

TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF WATERFORD

Re: Section 38 Road Traffic Act 1994 – Active Travel Scheme
Convent Hill, Tramore – Place making and traffic calming scheme

The following proposed Active Travel scheme was advertised for public consultation from 27th September 2022 to 24th October 2022, inviting submissions before 07TH November 2022.

- Carriageway narrowing, footpath widening, place making including tree pits, flower beds (SUDS features), street furniture (i.e., Seats, benches etc) along Convent Hill and junction tightening works at the Old Waterford Road.
- As part of the Safe Routes to School programme under Active Travel works in the area, the objective is to improve walking and cycling access, improve connections to existing footpaths and create safer crossing points for vulnerable road users.

Submissions:

The scheme was advertised in the Munster Express, as well as the Council's website, Social Media channels and Consultation Portal.

Sixteen submissions were received during the statutory consultation period.

Submission No. 1 – Daniel Costello

I Daniel Costello am a bus driver with buseireann on the Tramore route .I hope you are taken in to account double decker buses turning left and right at these junction's.

Response to Submission No. 1

Junction tightening and associated works will be constructed in accordance with DMURS, and the current guidance note on junction tightening from the NTA.

Submission No. 2 – Stephen & Cilla Grant

As a resident of Sweetbriar Close, I strongly oppose all & any plans to restrict the flow of traffic past the school which has been forcing traffic up into my estate since June 2022. This was done without prior consultation of the residents too.

This once peaceful cul-de-sac upon where my private domicile is located has now become a health hazard due to excess traffic, unauthorised parking, aggravated confrontation & increased environmental contaminants to name just a few reasons.

Some houses have sustained damage to their private property (pillars/ gates/ walls/ wall caps etc) since parents have decided to use this cul-de-sac as a car park, twice daily, since this scheme was initiated. There is also idling of parked cars which is a cause for concern here for my family (some of whom are asthma sufferers). This has also been an issue for my neighbours.

More worryingly is that some of the elderly residents have been threatened when asking car parkers to move on. This is happening when younger residents are away at work!

As tax-payers & private home owners (who also pay property tax) I can assure you we did not ask to be treated like this from our council and I expect better.

Please acknowledge this correspondence as an official objection to the following, "Active Travel Scheme (Section 38) - Convent Hill, Tramore"

I demand that the road is left open during school times and is returned to normal function in the first instance.

I can be contacted at the details listed above.

Response to Submission No. 2

This submission refers to the temporary street closure outside Glor na Mara NS which was advertised during the summer and came into effect in September 2022. While this Section 38 scheme aims to compliment the school street, it is a separate set of measures to the closure of the street during drop off and collection times at the school. However, the issues raised have been noted and there are ongoing discussions with residents to address some of the concerns.

Issues relating to damage of private property and harassment should be reported to an Garda Síochana.

Submission No. 3 – Emma O’Keefe

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I'm objecting this and I hope you listen to the people who its current affecting I live at [REDACTED] Sweetbriar Close Tramore Co Waterford and today the 20th of October 2022 I arrived home after dropping my children to school to a parent of Glor na Mara reserving into my pillar and causing damage. This isn't the first time this event has occurred. Our neighbour Hilda's pillar was damaged but unfortunately none of the residence were witness to it. She has to pay for the damages out of her own pocket which unacceptable.

Parents never parked outside our homes until you decided to block of the road and now our properties are getting damaged and my children aren't safe outside their own house. I know you must of seen footage of parents trying to park and today's events only confirm this.

A new solution for Glor na Mara needs to be sought, it's unfair that the residence are suffering both emotionally and financially to a solution that we know isn't working

My children aren't safe outside there own house and new arrangement need to be sought as a matter of importance

Response to Submission No. 3

This submission refers to the temporary street closure outside Glor na Mara NS which was advertised during the summer and came into effect in September 2022. While this Section 38 scheme aims to compliment the school street, it is a separate set of measures to the closure of the street during drop off and collection times at the school. However, the issues raised have been noted and there are ongoing discussions with residents to address some of the concerns.

Issues relating to damage of private property should be reported to an Garda Síochana.

