

Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí  
Cork City Council

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**BLARNEY CASTLE**



**OLIVER PLUNKETT STREET**



**GLANMIRE**



**BALLINCOLLIG**



# WELCOME



**THE LORD MAYOR OF CORK,  
CLLR MICK FINN.**

From today, our city will expand five-fold and will welcome an extra 85,000 plus people to the city.

The city has long been a place of welcome for visitors, students and those coming here for work. Cork has evolved to such an extent that it is a richer, more diverse and multicultural place to live with the secret well and truly out around Europe and the world. Traditional festivals like the Guinness Cork Jazz, the International Choral Festival and Cork Midsummer Festival sit alongside newer projects like Multicultural Day, SeaFest and Culture Night.

Multinational and indigenous companies like Apple, Voxpro, Dell EMC, Teamwork, Johnson Controls and Poppulo have all chosen to be based in Cork. With developing clusters in IT, international financial services, cyber security and customer management - the sky is the limit and it is transforming our city.

A major transport investment plan has been unveiled which will connect once suburban and outlying areas to the heart of the region; the city of Cork.

It is important as new opportunities come on stream in Ireland's fastest growing city, that we retain what makes Cork unique: the people, the place, the welcome, the experience. It should remain a 'beautiful city' where people will continue to 'sport and play'. We don't want to become another big soulless city where the traditional céad míle fáilte is lost in translation.

As we welcome communities previously in County Cork to the city, we want you to bring your expertise and experience with you. Tidy Towns organisations, community groups and services have transformed towns, villages and areas on the periphery of the city and enhanced the quality of life for residents; similar groups have done that in a more urban setting in the city. Joining all that together in a planned sustainable fashion will inform the work of the newly elected Cork City Council and staff into the future.

We are Ireland's second city and it is good that it is now fully acknowledged in national planning and investment strategies such as *Ireland 2040*.

We are first for ambition, inclusion, diversity, community and opportunity - not just in Ireland but in Europe. We are recognised global leaders in the Learning City and Healthy City movements. We are renowned for our food, sport and tourism. We are a European Capital of Culture.

**We are Cork...city of change.**  
Ní neart go cur le chéile.



**We are Cork.**

# IRISH REPUBLIC TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN: In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Army, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteer Army and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having raised her own standards of conduct, and by gallant allies in Europe, by her exiled children in America and by her own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destiny, subject to any treaty or agreement with a foreign government that has not extinguished the basic rights of the Irish people. In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty; six times during the past century they have asserted it in arms in the face of a powerful and determined enemy. In the name of the Independent State, we hereby pledge our lives and our strength to the cause of its freedom, and of its people, and of its allegiance to every

THEO DORGAN

## THE DREAM CITY

BY THEO DORGAN / Poet and writer

I was born on Redemption Road, above the valley of Blackpool, looking straight across at Assumption Road.

At the top of that steep hill, cresting the ridge, stood Cork Prison and Collins Barracks. At the end of our road stood St. Vincent's Convent and the North Monastery, in the fields behind our house was the Bishop's Palace and at the top of our road, St. Finbarr's Diocesan Seminary. Down in the valley the chimney of Murphy's Brewery stood like a lighthouse at the edge of a blue-grey sea, where spires and domes floating above the haze caught what light there was under the racing clouds.

I made many assumptions when I was young, not least that Cork would always be home, but as life and the city closed in on me I came to realise that redemption is elsewhere, that the life I needed to live could not be managed in a place where, it seemed to me then, everyone knew everyone else and nobody's business was their own. It was a prison, in ways, the

power of the state embodied in the military barracks, the dead hand of an overweening church all too much with us in stone and schoolroom, in church and in chapel, the air itself damp, ambition damped, adventure and life undercut by the ruling cynics of a provincial city.

### I LOVED IT, OF COURSE, EVERY LANE AND STREET OF IT, EVERY TURN OF THE DOUBLE-CHANNELLED RIVER

I loved it, of course, every lane and street of it, every turn of the double-channelled river, the hump of every bridge, the music of its bells and its many contesting voices, that sing-song babble of news and opinion and gossip. I loved Woolworths and Roches Stores, Kilgrews and the Shilling Stores, I loved the bakeries — Ormond and Aherns, Creedons — and I loved the names of the pubs long before I set foot in any of them — The Homer, The Belphegor, The Long Valley, The Hi-B, the Constellation at the foot of Fever Hospital Steps, known to all as The Consolation.

I loved the Mardyke with its dry ditches, the cindery field where the Merries came and went, the hedged mystery of the Cricket Field and the winding paths of Fitzgerald's Park. I loved the Marina where I'd cycle with my Dad to watch matches, the pungent smell from Gouldings on Centre Park Road as we passed by Fords, and Dunlops where he gave thirty two years of his life to feed and clothe us.

I loved the smell of steel and oil in the great curve of the railway station, the lifting bridges, the surprise until you got used to it of finding the river before you when you were sure you'd already crossed it.

### I LOVED IT WITH A PASSION THAT TIME HAS NOT DIMMED OR CANCELLED

I loved it with a passion that time has not dimmed or cancelled, and now when I'm asked, in that loaded tone some people use to signal reproach, do you miss Cork at all, I look them in the eye and say: I never left it, I just live elsewhere.



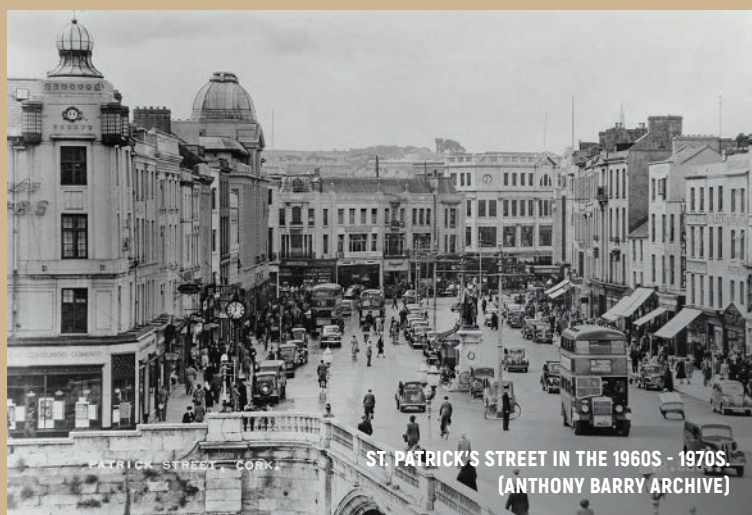
I walk it and cycle it in my dreams, but I keep up with the sea, with all the changes. I watch it like a hawk, circling over the bends of the river, a nod to the fish on Shandon, curving up towards Gurrane and then down and out in a long circling of the old suburbs and the new. I watch the new hotels spring up, the clubs and bars rising and falling, the beautiful changes in the music and colours of the streets as people flow in from all over the world as is only good and right and proper in a great port city. I get the news, daily and sometimes hourly, from family and from old friends, from new friends and from colleagues in the great shared adventure of writing our lives.

