

**DO: GACH BALL DE CHEANTAR CATHRACH PHORT LÁIRGE  
TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF WATERFORD**

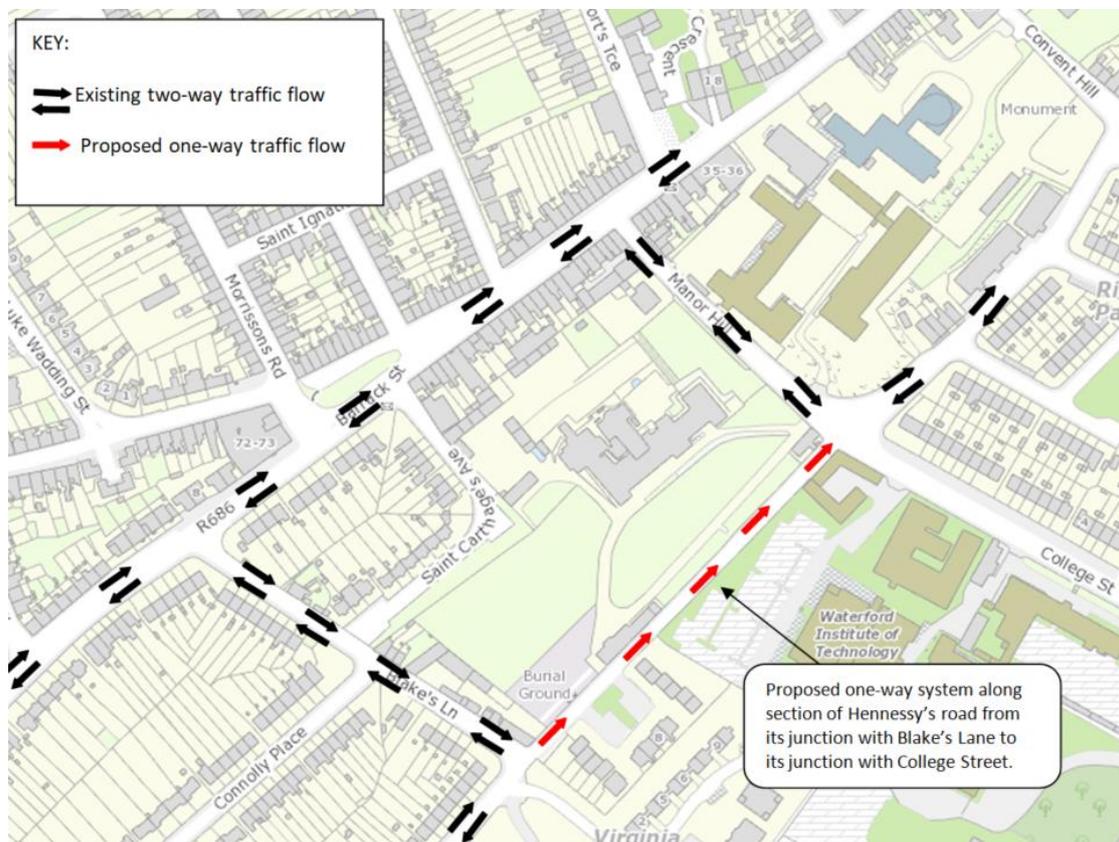
**PROPOSED ONE-WAY SYSTEM – HENNESSYS ROAD, WATERFORD**

**Proposal**

This proposal was put forward to address pedestrian safety concerns raised by the Members in the context of the present deficiencies in the Hennessys road footpath between the Blakes Lane and Manor Hill junctions.

A proposal to make a section of Hennessy’s road one-way system from its junction with Blakes Lane to its junction with Manor Hill was advertised for public consultation in the Waterford Today newspaper on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March. The proposal was also advertised on the Council’s website, social media, by letter drop and sent to An Garda Síochána for comment.

This proposal, which is outlined below, would improve traffic flow and provide space for a wider footpath and cycle lane while also addressing traffic safety concerns in the area, especially at the junction with Blake’s lane.



## **Submissions Received**

The closing date for submissions was 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2021, 8 no. submissions were received and these are outlined on the attached schedule.

The submissions received are inconclusive and there is certainly no majority view in favour of the proposal. There are a range of views expressed from outright opposition to the proposal, some support and some suggestions to reverse the direction of one way system.

## **Conclusion**

From our perspective, the introduction of a one-way traffic system on Hennessy's Road is the only currently available viable option to provide the width required to widen the footpath and provide safer pedestrian access.