The safety of children in the area is our priority in initiating the school street and measures contained within this advertised S38 scheme.

Submission No. 4 – Linda Dunphy

As a resident of St Otterans tce I strongly object to proposed changes as it is the new layout of junction at top of St Otterans tce is very unsafe when pulling out as cars using Centra and Glor na Mara are now parked further out on road since widening of footpath. The proposed crossing is too close to stop sign and junction too.

Safe schools need to come up with a new plan that doesn't involve blocking Convent Hill as this is causing St Otterans tce/Sweetbriar and adjoining areas untold chaos .

The local Bus Eireann service now has to come down St Otterans tce 4 times a day usually 3 times when school children are coming and going and on 1 fine day there was 25 plus extra cars parked on terrace .

My concern is if the emergency services are required anywhere in the vicinity of Glor na Mara /St Otterans tce/Sweetbriar or Old Tramore road they wouldn't be able to access the area

I strongly object to any more changes to this area and hope the greenschools initiative of road closure is reversed

Response to Submission No. 4

Junction tightening and associated works will and are being constructed in accordance with DMURS and the current guidance note on junction tightening from the NTA.

The new junction tightening measures at this junction aim to improve pedestrian safety and reduce speeds. The layout provides protected parking spaces off the carriageway which should improve sightlines on the junction. The measures in this Section 38 scheme aim to make the junction safer for vulnerable road users. However, a full design review will be completed at detail design of the current S38.

The temporary road closure of Convent Hill is not dependant on the implementation of this Section 38 scheme.

Both Active Travel team and Glor na Mara NS have liaised with local bus providers in relation to the proposed scheme.

An Garda Síochana has noted the proposed scheme, no issues were identified.

The objection to the proposed measures including pedestrian crossings, seating and new planting is noted.

The temporary road closure is in place until June 2022 and is separate to this Section 38 scheme.

Submission No. 5 – Wayne O'Keefe

As a resident of [REDACTED] Sweetbriar Close I strongly object to the Active Travel Scheme (Section 38)-Convent Hill, Tramore

Since the closure of the road it has caused mayhem in our cul-de-sac. It has become common knowledge that Sweetbriar Close has become a carpark on school drop-off and pickup times. My property along with my neighbours have sustained damage to pillars due to the increased traffic in the area since the initiative was implemented. We were lucky that my wife witnessed the damage occurring and the responsible person has agreed to pay for the repair, unfortunately for my neighbour the person drove off and she's left footing the repair bill herself. This is unacceptable.

Apart from the damage an elderly neighbour was aggressively threatened by a waiting parent who he asked to move his car from a gateway. Cigarette butts are being thrown from car windows by waiting parents littering our private dwellings. One car was left idling for over 20 minutes until that said elderly neighbour had to approach the responsible person and ask them to turn off their engine. Another lady parked directly outside my house walked her child to school, returned to her car to collect her dog and then proceeded to walk the dog for nearly 90 minutes before returning to her car and leaving.

I'm the father of 3 children myself and I'm in full support of a safe school initiative but the changes implemented for Glor Na Mara are a farce and don't work. There's residents from other areas outside of Sweetbriar getting affected by these changes too and also have massive concerns. I'm proposing that the road servicing the school is left open. There has never been an accident to date, the lollipop lady does great work to ensure the children make it across the road safely while keeping the flow of traffic moving. This is a classic case of "if it isn't broke don't fix it". The general consensus from residents, parents and teachers is that this current setup isn't working and will never work. A solution needs to be sought that is acceptable for all parties. I'm very shocked and saddened that the council didn't engage with the residents before these changes were implemented, were expected to just put up with it. These changes affect me, my family, and my neighbours. When our private property starts getting damaged and people get threatened we need to speak up. My children are unable to play outside their own house due to the increased traffic. Our once very private cul-de-sac is now becoming very public.

Response to Submission No. 5

This submission refers mainly to the temporary street closure outside Glor na Mara NS which was advertised during the summer and came into effect in September 2022. While this Section 38 scheme aims to compliment the school street, it is a standalone set of measures to the closure of the street during drop

off and collection times at the school and improves pedestrian safety for all residents in the area.