Cork in my loving mind is the capital city of a rich and great province, its roots in the hills and the river valleys of its hinterland fed by a history that is both dense and deep. And now that compact city, the library at the heart of it, and the reborn English Market, is reaching its arms out to embrace and gather in the towns and villages and the rolling fields that we always thought part of our world, the places we hiked to and cycled to in search of adventure.

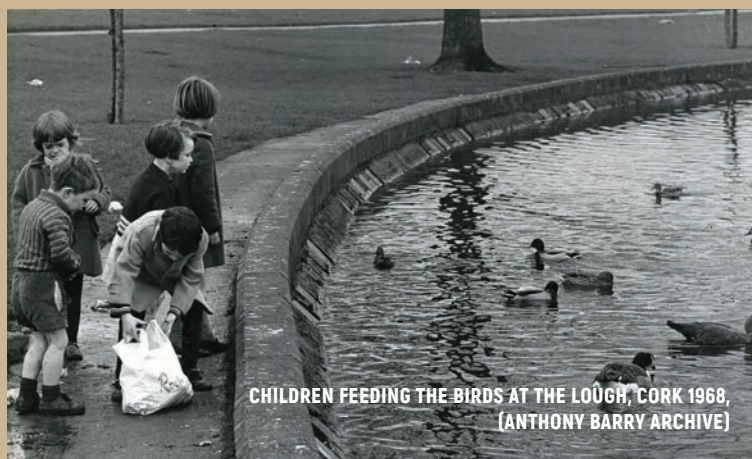
**I SENSE A GATHERING IN, A CONSOLIDATION OF LANDS AND HISTORIES AND POWER, OF DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES ON THE CITY THAT WAS AND THE CITY THAT IS TO BE.**

Great changes are coming, the worst of the old ways are dust in the wind and the new energies are crackling with light and a variousness of daring thought and music. Go on, said one of my brothers, give us a mad vision of Cork in the coming years. Easy, I said, it will be the Athens of a new republic, the dream city where a noble past will give birth to a glorious future. He looked at me and said, would you ever cop yourself on. Fair enough, I said, getting a bit carried away there.

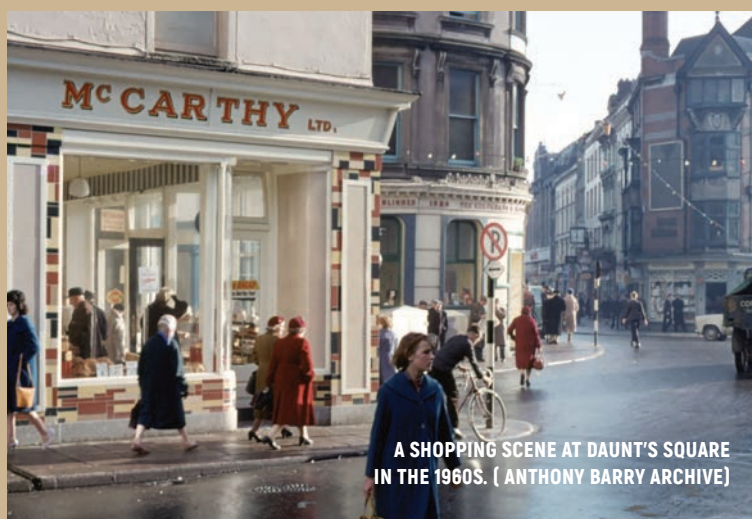
*All the same, though...*



ST. PATRICK'S STREET IN THE 1960S - 1970S.  
(ANTHONY BARRY ARCHIVE)



CHILDREN FEEDING THE BIRDS AT THE LOUGH, CORK 1968,  
(ANTHONY BARRY ARCHIVE)



A SHOPPING SCENE AT DAUNT'S SQUARE  
IN THE 1960S. (ANTHONY BARRY ARCHIVE)



**ANN DOHERTY: CORK CITY COUNCIL CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

# FUTURE-PROOFING OUR CITY

**ANN DOHERTY/** Cork City Council Chief Executive

***Q: Why is today an historic day for Cork?***

**A:** As of today, Cork City is nearly five times bigger in size. We have a new Cork city that includes all of Douglas, Rochestown, Ballincollig, Frankfield, Grange, Donnybrook, Blarney, Tower and Glanmire. It's an historic moment for our city and a very exciting time to be living in Cork. We can see so much change on the city skyline and you can feel it around the city. In the past fortnight, we have also seen the publication of the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy which proposes an unprecedented investment of €3.5 billion in public transport services.

***Q: Why is the National Transport Authority planning such large scale investment in public transport in Cork?***

**A:** Cork is going through a period of remarkable economic development with half a billion euros in development underway or in planning in the city centre.

It's projected that up to 350,000 people will choose to live in Cork city by 2040. With a population of that size, we can't continue our dependence on cars to get to school, work, college and home again as the city will be choked up. To ensure our increased population can rely on public transport and can cycle and walk safely, 100 km of dedicated bus lanes, six new Park and Ride sites, high frequency East West and North South bus corridors, 200 km of primary cycleways and 140 km of greenways are being planned for the city.

***Q: But surely population growth of that size is fanciful?***

**A:** Not at all. In the period between 1996 and 2016, the population of Cork city and county grew by 122,300 people. The lion's share of this growth was in the Cork Metropolitan Area. And so, based on the experience of the past, combined with the global trend of people of choosing to live near services in

cities, it is reasonable to expect that Cork will meet the population target set for it by 2040 and truly become a city of scale.

***Q: How will a city of scale make a difference to an ordinary person?***

**A:** According to the National Planning Framework, Cork is the only city in Ireland, outside of Dublin, that is of international significance. The population of Cork metropolitan area is almost on a par with that of Limerick, Galway and Waterford cities combined. Therefore Cork, as a city of scale, must continue to play a key role in driving the economic success of Ireland. Importantly for residents of the Cork City region, this level of population growth helps to justify investment in a wide range of key public services such as transport, health, housing, social services, education and the arts. Equally this level of critical mass is good for business, giving entrepreneurs access to local markets of scale,



improving investor confidence and ultimately creating and sustaining jobs.

