galway City, and the impact that any temporary measures may have on vulnerable groups including people with disabilities, people with visual impairment and the elderly, the majority of whom have been cocooning and are nervous about returning to the City Centre. The team will ensure that the needs of vulnerable groups are addressed where practicable when implementing temporary COVID-19 related changes.

Ends