



COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LAOISE LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL

Comhairle Chontae
Laoise
Áras an Chontae
Port Laoise
Contae Laoise
R32 EHP9

Laois County Council
Áras an Chontae
Portlaoise
County Laois
R32 EHP9

T: (057) 8664000
F: (057) 8622313
corpaffairs@laoiscoco.ie
www.laois.ie

Tá Fáilte Romhat
Gnó a Dhéanamh
as Gaeilge


MidlandsIreland.ie

Re. Main Street, Portlaoise – A Covid Compliant Street.

Dear Elected Member,

Covid 19 continues to have a profound impact on our daily lives and that impact is likely to continue, definitely in the short term.

Three months on from the commencement of a societal lockdown (28th March 2020), we are now in Phase 2 of the Roadmap for the Reopening of Society and Business. Supporting local businesses and traders is critically important in order to sustain employment and reinvigorate economic activity. At the same time, as businesses reopen and lockdown restrictions are relaxed, there remains the fundamental public health advice of 2m social distancing, avoidance of crowds and limited contacts with others when out and about.

Notwithstanding that local businesses may need access to external “public” space, so as to compensate for loss of floor space internally, patrons generally also require additional space such that they can comply with social distancing, feel safe and confident.

It follows that there is a balance to be struck between economic stimulation whilst, at the same time, seeking to provide an environment that supports and underpins public/consumer confidence.

Main Street, Portlaoise is the main street of the Principal Town in County Laois. It is important that Main Street seeks to be an exemplar Covid Compliant Street, instilling confidence in shoppers and the public generally.

In recent weeks there has been very positive engagement with the Portlaoise Town Team, Downtown Portlaoise and Laois Chamber of Commerce whereby Laois County Council will introduce the following measures to coincide with Phase 3 of the Roadmap (commencing 29th June, 2020);

- Allow traders, subject to agreement on detail, to use areas of the public realm to compensate for loss of internal space and/or to allow for queuing,
- Reallocate public space to maximise consumer confidence in the public realm,
- Remove footpath bollards and pedestrian railings enhancing permeability and adherence to social distancing,
- Enhanced soft landscaping, seasonal planting and street furniture,
- Periodic, shared reassignment of Loading Bays and selected parking bays to allow for short term set down (10 – 15 minutes) in support of Click and Collect etc.

Commensurate with the points above, supporting the objectives set out in A Vision for Portlaoise (Portlaoise 2040), Laois County Council also intends to temporarily pedestrianise Lower Main Street, from its junction with Railway Street to the junction with Church

‘I bpáirt leis an bpobal’

Arna phríontáil ar pháipéar atá 100% athchúrsáilte – Do Chomhshaoil a chothú





COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LAOISE LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL

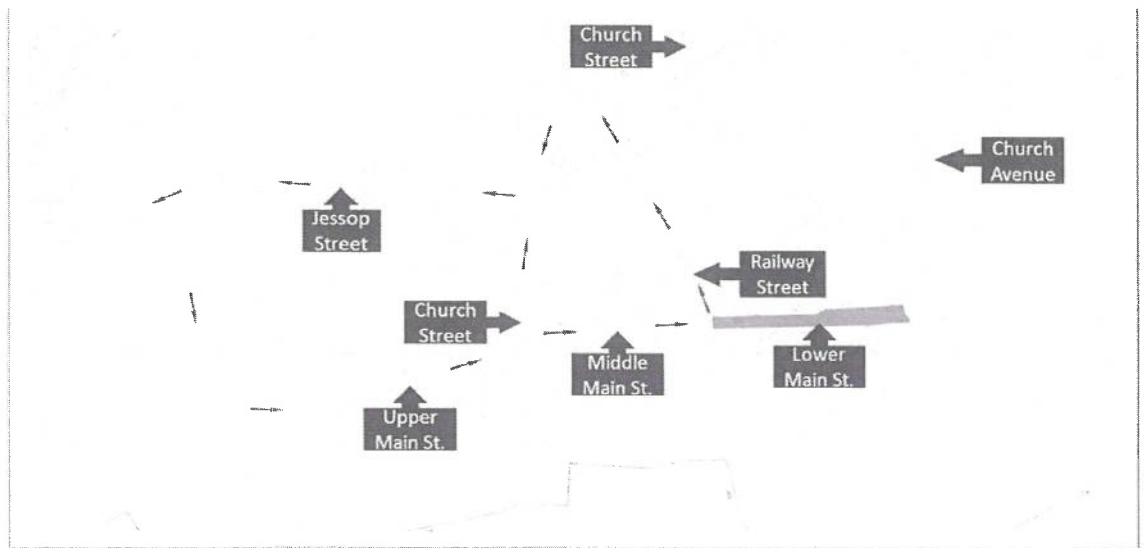
Comhairle Chontae
Laoise
Áras an Chontae
Port Laoise
Contae Laoise
R32 EHP9

Laois County Council
Áras an Chontae
Portlaoise
County Laois
R32 EHP9

T: (057) 8664000
F: (057) 8622313
corpaffairs@laoiscoco.ie
www.laois.ie

Avenue. The pedestrianisation is to commence on Thursday 2nd July 2020 until Sunday 30th August, 2020. The hours of pedestrianisation will be 11.00hrs to 17.30hrs Monday through to Sunday i.e. 7 days a week for 6.5 hours per day.

For clarity a map of the area is outlined below;



Notice to the above effect has been published on Tuesday 16th June 2020 with a closing date of 26th June for submissions and a commencement date of Thursday 2nd July, 2020. Over and above the measures highlighted above there are a few specific points pertaining to the pedestrianisation that warrant mention;

- The traffic implications of the proposal have been assessed and there are no significant adverse impacts identified as regards congestion levels etc.,
- The pedestrianisation requires a reversal of the existing one way system on Railway Street which will be in place for the entirety of the period 2nd July, 2020 to 30th August, 2020,
- Compensatory parking for the 10 car parking spaces displaced on Lower Main Street will be provided on adjoining streets,
- An Garda Síochána will support for the initiative and will provide a dedicated Officer to attend/patrol/support the Street during the pedestrianisation period.

Tá Fáilte Romhat
Gnó a Dhéanamh
as Gaeilge





COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LAOISE LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL

Comhairle Chontae
Laoise
Áras an Chontae
Port Laoise
Contae Laoise
R32 EHP9

Laois County Council
Áras an Chontae
Portlaoise
County Laois
R32 EHP9

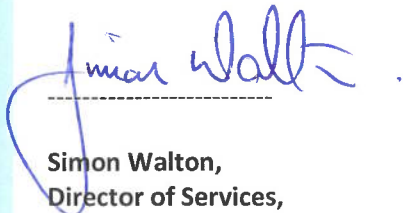
T: (057) 8664000
F: (057) 8622313
corpaffairs@laoiscoco.ie
www.laois.ie

Tá Fáilte Romhat
Gnó a Dhéanamh
as Gaeilge

In order to advise matters I have also attached a number of impressions as to the aspirations for the street during this period which are reliant on the support and input of Laois County Council and local traders.

In conclusion I note that a statutory resolution of Elected Members is not required to the proposal being made but the support of the Elected Members is sought for the proposals.

Is Mise le Meas,



Simon Walton,
Director of Services,
Portlaoise Municipal District.