**Q: Where will all of these new residents live?**

**A:** Traditionally in Cork, we've seen housing develop in towns adjacent to the city and in suburbs and rural areas that surround our city. However, it is well documented by the CSO, ESRI and CIF that Ireland is rapidly changing. We travel more. We are marrying later. We have fewer children. Up to 42% of our city centre population is from new communities.

Our planning policy needs to reflect these quickly evolving demands in terms of tenure of housing and job creation. In a practical sense, we need a mix of quality city centre apartments and quality suburban living with good public transport supports. Eurostat research shows we have considerable scope in Ireland to change our tenure types to match this evolving demand. According to Euroconstruct, Irish housing stock per population is significantly below the European average. Cork City Council will play its role in addressing this imbalance through our city development plan and our role in delivering the Rebuilding Ireland social housing programme. The Council's achievements and innovation on the social housing front are very visible, surpassing new build and acquisition targets set by Government in 2018. This is despite the challenges posed for housing delivery in terms of planning, procurement, building inflation and other factors in urban centres.

**Q: So where to next?**

**A:** We need greater certainty from Government to give investors continued confidence in our growing city including the docklands. A move by Government to ringfence multi-annual budgets for Cork city would enable us to programme investment in the infrastructure needed to develop key sites in our city, this could and would be a game changer. Further consideration of the devolution of powers to local government as set out in the Programme for Partnership Government, would be particularly welcome. Imagine what we could do if there was full devolution of powers

to local government for planning, transport and infrastructure investment and decision making, giving local people with local insights the ability to develop our city in a sustainable way in a programmed manner?

**A:** Cork City Council will soon embark on the preparation of the first City Development Plan for the expanded city. Cork City Council will ensure that the plan is informed by evidence in housing, retail and sustainable development. Key stakeholders will be consulted. Importantly the residents of Cork will be provided with opportunities to make submissions. Difficult decisions will have to be made to ensure that we can achieve our objectives. A development plan lasts for 6 years so by 2040, the target date set by the National Planning Framework, our ambitions for our city will be articulated in a series of three development plans. Our plans and actions must be innovative or we will face irrelevance in a globally competitive economy.





# CITY ON THE MOVE

BY PAULA COGAN / President of Cork Chamber of Commerce

Business confidence levels in Cork are currently at 96%. As Ireland's fastest growing city region, Cork's city centre footprint will grow by 25% as the Docklands develop. Government's ambition for Cork City is for it to reach a population of over 350,000 by 2040 with more than half of this population growth coming from outside the country. The city and county population is expected to hit 850,000 by 2050. Another 65,000 jobs will be created in Cork by the private sector. These are really ambitious targets that will push Cork into the next league of European cities.

A modern sustainable (pedestrian and cycling) and public (bus and train) transport network capable of carrying the city's growing population is crucial to realising the commercial and social potential of Cork, while also tackling climate change and improving our urban environment. Up to 10,000 new jobs are in line for the city centre alone in the next five years. Construction of half a billion euro in office development is underway

– the majority of which is being developed with little or no parking. There will be a 30% increase in hotel bedrooms in the next 3-4 years and over 1,000 student bed spaces have been completed or are under construction in the city. Growing the share of commuters arriving into the city by bicycle, foot and public transport will be critical to Cork's future. Equally, I'd like to see more conversation around our public spaces, high quality public spaces with innovative urban design.

I believe the main challenge facing Cork, and indeed cities around the world, is to ensure that people can live centrally in affordable yet attractive city centre accommodation. As we plan for the future, Cork must develop sustainably too. This will mean that we must increase density so that Cork grows up and not out. Ireland has some of the lowest-density cities in the world, with Cork City just a third as dense as similar-sized cities, such as Edinburgh. Delivery of more urban apartment living is a fundamental need for business and people in Cork.

From our members we know that new people coming to our city region want to live centrally, close to where they work, to experiences, and to public transport hubs at a price they can afford.

Delivery of investment on time is another key challenge. It is essential that the commitments of *Ireland 2040* are delivered or our confidence will be undermined. Infrastructure is the neutral enabler. From bike schemes, to bus corridors and motorways, each has their part to play in creating a city that is globally magnetic. We are 15 months from the announcement of *Ireland 2040* and progress, relative to that delivered by the private sector, is slow. We need a laser sharp delivery focus from Government in 2019 or our reputation for infrastructural delivery among the global and local business community will be on the line. Every State agency, civil servant and policy document must acknowledge the specific role of Cork in Ireland 2040.



# STRIKING THE RIGHT BALANCE

LAWRENCE OWENS / Chief Executive, Cork Business Association

A new expanding Cork is emerging that is more culturally diverse, more confident in its own skin as a mid sized European city driving the economy of the Southern region. The framework for Cork's future development is currently being constructed within project Ireland 2040 and more recently with the publication of the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Study (CMATS).

We now have a unique opportunity to shape that future and work collectively with all stakeholders to fast track where practicable key elements of these proposals.

But with this opportunity comes the responsibility to preserve our heritage that makes us what we are. We need to design a vibrant, accessible and living city that works for all.

Many diverse factors must be actively considered and included in this design process such as climate change and its impact. Essentially there is an onus on us to get it right by learning from best international comparisons and by so doing deliver sustainable development, embracing the economic, social and environmental spheres.

It is essential that the maintenance of the city centre as a vibrant, thriving location for retail, hospitality and other business remains a core principle that informs the strategies that will shape Cork's development. The city centre has been a favoured destination for generations of Corkonians. It attracts shoppers and visitors, is a centre for events and cultural activity and gives the city its colour and energy. We must be careful to ensure that the wonderful retail offer of international and traditional businesses which the city centre has can continue to make its distinctive contribution to Cork in the future.



**RONAN O'GARA /** Former Munster  
and Irish International rugby player

It's only when you go to work and live in other places that you fully appreciate the ease with which you can get everywhere so quickly in Cork city. That's a big plus as is the friendliness of people.

Thankfully, my coaching career has gone well so far. But you would miss Cork, the characters around the place, the pubs, the craic but it's more than that. It's clear that the people here are very loyal and very proud of their own and if you are a sportsman or sportswoman, that's a really positive, encouraging environment to be in. It's great to see the city progressing and the proposal for light rail is very exciting. I'm really looking forward to being back in Cork for all the new developments in the future.



**STEPHANIE RAINEY /**  
Singer and songwriter

I think what resonates most with me most about Cork is how friendly Cork it is. It's not a small city but it has a small city feeling. A warmth you don't get everywhere. Cork has so much character. I think anyone can see how much Cork has progressed in the past few years. The nightlife and food industry has grown so much and that adds massively to any city. The live music scene is strong in Cork and the different music events that come in summer are getting bigger and better every year.

