

CORK CITY'S NEW FLOOD DEFENCE SCHEME TO COME ON STREAM

Construction is due to start on a transformational scheme in Cork City centre, with the roll out of the Morrison's Island Public Realm and Flood Defence project, and it follows the commencement of works at Bishop Lucey Park and the Beamish & Crawford Quarter in the city.

The project by Cork City Council, supported by the Office of Public Works (OPW), will encompass the area along Morrison's Quay and Father Mathew Quay between Parnell Bridge to Parliament Bridge, as well as a small section on Union Quay at Trinity Bridge.

Ann Doherty, Chief Executive of Cork City Council, said that the scheme will transform the Morrison's Island area of the city. "It will provide much-needed flood protection to hundreds of residents and businesses. This south-facing riverside area has so much more to offer and Cork City Council, with the support of the OPW, is unlocking that potential, providing for the revitalisation and regeneration of this part of the city centre".

Minister Kieran O'Donnell, Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform with responsibility for the OPW said: "The Morrison's Island project forms part of an overall allocation of almost €1.3 billion in the National Development Plan for flood relief measures.

"The collaborative approach between the OPW and Cork City Council will provide residents and businesses in the city centre with the assurance of protection from the regular flooding they have endured for many years."

UNLOCKING COMMERCIAL POTENTIAL
Aaron Mansworth, President of the Cork



Parnell Plaza forms part of the Morrison's Island Public Realm and Flood Defence Scheme.

Business Association (CBA), described the project as "transformative" and said the scheme will significantly enhance visual amenity and unlock commercial potential, highlighted by the multi-million-euro redevelopment of the Old Moore's Hotel site (now home to Premier Inn, Cork's newest hotel offering).

"Crucially, it will provide essential flood protection long campaigned for by CBA, reassuring property owners and businesses by safeguarding their premises and livelihoods. The project includes a significant public realm upgrade and the refurbishment of historic quay walls, protecting most of the city centre

The flood defence project will deliver the following:

- Upgraded and accessible streetscape with new footpaths, public seating, new plaza space and river viewing platform at Parnell Bridge, public space at Trinity Bridge, and improved public realm at Holy Trinity Church.
- Integrated flood defences to protect 400 city centre properties against tidal flooding.
- A new three-metre-wide riverside promenade along Morrison's Quay and Father Mathew Quay.
- Rerouted traffic movement and reduced parking, to facilitate significant improvements for pedestrians, wheelchair users, and cyclists, including the provision of cycle parking.
- Refurbished and strengthened quay walls to ensure long-term integrity.
- Public realm improvements at the entrances to Trinity Bridge, including new public seating.
- Refurbished and enhanced heritage features, including streetlamps and bollards, trees and pollinator-friendly herbaceous plants.





Upgrade works are already underway at Bishop Lucey Park and Crosses Green (part of Beamish & Crawford Quarter development).

against major flood events and greatly benefiting the business community,” he said.

The scheme has been welcomed by Cork Chamber after many years of advocacy, according to its Chief Executive Conor Healy. “Our city centre businesses and residents deserve protection from flooding. Through the delivery of this scheme, the city will also benefit from the enhancement of the public realm through river front walkways, the introduction of plazas, repairs to historic masonry; all of which are improvements that will help enable a positive evolution of our urban landscape in Cork city.”

Jons Civil Engineering Company Ltd has been appointed as the main contractor to carry out the works. The first phase of construction will take place at the junction of Morrison’s Quay and South Mall, to deliver an enhanced plaza area and riverside viewing platform. The scheme is expected to be completed within approximately 20 months.

For further information visit www.corkcity.ie/morrisonisland

SYMPOSIUM ON CORK CITY CENTRE STRATEGY

Representatives from retail, hospitality, local communities, tourism and An Garda Síochána attended a symposium at Cork City Hall recently to review progress on Cork’s City Centre Strategy and discuss upcoming projects.

Cork City Council gathered stakeholders to review progress and upcoming projects at the symposium and to present the findings of the research by IPSOS Behaviour and Attitudes on what people would like to see in Cork city centre.

The survey found that over two thirds of people use public transport when visiting the city centre, up to 63% travel by bus, 5% take a train, 20% use a car while 32% walk.

Cork’s compact nature and the ease of socialising in the city centre are amongst people’s favourite things about the city. Its variety of shops and broad arts and cultural offering are also prized. Up to 57% rate it for its safety and security.

Edith Roberts, Senior Engineer in Cork City Council’s Infrastructure Development Directorate, gave details on projects planned to enhance the vibrancy of the city centre. Kevin Murray and Stephen Willacy from the Academy of Urbanism addressed the event, alongside the city’s night-time economy advisor, Fiona Collins. Mary McCarthy, Director of the Crawford Art Gallery and Mark Poland from UCC Estates.

Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr Dan Boyle said “The plans for Cork City Centre are ambitious, but it is important that they are implemented. Construction is expected to continue over the next number of years, transforming the experience of the city centre.” He said that the first conference by the city council to focus on the city centre, following the local elections, reflects the importance both the elected members and executive are putting on enhancing Cork as a place to live and visit.



Ann Doherty, Chief Executive of Cork City Council (centre) pictured with Fiona Collins, the city’s night-time economy advisor, and Fearghal Reidy, Director of Services, Strategic Economic Development, following the symposium at Cork City Hall.