

Cork Chamber
Fitzgerald House
Summerhill North
Cork
15th November 2021

Cork City Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) Bye-Laws 2021

To Whom It Concerns,

Cork Chamber represents 1,200 members together employing 100,000 people throughout the city, metropolitan area and county. Our vision is to be a world-leading Chamber of Commerce, delivering on a progressive economic, social and sustainability agenda at the heart of a vibrant business community.

As such, we are determined to ensure that our 202-year-old Chamber continues to create a positive legacy. Our direction is guided by our formal pledge to uphold the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals five of which have been identified by the Chambers Ireland network.



The benefits of the introduction of lower speed limits in residential areas are being experienced in many cities across Europe. Research indicates that a reduction in speed is associated with a reduction in road traffic related casualties. A recent study shows that a reduction in speed of as little as 1.6 kmph is associated with a reduction in casualties of up to 6%.¹ In Bristol city the introduction of a 20mph (32 kmph) speed limit has saved an estimated four lives every year, prevented around 170 injuries every year as well as a cost saving of £15million annually.² Similar results have been witnessed in Edinburgh where the same speed limit was also introduced.

In addition to the safety aspect associated with such a significant reduction in speed is an increase in

¹ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S000145751200276X>

² <https://uwe-repository.worktribe.com/output/875541>

the instance of walking and cycling, both cities experienced a 10% increase in walking and 5% increase in cycling.

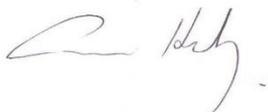
Closer to home the experiences in Dublin City have had similar results where the local authority has proposed the expansion of the lower speed limit in most areas across the city after senior engineers said the introduction of the measures in certain areas of the city produced “only positive outcomes” for road safety. A recent study also suggests a range of additional benefits associated with a lower speed limit of 20mph (32 kmph) including less congestion, less air pollution and CO2 emissions, stronger communities, and a reduction in obesity rates.³

Cork Chamber has long advocated for and supported calls for the implementation of a calmer and safer speed limit throughout the city of 30kmph. The initiation of a slower speed limit would also add greater balance in areas where vehicles must continue to travel and is important for enhancing how valuable space in the city centre is better shared. Therefore, it is positive to see plans to introduce this speed limit in built up neighbourhood centre streets in Togher and Glanmire. These plans could pave the way for the introduction of slower speed limits across the city.

Cork Chamber would recommend the installation of appropriate traffic calming infrastructure where needed in residential areas and built-up areas similar to those areas included in these proposals as these measures could slow and calm traffic and have an immediate impact.

The proposed Special Speed Limits Bye-Laws 2021 will create a safer environment for communities and will promote sustainable modes of transport such as walking and cycling. The emphasis on walking, cycling and community spaces will be one of the most positive legacies of the COVID19 pandemic, and these plans will facilitate the creation of spaces where people can travel in a more sustainable and safe way within their own communities. Cork Chamber fully support the proposals and we hope that it will result in similar action being taken in other areas of the city in the future. We commend the City Council for their work on this project and we ask that our comments be taken into consideration.

Yours Sincerely,



Conor Healy
Chief Executive

³ https://www.dannydorling.org/?page_id=3924