It would be great to see more creative hubs develop in Cork - more space created for artists to work and collaborate. It would also be amazing to have more events running in suburbs like Glanmire and not just in the city centre, whether that was food festivals or smaller music events in summer.



**KAREN UNDERWOOD /**  
Jazz and blues singer

I consider myself Corkonian by adoption. This city has embraced me since I moved here 22 years. I have a huge interest in watching the growing Cork City increase its cultural diversity as it grows. I'd like to see more people like me in the Cork arts world and more people representing the very many Eastern Europeans and Asians that have chosen to make this city their home.

Ordinary people must take ownership of their city. Everyone in Cork gets very excited about the possibility of an Events Centre but I don't want to see big international casts sweep in without regard for the local arts and cultural scene. Locals artists should be allowed to audition too so we can continue to showcase Cork arts and culture as we do so wonderfully ever year through festivals like the Cork Jazz Festival, Soul in the City etc.



**ALAN BENNETT /**  
Former Cork City FC player

Strolling down the Mardyke towards town after training still remains a great feeling. Even though I'm too young to remember, I'm conscious of the history of the Mardyke and have heard of the great soccer games that were played there and the huge crowds that attended. I've seen some of the old photographs and they were obviously amazing occasions.

I was lucky enough to come back from my career in England with Reading, Brentford and Wimbledon and had some great years playing and captaining Cork City and am still very much involved in a coaching role. Cork is a sporting mad city. Support for Cork teams and players crosses all codes which is great. But Cork deserves the best facilities to produce the best in the country and world. Looking forward, I would like to see a riverside we can all share and enjoy - for commerce, leisure and transport.





LIGHT RAIL ON WASHINGTON STREET

# TRANSPORT CHOICE: THE KEY TO THE FUTURE

The level of national and international validation of Cork's strengths and potential is consistent and striking.

The National Planning Framework (NPF) 2040 states that the city has already positioned itself as an emerging medium-sized European centre of growth and innovation. Under NPF, the Government's blueprint for strategic planning and investment, Cork is now the city with most growth potential in the country.

According to the Financial Times fDi European Cities and Regions of the future 2018/19, Cork is the:

- **BEST SMALL CITY IN EUROPE FOR BUSINESS FRIENDLINESS**
- **ONE OF EUROPE'S TOP 25 EUROPEAN CITIES OF THE FUTURE AHEAD OF COPENHAGEN, HAMBURG AND GENEVA.**
- **ONE OF EUROPE'S TOP 10 SMALL EUROPEAN CITIES OF THE FUTURE**

Given that Cork has been voted one of the top 10 best cities to visit by the Lonely Planet Guide, is internationally recognised for the vibrancy of its arts and cultural offering, as the Food Capital and Festival Capital of Ireland, it is clear that the city, in terms of key business and quality of life metrics, scores very well.

Cork City is now larger, more diverse and positive. Even the most disinterested will be aware of the dynamic phase of development that Cork City is undergoing at present. That development isn't planned or proposed but is happening. In projects already underway, 10,000 new jobs will be created in the city centre within seven years.

NPF 2040 envisages that Cork will become the fastest-growing city region in Ireland with a projected 50% to 60% increase in population in 20 years time. That is a remarkable pace of development by any standards.

How that growth is managed is now the major challenge facing the city. How people get to and from work, how children get to school, where people live, how the economy of Cork functions, how the movement of goods is efficient and cost effective – all of these issues need to be addressed in a cohesive and integrated way.

Traffic congestion and debilitating delays will inevitably result from the kind of growth envisaged for Cork unless dependence on the private car is addressed and alternative transport modalities are introduced.

**CORK CITY COUNCIL'S VISION IS FOCUSED ON CREATING A CITY OF SUSTAINABLE URBAN GROWTH...**

Cork City Council's vision is focused on creating a city of sustainable urban growth - a city that is built for the future, where families can live close to work, schools, green spaces and public transport.



**ROADS** STRATEGY COST APPROX €1.39B

**INVESTMENT ON NATIONAL ROADS**  
DUNKETTLE  
M28, M27, M20  
NORTHERN RING ROAD



**A NEW MULTI-MODAL NORTHERN & SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR ROAD**



**HGV RESTRICTIONS IN CORK CITY**

**BUS CONNECTS** STRATEGY COST APPROX €545M

**100KM OF BUS LANES AND BUS PRIORITY MEASURES**



**200KM OF CROSS CITY ROUTES**



**6 STRATEGIC PARK AND RIDE SITES**

**LIGHT RAIL** STRATEGY COST APPROX €1B

**25 STOPS ALONG THE ROUTE. SIMILAR LIGHT RAIL VEHICLE TO DUBLIN LUAS FLEET.**



**17KM LIGHT RAIL NETWORKS BETWEEN BALLINCOLLIG CORK CITY CENTRE, KENT STATION, CORK DOCKLANDS AND MAHON POINT**

**CYCLING** STRATEGY COST APPROX €230M

**200KM PRIMARY CYCLE NETWORKS**



**140KM GREENWAY NETWORKS**



**60KM INTER-URBAN CYCLE NETWORKS**

**SUBURBAN RAIL** STRATEGY COST APPROX €274M

**8 NEW STATIONS PLUS IMPROVEMENTS TO COBH, MALLOW AND KENT STATIONS**



**62KM SUBURBAN RAIL NETWORK BETWEEN MIDLETON, COBH AND MALLOW**

**WALKING** STRATEGY COST APPROX €50M

**ENHANCED WAYFINDING SYSTEMS**



**200KM NEW AND UPGRADED FOOTPATHS**



SOUTH RING ROAD

Key elements in the Strategy include 100km of bus lanes, six new Park and Ride sites, high frequency East West and North South bus corridors, a light rail system service between Ballincollig and Mahon Point via the city centre, additional suburban rail services, 200km of new and upgraded pathways, a 200km network of primary cycleways and 140km of greenways.

€1.4 billion will be spent on roads, including the M28 to Ringaskiddy, the Dunkettle interchange and on improved orbital routes on the north and south sides of the city.

Consultants have recently been appointed to progress the M20 scheme starting at the appraisal stage.

The global urban mobility landscape is changing rapidly and is redefining the way people move around cities the world over. Cork City, too, needs to embrace those changes.

Nothing remains the same and international experience shows that it is those cities that innovate, have flexible and diverse business models, good quality of life and incorporate sustainable transport options into everyday life do best.

