

Submission Details

Submitter

Name	John Butler
Address	Bookworm 1 & 2 Parnell St Thurles E41DK18

RECEIVED: 28/08/2024

Note	<p>As a business owner in Thurles for over 30 years I am very concerned about the likely negative impact some of the planned changes described in this plan will have on trade and footfall in the town centre. In particular I oppose the plan to remove parking from the 'centre island'. Parking in Liberty Square is at a premium and these spaces are of far more value to local trade than the proposed replacement spaces at the back of Parnell Street carpark. Much of the shopping in Liberty Sq is convenience / 'pick-up' or 'click & collect' type. These are the short stays who will not wish to use a car-park for such stops. The removal of parking from the central island seems to me a box ticking exercise by Transport Infrastructure Ireland who have requested it. The plan claims that this is for pedestrian safety but without a bypass to remove the HGVs and through traffic, pedestrians will not be any safer. TII have failed Thurles by not including a bypass for the town in any of their development plans. Their directive to remove parking from the centre of Liberty Square will have serious financial and economic implications for the business community without improving safety or congestion in the town. The trial period (1 day) for the single lane on the south side of Liberty Square was much too short. This should be trialled for several weeks as should all the new 'build-out' areas. I believe HGVs and articulated lorries will have huge difficulty navigating the tighter turns in the new plan. The smashed barriers at the junction of Slievenamon Road and Liberty Sq are an example of this issue. We constantly have HGVs and tractors mounting the footpath outside Bookworm as they leave Liberty Square and something needs to be done to prevent this as it is highly dangerous for pedestrians and completely illegal. The location of a new controlled crossing in front of AIB/ Arch Bar is a poor location which is likely to add the danger of HGVs turning from Rossa St onto Liberty Square and having to stop quickly again. The location of a new bus stop on Rossa St is unsuitable and I would suggest it be moved back towards Templemore Rd (outside Ursuline/CBS). Proposed landscaping on Rossa St is going to hinder loading and deliveries for several businesses on that side and should be revised. I welcome the plan to have raised crossings at Westgate, Parnell St, Rossa St and Castle Ave and the improved Lighting and footpaths as these will improve safety and A by-pass of the town to take HGVs and through traffic out of our narrow streets in the town centre is the only solution to the issues of congestion and safety, improve the public realm and ensure the long term economic viability and development of the town centre.</p>
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In relation to application

Application Number	PT8TT136
Applicant Name	Tipperary County Council
Development Address	Garryvicleheen and Townspark Co. Tipperary

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