The scheme can work with the direction of travel in either direction and a one way system should reduce the number of turning movements into or out from the junction from College St / Manor Hill and improve traffic flow through this junction.

Just to note as well, there is a current application for the old convent site which is currently going through the Planning process and the outcome of this may influence the overall picture as the applicants are proposing that the main entrance to the site is from Hennessys Road however we do not know at this stage as to what the final decision of the Planning Authority will be, whether this may be appealed in due course or whether / when the scheme may be developed.

Finally for information the Council will shortly be undertaking work on Blakes Lane to provide a new footpath on the lower section and work to improving traffic sight lines on the Hennessys Road junction.

The matter is open for discussion with the Members at this stage and we would be happy to address any questions or suggestions that may arise.

**Fergus Galvin,  
Director of Services,  
Roads, Water and Environment.  
21<sup>st</sup> June, 2021.**

## Schedule of Submissions Received

The following submissions were received and given consideration:-

Name	Main Issues Raised in Submission
Teddy Widger	<p>I feel that the only long term solution to this proposal is to widen Hennessy's Road thereby ensuring an even traffic flow on Manor Hill, Barrack St., Blakes Lane and Hennessy's Road. Making the road one-way will cause greater congestion on all adjacent routes and particularly at the Manor Hill, Barrack St. junction. .</p> <p>One other suggestion would is to extend the footpath between Ashling Court and Virginia Crescent. At present, this path stops at a wall which is part of the entrance to Virginia Crescent. Pedestrians using this path have to step onto the road into traffic and at peak times this can be extremely dangerous.</p>
Cllr Donal Barry	<p>Irrespective of what direction the traffic is along Hennessy's Road, that consideration is given to extending the footpath from Ashling Crescent out from their estate towards Virginia Crescent direction. Pedestrians are faced with having to walk onto the road as they reach the wall of the. While there is some work to be done in acquiring the land to do this work, it would be of great benefit to pedestrian in the long term in the interest of pedestrian safety. I also ask that the views of residents in Blake's Lane and Barrack Street are taken into consideration as the proposed system, if it commences, will bring a lot of extra traffic along Barrack Street, Cannon Street and Blakes Lane. (Photo supplied)</p>
Eamonn Murphy Richard Ryan Henry Halligan	<p>This proposal is not workable and should not be implemented, as this portion of Hennessys Road has and is still the main artery in and out of our area. It runs from the top of Castle Street, taking in all of Rice Park including 2 blocks of flats on Hennessys rd next to Sion Hill Tce.with the urban development plan we have been blocked in with our access and entry being severely restricted. e.g. cannot go down New St., cannot go across Stephen St., cannot turn right, or go straight on at bottom of College St., cannot go up Convent Hill. Our only way out of the area is out through this portion of Hennessys road to reach Cork Rd, Lisduggan etc. If this proposal is implemented it would mean we would have to go up Manor Hill (bunkers hill) through Barrack St. and down Blakes Lane. As this is already a very busy street all the extra traffic that now goes out Hennessys Rd. would have to go up Manor Hill and we have done some traffic counting at the top of Manor Hill. Only 5 possibly 6 (if they are tailgating can get through the lights at the moment as Barrack St is a busy street increasing the amount of time for leaving traffic through from manor hill would mess up traffic flow on Barrack St.</p> <p>This portion of Hennessys road has been doing the job efficiently for as long I have been living here (40yrs). Richard Ryan (66yrs) and Henry Halligan Rice Park and Convent Hill Tce (all his life) the beauty of it is it has only one entrance/exit to Ashling Court and is well capable of the 2 lanes of traffic. And footpath is used by the people from Lisduggan, Kingsmeadow, Cork Road and Roanmore to walk into town.</p> <p>By making it one way and putting a cycle lane on it would be madness, and would lose this vital artery in and out of our area.</p> <p>Also there is no cycle lane leading in to it coming from the Cork Rd. direction and there are no cycle lanes leading out of it to go across rice park to Browns Lane. So it would not make sense to block off a couple hundred yards to put a cycle lane with no cycle lane coming in or out of it. Please note that there is a bye-law saying its illegal to cycle on footpaths, the fine is €40. It would be better for health and safety reasons for the council to put up signs along all the approach roads to this effect. Also another health and safety issue on the entrance of this portion from College St/ Manor Hill side there is a little bit of footpath sticking out on to the road. This should be removed and put back to its original condition.</p> <p>At the time that the urban renewal plan was been drawn up, the residents of the area, ourselves and the Barrack St. residents had several meetings with council officials, and the plan was left go ahead.. Now is not the time to start tinkering with it, if the council had wanted making this portion of Hennessys Road one way it should have been brought up at the time (it would have been shot down then as now ) for the same reasons.</p> <p>This portion of Hennessys road will have to stay as it is, as taking it away would severely restrict our entry and access to our area, which is a residential area for residents and</p>