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT THAT IS CONVENIENT, ACCESSIBLE AND RELIABLE CAN UNLOCK CORK'S LONG TERM POTENTIAL...**

Public transport that is convenient, accessible and reliable can unlock Cork's long term potential, cut congestion, reclaim road/car park spaces for more greenery and communal spaces and foster healthier lifestyles. The *Draft Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy* or *CMATS* for short is a public consultation document that deserves engagement by everyone concerned with the future of Cork.

The Strategy can be accessed at [www.nationaltransport.ie/consultations](http://www.nationaltransport.ie/consultations)

The key to implementing that vision is public transport, which is why the NTA's recently published *Draft Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy* is of such significance. The Strategy envisages radical and exciting changes that will redefine and improve life in the 'New City'.

The Strategy proposes a €3.5 billion transformation of life in the city and in the Cork Metropolitan area through the provision of world class public transport services.

## PATRICK HORGAN/

Cork Intercounty player

For many decades, the hurling powerhouses were the big city clubs: the Glen, Blackrock and the 'Barrs. The rise of clubs like Midleton and Newtownshandrum over the years has obviously changed the landscape which is a good thing.

By and large, city clubs have struggled a bit but there is still an edge, something different, when they meet. There's a lot of history and pride involved. Even though the city has changed a lot, when you line out with the Glen, as in my case, you absolutely feel that you are representing the community around Blackpool. It's the same for all the other city clubs.

Cork is still small enough to retain that sense of identity and players draw off that. Cork City is changing a lot at present but I think the importance of clubs and communities will remain and hopefully be passed on.



## SANITA PUSPURE/

World record holder in Women's Single Scull

After four years in Dublin, I came to Ballincollig in 2011 and really liked it straight away. It was more compact, obviously, much less traffic and people were very friendly. It has character and I suppose if there was a word to describe it, it would be "homey".

I find there is a great sense of pride in Cork, more than other areas, and that feeling is really contagious. Cork has adopted me and I've adopted Cork so much so that I feel the same way about it as people who were born here. I think it's the best place to be, the best place to live, the best everything – just like modest Cork people! I hope being in the extended city will be good for Ballincollig and we should keep our minds open on that score. I hope being in the city will see our Garda station fully opened, not closed for portions of the day. I think that's important for everyone who lives here.



## MARY MCCARTHY/

Director of Crawford Art Gallery

Could Cork be compared to a large family: one where dialogue and discussion isn't easy and frequently breaks down into rows, one where we don't always treat our family members the best or tell them we love them, yet, if anyone outside the family attacks us, we are fiercely loyal to the point of being unself-critical?

When visitors come to visit we show them the best room and put on our finest spread, yet we sometimes ignore our youngest family members – mistakenly believing those that are here longer know best. We fear change as we have been in this place for a long time.

Now that Cork is expanding, we need to consider new ways of remaking a strong yet porous identity for the new city region- we need to change our Cork family behaviour.



## ALEX MURPHY/

Cork actor, best known for his leading role in 'The Young Offenders'.

My favourite thing about growing up in Cork was having the opportunity to spend time in the city and the country. It always felt so connected and accessible. Whether it was getting the 220 to Myrtleville or strolling into town with my friends you always had something to do. Now that I'm older and living away from home, I try to get back for festivals like the Cork Jazz and Midsummer Festivals.

I've been living away from Cork for three years now, which for me, has only highlighted how great Cork is. The city is unique, lively, friendly and has such a love for art and music. That might sound like a cliché but you really can't say that about every city. I would like to see the city expand as there is so much for Cork city to offer.







# A CITY OF WATER AND SONG

BY FERGAL KEANE / Africa Editor, BBC News

I have so many memories of living in Cork. It is a continuum really, a sense of belonging such as I have never felt elsewhere. My favourite memories of Cork revolve around people, strong and generous people who gave me warmth and security. I remember going into town with my grandmother May Hassett and the treat of Tanora and a cake in Thompsons. She had an exceptional ear for the humour of the city and delighted in the characters like Andy Gaw and Katty Barry.

**SOME OF MY MOST TREASURED MEMORIES OF CORK ARE LINKED TO PARTICULAR PLACES IN THE CITY.**

From the 1970s I will remember vividly the roads and lanes between my grandmother's house in Turners Cross and the home of my girlfriend in Glasheen, the walking to happiness on long summer evenings, the sound of the birds on the Lough in the still of the early hours as I returned home, the sun red behind Wilton Church on a vivid July afternoon, and the heat on my back cycling out of the city towards Myrtleville.

I remember afternoons drifting into dusk at a friend's house on the Mardyke and knowing that life would never feel as fresh and new again, looking out from the high windows of my mother's house in Montenotte on a January night when the city was covered in snow, the crowded stands at Musgrave Park when Pres faced off against Christians and we hovered between triumph and tragedy, and music in Sir Henry's Hard Rock café opposite the brewery when I was old enough to drink legally (previously I had haunted the pubs on the Quays where in those far away days attitudes towards age were more 'liberal'.) My Cork is a city of water and song.

What do I miss about Cork having left it? I miss what can never come back. The people and experiences that were particular to a place and time. But they inhabit me still. They will always. It was Frank O'Connor who said that although he had left Cork, the city had never left him. One can be away for a very long time and not see people for years but they are part of your emotional map, the gift that is not erased, ever.

**OF COURSE I MISS THE HUMOUR. THE EASE OF LIFE. THE PLACES THAT ARE NO LONGER ON MY DOORSTEP: WALKING DOWN PATRICK'S STREET AND OLIVER PLUNKETT STREET ON A SATURDAY AFTERNOON.**

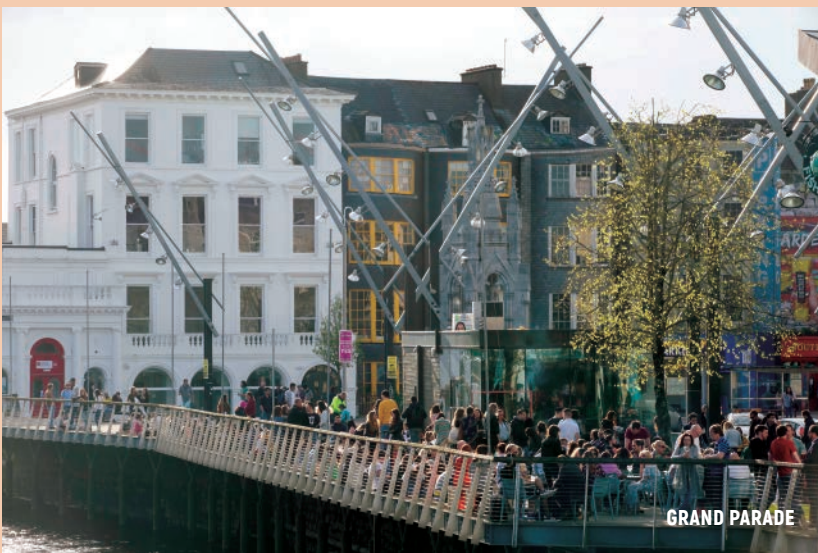
Going up the Mardyke and into Fitzgerald's Park and across the Shakey Bridge to Sunday's Well. I miss living near my family: my mother in Monkstown, my uncles and aunts in Passage and Crosshaven.

