

COLLEGE GREEN CIVIC PLAZA

Computer Generated Image of College Green Civic Plaza (Source; Dublin City Architects)



Dublin City Council is proposing to redesign the College Green area in the City to a new civic plaza. This area at present currently allows buses, Luas, cyclists and cars to travel through the area. The new plaza will produce a high-quality public realm that would significantly enhance the amenities and attractiveness of the city centre location. This development will allow for sustainable development of the city and to encourage walkability in the area.

The square will provide an active, healthy plaza for pedestrians to use in the centre of the city. The proposed square will showcase the historic buildings surrounding the square, this will have a positive effect on how people appreciate the architecture and culture in the area. Pedestrians are experiencing long waits at traffic lights while waiting to cross the road. There are major congestion problems during rush hours in the area. This development has been welcomed by many professionals and members of the public.

However, there is opposition to the project. The new plaza will have an impact on general traffic, bus transport, bus passengers, car parks and taxi drivers through the area. Bus routes and stops will be relocated from the proposed plaza. It is proposed to redirect the current traffic in the area which leads to added journey times for car and bus users. Dublin Bus and Dublin Chambers of Commerce have both expressed their opposition against the project.

Members of the public are unhappy with the changes that are required to allow for this development to take place. Many businesses in the surrounding area believe the development will negatively affect their businesses.

The planning application was originally rejected by An Bord Pleanála as they came to the conclusion there was a failure to demonstrate the capacity of the quays to take not just the re-routed buses but the additional pedestrian traffic which would have to use the quays.

Dublin City Council has run several pedestrianised tests at College Green during the summer. The aim was to test the popularity of a car-free plaza at College Green. A programme of family events were planned that encouraged people to the College Green area. Dublin City Council plans to resubmit the plaza proposal in the coming months for An Bord Pleanála to consider.

There will be a meeting between the members of the public and interest groups who include; Dublin bus and Dublin Chambers of Commerce and Dublin City Council. Dublin City Council want to highlight the benefits it will bring to the area and improve the amenities in the area. An Bord Pleanála will decide the future of the proposed plaza and ensure any potential development is sustainable and all aspects of the development are considered.