Issues relating to damage of private property and harassment should be reported to an Garda Síochana.

It should be noted that several meetings have been held on site with residents and stakeholders, as well as email and phone communications in relation to this Section 38 scheme.

Submission No. 6 – Geraldine Carbery

I am aware to possible changes with to ability to park outside [REDACTED]. This will cause hardship as we are unable to bring the car in off the road due to the layout of the garden and need to be able to park outside the house. We also will require access for the Oil delivery and bin collection. Also we have been subject to anti social behaviour by youths damaging wing mirrors, wipers, scratches when parked on the Old Waterford Road side. To park over by the school is not an option for the same reason. I realize there was an issue with the bus coming down the terrace but since the stop sign has been moved that is no longer an issue. The knock on effect of reducing the parking at the top of the terrace and the closing of Convent Hill has increased the parking at the end of St Otterans Terrace. I feel by reducing it more will have a huge impact on me. All the houses up the terrace have cars some two so spaces are at a premium. Most of our houses do not have the facility to take the cars off the road. I can not see how a wider footpath will help anything. While the engineers (Barbara / James / Quentan) said the remaining space would be 6 metres enough for two car to park I am not sure if it was it taken into account cars parking at both sides of the road up and down St Otterans Tce and two way traffic. I hope you will take my observations/comments on board. I hate those who give out and complain when the job is done..without having their thoughts known. I really would appreciate if you can see yourselves to allow the spaces outside my house available to us. It was also felt by the engineers that only one space would be taken by the council but in reality there is not a space due to give up plus the cars parking on the main road will be reduced also.

Response to Submission No. 6

The proposed works at this house on St Otterans Terrace aim to make the junction safer. Currently the parking arrangement in this area is a safety issue. Some car spaces here will be relocated a few metres.

Junction tightening and associated works will and are being constructed in accordance with DMURS and the current guidance note on junction tightening from the NTA.

Submission No. 7 – Liam & Kathleen Crowe

We are totally opposed to the closure of convent hill as this is the main route for all services, including ambulance and the fire brigade. During road closing times all side roads are completely blocked. Entrance piers in Sweetbriar Close have been damaged by school cars. Work proposed at Sweetbriar Close and Lawn junction is not within the area of Sweetbriar Lawn and the Old Waterford Rd. All residents in Sweetbriar Close are opposed to any alterations to this junction.

Response to Submission No. 7

This submission refers to the temporary street closure outside Glor na Mara NS which was advertised during the summer and came into effect in September 2022. While this Section 38 scheme aims to compliment the school street, it is a separate set of measures to the closure of the street during drop off and collection times at the school. However, the issues raised have been noted and there are ongoing discussions with residents to address some of the concerns.

Issues relating to damage of private property should be reported to an Garda Síochana.

Submission No. 8 – Damian Nicholls

My daughter attends Glor na Mara and we live just outside Tramore so have to drive in, though will always try and park some distance away and walk/scoot/cycle the last part. Prior to the changes you daren't let your child leave your side because of the fast traffic going past (including right past the school), the localised air pollution outside the school was bad and overall it didn't feel like a safe place. Now the area outside the school is safer, kids play in the closed road, there's laughing and chasing, parents chat and it's more relaxed. To begin with the surrounding roads were chaotic but this has now settled down; I understand some of the comments from local residents about inconsiderate parking as there is a little, but then there was inconsiderate parking and dangerous driving before, it was just outside the school instead.

Rainy days used to be some of the most dangerous outside Glor na Mara, cars were parked on each side of the road, sometimes double parked, this made the

bend a blind bend , with poor visibility. Parents and children then had to make a brave dash across the road and hope there wasn't a car speeding up the hill, as there often was. This unnecessary danger has now been removed and I'm immensely grateful for it. I witnessed a child step out from behind a car into the path of a speeding vehicle when I was at school and saw him flung down the road, I'd hope to never see that again, it was a horrible sight.