Cork City has clear characteristics that resonate with me. I mentioned the humour. The gift of not taking ourselves too seriously. For me these are the defining characteristics. But also a fierce pride in the place. This is not defined by opposition to Dublin as the capital. It is a more confident feeling. A sense of ourselves that needs no bigging up through boasting.

Clearly the physical landscape of the city is changing. I am struck by the rise of new buildings, the appearance of housing estates and industrial estates on land I remember as green fields. Change is inevitable but there is a certain sadness at the vanishing of what was familiar.

**KEY TO THE PROGRESSION OF THE EXPANDED CITY IS SENSITIVITY TO THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. THE CITY'S SETTING IN THE LEE VALLEY IS CENTRAL TO ITS CHARM.**

Protect the beauty of river and trees. Build with reverence to our history by – where possible – renovating and re-imagining what exists. The best cities are those where the human individual is cherished. The Cork of many little villages that form a coherent whole should be our aim.





# PROTECTING OUR CITY

**A DECADE AGO, €130 MILLION OF DAMAGE WAS CAUSED IN CORK CITY BY FLOODING.**

For those unaffected, the distress caused to hundreds of business people and many more who saw their homes and property destroyed, can only be imagined.

Flooding is a problem that has dogged Cork City for centuries. The city suffers from both tidal and fluvial (river) flooding, the consequences of which have been seen regularly over the years.

**CLIMATE CHANGE MAKES THE RISK OF FLOODING EVEN MORE ACUTE AND PREVENTIVE MEASURES MORE URGENT.**

The Lower Lee Flood Relief Scheme (LLFRS) is the culmination of over 10 years of consideration and study of the River Lee Catchment and the complex nature of flooding impacting Cork City. It proposes a necessary, affordable, workable and integrated approach to a problem that simply must be tackled and represents the best solution for Cork.

The infrastructure required to address flooding in Cork city is an absolutely necessity. It is as essential and, in many respects, is even more critical than other infrastructural elements such as the Eastern Gateway Bridge, Docklands development and bus transport, and light rail rapid transport which are proposed to ensure the city's development and its capacity to attract inward investment.

The approach in the Lower Lee Flood Relief Scheme is holistic and includes advanced technology-driven flood forecasting across the catchment area, revised dam procedures, designation of upstream washlands in the floodplain to facilitate advance discharges from the dam, a flow regulation structure in the South Channel and low-level quayside defences on the North and South channels of the river.

The project extends over approximately 15km from west of Ballincollig to the eastern edge of Cork City Centre Island. There have been several design iterations of the scheme since the project began. As will be seen from the accompanying visuals, concerns have been taken on board and there has been a huge commitment to create a project that is not solely a flood relief scheme, but a significant urban regeneration project, positioning the River Lee at the centre of citizens' experience. The Office of Public Works (OPW) which is the State agency charged with the delivery of the Scheme and Cork City Council believe the project appropriately balances aesthetic and heritage considerations with the imperative of protecting the lives and property of the many who have suffered continually through flooding.

Beyond the flood relief benefits, the scheme will provide investment of circa €140 million allowing a range of improvements to be delivered to Cork City.





AFTER: KYRL'S QUAY



AFTER: TRINITY BRIDGE



BEFORE: KYRL'S QUAY



BEFORE: TRINITY BRIDGE

It has been a long-standing objective of Cork City Council, to re-orientate the city towards the river, and in particular to create high value south facing public spaces along the south-facing channel. There is now an opportunity to start this regeneration on Morrison's Island. With the support of the OPW, this project will also incorporate low level quayside defences (about knee high), supported by the existing quay walls which will be sensitively repaired and restored. This project will be transformative for this area, both in terms of adding a high value public realm space and also in significantly reducing the extent and severity of the regular tidal flooding that originates from this low-lying quayside.

**EACH OF THE QUAYS IN THE CITY HAS BEEN CAREFULLY CONSIDERED TO ESTABLISH THE BEST WAY OF INCORPORATING THE FLOOD PROTECTION.**

In some locations existing limestone parapet walls will be strengthened, but will not visually be significantly different in height or appearance. Elsewhere existing metal railings, often with a concrete wall at the base, will be replaced with more appropriate architecturally designed walls and railings, with the wall, as at Morrison's Island, around knee-height and with a railing on top that is appropriate to safeguard the public from falling into the water (circa 1.1m high – from ground level to the top of the railing).

Contrary to claims that have been made, the proposed scheme does not include any high walls along any of the city's quays. In fact, where the height of existing walls has to be slightly increased to create a quayside defence, comprehensive conservation measures have been put in place to minimise any impact, including salvaging and reinstating of the existing wall stonework.

The Scheme provides for approximately 6km of new and/or improved riverside walk and cycleway from the Lee Fields through to the City Centre. In locations such as Ferry Walk, the opportunity has been taken to integrate the flood protection in the design of a new plaza space.

The Lee Fields will be reshaped, to integrate flood protection into a landscape which can incorporate wetlands and wildflower meadows, which pedestrian and cycle connections will pass through.

The project provides an opportunity to create high quality off-road pedestrian/cycle, connections, with the potential to link the City centre to Ballincollig. Throughout the scheme, existing uses of the river will be safeguarded and new opportunities have been identified. These are "win-win" for the city, for local people and for visitors.



# A SPORTING CITY

MICHAEL MOYNIHAN / Irish Examiner Senior Sports Writer

The roll of honour is a daunting one for anybody with an interest in sport. At least it is if you're not from Cork. Pub arguments about the greatest sporting county in Ireland rarely make it over the first fence, because if someone in the company is from Leaside they simply have more ammunition than anyone else.