	emergency services.
Maria & Peter Roche	<p>We are residents on College Street for the past 35 years my grandmother lived in our house previously. We have seen many changes in Rice Park and College Street/Bunkers Hill over the years mostly with traffic volume. We have never objected to any form of development but feel this one-way system is just a step too far. The volume of traffic has increased ten fold and the traffic is often backed up all the way down to Manor Street. We now have traffic coming out from Michael Street which is bringing more volume to the junction with Hennessy's Road.</p> <p>The proposal as it stands would bring more traffic into an already flooded junction. On our behalf I feel it would make more sense to make the traffic one -way going the opposite way from Bunkers Hill junction to Blakes Lane as this will take away traffic from an already overcrowded junction. On another note there have been numerous accidents at the junction and I do not know of any accidents on Blake's Lane side. I have cause to drive out Hennessy's Road a few times a day and always respect the traffic coming down Blake's Lane as a lot if drivers do.</p> <p>With the proposed development of the Little Sisters site as well it would make a lot more sense to take the traffic away rather than allowing more traffic into the area.</p> <p>Photos of traffic backed up and accidents at the junction were provided.</p>
Eamonn Murray	<p>Objection to it becoming one way, vital for the areas of Rice Park, Convent Hill, Sion Tce, Rice Park and Castle Street. Currently no access via Brownes Lane, we cannot go across Stephen Street to access Town centre or get on to Parnell St, John St. We have to go across Mayors Walk down Bachelors Walk down Portion of Patrick St to Arundel St to Lady Lane down Colbeck Street and across Bakehouse Lane to get on to Parnell St to go anywhere. Also on the other side across Rice Park to junction with College St and Hennessys Rd, up Manor Hill, Barrack St then portion of Cannon St down Blakes Lane and on to portion of Hennessys Rd, through Cork Rd housing estate to get out at Grotto on Cork Road.</p> <p>That portion of Hennessys Road is perfectly suitable for 2 way traffic no turn in/out. The one footpath is sufficient for pedestrians. Illegal for anyone to cycle on a footpath.</p>
Colette Corcoran	<p>I would think that if proposing a one way system, It should go in the other direction. Cars will not all have to go up Bunkers Hill from the Manor. The current proposal will clog up Barrack Street and Bunkers Hill/Manor Hill and make Barrack Street even busier than it already is. Also, around the Mount Sion School junction has to be taken into account.</p> <p>If the one way is in the opposite direction than is being proposed, people coming from Manor Street junction and going to other areas in the top of the town, can access Ard na Greine, Tycor, Griffith Place etc without having to access Barrack Street and without making the Kingsmeadow road any busier, as this is now a very busy road.</p> <p>Also, having the one way as you propose going from Hennessy's Road to Bunkers Hill/Manor Hill, it will make cars using the Manor Street /Poleberry Junction to turn left at the junction and then go up through the Cork Road at the Grotto, Hennessys Road and up Blakes lane, Thus turning residential areas into very busy thoroughfares and rat runs.</p>
Barry Hearne	<p>As a resident of Roanmore Park I'm a daily user of Hennessy's Road and while the proposed one way system is a probably a fait accompli, I would like to point out some problems with the direction of the one way system proposed. Arriving at the Hennessy's Road Manor Hill junction at various times during the day I find that traffic is backed up past the junction from the top of Manor Hill down past the WIT entrance. Adding the traffic from Rice Park to this, would only worsen the congestion and when the proposed Michael Street development goes ahead it will only add to the problem.</p> <p>Reversing the proposed direction would allow traffic to use Manor Hill to access Hennessy's Road and avoid increased congestion on Barrack Street, Cannon Street and the Vincent White Road roundabout, which at times can be backed up Cannon Street and up as far as Lisduggan. Retaining the present system and installing a Mirror at the bottom of Blakes Lane, so drivers going in Hennessy's Road can check for oncoming traffic, would I suppose be too simple a fix?</p>
Katka Malencikova	<p>That would be an excellent idea as that spot coming down the hill from Blakes lane is too dangerous and one way system would provide hopefully wider footpath for me to walk there with kids being able to hold their hands. Great idea.</p>