I would very much hope that these changes become permanent and that the areas around all the schools become safer, there was a real risk of a child getting knocked down and killed before. To address the inconsiderate parking I'd hope the baby doesn't get thrown out with the bath water and that some information goes out to parents to explain the importance of the needs of others - these changes are not the cause of the behaviour they have just made it more visible to local residents, it's always been there.

Response to Submission No. 8

This submission is noted.

Submission No. 9 – Mícheál O Cadhla

As a parent who both walks a child to school at Glor na Mara sometimes, and drops him in the car at other times, I am very happy with the improved safety for all children through the School Street program. My son is six and all of my other children have been through the school ahead of him, so I have had many years of school runs, and many more still to come.

I am further very happy to see that the school street has not been done as a simple isolated action of closing off the street at certain times.

The additional measures already taken to prioritise the safety of all pedestrians in the vicinity of the school, and the further measures proposed here, show a broader approach to the issue. This approach has no clearer example than the point where St. Otterans Terrace joins the old Waterford road. Previously, for a pedestrian to cross at this junction, they had to pass through parked cars and then walk across an extremely wide section of road, which allowed cars to sweep through the junction without needing to slow down significantly. Now, pedestrians have a safe, narrower crossing, without going through parked cars, and the shape of the junction obliges cars to slow down. The difference between what it was, and what it is now, is stark.

Having looked at the detail of the Section 38 proposals, I can see how each of them contributes to the overall improvement of the area.

I hope that these really positive measures can also be implemented at the other schools in Tramore, and then emanate outwards until the whole town is covered. A future Tramore, where walking and cycling for all ages is not just encouraged but enabled will make for a safer, healthier (less pollution, more exercise), more connected (more meeting people face-to-face), and more sustainable community. Across the world cities and towns are moving in this direction and I am proud to see my hometown taking the lead here in Ireland.

Response to Submission No. 9

This submission is noted.

Further schools have been identified through the Safe Routes To Schools programme and we hope to see a strong focus on this initiative in 2023.

Submission No. 10 – D. Brennan

We request your attention to the Active Travel Scheme (Sec. 38) being completed at the junction of Convent Hill and Sweetbriar estate, Tramore. These works have been completed despite the strong objections submitted by this Association to the Council officials in charge of the works. Sweetbriar is a mature estate of 150 houses built from 1970 onwards and which is now forced to cope with the huge increase in through traffic as a result of the said works.

Since the objections and requests of the Association have been ignored, we are reduced to a situation of outlining what we consider to be dangers and misuse of the junction and bringing them to attention for action where needed. We expect that any submissions made by the Association will receive prompt and decisive attention.

We consider that the essential control of traffic at the junction and immediate environs during the hours of 8.15-9.15am and 12.15-2.45pm when the School Road Closure is in place should be in the hands of a Traffic Warden to ensure compliance with Road Laws by parents and other road users. We ask that such an appointment be made forthwith.

We request the immediate removal of the Pencil Bollards installed in Sweetbriar. They are unnecessary and are an encroachment into our estate. They also reduce the road width and together with the tightness of the junction we say this is not in the best interest of safety.

Exiting left from the estate at this junction, as presently constructed, is dangerously sharp and impedes traffic making such a turn safely. This is a serious problem, existent on a 24/7-365 basis and is liable to be the cause of

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an accident. We request that the necessary remedial work be carried out here to restore the required safe road alignment.

We remind the Council that Sweetbriar is not part of the School Zone and is not to be considered as such. Sweetbriar is a long-established residential estate which we work to keep safe and want to see protected as a place of residence. Accordingly, we hope that our concerns will be firmly and correctly dealt with by the Council.

Yours sincerely,

D. Brennan

Chair

For and on behalf of the Association and Residents

Response to Submission No. 10

We note the request for a traffic warden at the junction.

While this Section 38 scheme aims to compliment the school street, it is a separate set of measures to the closure of the street during drop off and collection times at the school. However, the issues raised have been noted and there are ongoing discussions with residents to address some of the concerns.

Pencil bollards have been installed to create a safer environment for vulnerable road users. Their aim is to narrow the carriageway and reduce speed. The extent of the bollards can be reviewed at Detail Design stage.

Junction tightening and associated works will and are being constructed in accordance with DMURS and the current guidance note on junction tightening from the NTA.

