



Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí  
Cork City Council

Walk 21 Dublin 2022

### Cork City A Walkable Community





## Points of Interest

### 1. Red Abbey Square

The central bell tower of the church of Red Abbey is a relic of the Anglo-Norman colonisation and is one of the last remaining visible structures, which dates to the era of the walled town of Cork. Invited to Cork by the Anglo-Normans, the Augustinians established an abbey in Cork, sometime between 1270 A.D. and 1288 A.D. Red Abbey Square is often used for community gatherings and events such as with Lets Play Cork (CLSP) and the Playful Paradigm

Website: [http://corkheritage.ie/?page\\_id=313](http://corkheritage.ie/?page_id=313)

Email: [ciara\\_brett@corkcity.ie](mailto:ciara_brett@corkcity.ie)

#### **Cork City's Playful Paradigm Project**

'Playful Paradigm' was an EU funded programme where Cork learned from the experience of Udine in Italy in using of play as a tool for change, community engagement and promoting social inclusion. Though the initial project has ended, the Let's Play Cork group, made up of groups and organisations across the city and led by Cork Healthy Cities, continues to champion to value of play for all ages, to animate urban spaces, to improve air quality, and to be as inclusive as possible for all. Cork also leads a national network of cities and towns across Ireland to spread the ideas and learnings from Cork City.

The 'Let's Play Cork' street games you see on Red Abbey, facilitated by Cork Local Sports Partnership, are a brilliant example of the innovative work being done by partners on the Playful Paradigm group. Other examples are Play Trails, Play Bags in the library, and Play Packs for older adults.

Website(s): <https://www.corksports.ie/urbact-playful-paradigm/>  
<https://corkhealthycities.com/playful-cities/>  
<https://urbact.eu/let%E2%80%99s-play-cork>

### 2. Cycling Infrastructure

As part of Cork City Council's Re-Imagining Cork City' project, up to €2 million is being invested in the city's cycling infrastructure, with support from the National Transport Authority (NTA). This includes, new cycle lanes, new bike racks, and refurbishment of existing cycle lanes. As well as new Bike pump installation on south mall.

Website: <https://www.corkcity.ie/en/council-services/news-room/latest-news/update-on-cycle-infrastructure-coming-on-stream-in-next-month.html?searchTermId=197687>



### **3. Parklet outside the Imperial Hotel**

Following the success of the 'The People's Parklet' on Douglas street, which was lead by the Transport and Mobility Forum Cork with Cork City Council Placemaking Grant, Cork City Council have continuing to provide new parklets in the greater metropolitan area.

Each Parklet has Business owners, institutions, neighbourhood organisations, or other community-based groups as 'Parklet Partners'. Not only do Parklets convert on-street parking spaces into public open space but they are a cost-effective way to create more vibrant streets, promote economic vitality, and provide an inviting green space for residents and passers-by to sit, relax, and interact. The parklets can also incorporate pollinator planting, bike parking and are wheelchair accessible.

*Website:* <https://www.corkcity.ie/en/search/?q=parklets>

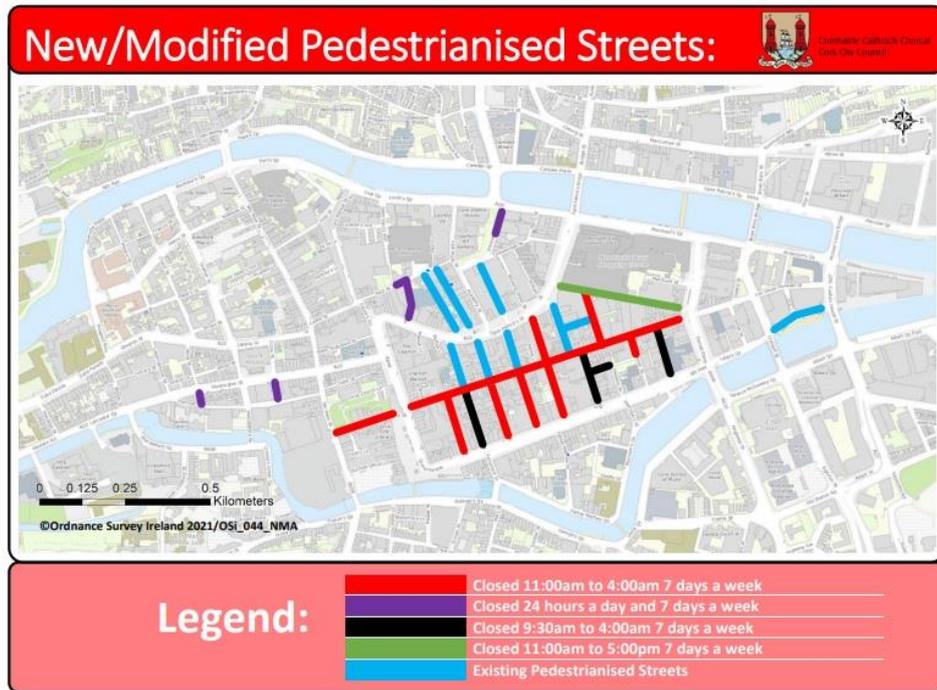
### **4. Pedestrianised Streets; Pembroke St/ Oliver Plunkett St/ Caroline St /Maylor St**

Cork City now has 17 pedestrianised streets, the changes to the city centre are aimed at making the city a safe, inclusive and pleasant place for residents, shoppers & visitors to support local business and make Cork an attractive and desirable place to be.

