RE: Improved Public Transport Facilities at Market Square, Main Street, Naas

Dear Ms. Kavanagh,

Thank you for referring the above application to An Taisce for comment.

An Taisce welcomes the provision of improved public transport facilities on the Main Street in Naas. We have just a few short comments to make on the proposals – as follows.

30kmh Speed Limits for Main Street
There is an increasing trend to provide 30kmh speed limit zones in urban areas to improve safety and to enhance the urban environment especially from pedestrians’ and cyclists’ perspectives. Given the desire to improve the pedestrian environment on Main Street, Naas, and the likelihood of many taxi, bus, bicycle and pedestrian movements within a confined area, it is strongly recommended that the Council introduce a 30kmh speed limit on that section of Main Street – or ideally over a greater length of the street. This will also have the effect of reducing traffic noise levels on the street.

Further Improvements to Pedestrian Realm by Removing More Car Parking Spaces
The scheme provides a fabulous opportunity to reduce the domination of parked cars in the public realm. It is disappointing that the plans do not contain proposals to further extend the pedestrian realm by removing more car parking spaces outside of the Bank of Ireland and Five Lamps. It is strongly recommended that the designers revisit the plans with a view to reallocating more space to footways together with more public seating, plantings and non-car dominated space.
Cycle Stands
An Taisce warmly welcomes the proposed increase in the number of cycle stands on the Main Street. For details of cycle parking planning and design, see Chapter 5 of the National Cycle Manual (http://www.cyclemanual.ie/manual/detailsright/bicycle-parking/).

An Taisce trusts that our commentary will assist Kildare County Council with its further considerations and preparations of this proposal.

I would be grateful if you could acknowledge our submission and advise us of any further decisions made in regard to this application.

Yours sincerely,

Damien Ó Tuama
National Cycling Coordinator
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