Submission No. 11 – St Otterans Terrace Residents

We the undersigned would like to object to the closure of Convent Hill at times 8.30-9.15am and 1.15-2.45pm as this is causing disruption to our street St Otterans Tce and to the changes under Section 38 that have taken place at top of terrace and proposed changes under Section 38 to bottom of terrace

- Kitty Centwell
- Paul Centwell
- John Power Maria Power
for Vallance
- Helen Mary
- Mr and Mrs - causing major traffic problems
- Bridget + Tommy Hannigan St Otterans
Terrace or Road ST OTTERANS Tce.
- Emma Fitzpatrick St. Otterans Tce
- Bronagh Fitzpatrick St. Otterans Terrace
- Luke Fitzpatrick St. Otterans Terrace
- Alan Fitzpatrick St. Otterans Tce.
- Stephen Fitzpatrick St. Otterans Tce
- Fabian Dwyer St. Otterans Tce.
- GERAIDINE CARBEN ST OTTERANS TCE
- Peter Carbery St Otterans Terrace
- ANDREA CAULFIELD ST OTTERANS TCE.
- Maria Noonan St. Otterans Tce.
- Linda Dunphy St Otterans Tce
- Heim Dunphy " " " 50 yards long here
- Madeline White Deirdre Hanway St Otterans Tce
- Thomas Carberry Anne Keogh St Otterans Tce
- May O'Brien
- Margaret Whittle

Maitha Buckley ■ Sweetkuan Lu

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Response to Submission No. 11

We note this petition submitted to WCCC, which appears to be mainly directed to the temporary road closure which is in place at Glor na Mara NS during drop off and collection times.

Submission No. 12 – Elaine Mullan

I'm writing in support of the proposed Traffic Calming and pedestrian measures on Convent Hill, Tramore, between junctions with Sweet Briar and Old Waterford Road (R-682).

As a lecturer in promoting physical activity, with expertise in active travel, and as the current Active Cities officer with Waterford Sports Partnership, I am fully aware of the negative impacts of current traffic speeds, volumes and road designs on children's physical activity levels and their parents' willingness to let them out on those roads.

Currently children have to be chauffeured to activities, friends houses, school etc., because our roads are too dangerous for them to travel independently and/or play outdoors. Only 13% of our children meet the recommended daily physical activity requirements that are necessary for good health, which means the majority of our children are missing out on the benefits of daily physical activity: a healthy weight, better academic performance, more social time with friends, better cardiovascular fitness, more independence.

It is essential that we enable more children to walk, scoot or cycle to school and a school street allows this by closing a small section of a road, on either side of the school entrance, just at school drop off and pick up times. Many schools suffer with parents double parking, engines idling, outside the front gate, and big SUVs pulling in and out with limited visibility of smaller children. The school street makes it safer and more pleasant for children who have come in a car to get to the school gates on foot safely and be active outside the school before school starts. It also reduces air pollution around the school entrance and air pollution has a particularly negative impact on children's lungs as they are still developing.

While this will and is undoubtedly causing some inconvenience to surrounding residential areas, I am confident that the adults will adjust. Our children's current and future health is too important not to let this scheme go ahead.

Response to Submission No. 12

This submission is noted.

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Submission No. 13 – Pat O'Mahoney

As Principal of Glór na Mara Primary School, Tramore, I am writing to you in support of the proposed traffic calming measures for Convent Hill and its environs.

As a school we applied for, and were fortunate enough to be accepted into, the Safe Routes to School initiative. Our main reason for doing this was for the health and safety of the children in our care. We envisaged that, by becoming part of this scheme, the following would occur:

- a) there would be less/no traffic outside of the school at dropping and collecting times and therefore keeping our children as safe as possible from passing traffic
- b) reduce our children's exposure to very harmful carbon monoxide emissions
- c) increase the number of children walking, cycling or scooting to school

I am happy to say that all of the above have occurred. I have also noticed that, now that they are used to the traffic calming measures in place, motorists in the vicinity of the school are approaching junctions more slowly and in a safer manner.