Pedestrianised streets support the vision of Cork City Council to be a world class city that designs the cities spaces to support health, environment benefits and support the social encounters that make Cork the unique place that is and a home for so many.



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Website: <https://www.corkcity.ie/en/council-services/news-room/latest-news/works-to-begin-on-pedestrianisation-of-17-city-streets.html?searchTermId=197688>



## 5. Caroline Street

Note the mural on The mural on Caroline street created in 2019 by Shane O Driscoll in association with Brown Thomas and using the Cork City Council City Centre Placemaking Fund it transformed this Art Deco Building which had become run down into an attractive piece of street adding to the inner city landscape with what was at that time the largest piece of street art in the city. <https://www.irishexaminer.com/lifestyle/arid-30945712.html>

This art piece and others like it led to the development of the Ardú Street Art Project, was also developed as 'Lock down tour' and is currently a very popular trail with a free audio description.

Website: <http://arducork.ie/>

## 6. Mary Elmes Bridge

Cork City's newest bridge named after Cork woman Mary Elmes who is hailed as Ireland's Oskar Schindler. She is credited with saving the lives of hundreds of Jewish children during the Holocaust by hiding them in the boot of her car.

The Mary Elmes Bridge is a key element of Cork reshaping its vision for the future as a more sustainable, commuter friendly city, integrating with other projects on which Arup is working, such as the Cork City Centre Movement Strategy and Cork Cycle Network.

The mixed-use bridge is not segregated, it encourages users to engage with each other, requiring cyclists to slow down and pedestrians to be more observant and with its seating in either side of the central beam it provides a perfect vantage point to take in the river Lee.

This crucial new piece of urban infrastructure was funded by Ireland's National Transport Authority and a grant from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Website: <https://www.arup.com/projects/mary-elmes-bridge>



## 7. Cork City Rainbow Crossings

In May 2022, Cork LGBTI+ Interagency Group and Cork Pride worked together with Cork City Council to install 2 LGBTI+ Rainbow crossings. The crossings depict the Progress Flag with dashes of blue, pink and white in reference to the transgender community, black and brown; to mark the current and historic struggles of people of colour around the world and a purple circle on a yellow background, an acknowledgement of the intersex community.

Cork City is a Rainbow City and these crossings are just one way in which the City, including all its organisations, people and communities can show that we are a diverse city working towards a more inclusive and tolerant society.

Cork LGBTI+ Interagency Group includes Cork City Council, HSE, LINC, Gay Project, Sexual Health Centre, City Partnership, CESCA, Ballyphehane/Togher CDP, Gardaí, ETB, Tusla, DEASP, Naval Service, Mercy Hospital.

Website: <https://www.corkcity.ie/en/council-services/services/community/supporting-community-groups/lgbt.html>

## 8. English Market

Cork's iconic English market has been trading since 1788. One of the oldest and certainly the best covered market in Europe, it has survived famine, flood, war, fires, and multiple recessions to remain a strong part of Cork's retail environment. Renowned as a food market, it is an important part of food culture in Cork, with an emphasis on fresh, local produce with traditional Cork foods as well as an array of international delights.

The stallholders are local and independent food producers or retailers, often with generations of families working in the Market. The traditional serve-over-counter stall trading also ensures that the service to the customer is personal and unique.



Please enjoy a taste of one of Corks finest local Artisan producers MyGoodness on your way through! (First stall on your left entering from Princes Street)

Website: <https://www.corkcity.ie/en/english-market/>



## 9. Cork Age Friendly City Seating

Launched in March 2022, Cork Age Friendly City seating are in five locations in the city centre, including Grand Parade, Cornmarket Street, and St. Patrick's Street.

The lack of seating was highlighted by the Cork Age Friendly City Forum as a serious barrier to accessing the city centre. Consultations were done with the Cork Age Friendly City Older Persons Elected reps at every stage of the process. The seats were designed by Sarah Sheehan of Cork City Architects office with design consultation by *Cork OT Services*. The seats are retrofitted onto the concrete and marble plinths making better use of existing street furniture and utilising design specific to the needs of older people but also ensuring that these are seats for all people!

The retro fitting and installation was made possible with funding from the National Transport Authority.

Website: <https://www.corkcity.ie/en/council-services/services/community/age-friendly/>



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