



Issue 2
May 2020

Imagine Dundrum

Our Village, Our Community

Newsletter

Dear Friends of Imagine Dundrum,

We wish you all well at this time. More than ever, Covid-19 is drawing attention to our public spaces and neighbourhoods and how they impact on our day to day lives. We are all seeing the places around us, perhaps with new eyes. In spite of the restrictions of Covid-19 on meetings at this time, Imagine Dundrum is determined to redouble our efforts to ensure that our future Dundrum Village will be a thriving, attractive and welcoming place.

The campaign for a Civic Centre for Dundrum: Imagine Dundrum welcomes a big step on the road!

Imagine Dundrum is delighted to learn that Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council has made a formal application for government funding under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund for a new Civic Centre in the heart of Dundrum.

Since coming together in 2016, Imagine Dundrum has campaigned strongly for a Civic Centre for Dundrum, with your strong support. The group made several submissions making the case for a Civic Centre at the heart of the Village as a real way to restore the unique character of Dundrum as a focal point for a wide surrounding area, and to provide much needed community and cultural facilities for the rapidly growing population in this South Dublin neighbourhood.

There was huge community support for such a development at Imagine Dundrum's public meetings and in its many interactions with local people. Well over 1,000 signatures have been gathered endorsing the Civic Centre proposal so the group is truly delighted to learn of the County Council's decision to apply for government funding for this development. The Civic Hub, as proposed in the funding bid, will include

a modern library, flexible community and cultural space, along with new civic offices and other associated public services.



Imagine Dundrum understands that the funding application is but the first step on a journey, but it is a hugely important step. Over the past four years, all the local representatives have been strongly supportive of the case for the Civic Centre in Dundrum. Imagine Dundrum will now be calling on local TDs and Councillors for the area to continue to demonstrate their support, and to make the compelling case to Government for this much needed facility, which can transform the future of Dundrum Village itself, and greatly enhance the lives of the whole wider local community

If the application is successful, it would be a huge boost for Dundrum, and help to bring to fruition the development we have all been working for over the past four years!

More good news! A Social Distancing and Mobility Plan for Dundrum Village

Imagine Dundrum submitted proposals to Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council to make social distancing possible on Main Street, and to make the Village much more friendly to pedestrians and cyclists at this time.

We again highlighted problems like cluttered and narrow pavements, and pinchpoints like the pedestrian crossings at the junction of Ballinteer Road and Main Street, the parking on double yellow lines at the Luas entrance, and the need for cycle lanes and wider footpaths.

We are very pleased to let you know that the Council has responded very positively and will be bringing forward proposals for temporary changes to the public realm and mobility interventions in Dundrum Village, including a temporary one-way traffic system on sections of Main Street/ Sandyford Road in the village and the reallocation of road space for the safety and benefit of pedestrians, cyclists and local businesses.

The details of the plan are currently being worked on and we envisage that it will be finalised within the next 2 to 3 weeks and it is intended that the temporary changes will begin to be implemented in July 2020.



Imagine Dundrum challenges Bus Connects proposals

The aim of Imagine Dundrum is that *'the future Dundrum will be a place which respects and reflects its unique history and heritage, and is a thriving, attractive and welcoming place for everyone in the local community, those who work here and its many visitors.'* Making Main Street a pedestrian-friendly environment is key to achieving this aim, and good traffic management must prioritise the needs of pedestrians and cyclists.

The most recent Busconnects proposals would produce 38 bus movements up or down Main Street every hour, an average of one bus every 1.5 minutes. Imagine Dundrum considers this frequency of movement to be incompatible with a safe and inviting environment for pedestrians and cyclists.

The bus interchange at Waldemar Terrace

Unless designed to a high visual standard, the proposed interchange at Waldemar Terrace could be seriously damaging to the overall design standards for the Village.

- Impose a speed limit of 30 km/hr on Main Street and in the Village area generally
- Provide a well-designed Bus/Luas interchange at Waldemar Terrace, as a 'Gateway to Dundrum'.