That roll includes but isn't limited to: Ireland's greatest Olympian and greatest hurler; Ireland's most decorated GAA player of all time, and second-most decorated GAA player of all time; most recent Lions captain and founder of the European Rugby Cup; Ireland's greatest soccer player and Ireland's top-scoring rugby player; the only dual All-Ireland winner in one year, and only All-Ireland winner six years in a row; winners of All-Ireland Gaelic football, hurling, basketball and rugby titles in one year, and runner-up in soccer the same year; when Ireland hadn't won a Triple Crown for three decades it was a Corkman who won it with a last-gasp kick, and when Ireland hadn't won a Grand Slam in five decades another Corkman won it with a last-gasp kick. You get the picture.

When RTE polled viewers for Ireland's greatest sportsperson in 2009 three of the top ten were from Cork; the father of the number one, Pdraig Harrington played Gaelic football for Cork; and the grandparents of Brian O'Driscoll, number two, were from Cork. All of which you may already know, in which case your question is simple - what does this have to do with the city?

## BECAUSE IT TRACKS THE GROWTH OF THAT ENVIRONMENT.

The radiation outwards of population from the centre of Cork city over the decades is a story that could be told in dry statistics or alternatively, by showing the move of senior hurling titles outwards from the axis of Barrack Street and Tower Street over one hundred years ago to the suburbs of Blackrock, Blackpool (Glen Rovers) and Togher (St Finbarr's) by the mid-century and later, with satellites like Bishopstown and Douglas becoming powers in more recent decades. In social terms, the city and sport have been linked inextricably for decades as well. Go back to early eighties and Cork was suffering catastrophic job losses with the departure of key employers such as Ford and Dunlop.

At the same time the county's hurlers had suffered two All-Ireland final defeats in a row to Kilkenny and were facing the prospect of a grim historic record - the first team to lose three All-Ireland senior finals in a row. Before they played the 1984 All-Ireland final they were reminded that the city needed a boost: they provided one with an emphatic victory.

It was a tough period in the life of a city which had had two League of Ireland clubs at times in the previous decade: for a couple of years early in the eighties there was no League of Ireland club at all in the city. Within

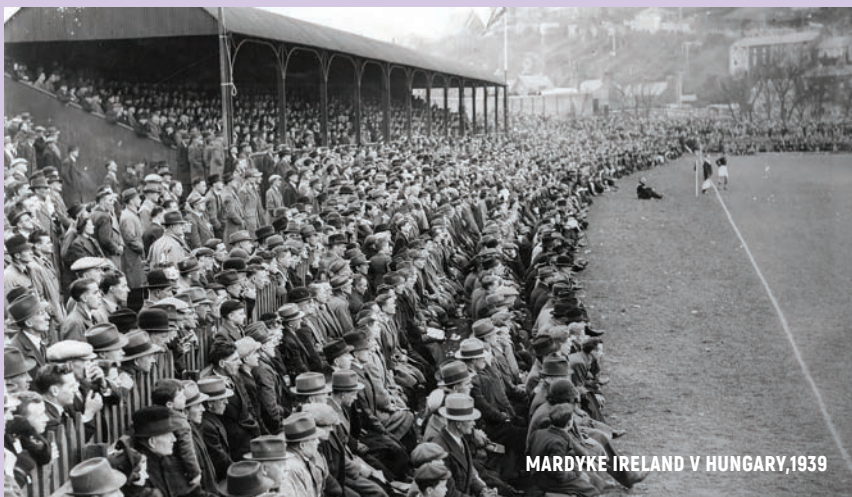
a decade, however, Cork City had been reborn and would put manners on German superpower Bayern Munich, holding them to a 1-1 draw in European competition. The man who scored Cork City's goal in that game embodies another aspect of the city's sporting life, one which echoes a fond belief of Corkonians everywhere: that they are capable of mastering any challenge.

Dave Barry was the man who put Bayern Munich back on their heels, fresh from collecting All-Ireland medals as a Gaelic footballer. His example has been followed by countless others: Darren Sweetnam, intercounty hurler and now professional rugby player, like Tomás O'Leary before him; Setanta Ó hAilpin, Young Hurler of the Year one season, professional Australian Rules player the next; Setanta's older brother Seán Óg remains the only man to play Compromise Rules for Ireland despite not playing inter-county football the same season. All of these strands interweave, of course. The vast palette of sports on offer in Cork - correction: of top-flight sports - intersects with the staggering success on every level, and the cross-pollination mentioned above means that sports success in Cork is seen as the natural order of things, the universe in harmony.

## OTHER PLACES FOCUS ON A GRIM EXCLUSIONARY CULTURE WHEN IT COMES TO SPORT, HAPPY TO BE IDENTIFIED AS SINGLE-TRACK AND MONOCHROME, UNAWARE OF THE JOYS OF DIVERSITY.

That could never be the Cork way. There's too much to play. Too much to win. That background of success breeds a brimming confidence. Some years ago an American company was mulling over locating in Ireland. Its representatives went to Belfast and were reasonably happy, and then they went to Cork.

They remarked afterwards that anyone they met in Cork spoke about the city as though there were no other place in the world like it, that the belief Cork people had in themselves was something they had rarely if ever met elsewhere. Little wonder. What other city has the success to instill this kind of confidence?



MARDYKE IRELAND V HUNGARY, 1939



# A CITY OF FESTIVALS

## FESTIVALS SUPPORTED BY CORK CITY COUNCIL



### SEAFEST

FRI 7 – SUN 9 JUNE 2019

Centred at the Port of Cork in Cork City, the line up will include a world-renowned tightrope walker crossing the Lee, celebrity chef cooking demonstrations and the never-before-seen 'Clean Oceans' Visitor Experience, brought to Cork to raise awareness around plastic in our oceans. | **Visit:** [seafest.ie](http://seafest.ie)



### CARNIVAL OF SCIENCE

SAT 22 – SUN 23 JUNE 2019

With a Big Top, Explorium, Stardome and Imaginosity Little Top, this will be an incredible celebration of science, that will delight and enthrall young and old! Supported by Science Foundation Ireland, organised by the Lifetime Lab and including shows by London Science Museum. | **Visit:** [corkcity.ie/en/things-to-do/festivals-events](http://corkcity.ie/en/things-to-do/festivals-events)



### CRUINNIÚ NA NÓG (NATIONAL YOUTH FEST)

SAT 15 JUNE 2019

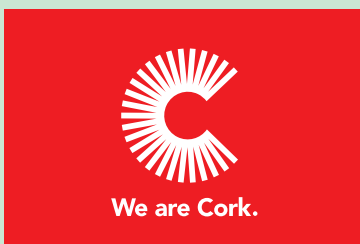
Encouraging children and young people's participation in culture and creativity through a wonderful spread of free activities. Enjoy theatre, music, dance, craft workshops and a specially created Street Art Festival. | **Visit:** [cruinniu.creativeireland.gov.ie](http://cruinniu.creativeireland.gov.ie)



### CORK MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL

THUR 13 – SUN 23 JUNE 2019

11 days of theatre, literature, dance, circus and visual arts to include 25 world, European and Irish premieres. As well as showcasing some of Ireland's finest artists, the festival will welcome artists from across the world, including Chile, Canada, USA, Poland, UK, Finland and France. The festival brings 45 events to 30 venues across the city. | **Visit:** [corkmidsummer.com](http://corkmidsummer.com)



### SIGN UP TO OUR NEW EZINE

Cork City Council is planning a new ezine with information on its work to make Cork City a make better place to live, work, visit, study and invest in.