We are being regularly reminded of the obesity epidemic in Ireland and the need to enable our youngest and most vulnerable to increase their physical activity. Our school runs a strong Physical Education program, along with after school activities and are also part of the Active Flag initiative. The Safe Routes to School and Section 38 for Convent Hill will further enable our children to attain greater physical activity and receive all of the benefits deriving from that.

Having said that, it was never our intention that being part of the Safe Routes to School would discommode the local residents to any great extent. I'm hopeful, therefore, that we can all continue to work together to achieve the greatest possible health and safety benefits for our children while leaving as negative an impact as possible on the lives of our neighbours.

In summation, I am strongly in favour of the proposed Section 38 works for Convent Hill as I believe they will assist in improving the health and safety of the children of Glór na Mara school.

P.S. I am attaching some feedback from 5th and 6th class pupils:

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"I find it really helpful. I walk to school everyday and I never walked before."

"I really like the School Street because I think it makes more sense. Before the pencils, the cars used to park everywhere and it would get really crowded on the footpath. It felt really dangerous and that someone could fall off the footpath really easily."

"Why can't they make the entrance to the school bigger? It would make it easier and faster to get in and out. I like the School Street and I walk everyday."

"Buses have trouble going through because of the new wider paths and they get in the way of the cars."

"I always walk to school. I really like the pencils, especially the yellow ones. It's safer and a good idea."

"It's very crowded coming in and out of the school gate. I find it really crowded and someone almost bumped into me. It's nice, there are no cars and you don't need to worry about that."

"I think the pencils are really cool and they let other people know there is a school there and children there. I know it can be crowded at the gate but I'd rather be bumped by a person than a car!"

"I think the pencils are really nice as they make people aware it's a school. When I walk to school my brother and sister go out on the road and play with their friends. It's better when it's raining as we're not crowded on the footpath."

"If the buses come as far as the bollards they end up reversing all the way back which can be dangerous."

"I don't think it's a good idea for young kids to get used to standing in the middle of the road."

"I think it's safe and good, there's always room for improvement. Maybe they could build new routes so you can navigate through all the paths to get to school."

"There are lots of bollards and pencils and they take up lots of space for people who have younger children."

"I think it's way safer. If it's wet you can put on a coat, get an umbrella and walk 20m from where you park to school!"

"They should make a carpark near CBS Hall."

"I think it's more dangerous as the buses have to walk down the smaller road [Otteran's Tce.] and that blocks the traffic."

"It's ridiculous, there is nowhere to park. My mam has a baby and has to bring the buggy out. It's a lot of trouble with a baby. If it's wet, everyone has to sit in wet clothes for the day."

"There is all of Sweetbriar and Otteran's Tce to park. With the building traffic down the road, it's handy that you can walk on the road. It's safer than being squashed on the footpath."

"When we're walking down the road, there are vans blocking the road and double decker buses on Otteran's Tce. My mam won't let me walk anymore because of the buses."

"I cycle to school everyday. I think it's good. I hate crossing the road but now I can cycle up the road and it's less stressful."

"Usually I walk to school everyday, it's very calm and quiet. I think they should make a car park for the cars."

"I think it's safer, before the road was closed my brother used to jump on the road and there would be cars flying past."

Response to Submission No. 13

We note this submission along with the views of some of the students at Glor na Mara NS.

Submission No. 14 – Mags Buckley

This is an observational viewpoint from myself, a teacher who along with a colleague, supervises our children arriving and leaving our school on a daily basis. The scheme to keep our children safe is a praiseworthy one and offers a great deal of safety comfort for our children. However, I have serious concerns about the secondary issues that the measures have thrown up. We receive concerns from anxious parents when they observe children scooting/cycling at speed down the hill and at times out onto the road without stopping. There is

