

SAMRA
Sandymount
Dublin

FAO Mr Brendan O'Brien

Covid Mobility Manager
Dublin City Council
Civic Offices
Wood Quay
Dublin 8

17th April 2021

PROPOSED PEDESTRIANISATION AT SANDYMOUNT GREEN

Dear Brendan,

I am writing on behalf of the Sandymount and Merrion Residents Association to request that Dublin City Council facilitate the pedestrianization of the road running along the northeast side of Sandymount Green from Ryan's pub to Pete's restaurant for a trial period over the summer months.

I have established strong support across the SAMRA Committee and we believe that a trial would be of great benefit to residents, visitors and local businesses while the country hopefully starts to emerge from the current Covid lockdown restrictions. In particular, closing the road to vehicular traffic would allow more space for people of all ages to meet and gather safely, while ensuring continued adherence to public health guidelines. It would also enable local restaurants to provide much greater outdoor dining facilities than are currently available.

This was proceeding well last year after a Councillor (James Geoghegan and Paddy McCartan) led consultation across 530 local residents established 87% backing. (Survey note 29th April forwarded by same email) This subsequently received unanimous support at a DCC SEAC meeting.

Implementation was interrupted by the subsequent full Covid lockdown.

We understand that there may be some valid concerns that restricting vehicular access to the road could lead to some negative impacts, such as noise from outdoor dining and reduced access to parking.

Also, that this should be implemented in as equitable a way as possible, potentially offering additional space to other local businesses.

However we believe that with proper enforcement and the placement of alternative parking spaces for disabled users nearby, it should be possible to mitigate the risk of any potential downsides.

It is also notable that buses were recently able to continue operating through Sandymount Village by diverting around the Green while the road was closed for a number of weeks to enable the installation of the new pedestrian crossing.

We recommend that the trial should commence in June and run until the end of August, after which a repeat public consultation should take place to determine any next steps. If a full trial running for 7 days a week was thought to be too disruptive in the short term, it may be possible to offer pedestrianization at weekends and public holidays. We look forward to your views and stand ready to assist where possible.

For and on behalf of SAMRA Committee

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'David Turner', written over a horizontal line.

David Turner
Chairman

Cc Pembroke Ward Cllrs :

James Geoghegan; Dermot Lacey; Paddy McCartan; Claire O'Connor, Hazel Chu