If you would like to subscribe to this, please email:  
**[communications\\_section@corkcity.ie](mailto:communications_section@corkcity.ie)**



CHILDREN PLAYING ON THE MARINA

## BREATHING LIFE INTO THE CITY



FAMILY DAY OUT AT THE MARINA

The benefits of well-designed parks and greenways are legion. Not only are they an urban retreat, they are cultural hubs, an amazing resource for residents and community groups and a key enabler of healthy and sustainable living.

**URBAN PARKS, WALKWAYS AND GREENWAYS MAKE CITIES LIVEABLE, MEANING THEY ARE A MORE ATTRACTIVE INVESTMENT AND RESIDENTIAL LOCATION.**

When you can work, live, travel and play easily in a city, people of all ages want to live there and economic opportunities abound.

Recreational projects, like Tramore Valley Park, Marina Park, the Lee Fields, Ballincollig Regional Park, the recently acquired lands at Inchigaggin, near the Carrigrohane Straight, and the Cork Harbour Greenway will immeasurably improve our quality of life. A Master Plan for the new Inchigaggin lands will be undertaken shortly as a first step in the creation of a new park on the western perimeter of the city.

Cork City Council is always looking for opportunities to develop amenity walks as they are a low maintenance way of providing cycling and walking facilities and maintaining biodiversity and green spaces. Tramore Valley Park and the Glen Park, with its popular parkrun, is the most recent example of this. As the city extends, we will be looking for more opportunities in the new city. The creation of a greenway from Ballincollig Regional Park into the city centre will be a priority during the new Council. We have acquired some of the necessary land, west of the Lee Fields, and this will ensure a route to Ballincollig.

Blackrock is already renowned for the tree-lined Marina and the former Cork, Blackrock and Passage West railway line which is a walking and cycling route. The development of a Ballincollig to city centre greenway, with quality cycle lanes in the city centre, which link out to Blackrock will ensure that we will eventually have a Cork Harbour Greenway all

the way to Passage West. Another priority will be the development of parks in the north east and northwest of the city. The wider Glanmire/Mayfield community deserve a more substantial park and we are scheduled to commence design work on a park off Kilmore Heights in Hollyhill in the autumn.

Tramore Valley Park opened earlier this month. What was once the city's landfill is a 70 hectare amenity on the doorstep of the city; a fantastic place for children to 'let off steam'. The park – one of the largest green sites in the city – will play host to sporting and cultural events and includes a BMX track, an outdoor gym, playing pitches, dressing rooms and a 2.5km 'Robert Heffernan' looped walk with a raised dome area which provides 360 degree views of the city and county. Over time, further facilities will be added at the park. To fulfil its potential, Tramore Valley Park will need to be connected by bridge to Frankfield/Grange and to the Park And Ride.





SUNNY DAY AT FITZGERALD'S PARK



RIVER LEE AT BALLINCOLLIG REGIONAL PARK



OUTDOOR CINEMA FITZGERALD'S PARK



ARTISTS IMPRESSION OF MARINA PARK

Over the next year, construction is due to commence on Marina Park in Blackrock. Marina Park is much more than a park for Cork City. It signals a further opening-up of the docklands; the biggest brownfield site in the country and the final frontier for major development in the city. Marina Park will address drainage issues, and be an exemplar of the quality urban open recreation space that is so necessary for city living. Marina Park, at approx 32ha, will be approximately five times the size of Fitzgerald's Park. It will wrap around the redeveloped Páirc Uí Chaoimh and include the much-loved Atlantic Pond amenity. Just 2.5km east of Cork city centre, it will extend from Monahan Road and Centre Park Road to the west, to the harbour at Blackrock to the east. The development of the park will take place over a number of years in phases as funding comes through.

The heart of Marina Park will be the site of the central hall area of the former Munster Showgrounds.

A portion of the central hall will be retained for use as a pavilion. It will include a covered playground, event space and food/drinks outlet. A central plaza will be used for gatherings and organised events including large and small scale cultural events.

**A WESTERN PLAZA WILL ALLOW FOR SMALLER PERFORMANCES LIKE BUSKING AND STREET PERFORMANCE ACTS.**

The sports zone will provide additional boating facilities along the Marina to complement the new pontoon installed by the Council three years ago and will include Páirc Uí Chaoimh and the Centre of Excellence. An outdoor events/performance field will be situated to the left of the stadium with a capacity to hold 1800 people.

Marina Park will be accessed by the Marina and Blackrock Railwayline Greenway. A docking facility on the Atlantic Pond will also be developed for model yacht and boating activities.

Cork City Council is committed to developing urban green spaces because we believe in the importance of making a city liveable, beautiful and child friendly.

The Mardyke Gardens project, completed in May 2014, included elements of the Gold Medal winning 'Sky Garden' from the 2011 Chelsea Flower Show, a new outdoor performance space, garden cafe and a large children's playground suitable for children of all abilities.

**CORK CITY COUNCIL CONTINUES TO INVEST IN PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS...**

Cork City Council continues to invest in parks and playgrounds, with a new €650k playground just opened at Bishopstown and new outdoor gyms installed at the Fairfield (Fairhill), Loughmahon Park Mahon, and at Gerry O'Sullivan Park Churchfield.



BALLINLOUGH

BALLYPHEHANE

BISHOPSTOWN

BLACKPOOL

BLACKROCK

CHURCHFIELD

FAIRHILL

FARRANFERRIS

FARRANREE

GLASHEEN

GREENMOUNT

GURRANABRAHER

HOLLYHILL

KNOCKNAHEENY

MAHON

MARDYKE

MAYFIELD

MIDDLE PARISH

MONTENOTTE

POULADUFF

SHANAKIEL

SHANDON

SOUTH PARISH

SUNDAY'S WELL

THE GLEN

THE LOUGH

TIVOLI

TURNERS CROSS

WILTON