no visibility from our position at the school gates but we are aware of these concerns and remind our children constantly to behave in a safe manner. But it is a cause of worry for us. Our school bus scheme has encountered many difficulties because of the road closures and incidental congestion. These difficulties pose problems for our staff when children may miss the bus or when we become responsible for escorting children to and from the bus, now that it has to park on the main road. We cannot have a daily communication with the driver as we had. This creates worry and anxiety for us on behalf of the bus children. Having spoken and listened to many residents in the surrounding estates, I fully concur with their concerns, many of which are in the interests of child safety, as well as personal inconveniences and residential traffic congestion. When we had a trial period in June, we assumed that our feedback would be taken into account with a forum for open and transparent discourse. However, this appears not to have happened before the scheme went ahead. I understand the laudable motivations behind the scheme. I see that many are very happy with it. However I feel that, for those of us with genuine, practical concerns, there has been little opportunity for meaningful dialogue which may have included alternative solutions. We have discussed our concerns and issues in person and have documented same. We hope to continue with honest and open dialogue, in order to find a compromise whereby the safety of our children is paramount, but also where we respect the concerns of our community, in the immediate environment.

Response to Submission No. 14

While this Section 38 scheme aims to compliment the school street, it is a separate set of measures to the closure of the street during drop off and collection times at the school. However, the issues raised have been noted.

Submission No. 15 – cllr Cristíona Kiely

A chara,

I would like to make the following submission on the Section 38 School Street in Tramore.

While this Section 38 is separate to the School Street project at Glór na Mara, I would like to thank the Active Travel team for developing the School Street project at Glór na Mara and employing innovative technology such as drone footage and heat mapping to help inform elements of the Section 38 scheme before us now. As a parent of a child in the school with 3 children having already passed through the school, I have seen many 'near misses' outside this school over the last 10 years. I am very pleased that my youngest child who is currently a pupil in Glór na Mara will experience enhanced safety as he arrives to and leaves school. In addition, the reduction of car idling clustered on this

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small street at school drop off and collection times is most welcome from an air pollution and health point of view. Making it easier for our children to walk, cycle or scoot to school safely is also a key part of addressing climate change.

Based on feedback to me from parents of children who are in both Tramore Educate Together and Tramore Gaelscoil, the benefits of the School Street project and the Section 38 before us extends to children beyond the original remit of the School Street which is most welcome because it is also making it safer for children going to more than just one school in Tramore. With this in mind, I would like to offer my support for the Section 38 which I realise is a stand-alone project separate from the School Street project and which I believe will bring benefits to large numbers of residents in the area.

I would like to make the following observations on the Section 38 project

This Section 38 will offer safer routes for pedestrians in the area to get around their locality day and night and year round. I am pleased to see further junction tightening which will slow traffic in the area and discourage unnecessary through traffic, both of which will make the streets in the area safer for all users of all ages and abilities at all time of the day and throughout the year.

I also welcome the junction tightening and defined car parking spaces at the bottom of St Otteran's Terrace as that will improve safety with clear sight of oncoming traffic, a wider path and a dedicated crossing which will benefit both residents and pedestrians passing through.

I welcome the additional pencil bollards in the area to indicate to motorists all day that they driving in the area where there may be more young children at certain times of the day – especially given that the old Star of the Sea building is currently under renovation by the Department of Education for future educational use.

I would like clarity on how 'footpath continues across vehicular access to school' will work as that is unclear to me.

I welcome the placemaking outside GNM and the public seating being provided as part of this project. I believe we should have more public seating to allow for people of all mobilities to get around their local areas with the option of sitting down if required – especially beneficial for people with mobility issues.

I welcome the tree pits and SUDS features of this scheme which will be beneficial during times of heavy rain and look forward to seeing similar rolled out elsewhere in the Waterford Metropolitan Area.

I feel that the following changes would be beneficial...

Waterford City and County Council, City Hall, The Mall, Waterford.

Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Phort Láirge, Halla na Cathrach, An Meall, Port Láirge

I would like to see two crossings added on Pond Road and the Old Waterford Road (with lights and tactile paving) to accommodate children coming from the Ring Road side of Tramore down through the Glór Na Mara (GNM) school street and down to Tramore Educate Together NS (TETNS) and children coming up from the lower town past TETNS up to Glór na Mara or on to the Gaelscoil. I feel this will improve road safety for children attending 3 schools and pedestrians daily and year round.