Summary of Imagine Dundrum proposals:

- Make Main Street one-way in a northbound direction, with exit on to the Taney Road or Dundrum Road (Dundrum Bypass)
- Limit bus traffic through the Village to essential routes only
- Restrict relevant bus routes to the by-pass (providing bus stops and connecting walkways)



The next Dunlaoghaire Rathdown County Development Plan CDP 2022 -28: Imagine Dundrum's Submission

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council recently circulated a consultation document, *Have Your Say*, and invited submissions to the first stage of developing the next *County Development Plan 2022-2028*.

The County Development Plan sets out the planning 'ground rules' for all aspects of the County for several years – housing, public spaces, community facilities,

play and recreation, retail development, protecting our heritage, a green County, and more.

Imagine Dundrum made a detailed submission, which you can read on the Imagine Dundrum website www.imaginedundrum.ie or on the DLRCO consultation site, www.dlrcoco.citizenspace.com Here is an extremely brief summary!

Issues highlighted by Imagine Dundrum for the next County Development Plan

Some of our key recommendations for the new County Development Plan:

- The **wellbeing and quality of life of citizens and communities** should be the driving principle of planning in the County.
- The new Plan must promote an **age-friendly** county, a **child-and young people-friendly** county and a **disability-friendly** county.
- Establishing a **Civic Centre at the heart of Dundrum Village** is crucial.
- Planning for new developments in the Dundrum area must take into account of impacts on the wider community, in a **'whole neighbourhood' approach**.
- The Plan must retain and enhance the **Green-ness of our County**, with a strong focus on bio-diversity. The Dundrum area, which at present shows environmental deficits of many kinds, could become a 'green hub' and gateway to the Dublin Mountains.
- Environmentally-friendly and energy-efficient design principles must be key to new developments, and pollution (air, light and water) tackled strenuously.
- The **heritage buildings in Dundrum Village** need the protection of being designated as an Architectural Conservation Area.
- The Plan must address the **lack of affordable housing**, and lack of down-sizing options for older people. Dundrum needs housing for younger workers, families, older people, people with disabilities, people from new communities.
- We need **quality public open space** in every neighbourhood, and this must not be compromised by pressures on housing. We recommend fresh thinking on 'amenity spaces' in Dundrum housing estates, and designing 'pocket parks' into the core Village area.

What next for the County Development Plan 2022-2028?

The draft County Development Plan will be published in the Autumn when the public will have another opportunity to give their views.

The Dundrum Local Area Plan

It would be great to see the draft Local Area Plan for Dundrum appearing soon! Imagine Dundrum, and hundreds of residents put a huge amount of work into responding to the public consultation at the end of 2018.



Let's keep on imagining the possibilities for Dundrum!

In this quieter time, perhaps it is a chance for fresh thinking about possibilities for Dundrum Village. We invite you now to take a moment to think about your aspirations for the future of Dundrum and/or to reconnect with its past, and take part in one or both of the projects below:



"Put Yourself in the Picture": Tell us about a change or improvement you would like to see happen in Dundrum:

- Take a picture of yourself at your chosen place
- Tell us where this is and who you are
- Write a short sentence to say **why** you would like to see this change
- Another short sentence to say **what change** you would like to see
- Email your photo and text as attachments to **imaginedundrum2016@gmail.com**

and/or

Tell us your story:

Do you have a memory of Dundrum Village in times past? Do you have any photos of old Dundrum? Would you like to:

- Write a short account of your memory of the Village
- If you have a photo, make a copy
- Email your story and/or photo as attachments with your name to **imaginedundrum2016@gmail.com**

We will display the photos and publish the stories (which we may need to edit lightly) on our Facebook page or website. We also reserve the right not to publish all photos received.

When times change, and everyone is out and about again, we hope to hold an exhibition and a public event around these projects.

Looking forward to seeing everyone again in the near future. Stay safe!

Contact details:

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