The change in traffic movements due to the School Street highlighted some poor driver behaviour in surrounding streets. While I very much welcome that this poor driver behaviour is no longer concentrated outside the school with over 400 children entering and exiting the premises, it is still an issue. I would like to see signage in or leading into the surrounding residential streets (Sweetbriar, St Otteran's Terrace and elsewhere if relevant as construction of this Section 38 continues) reminding drivers that they are in a residential area, to please not block private driveways and please be courteous to residents. It is very unfortunate that this should be required but unfortunately this seems to be the case.

I would like to see the installation of speed bumps in Sweetbriar in conjunction with the residents in different parts of Sweetbriar as part of this project. Residents in Sweetbriar (particularly those with younger children) have requested speed bumps in the past before this project and I believe that this is an opportune time to do this for those who wish to see them.

Could there be an additional accessibility parking space within the current school zone to provide for enhanced accessibility for residents and school traffic of the current GNM building but also the old Star of the Sea building which is currently being refurbished by the Dept. of Education.

Is mise, le meas,

Cllr. Cristíona Kiely

Response to Submission No. 15

To clarify "footpath continues across vehicular access to school" refers to dished footpath at the existing vehicular entrance.

We note the suggestions (although not forming part of this scheme) and would hope that these may form part of possible future Active Travel measures in the area.

As part of ongoing discussions with residents we will be installing signage at Sweetbriar close, to improve driver behaviour in that area. We will review the success or otherwise before considering similar measures in other areas.

Speed ramps, in themselves, are not considered as active travel measures and therefore are not subject to active travel funding. Funding may be available for alternative measures such as junction tightening to further improve pedestrian accessibility and safety in the area.

We will consider an additional accessibility parking space at detail design stage. We note there is existing accessibility parking within the school itself currently.

Submission No. 16 – Steven Clancy

I am a parent of a pupil who attends Glór na Mara primary school, Tramore and have three children who are past pupils of the school. I have, as a result, become very familiar with the traffic situation over the past fourteen years at Convent Hill and the surrounding area.

I understand there have been significant issues in the roll out of this initiative, in particular the negative effect it has had on local residents who have had to endure being blocked in etc. at busy drop off and collection times.

However, the primary focus needs to be on the children themselves who as a result of this initiative can travel to school in greater safety, enjoy the benefit of a pollution free area and greater sociability for families and children who can play and socialise without fear of cars, trucks and buses in close proximity.

Lessons need to be learned from the negative effects that this plan has had on local people who have been directly impacted with increased traffic and illegal parking outside their houses. I would expect that these key issues are addressed if this initiative is to be retained, for example providing a drop off zone (Park and Ride) to cater for families who wish to drop their children to school in safety which would reduce the need for street parking.

Change is difficult in the short term but in the long term I expect that initiatives such as this will enhance the lives of all the residents and the children.

This first step has raised many concerns by local people, the challenge going forward I feel is addressing these concerns while at the same time making our streets more suitable for pedestrians and especially our young children.

In conclusion, I support this initiative.

Waterford City and County Council, City Hall, The Mall, Waterford.

Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Phort Láirge, Halla na Cathrach, An Meall, Port Láirge

Response to Submission No. 16

We note this submission.

Summary:

The temporary road closure that is in place on Convent Hill was advertised in the summer 2022 under Section 75 of the Roads Act 1993 and implemented in September 2022.

The main focus of objections and observations in relation to this Section 38 scheme relate to this temporary road closure. The Council intends to honor the temporary road closure to the end of the current school year when the road closure will be advertised again.

The Active Travel team is fully aware of the frustrations of local residents and again, note the comments that have been submitted in this public consultation. Regular drone surveys have been carried out to monitor traffic movements during drop off and collection times and there is an ongoing dialogue with local residents most affected by the changes.

We also note that there are significant positive submissions which highlight the perceived road safety improvements and other benefits.

While this Section 38 scheme aims to compliment the school street, it is a separate set of measures to the closure of the street during drop off and collection times at the school.

Recommendation:

It is now proposed that the scheme proceed to Detail Design, Procurement, and Implementation.

Your approval to proceed with the scheme as advertised is recommended and requested.

Fergus Galvin
Director of Services
Roads, Water and Environment
14th November 2022